

FREE

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GAZETTE

Students

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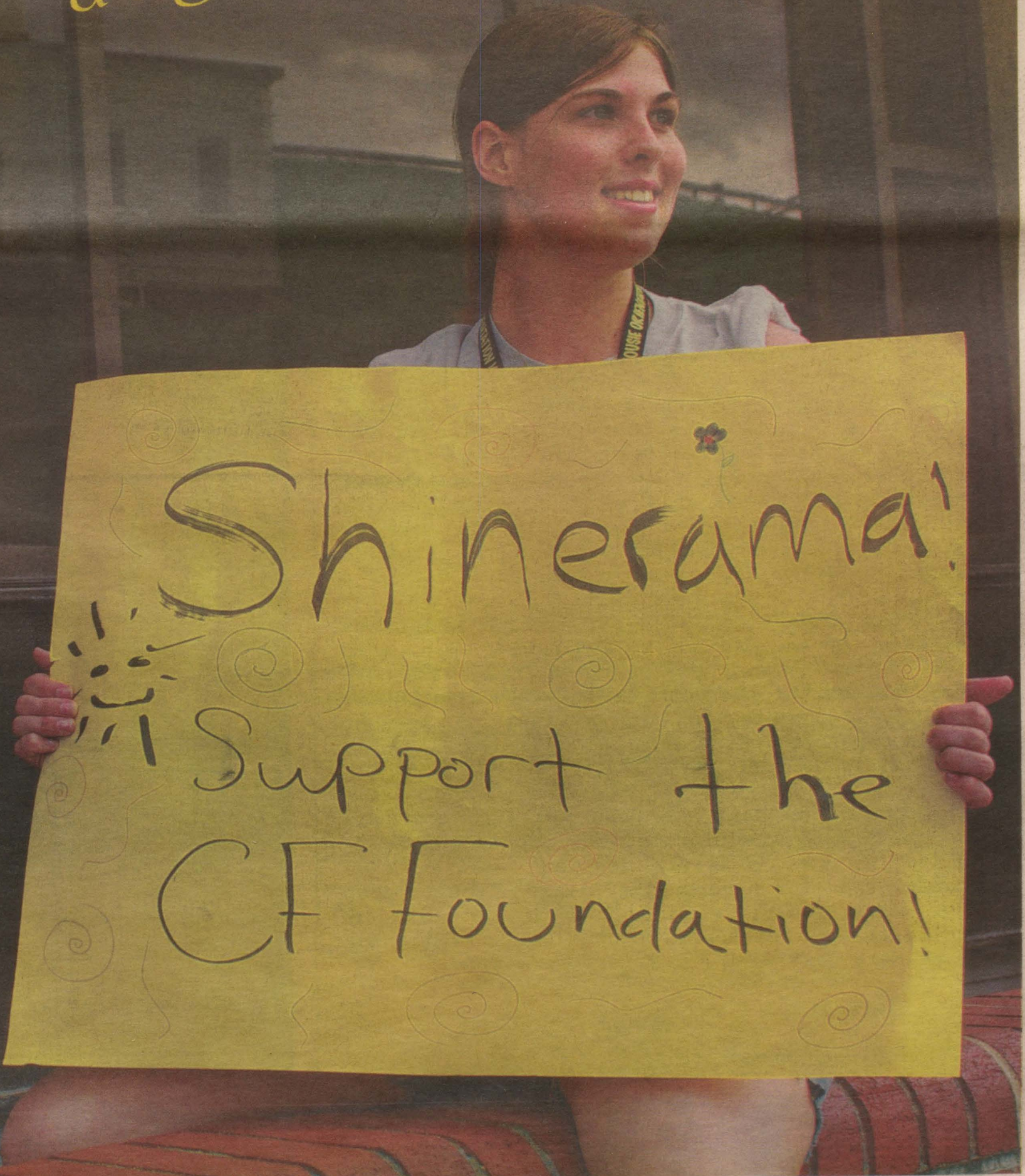


Photo: Josh Boyter



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hi Dalhousie students!

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! We hope you have had a great summer and are ready to hit the books once again!

While you are working hard to achieve the knowledge and grades required to realize your ambitions, the DSU is here to help and support you. Be it a night out at one of our two campus pubs or legal advice, an event with your residence or faculty society, or a varsity sports match, the DSU is here to make your experience as positive as it can be.

Your first and best chance to get involved early and get a sense of what is offered at Dalhousie in terms of extra-curricular activity is the DSU Society Fair being held this Friday, September 5 in the McInnes Room of the SUB from 10:30-2:30. This is a sample of the vast potential for involvement on campus, and if you can't find quite what you are looking for, you can always start your own society. Ask your DSU executive for details!

If you are a sports fan, Dal offers a plethora of first-class varsity teams to follow, and as a student, you get in for free! The first home soccer matches of the season are this Saturday at the Wickwire Field, with the women's team kicking off at 1 p.m. and the men's at 3:15. Both teams take on their counterparts from Acadia, and these matches will also feature a final cheer-off battle between the top three teams from O-Week's competition. Go Tigers!

While at school, it can be difficult to live as healthy a lifestyle as one would like. The DSU is partnering with the Dalhousie Women's Centre and Peer Health this year for the Second Annual Health and Wellness Fair being held in the SUB on Monday, September 8 from 11-3. Be sure to stop by and see what Halifax has to offer to help you live well.

Speaking of health, remember to check out the benefits of the DSU Health and Dental Plan, with the office located across from Campus Copy in the basement of the SUB. The opt-out deadline is Friday, September 26, so be sure to opt-out online before this date if you decide this service is not for you.

Throughout the year, we hope you find your way to the T-Room and Grawood, our two campus bars, featuring weekly trivia, society events, live bands, and club nights. The Grawood is also open for lunch daily, with Rock Band to help you relax between classes. Check it out, and check back here next week for more information.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



Do you
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to
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...write
for the
GAZETTE

Story meetings
are held every
Monday at
5:30 p.m. in
room 312
of the SUB.

Our first meeting
is September
10th.

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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 Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. 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.

Money in your pocket

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nova Scotia students heading back to school will be happy to learn the N.S. Department of Education recently cut the loan interest rate. N.S. students could save up to \$2,000 in loan payments. What's interesting is the push earlier in August to push this legislation through.

Maybe politicians finally understand why tuition reform is important. If students can't afford post-secondary education, then the training programs students need to secure employment would be sorely lacking. Plus, we would get to miss out on all that fun exam cramming and other late-night activity that goes along with student life.

What isn't talked about is the burden loans place on the already stressed-out student. We got a glimpse of that last winter when the N.S. Student Loan Assistance Program hosted a series of town halls at various universities including Dalhousie University where students could air out their grievances. Most of the complaints were similar: A lack of government information, frustration with the slow process, lack of assistance in getting the loans and not enough funding for bursaries and grants for low-income families. I could go on with my own terrible tales of the loan process - one of my loan documents didn't show up until two days before winter final exams - but you get the picture.

And so, after gathering the information, the department decided to make changes and students didn't anticipate any progress. Promises have come and gone from the government. N.S. has the highest rate



JOHN PACKMAN/WGAZETTE FILE PHOTO

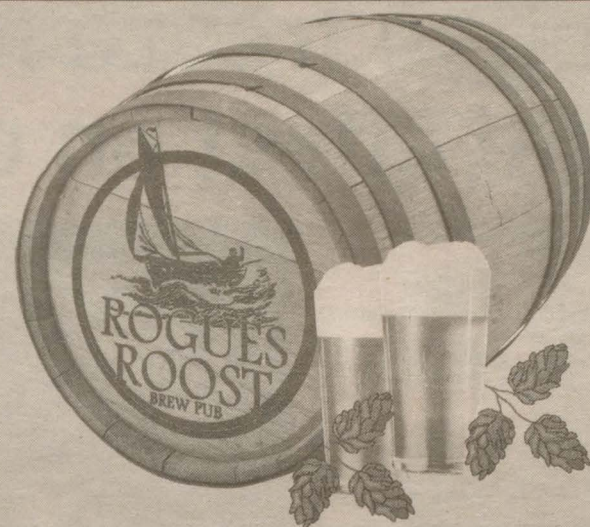
HSA recommendations haven't been acted upon yet, says chair Mark Coffin.

of tuition in Canada. Perhaps this is why the Alliance of Nova Scotia Students' Association fights in vain for tuition reform and greater access for post-secondary education.

Then the miracle happened. The reform became reality with a tuition freeze for the next three years, bursaries for Nova Scotians, more direct lending from the government instead of banks and lower interest rates on loans. The bursaries automatically lowered tuition for N.S. students by \$761 and even students who started repaying their loans in November 2007 will get the lower interest rate. Education Minister Karen Casey should be congratulated for the effort. I'm not sure what prompted her to work so quickly but I'm glad she

did. The government announced the direct lending program in January and pushed the legislation through for this school year. Fast work means most students didn't know about it when applying for their loans but the bottom line is students save money.

The cynic in me thinks the N.S. government is tired of its branding as the expensive province for post-secondary education and the declining enrolment. Plus, I'm left to wonder if there are some loopholes in the interest rate law, similar to the bursary program, in which out-of-province students don't get as big of a break. If these ploys are to entice students to study here, they'll need to do more than a tuition freeze. Either way, my loans just went down by a bunch.



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CORRECTION:

The Gazette improperly credited the "In the frosh pit" photo in our Aug. 15 issue. We should have credited Aaron McKenzie Fraser. Sorry, Aaron, and thanks for the great photo.

Teach English in Japan

Interac is accepting applications for teaching positions commencing in April 2009.

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WRITE FOR THE DAL GAZETTE
Contributor meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm. in room 312 of the SUB

Tuition freeze may have little effect on enrolment

RUTH MESTECKIN
NEWS EDITOR

The province's tuition freeze hasn't harmed Dalhousie's tuition revenues or enrolment numbers, but not all students are satisfied with the new policies.

The agreement, signed last March, outlines a three-year fee freeze of last year's rates with a \$66 million bursary program from the provincial government. The program starts Nova Scotia-born students at a \$761 bursary sum for the 2008-09 school year with gradual increases in the following years.

Tom Traves, university president and chairman of the Council of Nova Scotia Universities, says this is a positive development for N.S. students.

"That represents a substantial saving for Nova Scotia-born students," says Traves. "Basically for Nova Scotia students their fees are not frozen. They're actually going down."

But out-of-province students will begin receiving bursaries in 2010-11, with a sum of \$261. Traves says the effects of all these changes have been constructive for Dal.

"Revenues at the university are going up substantially because the government grant has gone up substantially," says Traves. "But tuition fees have not gone up."

Dal's tuition income is expected to be \$91 million for this year, and Traves says he expects enrolment numbers to remain at relatively the same levels, with some increases, though the figures aren't yet finalized.

"It would appear that our out-of-province enrolments are up," says Traves.

Although bursary sums for N.S. students outweigh those from out-of-province, with out-of-province students receiving nearly one-fifth of what N.S. students are expected to receive in 2010-11, so far N.S. student enrolment numbers don't seem to have spiked.

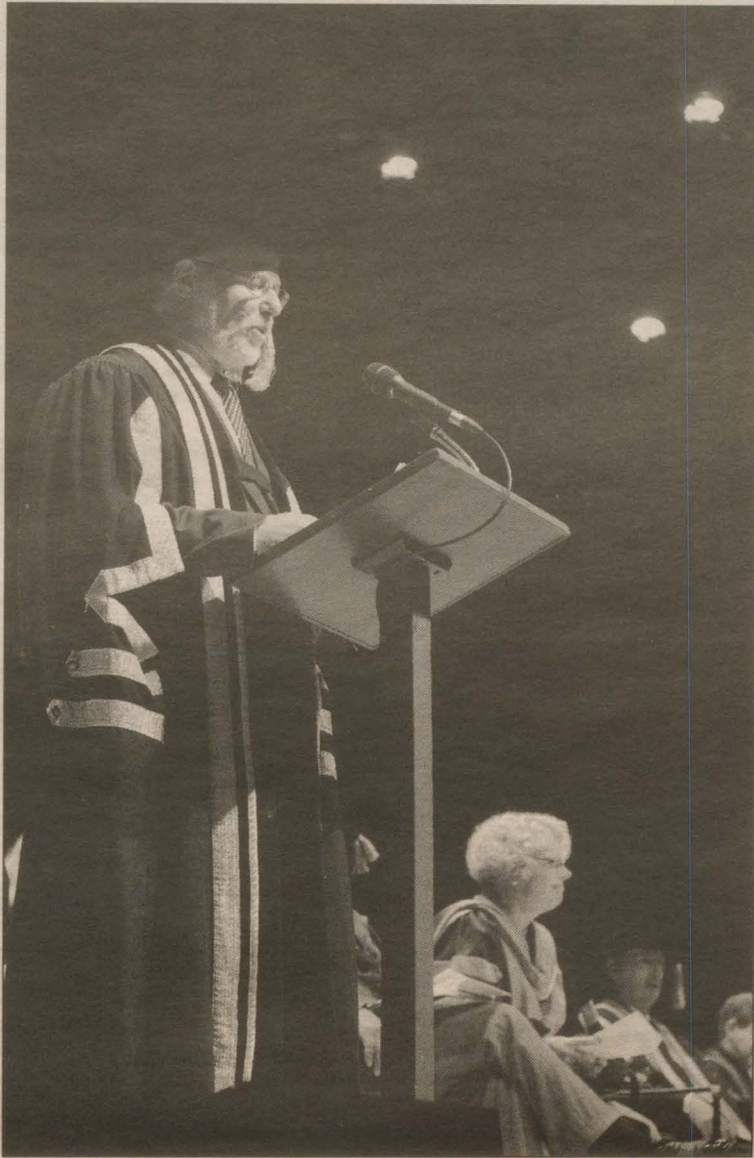
"It looks like we will attract about the same number of Nova Scotia students as we did last year," says Traves.

