

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE

HOME IS  
WHERE THE  
ART IS



NORTH END DUO SHOWS  
OFF AS MUCH AS THE  
WALLS CAN HOLD P.12



Dal defining text-worthy emergencies p.4 | Wintersleep bids farewell to the Marquee p. 13  
New TV network plans to spotlight amateur athletes p.14





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hello, Dalhousie students!

### One Million Acts of Green

Since taking less than two days to beat Acadia in a race to one act of green for every student, the Dalhousie group is still number one in CBC's One Million Acts of Green Challenge. Now with nearly 27,000 acts of green, we are making plans for new and even more exciting challenges. Stay tuned and keep up those acts everyone!

For more information, visit <http://green.cbc.ca> or email [dsu.sustain@dal.ca](mailto:dsu.sustain@dal.ca).

### Health Plan Opt-In

Last chance to opt-in! The opt-in period runs until Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

For more information about opting-in to the DSU Health and Dental Plan, please contact Krista Ali at the DSU Health Plan office located in the basement of the SUB. Phone: (902) 494-2850 or e-mail: [dsuhealth@dal.ca](mailto:dsuhealth@dal.ca).

### Imagine

Running from Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, this semester's Imagine campaign will seek to engage students and get answers to the question: 'what else can the DSU do for you?'

Whether it's through filling out our survey, writing on our suggestion wall or filming a video rant, we want to know what you, the students of Dalhousie University, think...and we want you to have fun telling us!

Check out [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for details and a schedule of events.

### Munro Day Ski Trip

On Friday, February 6th, we'll be hitting the slopes. Get your tickets at the SUB info desk.

- \$25 includes lift pass, rental and lesson
- \$45 includes lift pass, rental, lesson and transportation.

### Speaker Series

Dr. Samantha Nutt, Founder of WarChild Canada on Taking Your Vision to Action: February 10th - 7 PM at the McInnes Room in the SUB. Admission is to be determined. Co-hosted by WarChild Dal, Samantha Nutt comes to campus to bring her passionate and inspiring message to the Dalhousie Community. Everyone is talking about progress and change, but what do we need to make it happen?

### Teaching Awards

Have you had an excellent professor this term? We want to hear about it! The DSU teaching awards are some of the university's most prestigious honors, as they are decided entirely by students!

To nominate a professor or instructor for a teaching award, please fill out the nomination form available online or at the DSU information centre in the Student Union Building. Please remember to attach a cover letter supporting the nomination. Applications must be submitted by February 13th 2009. Forms can be addressed to Amy Florian and may be dropped off at room 222 in the Student Union Building or emailed to [am476210@dal.ca](mailto:am476210@dal.ca).

Check back next week for more news, and as always, contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



Photo Illustration: John Packman Inside those frames on the cover are Stoo Metz (left) and Chris Lockerbie (right). Get the lowdown on Page 12.

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The Gazette is steadfastly committed to accuracy and always strives to provide correct information to students. We are human, though, and we do make mistakes. We promise to correct them as promptly as possible. If you spot an error in The Gazette in print or online, please report it to [copy@dalgazette.ca](mailto:copy@dalgazette.ca).

### THE FINE PRINT

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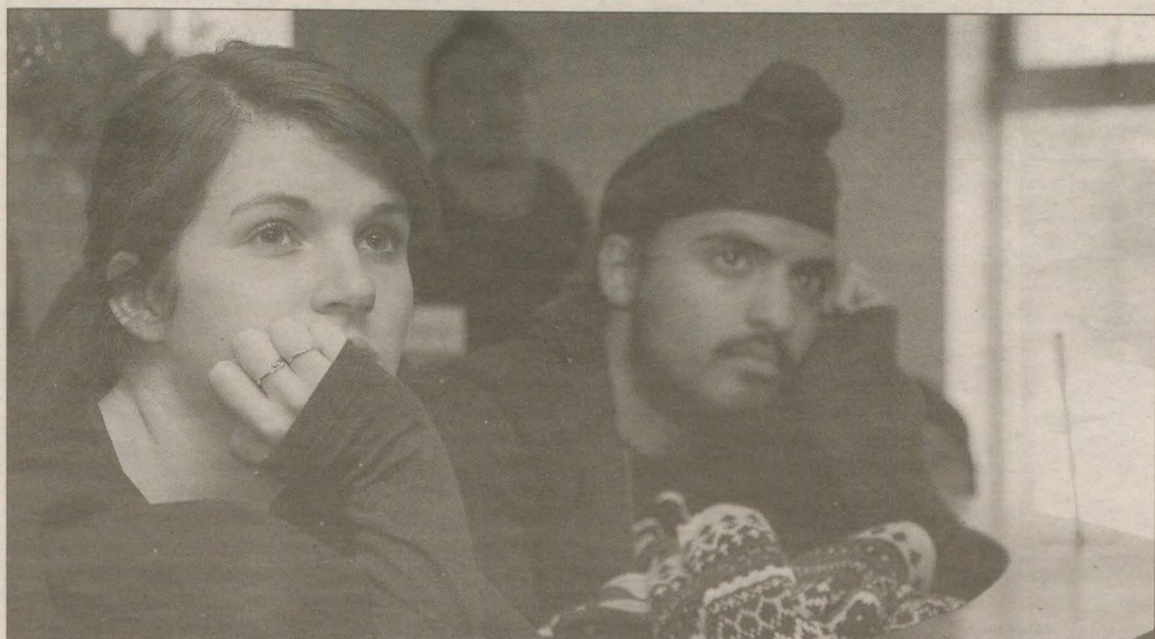
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PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Students crowded around the public television in the Student Union Building to watch Obama's inauguration.

## Leadership is more than just words

**JULIE SOBOWALE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Watching Barack Obama become the president of the United States was like a dream. After eight years of the world paying for America's mistakes, people across the globe celebrated as that country made the right choice in electing an intelligent, charismatic leader who happens to be black. While the inauguration and the dismissal of former President George W. Bush was great, President Obama's real mark of leadership came within the first few days of his presidency.

Leadership is not just about running a great campaign. The real test of leadership is what you do when you get into office. Obama quickly gained the support of the general global scientific community by reversing Bush's ban on embryonic stem cell research on humans. More importantly, Obama began to fulfill one of his major campaign promises: closing the Guantanamo Bay prison. His executive order gives his government a year to figure out what to do with the detainees and how to properly shut down the prison. It's incredible that Obama's been able to accomplish so much, considering

he's only been president for less than two weeks. His actions are a clear message that the U.S. government is working on the change he promised.

Change is also occurring in Canadian politics in the form of a budget. The official unveiling of Tuesday's federal budget from the government included goodies such as a \$1 billion fund to support resource-dependent cities, \$1.5 billion allocated for job training and \$2 billion for housing development. The budget also included a hefty \$64 billion dollar deficit projected for the next two years.

All of this is not news, considering Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government deliberately spilled the beans on the deficit and funding for social programs days before the official announcement. What kind of message does our government send to the world when it leaks bad news in a not-so-subtle way? If Finance Minister Jim Flaherty intended to run a deficit, why not be honest about the issue? Obama has been trying to downgrade campaign promises due to the economic downturn, but he's also busy getting things done. Instead of picking silly fights with the opposition parties, Harper should have been honest with

Canadians two months ago so that we could have started working on the other major issues in the country.

In a way, Canada is coming out in a political transition similar to the United States. Before the big bash on Jan. 20, Obama was busy picking cabinet members and selling his ideas for another stimulus package to save the economy. After Harper called for a break to save the government, the opposition parties were busy trying to sell the idea of a coalition government while the Harper government was busy trying to save its own jobs. Obama's transition team accomplished more than our political parties have in the last two months – the only notable exception being the appointment of Michael Ignatieff as a true Liberal opposition leader, one that Canadians need.

Obama won't be able to please everyone, just as Canada's minority government hasn't been able to – it's barely functioning, at best. The next test for the U.S. president will be handling the tanking economy. The world will continue to watch what the president will do next. Maybe Obama's rationality will spill over to Parliament.

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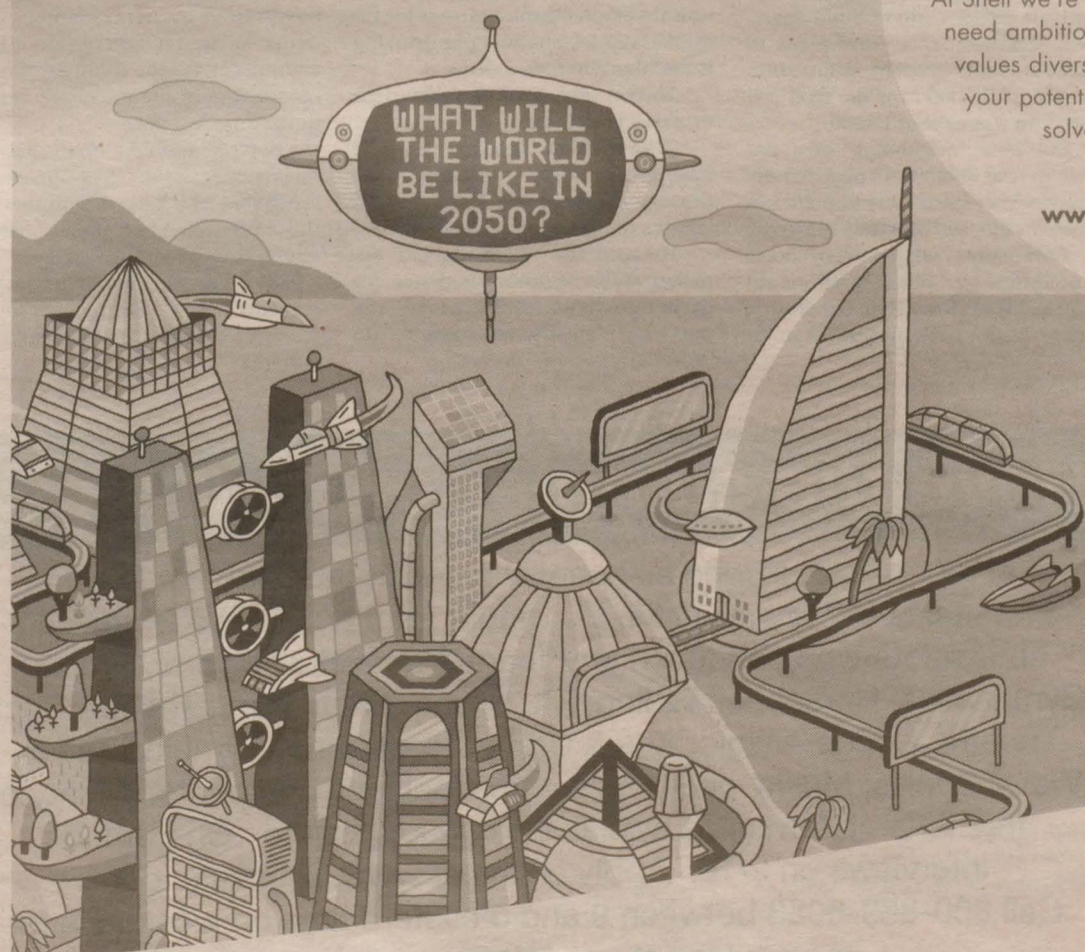
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## Class cancellation highlights emergency texting flaws

SAMANTHA RIDEOUT  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When classes were cancelled because of icy conditions at Dalhousie University until 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 19, many students didn't hear about it before they came to campus.

Leanne Lucas, a fourth-year chemistry student, arrived on campus for her 8:35 a.m. class to find closed doors.

Lucas learned about Dal's class cancellation during a phone call from her mother, who had heard about it on the radio. She decided to go to the Kilham library, but the doors were locked.

Lucas knocked, and someone inside the building opened the door to let her in. She took shelter inside the library's atrium from the cold and wet outside, but had no access to food or a washroom until the main part of the library opened later.

Lucas, who lives near Sackville, N.S. and leaves her house at 6:50 a.m. to get to school, decided to write a letter to Dal President Tom Traves.

"I'm not pleased with the way this was handled. I'm asking him to keep us better informed in the future," she says.

Some students feel this situation could have been avoided if they had been notified about the cancellation through the emergency text messaging system.

Mohamed Elsharif, an engineering graduate student, arrived at Dal's Sexton campus at 10:15 a.m. to see a group of students standing outside in the rain. Elsharif eventually found a door he could open using his personal access card, but he pitied students who were still stuck outside.

"I felt bad for those who were left out and for those who live far from the school," he says. "Dal should look for an effective way to deliver emergency messages to the students in the right time and without a delay."

Charles Crosby, Dal's media relations manager, says the emergency text messaging system was not used to announce the cancellation because it was not considered to be an "emergency."

He adds in light of what happened Jan. 19, school administration is now discussing which types of events should be considered "emergencies" in the future.

The administration initially de-

cidated to use more conventional methods of communication to let students know school was cancelled, such as posting the news on the university website and phoning it in to radio stations.

This was done "in the ballpark" of 7 a.m., says Crosby.

Catherine Lawrence, a third-year French student, checked the Dal website shortly after 6 a.m., and seeing nothing about the cancellation at that time, assumed classes were on.

"The Halifax Regional School Board generally has to decide about cancellations by six in the morning," she says. "I thought it would be on the Dal website by around six, but it wasn't there until after seven."

Crosby says it takes longer on some days than others for the university to decide to cancel classes.

"Every university makes a different decision. We have to make the call based on what the police recommendations are. It depends on the circumstances of the day. We try to make the call as soon as possible," he says.

On Jan. 19, the decision to cancel class was based on the concern that the foul weather and slippery roads were a hazard to students' safety.

