

FREE

141-18 / Feb. 5, 2009

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

**JUST
SPRAY IT**

Dal student exhibits graffiti
at local gallery p. 9



Federal budget skips undergrad scholarships p. 4
Whale inhabitant inherits new home p. 12
Men's hockey loses playoff shot p. 17



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.

Health Plan Opt-In

Last chance to opt-in! The opt-in period runs until Friday, January 30th, 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.

Imagine

Running from Monday, February 2nd to Thursday, February 5th, 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 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.

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

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



For the love of God, don't inhale!

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WE SCREWED UP!

The sports column "Sport Retort: Ain't no party like a Redbull party" (Jan. 29) should have disclosed that the Redbull energy drink company paid for the writer's trip to Quebec City to witness the Crashed Ice event. The Gazette regrets forgetting to include such a vital detail.

CORRECTIONS POLICY

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.

THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year. Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streater feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...GAZETTE



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Young professionals who are working in Halifax are not convinced they should stay.

Employers need to do more to entice young workers

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's no secret Nova Scotia is working hard to bring as many people as possible back to the Maritimes. The cheesy Nova Scotia "Come to Life" ads are aimed at former East Coast dwellers who perhaps need an excuse to come back. Halifax is a major part of this public relations campaign to attract talent to the area but it takes more than ads to keep people in the city.

FUSION Halifax, a networking group of young professionals, gave a presentation Jan. 29 on what young professionals think about the city. The group's survey of 20- to 40-year-olds revealed responses that may be shocking to non-university students. Sixty-five per cent of respondents believed there are no long-term opportunities in the city and 85 per cent stay in Halifax for their family and friends.

Halifax is a marvellous city but it's deeply out of touch with young people. University graduates want to stick around because Halifax has an eclectic, easygoing vibe with its vari-

ous galleries, parks and independent shops, but we need jobs. My fellow Haligonian classmates sometimes have a hard time convincing our non-Maritime counterparts there are job opportunities in the city. Businesses in the city don't do enough to advertise the opportunities available in Halifax. A couple of job fairs and sporadic postings online will not get university students' attention. We need to know what companies have to offer for us besides a steady salary and health benefits. Entrepreneurship needs to be encouraged, particularly amongst young people through training programs and support networks. We need more internship opportunities, part-time job opportunities and mentorship programs.

The major problem for businesses is young professionals who are working here are not convinced they should stay. In the FUSION survey, only 51 per cent of respondents said they would stay with their current employer for up to three years. Where will the other half go? Probably out to other cities like Calgary and Toronto to find better

jobs. Even the people who came back to Halifax from other provinces overwhelmingly said they would leave for better opportunities. Only 24 per cent said they would stick around.

The Halifax business community wants university students to settle in the city. Recently the Halifax Chamber of Commerce encouraged universities in Halifax to continue increasing enrolment to strengthen the local economy. The Halifax Regional Municipality's long-term plan titled "Strategies for Success" also calls for creating a "bustling" job market that attracts young talent by 2010. Based on the survey, the city may not meet the goal.

Perhaps the best solution is to get more young professionals and graduates involved in the job market. Groups such as FUSION Halifax help bring awareness to the issues but more young people need to get active in bugging our business community to give us a good reason to stay. Our future jobs are at stake.



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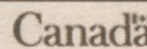
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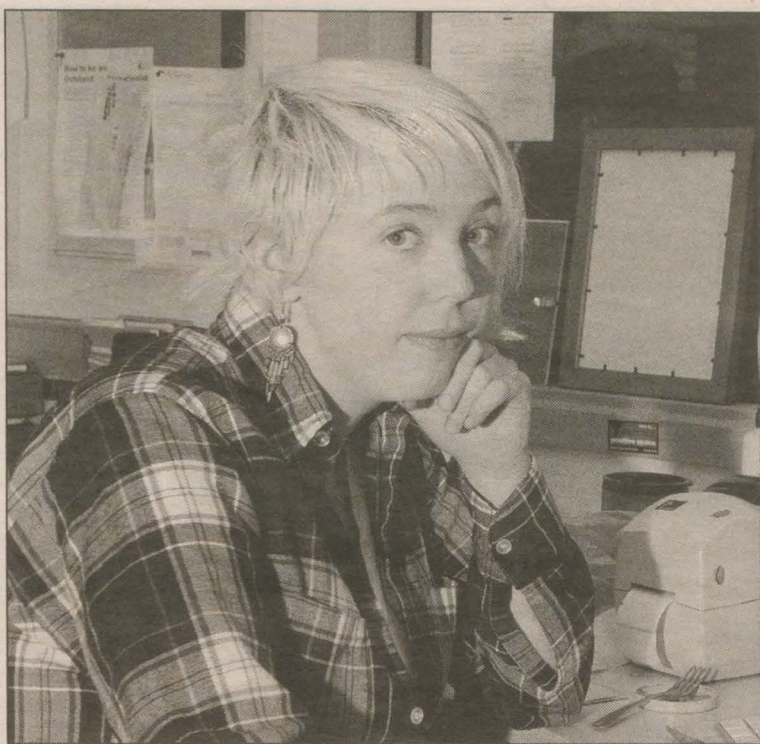
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JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kaley Kennedy, the N.S. rep for the Canadian Federation of Students, says the government isn't doing enough for students.

Federal budget 'very good' for Dal: Traves

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Conservative 2009 federal budget provides an economic stimulus package for Canadians of almost \$30 billion, but university students won't be seeing much of it.

Kaley Kennedy, Nova Scotia representative for the Canadian Federation of Students lobby group, says the government should be doing more for students.

"Now that we're in an economic recession, the government needs to commit to lowering tuition fees for all students instead of this food stamp solution," says Kennedy. "Our universities have been consistently underfunded by the federal and provincial governments."

With this budget, the federal government has committed \$52.5 million to create 1,000 new master's degree scholarships, \$17.5 million to create 500 doctoral scholarships and \$3.5 million for 600 graduate internships in industrial research and development. No funding has been committed for undergraduate scholarships.

"(The scholarships) are only going to programs in hard sciences and business," says Kennedy. "Fifty per cent of graduates are in arts programs and 90 per cent of students won't have access to those scholarships. They're not going to help much."

The budget also promises \$2 billion for university repair, refurbishment and expansion projects. Tom Traves, president of Dalhousie and chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, says this is good news for Dal.

"We'll get some of the money. We're working on it now," says Traves, who also mentioned Dal requires about \$20 to \$45 million for aid in construction projects and general repairs.

The federal government's \$2 billion investment only covers half the cost of university construction projects, leaving universities and colleges to find donors for the other 50 per cent.

"I'm pretty optimistic that our province will assist us," says Traves. "Historically, provincial governments put 50 per cent of the dollar on the table."

As for the scholarships, Traves says he would like to see more of them.

In the past few years, he says, the government increased funding for research grants by at least the rate of inflation, but the government has decided to put a freeze on that increase. The Canadian rate of inflation for 2009 is estimated to remain close to zero.

"This is a disappointment, not a calamity," says Traves. "If it's a one-year blip that's OK, but if it happened for the next five years that would become calamitous."

Traves isn't too worried about the future of Dal during the recession: historically, enrolment rates increase during recessions, but he says many universities have already been affected.

"Some universities are not earning enough and have made some big budget cuts. Some have made cuts to pension plans," says Traves, adding Dal won't be making any pension plan cuts, at least not this year.

"It's business as usual for Dal," says Traves. "On balance, it's a very good budget from the university's point of view."

Megan Leslie, Halifax's MP and NDP representative, disagrees.

"I endorse the infrastructure package, but it looks like what the Conservatives have done is taken money from other university research programs," says Leslie. "They're giving with one hand and taking with the other and making it look like they've done something."

Leslie says the government should be investing more money into research programs for green energy technologies such as wind or tidal power that can sustain Canada in the long-term, rather than short-term solutions.

"It's like building a bridge to nowhere," says Leslie. "This is a budget that has to carry us through an economic recession and we're in a lot of trouble."

Leslie is also disappointed the new scholarships for master's and doctorate students only apply for hard sciences and business programs.

"It sounds like what the Conservatives do. They don't respect the arts," says Leslie.

T-room here to stay: DSU VP

DSU lease for Sexton bar on hold

ANDREW ROBINSON
DSU REPORTER

The T-Room Bar on Dalhousie's Sexton campus may not be official property of the Dal Student Union (DSU), but council's vice-president of finance and operations, Matthew Golding, hopes that won't hinder efforts to improve the bar.

The DSU operates the T-Room, which has been located within the Sexton Memorial Gymnasium building since the 1986-1987 school year. The DSU's current lease arrangement - which covers properties including the DSU building and council office on Sexton Campus - does not include the T-Room.

Golding says the DSU first noticed the situation three years ago.

"It's just been overlooked in the years since Dal took over the Technical University of Nova Scotia and the DSU started operating down there," says Golding, referring to the previous engineering school which amalgamated with Dal in 1997.

He says the university may not have even become aware of the situation had the DSU not brought up the matter itself.

Over the past two years there have been discussions on purchasing a new bar and new chairs for the T-Room. The DSU Board of Operations deferred concerns regarding the union's legal entitlement to the T-Room space.

The union has looked at settling the lease issue with the university, but Golding says the union's lawyers recommended the DSU hold off on re-negotiating the entirety of the union's lease.

"It just doesn't make feasible sense to open up the whole lease agreement with the university. We

wanted to just add (the T-Room) into the agreement, but they want to re-negotiate the whole thing," says Golding.

While the DSU does not have any legal claim on the property, Golding says engineering students should not be concerned about the possibility of Dal removing the T-Room from Sexton campus.

Bonnie Neuman, vice-president of student services for Dal, says students should have no reason to feel concerned about the T-Room's lack of a lease.

"The agreement we have between the university and the student union does not specifically cover the T-Room. However, we have absolutely no plans to remove the T-Room. The only situation which could change that would be if we had a new building to house a new T-Room," says Neuman.

Golding has kept in contact with Neuman on the matter since becoming a member of the union's executive last spring. He says the university might shed more light on the situation when it completes its Campus Master Plan on infrastructure, which has not yet begun to look at Sexton campus.

"We know we don't have the legal right to be there, but we also know that the university is not looking to take this space away from us," says Golding, adding council has heard nothing from the administration that indicates it wants to shutdown the T-Room.

If Dal was to ever consider removing the T-Room, Golding says it would be a public relations nightmare for the school and engineering students.

"It would be very difficult for the university to even look at taking that space because they are a very boi-

terous group. The engineering society is probably one of the closest-knit societies," says Golding. "That bar is DSU-run, but we know the engineers have heavy influence within that bar. I can only imagine how loud they'd make their voices if that space was ever taken."

Fourth-year engineering student Heather Armstrong agrees.

"It's a fairly spirited group. People hang out a lot and like to be able to get together at a place that's their own space. I think (engineering students) would be very upset if the university tried to take the T-Room away."

She says the T-Room is a great place for meeting up with students, particularly after a hard day of studying.

"Me and my friends were (on Sexton Campus) until 10 p.m. on Friday doing homework, and then we just headed straight to the T-Room to have a beer," says Armstrong.

Golding says he is looking to present three tiers of potential capital investments for the T-Room. He expects the cheaper options - at a cost within the range of \$3,000 to \$12,000 from the DSU's budget - would be both feasible and responsible.

"If the university ever said 'we're taking the T-Room from you,' most of everything we've put in there can be taken out. I told (the Sexton Campus Student Advisory Committee) we can't put in new disco floors that can never be moved, but a new bar can be removed quite easily," he says.

If the Sexton Advisory Committee - which includes Golding, vice-president (internal) Daniel Boyle and representatives of the engineering student body - gives its approval, the capital expenditures could be approved by the Board of Operations in June 2009.

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Dal prof chips in to world health book

JENNIFER CASEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine working on a 400-page book with 132 other people and hundreds of different organizations around the world. One Dalhousie professor did just that in a book that reports problems facing world health.

Christopher Simms, a professor in Dal's school of health administration, is one of several Canadians to contribute to *Global Health Watch 2*. The book is a follow-up to the first *Global Health Watch* released in 2005.

The books are based on the People's Health Charter drafted in 2000. The Charter is a call for action on the root causes of ill health and the lack of access to essential healthcare.