Dal law student Ethan Kim, from Halifax, recently received his government grant. He says he supports the tuition freeze.

"It's very appropriate and it should have been done a long time ago," says Kim. "It's quite an expensive education for students. The highest education in the country isn't making life any easier for students. Freezing the tuition is a good first step."

He says knowing he'll pay the same amount of tuition again this year didn't drastically change his financial plans.

"In a way, having tuition at eight or



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
University president Tom Traves says the province's priority is to support Nova Scotia-born students.

seven thousand didn't make too much of a difference to me, especially because I live at home," he says. "But for people who live on their own and have to pay rent, I would imagine it would make a huge difference."

Although Kim benefits from the government's decision, he doesn't agree with the lower bursary for out-of-province students.

"It's unfair for out-of-province students," he says. "Canada is a big country, and I think they should be promoting students to explore different parts of Canada to study."

Traves explains the policy is a matter of precedence.

"The province had a limited amount of money and it was their priority to support Nova Scotia students," he says.

Traves adds that all students will have to shell out less money this year because there is no hike in tuition

rates.

"I doubt that you could say that about your rent, your clothes costs, your transportation costs, your entertainment costs," he says. "All of those will undoubtedly go up in the next two years, but your tuition costs won't."

Hani Nafouri, an engineering student, says the freeze didn't affect his finances because he's on a student loan.

"I used to go to UBC (University of British Columbia) and it's the same kind of deal," says Nafouri. "As long as you're on a student loan, it doesn't affect you."

But he still sees the tuition levels as a potential deterrent for students.

"If you're from out-of-province, don't come here," he says. "If you can't afford school anywhere in Canada, you definitely can't afford Dalhousie."

With files from Melissa Di Costanzo



JOSHUA BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
HSA recommendations haven't been acted upon yet, says chair Mark Coffin.

Obstacles slow HSA transit plans

RUTH MESTECKIN
NEWS EDITOR

When a third-year Dalhousie student had his laptop stolen in a mugging in February, students realized they had to do more to ensure campus safety.

A municipal lobby group, the Halifax Student Alliance (HSA), has been vouching for more campus security since its creation and the mugging incident was the push it needed, according to HSA chair Mark Coffin.

"It demonstrated that our concerns were justified and valid," says Coffin, who's also Dalhousie Student Union vice-president (education).

The group, formally incorporated last November, was formed to enforce student involvement in issues at the city level. Full-time students now pay a \$1 levy per semester toward the HSA, while part-time students pay a \$1 levy for the year. Students voted on this issue for the first time in the 2008 DSU elections this spring.

"Our voice was kind of lost at the council table, and councillors weren't always hearing what student concerns were," says Coffin.

The three key issues the HSA addresses deal with transit, safety and housing. Transit revisions are now in the planning stages — the HSA recently passed a transportation policy brimming with seven recommendations for the city to consider.

Transit suggestions include a late-night transit service, recognizing student dependence on the Metro Transit system and enhancing the GoTime system, a phone line listing bus arrival times.

Coffin says the group has been advocating for late-night buses on behalf of students since its beginning.

"When you're downtown either working or just having a good time, they can get home safely and not have to worry about walking home alone or getting mugged or assaulted," he says. "What we've heard from Metro Transit is that it's in the works for a new strategy."

Many students, including Sarah Massoud, are supportive of the plans. Fourth-year student Massoud says she'd like the HSA to keep tabs on safety in the city and to be preventative rather than reactive.

"It's a good idea to extend bus hours," she says. "The Halifax bus system needs a lot of work."

Physiology student Steve Richey says he feels safe living close to campus, adding Tiger Patrol is doing a good job to make people safe and aware of campus safety concerns. But he says changes to the bus routes could benefit students.

"If the buses are stopping at 11, 11:30, a lot of times people are studying at the library until 1 or 2 a.m. And if you live down at the south end, that's a lot of walking (on) back streets and dark streets," says Richey. "It would be pretty valuable, just because it's one other safe thing that they could do and it gives people another option because a lot of people don't want to pay for a cab."

So far the HSA has only recently approved its transportation policy. Coffin says the the group is hoping to develop it after the municipal election. Late-night buses won't operate this year or next year, he adds — time and planning are current obstacles.

"The way (Metro Transit's) warehouse is structured now, they can't bring any more buses on because they need to find another warehouse to house more buses," he says.

The HSA was pushing for some development in the transit system before the end of summer but none of the recommendations have been acted upon to date.

Coffin says he hopes the group can make the city recognize that students are a unique interest group. In a few weeks, the HSA will attempt to bring 10 students from Dal and from other HSA-member schools to participate in a forum regarding student issues.

But some students, such as Massoud and Richey, say they didn't initially know much about the group.

"I don't know who the HSA are," says Massoud. "I had no idea I was paying \$1 per semester to them."

Coffin says over the summer he hadn't made much communication with students because it was a vacation period.

"I've been talking to students I interact with on a regular basis," says Coffin. "Or if we get e-mails or phone call concerns."

The HSA is a student union partnership among Dal, Saint Mary's University, the Atlantic School of Theology and Nova Scotia Community College's waterfront campus.

With files from Melissa Di Costanzo

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

UBC plan bottled water ban

The University of British Columbia and the Alma Mater Society (AMS) are increasing access to free water in their university buildings following an NDP media campaign, reported *The Ubysey*.

The campaign, launched in June, criticizes the lack of free drinking water available on campus.

Vice-President (administration) Tristan Markle said AMS-owned businesses would soon stop selling bottled water in the school's student union building.

NDP health critic Adrian Dix, told *The Vancouver Sun* bottled water isn't student-friendly.

"Some students have lots of resources, and other students don't. These are low-income, high-cost years," said Dix.

Geoff Atkins, UBC's associate vice-president of land and building services, said students dislike tap water and rarely use fountains.

In order to promote change, Atkins said he is seeking advice from UBC students, the AMS and various sustainability boards across campus regarding the installation of chilled water stations, which could possibly be heated in winter.

Concordia student arrested in Beijing

Concordia student Chris Schwartz arrived in Tiananmen Square to help protest with Students for a Free Tibet (SFT). Hours after arriving in the Square, Schwartz was arrested, reported *The Link* student newspaper.

Schwartz, a member of The Link's board of directors and campaigns co-ordinator for the Concordia Student Union, gathered with members of SFT in Tiananmen Square on Aug. 8, the first day of the Olympic Games.

Protesters at the event covered themselves in fake blood and smuggled Tibetan flags into the country. It is illegal in China to display or own a Tibetan flag.

"We weren't sure what the consequences of our action would be," Schwartz told *The Link*. "The government was claiming that protesters would get a 15-day prison sentence."

He was flown back to Canada five days after his arrest.

Schwartz said he was intimidated by the large number of police in the Square, but said the SFT cause "isn't about me, this is about Tibet and it's about solidarity."

Mobsters may be source of Ryerson computing scam

Ryerson's director of computing and communications services said international mobsters want the university's mailing lists.

Two viruses and an e-mail scam designed to access passwords and logins hit Ryerson computers and e-mail accounts over the summer months, reported the *Ryerson Eyeopener*.

Stephen Hawkin, of computing and communications services (CCS), said e-mails asking students to "verify and update their web mail accounts immediately" slid past Ryerson's spam and phishing filters.

"The people are more interested in our mailing lists for spam, probably coming from well outside the country from organized crime," said Hawkin.

Although Ryerson's computers are protected by two anti-virus programs, neither detected the viruses.

Sources: *The Ubysey*, *The Link*, *The Eyeopener*

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

UofMiami president refuses drinking age change

University of Miami president Donna Shalala refused to sign a statement asking lawmakers to consider altering the national drinking age from 21 to 18, reported *The Miami Hurricane*.

The statement suggests the current drinking age encourages binge drinking among college students. But Shalala told the student paper the current law saves 1,000 lives each year.

"Lowering the drinking age would cost lives," said Shalala. "We cannot pretend that changing the age will save lives and I'm not willing to be in favour of something that is inconsistent with research."

Roughly 100 schools including Duke University, Dartmouth College and Ohio State University had already signed their support of the alteration as of Aug. 25. Shalala asked these university leaders, along with the other schools that have signed the statement, to reconsider their decisions.

Harvard makes breakthrough in stem cell research

After three years of research, Harvard Stem Cell Institute scientists uncovered three factors that could point to tracking a method to grow replacement tissues.

The Harvard Crimson reported that one technique for directly transforming one type of adult cell into another was successful using mice cells.

These findings could be helpful for scientists to grow heart or nerve cells, as the technique applies to disorders that affect the cardiovascular or nervous systems.

The direct reprogramming technique hasn't yet been performed in human cells. But a member of the institute's executive committee, George Daley, praised the work as being "really the first conclusive evidence" for transforming one type of tissue into another.

New bridge year for Princeton students

Beginning next fall, incoming students at Princeton University can trade their books for passports for a year, reported *The Princetonian*.

Princeton's new "bridge year" program allows students to delay campus life and participate in community service abroad. Students can participate in university-affiliated programs or other community service organizations that meet the university's criteria.

The committee, comprised of 14 students, faculty and staff, identified several goals for the program including prepping students for life in a globalized world, said Sandra Bermann, working group and comparative literature department chair.

"(The program) should challenge the students to begin to understand cultures other than their own, to think in new ways, gain maturity and begin a life in which service to others is an important ingredient," Bermann said. "It should also affect life here on the Princeton campus, as students who have this experience give serious thought to their academic and extracurricular priorities here."

Sources: *The Miami Hurricane*, *The Harvard Crimson*, *The Princetonian*

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Like a quisling

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There exists at this moment a massive right-wing conspiracy to maintain Republican control of the White House.

On Aug. 23, during the opening concert of her "Sticky and Sweet" tour, Madonna displayed a politically charged video montage during a musical interlude entitled "Get Stupid." In it, she flashed a series of images of war, famine, global warming, as well as several notoriously vile world leaders, including Kim Jong Il, Robert Mugabe and Adolph Hitler. Sandwiched in between this litany of monsters and mayhem was a clip of Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

Given that McCain has long been a popular and moderate Republican figure, Madonna's video will likely do little more than insult the intelligence of American voters and strengthen McCain's depiction of Barack Obama as being connected to a web of brain dead celebrities. The timing of this video could not have been more advantageous for McCain, to the point that it raises serious and disturbing questions. Could anyone without a few crayons shoved up their nostrils really have been stunned enough to make this video without predicting the outcome?

In reality, there is only one logical explanation for Madonna's actions - she and her fellow pop culture icons are involved with a vast right-wing conspiracy to discredit the Democratic Party. The pieces all fit together. In return for looking out for the financial interests of wealthy Hollywood megastars, the Republicans receive the support of hundreds of trained actors, who put on brilliant performances as ignorant, condescending windbags, instantly provoking resentment toward the politicians they claim to support.

Find this theory a bit hard to swallow? Think about it. How many times have celebrities "helped" the Democratic Party by voicing painfully uninformed opinions about Republican candidates and American values? During the last election cycle countless celebrities proclaimed their contempt for the Bush administration, and somehow almost universally managed to come off sounding like they thought American soldiers were the inbred, blood-drinking bastard children of 100 maniacs.

In that same year, millionaire Michael Moore released *Fahrenheit 9/11*, supposedly attempting to convince voters that Bush was the root of all evil. Instead, moviegoers left theatres believing that the liberals who cheered Moore were disturbingly



Madonna: The secret face of the Republicans.

DAVID SHANKBONE PHOTO

obsessive conspiracy theorists. To make matters worse for the Democrats, the movie won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. What better way could there have been to discredit the anti-Bush movement in the eyes of the American people than to link it to artsy French elitists? Checkmate, Mr. Moore.

Effective though this alliance between Hollywood and its right-wing masterminds was in the 2004 elections, it looks like they are stepping things up in order to defeat the highly popular Obama. After running her attack on McCain, Madonna displayed footage of Obama alongside the likes of Gandhi, John Lennon, Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. Kennedy. Notice a common theme here? Not many of these guys had to worry about planning for retirement, did they?

I can only envision two explanations behind this tactic. Either Madonna is attempting to make Obama supporters look like hypocrites by creating a Bush-esque good versus evil dichotomy between two decent politicians, or she and her right-wing overlords are using her pulsating, hypnotic dance music to plant subliminal messages in the heads of her fans, attempting to create an army of rhythmically gifted zombie assassins. It's like the plot of *Zoolander* all over again!

The Democrats need to hit back hard. If they and their supporters are serious about taking the White House this time around, they must remember one crucial fact: No matter how intelligent, charming, or in-

spiring a presidential candidate may be, he is only as strong as his most obnoxious, off-putting supporters.

Sure, the Democrats secretly established the Fox News initiative under the Clinton administration, and yes, their agents Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly still work daily to tarnish the conservative image, but American society is becoming numb to the antics of these low-wattage celebrity pundits. Celebrity gossip website TMZ holds the keys to the White House these days.

Former Republican senator Jesse Helms died in July, so the chances of getting a high ranking politician besides Jesse Jackson to use an offensive racial slur against Obama on tape have largely vanished.

The path to victory will now require Democrats to assemble the political and pop-culture equivalent of a perfect storm: Mel Gibson, Don Imus, two McCain 2008 ball caps, and a few celebrity photographers. Combine these elements with an open bar, and Obama just might be able to overcome even the most zealous efforts of Madonna, Moore, Alec Baldwin and their various cronies to destroy the Democratic party. Continuing the strategy of sending Rosie O'Donnell on cruises out of country to Halifax might not hurt, either.

Expecting a vocabulary footnote to explain the headline? Go look it up, you hebetudinous lummox!

John Hillman is a history graduate student and the public face of a failed right-wing conspiracy to steal the DSU presidential election last March.

Student tenants have rights

COLE WEBBER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

In the HRM and across Nova Scotia, many landlords take advantage of students living off campus. Students deal with sub-standard housing conditions, illegal rent increases, evictions, exorbitant subletting fees and more.