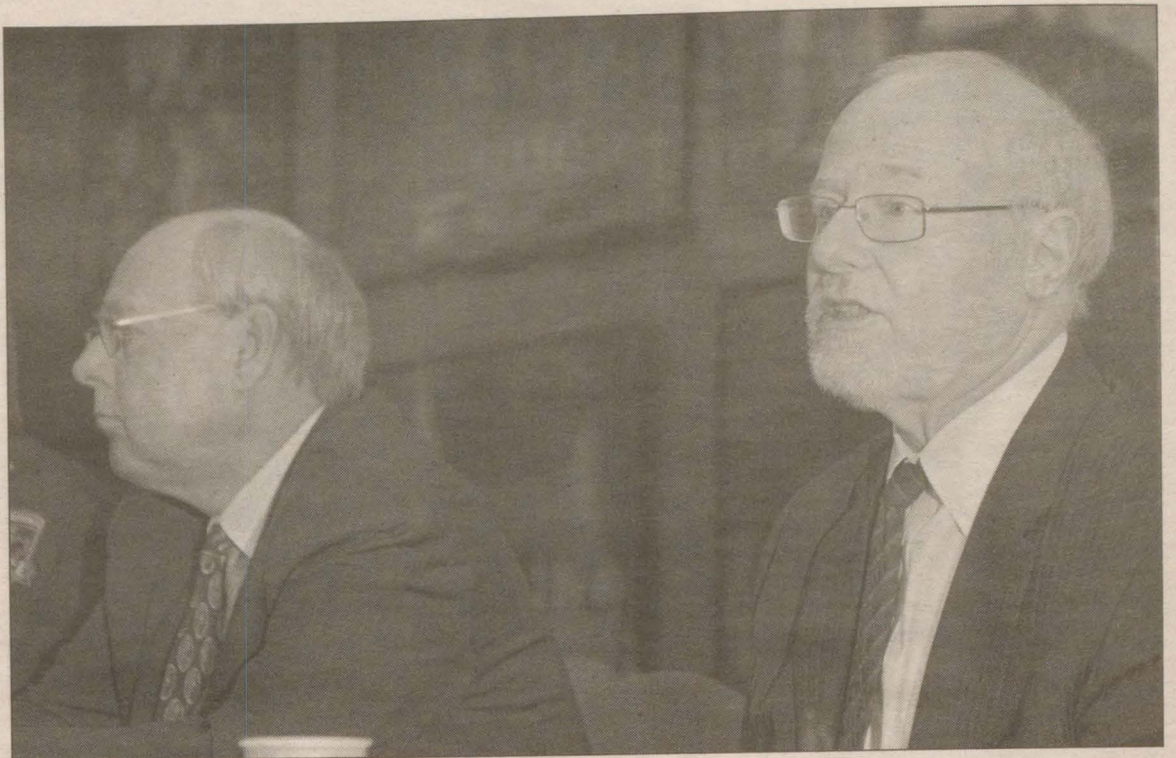
Around 10 a.m., school officials decided to use the emergency text messaging system to inform students classes were going to resume at 11:30 a.m. They did so in response to feedback they were receiving from students at that time. Unexpectedly, the message did not reach some students' phones until as late as 12:30 p.m.

Crosby says the sheer volume of outgoing text messages slowed down their delivery, and this is an issue the administration is working on with the help of its telephone service provider.

"In a way, it's fortunate that we got to try out the texting system in a situation like this," he says, meaning it was better to have the kinks in the system revealed Jan. 19 than in a future major emergency.

Crosby also says feedback from students, such as the letter Lucas wrote, will be used to improve communication for the next cancellation.

"It's trial and error," he says. "This experience will help us in the assessment we're going to make on the best way to handle it next time."



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal President Tom Traves (right) says the university needs to do more about late-night student noise.

## Dal students are too noisy, neighbours say

JENNIFER CASEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Twenty neighbours of Dalhousie University gathered at the Dalhousie Arts Centre to voice their concerns about students at the president's fifth annual neighbourhood meeting on Jan 19.

The meeting was meant to bring together neighbours of Dal with university President Tom Traves, Halifax police, local politicians, landlords and students to talk about issues facing Dal, its students and its neighbours.

But one group was missing. University neighbours spent most of the two-hour meeting complaining about students, yet there was no representative present from the Dal Student Union, and only one student was there.

The president of the student union, Courtney Larkin, said she has attended the meetings in the past but wasn't made aware of this meeting.

To start the meeting, Traves presented the attendees with a number of hints about Dal's future plans for the campus, including upgrades to the aging Dalplex, more residence space, talks of potentially going into a private partnership to build apartment-style residences and plans to increase Dal's student population to "around 17,000 over the next few years" up from about 15,500.

But most neighbours were not there to hear about Dal's plans for the campus. They were there to point out problems they see with Dal's students.

Complaints ranged from noise at bus stops on Coburg Road, smoking outside of Howe Hall, bar closing times, drink prices and, most nota-

bly, the noise levels from students walking to and from bars.

South Park Street resident Brad McRae said he would like to see downtown bars close earlier, to cut down on late-night noise levels. Most close at 2 a.m. but several Halifax bars do close as late as 4 a.m.

"When they're drunk, they don't know where they are," McRae said. "It's constant, and intermittent and you can't plan for it... it's killing us," he continued.

"They're oblivious to the fact that they're screaming and swearing. My neighbour has young children and they shouldn't have to hear that language."

District Councillor Sue Uteck agreed bars don't need to be open as late as they are, but the alcohol and gaming department of the Nova Scotia Government is responsible for setting those hours.

Staff Sgt. Colleen Kelly, a division commander with the Halifax Regional Police in the downtown area, said she, too, would like to see bars closing earlier, but that wouldn't necessarily solve the problem.

"I would be happy if they closed at nine," she quipped.

She added students don't always drink that much in the bars, especially now that the new minimum price for drinks is \$2.50. She said pre-drinking is the "thorn in (her) side."

Traves said he knows student drinking is an issue.

"The problem is, we have a whole new group every September and those that may have learned their lessons move on," explained Traves.

He said the university has expelled students from residence for drinking-related problems in the past, but "clearly we have to do more."

One resident questioned Traves on how the university could discipline off-campus students if they cause problems.

"I have as much control over them as I do over you right now," Traves answered. "These students are adults... if you went out drinking you wouldn't normally expect to be fired from your job the next day. It's the same thing. If they're causing problems when they go home, that's a police problem."

Police Superintendent Cliff Falkenham said the two programs police are running in co-operation with the university — Operation Fallback and Designated Police Patrol — are making a difference.

Operation Fallback, an annual September police campaign, focuses on enforcement and educating the university neighbourhood on the problems of drinking, noise and by-laws.

But Dal is the only university in Canada besides McMaster in Hamilton, Ont. that provides funding so the police department can assign officers to patrol the university area on weekends, leading to quicker response times.

Falkenham said the programs have raised awareness among students living on and around Dal's campus, citing the number of noise complaints in the university area is down from last year.

But the number of tickets and fines police issued has spiked. He attributed the rise in numbers to the "zero tolerance policy" newly adopted in September 2008.

"If we get them early in the year it seems to settle them down for the remainder of the school term, Falkenham."

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## Dal launches first sustainability degree



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

People stood on the second and third floors of the Rowe building to watch the launch of Dalhousie's College of Sustainability after the main foyer filled up with spectators on Jan. 21.

## Senior citizen gets sexy with students

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ARTS EDITOR

Everything was on the table. From masturbation and arousal techniques to anal sex and sex toys, 78-year-old sex educator Sue Johanson brought her unique blend of wit and wisdom to Dalhousie's Ondaatje Hall on Jan. 22.

"She's amazing," said first-year arts student Trent Folan. "She's old - she could be my grandma - and she knows everything about everything." Johanson began her talk over the hoots and hollers of a sold-out room.

Opening with a discussion of the human child's first explorations of his or her own sexuality, Johanson progressed to the disparity between the sexual development of boys and girls.

The crowd erupted into fits of laughter as Johanson re-enacted a female's first tampon experience, hoisting a leg up onto a nearby desk.

Despite the antics, Johanson emphasized the point that young women are often left to teach themselves about their bodies, or the education they do receive is inadequate.

"We, as adults, parents, teachers, didn't do a good job of teaching you about sex. We kind of just beat around the bush," said Johanson.

As a result of this lapse in education and the embarrassment that surrounds frank discussion about female sexuality, women are often silenced and left sexually unsatisfied for want of a sexual vocabulary, said Johanson. "Females don't have language for their genitals," she said. "Where is 'down there?'"

Part of the Dal Student Union's speakers series, Johanson kept the audience in stitches as she tackled a gamut of subjects.

"If you can't laugh at sex you shouldn't be doing it," Johanson said earnestly after addressing one of several questions about how to avoid "queefing."

Kat Manhire, a first-year sociology major, is one of many audience members who was raised on Johanson's television series Talk Sex with Sue Johanson.

"Before I even knew what sex was I can remember watching the Sunday night sex show," said Manhire.

"When I found out she was coming here I wanted to see her in person because I grew up on this."

With each topic Johanson addressed, the aisles filled with giggling whispers as audience members



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sexpert Sue Johanson re-enacts a female's first tampon experience.

shared their own experiences. More than a few knowing glances and playful nudges passed among many couples present.

Audience member Jenna Lee Green, who saw Johanson's talk during her frosh week four years ago, said Johanson's approach to sex education helps to create a relaxed dialogue for young people.

"I like how she makes talking about sex comfortable," said Green. "She brings in a humour, which allows people to laugh about it. (Sex) may not always be something to laugh about but it takes that edge off."

As Johanson talked, baskets were passed up and down the aisles to collect audience questions. After a quick

lesson on sex toys for students on a budget, Johanson went through the queries.

The questions included: "What is the best position for women to have an orgasm?" "How do I get my girlfriend to take it in the butt?" "How will you know you've hit the g-spot?" And a first for Johanson: "What are the best positions for a medium-sized car?"

Despite the overall light atmosphere of her lecture, Johanson maintained the importance of continuing sexual education as a tool to sustain happy, healthy relationships and to empower the individual.

"Talking about sex is harder than doing it," she said.

## Senate may standardize grade scales

ANDREW ROBINSON  
DSU REPORTER

A recently approved Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) policy on uniform grading scales may lead to changes in the way numerical grades are converted into letter grades at the university.

DSU vice-president (education) Mark Coffin drafted the policy - approved at last year's Nov. 19 council meeting - due to complaints from students in the history department, part of the faculty of arts and social sciences.

Jonathan Hughes, a DSU senate representative, is in his final year of studies in the department of sociology and social anthropology. While taking electives within the arts faculty, Hughes noticed a large discrepancy between the requirements of history and those of other programs for obtaining a top grade.

An A+ grade in history requires a numerical percentage grade between 95 and 100. In philosophy, a grade between 90 and 100 will result in the same letter grade and a 4.3 grade point average. Meanwhile, an A- in history sits between 85 and 89 compared to 80 and 84 in political science and most other departments within the arts faculty. Spanish courses, for example, follow a similar grading pattern to history.

For arts students who are required to take history electives, this means they will face a tougher assignment when it comes to getting top grades. When Hughes noticed this situation, he was surprised.

"I just kind of found that to be a little weird and out of place. I actually talked to a couple of history majors and they complained it's not fair (that) someone else who gets a bachelor of arts, but gets it in political science, could potentially have a higher grade point average while doing the same quality of work," he says.

Hughes brought the issue to the attention of the DSU's Academic and External Affairs Committee at the beginning of the fall semester. Internal discussions within that group led to the union's Uniform Grading Scales Policy.

The policy calls on the Dal senate "to amend the Grading Practices, Statement of Principles & Procedures such that each faculty is required to apply a uniform system for their departments for converting numeric grades to letter grades."

The document makes an exception for professional programs with-

in a faculty that are subject to external accreditation standards, such as the nursing program.

Senate representative Eric Snow brought up the issue to the university's Senate Committee on Academic Administration (STAA) at a Dec. 3 meeting. Snow says the news of this policy was well received by the committee, including Dal's vice-president (academic) Alan Shaver.

"When I brought it up, Shaver commented on how the system we currently have doesn't make a lot of sense," says Snow, who says this issue can be moved forward over the course of the upcoming year.

"Now that (the DSU) has the policy in place, we know that the committee is willing to look at it and the VP-academic is enthusiastic about it, we're going to bring something forward at the next meeting of the committee and hopefully go from there and get some movement on it this year," he says.

The next meeting of the STAA is scheduled for Feb. 4.

Shaver says this is not the first time the issue has come up within that committee. A subcommittee to look at fairness in evaluation was formed last year, producing a paper but no specific recommendations. He says the STAA is now working on converting the paper into a policy.

Shaver says the issue of uniform grading scales merits the senate's work.

"It should be looked at. At the present time the Senate Committee on Academic Administration is going to be looking at it. Once we have our heads around it there'll either be some recommendations or proposals. If the STAA decides the issue should be moved forward, we'll decide how to do it," he says.

Coffin predicts any actual change in policy will take time to be put into action by the senate.

"It will probably happen well beyond my time on council," he says.

Jacob Posen - a fourth-year history student - met with the department Jan. 26 and was told the issue is not on its radar at the moment.

"The history department hasn't talked about changing the grading scale," says Posen, who adds Dal's history department's matches grading scales of history departments at other Canadian universities.

Posen plans to do graduate studies in history and says a median grade in comparison to his own personal grade will make the difference on his grad school applications.



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# NEWS BITES

## CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

### York University re-opening deferred by NDP

Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty re-called legislature Jan. 25 to put in a back-to-work legislation to end the strike at York University by Feb. 2, reported the *Toronto Star*.

But Ontario NDP leader Howard Hampton said the party would not collectively sanction the Liberal bill, continuing procedural debates and

pushing passage of the bill to Jan. 28. Students in the Schulich school of business, the school of administrative studies in Atkinson College – the faculty of education's pre-service full-time consecutive program – and the master of public policy, administration and law program in Atkinson returned to classes Jan. 26 because their course material is time-sensitive.

Source: *Toronto Star*

### UBC member of community police committee

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is now part of a group set up to watch over RCMP activity on campus.

The Police Advisory Committee (PAC) will bring together community representatives to discuss issues regarding policing in the area, reported *The Ubysey*. The committee aims to improve communications between residents and the police.

Alex Lougheed, a PAC member,

said the committee plans to address concerns about the expansion of policing services and infrastructure, Neighbourhood Watch services, parking and noise.

Bijan Ahmadian, board of governors student representative, said although the RCMP is in charge of law enforcement, their resources are limited, and this collaboration can shift some of the burden from the police force to community members.

Source: *The Ubysey*

## NATIONAL HEADLINES:

### Avian flu found in B.C. farm

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed findings of an H5 avian flu virus in a turkey farm in British Columbia's Fraser Valley.

The agency stated the severity of illness is low, reported CBC.

After 50,000 turkeys at the farm started experiencing trouble breathing, the agency started conducting tests.

Sandra Stephens, a disease control specialist with the CFIA, said all the birds on the infected premises will be killed and disposed of and the CFIA will be in charge of cleaning and disinfecting the area. She added any infected meat that was sold will not put humans at risk if it is handled and prepared properly.

Source: *CBC*

### Alberta MLA pay hikes to be investigated

Twenty-three Alberta cabinet ministers gave themselves a pay raise in 2008, prompting the province of Alberta to reconsider and review the salary change, reported CBC.

The cabinet voted to raise their wages by 30 per cent last May, following a decision made by a legislative committee, which ap-

proved to pay the Liberal leaders, NDP leaders and the speaker more money for their work on a variety of government committees.

Salaries rose to \$184,000 per member. Premier Ed Stelmach's wages increased to \$213,450, making him the highest-paid provincial leader in Canada.