Simms said the main reason the *Global Health Watch* books exist is to offer an alternative viewpoint to the United Nations and the World Bank. He says many traditional sources focus on diseases and not the contributing factors, such as government policy and infrastructure.

"Ordinary people need access to healthcare, and healthcare is different for someone in a tiny village than it is in a big city," Simms said during the book's launch at the Dal Arts Centre on Jan. 29.

Simms, whose wife and two young children attended the launch with him, was humble about his involvement with the book.

"The point was to set aside the ego and present the information. So, un-



Christopher Simms, a prof in Dal's school of health administration contributed to *Global Health Watch 2*, launched Jan. 29 at the Dal Arts Centre.

like most publications, there isn't just one name," said Simms. "There were specific people assigned to each chapter but the names are tucked away at

the back of the book."

Colleen Cash, who works in the International Health Office in Dal's faculty of medicine, said a number of

people from the international community were involved with the book.

"(Simms) is in very fine company," said Cash. "There has been collabora-

tion from Duke, Harvard, UN, world health organizations and several different countries."

Cash said the strength of the book is that it doesn't only focus on healthcare and health care systems: it also has chapters on foreign policy, climate change, economics and politics.

"There's no specific chapters on diseases which makes it unique. The reason behind that was that even though HIV, AIDS, malaria and the traditional global health issues you hear about are devastating ... they get an awful lot of attention," said Cash. "It's the issues behind the diseases that make them so devastating."

Joseph Byrne, director of the school of health administration, spoke at the launch. He said the book is impressive.

"This type of publication is different because it's a call for people to be responsible.

We can't say we didn't know," he said. "It's calling people to account and saying, 'you're aware of this - what are you going to do?'"

Simms said with all the talk of financial hardship and recession, governments need to focus even more on health.

"Health is a crucial aspect of people's survival and their prosperity," said Simms. "The best indicator of a society, is a society that provides for its citizens and global citizens when times are tough ... this is going to be the best measure of the next three to five years of actually how committed we are as civilization."

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

Ryerson deliberates splitting tuition payments for students

Students at Ryerson University may land the option of splitting their tuition fee payments due to increasing education costs, reported the *Ryersonian*.

Ryerson president Sheldon Levy said he would recommend a five per cent tuition hike to the university's board of governors. Levy said this increase would help the school avoid running a deficit due to the

university's increasing costs.

Levy said he is supportive of splitting tuition for students and the school will try to apply the policy for fall 2009. Students normally have to pay their full fees by the end of the first week of fall semester. The potential new policy would allow students to pay a percentage of the fees in the first semester and the rest in November.

Source: the *Ryersonian*

York University strike ends

The 12-week strike at York University ended Jan. 29, due to back-to-work legislation passed by the Ontario legislature, returning 50,000 students to classes.

Five thousand students returned to classes the week before.

The NDP representative was the only member of the legislature who voted against the bill, which passed by a vote of 61 to eight, reported CBC.

CUPE 3903 spokesperson Tyler Shipley said Premier Dalton McGuinty took away the union's combined bargaining rights.

McGuinty said the legislation was passed to put students back in school.

But CUPE 3903, the union that represents the contract faculty and the teaching and graduate assistants, said the dispute is not over.

Source: CBC

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

Tory supporters wary of federal budget

Some Conservative supporters aren't pleased with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recently unveiled federal budget, reported CTV.

Many supporters are unhappy that Harper oversaw a budget that allows Canada to drop into an \$85 billion deficit over the next five years, said former Conservative campaign manager Tom Flanagan. Flanagan added Harper must take action to reassure them his direction

is still Conservative.

Tasha Kheiriddin, director of the Fraser Institute's Montreal office – a conservative and libertarian think-tank – said Conservatives feel betrayed by the budget, as it has few Conservative principles in it. She added Harper has made the situation more difficult for himself by agreeing to federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's request for budget status updates.

Source: CTV

GDP dips in Canada and U.S.

In a report released Jan. 30, Statistics Canada stated Canada's gross domestic product dropped 0.7 per cent in November 2008.

Construction, output of manufacturing, wholesale trade and real estate activity have decreased, causing agents and brokers to cite them as key factors in the plunge, reported CTV.

Energy, transportation, retail trade, finance and insurance sectors also slumped.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, the economy in the United States decreased by 3.8 per cent.

The first quarter of 2009 will likely be the most difficult part of the recession, economists say.

Source: CTV

Budget cuts to 2010 Olympics

The Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), responsible for organizing the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, have made some major changes the budget.

VANOC has cut expenses and rearranged its priorities, reported CBC. It scrapped the Whistler evening medal ceremonies and slashed its marketing and communications budget by \$5 million.

The committee's board of di-

rectors was concerned about the economic crisis' effect on funding, and requested its staff to revise the budget last spring. The total operating budget for the Olympic Games is \$1.76 billion.

Private sector sources, such as domestic and international sponsors, the International Olympic committee and ticket sales make up most of the financing for the budget.

Source: CBC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

4,600: the number of National Guard members the governor of Kentucky called for to deal with the damage from an ice storm that struck from Texas to Ohio last week.

\$819 billion (USD): the amount of money in President of the United States Barack Obama's stimulus package.

\$613 million: the amount the United Nations is asking for to help people who were affected by Israel's offensive in Gaza.

8.8 per cent: how much the Dow Jones Index dropped at the end of January.

14.7 per cent: how much sales of new homes in the United States dropped in December.

264: the age of a British shipwreck that sank in the English Channel, discovered by Florida deep-sea explorers in the Odyssey Marine Exploration company.

Sources: CBC, CBC, BBC, BBC, BBC, Toronto Star.

Medical Musings

Scrapping the microwave



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

Microwaves are often thought of as the stressed, speedy, or just plain lazy student's best friend. Cooking a meal from scratch can easily take a half-hour, while a reasonably healthy microwave meal might take five minutes.

Growing studies suggest that eating microwaved food may be hurting us, even causing cancer. Maybe you don't believe that, or maybe you just don't care. But if you understand the science behind microwave magic, you can make your own informed decisions.

Microwave cooking differs from conventional heating (heat by fire, steam, elements or conventional ovens) at a molecular level.

Conventional heating energizes molecules by sending heat-formed energy at them. As the molecules absorb the energy, they begin to shake and move around more – think of those awful animated cartoons from Grade 10 science class.

Heating food molecules can change the food's form. For example, when butter melts, its normally tightly coiled butter molecules relax, stretch out and slide around like a pile of uncooked spaghetti.

Microwaves use dielectric – or high-frequency – heat to cause dipole rotation of the molecules in your food. Whoa!

To understand this, you have to remember that most food molecules are polar, with positive and negative regions. Dielectric heating works when you place your food within a rapidly reversing magnetic field, as is created in a

microwave. Take two magnets and move them back and forth around a metal screw, and you're seeing what microwave heat does to food particles.

So yes, it makes them move, just like conventional heating. But many people fear this "unnatural" form of heating can have dangerous consequences for living things – like your hand when you reach into the microwave to grab the popcorn bag.

Some small-scale studies I've read about "prove" the carcinogenic effects of eating microwaved foods. One European study I came across demonstrated how our white blood cell count is temporarily elevated within minutes of consuming recently microwaved food.

Though there aren't enough large-scale studies to scientifically prove microwaving food will give you cancer, there are some simple measures you can take to minimize your exposure to microwave radiation.

Think of your microwave's power levels as temperature settings. Standard microwaves automatically cook on "high" or "10," simulating a conventional temperature of 500 degrees Celsius. So zapping your leftovers for a minute on high is like blasting them at your oven's highest temperature.

Why is that so wrong, you ask? Because regardless of heating method, the longer you cook your food, and the higher the temperature at which it is cooked, the more damage you're doing to the valuable nutrition and flavour of the food.

To avoid this, remember that 50 per cent heat roughly converts to 300 degrees, and work your way around the 10 levels keeping this scale in mind. You can change your microwave's temperature with just a few button beeps each time you cook something, so start doing that and stop overcooking your food.

Another important fact to remember is microwaves keep cooking – because the molecules are

still spinning – after the cook-time is up. Scientists estimate your food keeps cooking after 20 per cent of its cook-time. Knowing this, reduce your cooking time and leave the food in with the door closed after the microwave has stopped humming. I've tried and tested this one, and yes, it's true.

The benefits of leaving the door closed for a minute or several after you've cooked your food is you're majorly reducing the harm the leftover dipole radiation could have on your live flesh. And you won't be putting that freshly zapped food into your mouth before its particles have stopped spinning.

For you worst-case-scenario thinkers, in case future studies prove microwaves are detrimental to us and everything living or dead, don't forget that it's simple to minimize microwave use.

Place frozen foods you're having for dinner in the fridge in the morning, so they can thaw naturally. Do put them in the fridge as opposed to the counter or the sink, because when you leave perishable foods such as dairy and meat at room temperature (or even in a low-setting oven) for more than two hours, you're risking contamination by airborne illness, such as food poisoning.

When you can, use the oven or the stove to reheat your food. It doesn't take that much longer, plus your food won't get soggy like it does in the microwave. Conventional heating methods allow water to evaporate.

In summary:

Think temperature, and set your microwave's power accordingly.

Leave the food in for 20 per cent of the cooking time with the microwave off.

Think of ways to minimize your microwave use, because conventionally cooked food tastes and feels better.

E-mail Rachel your health questions at vega_of_the_lyra@hotmail.com.

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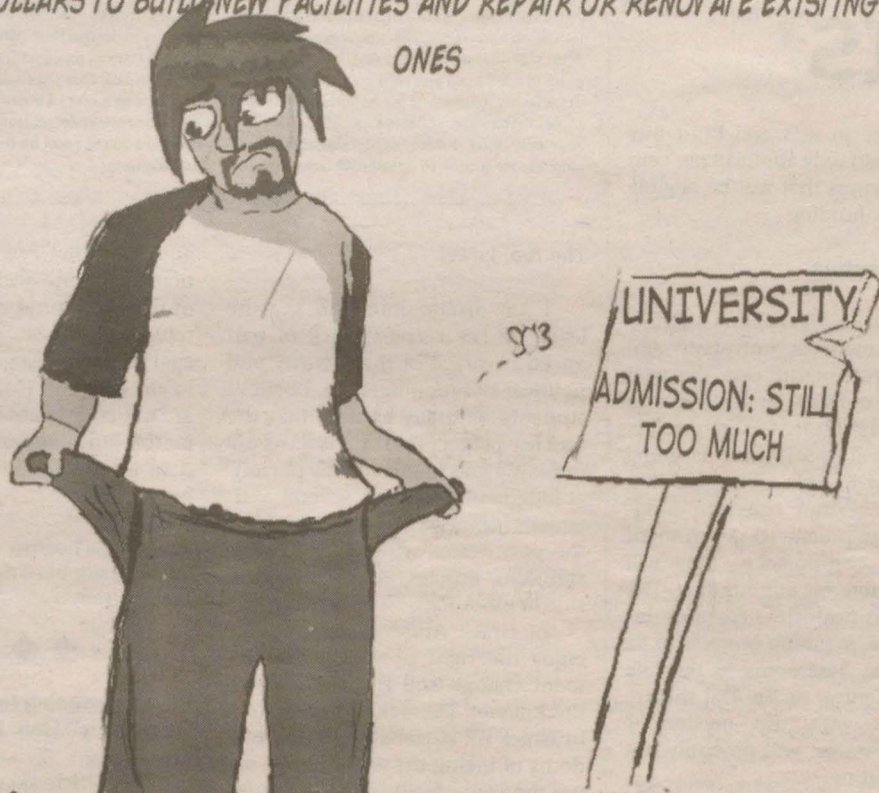
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Delo doodle

PM HARPER'S NEW BUDGET GIVES UNIVERSITIES A WHOPPING 2 BILLION DOLLARS TO BUILD NEW FACILITIES AND REPAIR OR RENOVATE EXISTING ONES



WE THINK HE MISSED THE POINT A LITTLE.

BRUCE DELO/DAL GAZETTE CARTOON

Deficient spending: feds should prevent student exodus

ANDREW CLUMPUS
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The next five years are going to be tough for Canada and maybe even tougher for students.