Landlords get away with these abuses simply because we, as tenants, don't understand the rights we have and do not have. Gaining an understanding of our rights means knowing the law. In N.S., the law is the Residential Tenancies Act, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

The first step to tenant empowerment is to know your rights and how to defend them. The second and more difficult step is to identify what rights we don't have and to get organized to win those rights.

Let's look at what rights we do have as tenants. Consider this the good news first.

To legally evict a tenant, landlords must go through the proper legal process by first applying to the Residential Tenancies organization and serving their tenants with a notice of hearing. If the organization rules in favour of the landlord, it will issue an order of vacant possession. Without a legal vacant possession order, landlords do not have the right to put tenants or their belongings out.

Also, a landlord can only evict you for unpaid rent if your payment is 30 or more days late.

Your landlord must give you four months notice prior to your anniversary date to raise your rent if you are on a yearly or monthly lease and eight weeks notice if you are on a weekly lease.

Landlords must return to you your security deposit within 10 days of the end of your lease agreement. They cannot retain your security deposit unless they apply to Residential Tenancies organization and provide evidence at the hearing that they are entitled to it.

Your landlord must allow you to

sublet your unit. The maximum subletting fee landlords can charge is \$25.

Your landlord must give you 24 hours notice before he or she enters your rental unit.

Your landlord must keep your unit in a decent state of repair and must comply with health, safety and housing standards. You are not responsible for regular wear and tear.

And now for the bad news:

Since 1993, Nova Scotia has been without rent controls. This means that landlords can raise tenants' rent any amount they see fit.

Also, there is no effective enforcement mechanism to ensure that landlords make necessary repairs to their rental units. Residential Tenancies organization may order a landlord to make repairs, but the order has no teeth and can be easily ignored.

Landlords can evict tenants who have lived for less than five years consecutively in the same rental unit for no reason whatsoever as long as they provide proper notice. If you are on a yearly lease, your landlord must give you three months notice prior to your anniversary date. If you are on a month to month lease, your landlord can give you three months notice to quit at any time. Not having a lease counts as a month to month tenancy.

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service runs a Tenant Rights Project that includes a tenant rights hotline, community drop-ins and workshops for tenants and advocates. The project has produced a comprehensive plain-language guide to tenant rights in Nova Scotia that is available online at <http://tenantrights.legalaid.dal.ca/>

As well, Dal Legal Aid, in partnership with other groups in the community, is building a campaign demanding an overhaul of the Residential Tenancies Act to vastly expand the rights of tenants. For more information, get in touch.

Cole Webber is a Community Legal Worker at Dal Legal Aid and a member of the Halifax Co-alition Against Poverty.

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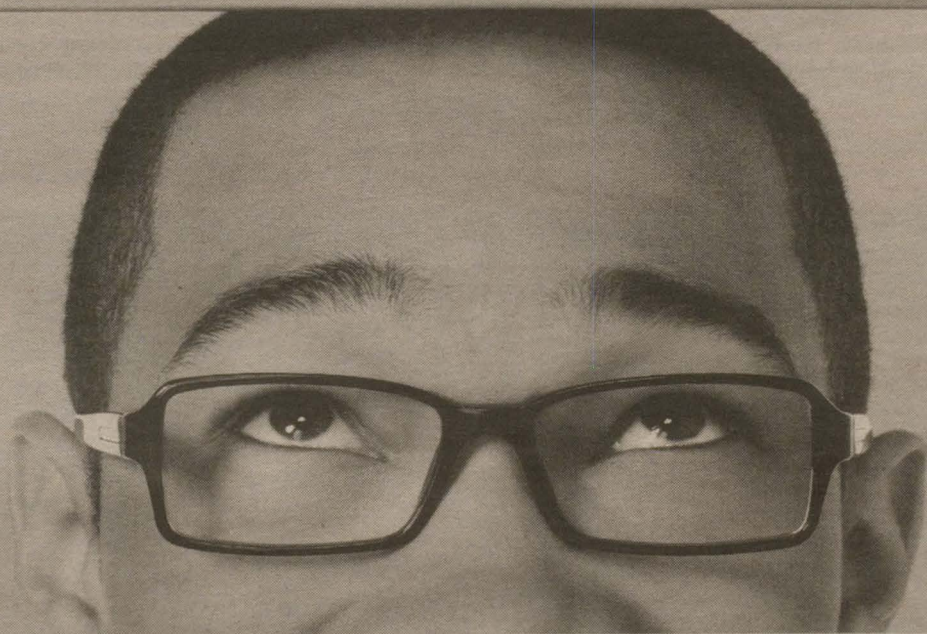
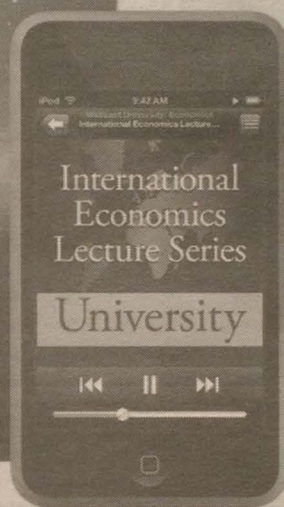
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English only, please

RAMI NASSER

OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Last year, an international student asked me how he could improve his English language skills. I told him to speak slowly and clearly, hang out with fluent English speakers, work on building his vocabulary and avoid speaking in his first language. He was offended by my advice to avoid using his first language. He said that his first language was an essential part of his culture and identity.

My position can be controversial because for some it might break cultural, religious or linguistic traditions. However, speaking English fluently is the only way to successfully integrate into Anglophone Canada.

Take it from me – after I arrived in Canada from Syria with simple vocabulary and weak speaking and listening skills, I worked hard to improve my English. I continue to read and develop my English skills every day. Eight years later, I have more than three years of professional work experience and am about to graduate with a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from Dal. I would have never been able to accomplish that without only speaking English and without constantly working to develop my communication skills.

A couple of days after arriving in Canada eight years ago, my roommate in Cameron House greeted me by asking "what's up?"

I looked up at the ceiling and back at my roommate wondering what he meant. My roommate looked puzzled; he wasn't sure whether I was serious or kidding. I was serious, I did not know what "what's up?" meant in anything but the literal sense.

I started taking English as a second language in elementary school. I knew enough to pass Dal's standardized English language requirement for students whose first language is not English. I spoke with a thick Ara-

bic accent, had a limited vocabulary and made many grammar errors. My encounter with my roommate was a life changing moment. Right then and there I decided improving my English skills would be my top priority. And so should it be for you if English is not your first language.

To improve my language skills, I only spoke English. When people spoke to me in my mother tongue, I responded in English. That did not go well with most of them but I did not care. I hung out mostly with fluent English speakers. It was not easy but it worked.

The best way to learn a new language is to speak only that language. Many people travel to Europe every year to learn French or Spanish. Many fail because they travel in groups. Many others succeed because they travel by themselves.

There is a serious disconnect between the required level of language skills in academic life and in professional life. Unfortunately, universities do not challenge their students enough to improve their English skills; this is especially common in engineering and computer science programs, based on my engineering undergraduate experience at Dal.

In academic life, hanging out with non-English speakers and speaking your first language gives you a false sense of security and success. You can make friends quickly and you can manage to pass your courses. In professional life, however, oral and written communication skills are the most important skills. If your English skills are lacking, you will fail to do well in your job interviews and might ultimately fail to land your dream job. Solid English language skills do not guarantee a good job but they are a must to get one.

Rami Nasser is a second-year international MBA student majoring in finance.

When skeptics go bad



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

When politicians and pundits look for an ally in their criticisms of climate change policies, they often enlist Danish statistician and political scientist Bjorn Lomborg.

Lomborg named himself "the skeptical environmentalist" and in 2001 he released a book of the same title, in which he claimed many of the fears of the environmental movement were unfounded and that the effects of global warming were greatly exaggerated, calling into question the very existence of the climate crisis.

The book was a hit with economic news publications such as *The Economist* and *The Wall Street Journal*, which called it "one of the most valuable books on public policy" and "a superbly documented and readable book," but it was loathed by scientific publications such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Scientific American*.

At the time, Lomborg held only a junior position in Danish academia and his only contribution to science had been a flawed paper on game theory. The arguments in his book were based on misunderstandings of climate science and old papers by scientists who had since changed their views.

Six years later, Lomborg had gained a few more credentials, refined his message and published a book called *Cool it: a Skeptical environmentalist's guide to global warming*. Lomborg now made it clear that he believed global warming was occurring, but that the panic surrounding it was unwarranted. This time the media were a bit more savvy and able to recognize he was up to his old tricks again.

To draw his conclusions, Lom-

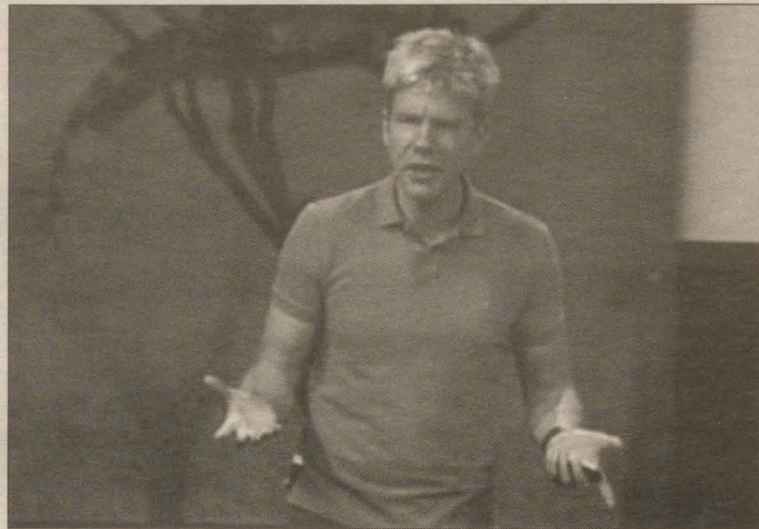
borg relied on the least catastrophic predictions and ignored the data that didn't agree with his belief that the costs of global warming are greatly exaggerated. Being skeptical doesn't always mean being scientific.

Like Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth*, Lomborg has used the message that "we need to dwell on the positive to stave off a sense of futility." But unlike Gore, he uses his optimism to ignore the problem of climate change rather than to attempt to prevent it.

ways to make the world a better place, rather than many of the proposed solutions to global warming – including fighting the spread of malaria and HIV/AIDS or providing clean drinking water to the poorest regions of the world. But there's no reason why we can't do both.

Lomborg makes a convincing argument about the media and hype.

"Cool It is about acknowledging that there is a lot of hysteria about climate change. We hear a lot from



TED.COM

Bjorn Lomborg claimed the effects of global warming were greatly exaggerated.

It's tempting to accept the message of Lomborg's books unquestionably because his message is so promising. But we need to be especially skeptical of claims that comfort us.

Still, Lomborg makes many valid points. He believes the Kyoto Protocol is unlikely to do anything to delay the effects of global warming since few of its signers are actually going to follow through and the economic costs will be high. He argues that investing in green technologies and alternative energy sources are likely to do more good than a carbon tax.

I subscribe to this belief, although as someone hoping to make a career out of applied physics, I can't claim to be an unbiased observer.

Lomborg also points out that there are other, more cost-effective

people who argue that we are heading for catastrophe," he said in an interview with the editor of the *National Review Online*. "We also hear from those who maintain climate change is a hoax. Neither of these extremes is right. The Earth is warming, and we are causing it, but that is not the whole story. Predictions of impending disaster don't stack up, and they push us into looking at the wrong answers to this challenge."

Lomborg suggests that you shouldn't believe everything you hear, but his own message is not immune to this mantra. His strength is his skepticism, but he falls short on the scientific end. In the end, Lomborg is an economist, not a climateologist.

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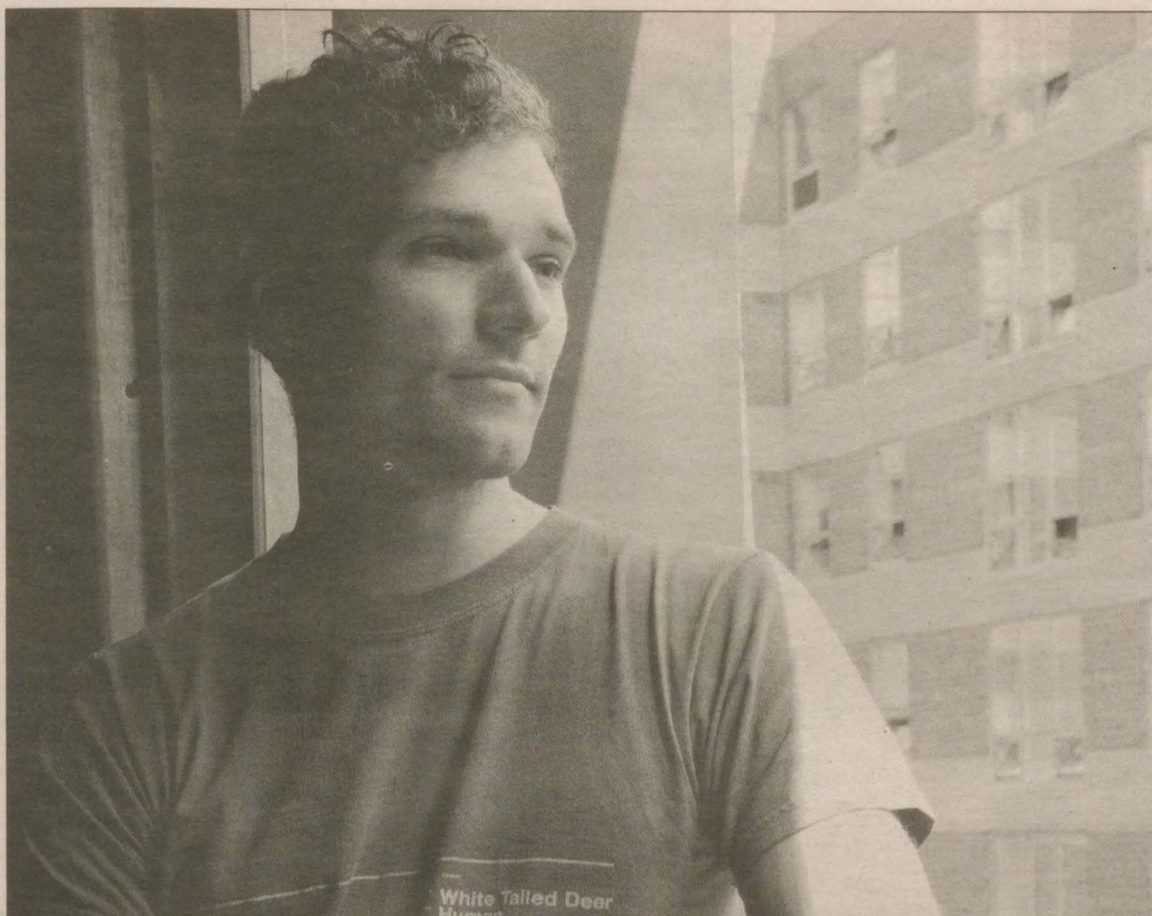
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Rich Aucoin can't wait to take The Marquee main stage again tomorrow with his collection of local friends and 25-plus instruments.