Source: *CBC*

### Passengers' bill of rights to make airlines more accountable

Winnipeg NDP MP Jim Maloway is introducing an airline passengers' bill of rights after many travellers were left stranded at airports during the holidays, reported CTV.

The bill would result in consequences for airlines when they cause difficulties for passengers. It limits wait times on the runway to

one hour and obliges airlines to pay passengers up to \$1,000 in compensation if they are bumped off their flights due to overbooking.

A transportation professor at the University of Manitoba, Barry Prentice, said the regulations could work, but delays are not always the fault of airlines – clearing snow off runways, for example, is the airport's responsibility.

Source: *CTV*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

**\$52 million (USD):** the amount of aid money Hamas said it would distribute toward people affected by Israel's offensive in Gaza.

**4:** the number of bishops for whom Pope Benedict has lifted excommunication.

**1.5 per cent:** how much the economic output has fallen in the British economy in the fourth quarter of 2008, officially plunging the country into a recession.

**200,000** children returned to United Nations schools

in the Gaza Strip Jan. 24.

**57:** the number of illegal migrants Bangladesh has accepted, after they made unsuccessful boat journeys to Thailand and Malaysia.

**1,100** jobs were cut at Harley-Davidson after the company reported its three-month net income was down 58 per cent from the same quarter last year.

Sources: *CBC, CBC, CBC, CBC, BBC, BBC*

# Medical Musings

## Fun without the booze



RACHEL SUNTER  
HEALTH COLUMNIST

One of the biggest problems with Halifax's drinking scene that everyone seems to be overlooking after the minimum drink price legislation is: if we're going to stop getting drunk, what the hell are we going to do with ourselves?

Halifax's entertainment options are soaked in liquor. It's hard to play pool without drinking when the tables are shoved at the back of a bar. At concerts in this city, I've seen everyone around me getting hammered, sometimes cheered on by vodka-guzzling bandmates on stage. Even Coburg Coffee sells beer now.

Then there are house parties, dance parties, toga parties – all synonymous to “another-reason-to-get-drunk” parties. Hey, you're turning 20? Let's get drunk! Exams

are done? Let's get drunk. It's Tuesday and mildly cloudy – let's get drunk.

Although the death of dollar drinks will undoubtedly change the downtown scene, it's a mere modification to the mountain of excuses we have to get drunk.

A great guideline I've learned for making a change in my behaviour is to avoid saying “I'm going to stop \_\_\_\_.” Instead, say to yourself, “I'm going to start \_\_\_\_.”

For example, if you want to eat more healthily, instead of saying, “I'm going to stop eating pizza,” try “I'm going to eat one piece of fruit each day.” This way, you're filling the void with something new.

When it comes to drinking, instead of vowing to get less hammered, start planning ways to get together with your friends and share activities that take the focus off drinking.

A potluck dinner lets everyone become a better cook and share great food. Fine food deserves fine wine, in my opinion, but keep the focus off getting drunk.

Better yet, board games are fun whether you're drinking or not. Get all the classics: Monopoly, Scrabble, Boggle, Cranium, and so on.

Musical jam sessions are a great idea too. Gather your friends

with basic instruments and just see what you can come up with. I've heard some wicked jams from a guitar, djembe drums and a shiny kitchen pot with a spoon.

If you're a TV junkie, pick a series you can watch from the pilot episode, get some food and friends, and chill out on the couch. Some great shows are *Monty Python*, *Heroes* and, my personal favourite, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. You'll find watching a great show with your friends is pretty similar to getting hammered: the laughter, the tears at the end. Except this time, you'll remember it.

The truth is, a lot of us feel pretty insecure about getting together with a bunch of friends and not drinking, especially if these friends are typically your party friends. So invite beer and wine, but make something else – like music, movies, sports or board games – the main event.

Twenty nights of drinking downtown will get you a whole lot of phone numbers and Facebookers, but not a whole lot of friends. Real connections are much easier to come by when you're being real, too.

E-mail Rachel your health questions at [vega\\_of\\_the\\_lyra@hotmail.com](mailto:vega_of_the_lyra@hotmail.com).

# SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE USA

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/20-8/15. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting at SMU Monday evening Feb. 9th, 7:00 PM SOBEY Room 160. Will also be attending Summer Job Fair at Cunard Center Feb 10th. Visit [www.camptowanda.com](http://www.camptowanda.com) Staff Experience for application. Call 800 923-2267 or email [staff@camptowanda.com](mailto:staff@camptowanda.com) with other questions.

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# Campus Conservatives get in trouble with DSU

ANDREW ROBINSON  
DSU REPORTER

Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) reprimanded the Dal-King's Conservatives Society (DKCS) at the Jan. 21 council meeting over actions the group took during last year's federal election.

On Sept. 8 of last year, DKCS members attended the NDP nomination meeting held in the Student Union Building (SUB). They handed out flyers promoting Irvine Carvery – now chair of the Halifax Regional School Board – who was considered a long shot to win the Halifax federal election nomination behind candidates Alexis MacDonald and eventual winner Megan Leslie. Leslie won the nomination after a second ballot and is now the MP for Halifax, replacing long-time NDP MP Alexa McDonough.

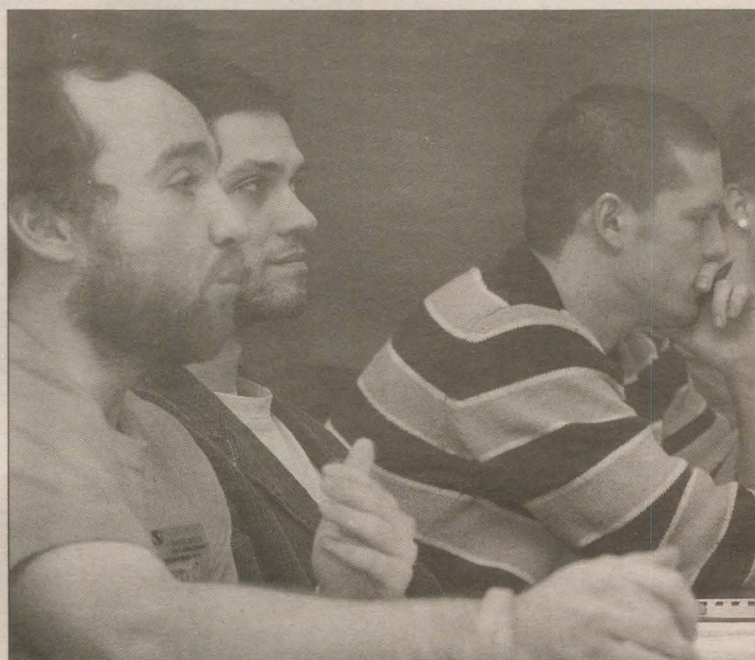
Carvery took to the stage at one point during the nomination meeting and acknowledged the work of the DKCS members for handing out flyers, while admitting he did not know who they were. As the DKCS members left the meeting, some began chanting "Harper rules - four more years!"

The DSU's society review committee decided to give DKCS a reprimand, which includes verbal and written warnings relating to the incident of political tomfoolery.

Tyler Dennis, an arts and social sciences representative on DSU, is the president of DKCS and was among those members who attended the NDP nomination meeting. Speaking to council before it voted on the reprimand of DKCS at its Jan. 21 meeting, Dennis said he regretted the incident.

"I discussed this issue with members of both my executive of the council and of the general membership of the club itself. I explained to them about the actions, how it was a folly and how it looked bad. Yes, it might have seemed to the individual members at the time like a fun idea in a very partisan atmosphere with an election on the horizon and us hoping to re-elect the government. But it was unbecoming," he says.

Dennis says he did not take issue with the reprimand. He has since talked with members of Dalhousie-King's New Democrats (DKND) about the incident to make amends and has received no formal complaints from



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

DSU VP (internal) Dan Boyle (far left) said he accepted that DKCS knows it made a mistake.

them.

"They made fun of us after Megan Leslie won, saying 'looks like we got the last laugh,'" he said to the amusement of council.

Under section three of DSU Society Policy, disciplinary measures can be taken against a society if it is guilty of "conduct that council – upon the recommendation of the Society Review Committee – deems as unbecoming of a Union society."

DSU vice-president (internal) Daniel Boyle said he accepted that the society realized it had made a mistake in attending the nomination meeting.

"Tyler did come and speak to me about this, as have quite a number of other members of the society, and there's repentance. This is something that happened a while ago and it was very stupid," Boyle said, adding he has not had to reprimand many other DSU societies up to this point. DSU vice-president (education) Mark Coffin felt these events reflected poorly on both the DSU and DKCS, adding the DSU was taking the appropriate steps in issuing the reprimand.

"We are a student union but we also provide services like (SUB rentals) to outside groups such as the NDP. I think it's very professional as an organization to recognize that one of our

student groups was also involved in making the NDP's use of our facilities not as good as it could have been... I think it's something we need to put our foot down on," he said.

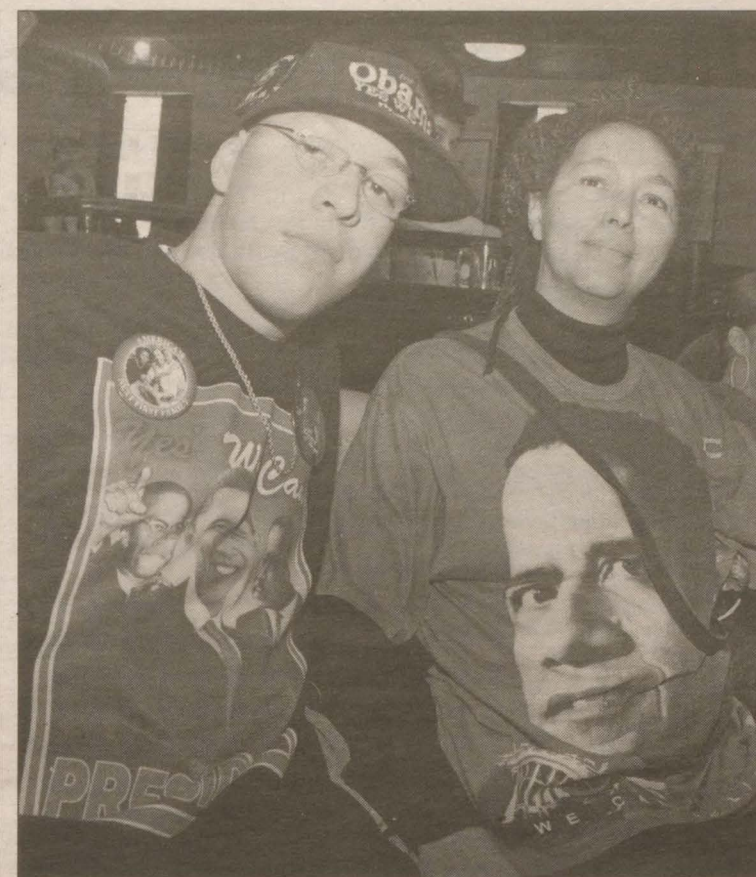
Not all council members were completely comfortable with the outcome. Board of Governors representative Shannon Zimmerman expressed disappointment the issue could not have been dealt with sooner, as the incident had been brought to the attention of the society review committee (SRC) shortly after it occurred.

"As an SRC member who sat there talking about this, I find it extremely disheartening that we're talking about this in January when it was brought forward to the committee in September," she said.

As Boyle subsequently explained, the DKCS were making changes to their constitution to comply with the DSU's society policy and were not a ratified society at the time.

"We had to wait until the society was fully ratified. We couldn't reprimand a student group that wasn't a part of the DSU. It took that long for their constitution to be updated to the satisfaction of the SRC," he said.

The DKCS was ratified shortly before the end of last term.



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal student Matthew Byard (left) said President Obama's inauguration makes him hopeful.

## Obama inauguration draws staff and students

TIM MITCHELL  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Hundreds of Dalhousie University students, professors and faculty members cheered on the afternoon of Jan. 20 as Barack Hussein Obama was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States, the first African-American president.

It was difficult to find a seat that afternoon in the Grawood bar and restaurant – many stood shoulder to shoulder, joining the hundreds of millions across the world who witnessed the historical event live.

"On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," Obama said in his inaugural speech.

Matthew Byard, a second-year political science and philosophy student, said the inauguration left him speechless and very hopeful.

"A lot of my fellow students and friends who are black came to watch it. It feels good to be amongst them watching this. It feels tremendous actually," said Byard. "His speech, and I hope history, will show it was pertinent in the world's progression."

Byard, who was wearing an Obama "Yes We Can" T-shirt, also said to excuse his language but having the first black president of the United States is "fucking humongous."

There was already a lineup at the door before the Grawood opened at 11:30 a.m. Within the first five minutes, 60 people were getting settled with more on their way in. By 11:55 a.m., the latecomers had to scramble to find a seat.

Obama addressed all of the students and faculty in his inaugural speech saying, "to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more."

The crowd was silent with anticipation – only the clinking of glasses and shuffling of feet from people trying to get a better view could be heard. Obama made his appearance at 12:50 p.m. and roaring applause and shouts broke the silence. The bar was serving \$3 "Jager-bamas" and many students indulged themselves in honour of the monumental occasion.

"I'm amazed to see this in my life-

time, and relieved," said Dawn Upshaw, a tutor at Dal. "I don't have a TV, so I came here because I wanted to see it and not just hear it, and I wanted to see the reactions from international students and black students. It's tremendous, something that will be felt worldwide. I have friends in France, friends in Senegal, all tuning in at the same time."

Again, the crowd fell silent, until Obama thanked former President George W. Bush for his "service to our nation, as well as the generosity and co-operation he has shown throughout this transition."

Laughter resonated through the room as CNN played a clip of Bush. Within minutes, the former president was on a helicopter back to his home in Texas.

Lori Turnbull, a political science professor and undergraduate advisor, cancelled her 11:30 a.m. class on the Canadian Parliamentary system and invited students to come watch the inauguration.

"I couldn't schedule a lecture over (President Obama's inauguration). The students will remember this in 40 years from now, and I wanted them to have a better story than 'I was in Parliament class,' not that that's not important too," said Turnbull. "This election is indicative of change, of real change, and that's before he even does anything. He's only one man and we shouldn't hold him to unrealistic standards."

Turnbull said she thought it was interesting that after one of the least popular presidents in American history left, one of the most popular entered.

"That juxtaposition magnifies one man's unpopularity and another man's popularity," said Turnbull.

The inaugural showing at the Grawood was co-hosted by Mark Coffin, vice-president (education) of the Dalhousie Student Union, and Robert LeForte, president of the Dal undergraduate political science society.

"It was a huge turnout," said Coffin. "One of the biggest crowds we've had in the Grawood this year."