During his 2008 federal election campaign, Prime Minister Stephen Harper repeatedly made two promises: that the Canadian economy was strong and would survive the global recession with little difficulty; and that as prime minister, he would not run a deficit.

Unfortunately for all of Canada, neither of Harper's statements were true, as shown in his budget, released in full on Jan. 27.

Despite promising otherwise, Harper has realized the Canadian economy is in serious trouble and apparently decided running a deficit is the only way to fix it. Like other countries around the world, Canada will have to implement a stimulus package to keep itself out of a full recession.

Survival won't depend solely on going into an \$85 billion deficit over the next five years, but it will hinge on how our government spends this money.

There is an intense need for spending that will generate employment opportunities. Thousands of jobs are shed each month, the unemployment rate is climbing and many Canadians are losing their houses, cars and life savings.

For the most part, Harper's budget delivers those opportunities, with tax cuts for large and small businesses alike, an increase in government infrastructure projects and even summer jobs financing for youth. Most Canadians are going to reap the benefits from at least one of the projects in this budget.

Students, however, may not find themselves in that group.

It's not that the budget leaves university students in the dark. A section of the 2009 budget is deemed an "Investment in Knowledge Infrastructure," part of which commits \$2 billion to post-secondary schools, to be used for the sole purpose of repairing, upgrading and expanding their facilities.

While universities and colleges across Canada are in need of newer, advanced buildings and labs - Dalhousie President Tom Traves can certainly attest to this - one can't help but wonder if the nine-figure pledge could be spent in a better way.

Economic conditions are making it harder for students to find jobs, loans and bursaries to fund their education. Parents who pay their children's tuition and living costs may be on the verge of unemployment and unable to spare \$15,000.

It's been widely reported that alumni donations and endowments to universities have tapered off significantly over the past few months, which means that the availability of some

scholarships will weaken. This is all on top of the constant calls, rallies, petitions and pleas for lower tuition fees, more teaching assistants, increases in affordable housing and upgrades of the technology that sits inside Dal's dilapidated buildings. These needs were all known long before the economic collapse and subsequent bail-out.

The bottom line is, just about everyone is going to have a harder time paying for their education. With all the problems post-secondary students are facing, why isn't any of the federal funding going directly to them? Why hasn't Harper and his team directed resources toward giving students a better learning experience or an affordable place to live? It is clear that, right now, this is where the funding is needed most. That's where students need money most right now.

It's great to have modern buildings that are aesthetically pleasing and let in sunlight, but they will be of little use if students cannot afford to attend classes in them.

Upgrading facilities can wait. Right now, the focus needs to be on helping students pay for their education, then on addressing their needs prior to the global market meltdown.

Once all of that is taken care of, Harper's government can look at re-vamping and upgrading Canada's post-secondary facilities. The buildings aren't going anywhere, but the students may.

Peace does not always come easy

Israel is like Canada in more ways than you might think

PAIGE T. MACPHERSON
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

As Canadians, we have the privilege of living in a democratic country that is relatively safe and secure, free from oppression and removed from the threat of harm from outside attacks. We have a say in who our government does. As a result, we naturally expect and demand that our government do everything in its power to protect us and keep us out of harm's way.

Like Canada, Israel boasts a liberal democracy within which Israeli citizens of every race, religion, sexual orientation and political stripe can vote, run for office and take part. You could even say that Israel's government is actually more liberal than Canada's.

Like Canadians, Israeli citizens enjoy all-encompassing women's rights, gay pride parades and a multicultural Parliament, making Israel the most secular, liberal country in the Middle East, by far.

Also, Israel is at the top of the pile for scientific and academic contributions to the world. Cars that can run on a tank of water, advances in cell phone technologies, drugs that will aid in preventing the spread of cancer cells and much more were developed in this country. Israel also flaunts a higher number of university degrees per capita than any other country in the world.

Israel is a lot like Canada in many ways: free, accepting, and proud of its fundamental socialist values. But there is one tragic reality that sets the two countries apart: there are no areas in Canada in which an entire generation of children have had to sleep with running shoes on in case they have to run for shelter from Qassam rocket fire. Canadians are not haunted on a regular basis by the sound of an alarm warning us of the launching of rockets and mortar shells into our neighbourhoods, like the Red Dawn Warning Alarm haunts families in Sderot, an Israeli city located near the Gaza Strip.

We Canadians are not forced to stand up in arms for our country, to tragically and regretfully make sacrifices that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. We are not faced with the reality that this is the only way we can defend our children from those firing rockets at them.

Canada is a peaceful country, and we are so proud of that. But we have not had to fight for peace. Peace has been given to us, and we should, in-

stead of jumping to criticize other nations without knowing the facts, be thankful for the fact that we have not had to fight every day to live in a peaceful country.

We should be thankful that, from the moment of our re-creation, we have not had nations surrounding us that wanted to wipe not only our country, but also our entire people, off the face of the earth for reasons we cannot understand.

Before the Israeli government's retaliation against the internationally recognized terrorist organization Hamas, which tragically was elected into government to represent the people of Gaza, Hamas had fired more than 7,500 rockets into Israel since 2001.

For nine years, the Israeli government attempted to make peace with Hamas for the sake of not only the Israeli people, but also the people of Gaza.

Imagine the outrage of Canadian citizens if our government stood by, taking very little action other than attempted "peace talks" with an unresponsive outside threat, while that threat constantly fired rockets and mortar shells into our homes, our schools and our lives.

It is difficult to make peace with a party that thinks peace will only come when you are exterminated, and yet this is what Israel has faced for years.

Every sound government has the responsibility to keep its citizens safe and secure. Like in Canada, the Israeli government is expected to protect its citizens.

When the organizations that threaten Israel are not responsive to endless attempted peace agreements and talks, it is the tragic responsibility of the Israeli government to take other measures to keep Israeli children and citizens safe. This is not a task in which Israel relishes, the way Western media sometimes presents the situation.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir once said "We can forgive you for killing our sons, but we can never forgive you for making us kill yours."

Let us in Canada be thankful that our moderate, undisturbed country does not have to face the same reality Israel does on a daily basis to simply have peace, a concept which we consider to be a fundamental entitlement in our daily lives.

Paige T. MacPherson is the vice-president of the Dalhousie Israel Action Committee. She is majoring in political science and religious studies.

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Graduate Studies

Budget 2009: Little relief for students

KALEY KENNEDY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Last week, the Conservative government released its strategy for stimulating the economy out of recession. Apparently, students aren't part of the Conservatives' plan for the economy. A simple comparison of what our counterparts south of the border saw in U.S. President Barack Obama's stimulus package shows that while the Americans have chosen a balanced approach to stimulating the economy through investment in post-secondary education, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has chosen a much narrower path.

Here's what students saw and didn't see for them the federal 2009 budget:

Student debt

Even though federal student debt in Canada recently surpassed \$13 billion, effective measures to reduce student debt are notably absent. Currently, students in Nova Scotia graduate with an average student debt of \$28,000 after their undergraduate degrees and about a quarter graduate more than \$40,000 in debt. High debt loads often mean grads aren't putting down payments on homes, starting small businesses, or doing much with their money besides making rent and student loan payments.

The American stimulus package invests more than \$15 billion in the U.S. grants program and significantly increases the federal transfer to the states for public education, including state colleges and universities. The Canadian government could have tripled the budget of the Canada Student Grants program by investing a comparable \$1.5 billion.

Through increasing money to the Canada Student Grants and increasing funding for post-secondary education in the Canada Social Transfer, the government could have significantly reduced student debt.

Instead, high tuition fees and inadequate financial aid will continue to bury students under mountains of debt.

Student jobs

The Canada Summer Jobs Program provides funding to small businesses and non-profit organizations to employ students in the summer, providing necessary work experience for students and helping students make money so they can afford to go to school. Most museums and tourist attractions, and many small businesses in Nova Scotia rely heavily on this funding to hire students for the summer. When the Conservatives tried to cut the program in 2007, the uproar from students and their families throughout Nova Scotia helped pressure the government to re-invest in the program.

This time around, there is good and bad news for the Canada Summer Jobs Program. The good news is it will see a funding increase of about \$10 million. The bad news is, the funding is only temporary and will only be provided for the next two years. First- and second-years take note – make sure you save up, because that museum you're planning to work at for the next four years might only be able to pay you for two!

In comparison, the American work-study program is set to get \$490 million in new funding.

Research funding

The government will increase the number of Canada Graduate Scholarships, but almost half of all graduate students will see no benefit. The government has decided to split 80 per cent of the new funding between engineering/natural sciences students and medical science students. The remaining 20 per cent will go to students in the arts and humanities who are in business-related programs. Fifty per cent of graduate

students are in arts and humanity programs and only about 10 per cent are in programs that will be eligible for this new funding.

Infrastructure

While the budget shows a \$2 billion investment in university and college infrastructure over the next two years, universities will have to raise half the funds for any project if the federal government is going to invest in it. This will mean that unless universities can find funding from the provincial government or private corporations, they will not be eligible for any funding. The budget also prioritizes research infrastructure, meaning projects to fix jail cell-like classrooms in the Life Sciences Centre, or the Dal theatre classrooms with the mysterious black wall stains, will probably not get any funding.

In Nova Scotia, colleges and universities are a significant component of the economy. Universities and colleges provide thousands of jobs throughout the province and students bring a significant amount of money into many local economies in the province. Universities alone have an economic impact of about \$2 billion, according to the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents. As well, according to the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission, more than a quarter of students stay in Nova Scotia after graduation to work.

The government had an opportunity with this budget to invest in local economies, to make sure that education was affordable and accessible to low- and middle-income Canadians, and that universities can continue to provide stable, well-paying jobs for Nova Scotians, and they simply failed to deliver.

Kaley Kennedy is the N.S. representative for the Canadian Federation of Students, and president of the King's Students' Union.

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.

The real Israel

I am disappointed, to say the least, of *The Gazette's* lack of balanced coverage of the security and political situation in Israel. I believe students naturally assume that the articles posted in *The Gazette* are unbiased and unaffected by personal judgment. However, several anti-Israel articles have been printed in the past weeks, without any corresponding articles about the other side of the story.

In Israel, Arabs and Jews alike enjoy the right to vote, to implement change and to hold seats in the Knesset. There is no segregation in Israel. All citizens enjoy the freedoms of taking the same buses, using the same facilities, and attending the same public schools.

I have heard the term "apartheid" misused at Israel's expense. I have also heard the term "genocide", again misused at Israel's expense.

It is a downright denial of the facts the compare Israel to apartheid South Africa, for Israel is a democratic nation in which all citizens, regardless of colour or creed, have the unequivocal right to cast their ballots – and this is only the beginning. It is also an unequivocal denial of the facts to compare Israel to Nazi Germany, as Israel does not seek the systematic destruction of a people, but rather to disarm those who seek to harm it and its civilians.

The claims of genocide and apartheid are insulting not only to the victims of apartheid in South Africa, but to the people of Israel who, despite the constant threat of terror, live side by side with their neighbors. The day that Israel creates "Jews only" bomb shelters, buses, restaurants and schools will be the day that it will be justified to call Israel an apartheid state. Since this day will never come, I believe *The Gazette* should report the facts as they are, not as they could be, manipulated by hate and a desire to vilify the people of Israel: Arab, Christian and Jew alike.

Alexandra Dezenhouse
President of the Israel Action Committee
Fourth-year philosophy

Re: "Re-opening the dialogue: the Gaza crisis" (Jan. 22)

In his article, Jake Schabas misrepresents several circumstances of the conflict in Gaza.

For example, the United Nations building "providing shelter to civilians" has been proven to have held members of Hamas who were shooting at the Israel Defense Forces. It is unfortunate that a bloodthirsty organization like Hamas can play on the heartstrings of the West so well, especially at the expense of their own people.

What was most distasteful about Schabas' article, however, is that the author goes on to say "Of all people, the Jews should be the most sensitive to the plight of stateless individuals who are walled-in and blockaded from the rest of the world by a hostile government."

Allusions to the Holocaust are an all-too-common tactic used by anti-Israel writers, attempting to paint the Jews as Nazis in order to make Jews uncomfortable.

For the record, "Israel" is not

equivalent to "Jews." Israel is a multicultural state with a government of varied cultural backgrounds and religions. Israel defending itself against a terrorist group has nothing to do with the Holocaust. The two are not comparable on any level, no matter how hard people try to make it so for the shock value of a hard-hitting article.