HILARY BEAUMONT/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Rags to Rich's

HILARY BEAUMONT
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

There's someone you should meet, but chances are you already know him. Modest music chemist and Halifax homeboy Rich Aucoin has collaborated with the entire East Coast and beyond. The catch is he's only been performing for a year and a half.

Tonight's show on The Marquee's main stage will expose Aucoin as the enthusiastic and eclectic performer he is as he teams up with local acts the First Aid Kit and the Rhythm Method, plus come-from-aways These Hands from Saskatoon and Pete Samples of Montreal.

The show will cost a grand total of \$5. "That's a dollar per band," Aucoin points out.

"I always think before my shows, 'am I giving people their money's worth?' and use that to push myself to make the show as entertaining as possible," he says.

On his last two tours he made it his personal mission to raise money for needy organizations. In summer 2007 he toured across Canada by bike to raise money for the Childhood Cancer Foundation, playing gigs in every major city along the way.

"I had never cycled or anything, so I just met with someone who did and who had biked across Canada. I said 'OK, what did you do? What can I expect if I do it?'" Aucoin says. "You can do a lot of things that you might not think immediately that you can as long as you just talk to people who have done them."

Earlier this summer his ambition didn't falter as he again played coast to coast, running one half marathon for every show to benefit the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

While running the 21 kilometres through Ottawa in July he left more than a musical imprint in his wake.

"I lost every single bit of stuff out of my backpack because I had it kind of opened on the side. It was just enough for things to slowly work their way out," he says.

Aucoin lost his phone, credit cards, all of his cash, the keys to his Halifax apartment and the ones for his temporary pad in Ottawa.

"Luckily when I realized what had happened I turned around and ran back, and over the span of six kilometres found everything that I had

dropped."

Since his first show at St. Matthew's Church in February 2007 Aucoin has teamed up with various local treasures, including I See Rowboats, Rebekkah Higgs and Dog Day.

A typical concert organized by Aucoin will have about 16 people on a tiny stage at one time in one huge jam sesh. Add the fact that he plays 25 plus instruments and it's no wonder he's notorious in Halifax for his music philosophy: you can never have too much.

Unfortunately his craving for more has backfired more than once. So many instruments in the mix means a longer wait between sets and the odd technical problem.

But the tiny stages of Halifax aren't the limit to Aucoin's orchestral originality.

His last big music venture was a popular synch to the classic *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* cartoon. Fans will remember the festive show at Gus's Pub last year when he played the entire synch live, dressed in a Seussical Santa costume.

Sadly the synch was recently pulled from the web at the request of Dr. Seuss Enterprises.

Now Aucoin is making a new synch, a better synch. And this one is from the public domain so it won't be snatched from Aucoin's clutches like Christmas from the Whoville Whos.

"I started last fall," he says, "watching movie after movie after movie. And like, I watched so many movies that I got to the point that my eyes didn't even want to look at any blurry, old footage. So I was watching them in fast-forward by the end. I watched like 100 movies."

The synch plot focuses around an alcoholic protagonist played by Jimmy Stewart from *It's A Wonderful Life*.

"You know that scene where he's drinking at the bar? That's the opening scene for this new film," Aucoin says, totally enthused. "It's the story of a guy with a drinking problem. He has a series of hallucinations and accidents and stuff like that and realizes he should give up drinking."

The video is made up of black and white footage from the Christmas film spliced with scenes from technical cartoons such as Gulliver's Travels and Superman, plus some Kung Fu action thrown in the

mix.

As if filmmaking isn't enough work, Aucoin has been back in the studio recording the new synched album with more than 200 of his musical friends. Actually, he's been travelling across the country to collaborate with them and hopes to have hundreds more by the end.

"The hard part will be in the fall when I'm sitting alone at the computer again and just whittling down everything," he says. "The way it's turning out, it's not like a wall of sound."

Instead, he hopes the project will result in an unprecedented blend of musical styles and minds meticulously arranged by one extremely methodical conductor.

"I'm trying not to give them any direction the first take," he says. "Just go for whatever happens ... because my ideas that I think are good might not be as good as what they might suddenly do."

The record will end in such an Aucoin way - everybody in the spotlight at once.

"Everyone who's involved in the record, like even non-musicians, everyone doing the artwork and photography and everything else, they're all singing. So the end of the record is a 400-person choir."

Aucoin says he wants to take advantage of the CD medium before it becomes obsolete.

"I want to make it so if you put it in your CD player it's an EP, but when you put it in your computer it's a full length record."

The new album synch is 80 per cent done and Aucoin estimates its release will be in January or February.

Even with ventures like cross country biking and half marathons, filmmaking, gigs and synching, Aucoin has surprisingly maintained his ambitious musical focus.

"A lot of the time the hardest part about doing something is deciding to do it, rather than the steps it takes to get it done. 'Cause people don't break up some big thing they want to do into little tasks. (They) instead think of it as one big thing and get overwhelmed by it."

Catch Aucoin at the Marquee tonight, Sept. 5, before he heads out to Toronto. The musical menagerie starts at 10 p.m.

A shameless plea for writers

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ARTS EDITOR

I don't quite remember the exact moment I realized that working for *The Gazette* had taken any semblance of dignity or tact I had.

Perhaps it was all those times I was trapped in a conversation about deadlines with our photo editor and my roommate, John Packman, his shockingly white body clothed only in a threadbare towel; or perhaps it was when our notoriously shady sports editor, Nick Khattar, repeatedly chose to verbally molest me as I tried to conduct contributor meetings.

At any rate my sense of tact and propriety in regards to *The Gazette* has all but evaporated, which is why I feel no embarrassment in presenting this barefaced and shameless plea for new writers. The arts section needs you. The news section needs you. The sports section needs you. The opinions section needs you. We all desperately need you.

Oh yeah, and we need photographers too.

While writing for *The Gazette* is basically the coolest volunteer job there is at Dal - not to toot our own horn

of awesomeness - we also offer some pretty nice perks to our contributors:

Free pizza at the Monday night contributor meetings where we pitch story ideas and assign articles for the week.

Free beer on Friday night at a local Halifax bar for contributing writers and an excuse to hang out with the strikingly beautiful and incredibly hilarious staff members.

The opportunity to attend sports games, speeches, political gatherings, concert and gallery openings and theatre productions for free on the condition you deliver us a smart, insightful, irreverent and witty article. Dare I even mention the opportunity to interview amazing local, national and international figures, athletes and artists?

So there it is, as shameless as it gets. And if, as you're reading this, you feel as though you might have something interesting and engaging to say for the Halifax population, consider coming up to the third floor of the Student Union Building on Monday evenings and sitting down with us to talk about contributing. We'll be the ones who are overly excited to meet you.

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Frosh bend over for charity

JOHN PACKMAN
PHOTO EDITOR

PHOTOS: JOSH BOYTER

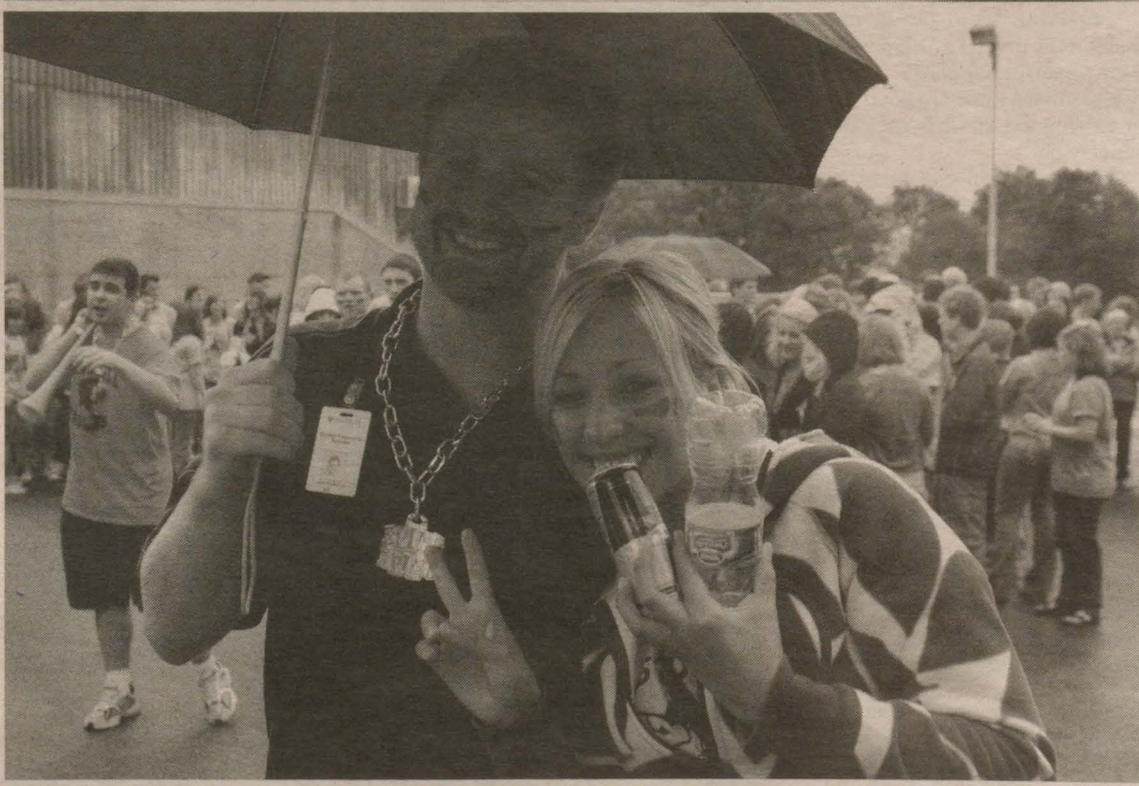
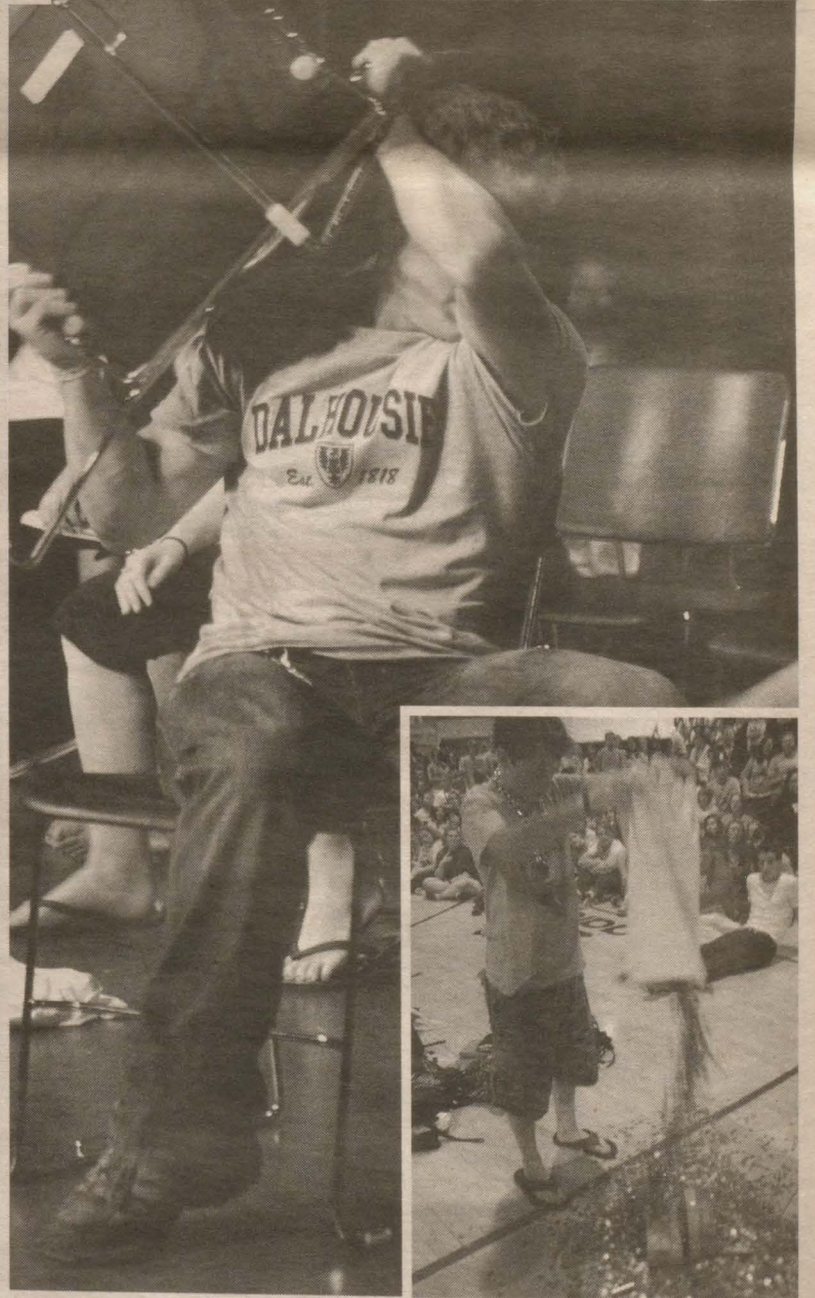
First-year students with change boxes attached two-metre wooden sticks flooded Halifax for last Tuesday's Shine Day. Students held the boxes to car windows to raise money to help to fight cystic fibrosis as part of the annual Shinerama event.