"We (had) students, undergraduate and graduate, and faculty and staff interested in watching the inauguration and we wanted to give them an atmosphere where they could do just that," said LeForte. "I think he's already an historic figure, he represents a lot of different things to a lot of different people."

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# Trying to make sense of Gaza

MARCUS HYNES  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

If Israel truly believes it can stop Palestinian rocket attacks by brutally laying siege to the Gaza Strip, then it has learned curiously little about the nature of terrorism from its 60 years of complete immersion in the subject. Whatever losses the Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) may have incurred will be offset by the further radicalization of the Palestinian population, as well as Palestinian sympathizers across the Arab world, who have every right to be enraged by the savagely disproportionate nature of the attacks and the international community's shameful inability to stop them.

The tragedy of Israel/Palestine has always been the largest recruiting tool for terrorist organizations in the Arab world.

Israel's invasion left more than 100 Gazans dead for every Israeli soldier killed. That some survivors will resort to terrorism as an act of revenge or as a means of bringing international attention to the issue is deplorable, but not surprising.

Quite simply, the claim that this was an "unavoidable" war launched in Israel's self-defense is a fundamental contradiction. In trying to make some sense of it all, I can think of at least two other factors that make a more realistic case for the scale and timing of the invasion: Israeli domestic politics and the inau-

guration of new United States President Barack Obama.

Firstly, Israel's ruling Kadima party has been eager to save face ever since its disastrous war against Hezbollah three years ago, after which Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert drastically lost support and several key members of his administration eventually resigned.

The political damage is understandable, considering the military failed to achieve any of its stated objectives and the war was so poorly waged that few people, Israelis included, contested Hezbollah's claims of victory.

A new invasion of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip was regarded as an opportunity to put the lessons of the 2006 war to the test, while simultaneously restoring the public's faith in the government's strength and resolve. The Israeli general election is next month, so the timing couldn't be better.

Secondly, the invasion ended and a ceasefire was proclaimed just days before Obama's inauguration - that's probably not a coincidence. Israel might have considered that this may have been its final opportunity to launch a full-scale invasion with the unconditional support of the U.S., thus without any serious repercussions from the international community.

Former U.S. President George W. Bush's brand of neoconservative militarism has finally run its course, and Obama stands poised to reshape

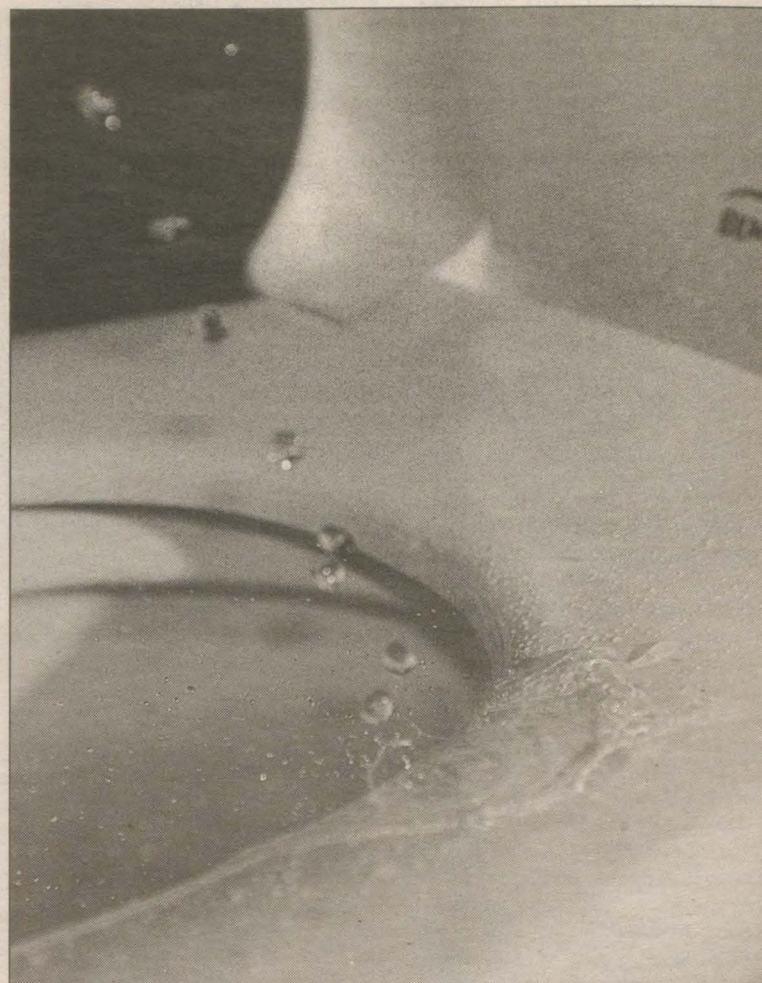
American foreign policy with an emphasis on diplomacy, multilateralism and the application of soft power. In this kind of political climate, the U.S. will no longer be able to justify its unwavering support of governments engaging in blatant violations of human rights and international law.

Realistically, there is only so much Obama can do - his hands are tied by the influence of arms manufacturers, Jewish lobby groups and the historical relationship between the U.S. and Israel - but even small changes in foreign policy could make all the difference in the world to those living under Israel's brutal occupation.

The notion that so many have died for so little is a disturbing one, to say the very least, and I certainly expect many people to reject it, but I believe the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and the overwhelmingly disproportionate nature of Israel's invasion belie any of its claims to self-defense.

Yes, Hamas has been severely weakened, but it has retained its operational capacity and stands only to benefit from Israel's reprehensible abuse of power. With tens of thousands of Palestinians freshly bereaved and driven to the brink of desperation, Hamas will have little trouble finding new recruits to take up arms and fight another day.

Marcus Hynes recently graduated from Dal with a degree in political science and journalism.



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION (WE WOULDN'T GET REAL PEE ON OUR LENS)  
Guys who pee on toilet seats are scum.

## Pissed off

Karma will come for men with bad aim

JASON TENTER  
WEB EDITOR

Man is his own worst enemy. He is the despoiler of his own sanctuary and he selfishly acts without any consideration for those who come after him. All he thinks about is his own personal ease and gain.

This sounds like a general indictment of humanity and our mistreatment of the environment, but that's not what I'm writing about. What I'm describing is a much less dire topic, but the poor attitude behind it resonates with the selfishness behind that greater problem.

The men to whom I refer are scum, as much as the guy who tosses his McDonald's garbage on the floor of the bus, or the person who thinks Western democracy should be brought to the Middle East to spread decent Christian values. At the moment, however, I find the villains I'm railing against to be far worse than either of those people.

I'm speaking, of course, about the guys who pee on toilet seats in men's bathrooms.

These people continue to spread their filth and all of us decent, respectable gentlemen continue to suffer at the mercy of their wangs.

I ask you: who does such a thing? Why would anyone show no consideration for their brothers and fellow men? Is it just pure asshole-ness?

It might be due to the offender's over-developed narcissism.

"I'm so cool; I don't care about how my actions affect other people!" is the only thought-process I can think of that would result in such a harmful practice.

But, maybe I'm wrong. Seat peers out there, why don't you explain yourselves? If you are a seat pee-er,

why would you do this to your brothers? Is it because you think your aim is good, sport? Are you too stupid to know how to raise the seat? Is your johnson so gross and gonorrhoea-infested that you don't feel safe touching it? Maybe you just like being peed on and you're following the Golden Rule?

Well, I can only speculate about your reasons, champ, and as there isn't much that any one of us can do about the problem, I ask that the seat-pee-ers out there independently decide to change their scummy ways.

Think about how your actions affect others. It isn't always obvious when the results aren't immediate, but our actions do come back to bite us in life.

For example, if you don't pay attention to your girlfriend's or wife's feelings, you get half of your stuff taken away (as well as lose a loved one, but I'm sure you'll man-up about that). If you dick around on a project at work, you might miss your tee-off time, or worse, end up fired and working at McDonald's (at least there you and the high school kids can get your kicks by peeing in the milkshake machine).

So you see, sometimes there are results to your actions that you don't see coming. I hope someday a well-built dude will use a stall after you, get ticked off by the urine soaked seat, and decide to hold you down and piss on your head.

You never do know how these things will end up.

In conclusion, I hope this has gotten the message through to you. It probably hasn't, but I have faith in karma, my friend.

Someday, it will catch up with you, and when it does: u-r-in trouble.

# Let's deregulate tuition fees

BEN WEDGE  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Tuition prices are arguably the biggest worry on campus. With Dalhousie posting some of the highest tuition fees in Canada, it is becoming increasingly difficult for some students to pay the bills. As the Canadian population ages, and the economy contracts, it's time to look at alternatives for the way post-secondary education is funded in Nova Scotia and across Canada. Charles Cirtwill, the executive vice-president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), a Halifax-based think-tank, was on campus Nov. 24 to talk about his ideas for alternatives.

An article by King's Students' Union president Kaley Kennedy in the Nov. 27 issue of The Gazette hammered away the opposite side of the debate. Kennedy claimed that Cirtwill advocates higher tuition fees, reductions in government funding to post-secondary education, increases in student debt and education only accessible to the rich. That's simply not true.

Cirtwill did make mention of a model that involves higher tuition fees, caused by government deregulation of the price of tuition. He explained to those present that the value of a post-secondary education is misrepresented by the artificial limit on demand that the current government subsidy creates.

According to Cirtwill's data, when New Zealand and the United Kingdom ended government regulation of tuition fees, participation of minority groups and the poor in post-secondary education increased much faster than participation of the "privileged" class. Why? Because

the government provided the same amount of subsidy it did before, but instead of paying a flat rate to subsidize everybody's education, the children of affluent people paid full price for their education.

They don't need a subsidy. Instead, the money was focused increasingly on those who did. So, while the sticker price of a post-secondary education goes up, the cost of education for the poorest of students actually goes down.

Cirtwill, the son of a coal stoker, paid his own way through three degrees at Dal and has been researching education for AIMS for more than 10 years.

Kennedy's article tried to link the increase in tuition fees to a decrease in student enrolment. Noah Logan, a Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) Student Union executive, attended the question-and-answer session after Cirtwill's presentation to ask about the presence of the phenomena of decreased enrolment in Canada.

Cirtwill answered the question by showing that the decline in enrolment might be caused by a decline in the number of university-aged students in Canada, but that the participation rate of these students has gone up.

Nova Scotia needs to improve how it uses its 17 post-secondary institutions to prepare students from all over the globe to work all over the globe. Although our institutions are trying, to some extent, they need to do more.

Cirtwill advocates an increase in the flexibility and availability of distance education. If universities offered more long-distance courses, students would be able to spend more time at home and less time in

the city where the institution is based. In combination with greater scheduling flexibility, students could balance full-time jobs and an education, potentially reducing the time it takes to get a degree by a few months.

The greatest cost in getting education is not tuition. It's not housing.

"The greatest cost of education is the money you could be earning instead of sitting in the classroom," Cirtwill said during his presentation last term.

If we can get students through school and into jobs quicker, they will start earning money and paying taxes sooner, benefitting both themselves and the government. According to Cirtwill, those with post-secondary education will earn \$500,000 more in their lifetimes than those with only high school diplomas.

AIMS advocates streamlined delivery of education and a fundamental shift in the way we view post-secondary education. We need to act now to reverse the decline in our population and shift the public funding of post-secondary education to those who truly need it.

Deregulating the tuition prices at Nova Scotia universities will result in an increase in the participation rate of minorities and the poorest groups in our society. Will this change arrive soon? Not soon enough.

"You live in Atlantic Canada. That's the painful reality. We're faced with a problem and we're sticking our heads in the sand," Cirtwill said.

We simply cannot afford to continue on the current path.

Ben Wedge is a first-year engineering student and a member of the Dal-King's Conservatives, the group that hosted Cirtwill's talk.

Write For the Gazette!  
Contributors meeting every Monday 5:30pm Rm 312 S.U.B.



## Letters to the editor

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Letters

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

### Articles

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

### Even I text better than Dal

As my friend and I sat among the crowd gathered in the library atrium last week, waiting for the Learning Commons and everything else to open, no one seemed very concerned by the large purple elephant in the room. I'm talking, of course, about the Dalhousie Emergency Text System. Does it actually do anything? Exhibit A: PCPC gets held up and my phone made no beeps, rattles or clangs. A few days later, morning classes had been cancelled and while maybe not an "emergency" per se, I have to think a lot of people would have liked being told school was closed before they dragged themselves out of bed and into the elements. I know neither how the system works nor who decides when it gets utilized but I think it should start being put to use.

Cristopher Doyle



### From camp to campus

Many of us have been to camp, either as kids growing up or as employed counselors trying to earn some cash between school terms. Camp for many Dalhousie students means improving your puck-handling skills with instructors at a local arena, learning to make a cobra pattern out of gimp, or paddling a canoe in northern Ontario. Yet to a handful of Dal students, camp has a very different meaning.

On Feb. 4, at 7 pm, the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) Dal committee will be hosting an event entitled "From Camp to Campus" at Alumni Hall in the New

Academic Building on the King's Campus. WUSC is a national organization that sponsors students from United Nations-recognized Refugee camps to study at Canadian universities. Since 1981, the Dal community has funded and facilitated the enrolment of at least one student every year for the first year of his or her degree.

Each year approximately 45 to 50 students, coming from more than 29 countries, are sponsored through the program to attend universities across the country. Over the years, 48 sponsored students from 15 countries have been to Dal.

This program relies heavily on the support of the Dal community. Not only are the faculty, the campus bookstore and food services, alumni and administration financially supportive of the program, but students are too: \$1.50 of all full-time students' fees directly support the students from refugee camps.

Looking for somewhere to make real change? Interested in the global initiatives going on at Dal? If there was ever a good cause to be informed about, or to take part in, here it is. The WUSC sponsorship program provides students who have been uprooted from their homes and former livelihoods with an incomparable opportunity to improve their situation. Furthermore, their presence on campus is important because they remind students that we are global citizens, empowered by privilege and education to make a visible difference in the world.

Jake Schabas, WUSC committee member



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Dal's campus is a place where people are trained to operate within the system, which is currently falling apart.

## Reclaiming campuses in times of economic crisis

ASAF RASHID

OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Paul Artson's article ("Drop out now", Jan. 15) asked students to "drop out of school now and get to work on building alternatives to a system that has left so many people sinking into a swampy mess of debt and misery."

This statement speaks boldly about a huge problem that looms in front of all people, not just students: the crunch of a shattered economy. Already, in smaller towns and villages across the country, massive job losses are being recorded - to which anyone with families in rural landscapes can attest. These circumstances will hit the cities in due time. Few with knowledge on the subject deny this.