Paige MacPherson
Vice-president of the Israel Action Committee

Re: "Re-opening the dialogue: the Gaza crisis" (Jan. 22)

This article skews the possibility of dialogue as it casts allegations that can only have the intent to deny "fair play" in the court of public opinion and defame Jews and Israelis. First, this piece refuses to acknowledge, during a time of war, information is the first casualty. We have abundant proof of deceitful exaggeration, and I refuse, as should you, to accept this 1,300 to 13 number until third parties can verify it. Past experience from previous conflagrations makes caution and suspended judgment fundamental.

The piece goes on to list a litany of supposed Israeli activities, while dismissing the Arab actions that precipitated the Israeli response. Schabas doesn't mention more than 6,000 rockets launched since 2005 from Hamas-controlled Gaza that killed 22 and wounded 433 Israelis.

A proportionate response reduces risk of repetition; a disproportionate response does not reduce the risk of repetition. When England crushed and killed some 350,000 Germans in the Low Countries to eliminate threat of V-2 missiles, the fact that the V-2 had only killed 50,000 Brits was irrelevant: their potential to kill many more was the issue at stake. Just as England dealt a proportionate response, so has Israel acted with proportionality to the potential of these unprovoked attacks.

Schabas' monologue shows abundant evidence of a desire for a dialogue of intolerance and vilification.

Sincerely,
Larry Riteman
True Metallic Explorations
Bedford, NS

Re: "Only no means no" (Jan. 22)

It's just not that simple. There are many factors that contribute to situations where both men and women may not express their thoughts or feelings directly. Educating everyone on issues of sexual consent is a proactive measure on behalf of the university to ensure awareness of this issue. A court of law will look beyond the "No and only no means no" to other indicators of consent. We want students to know the facts and they are obviously interested. Since our "Get Consent" campaign website was launched in September, we have had 1,235 visitors, with 3,149 page views.

Gaye Wishart
Advisor, Harassment prevention
Dalhousie Office of Human Rights,
Equity and Harassment Prevention

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Graffiti artist goes from street to studio

ELI MASEK-KELLY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Growing up, Theo Meltzer-Gardner would often cruise past the train tracks on his skateboard. He was always intrigued by the forbidden zone where his parents told him never to go, but his eyes would wander beneath the bridges regardless, down to hidden miles of metal rails that provide a stretching haven in the gritty underworld of graffiti. As a child, he would watch as the bridge walls, dripping in shifting colours, would change with the passing days.

The more he looked, the more he began to notice graffiti in new and obscure places. He found it hidden on phone booths and mailboxes, in alleyways and doorways, and daily at the skate park where he used to spend his days.

Young Meltzer-Gardner went to his older brother to find an explanation for the paint he saw splattered on walls around his hometown of Halifax. His brother promptly pulled out a pilot marker, a basic tool for a writer, and broke down the basics on a sheet of paper.

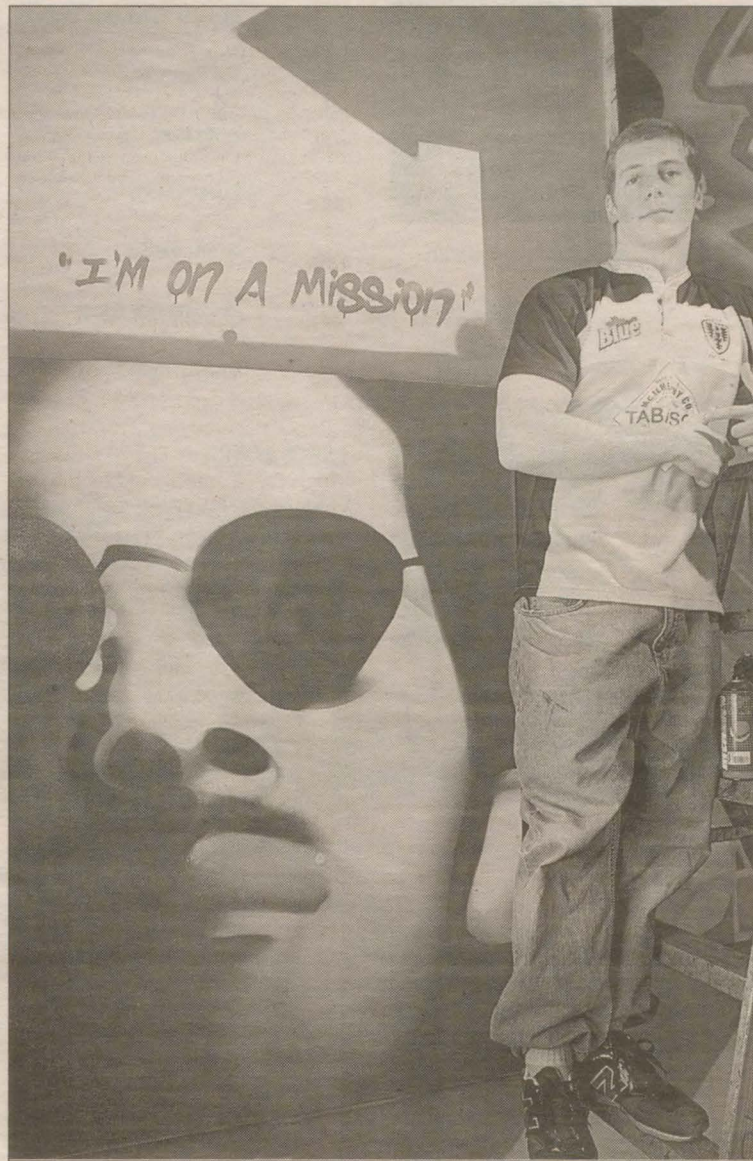
"From then on I was hooked," says 18-year-old Meltzer-Gardner, a first-year arts student at Dal who is exhibiting his work at Studio 21 until Feb. 11 in Gallery 2.

Since then, Meltzer-Gardner has sketched graffiti images obsessively.

"I would start drawing when I woke up and then the next thing I knew it was dark out," he says. "It became a way of life. After seeing the first really terrible-looking thing that I did on paper, I said 'wow,' I am producing my own style and it was something that just evolved and never really stopped."

Meltzer-Gardner hurled himself head first into his work. He started at the bottom like any other beginner, and as a beginner, he was susceptible to the carnivorous competition of graffiti.

"It got to the point where I would paint something and come back an hour later and it was gone over," says Meltzer-Gardner. "Any other writer



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Theo Meltzer-Gardner at his gallery exhibit in Studio 21.

who went through the hate I got probably wouldn't be writing today."

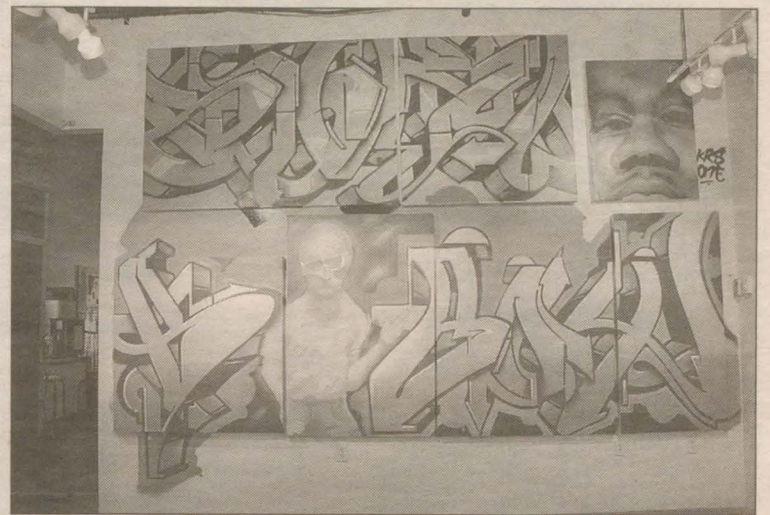
At first, his parents did not approve. They told their son to get a new hobby. Four years later, they have come to appreciate Meltzer-Gardner's unique talent.

"Now that I've taken it to a new level they're proud," he says with a

smile. "They've always been there when I need them."

Unfortunately, trouble and graffiti go together like hand and sprayer. Due to the illegal nature of the art form, a graffiti writer is always taking risks to create his next piece.

In Halifax, graffiti has been on the decline since 2006 due to policies



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Meltzer-Gardner is used to having a "free-for-all terrain." His exhibit takes up all four walls of Gallery 2.

in Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) graffiti management plan.

"Regardless of where I paint, it will have an influence on who ever sees it, whether positive or negative, it's endless," says Meltzer-Gardner.

Commissioned walls and community programs are Meltzer-Gardner's ink for drawing a more positive image of graffiti. He's spearheaded art workshops at the Windsor Recreational Centre for the past two summers. During these programs, he emphasized the necessity of painting legally and stressed focus on each child's artistic talent to generate aesthetically pleasing murals.

"Graffiti is something that can be shared with everyone. It is the most accessible art form," he says, "but not everyone agrees with that."

Meltzer-Gardner continues to reach out to communities throughout HRM with his commissioned murals.

"What I hope to do is continue painting and have my style evolve to a point where people have no choice but to recognize graffiti and say it's beautiful," he says.

Studio 21 curator Ineke Graham is interested in graffiti as an art form and opened her gallery to Meltzer-Gardner for an exhibition.

"Graffiti is like a language, you need to speak it to understand it," Graham says.

Meltzer-Gardner took full advantage of the walls of Gallery 2 in Studio 21, dedicating each side of the room to one of the four facets of hip-hop: rap, break-dance, DJ, and graffiti.

"When I started, I hung the blank canvases on the wall and everyone looked at me like I was crazy," Meltzer-Gardner says. "I planned on doing it just like a real wall."

He painted using bright colours and fresh style, not just contained to the canvases but also spilling along the walls in a tone reminiscent of the street.

"In the streets there is no curator to decide what goes up; it's a free-for-all terrain," he says.

The exhibition exudes the same feeling of forced freedom with high-energy pieces competing for attention and scaling the height of the studio.

"Graffiti and life are both about evolution," Meltzer-Gardner says as he contemplates his next step. All he knows for sure is he'll keep his accomplished drips of "paint on my hands."



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STREETER

What is the grossest thing that you've found in your food that wasn't meant to be there?



“Cigarette butts in salsa.”
Shane Simms, third-year management



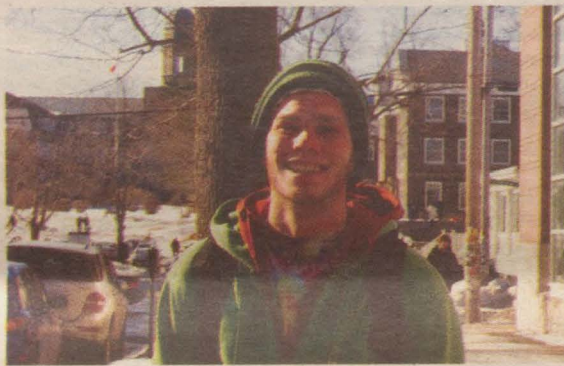
“One time I was eating nachos and there was an earwig.”
Ethelbert Edwards, third-year commerce



“I've found lots of hairs. It doesn't bother me anymore.”
Nick Chomey, third-year commerce



“A green pepper with an inchworm and all its babies inside.”
Janelle Warren, second-year biology



“In my cereal I found something that definitely wasn't cereal. I think it was wood.”
Phil Gallant, first-year arts



“I cracked open an egg and found a partially developed chicken. Very traumatic.”
Zoë Roberts, fourth-year IDS/political science



“A rusty nail in a plate of spaghetti.”
Ethan Morantz, second-year sociology and Spanish



“Pubes in my yogurt. They didn't taste that bad.”
John Packman, seventh-year culinary studies

HOT OR NOT

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| HOT: Snow days | NOT: Not checking MyDal |
| HOT: The underdog | NOT: The Cardinals |
| HOT: Self-expression | NOT: Status updates |
| HOT: Being warmer than Ontario | NOT: Storms moving east |
| HOT: The Last Waltz | NOT: Two closures |
| HOT: Optimism | NOT: Shorts in January |
| HOT: Fashion blogs | NOT: Emo blogs |
| HOT: Theme parties | NOT: Theme dress days |
| HOT: Learning new things | NOT: Learning to snowboard |
| HOT: Obama-rama | NOT: Cheesy slogans |

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

In Howe Hall:

Girl: “I want to play hard to get... but it's hard because I already hooked up with him.”