Due to a provincial bylaw banning panhandling on roads, this year's frosh avoided stepping on the street at all costs.

"We tried to get an exemption from that bylaw but we couldn't get it through the (city) council," says Kris Osmond, Dalhousie Student Union vice-president (student life). "We fought that bylaw all summer."

As a last resort, the DSU bought nearly 100 dowels to avoid stepping on the road. Other students bent over cars closer to the intersection.

The DSU hopes to raise \$52,000 for Shinerama this year.

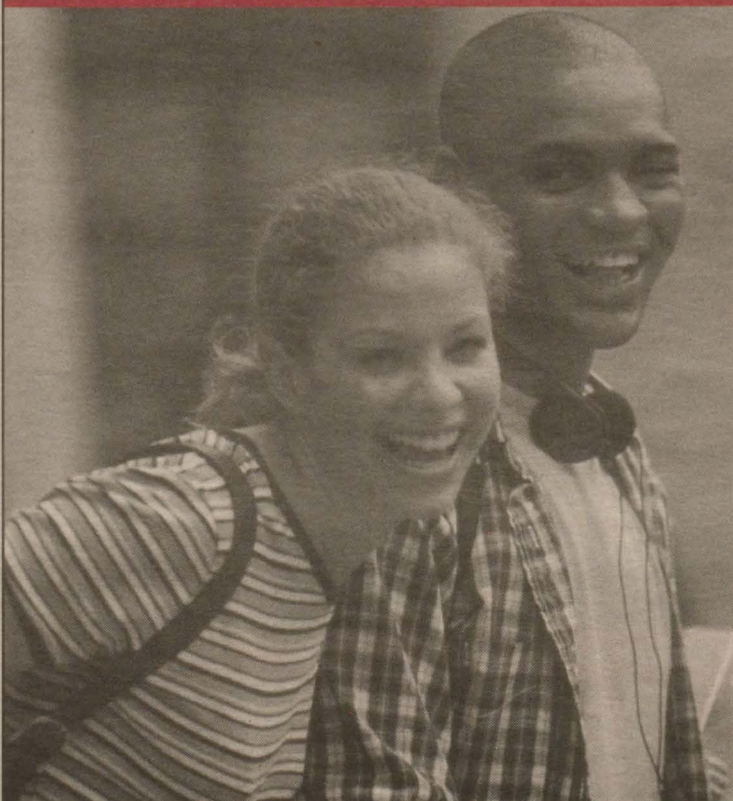


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STREETER

What differences do you notice between Halifax and your hometown?



“It's a lot bigger, people are friendlier and there lots to do.”
Jordan LeBlanc, first-year music
 Glace Bay, Cape Breton



“Street lights.”
Jackie Beaton, first-year sociology
 Port Hood, Cape Breton



“Cops over-reacting.”
Ben Stoddart, first-year arts
 Waterloo, Ont.



“A lot of rain and really friendly drivers.”
Alex Heimpel, first-year arts
 Waterloo, Ont.



“People aren't as bigot-ty.”
Craig Dunn, fourth-year engineering
 Waterford, Cape Breton



“I think all the cars are uninsured because there are no plates on the front and I'm American.”
Joe Langer, first-year engineering
 New Jersey, U.S.



“Less money and more musical.”
Katie Waddington, second-year European studies
 Calgary, Alta.



“They have people here.”
Cassandra Sears, second-year psychology
 Brookfield, N.S.

HOT OR NOT

- HOT:** Cafeteria food **NOT:** Diarrhea
- HOT:** Starting at Dal **NOT:** Settling for third choice
- HOT:** Residence rivalries **NOT:** Shallowness
- HOT:** Not having a roommate **NOT:** Not having an alibi
- HOT:** Sleeping with your R.A. **NOT:** Sleeping with your school mascot
- HOT:** Meeting new people **NOT:** Contracting new diseases
- HOT:** Co-ed bathrooms in theory **NOT:** Co-ed bathrooms in practice
- HOT:** Engineers during frosh week **NOT:** Engineers the rest of the year
- HOT:** U-Pass **NOT:** U-Haul
- HOT:** The new DSU executive **NOT:** Lies

DISCLAIMER

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

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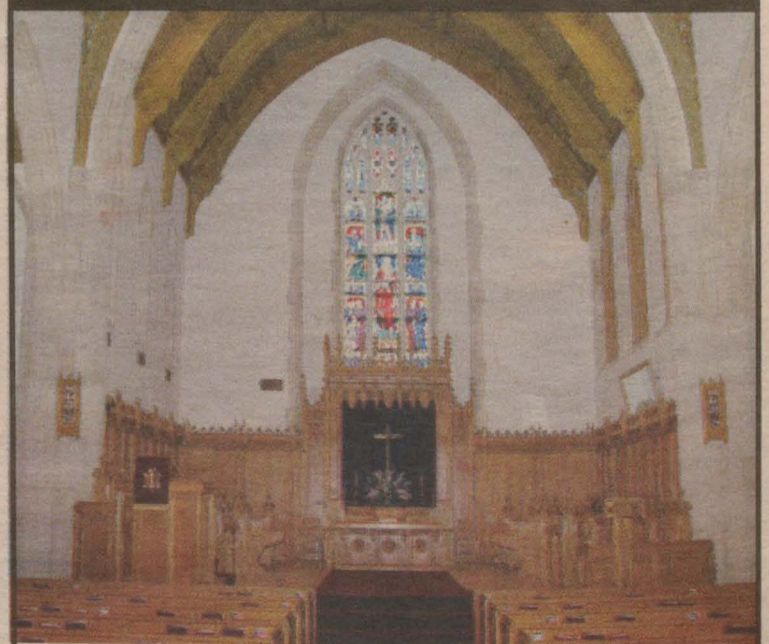
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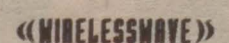
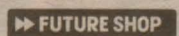
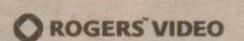
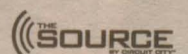
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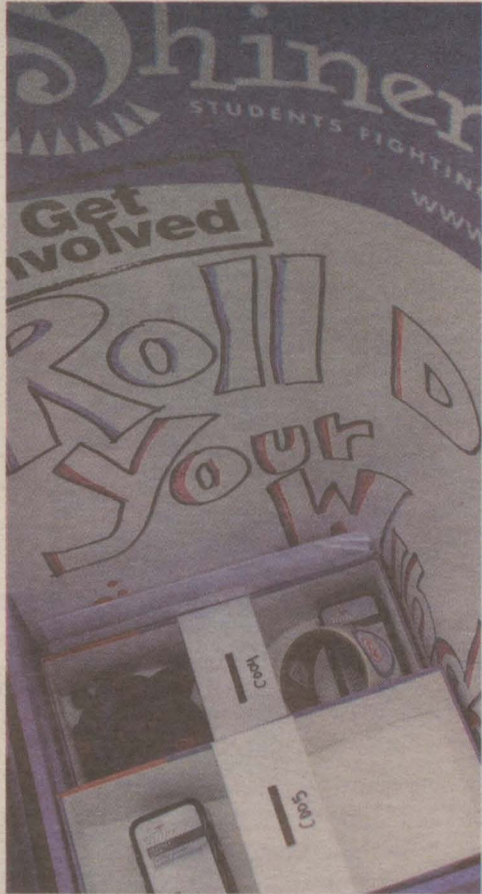