Waiting for governments to fix the problem has proven unhelpful. So far, politicians have just thrown more money at the same corporations and banks that are the filthiest parts of the whole machine.

Governments, as the system has dictated to them, have allowed the erosion of workers' rights and other standards. This has helped produce current economic disparities, where we see the top 100 CEOs making an insidious 240 times higher salary than their average workers. This represents more than a 100 per cent increase in that gap over the past 10 years.

Where do universities fit into this mess?

Dalhousie's campus, like most other campuses across the country, is a place where people are trained to operate neatly within the current system, which is presently falling apart.

We are witnessing a process where universities and university spaces are becoming more privatized, where students-as-customers pay increasing tuition, dish out money to food contractors with expensive exclusivity contracts, graduate buried in debt, then are forced to work any job they can find just to get out of the hole. This cycle needs to stop now.

It will take a lot of effort to build support networks for basic resources and to re-design socio-economic systems at grassroots levels. The only kind of educational spaces that make sense for the vast majority of people during such times are spaces freed from corporate control. Places where people are brought together and empowered with the know-how and vision to not only create alternatives, but to fight back against the establishment of profit as society's highest priority.

Reclaiming current educational spaces for these socially transforming purposes is crucial. It will require student effort, with support from professors and staff.

Plenty of venues will have to be made available for community assemblies, for the production of grassroots media and for the organization of resources to maintain and advance the struggle. Such transformative efforts have plenty of precedent.

In France in 1968, students opposing unfair conditions in the university system and class discrimination in French society helped spur a social movement that led to a general strike of 10 million workers.

In Mexico in 1999, students at the National Autonomous Universi-

ty of Mexico, the largest university by student population in Latin America, occupied their campuses and joined with workers in efforts to stop the imposition of tuition fees under pressure of the World Bank. Tuition fees would have forced young people into unemployment and to then compete for low wages. The students and supporters were eventually successful in keeping fees at bay.

Currently in Greece, students are part of groups fighting back against police and state repression in response to the economic crisis. On Dec. 6, 2008, Greek police allegedly murdered a 15-year-old dissident, escalating already-present social tensions into an uprising.

In all these cases, universities were completely transformed into organizing spaces, bringing together not only students, but workers and disenfranchised people. Students and youth came together with others in their communities, opening up possibilities.

In February, the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) will be involved in organizing an event looking at the possibilities for social change in our own context and exploring the potential of our students.

We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by organizing at the community level and taking back our lives from the hands of the system that is attempting to squeeze out every last drop of dignity from each of us as its proponents try to hang onto their profits.

Asaf Rashid is the campaigns coordinator for the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG).



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# STREETER

If you could forever keep one face from appearing in the media, whose would it be, and how?



“Paris Hilton, by having her say something anti-American and getting banned.”

Sarah Freeman, fourth-year philosophy and psychology



“Tom Cruise, by feeding him to a fucking pack of wild dogs.”

Adrian Balsys, fourth-year psychology



“That Wilson guy from *Home Improvement*. A little censorship never hurt anyone.”

TJ Burke, Dal grad



“Sarah Palin, by having the Republicans lose to the Democrats.”

Sagar Jha, first-year biology



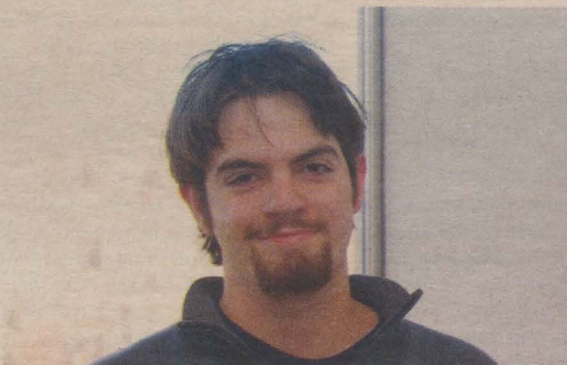
“Bill O'Reilly, by abolishing right wing TV shows.”

Terrence McEachern, one-year journalism



“George Bush, by re-labelling him a weapon of mass destruction and having him destroyed.”

Alyssa Byers-Heinlein, fourth-year biology



“Uwe Boll, by holding his face under the waters of a subway toilet.”

Bruce Delo, first-year computer science

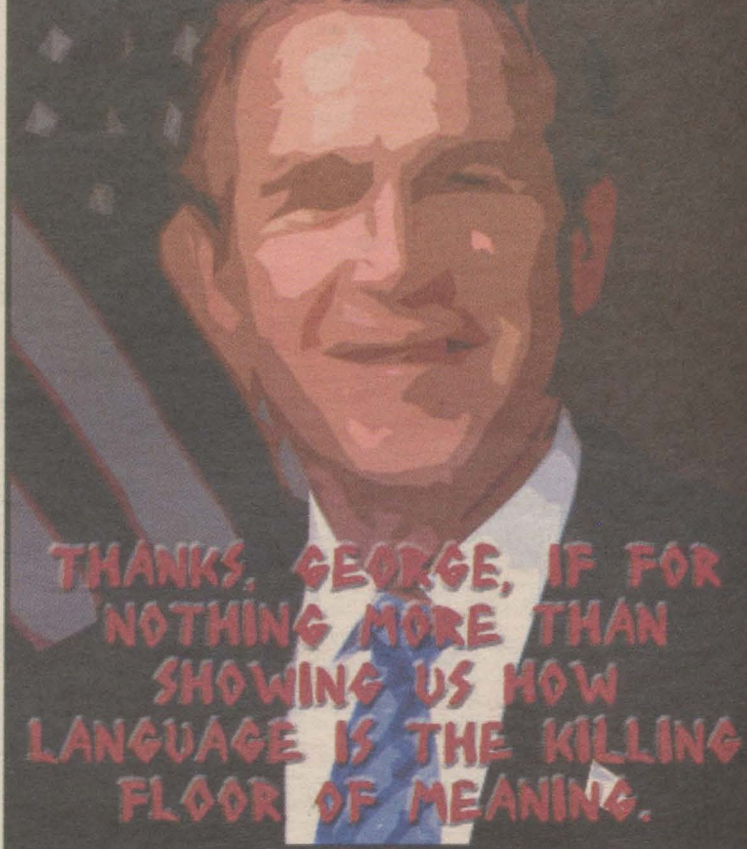


“John Packman, by outing his penchant for hard drugs and soft porn.”

John Packman, fourth-year self-loathing

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**WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE**





JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Stoo Metz and Chris Lockerbie, both 27, offer free wall space in exchange for art at their Upstairs Apartment Gallery.

# Every painting needs a home

**HILARY BEAUMONT**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Bachelor apartment open to the public in Halifax's North End. One full bath. Kitchen with empty cupboards. Pets allowed (one cat, one kitten and one hairy tarantula named Shelob). Linoleum floors, covered in wet salty footprints, bend and threaten to collapse beneath the feet of too many visitors. White walls. High ceilings. Minimalist furnishings: a futon, a desk and a wobbly chair. More than 300 nail-sized holes in the walls. Art for sale.

Every morning, as daylight floods through his panes overlooking Agricola Street, Stoo Metz opens his eyes and smiles.

"I just do it so that when I wake up in the morning I get to look around at all this gorgeous art and think, 'yeah, I live in an art gallery.'"

But what Metz calls a gallery is really much more than that. He lives alone in a space that brings a community together and gives artists a reason to create. Working as a team with cartoonist and friend Chris Lockerbie, Metz, a chef at Tom's Little Havana, has transformed his private home into a public art space.

"Chris here, he knows a ton of artists so he takes more care of the artwork part of it and I take care of more of the promotion, advertising and pencil-pushing," Metz says.

"Yeah, plus it's your house," Lockerbie adds, and they both laugh.

Once a month, The Upstairs Apartment Gallery accepts art from anyone who wants to create it: amateurs and professionals alike. The team takes no commission. They charge no door fee. What they do has a greater-than-monetary value.

On the second last Friday of every month, Lockerbie rolls vegetarian sushi and serves homemade wine. Metz covers his futon with a yellow crochet blanket and hides his stuff (DVDs, an orange pylon) behind a British Columbia flag in a tiny door-

less closet.

When Lockerbie finishes hammering holes in the plaster, it's showtime. The white walls are collaged with an eclectic variety of paintings: dead ants and bugs with fungi protruding from their exoskeletons, a red-haired woman naked and mid-coitus with an alligator, a family portrait where dad, mother, brother and baby have had their heads replaced by PDAs, laptops and cell phones. Most of the work is experimental, unframed or unfinished. It complements the space.

"Not everybody, but some people, look at galleries downtown as intimidating," Metz explains. "And where (this gallery) is in the North End, the walls aren't painted all fancy, we got like nail holes all over the place, you know, it's gruff. It's not like pristine and perfect, it's gruff. It gives off that art show in the North End feel."

After only three shows since November, the tiny apartment gallery has grown from 10 artists to 26. Metz already has 20 on the waiting list for his February show. The number of volunteers and contributors has grown substantially, but only a fool would think it's been an easy ride.

In the beginning, it was Lockerbie's idea.

"When I went to school, someone had a show at their house once," says the NSCAD grad. "It was a lot of fun, like a lot of stuff went up, everyone had a good time, and I was just busy with school at the time so I didn't think to do it myself. But I did think, 'Why wouldn't more people be doing this? Turning your house into a gallery.'"

When Lockerbie saw Metz's apartment last summer, he thought it was a nice place to hang out, but it wasn't until the fall that he suggested Metz transform his bachelor pad.

"It was Octoberish. You had just come over from apple picking," Metz prompts Lockerbie.

"It would have been whatever



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Chris Lockerbie hangs a painting by amateur artist Rebecca Hanson in Stoo Metz's North End apartment.

weekend Thanksgiving was," Lockerbie recalls.

"You came over and told me and I said, 'Let's do it.' And then I sat there thinking, 'Oh shit. How are we going to pull this off?' 'Cause I've never done anything like this before.'"

Lockerbie got in touch with as many artists as he could, even some he hadn't spoken to in a while, and told them the Upstairs Apartment Gallery needed all the help it could get. Then friends took up the cause, phoning and visiting pals who might want to show their art.

The November date was soon to arrive, but there wasn't much art to show for their efforts. When the big night came, the pair began to get nervous. The show started while Lockerbie was still adding nails and canvas to the walls, and no one but the organizers and volunteers had arrived.

"I was like, 'I wonder if anyone's even going to show up?'" Lockerbie jokes in a high-pitched theatrical voice.

Metz laughs.

"Back then I remember saying to you, 'If we sell one piece of art, then all the stress - and remember the stress we had on that day, it was intense - if we sell one piece of art, then all the stress that we went through today will be worth it,'" he says.

Three months later, it's clear to every curious patron of the gallery that no one is in it for the money. At the Jan. 23 show, called "Happy Birthday Frankenstein", most of the work was priced between \$5 and \$50, or not priced at all. It's up there to be seen.

"There's no fiery hoops (the artists) have to jump through," Metz says.

"You know, no red tape. It's not about our gallery; it's about the artist."

The Upstairs Apartment Gallery is not the first of its kind. 6015 Willow preceded it, and 161 Gallon Gallery is currently offering the same service. But Metz says he wishes more people would offer their private spaces to the public eye.

"There is an art community out there," he says. "And months go by, they've told me, months go by and they don't do anything art related. Or they go to a show downtown, but none of their stuff is showing. So this gives them, that art community, a reason to produce art."

*Metz and Lockerbie will be taking submissions for art on Feb. 19. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. the next day. Apartment 1, 2420 Agricola St. Look for the Led Zeppelin flag.*

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE



# No sleep 'til Halifax

Wintersleep ready to put the nail the Marquee's coffin

MATT RITCHIE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

This could be a show to end all shows. Wintersleep, the band with Haligonian roots, will play two shows at The Marquee at January's end.

Band member Tim D'eon is excited about the show.

"The first time we headlined there it was a cool feeling. I think it will be a lot more fun to play this time though," Wintersleep's guitarist and keyboardist said over the phone last week.

"It's really cool for sure," says D'eon, reflecting on the fact his band will be one of the final acts to grace the Marquee's stage. "We kind of got our start there really and played there many, many times before. It's always been one of my favourite places to play - not just in Halifax; in all of Canada."

The club will officially close Feb. 7, but Wintersleep, with openers Plants & Animals, will be the last big act to perform before the Marquee's "Last Waltz" show.

It's fitting that Wintersleep will be remembered as a final band. D'eon, a Dalhousie grad, has played there many times before. And not just as a member of Wintersleep.

"Me and Paul (Murphy) played there in our old band in '98, '97, maybe even '96," he says, laughing at his own blurry memory. "It was in the basement of the club, but I think the first time we played as Wintersleep was the Pop Explosion or something."

For Haligonians, the shows on Jan. 29 and 30 will come with a bittersweet feeling of a final performance. The Marquee's closing has already draped a wet blanket over the Halifax music community. Not only is its location ideal for local acts, but also for big names from out of town and overseas as well.

"Halifax is going through a rough time right now," D'eon says. "Somebody needs to make a good club, I guess."

So far the only club ready to catch the club's slack is The Palace. Surprisingly, D'eon doesn't have a problem with the infamous club or its less than favourable reputation.

"The Palace actually has a nice stage. I went there once when I first came to Dal and there was this live band playing. I actually remember thinking they had a good set up, but I guess there's more money in club nights."

And undergrad wet T-shirt contests.

But Halifax musicians and their fans should not fear. The music community is rumor-central about possible new jam spaces and clubs opening to fill the void.



Wintersleep is set to play one of the last shows at The Marquee Club. SUPPLIED

As cliché as it is, Wintersleep have travelled a lot of ground, commercially as well as physically, over the past two years. But even that cliché would be an understatement.

The band members have barely had a moment to stand still and reflect on the success of their most recent album, *Welcome to the Night Sky*. During the two years since they released the album, they've gained Juno awards and critical acclaim in magazines such as *Exclaim*, and they've toured the United States with Montreal's Wolf Parade.

Wintersleep will play one more show in Sydney, N.S., before setting off again, this time to the United Kingdom.

"We have a pretty good following in England," D'eon says.

Wintersleep is also pretty popular in Japan. After touring there recently, D'eon says the fans were a culture shock.

"They're really, really, really quiet," he explains. "No ones clapping or moving or anything during the song. And then once it ends they pause for a few seconds after a song and just start clap-

ping and screaming really, really loud."

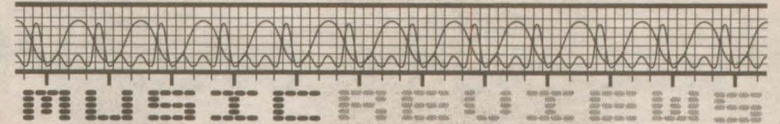
Jamming in Japan may have been a memorable experience for the band, but this summer, while playing in Louisiana, they ran into a situation that was no laughing matter. In Baton Rouge, someone broke into their van, leaving them half of their gear.