In a computer science class:

Prof: Hey, is your name Oliver?

Oliver: Uh, yeah.

Prof: You're the one that's been sending me e-mails?

Oliver: Yeah.

Prof: Stop sending me e-mails!

In front of the Killam:

Guy: “World of Warcraft is like totally the most effective form of birth control.”

In stats class:

Girl: “Wait, I can never remember... are we mortal or immortal?”

On Coburg:

Guy: “So how long is reading week?”

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ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON FEB. 19 @ 6-9 P.M. IN ROOM 303 OF THE SUB. FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED.

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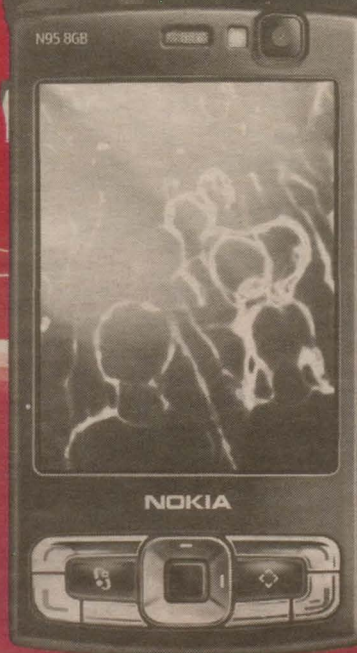
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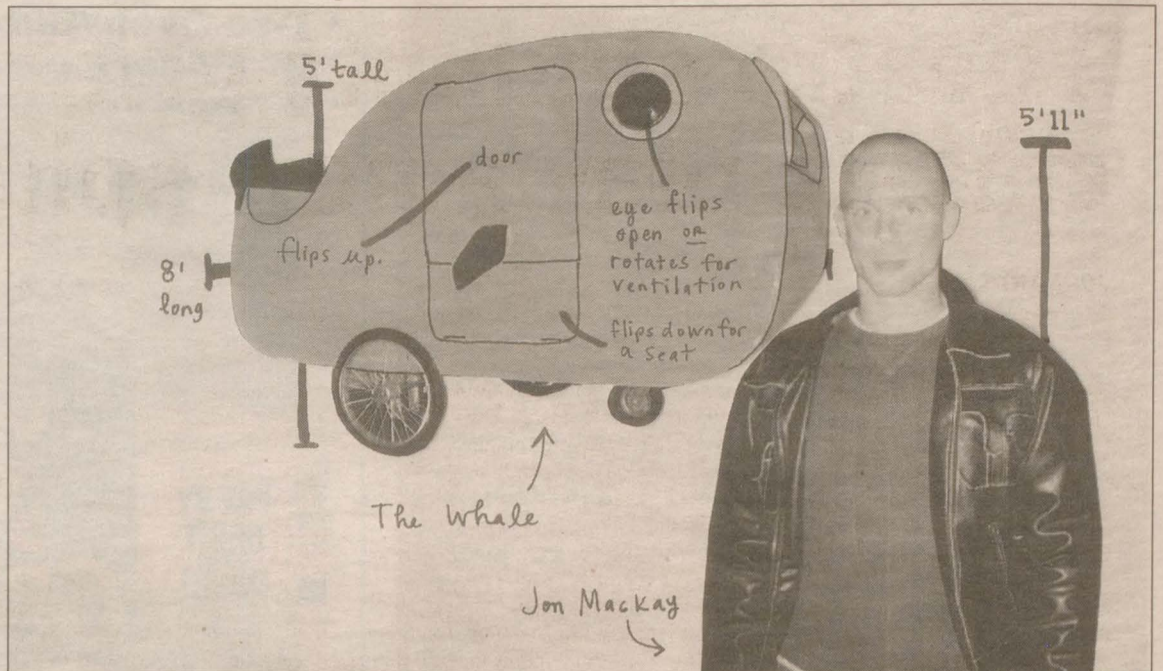
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WRITE FOR
THE GAZETTE



Jon Mackay's resourcefulness might benefit Dal's architecture and planning students.

Thinking outside the box and inside the whale

Local artist's sleeper trailer still bopping around

LAURA DAWE
ARTS COLUMNIST

Paying rent sucks. Every 30-some days, there it is again: that nagging feeling of owing something. Or that nagging landlord, coming to incite the feeling of owing something. There's no avoiding it. Especially not in this climate. It is a cold world out there, people.

Sure, you could buy a home. Maybe you could afford some heat-oil-guzzling fixer-upper if you went in on it with a friend. Or worse, a lover. All you're really doing, though, is upping the stakes. Instead of a near-sighted 60-year-old woman named Coco coming to pick up the rent cheque in her slippers, you have to deal with The Bank. That's the bank with a capital T and a capital B, and that's if you're lucky.

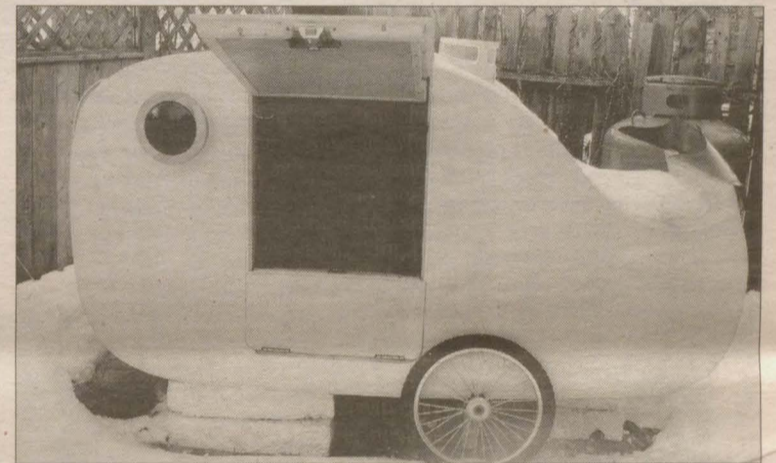
Most people can't even afford to try to buy a house until they're 30. Even if you scrimp and muster up the down payment, you still won't even own the thing until after you qualify for 15 per cent off on the first Monday of every month at Zellers.

For many of us, it's better to shirk the responsibilities of homeownership: of faulty plumbing, of crumbling foundations, of being tied to one place. Which brings us full circle. Paying rent sucks. And mortgages possibly suck harder. But it's unavoidable. Isn't it?

Local folk hero and lifestyle artist Jon Mackay and his most famous work suggest that maybe, just maybe, the clever soul can avoid rent and avoid freezing. All you need is a little genius, a lot of incentive, and the ability to get by with a little help from your friends. A pair of brass cojones, though not necessary, certainly help.

You see, Mackay lives in the belly of a whale. In the bible, God used living-in-the-belly-of-a-whale as a way to punish Jonah for being rebellious. Mackay, on the other hand, sees it as a reward for his refusal to bow down to the tyranny of rent.

The whale in question is a baby blue sleeper trailer, entirely designed and crafted by Mackay. Two people can comfortably sleep or sit up in it. Its spout is a periscope, rigged up with hanging mirrors, so a person inside can scope out any possible trouble outside. Its eyes are plexiglass windows. Their white rims can be turned to allow for more or less ventilation. There is a little cabinetry that includes a flip-down counter top Mackay says is a "good place to make a lunch." The inside is well insulated by a patchwork of crazy-patterned



There she blows! Mackay's trailer keeps him warm and rent-free.

fabrics. Some have pockets that are perfect for extra storage.

Mackay got the inspiration for his project from a common, unnamed phenomenon that I will right now give a name: the starving artist Catch 22. This phenomenon occurs when an artist does not have time to make a living off of creating good art because the artist has to go to a paltry day job so the artist doesn't lose his or her apartment - an important requisite to making art.

One day in 2004 Mackay was working as an indentured servant to his landlord, using his carpentry skills for a fraction of their worth to pay off some back-rent. Then it hit him.

"I said, 'that's it!' Mackay recalls. "I am not renting again!"

From there it was just a matter of deciding what, exactly, were his alternatives. For days, he schemed about what he would require. Someplace small. Something light, so he could tow it from place to place, preferably by bicycle, something within which you could both sit up and lie down. He started scanning the environment for a pre-existing shape that would suit his purposes. He was cashing in a couch surfing favour at a friend's house, using the living room as a design studio, when the idea hit him.

While chalking a huge shape on a piece of plywood he remembered an iconic drawing many of us made as children.

"I just shook my head and was all bug-eyed," he remembers. "I said, 'I'm gonna live in a whale!'"

And live in a whale he did. It took "three busy years" to build the eye-catching abode. When seeing it, one really appreciates where the time went. Every line is perfect. When the whale was finally done, Mackay parked it in a friend's backyard and basked in his well-earned success.

There's no bathroom or running water on board, so Mackay was lucky to have the support and interest of his friends and neighbors, who offered him keys to their lavatory-endowed houses. He guesses they got "conversational real-estate" and street cred's cooler brother, "yard cred", out of the trade.

After 13 months of living in/showing the whale off in the city, including a busking stunt down at the waterfront, the housing gods smiled on Mackay once again and he inherited a house in Pictou County from his late best friend and mentor Gordon Robertson, the very man who instilled in him his brimming sense of pride in design and craftsmanship.

So what does the future hold for Jon and the whale?

"It has fulfilled its original purpose, which is to be my home in Halifax," Mackay says.

The whale will remain, as a sort of annex to his life and home in Pictou. He's planning on bopping around the Maritimes with it this summer, bringing it to academic and arts events such as Sappy Fest in Sackville, N.B.

Mostly, though, Mackay considers the whale to be "a working prototype," and would love to use his knowledge and experience to help create faster and cheaper trailer homes. His resourcefulness - he curved the whale's wood with a clothing iron - would surely be an asset to students studying at Dalhousie's impressively forward-thinking faculty of architecture and planning. We should compel architecture professor Roger Mullin to take Mackay's prototype on as a class community-oriented summer project and build one as a private study space or place to take a much-needed nap during the school day.

LAURA DAWE COLLAGE

Theatre students give classic play a new spin

JORDANA LEVINE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Margot Dionne and the third-year acting students at Dalhousie have taken on Bertolt Brecht's 1944 play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and adapted it to suit today's issues in the Caucasus.

Dionne, an acting professor in the department of theatre and the play's director, says she is doing "what Brecht would have wanted us to do," by taking the story out of the era of Stalin and moving it to when the Soviet Union fell. "We're giving it a context," Dionne says.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle is a popular German play about a peasant girl, Grusha, who steals a royal baby but ends up becoming a better mother than the biological one. The original is a play within a play told by two feuding groups in Georgia.

"We've cut that out," explains assistant director Sarah Higgins. "We're keeping it set in Georgia, but we're moving it forward to around the 90s. We're also bringing in stuff from last summer when Russia invaded."

Dionne wanted to bring the play into today's context as much as possible.

"The Caucasus, right now, is a strategic area of the world," Dionne says. "It kind of separates Europe from Asia, Christianity from Islam. It's all there. It's a fascinating region. There's a lot of ethnic strife. There was so much we could draw from."

Dionne says she has helped the actors get into character by guiding their

research, sending them to art exhibits related to the subject matter and making sure they keep abreast of current events.

"There's so much available," Dionne says. "I mean, my gosh, the Chechen War is on YouTube!"

Jeremy Powell, the stage manager, recalls the six days the cast spent sitting together before they got on their feet.

"All the students had done their own research and they brought it together," he says. "Margot was wonderful at finding exactly an interpretation of the lines that not only fit with where she wanted to go, but where the students thought their characters would go."

Katie MacDonald, who plays Grusha for the first half of the play, feels in tune with her character.

"She's a kitchen maid to the governor who ends up taking the governor's child," MacDonald explains. "She tries to save the child from rebelling soldiers."

MacDonald says a lot of her inspiration came from the strength of the refugees of Chechnya and Georgia.

"I was actually pretty surprised how well I could relate to (Grusha) on a lot of levels," says MacDonald. "I found it really easy to connect with her on an emotional level."