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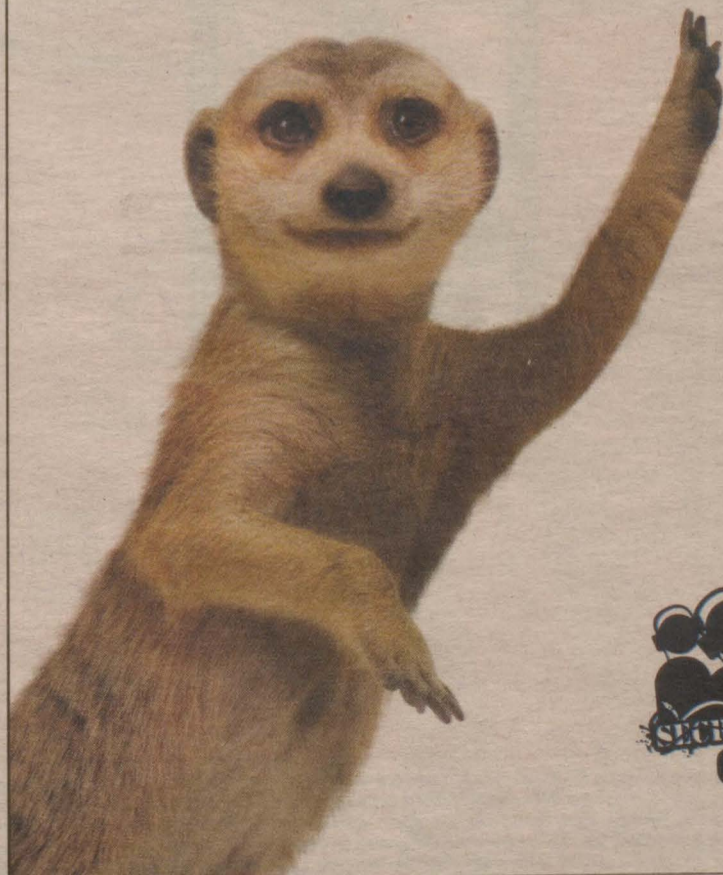
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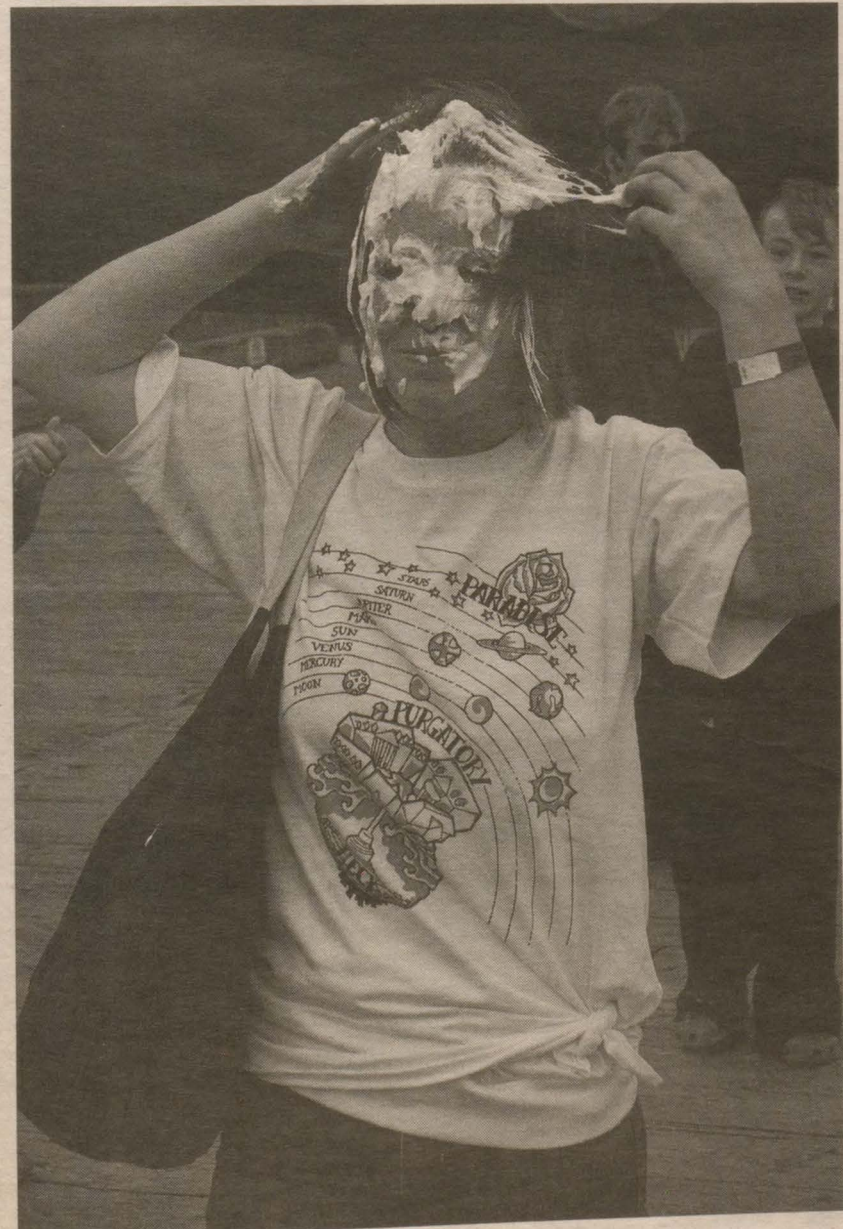
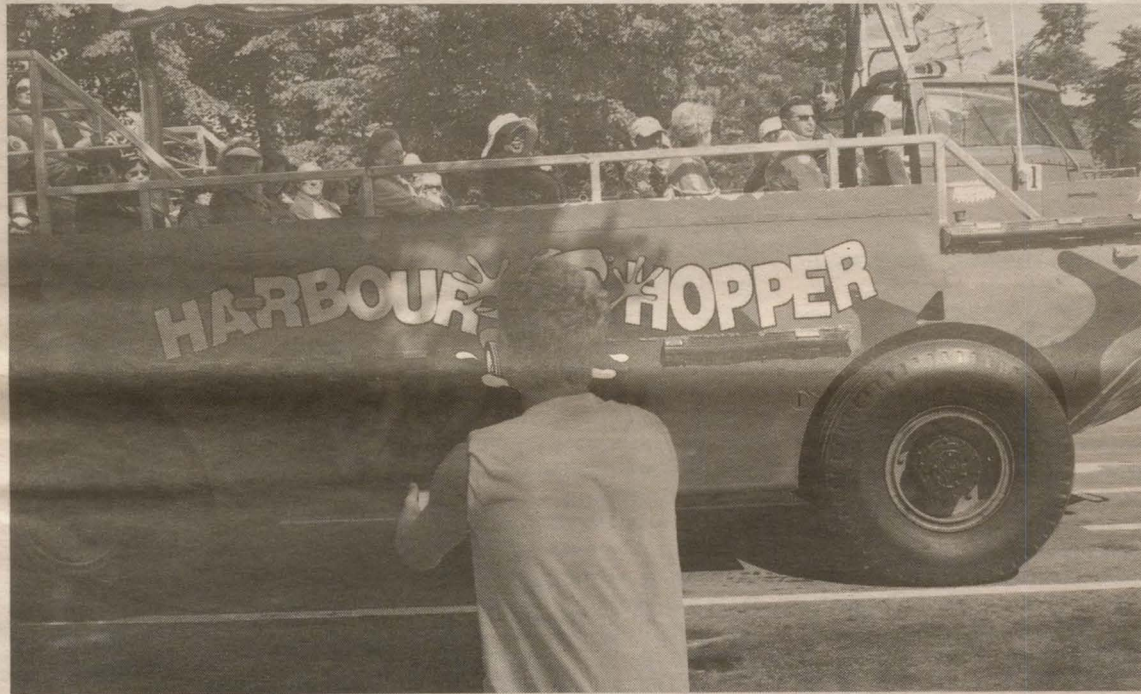
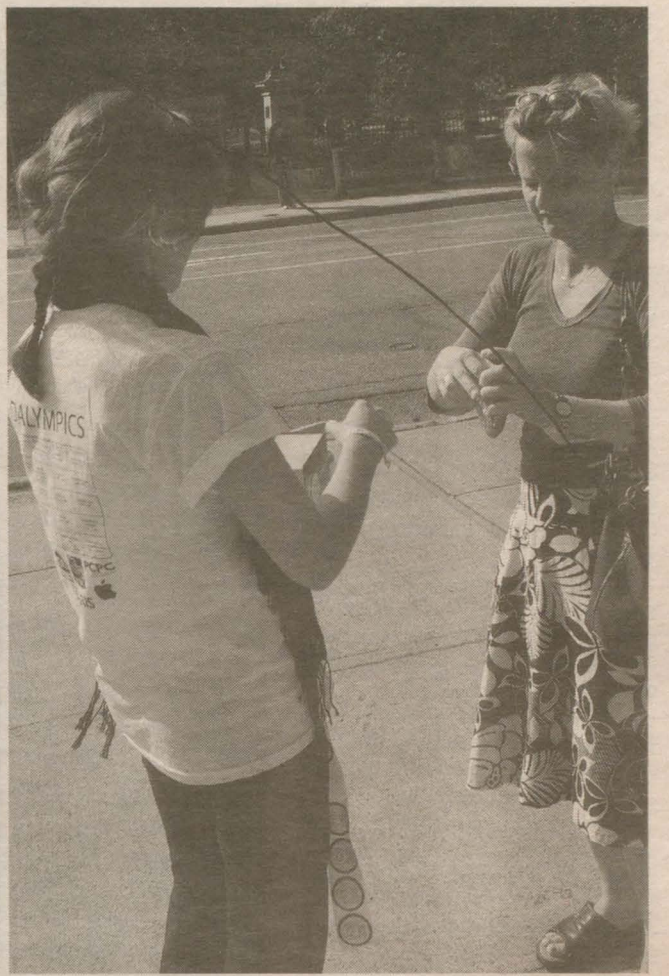
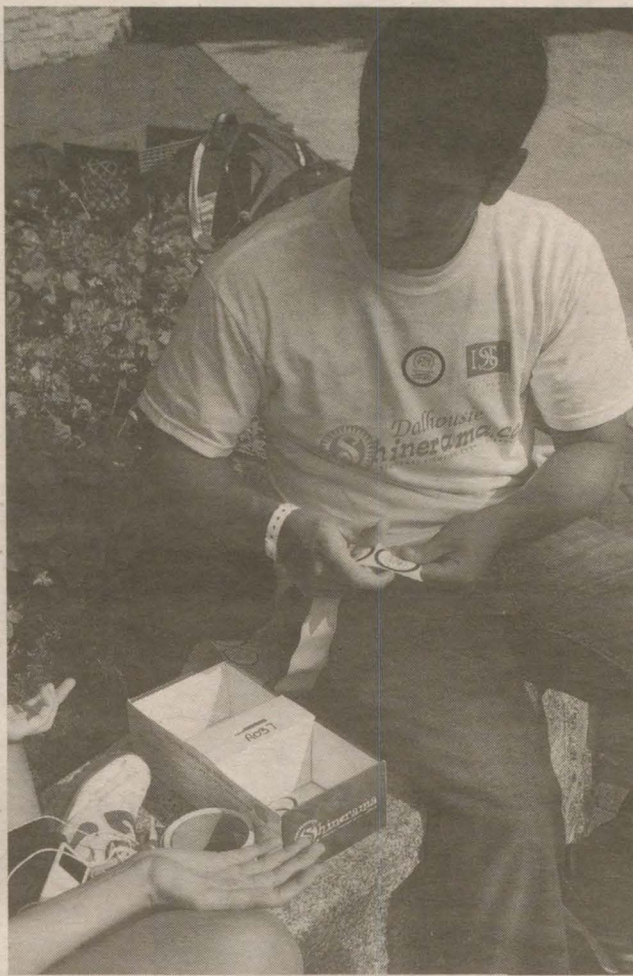
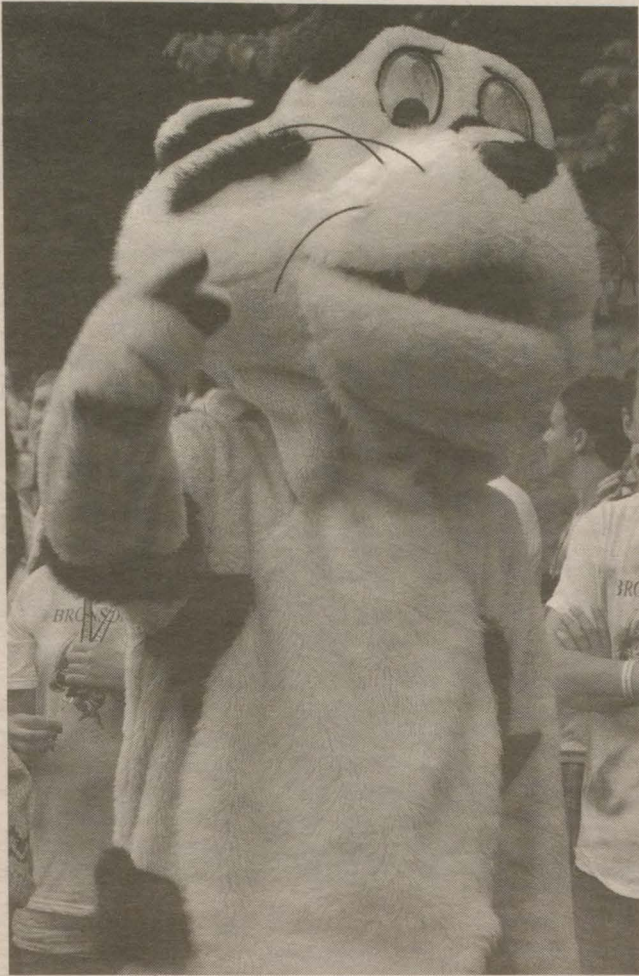
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A little foreplay

JORDAN ROBERTS
SEX COLUMNIST

Welcome and welcome back, Dalhousie students! My name is Jordan and I will be your new sex and relationship columnist.

My column runs every other week and will focus on everything related to hooking up and getting down; sex, sexuality, gender identity, birth control, fertility, relationships, campus and community resources and more.

I want to answer questions you send in and open your eyes to sex-positive, queer-friendly, empowering people, spaces and events going on in your neighbourhood.

Since I am asking you to open your hearts and bedroom doors to me I figure I should introduce myself and my background to you.

I was born and raised in Halifax and have been part of the Dal community for four and a half years as I work toward a combined honours degree in gender and women's studies.

When I'm not trying to finish my thesis I volunteer for the women's community and CKDU - the campus/community radio station on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building. My volunteer work has also allowed me to volunteer for and co-ordinate events that focus on sex, sexuality and self-expression.

I have been a volunteer with the Dalhousie Women's Centre for four years. The work I did there ranged from basic volunteering - greeting people, washing dishes, filing, etc. - to being a co-ordinator of the women's discussion group and student assistant to the co-ordinator.

For the past four years I have also worked with the Dal / University of King's College production of the Vagina Monologues. In 2006-07, we were able to see the Vagina Monologues evolve into a more inclusive, community show called The Radical Vulvas which invited anyone and everyone to write a piece about their own experiences and opinions on sex and sexuality. Keep an eye out around campus and in this column for news about the V-Day society



Meet Jordan Roberts.

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

this year including when and where to audition.

In my second year, I became a Dal Ally, which are supportive students, faculty and staff at Dal registered with the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth Project's Ally Card Program. Faculty and staff members at Dal who are Allies identify themselves as such with a sticker usually placed in the window or on the door of their office.

I served for two years as a councillor with the DSU, first as the Women's Community Rep and then as an Undergraduate Senate Rep.

If you want to learn more about any of the spaces and resources mentioned above or if you have a question and want some advice e-

mail me at jordan.gazette@gmail.com.

I promise not to release names or e-mail addresses and you can use a pseudonym if you want. I'm not here to embarrass or shame anyone; rather, I hope to be part of the campus movement that promotes healthy attitudes toward sex and sexual expression. Sex goes way beyond penis- vagina "intercourse" and people can be sexual beings and express themselves as such by themselves or with a partner, as a virgin or not. So please, ask anything and ask often! I am here for you!

I look forward to hearing from you and helping you be healthy, happy and hot!

Art Beat goes north



LAURA DAWE
ARTS COLUMNIST

Emily Davidson lives in one of many apartments in a huge dilapidated house on Creighton Street. Out front are enough benches and chairs for a small party. A large painting of Ferris Bueller with his arms behind his head looks smugly at the sidewalk through the window. Bikes are locked to a street sign outside, which has the words "barking up the wrong tree" stickered under the instruction to stop.

As I interview Emily, cyclists wave as they pass on old bikes repainted bright colours. A carful of bearded 20-somethings flash the peace sign when they stop at the four way. This is Halifax's north end.

Davidson, 21, is an artist and student union president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University (NSCAD). Every other NSCAD student union member lives within 10 houses of her. Down the street from them, on Gottingen, is the Eye Level Gallery.

Eye Level Gallery acts as the home base for the annual studio tour of the neighbourhood: Go North. Go North is an opportunity for art fans and the generally curious to step into some of the many often unknown art-making places in the north end of Halifax. Participants can grab a copy of the map and take themselves on a self-guided tour or they can team up with one of the informed tour guides and peruse a section in a group.

Last year Davidson acted as a tour guide. There were many painters' studios where those attending Go North saw art as diverse as the north end itself. She said the highlights on her tour were 161 Gallon Gallery, a tiny exhibition space in the hallway of a home, and the Anchor Archive (now Robert Street Social Centre), both of which are on this year's roster.

"As a tour guide I mostly had these bureaucratic dudes and a couple of really old women and they got so excited about the tiny gallery and so excited about what the folks at Ink Storm and Anchor Archive were doing," says Davidson. "It just kind of blew their minds. I think that they thought that the only thing that would be happening would be seeing people's water colours."

Davidson guessed that at least

200 people attended Go North last year. She said they varied from families to students, the very young to the very old.

This year Davidson is shifting her involvement from guide to attraction. She will join the 61 other locations listed on the map on the Go North website. Her project: to become the year 1973.

She has retrograded her home décor and personal style to conform to that of her chosen year. The idea came from the natural 1970s cottage-y-ness of her shared apartment. She has been turning the clock back on herself and her belongings since April as part of a studio class for NSCAD. Go North, Davidson figured, would be the perfect opportunity to show off her installation to a larger audience.

The hallway of Davidson's building looks like Shredder's lair in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze*. She is clearly not the only artist who lives there. Music pumps out from under one of her fellow tenant's door. Her apartment is a pink, orange and avocado-coloured time warp.

In a house with charming, grandmotherly signs such as "kissing a man without a moustache is like eating an egg without salt," we discuss the less aesthetic implications of 1973.

The year 1973 holds important meaning. Davidson points out that in addition to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) crisis and a slew of other currently relevant events, 1973 was the year of the famous Roe v. Wade trial and abortion debate.

Davidson has recently been involved in reproductive rights activism. In the spring, she protested bill C-484, which proposed to alter the rights of a fetus.

At the protest she held a sign with a coat hanger on it and the words "never again" painted underneath. Soon after, while doing research for her 1973 project, she was flipping through photos and saw a protest from the 1970s in which someone was carrying the exact same sign.

"What I find most frustrating is that it's harder now to fight about women's rights because there's just kind of this general feeling that women are already free, women already have the right to abortion, says Davidson. "Fighting to keep something is just totally different than fighting to get something."

With her exhibit, Davidson hopes to spark conversation about what already have, about what we don't yet have and about what we need to fight to keep.

Go North takes place on Sept. 6. For more information about tours visit www.gonorthhalifax.com.