"All they took of mine was my new camera, so I guess I got lucky. They left my guitar and pedals and stuff, but Paul's acoustic guitar got stolen," D'eon says.

With no time to spare, the band raced off across North America to perform at the Pemberton festival in British Columbia. They got lucky and performed with borrowed gear from festival organizers and The Sam Roberts Band.

"It was a bit of a daze," says D'eon. "We had to fly out to Atlanta the next day to play a show with Wolf Parade."

Maybe next year they'll get some rest after bidding adieu to the Marquee. And maybe the Halifax scene will also benefit from a short hiatus, a brief sleep, before coming back stronger than ever.



## Plants and Animals: *Parc Avenue*

MATT RITCHIE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

*Parc Avenue* came out quite a while ago - last year, to be exact. But it's still amazing for first-time listeners.

The band members, made up of two Nova Scotians (by way of Montreal) and one Quebecker, craft intricate rock songs that recall classic rock of the past mixed with indie rock guitars. This band of only three members adds so much depth to pop songs.

At a recent show at the Marquee Club, *Plants and Animals* generally played in a trio as bass, guitar and drums, but often switched it up to two guitars and drums to create fuzz-dense rock songs that harkened back to Dinosaur Jr. mixed with Neil Young. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the rocker song "Feedback in the Fields," which sounds like the driving rock of Don Henley and Mark Knopfler. This track is also probably the best independent rock song to have an infectious whistling part, next to Peter, Bjorn and John's "Young Folks."

Musically, *Plants & Animals* sounds sonically diverse and creates gorgeous pop songs.

One of the strongest musical elements in the band is singer Warren Spicer, who sounds like a mixture of Bob Dylan without a frog in his throat and indie rock musician Stephen Malkmus.

Spicer's wordplay and emphasis



on the sounds of words in the songs, as opposed to the actual meaning of them, is definitely influenced by these two artists. This is apparent on the tracks "Bye Bye Bye" and "Faerie Dance" which showcase the band's soft acoustic and easy-listening style amongst funky rock tracks such as "Mercy" and "Good Friend."

*Parc Avenue* shows them experimenting with the idea of Canadian rock music, playing with inspirations from Young and Leonard Cohen while adding some jam elements of classic rock music. It certainly has all the hits of the music on Hal FM with the depth of something you'd find on CKDU.

Recently at the Marquee Club, the band jumped into a version of "The Argument" by Fugazi, to the surprise of some listeners. These guys sound like a classic rock band. But with hands dipped in the classic rock period as well as the post-rock period, *Plants and Animals* create a thoughtful album they describe as post-classic rock.

## Orpheus in the Underworld brings sexy back to the opera

SAMANTHA RIDEOUT  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The young men and women of the Dalhousie Opera Workshop are preparing to present a sexy, scandalous and funny rendition of Jacques Offenbach's 1850 opera, *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

The opera, which scandalized its first audiences, still has the ability to colour the cheek of even today's modern audience member, says the production's guest director, Nina Scott-Stoddart.

"It was absolutely shocking, and there are still lines that make some people blush," she says.

A rehearsal on Jan. 23 offered a glimpse into the opera's legendary raciness: the leading lady, Eurydice, deals with unwelcome advances from her goofy drunken jailor before Jupiter seduces her by shape-shifting into a beautiful and melodious insect. At an orgiastic party later on, sexy high-heeled Can-can dancers hike up their skirts and showed off their legs. *Orpheus* is the opera that originally introduced the "Infernal Gallop," the tune that is now generally known as "the Can-Can."

As bawdy as the opera is, it is also very funny. The actors at the rehearsal could not help but laugh at one another as they delivered their lines. Laughing heartily along with them, Scott-Stoddart reminds them they have to get used to keeping straight faces during the performance.

While many French operas that feature Greek mythology treat their subject matter with elegance and grandeur, *Orpheus* parodies these interpretations and highlights, instead, the playfulness and childishness of the Greek gods.

"My first concept of the opera was actually to have the gods and goddesses as kids, with a big box full of toys for them to pull out," admits Scott-Stoddart. "We've kept some elements of that. Mars is playing with little toys, for example."

The opera, which has been in production since September, is double cast with singers set to perform on alternate nights, switching between lead roles and chorus.

Mary-Claire Sanderson, one of the two singers who will be playing Eurydice, says she's had a lot of fun being in the opera.

"This was a great opportunity," she says.

Sanderson is one of many Dal vocal students who make up the cast of *Orpheus*. The opera's crew, responsible for the sets, lighting, and stage management, is comprised of students from the theatre department.

While opera performances in the Maritimes can be rare, Scott-Stoddart says when it comes to opera for Nova Scotians, absence truly does make the heart grow fonder.

"One of the things that I find (about) doing opera in Nova Scotia compared to Toronto where I come from, is that they have so much in Toronto and they don't always realize how lucky they are to have that access," she says. "But here, people know! They appreciate it and they are the best audiences I've ever sung for."

*Orpheus in the Underworld* will run from Feb. 5 to Feb. 8 in the Dunn Theatre at the Dal Arts Centre. Tickets cost \$10 for students and \$15 for non-students. They can be purchased by calling the Dal Arts Centre box office.

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# 'Recession over,' Plants and Animals say

LAURA DAWE  
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

Internet stories would have you believe that with the release of their first full-length, *Parc Avenue*, in February of 2008, Plants and Animals became instant indie stars. Like lottery winners, this is the media's favourite type of entertainment story: an overnight success! There is something intimidating and untouchable about a band that releases only one album and makes it big. It implies prodigious talent and brings to mind images of finicky prima donnas or condescending hipsters.

"The Internet can be pretty misleading," says drummer Matthew Woodley.

Most of the glamorous Montreal band, if you can believe it, started out right here in humble Halifax. Woodley and Plants and Animals singer Warren Spicer have "been playing together since the turn of the century" and could be found busking on Spring Garden Road with local jazz sax player Danny Orr as a band called The Friendly Neighborhood Trio.

Spicer and Woodley moved to Montreal to get out of their hometown after high school. Woodley studied music and English at Concordia University. His experiences there sound on par with those sometimes found at Dalhousie.

"It was hit or miss," he says, "Sometimes I took a great course, and sometimes I felt like a number in a sea of people being taught by someone with a lobotomy."

Woodley says he was lucky to be at Concordia at the same time as Arcade Fire members and other well-known musicians who are part of "this whole international/Montreal music phenomenon."

"I don't know if it's a coincidence," he says about the success of so many his former classmates, "or if



SUPPLIED

This Montreal band isn't too worried about getting a bailout.

there's something in the water fountain or something."

Today's *Parc Avenue* listener might not have recognized Plants and Animals back in the band's Concordia days. The musicians hadn't yet introduced their trademark choral parts and Spicer's timeless lyrics.

"We found our voice, for lack of a better cliché," says Woodley. "We weren't singing. We were an instrumental band playing much heavier, longwinded, lengthy songs."

As they recorded *Parc Avenue*, their songs got poppier and more accessible.

"We kind of got our heads out of our asses and stopped saying 'we need something that's different so let's put it in weird time signature and make it more experimental,'" explains Woodley. "More often than not, people just want a good song."

The good song angle has certainly been working for the band, which has toured with Wolf Parade and other notables. Plants and Animals now draw their own crowds in London, Los Angeles and New York.

Their sudden worldliness and popularity does not seem to have affected Woodley too deeply. He jokes

easily, saying the band members are looking forward to playing two shows in Halifax, though they were just here over Christmas to visit family. While in town, Woodley says he will try to start some fights at pizza corner, he will subject his French, poutine-loving bandmate, Nicolas Basque, to his first donair and he will find his way out to the ocean to take some deep breaths.

Those who saw Plants and Animals in December can look forward to some new songs and some new "flavours" as the band works on its next album. Woodley is excited about it - he seems excited about everything: music, Montreal, the future.

"Everything is going to be great," he says. His smile is audible through the phone. He is sitting in his new van in a parking lot in freezing Montreal, waiting to get it registered. He sounds warm.

"You know what? I think this recession, I think it's going to go away one day and that people shouldn't worry too much."

Woodley laughs at himself. "Recession over!" he proclaims. "You heard it here first."

## Looking in at Lego



BLAKE MACEWAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Emma Mason, 9, looks in at the Lego City By The Sea at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The exhibit closes Feb. 8.

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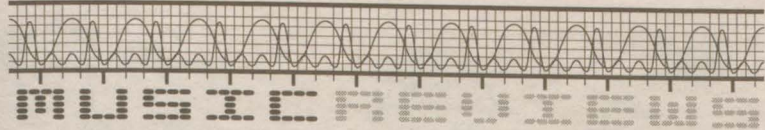
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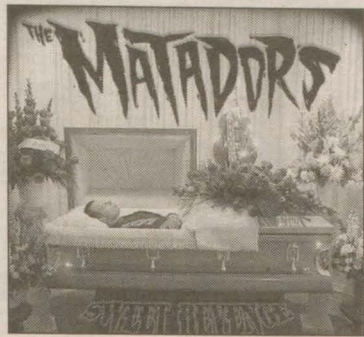
## The Matadors: *Sweet Revenge*

ERICA NEWMAN  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Every once in a while, the musical world is introduced to big talent from a small town that shakes up the industry and opens people's minds. The Matador's new album, *Sweet Revenge*, is not one of those small town miracles.

The band's self proclaimed genre of "horrorbilly" is a mixture of psychobilly, blues and country, with songs based on ludicrous topics such as hand jobs, the perks of drunk driving and how selling your soul to the devil will bring you happiness. The diversity of music genres on the album is refreshing, but the lack of lyrical ingenuity dampers the band's attempts at being creative. Listeners get such shining moments of poetic brilliance as "I am sorry darling about the stain that I left all over your shirt / your arms are full of cum and your knees are full of dirt." Or, equally as inspiring, when the band duplicates the 1950s classic "Hand Jive" and gives it the charming name of "HandJob" on the track "Bush Party HandJob."

Some female listeners will surely be offended when lead vocalist Hooch Parkins inserts a pretend phone conversation with a girlfriend into his song "If You're Gonna Bitch (I'm Gonna Drink)," where he tells her, "shut your fucking mouth." His use of the word "faggot" in the song "Faith in Booze" will have yet



another demographic of the population rightly infuriated.

Despite all the offences, Parkins' voice is decent and oddly resembles Elvis Presley in a few tracks. Upbeat songs on the album such as "The Devil Taught Me How" and "A Little Bit of Alcohol" are somewhat catchy, and Parkins excels in his slower songs such as the bluesy "That Kind of Love" and country ballad "I Lied." The latter is the last track of the album and Parkins seems almost remorseful as he reflects on his drinking and deceit, though it sounds rather insincere compared to his earlier boasts of making mayhem.

The band's experimentation with different genres and the band members' exceptional bass playing are enjoyable, but the juvenile and wasteful lyrics from Parkins are what will keep this band out of the limelight. He would probably have more success impersonating Elvis Presley in Las Vegas than singing with The Matadors in rural Ontario.

## Get turned on to breast cancer awareness

REBECCA SPENCE  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

"Hey ladies, wanna meet your new best friend?" asks Michael Cramp as he shows off a display of pocket-sized pink and silver vibrators. The tiny gadgets are waterproof, offer seven speeds, and the profits go to supporting women living with breast cancer. What more could a girl ask for?

Cramp, 44, is the vice-president of sales for Cause & Affect, a breast cancer charity founded by Alan and Ronna Levy of Thornhill, Ont. A former member of the adult sex toy industry, Cramp develops products with broad public appeal to raise funds for women who have with breast cancer. This year, at Halifax's "Everything to Do with Sex Show," held at the Cunard Centre from Jan. 23 - 25, Cramp promoted the new "vibrating bullet."

"We were at another sex show in Vancouver with 600 of these bad boys," says Cramp, a Toronto resident. "We came home with zero left."

The vibrating bullets are sold for \$10 apiece. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Halifax County Cancer Association.

"We try to make it so that the money stays in (the) city," says Cramp.

"Boobies" - soft, cuddly travel pillows that come in a variety of animal forms, are another of the products Cramp had on display. The pillows, which are available in the form of a penguin, sheep or panda, are adorned with a pink ribbon belly button.

"Boobies make great travel pillows," says Cramp. "But to be really honest with you, the reason we brought Boobie into the world was for women going through chemotherapy. Boobie is a pleasant place for you to rest your arm when you're getting needles, or when you find sleeping uncomfortable."

Each year, more than one million women are diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 400,000 die from the disease. Today there are close to four million women living with breast cancer worldwide.

Cramp's only sister-in-law lost both of her breasts to cancer a year and a half ago. That's why he wants to make a difference for women currently living with the disease.

"Living in small-town Ontario, there's no one to go to for help," says

Cramp, of his sister-in-law's experience. "Your doctor is paid to diagnose and fix, and so thousands of women are left asking themselves, 'Now what?'"

When Cramp became involved in fundraising and donating for other breast cancer charities and organizations, he began to ask questions about where exactly the money goes. He didn't get the answers he wanted.

"Way, way, way too much money goes to research and administration," he says. "Not nearly enough is directed towards support."

Cramp was prompted to look for charities that were giving at least 80 per cent of funds raised to breast cancer support. Out of 266 breast cancer charities in Canada, he was finally drawn to Cause & Affect because of its focus on support, hope and optimism.

Last weekend was the first time Halifax has ever hosted an "Everything to Do with Sex Show" and Cramp says it was a success.

"I'm proud to see there are a lot of sexual people in Halifax," says Cramp. "It's a good thing that breast cancer is seen as something viable that needs to get looked at."

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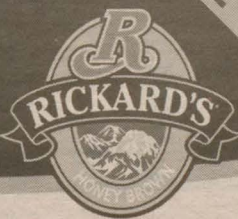
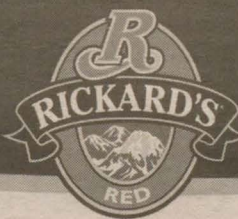
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## Posters for political prisoners

Art show takes on the justice system

CANDICE CASCANETTE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

A group of artists are trying to take down the prison system and re-define justice, one poster at a time.

"The Voices from Outside: Artists Against the Prison Industrial Complex" screen-printed poster show took place on Jan. 22 at Alteregos Café - better known as the Backpackers' Hostel - on Gottingen Street.