Sebastien Labelle plays Azdak, the man to judge whether Grusha or the governor's wife gets to keep the child in the end. Labelle describes his character as "quite a bit of an anarchist... and he hopes for a new society to live in."

He says he strongly relates to Azdak

because he's studying international development.

"I focus particularly on political and social theory and I do have a lot of influence from anarchist theory and post-modernist theory," Labelle says. "The way that power is distributed within our society, I feel is quite unfair."

Labelle enjoys being part of a performance that forces its audience to think critically.

"I'm happy to put on a play like this that has the intent of provoking political reflection and asking of its audience to consider the society that they live in," he says.

MacDonald agrees.

"The way that (Brecht) writes, it makes you question everything," she says. "You are never left not questioning something that has happened."

The production itself offers the unique experience of making all elements of the shows inner workings visible to the audience.

"Everything's exposed. We're not hiding anything," says Dionne.

The crew and the music pit will be visible onstage throughout the performance.

Rehearsals have been running six days a week for nearly 13 hours a day.

"It really is an intense kind of process where you really come to get the people that you work with... and it's fun," says Labelle.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle runs Feb. 11 to 14 in the David MacMurray Studio of the Dalhousie Arts Centre.

Young band 'not for the faint of heart'

ANNA DEMELLO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Don't let the baby faces fool you. Halifax band The Gideons can rock out when it counts. The pinchable band is set to release its debut album, *Hymns for Hers*, at Gus' Pub on Feb. 7.

The Gideons are a new development in the Halifax music scene, having only been together since last February. Still, band members Spencer Cantley (drums), Caele Lewis (guitar, bass, and keyboards), Caleb Langille (guitar, bass, and keyboards), Josh Salter (guitar and bass) and Lyle Peterson (guitar and electric sitar) have not wasted any time establishing themselves as a band to watch.

Their debut album was a do-it-yourself effort but the band is happy with the result, says Lewis.

"It's good. We recorded it in two days in a friend's basement," he says.

The Gideons claim The Beatles, The Raspberries, The Rolling Stones, The Black Lips, The Who and The Superfriendz as a few of the musical influences on their debut record.

"We sound like The Electric Prunes. Well, we'd like to," smiles Salter, a student at Dalhousie and King's.

Used to performing live at venues such as the Marquee Club, Blue Moon and The Khyber, Cantley admits the recording process offers a very different kind of satisfaction than performing in front of a live audience does.

"A live show is kind of instant gratification. When you play live you get the high, and when you record the album it's a sense of a job well done," says Cantley.

The five group members have known each other for quite a while. Salter and Lewis went to grade school together and Cantley and Pe-

erson played together in local group the Sweet Tenders.

"Lyle was actually in a band with my sister - The K-Tells - about eight years ago," says Lewis. "I knew him in like junior high and he even drove me to guitar lessons a few times. I met Caleb on the bus in high school; we were the only two with taste on that bus."

Halifax has provided a base for the band and Lewis says the city has a special music scene.

"It's very tight, very warm - a lot of really good music," says Lewis. "It's bizarre that some of my favorite bands are from here."

"There is a sense of community in Halifax, among bands," Salter agrees.

Among their favorite local artists are Dog Day, Beat Material, and York Redoubt.

Salter says their name, The Gideons, is meant to stir up images of a Christian organization that hands out bibles in hotels.

"We were looking for something biblical of epic proportions," he says.

The band admits to lifting the name from The Beatles' song "Rocky Raccoon".

For those music enthusiasts thinking of heading to the show, Salter says to expect more than the average jam.

"Well, probably a lot of drinking," says Salter, of what to expect at the Gus' Pub show. "Face painting in the crowd, balloons, a good party atmosphere. In the true spirit of rock and roll!"

"We're not for the faint of heart," Cantley adds with a laugh. "We're not playing at people, we're playing with them."

The Gideons will play at their debut CD release show for their first record at Gus' Pub on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 10 p.m.

In-Flight Safety flying high

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Ironically, In-Flight Safety singer/guitarist John Mullane will not fly places; the man does not like getting on airplanes. He'd do it if the payoff was big enough but he'd really rather just hop in the van and head off across the continent, bringing In-Flight Safety's atmospheric post-punk pop to audiences located snugly within its oceanic confines. The band's current lineup has been doing it for the past four years and they have no plans of stopping anytime soon.

Though the current lineup has been going strong for the past four years, the band really began six years ago.

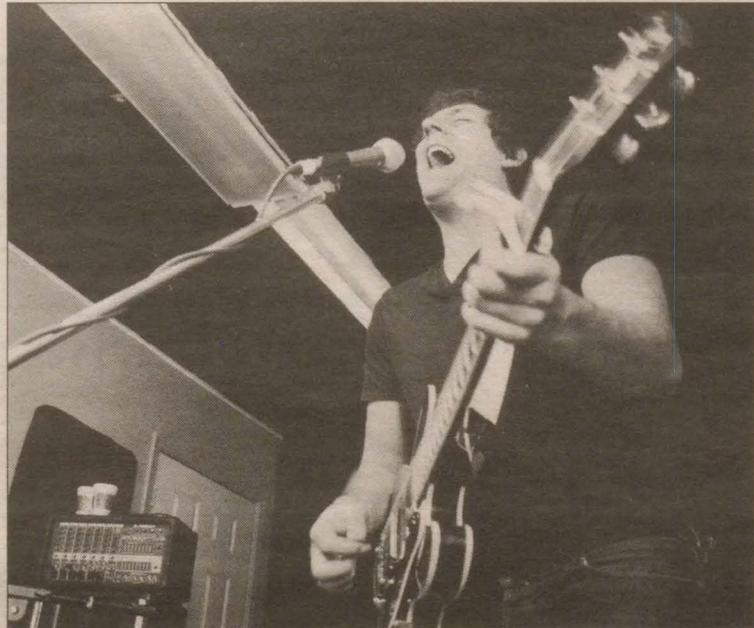
"We were all in university at Mount Allison University and we were kind of all very interested in music and through mutual friends met each other and found we had similar musical taste. So we (decided to) play music together, and the rest, as they say, is history," says Mullane.

In its infancy, the band put out a five-song EP as "sort of a lark" that was "a weird experiment between country music and Sigur Ros," according to Mullane. Despite being a lark, the EP actually ended up attracting some attention, so the group decided to keep going and see what might happen next.

In 2006, the band released its first full-length album, *The Coast Is Clear*, which Mullane describes as "sort of a combination of all the styles we'd been influenced by up to that point."

After that album, the band members worked on a collection of songs they threw away before finding the sound that can now be heard on their latest album, *We Are An Empire My Dear*, which came out Jan. 27.

The new album, released on



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

In-Flight Safety is set to play at the Marquee Feb. 6.

the band's own Night Danger label, finds the band influenced by 1980s bands such as Joy Division, Talk Talk, Crowded House and Echo and the Bunnymen, as well as post-millennial bands including Teagan and Sara, Death Cab For Cutie, Band of Horses, Sigur Ros and Interpol. Still, Mullane can't understand why everyone compares In-Flight Safety to U2.

"I don't think there's a U2-thing by design. Like none of us listen to U2 persay, except maybe the record *War* from the 80s. I guess anyone who goes after melody and uses guitars the way we do gets categorized with the U2 thing," he says.


But they don't mind being compared to The Stills.

"The Stills are probably the one band in Canada we feel is our closest brethren. It's funny because they're the only band we feel we identify with totally."

Having just finished the album, the band is going on tour with Dog Day and Boxer The Horse to promote the album. To kick it off, all three bands are playing at the Marquee Club on Feb. 6 before they're off to conquer the rest of the country.

Though the band hasn't planned for what comes after that, running their new Night Danger label may well become the focal point of the band's future. According to Mullane, other bands interested in having Night Danger sign them have already approached them.

"That goes to show you the state of labels, less about our label and more about the desperation, trying to find anyone who will work a band anymore," says Mullane. "I don't think there's any money in the music business - don't get into it. I'm in it for the music; don't get into it for the money, kids."

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WANDERLUST

How to take over Quebec City in 48 hours

JASON COHANIM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

My weekend was originally laid out as being a nice and quiet one. I was going to go to work, drink some tea, maybe take a trip up to the ole ski hill. That all changed when I was asked to tag along on the Red Bull "Atlantic Express" to the fourth annual Crashed Ice event held in Quebec City. Redbull paid for my trip.

If you're thinking "this sounds like a fully loaded freight train set on a collision course for frozen oblivion," you're right.

We left Halifax for Quebec City at 6 a.m. The bus was loaded with students from all over the Maritimes. Everyone had his or her game faces on and it's safe to say that the weekend's theme of mayhem was off to a quick start. At noon, our new friends from St. Francis Xavier University brought out the first buckets of beer. With seven hours to go until Quebec City, our party patrol leaders got us all fired up with a bus-wide communal shotgun.

Finally, with the force of Dorothy's house smashing down into the Land of Oz, we arrived. The event organizers, in their never-ending quest to make awesomeness more prevalent than sunshine, had closed off the entire main drag of Grande Allée, one of Quebec's busiest bar streets, to host a two-night dance party with MSTRKRFT.

Huge sound systems, ice bars and a very lenient police force made this seem like ground zero for possibly the craziest party ever. Still, we had yet to see the Crashed Ice setup.

Let me try to paint a picture for you. Imagine a boarder cross course full of drops, jumps, barrels and death turns completely frozen in ice winding through historic Quebec City. Got that? Now get this: psychot-



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Historic Quebec City gets crashed.

ic hockey players from all over the world voluntarily hurl themselves down this apparatus as fast as they can while trying to avoid the full contact body checks from the three other skaters on the course. I still get goose bumps just thinking about it.

I would love to be able to give you a play-by-play rundown of the mayhem that was the death-defying skating race, but for me the night was a blur of lights, video screens, 100,000 screaming fans, skaters whizzing by at speeds topping 50 kilometres per hour and thousands of people trying to keep warm by layering their sweaters and fuelling up on hot chocolate and whatever other warming poisons they could fire into their bellies.

In the end, it was the reigning champ Arttu Pihlainen from Finland who crashed his way to victory. He won the \$5,000 grand prize and the bragging rights of being one of the craziest people to top the craziest sport many of us had ever witnessed.

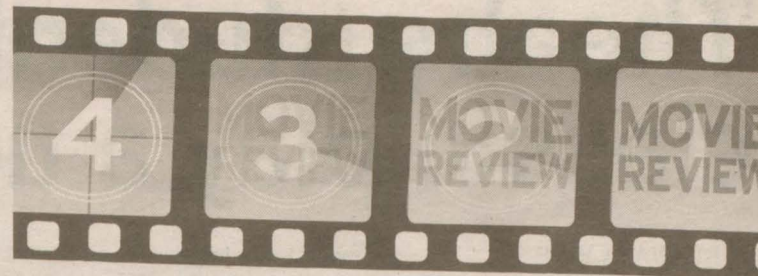
It was then that the mission to make it back to see MSTRKRFT began. Unfortunately, that was a mis-

sion failed. On the bright side, in the mass of people herding their way back to Grande Allée, I was swarmed by dozens of people happy to trade me their drinks for a chance to be interviewed and immortalized on my 1970s-esque gigantic analog recorder. It took me more than an hour to make the 10-minute trek.

When I finally made it back to the hotel I was happy to find there were no casualties among my fellow East Coast Crashed Ice Crusaders.

After a weekend of eating maple syrup on sticks, sliding down ice slides and hitting some local hand-rails on snowboards, our party crew had to gear up for another 6 a.m. departure back to reality.

Then, just like that, we were back. I'm positive everyone has a different story of what might have happened in that blink-of-the-eye quick weekend - some hurting more than others. Yet the memories of eating poutine, drinking more than our fair share of wobbly pops and witnessing one of the most insane events that humanity has ever dreamed up will stick fresh in our minds - what we can remember of it, of course.