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Christmas in July

The best concert you didn't see this summer

MATTHEW RITCHIE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

On one of the hottest days of summer, it's easy to see why people would choose not to attend an indoor concert – even a concert put on by San Francisco indie rockers Deerhoof, who played on July 19 at The Marquee when the temperature only cooled down to about 33 C after nightfall.

The Summer Sonic concert series on Citadel Hill was taking place at the same time featuring headliners such as the Black Keys, Stars and City and Colour, leading most Halifax ticket buyers to go the festival route. All elements aside, those who attended the concert could see from the beginning that this was going to be an unforgettable night.

The concert started promptly with Halifax locals Dog Day performing an energetic set. Their mixture of pop hooks with melodic guitar work akin to Sonic Youth stirred up the crowd quickly. The band launched from slower songs to more well-known, jangly tunes. Dog Day may have seemed the complete opposite of a band like Deerhoof, but its energy was unrivaled in the opening band slot.

Sadly, this energy came to a complete halt once Rich Aucoin took the stage. Although the crew set up the stage extremely fast for the multi-instrumentalist orchestra, the band was plagued by power failure after its first song. Its introduction was filled with theatrics and nostalgic talk of 1980s family films but this was cer-

tainly not a performance the band members and crowd alike would look back on fondly. In an effort to keep the crowd's attention during the power failure, the lead drummer broke into an impromptu drum solo for the crowd, but without a song to follow it up, the solo led to an anticlimactic thud. The band quickly finished three more songs of high calibre, but the lack of a real set and the stop-start performance made what would be a great musical experience only a memory of "that band that played four songs."

By the time Deerhoof took the stage, the recently renovated club had turned into a packed sauna. As the four band members of Deerhoof grabbed their instruments, one of the most noticeable elements was the minimalist use the band adopted. Drummer Greg Saunier employed the use of a simple drum set made up of only a kick drum, snare, and cymbal. However, the sparse percussion soon proved to be a winning formula in the Deerhoof live experience. Saunier blasted hip-hop-esque jazz grooves into the set and ignited the dance floor with tapping feet.

At one point the mad noise of "Rainbow Silhouette of the Milky Rain" worked the crowd into such a fever that about 100 club goers near the front Pogo bounced along to the beat.

Deerhoof mostly played songs off of its most critically acclaimed albums Friend Opportunity and Milk Man but differences between songs blurred frequently during the set. The stripped down drums led to entirely different beats on certain

songs and the guitar work of Ed Rodriguez and John Dieterich pushed their sounds to sonically deafening levels to the delight of the audience.

Although it's on independent rock label Kill Rock Stars, Deerhoof is ultimately a jazz/avant garde band and this is one of the reasons why this one-off Canadian show should be remembered. Haligonians generally don't get to experience this kind of variety and musicianship at concerts. The idea that a band from San Francisco would travel all the way up to a city they've never heard of before heading to Europe is a testament to our interest in such groups on the East Coast.

After coming back for an encore, drummer Saunier approached the microphone and commented that before coming to Halifax he had a vision of N.S. involving snow, reindeer and cold winds. Wiping sweat pouring down from his face he promised to go back to San Francisco and tell everyone that he had found "the hottest place in the world, and it is Halifax."

Maybe that's a good thing. If more and more musicians had a different view of Halifax maybe more concerts put on by bands like Deerhoof would spring up.

Although most people put their money toward seeing Tokyo Police Club and City and Colour that day, there is no lack of certainty in my mind that when Saunier jumped into the crowd and gave sweaty high fives, Deerhoof had offered the most energetic, noisy, fun rock show Halifax has seen in awhile. But then again, you probably didn't see it.



STOCK PHOTO

Even if the food is unlimited, your stomach isn't.

Seven ways to avoid the freshman 15

Examining a foolproof method to keep off those pesky pounds

KATIE INGRAM
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

As if essays, labs, midterms and finals aren't enough to overwhelm first-years, they have one more worry on their shoulders: the dreaded "freshman 15." If you haven't heard of this curse yet, now is the time to find out. The 15 stands for one thing – pounds that you gain from the "oh so good" but "bad for you health" residence food and takeout. But don't despair! There are ways to avoid it and still enjoy what you eat! Unless these ideas fail. Then you'll have to resort to a diet of carrots, which, because they are good for your eyes, at least might help you see that laptop screen a little better on those legendary all-nighters.

1. Sunday Sundaes is not like church

You don't have to go to it every week. The idea of the Sunday sundae bar is that once a week you can get all the sundaes you want, piled high with ice cream, chocolate or caramel sauce, sprinkles, chocolate chips and more. What could be better? Not gaining the weight from it. Sure, sundaes are great, but limit yourself to at least one or maybe one a month. Desserts should be eaten lightly, once or twice a week. Don't over indulge. Remember you'll be living in residence for eight months; that's enough time to eat your weight in ice cream.

2. Cutbacks are good for you

You do eat in the cafeteria at least twice a day, so don't stockpile your stomach in one sitting. Make your food portions smaller to save room for other meals. Maybe try a salad or wrap for lunch, then eat the pasta for supper. Also, instead of taking two scoops of that mac and cheese, take one. Remember that although the food is unlimited, your stomach isn't. Once you reach your fourth plateful it's time to stop.

3. Take out is a sometimes food

In the words of Sesame's Street's immortal Cookie Monster: "cookies are a sometimes food." The same goes for takeout. Sure pizza is great if you're looking at it in a technical fashion. It has all the food groups but it also has weight gaining side effects. If that doesn't convince you, think of this way: Your wallet will be

the one starving if you get too much take out, and believe me, you want it to be full.

4. Feet are your friend

You might have a shiny new bus pass burning a hole in your pocket, and it did cost \$116, but that doesn't mean you have to use it for every trip downtown. If you're heading down to Spring Garden Road even as far as the waterfront, you can walk. It will not only help you out if you indulged in an extra dessert, but you can take in some of the beautiful Halifax sights.

5. Stairs: An underrated exercise machine

We might live in a technological world but, if you can believe it, before there were elevators people climbed flights of stairs to reach their destinations. A way to ward off laziness and weight taboo is to simply climb the steps. It doesn't matter if your room or class is on the second or the fifth floor, walking is a simple and practical solution.

6. Books: More than just coasters

Is your science book still wrapped in plastic? Is that hard cover novel collecting dust on your shelf? You didn't pay all that money for nothing. Dig those books out, dust them and wipe off the coffee stains then put them in your backpack. Carrying some of those heavier books around will not only give you back trouble like everyone else on campus, it will also help you sweat off the pounds!

7. Time is just a number

If you sleep in too late there's no better way to work out than to run to class. It doesn't matter if you're a couple minutes or a half hour late. Running will not only get you there faster, it will also help to lessen the threat of the dreaded "freshman 15." A word to the wise: This suggestion is a last resort. You will not want to miss an important class announcement or early quiz and you'll definitely want to avoid all those annoyed stares from professors and students when you try to sneak in late.

These are some of the ways to make the "freshman 15" a freshman zero. One of the many mysteries of university has been figured out. Now all you have to do is study for that test tomorrow while writing an essay, right?

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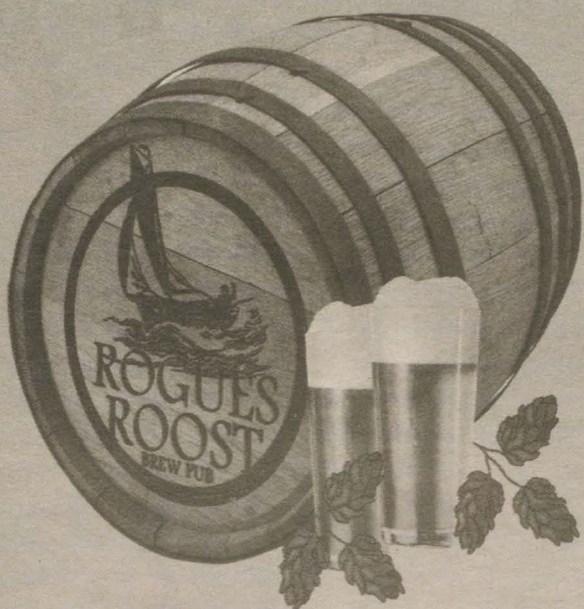
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Unite For Sight has coordinated and funded 15,000 sight-restoring surgeries for patients living in extreme poverty in Africa and Asia. ANNA DEMELLO/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Volunteering in Ghana

ANNA DEMELLO
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

This June I was a volunteer with Unite for Sight (UFS) in Ghana, Africa, and I truly loved the experience.

UFS is a non-profit organization that helps communities worldwide to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness. It's run out of Yale University and the organization has provided eye care to 600,000 people in North America, Africa and Asia.

I arrived not really knowing what to expect, but I left with a changed perspective on many things as well as with a more positive attitude. Largely this was because of the other volunteers in my group. I learned a great deal about kindness, dedication, hard work, compassion, humility and patience from them. Being involved with such an enthusiastic body of people was exactly what I needed at this point in my life. I'm deeply grateful to have met them and shared this experience with them.

Ghana, in case you didn't already know, is in western Africa, bordering the north Atlantic Ocean between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. It shares a border with Burkina Faso to the north. The climate is tropical and very humid. Ghana's population is around 22 million people, and the official language is English along with other native dialects. The country is very religious and the overwhelming majority of people are Christian.

Ghana gained independence in 1957 and since 1992 there has been an elected government. Buses and 'tro-tros' are a vital means of transportation but are often quite dangerous with people pouring out of the doors and windows, or wheels looking less than stable. At least the highways are well maintained.

Accra in the south is the capital

city and the main base for UFS in Ghana. Less than half of the rural population has access to health care. Most people have never been to an eye doctor, but that's where I helped out.

When involved in an international eye care program, Unite For Sight volunteers work with partner eye clinics to provide eye care in communities without previous access. Eye doctors and volunteers work side by side to provide community-based screening programs in cities and rural villages. Medication and glasses are provided to those in need, and patients in need of surgery are referred to the UFS clinic. The transportation, lodging and surgery costs are all funded by UFS.

UFS has coordinated and funded 15,000 sight-restoring surgeries for patients living in extreme poverty in Africa and Asia. Eighty per cent of all blindness is preventable but 36 million people worldwide are needlessly blind. Unite For Sight's goal is to reduce the number of people living with unnecessary blindness.

Ghana is the first place in Africa that I've visited for an extended amount of time, and the country has made a lasting impression on me. The Ghanaian people were welcoming and very sincere. I felt at ease in every area we visited while working with UFS. It was an incredible feeling to be so openly invited to enjoy another culture, and to receive so much positive attention and curiosity toward my country and culture. The doctors and nurses we worked with in Accra and Kumasi took time to introduce us to customs, foods and attractions.

Day to day our schedules always varied. We worked at the eye clinic in Accra doing vision screenings and then went to different areas of the country to reach rural villages. We

watched eye surgeries many times.

We visited schools to deliver eye health education talks and we had the opportunity to visit an orphanage called the Kumasi Children's Home.

Although we worked hard, we had lots of time to explore Ghana and its vibrant culture. We regularly went to the markets and walked around the city. We experienced a tree canopy walk in the rainforest and I even managed to embark on a 13-hour bus trip adventure with another volunteer to the north of Ghana in order to visit Mole National Park, just outside the city of Tamale.

Volunteers are responsible for paying for their own flight, food, lodging, spending money, vaccines and insurance, but local businesses, family members and friends may be willing to contribute. I was able to fundraise a lot this way. You might also want to apply for Grants through your university.

Lodging and food in Ghana is generally cheap. Rooms for rent ranged from \$8 to \$15 per night. Meals were about \$3 to \$5 at a food stand or for take-out, but restaurants are a little more expensive. Market food is a cheap and tasty idea.

University credit is sometimes available. UFS is willing to complete all necessary paper work if the university is willing. Vaccines are expensive but volunteers receive 80 per cent of their money back through the Dalhousie health plan.

I would like to thank Aramark food services for their considerable contribution of \$700 to my fundraising efforts. It was very helpful and certainly appreciated.

Ghana is a beautiful country with amazing spirit and I hope to go back soon.

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Tigers hockey heats up

NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

The Dalhousie men's hockey team has undergone a noticeable makeover over the last few months following the appointment of new head coach Pete Belliveau.

With a bag full of accomplishments under his belt including eight post-season births, two Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships and a national Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship in 1995 - all with the University of Moncton's Blue Eagles - the AUS veteran coach recently left his position at the University of Windsor to join the Tigers for the 2008-09 season.

Since he took over as head coach, Belliveau has recruited a handful of new and talented players.

Local talent Trevor MacKenzie, of Lower Sackville, will suit up for the Tigers this season after playing the last two seasons with the East Hants Junior "B" Penguins. MacKenzie is a centre/right wing player who also spent two seasons playing in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League (BCJHL) with the Nanaimo Clippers.

In a Dal Athletics press release, Belliveau said MacKenzie would add "speed and scoring" to the team and become "a fan favorite with his style of play."

Also new to the roster are Robert Ahlander and Hampus Engzell from Stockholm, Sweden. Two high caliber European players, Engzell and Ahlander have played at the highest levels of Swedish hockey. Both played in Sweden's Super Elite League with Sodertalje and on Division 1 teams.

Ahlander, the defenseman who played for Sweden in the 2005-06 World Junior Championship, will bring "lots of stability" to the Tigers defense line, said coach Belliveau in a press release.

The two are expected to bring much needed international experience and European skating style to the Tigers' lineup. As well, both are expected to greatly improve the Tigers specialty lines with Ahlander set to tighten up the power play and Engzell's fore-checking skills an asset to the team's penalty kill.

Ahlander, who will be studying in Dal's Arts program, said in a press release that he is looking forward to combining his hockey with university studies.

These three strong additions to the lineup should mean big things for the Tigers, who begin their season Sept. 19 with an exhibition tournament at UNB. Regular season play kicks off Oct. 17 with a home opener against St. Francis Xavier University.