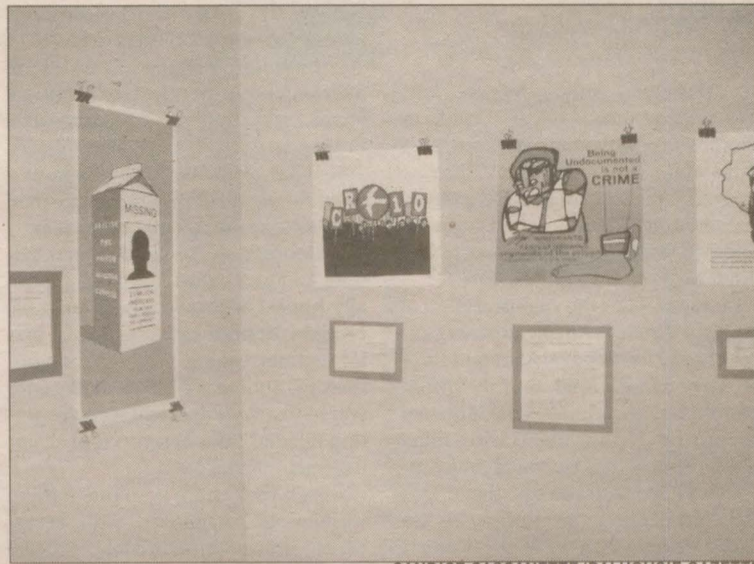
The art show featured a portfolio of 20 original prints made by artists across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, created to analyze alternatives to the prison industrial complex.

The prints, although small in size, use vibrant colours and simplistic graphics to convey the strong stance the artists have taken against the prison system. The portfolio was presented by Just Seeds, a visual resistance artist co-operative, in conjunction with the Critical Resistance 10-year anniversary conference that took place last fall.

Critical Resistance is a national grassroots project committed to ending society's use of prisons and policing to solve social problems. They define the prison industrial complex as a complicated system comprised of government and private interests, which uses prisons as a solution to social, economic and political problems.

"I don't think anyone in the prison abolition movement is suggesting we replace prisons with nothing," says Helen Hudson, who works in solidarity with political prisoners in a Montreal-based group called Certain Days. "What people are suggesting is a justice system that actually contains some justice."

Hudson says prisons ostensibly exist to rehabilitate people, stop



Alteregos Café displays international poster art against the prison system.

crime and to make the world a safer place, but they fail to do so. She proposes that by offering people resources that address the fact that crime often occurs because people don't have other options; more employment, attainable housing, community reconciliation processes and alternatives to violence programs, could all be effective in preventing what we currently call crime.

"A number of the things that are considered criminal, I personally don't think are," says Hudson. She says she perceives many criminal acts as products of poverty.

"Everyone has the right to food and if (they) take some because they don't have any money, that's no reason for them to be locked up," she says.

The art show opening also launched the Certain Days: 2009

Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar, a fundraising project that aims to inspire action on the issue of political prisoners.

Many other social justice issues are also addressed in the calendar. It features 42 pages of captivating full-colour art and text on issues such as HIV/AIDS education, Palestinian solidarity, Indigenous resistance against the Olympic Games and ending violence against women.

Whatever the viewers' personal thoughts on the prison system may be, "The Voices from Outside" show promises to stir up dialogue about the role of prisons and the justice system in our society.

The *Voices from Outside* art show will be on display until Feb. 1 at Alteregos Café at 2193 Gottingen St. Admission is free.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

No, it's not a Thermos.

## Sex available in a variety of packages

FIONA HUMBERT-DROZ  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

"Admit it, you're curious."

This slogan speaks for one of Canada's most famous trade shows, a show that stopped by Halifax's Cunard Centre Jan. 23 through Jan. 25. The "Everything to do with Sex Show" holds material bound to exceed expectations and even the most hypersexual of imaginations.

The "Dungeon Stage" section of the show was constructed of ropes woven together into a net. Trapped within the web was the "victim," made vulnerable for his or her playful partner. Also found in this kinky section of the Cunard Centre were whips made of leather with spikes, and even the homemade duct tape variety.

An educational factor joined the pleasure principle in this steamy environment. Informative seminars with titles such as "I'm Coming! A Guide to Women's Orgasm" and "Erotic Talk - Talking Dirty for Women", educated and entertained the public. Glass dildos, adult videos, lingerie outfits and spray-painted bodies were on display at other exhibits, catching the attention of all ages and genders.

A catwalk at the far end of the Cunard Centre exhibited nearly naked bodies and celebrated every inch of bare skin. The heat was on with steamy fashion shows, pole dancing

competitions and belly dancing.

The female attendees were treated to a performance of two male erotic dancers called "Men of the Border."

Vinny Johnson, a 32-year-old from Washington, D.C., stunned and wowed the female audience with his tight leather underwear and low hanging presidential package, barely covered by silk fabric. As he emerged from backstage with his head covered by a frightening hood, Prince's "Do Me Baby" blared from the speakers to soften the mood.

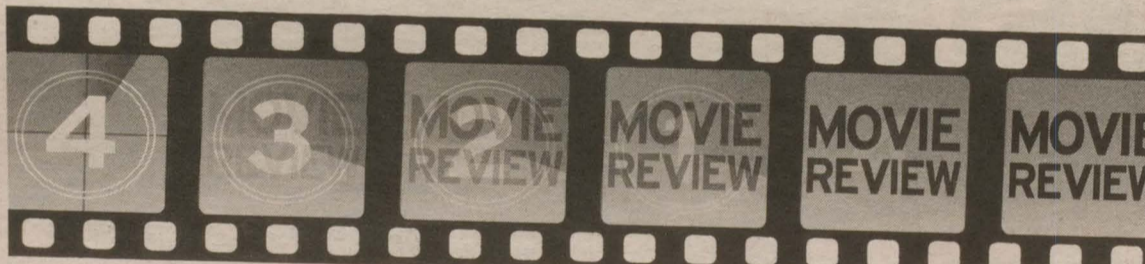
His X-rated dance silenced all those present. Johnson, a.k.a. "Assassin" or "Bedroom Punisher," has been in the business for six years, ever since a friend suggested he try out erotic dancing.

"I'm a barber, that's my main source of income," says Johnson. "But I enjoy dancing and it keeps me in good shape."

Johnson has performed internationally in Jamaica, but his hypnotizing act at the Cunard Centre was his second time performing in Canada. His confidence and passion for the art was clear to the audience.

"I don't get nervous. I love to get out there and give something sexy to the ladies," says Johnson with a smile.

The ladies at the "Everything to do with Sex Show" unquestionably got their dose of sexy from Johnson.



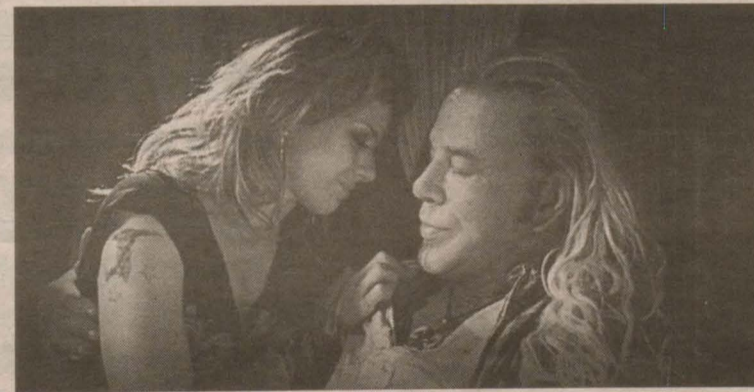
## The Wrestler robbed of an Oscar nom

NOAH MITTON  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

How the hell did *The Wrestler* not get nominated for an Oscar? Did the Academy just not bother watching? At least lead actor Mickey Rourke got nominated. Someone call the cops: The Boss was robbed and he wants his Oscar back. I guess the Oscars from last year were an aberration. Once again, small scale movies are ignored in favour of bigger productions. This kind of shit drives me nuts. Now I'll have to explain this fist-sized hole in the wall to my landlord.

In the performance of the year, Rourke plays Randy "The Ram" Robinson, a former wrestling great who stocks shelves at his local supermarket. Living alone in a trailer park, his only companions are a stripper (Marisa Tomei), his estranged daughter Stephanie (Evan Rachel Wood), his creeper boss, and the ringside crowd. *The Wrestler* is all about "The Ram." The camera is always just a few feet behind him, like an invisible voyeur intent on documenting every aspect of his being.

Rourke is magnificent. In a year of great performances, he stands out as the clear victor. He completely inhabits "The Ram." He's an emotionally stunted middle-aged man who refuses to acknowledge the passing of time. Despite his obvious flaws, Rourke changes Randy into a very charming character. He's self-cen-



tered and childish, but I can't help feeling pity for him. Rourke makes you want to see more of his life.

The fight scenes are very realistic. I expected some kind of gaudy side-show, like the World Wrestling Entertainment shows. But director Darren Aronofsky made sure to include the banter between the performers. He kept the focus on the physical toll of the battles. The most revealing aspects were the series of locker room discussions. There is no exposition, no awkward discussions or explanations. All that's left is the kind of dialogue you would expect from men about to wage a war with a decided outcome.

One of the best parts about *The Wrestler* is there aren't any flashbacks of "The Ram's" past. He lives way below the poverty line and his

daughter wants nothing to do with him. But the director never explains how his life got to this point; only the results of his previous life are shown. Aronofsky believes the viewer can put the pieces together without any help. Because of his direction, *The Wrestler* will have different meanings for each viewer.

The *Wrestler* defied all of my expectations. Most movies about a fallen idol trying to climb his way back, tooth and nail, follow a predictable pattern. All conventions are absent in *The Wrestler*.

Aronofsky put together one of the best movies I've seen. *The Wrestler* is the kind of movie that does not come around very often. After visiting mortals via silver screen, these elusive films disappear to places unknown. See it while you can.

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JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sander Ratsep saves a shot to help beat UNB in three straight sets last Friday night at the Dalplex.

## Reds fall in men's volleyball sets

SCOTT MONEY  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Dalhousie men's volleyball team continued its winning ways on Jan. 23 as the Tigers beat the UNB Varsity Reds in straight sets. Dal, with its superior height and power, demonstrated why the team has only lost two matches this year. Currently ranked first in their division, the Tigers made short work of the Varsity Reds in front of a full house at the Dalplex. This seems to be a re-

curing theme.

In the first set, Dal set the tone with an early 12-4 lead and would cruise to a 25-17 win. The second set, the Reds showed some life and kept it close. The score was briefly tied, but Dal wouldn't stumble long. The Tigers began to pull away 17-12 and then finish 25-19. This was the only real challenge the men faced, as they would at no point trail by more than one. The third was more of the same, a quick 7-3 lead for Dal. Nearing the end of the third set

with victory in sight, coach Dan Ota gave almost the entire starting line a breather and still Dal went on to take it 25-18.

The match was not dominated by any one player. There were kills coming from all over. Max Burt, Sander Ratsep, Aaron Binstock, Russ Lawrence and Devon Parkinson all contributed. The player of the game honour went to middle blocker Burt. The team now stands at 11-2, a record which has already clinched a playoff berth.

## Lackluster effort brings women another loss

SCOTT MONEY  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

It was another frustrating night at the Dalplex for the Tigers women's volleyball team on Jan. 23.

Having lost five of its last seven matches and falling to fifth in its division, Dal was hungry for a victory against the third-place University of New Brunswick (UNB) Varsity Reds. Unfortunately the team would not get its wish. It was a straight set victory for the visiting Reds. The first set began terribly for Dal, as the Tigers quickly found themselves down by a score of 8-1.

The women seemed cautious and disorganized at times, and the Reds' relentless strikes would regularly find a way through the block. Dal made it close in the first set, coming within two, but UNB would close strong and win 25-19.

The second set started slightly better than the first, but would quickly get out of hand. Dal couldn't seem to get comfortable as UNB blockers fearlessly blocked many strikes and left the Tigers with little to work with. The second set would end 25-15 in favour of the Reds. The Reds would go through the motions and cap of their victory with a 25-18 win in the third. To add insult to injury, at no point did the home team take the lead, leaving numerous spectators with little to cheer for.

No Tigers player stood out in this mediocre affair, but someone had to get player of the game for the home team, and that would be the libero



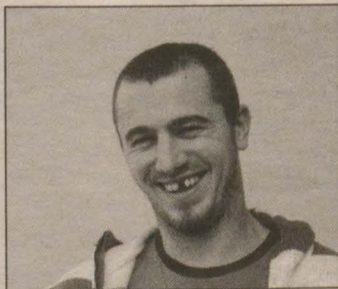
JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal's Kirstie Shepherd sets up a shot Friday night at the Dalplex against the UNB Varsity Reds. The Reds beat the Tigers 3-0.

Lauren Smith. With five games left in the season, the Tigers still have a good chance of making the playoffs; however, they will need to win a few games to get there. This young team has quite a bit of work to do before it will be able to contend with the powerhouses in the division.

## Sport retort

### Ain't no party like a Redbull party



TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

I topped my resolution to find something new to do every weekend, when I travelled to Redbull's Crashed Ice event in Quebec City from Jan. 23 - 25. A combination of downhill ice skating and boardercross, this sport's a whole lot crazier than inner tube water polo. It blew my mind. From the awestruck looks of the 100,000 who attended, I wasn't alone in my amazement.

As I try to describe the setup, one word jumps to mind: bonkers. With the craziness of the course itself and of the athletes competing, there was a recipe for absolute disaster. Bananas, bonkers or just plain crazy, it was an event to remember.

The course winds its way through the heart of downtown Quebec, starting in front of the pic-

turesque Chateau Frontenac, before snaking through old Quebec at an incredibly sharp pitch for the next 1,700 feet. As if the speed and hairpin curves of the track weren't enough, the designers saw fit to add more than one barrel jump, forcing the racers to go airborne, removing any semblance of an ordinary race. All of this mayhem is set among one of Canada's most beautiful cities, and the racers hurl past the heritage properties of Old Quebec at speeds approaching 50 clicks per hour.

What type of person competes in Redbull's Crashed Ice? For the most part they're ex-hockey players, guys who never made it on the flat ice of the rink, forced now to try and make it work on the downhill. One of the veterans is Switzerland's Claudio Caluori, who was in Quebec to compete in his third Crashed Ice race. With the experience of three European races behind him, Caluori was still blown away by the setup of the course.

"This whole thing is surreal," he said. "It's a just incredible what Redbull puts up here. It's such an effort to put up this course, and then with all the people here it's really incredible. It's the best event ever."

The course was designed on a "trial by error" basis, according to

Scott Jewett, the director of field marketing for Redbull Canada. "From year one of this event till now, with the Crashed Ice events all over the world, we've learned what works; what doesn't; what's possible and what's not. We listen to the athletes, and in doing so I think we've built a course that's 50-50 between built stunts and skating ability," he said. "There are a lot of faster sections this year, and more opportunity than ever to pass."