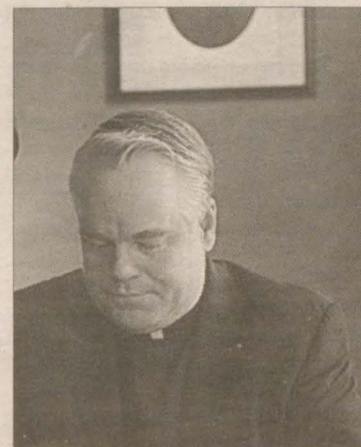
No *Doubt* Hoffman is incredible in lead role

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Doubt was originally a play. As a movie, *Doubt* is still clearly a play. John Patrick Shanley, who stage-directed the theatrical *Doubt*, directed the film. The stark contrasts in the characters, the clarity of the issues in conflict and the quintessential summative effect of the film's final scene are all undeniably stage-crafted in the tradition of Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. That being said, it is a damn good play - it didn't win a Pulitzer Prize for nothing - and the movie does boast the talents of two of the best acting leads of our time.

The film takes place in 1964 at a Catholic church/school in the Bronx, N.Y. and revolves around Sister Aloysius' (Meryl Streep) suspicion that Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) has had inappropriate relations with the school's only African-American student. As the movie progresses, some characters' motives become clearer while others' become more ambiguous. Issues of race, class, religiosity and homosexuality all further complicate matters. The way in which all the characters' struggles are interwoven is artful to watch and the script always takes the twists it needs to keep things moving.

Of course, the acting is incredible: how could it not be with Streep and Hoffman going head to head?



Streep's portrayal of Sister Aloysius is pitch-perfect but, sadly, Hoffman outdoes her with his performance as the benevolent Father Flynn.

As Father Flynn, Hoffman's subtlety is a wonder to watch. The way he talks, the way he moves, the movements of his face and his slight mannerisms all reflect the level of intensity, intelligence and ability Hoffman possesses as an actor. In this film, he uses all of those techniques to their full potential.

Doubt's formal direction and airtight construction make it perfect for Oscar season. But for audiences, the experience may be intellectually satisfying, if not necessarily entertaining. Even so, Hoffman's performance alone makes the film worth watching.

Did you know ... ?

The Dalhousie Libraries' Environmental Studies Libguide includes "GreenFILE," a database that covers all aspects of human impact on the environment.

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Wintersleep wakes up Halifax

ANDREW MILLS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The atmosphere at the loveably dingy Marquee Club was charged Jan. 29. Through the din of excited voices one could hear the occasional smash of a beer bottle hitting the floor, punctuating the serious rock show about to begin. Halifax upstarts Plants and Animals opened with a strong set, quickly winning over the audience with growling live renditions of the band's excellent debut album.

When Wintersleep took the stage to roaring applause, it was clear these hometown heroes were being welcomed as the headliners they've become. They quickly ripped through some hits from their latest, most polished effort, *Welcome to the Night Sky*, before delving into some favourites from their catalogue. "Jaws of life" in concert is such a deliciously heavy rush of electrical pleasure that it's hard to translate to non-Wintersleep fans just how much it rocks to experience it live, replete with ribcage shaking loudness.

The crowd sang along euphorically with "Weighty Ghost" and "Dead Letter" and when some drunken soul was dragged off by se-

curity, knocking over a whole shelf of bottles on the way by, the sound of smashing glass actually seemed itself a euphoric pronouncement. The band performed like a well-oiled machine, which is no doubt a result of their endless cross-Canada touring.

Drummer Loel Campbell is a marvel to behold, switching effortlessly mid-song between exotic time signatures. His drumming is a huge part of what makes Wintersleep so unique. Lead singer Paul Murphy was in top form with his unmistakable vocal delivery treading water above the rhythmic fray of the music.

Throughout the night there were only a few unfortunate people holding their cell-phones up to record the concert and post shitty audio to Facebook the next day - rock concert etiquette says this is not cool.

During the encore, "Danse Macabre" was enough to jolt even the most stoic of concertgoers into a hearty rock nod.

The level of energy throughout the night was pitch-perfect from band and audience. There is no better East Coast band to experience live.



JOSH BOYTER/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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The First Aid Kit hopes to record full-length

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Halifax indie-pop five-piece The First Aid Kit released its latest EP, *Still Standing*, Jan. 31 at the Seahorse Tavern.

The quintet – Darryl Smith, Matt Davidson, Conor Hance, Craig Koziar and Amy Bollivar – came together in 2006 when Smith, Davidson and Hance, who had all gone to camp together when they were young, moved to Halifax. The three of them had guitars, bass and vocals covered and they soon recruited Koziar to play drums and Bollivar to cover keyboards. The First Aid Kit was born.

Only two weeks after they had begun playing together as a band, they began recording their first EP, 2007's *Rocket Summer*.

"Originally it was just to make some demos," says Smith. "But then it started sounding better and I kept convincing this guy," pointing at Davidson, "that we should just go with it and make it the EP."

While *Rocket Summer* was made with a shoestring budget in "the Hancey Attic" – literally the attic of Hancey's parents' house – the band got a \$2,500 grant to record *Still Standing* from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. The band combined the grant with their own significant personal investments and spent it recording most of the EP at Echo Chamber with Dave Ewenson behind the boards.

While *Still Standing* has all the requisite pop hooks, bright synthesizer lines and sunny harmonies one would expect from a band whose members will discuss at length their love of artists such as Wolf Parade and The Beach Boys, they hardly limit their musical diet to such fashionable choices.

"(We) have a bad habit of listening to worse music than we should talk about probably. (Davidson) will spend a lot of time listening to Supertramp, and I listen to Cool 96.5 like all the time; just eat it up," says

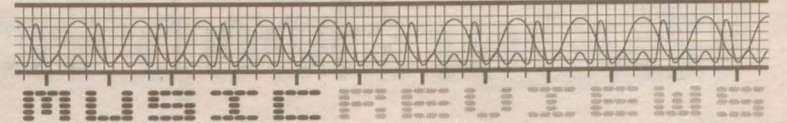
Smith. "I like about half of John Melloncamp's catalogue because I like Bruce Springsteen so much that Melloncamp is like a worse Bruce Springsteen, but when he's on, he's pretty on. 'Jack and Diane' is legit."

The band hopes, with the release of its second EP, it can continue to build a following and possibly obtain more financial support to record a full-length album.

"The idea's that if we ever do a full-length it's gonna reach an audience that we've never even got close to reaching on any of these EPs," says Smith.

The band members are under no delusions that what they're doing is supposed to be easy, but they've resolved that they're going to hang in there.

"That sounds cheesy, but do what you are doing because that's what you wanna do. You have to play songs and be in a band if that's what you wanna do, but you also have to recognize that making it as a band is fucking hard so you just gotta be patient," says Smith.



Mishka: *Above the Bone*

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I'm going to take a stab in the dark and say Mishka smokes weed. Listening to his new album, *Above the Bones*, you probably should smoke some too or you may not really groove to the positive messages and surf jams written by this half Bermudian, half Canadian reggae songwriter.

If you like Jack Johnson's mellow grooves and find Matisyahu a little too intense when it comes to lyrical content, this is probably the record for you. It blends the poppy grooves of Johnson's acoustic campfire jams against groovy bass lines and organ. This is a reggae record made by a neo-hippie for neo-hippies, or for anybody who just wants to feel good, for that matter.

The problem with Mishka's new record is definitely the production value: It isn't bad. Here is where the problem lies. Any fan of Bob Marley or Eek A Mouse will tell you that the roots of reggae have a grimy feel. But nowhere on this record do you get a sense of the dirty jams of 1960s Jamaica. This record is more "I Shot the Sheriff" by Eric Clapton than "I Shot the Sheriff" by Marley. This record is too clean, and as a result, it's hard to accept it as a true reggae sampling instead of as a white stoned guy singing about love and political corruption and all the stuff that goes along with that kind of Hacky Sack stuff.

Mishka is no doubt a good performer. This record has some good pop songs, most notably "My Love

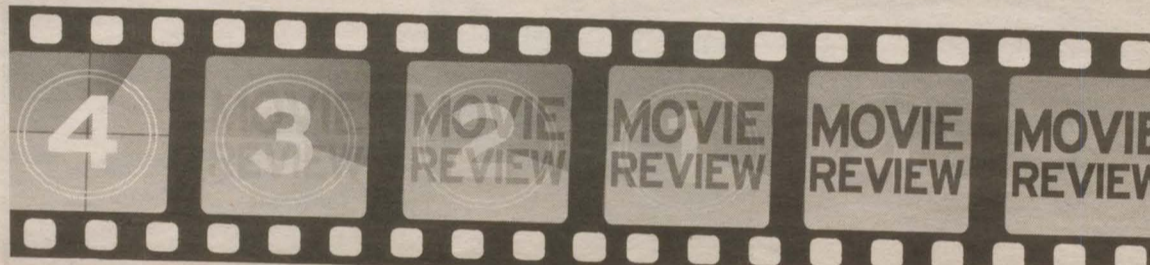


Goes With You" and "Third Eye Vision", which both pounce along with a Lee "Scratch" Perry vibe.

Upon looking at the record I noticed J.K. Livin produced it. I've never heard of this label before, so I looked it up. Then the pieces began to come together, explaining why this is an odd recording.

Why was this talented songwriter delivering mediocre sounding reggae songs when he is certainly capable of delivering a true Jamaican-tinged experience? Well my friends, Matthew McConaughey is behind the label with his surf brand Just Keep Livin. McConaughey, the man who was fined for playing bongos in his apartment too loud at night. McConaughey, the star of *EdTV* and *Fool's Gold*. He's producing records now. Not since Bruce Willis released the blues album *The Return of Bruno* has there been a sacrilege the likes of that produced by the guy who played Wooderson in *Dazed and Confused*.

The four horsemen of the apocalypse are approaching and McConaughey is riding on a saddle while smoking a doobie and listening to The Clash.



Just not that into dating stereotypes

ROSIE JACOBS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

In a desperate attempt to seem enlightening, *He's Just Not That Into You* offers only sweeping statements about dating and life in general.

The film weaves together the stories of several women between their late 20s and early 30s. It includes all the recognizable dating tropes of other romantic comedies, including the single woman desperately seeking a man who keeps messing up, the woman in the long-term relationship that doesn't seem to be going anywhere, the married woman whose marriage has lost its spark and the woman who is dating the cheating husband.

Yes, it is true that women and men do face similar issues in their romantic lives and that they can make for interesting movies – however, for a film based on a self-help book, *He's Just Not That Into You* just doesn't bring anything new to the table. It



certainly doesn't offer any innovative advice to women or men. Instead, it simply generalizes the dating scene and stereotypes everyone.

He's Just Not That Into You tries to be shocking, but its idea of shocking is introducing a male character who has a dating problem and ending one of the plot lines unhappily.

While the movie does offer some common sense advice that some viewers might take to heart, for the

most part the advice stops at just that – common sense. Most women know that when a guy doesn't call, or when he is sleeping with another woman, he probably isn't that interested.

The underlying message here is, if a guy is really into you he will make it happen, but if a girl is into a guy who's not into her, there is nothing she can do to change the situation. *He's Just Not That Into You* puts all the power of dating back into the hands of men.

I wanna dance

Plants and Animals shake up the Marquee

DANIEL BLENICH
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Hearing the words "plants and animals" always leaves me feeling uneasy. It conjures up haunting memories from eight painful months spent in first-year biology. Somewhere in the classifications of kingdom down to species, I become less *Homo sapien* and more *Gorilla gorilla*.

The night of Jan. 30, a similar transfiguration occurred at the Marquee Club. Live music at the Marquee has always been somewhat of a spiritual experience for me, and in the face of its imminent closure, the *Plants and Animals* show that night was like a wild party of debauchery

that will no doubt herald Armageddon.

The best place to witness this event was pressed up next to the stage, because what is the point of going to a concert unless all of your senses are activated? To see and hear is one thing but to smell stale beer, feel the heat of hundreds of fans, taste the sweat of a band slowly melting under the heat of the stage lights is also quite necessary. As the lights dimmed and the shapes of the band members walked in, the tension in the room was palpable.

Then the stage lights came back on, cueing the opening chords and lyrics of "Lola Who?", in which the most powerful verse only begins when it sounds as if the song has

ended. It seemed that a restlessness began to stir in the minds and hearts of all those who heard it. A few songs in, the band played "Good Friend". The sound came blowing out like a violent wind falling over the audience. The lyrics "I wanna dance" flew all around us, and dance we did.