New coach takes over track and field

NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's varsity cross-country and track and field programs have been reshaped with the intention to provide more efficient and focused coaching.

Now there will be two separate head coaches directing the four teams, which consist of just more than 60 students.

Cross-country and middle/long distance will be coached separately from track and field.

Al Scott, the Director of Athletics and Recreational Services, filled the first coaching position on June 27 when he announced that Heather

Hennigar will take the head coach job for the men and women's cross-country and middle/long distance teams.

In a press release, Scott said "Heather's vision of excellence indicates that Dalhousie student-athletes will continue to step on the podium at the national level."

Besides acting as an assistant coach with the Tigers for 15 years, seeing the women's cross-country team win a Canadian Interuniversity Sport gold in 2004 and national bronzes in track and field two years in a row, Hennigar also has a bagful of her own personal achievements.

Hennigar won the female athlete of the year award at Acadia University in 2000 and 2001, she holds a Cana-

dian record in the women's four-by-800-metre and was part of the 2006 silver medal-winning national cross country team - just to name a few.

It's clearly no secret that Hennigar is bringing a truckload of experience and talent to a program that has a history of strong achievements on the conference and national stage.

Despite the large boots to fill and evident pressure to produce success, Hennigar said in the release she's looking forward to working with talented students, building on the "rich history" of the sport and contributing to the athletic department's "legacy of success."

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NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

Dal all-star inducted to hall of fame

Former Tigers hockey and football star, Peter Corkum, last year's recipient of the Dalhousie Sandy Young award, has recently been named a 2008 Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame Inductee. In 2004 he was also one of the opening inductees to the Dal's Sports Hall of Fame.

Peter will be inducted into the Nova Scotia Hall of Fame alongside three other athletes this year, including NHL star defenseman Al MacInnis, three-time Olympic paddling team member Don Brien, and 1972 top Olympic team boxer Carroll Morgan.

The 2008 Induction Awards Ceremony will be held Oct. 24 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

We've got the Power

Halifax's Adrienne Power, one of Canada's finest in the 200-metre sprint, ran one hell of a race on day 11 of the Olympics in Beijing. Unfortunately it wasn't Power's

day - her 23.51 time wasn't good enough to secure her a spot in the semi-finals.

Power's personal best in the 200 m is 22.86. But hey, it's the Olympics - just making it that far means Power is 23.51 times cooler than the rest of us. Who needs a gold when you've got gold and black?

Killing it on Kilimanjaro

Dalhousie Masters of Health Promotion student Jessie Sheppard managed to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, and return unscathed. The ordeal took almost a week, beginning in the jungle and ascending almost 20,000 feet.

Through sleepless nights, dizzy spells and the occasional bout of self-doubt, Sheppard made the summit of a mountain that has a success rate of between 40 and 50 per cent.

Sheppard was hiking the behemoth in the name of Joints in Motion, a foundation that raises money for people living with arthritis. In addition to climbing Kilimanjaro, Sheppard also swam the Northumberland Strait between New Brunswick and P.E.I.

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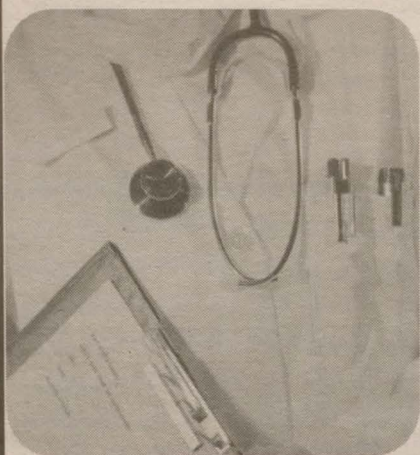
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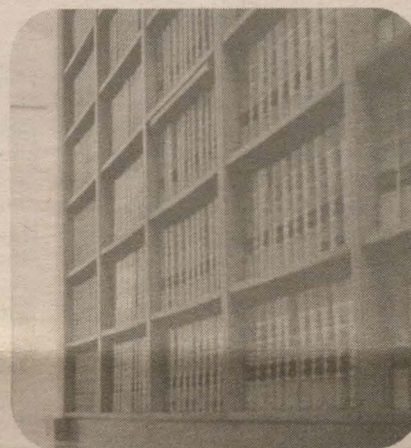
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November 3, 2008: Application deadline – First year

May 1, 2009: Application deadline – Upper year



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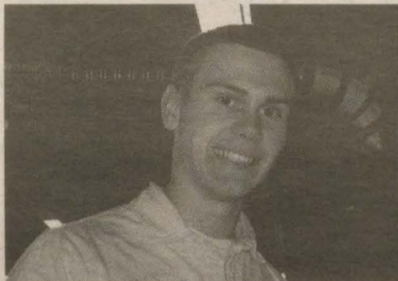
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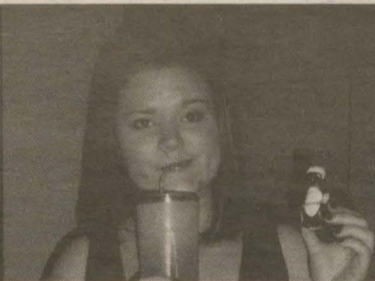


THE SEXTANT

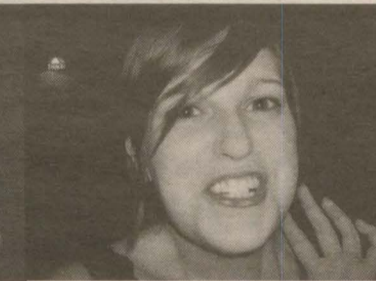
DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER



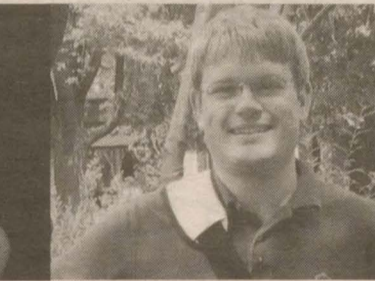
LUKE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



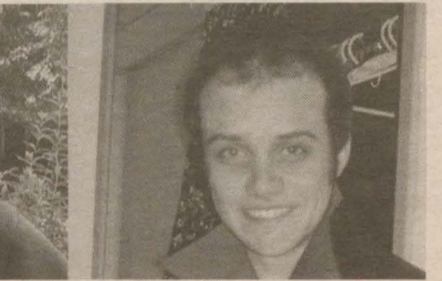
MILA MACLEAN
VP INTERNAL



STEPHANIE MARTHELEUR
VP EXTERNAL



STEVEN SOCH
VP FINANCE



ROBERT LESLIE
VP ACADEMIC

Hello engineers! Welcome back to another year (and for some your first) of labs, classes, nights at the library and of course student activities. Yes, engineering is known for being a hard program but don't worry there are a lot of future events to help take away those text book blues. Dal-Eng will likely be creating a ruckus at Moosehead Games, making the scene at the T-Room, and coming up with various events through DUES, DSEUS and the various discipline related societies.

What's that you say? You don't know what Dal-Eng is? Well, it is the

identity of the engineering students of course! For those of you who are new to the engineering community here at Dalhousie there is a brief history you should know. First of all there are three main engineering societies: Dalhousie Engineering Graduate Society, Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society and Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society. Then for each discipline on Sexton there is a smaller society. I won't go too far into the details here; you should just know there are a lot of ways to get involved through any of these societies.

Now back to Dal-Eng, there was a time when there was hardly any school spirit on Sexton, this was a result of some silly bickering and bitterness over the school changing from TUNS to Dalhousie. It was a darker time on Sexton campus, a time of feuding between societies and all around just less fun. We won't dwell on it, it's just good to know it happened so we know our history and don't repeat it.

The lack of school spirit at Sexton and void of cohesion between societies prompted the Dal-Eng revolution! Through hard work and

dedication a core group of engineering students turned the tide, creating the Dal-Eng movement and logo seen across campus. Along with EngiBEERing Dal-Eng has helped support teams and clubs such as concrete canoe, EWB, Engineering Olympics and many others. In recognition of the hard work and dedication DSUES showed to its members, DSEUS was awarded the A-Level Society of the year!

We now like to think of it as a Dal-Eng Community. DSEUS President Luke Williams and his ace team are here for you; to make this mad-

ness we call an engineering degree as bearable as possible.

What does all this mean? - you might ask. Well it means that Sexton has become a community where everyone is welcome. Students can be proud to don their Dal-Eng shirts and hardhats and sing we are, we are, to their hearts content. It means that Dal-Eng has brought spirit back and I hope that every student in engineering can feel that.

ZHINDRA GILLIS

Message from the Dean



For those of you returning from co-op terms; I think you will be pleased with the newly completed Engineering Design Commons below the Sexton Gym. I think it is a great place for teamwork, a key component of an Engineering Education. I would like to thank all of the student volunteers that put their time an energy into making this a reality. We have a number of other changes around the Faculty, including a new math course for first year students, many new renovations to labs, along with a liberal smattering of new lab and audio-visual equipment. We are also pleased that we have a new sandwich bar opening up in the alumni lounge.

Many of you were on hand for our 100 Year celebration just last fall. Well now you are the first to step into the next century of engineering education here at Dalhousie. Work hard and enjoy your time with us. As you know, my office is open to you at any time.

JOSHUA LEON, PH.D, P.ENG.
DEAN OF ENGINEERING

I'll start by thanking the Sextant editor for this opportunity to welcome new and returning students to campus - and classes - for the coming year. This page has been a great means of providing students with timely updates and items of interest. I know it will be a must to read again this year.

Here and Now

Sexton students, Sexton enthusiasts and Dunn dwellers lend me your eyes.

For those just arriving whether you are entering your first year or third year welcome to Dalhousie Engineering. For those returning for their second through final year welcome back to what could be your best year yet. You decide.

"What's changed?" you ask. Nothing, the question is what are YOU going to change?

This is your opportunity to get the most out of the university experience. So take the reigns and get involved. From helping to plan or simply attending an event with the

Engineering Society here on Sexton Campus to representing a country in Model UN with the Model UN Society - From drinking a variety of teas with the Tea Society to playing intramural sports at the Sexton gym or Dalplex - From discovering how that magic trick you saw on TV works with the Magic Society to being taught how to roll a kayak with the Whitewater Kayaking Society - From showing up to the T-room or Grawood for a beer to attending the DSU's leadership conference and learning what you need to do to become a better leader. These are just a sample of your opportunities. Find yours and take it!

Come out and meet new people. Learn, share, debate, have fun, and maybe even exercise. Take advantage of all the services that you are undoubtedly paying for with your ridiculous tuition and fees.

This is your time. Get out and show that university is more than just the piece of high quality paper that you receive at the end of your three, four, five, six, or maybe even seven years here at Dalhousie.

LUKE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT, DALHOUSIE SEXTON
ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE
SOCIETY

Engineering Co-op

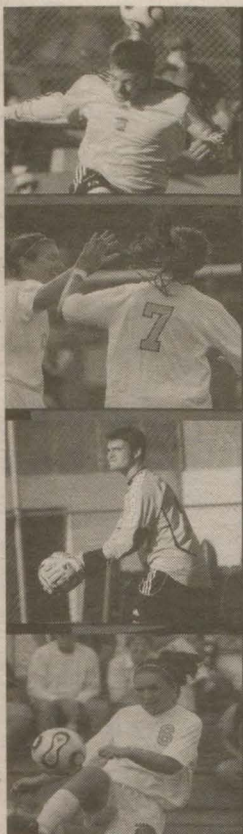
The Engineering and Computer Science Co-op Office welcomes new and returning students to campus. For students who have chosen the co-op option, we want you to know that we are here for you. Please visit

our website at www.ecsce.dal.ca which has a wealth of information for students in the co-op program. Or stop by our offices located at 1334 Barrington Street to see our facilities and meet our staff. We will be con-

tacting co-op students on a regular basis by email and sending you information through our own student and employer bulletins. We wish all of you much success in the coming academic year.

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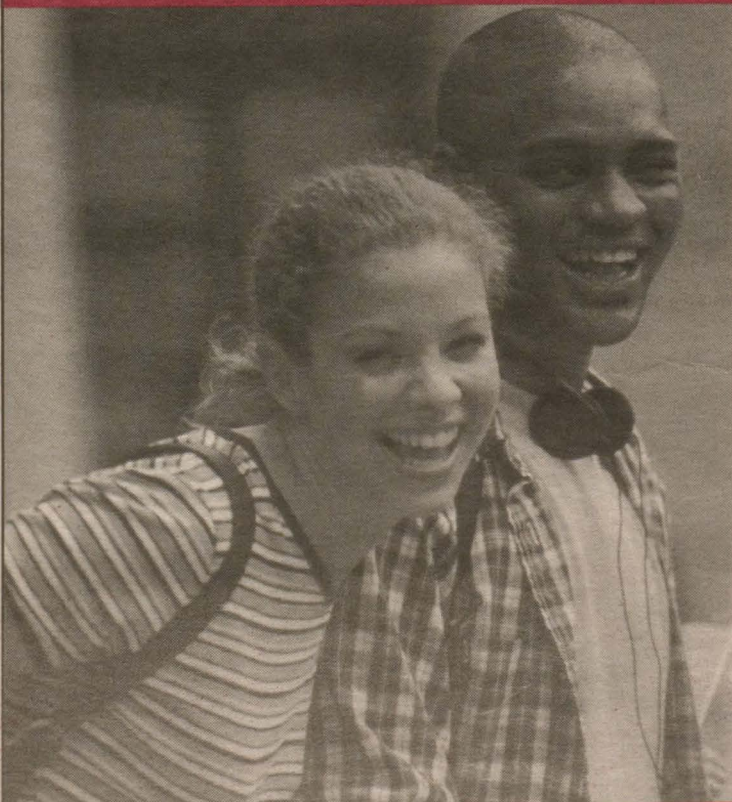
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