With the temperature sitting at just under -30, the massive crowd filled old Quebec, and drinks seemed to be in the hands of every second person. Kudos to the Quebec City police force, who seemed to be turning a blind eye. As the mercury continued to fall, fans were treated to a clinic in downhill skating, as repeat champion Arttu Pihlainen of Finland outlasted the rest of the field to claim bragging rights and a \$5,000 prize.

The event wasn't just all sports though. Spectators were treated to an open air concert on Grand Allée, one of Quebec City's busiest streets. Toronto group MSTRKRFT rocked the street to the rowdy delight of an estimated 7,000 fans, who danced in the street until late in the night.

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# TV network wants to showcase amateur athletes

TIM VAN DER KOOI  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Professional sports sell. We watch these sports to catch a glimpse of elite athletes from all around the world. Yet, Canadian Olympic athletes are overlooked by the average Canadian until the Olympics are a few weeks away. Canada is rife with amateur athletes, but with major sports often controlling the airwaves, it's only during the Olympics that Canadians give amateur athletes their due. In To showcase the talents of Canada's often overlooked amateurs, including Dalhousie's student athletes, the Canadian Olympic Committee has proposed a television network to increase exposure for our Canadian athletes.

"Our mandate is, we will cover athletes regionally, nationally and internationally," says Douglas Philpott, director of operations and events for the Canadian Amateur Sports Network.

The proposed network will be offered in English and French, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The sports network will present all amateur sports that are acknowledged by Sport Canada. This means regional and provincial sport organizations are potential candidates for air time as long as they are part of a national sports association.

"Club sports play as important a role to us as elite teams," Philpott says.

The network aims to provide significant coverage to a level of sports that has often been neglected by broadcasting corporations. Out of 62 amateur sports that were surveyed in the 2006 National Amateur Sports Broadcast Hour Analysis, 12 sports received 1,602 hours of television coverage that year, while 41 other sports received no coverage at all. French amateur sports received significantly less, with 816 hours of coverage in 2006.

Philpott says the station's potential to increase exposure for amateur teams and athletes can lead to more opportunities for corporate sponsorships. He says Canadian teams and athletes of all levels are plagued by

insufficient funds since larger companies are uneasy about supporting disregarded amateur sports.

"It's a vicious cycle," says Philpott. "Canadians are winning medals all over the world and the only attention they receive is in the side column of a sports section."

The Canadian Olympic Committee has been working for three years on the proposed network. Richard Pound, a 2010 Vancouver Olympics board member and former vice-president for the International Olympic Committee, heads the network as the chair of the board of directors. Pound was responsible for negotiating TV and sponsorship deals in 1979, helping turn the International Olympic Committee into a multi-billion dollar enterprise.

The sports network has been slowly climbing through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) evaluating stages since December 2007. Philpott is "hoping to have something expedited in 2009" for the sports network by the CRTC.

"It's very frustrating; we have got everything here, we are confident in the Canadian Olympic Committee that our presentations are thorough and solid enough to address any type of criticism," he says.

The lengthy evaluating process is in part due to the CRTC's new policy framework, which was issued to broadcasting corporations on Oct. 31, 2008. This new framework is loosening its grip on programming conditions for mainstream networks such as TSN and Sportsnet. Previous CRTC policies regulated TSN's amateur sports coverage to a minimum of 1,400 hours. This regulation will not apply once the new policy comes into effect in 2011.

The Canadian Amateur Sports Network's board of directors modified its application to the new framework on Dec. 5, 2008. The network's directors applied for mandatory status, which means all cable and satellite providers would be required to offer the Canadian Amateur Sports Network in both official languages as part of their most basic package. Philpott says the new framework

should benefit the network's cause for mandatory status, since major sports stations will not be obliged to broadcast amateur sports.

"Cost is a factor with amateur sports; it's going to cost us huge dollars," said Philpott.

Amateur sports are more difficult to cover than professional sports. TV crews must cope with inadequate amateur venues that cannot support their basic needs. The crews have to provide more equipment, such as additional lighting and power. In some cases, amateur events are held in more than two or three separate venues. Broadcasters have to send individual crews to provide sufficient coverage for the event or force one crew to travel between venues.

The network intends to financially support itself with a mandatory subscription fee of \$0.60 a month from all cable and satellite subscribers. Two out of three Canadians surveyed by the TNS Canadian Facts said they would pay a fee to watch an amateur sports network, given that it would provide direct financial support. Twenty per cent of the subscription fee would be placed in the Canadian Amateur Sports Broadcast Fund. The fund will be used to pay for direct broadcasting costs and indirect costs such as support for Canadian multi-sport organizations, federations and associations. This support ranges from sponsorship marketing to advertising assistance.

At the moment, the sports network has received nationwide support from the CBC, the Canadian Interuniversity Sport league and multiple provincial sport federations.

"I believe such a network would increase the activity levels of young people and adults," said Jamie Ferguson, CEO of Sport Nova Scotia.

Ferguson says the network could influence children to participate in a larger variety of sports, instead of engaging in soccer and hockey, which possess the largest participation numbers in Nova Scotia.

"It (the network) is going to benefit amateur sports everywhere," said Ferguson.

# Jock Talk

With Dal track team member Tyler Rodgers

1. Finish this sentence: When Bruce Willis died at the end of *The Sixth Sense*...

"Wasn't he dead from the beginning?"

2. What do you prefer: triple jumping or triple teaming?

"Triple jumps - a one-man show."

3. In light of Barack Obama's recent inauguration, what advice do you have to offer U.S. citizens?

"Don't get your hopes up!"

4. Do you find it hard to stare at the wall while using the urinal in a crowded bathroom?

"Usually fixated on me personals."

5. Are there any songs on your iPod that you have hidden under different names so as to avoid social humiliation? Name one.

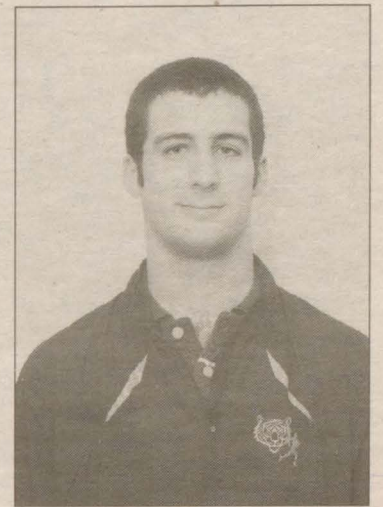
"My Heart Will Go On - Celine Dion."

6. Who on the track team could out drink Barney Gumble from *The Simpsons*?

"Anthony Bernard."

7. Is that a javelin in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?

"Banana; healthy jock."



8. Be honest, when you are picking up chicks do you advertise the fact that you are a triple jumper?

"No advertisements necessary."

9. If Blake Lively turned down the lead role in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 3*, would you man up and accept the role?

"Since Blake Lively is so unrecognizable that I don't know him, I guess I'd have to man up."

10. Name all of the Ghostbusters.

"Peter, Ray, Egon, Louis?"

## UPEI shuts down Dal twice



PEI defenseman Iain McPhee helps deflect a shot by Dal's Kenzie Sheppard at the Dal Arena Friday night. Dal lost both games this weekend against UPEI 4-1.



## TIGERS ACTION!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

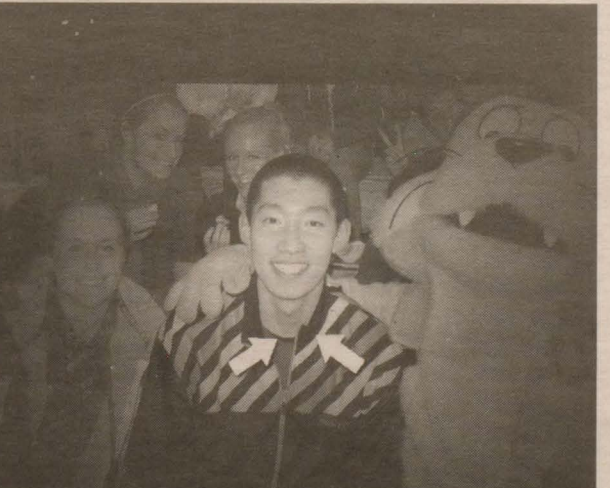
WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs StFX, 7:00PM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs ACADIA, 7:00PM

Wear pink to the basketball game (in support of breast cancer research) and be entered to win a prize!!



ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH ID  
[WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA](http://WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA)



LOOK WHO "GOT IN THE GAME" DURING FRIDAY NIGHT'S VOLLEYBALL GAME!

Show your Tiger Pride and be on the lookout for the Tigers Fan Spotter at Dal Tigers home events and you can WIN!

IF THIS IS YOU IN THE SPOTLIGHT, CALL 494-2137 TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## GYM GEEBIES

Anna West  
Editor

My home town has a strong military presence as the neighboring village is home of one of the largest air bases in the country. I worked on the base for two years at their recreational facility. Within the facility there was a large indoor pool where I life-guarded. Also in the facility there was a gym, cardio room, weight room track, squash courts, etc. The facility was a really good one, but I never took full advantage of it. Because I worked at the pool, and was therefore an employee of the facility, I had a free season's pass. However, I rarely spent any more time in the main building than it took to walk through the facility to get to the pool. This is primarily because of intimidation. Military personnel have to pass physical tests and stay in condition and a lot of them are male. But even the women are really strong and a lot more intense than I'll ever be about physical conditioning. It didn't matter what time of day I would go to the gym (for work, of course) these guys were always doing their intense workouts. So, as I couldn't compete with them, or do even a fraction of what these men and women did, I

avoided working out. It made me feel weak and overwhelmed. In fact, I rebelled; I would regularly walk through the gym with a take-out bag of McDonalds. I'm telling you, if you want to become unpopular fast walk through a gym with a greasy bag full of delicious fast food!

After high school I went to Acadia University. I was pretty excited about moving out and starting my own life. I was also determined that I would not put on the legendary 'Freshman 15'. In truth, my sister and I had a bet that I would put on 10 lbs by Christmas as she was well aware of my horrible eating habits and weakness for deep fried foods. That was pretty good incentive to start going to the gym; it would help balance my need for grease. After all, there would be no big guys to intimidate me...right? Wrong-o! Acadia has a football team...as well as hockey teams, basketball teams and rugby teams. At least four members of any team were in the gym at all times - or at least it appeared that way to me. I was once again too intimidated to work out...so I had to resort to eating healthier, which was probably a wise decision anyway.

Coming to Dalhousie I, once again, had images of staying in shape by going to the gym a couple of times a week. Although, this time I didn't have much confidence in these thoughts as they hadn't worked out for me at Acadia. I was a little hesitant on my first trek down to the gym. I was nervous about once again encountering beastly buff monsters. But who was I kidding? I am on an engineering campus, after all. Our interpretation of competitive sport is beer pong. And so, I was pleasantly surprised that I was among the average, rather than the weak.

I now regularly go to the gym and I have since September of this year, with exception to exam time. It doesn't seem to matter if I go on weekend mornings, in the evenings or during my lunch break - the gym is never too crowded to improve my fitness level and work off my most recent beers and pizza. So, if you are one like me who would like to go to the gym regularly, or every once in a while, check out the Sexton gym. You may be just as pleasantly surprised as I was.

## FENWICK PLACE

Anna West

Most people in the south end of Halifax are fairly familiar with Fenwick Place, or 'the tower'. It is an extremely tall building and the building designers were clearly not very attentive to aesthetics either. In fact, as rumor has it, they weren't too attentive to a few things.

Fenwick Place opened in 1971 and was supposed to house luxury apartments. However, the building company went bankrupt and was bought out by Dalhousie to be used as student apartments. My uncle lived there the very first year it was opened, and by today's health and safety standards there would have been no residents for quite some time. The

balconies were not balconies at all, but platforms as the walls had not yet been constructed or put in place. Also, the elevators were yet to be up and running so students were to use the service elevators on the outside of the building. For my uncle's floor his apartment was host to this elevator. He and his roommates had to allow all the people of his floor to enter through their living room at all hours of the day or night. Can you imagine the liability of that now?! But I guess there's no better way to get to know your neighbors.

Everyone always talks about how it sways and how nervous people are about it just blowing over one day, but the building was built that way. It was supposed to relieve some the stress and strain of

the building.

I think the most astonishing fact of the building is that it was supposed to have a swimming pool. The pool was designed and engineered to be on or near the top of the building. This would have been more than extravagant in the 70s, but unfortunately the engineers forgot to account for the weight of the water!

The building certainly has history. It has served for over 30 years as living accommodations for many students. Along with my uncle (and wife he met there), my parents lived and met there, my brother lived there and I currently live there. The building has its creeks and moans, but it's a roof over my head.



Thursday January 29 • Floodland  
Friday January 30 • Trivia  
Thursday February 5 • Gloryhound and the Skyhawks  
Friday February 6 • Trivia

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday February 6 • Munro Ski Day  
Friday February 6 - Saturday February 7 • AEC—Volunteers Needed  
Friday February 13 • Tech Ball

event put on by Dalhousie University



## Atlantic Engineering Competition

February 6 - 8, Dalhousie University

Register now online for one of the following competitions:

Junior Team Design  
Senior Team Design  
Innovative Design  
Consulting Engineering  
Debate  
Communications Engineering

Register online @ [www.dalsexton.ca](http://www.dalsexton.ca)



**DSEUS** dalhousie sexton  
engineering undergraduate society

## CO-OP CORNER

### Important Dates for Round I:

- February 3 • Last posting for Round I
- February 12 • Last interview day for Round I
- February 13 • Employer rankings released to students
- February 13 & 16 • Question and Answer Days
- February 16 • Student rankings entered in PlacePro by 4:00pm
- February 17 • Matching will take place and job postings begin for Round II

### Take Note:

- If you apply to a job you must go to the interview.
- Employers are not required to rank all students they interview. This means that even if you have been asked to have an interview with an employer you may not have been ranked by them as they are only required to rank student(s) they want to hire. If the student(s) the employer wants do not accept their job the employer can:
  1. Rank another available student from Round I
  2. Re-interview students from Round I
  3. Re-post the position for Round II
  4. Cancel the job for that work term
- If you are not willing to accept a position after an interview with the employer you have 24 hours to sign-off of the job. If you fail to sign-off and are matched with the employer, then you are obligated to accept the position.
- Be sure to get information on salary and relocation during the interview if that information is not provided on PlacePro.



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Penhorn Mall  
(902) 463-3388

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5693 Spring Garden Rd.  
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Rogers Video, Woodlawn  
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**PICTOU**

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