Time moved transiently as each song mounted with fervor and zeal. "Faerie Dance" and "Bye Bye Bye" completed the set list; both songs reverberated off the walls, through the crowd and into the cold night outside.

Headliner Wintersleep was set to come on next, and by most accounts the show was just starting, but it had reached its emotional zenith before *Plants and Animals* left the stage.



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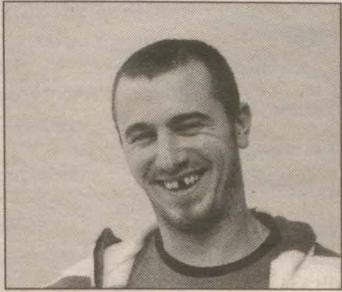
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Sport retort

No more losers: Dal men's hockey needs to change



TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

I have to say I'm disappointed with Dal's men's hockey team. A season that started full of promise has come full circle, and the team is now fighting to avoid a last place finish and the embarrassment that comes with it. So what now? With a premature off-season looming, in which direction will new coach Pete Belliveau lead the team? The last three seasons have been largely unsuccessful and Dal's hockey reputation has fallen dramatically from the legends of powerhouse teams early in the decade.

With the bulk of this year's team returning next year, there are some bright spots in the future. Lower Sackville's Trevor MacKenzie had a breakout first year, picking up 19 points. He will only continue to grow as a player in the tough Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league, and that should translate into an

increased scoring presence in the future.

Helping MacKenzie shoulder the load will be second-year forward Patrick Sweeney, who broke out with 22 points this year. Sweeney's deft offensive touch should make for a more potent power play next year, and if his history with MacKenzie in the junior ranks is any indication, the two will continue to score.

With the majority of the defence returning, Dal should have a solid defensive presence in front of goaltender Josh Disher, who faced a league high average of 42 shots per game this year. An extra year of maturation should do wonders for the back end, and another year under the watchful eye of Belliveau should shore up the defensive lapses that cost Dal so many games this year.

The success of next year's team now lies squarely in coach Belliveau's hands. With the failures of the past three seasons in mind, it seems time to try something new. As the last remnants of former coach Fabian Joseph's recruits move on, it will be up to Belliveau to build a new team. But with very few players leaving Dal next year, Belliveau will have to make some tough decisions, depending on the success of the next recruiting season.

With the end of this season in sight, the disappointment of miss-

ing the playoffs for the third consecutive year will be a bitter pill to swallow and will weigh heavily on Dal's hockey program. A successful season next year is crucial to drawing in the talented recruits that our university so desperately needs.

The AUS is one of the most talented and competitive leagues in the country. The fight for recruits is an integral part of building a future championship team and the bidding can get vicious. Dal will need to make big gains in the off-season to re-build, but it's not all about high profile recruits.

Dal has picked up many high profile recruits in the last few years and none of them are still with the team. One by one, the top recruits have left Dal for greener pastures: Jordan Morrison, Mathieu Melanson, Jimmy Cuddihy, Tom Zanoski - the list goes on. All of them have either left for professional ranks or are now with other AUS teams. Top recruits come with high risk: the lure of professional hockey, and the money that comes with it, makes these players less likely to play for full four years as expected.

One thing is clear within the Dal hockey program - things need to change. What happens next is completely in the hands of coach Belliveau, but here's hoping that maybe next year Dal hockey fans will have something to cheer about.

Tigers shut out from men's hockey playoffs

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie was officially eliminated from playoff competition this week in men's Atlantic University Sport (AUS) hockey. The Tigers needed a win on Jan. 28 over the sixth place Acadia Axemen, but instead they fell 2-1 in a hard-fought overtime loss, their hopes for a playoff spot falling away.

Despite being outshot 51-20, Dal managed to stay in the game behind a stellar goaltending performance by Josh Disher, and a first period Jeff MacGregor goal. Disher's heroics couldn't stop Acadia forward Derek Lewis from sealing Dal's season at 3:21 of the overtime period and scoring to secure Acadia a playoff spot.

The Tigers didn't have long to

think about their situation before packing up and going on a New Brunswick road trip Friday. With nothing left to play for but bragging rights, the Tigers faced a tough opponent in the Moncton Bleu Aigles at the always rowdy J. Louis Levesque arena. The second place Bleu Aigles lived up to their #7 national ranking, beating the Tigers 4-1 in a penalty-filled game. The Aigles jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, cruising to a 4-0 lead until Dal captain Tyler Dyck broke Moncton's shutout bid in the third period.

The losses drop Dal's record to 4-17-1, good enough for last place in the AUS. With only two games remaining on the schedule, Dal will need a win against second-last St. Thomas University to avoid a last place finish.



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Tigers dump Axewomen in charity game

BEN WEDGE
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's women's basketball team faced off against the Acadia Axewomen Jan. 30 in an exciting match. Dal, ranked third in the league, found a determined opponent in Acadia, ranked sixth, with a -105 plus/minus and 0-5-9 record (4-point-wins/2-point-wins/losses). After a slow start, Acadia has rebounded since the holidays, going 5-3 since the break, and has won five of the last six games.

Friday's match was the "Shoot for the Cure" game, with players and many fans sporting pink in support of breast cancer research. Before the game, Bonnie Neuman, vice-president of student services at Dal, pledged to donate \$15 for every three-pointer, to be matched by vice-president of research Martha Crago, a breast cancer survivor.

Acadia continued its surge against Dal, leading 13-11 at the end of the first quarter. With strong offence and great defence, Acadia committed only one foul in the first to Dal's three. Dal's defence was scattered and confused seemingly under-estimating their opponent, acknowledged coach Carolyn Savoy.

"We were slow, lethargic.... The game starts with (defence) and rebounds," Savoy said. "We need to be light on our feet defensively. We missed 15 box-outs in the first quarter alone!"

The Tigers finally took the lead briefly in the second quarter, only to have Acadia retake it shortly thereafter. At the mid-point of the quarter, Dal rebounded, led largely by post Brooke Sullivan. Sullivan also netted the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation a \$30 donation with a three-point basket, and Dal went into the half-time break with a 30-24 lead.

A refreshed Dal squad returned from the break and exploded, putting on a 19-point performance and ending the third quarter leading 49-34, thanks in no small part to Sullivan, a second-year commerce student from Miramichi, N.B., who saw a significant amount of floor time and added a second three-pointer.

Acadia showed some strong momentum early in the fourth, but was no match for the Dal team, which quickly rebounded and played a



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Dalhousie's Leah Girdwood stops Acadia's Samantha Nuttall from making a jumpshot at the Dalplex Jan. 30. The Tigers beat the Axewomen 76-46.

strong final five minutes, winning the game 76-46. Player of the game nods went to Sullivan. She added two of the team's five three-point baskets, adding up to \$150 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

"You need to earn your floor time, and Brooke sure did tonight," Savoy said.

A total of more than \$5,000 was raised for breast cancer research during the game.

Penalties sour women's hockey match

DYLAN MATTHIAS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

When you're playing one of the best teams in the country, three goals is never quite enough.

The St. Francis Xavier X-Women came from behind to beat the Tigers 4-3 in women's hockey on Jan. 30, despite the a 3-1 Tigers lead in the second period.

The St. FX. team is ranked sixth in the country, but it has already qualified for the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) playoffs. While statistically a superior team to Dalhousie, the X-Women looked like they didn't have much to play for on Friday.

Dal opened scoring early. After a dire power play, during which Dal mustered very little offence, forward Jocelyn LeBlanc got the puck in the corner. She circled out in front and roofed a backhand past X-Women goalie Melissa Murphy.

The 1-0 lead came as something of a surprise against the St. FX. team, which has outscored the Tigers 7-1 this year.

St. FX. pressured in the second, and when the Tigers couldn't clear a puck properly, Marilynn Hay charged down the right, sliding a pass to Catie Gavin in front of the net for the equalizer.

Dal forward Alyssa Hennigar then turned the puck over in her own zone, forcing her to take a penalty to get back in position. A series of penalties ensued as the referee called a tight game.

"The penalties got a little bit out of control," said Tigers' defence player Natalie Gervais. According to Gervais, Dal's had that referee before. "It's a tough gig, she calls it a lot more strictly than some of the other refs, but we have to learn to adjust our play to the way she calls the game."

Dal captain Kim Carcary agreed. "I thought there were too many penalties, too many penalty calls. It's hard not to play five-on-five," she said.

The continuous stream of players heading to the penalty box continued, with Hennigar getting a coincidental minor. Although St. FX. looked certain to score soon, the team's plans were foiled by 2007 Canadian Interuniversity Sport player of the year, Brayden Ferguson. The

St. FX. left-winger took a slashing penalty at 15:56.

Twenty seconds later, Dal led 2-1, as LeBlanc banged in a rebound past a sprawling Murphy.

As the puck dropped, Dal's Kaitlyn McNutt passed it quickly to forward Robyn Nicholson, who came down the left and scored, giving Dal a 3-1 lead and leaving St. FX. stunned.

Although the Tigers began to skate circles around their opponents, the X-Women were persistent. When Dal stopped playing 20 seconds before the end of the second period, St. FX.'s Gavin made them pay. She forced a turnover behind the net and skated out in front. Dal goalie Emelie Ederfors made one unbelievable save before X-Woman Carolyn Campbell put in the rebound and narrowed Dal's lead to one.

"We fanned on the puck, and they turned it over and scored. It was unlucky, but it happens," captain Carcary said after the game.

"We got into some penalty trouble there," Gervais added. "We back off a little bit... we think we've got it in the bag, and we cannot give up for one second against X."

The late goal knocked the Tigers off their stride. The third period opened badly, with Hennigar throwing a pass straight through the high slot. St. FX.'s Anna Barrett whacked at the loose puck and sent a 30-foot trickler through Ederfors' legs to tie the game again.

Ederfors seemed to bounce back from the tough goal by stopping Gavin, Ferguson, Suzanne Fenerty and Christina Davis over the course of the third period, all on good chances.

The game seemed destined for overtime until a shot from Lindsay Brown took a very nasty deflection about 25 feet from the net before bouncing slowly past a frozen Ederfors.

The referee didn't do Dal's comeback attempt any favours, either, eventually throwing assistant coach Sean Fraser out of the game for challenging an icing call.

"(The referees are) not on our side. They're not on X's side, either," said Dal coach Lesley Jordan.

The loss drops Dal's record to 9-8-1, good for fourth place in the AUS.



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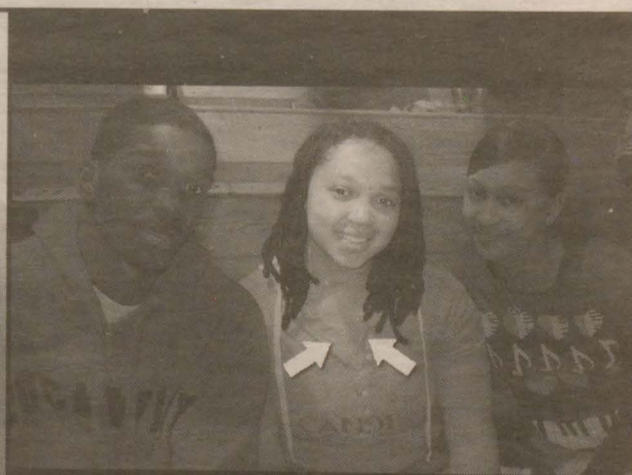
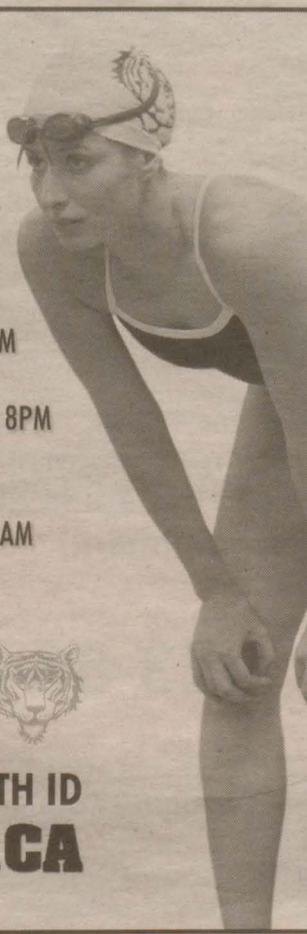
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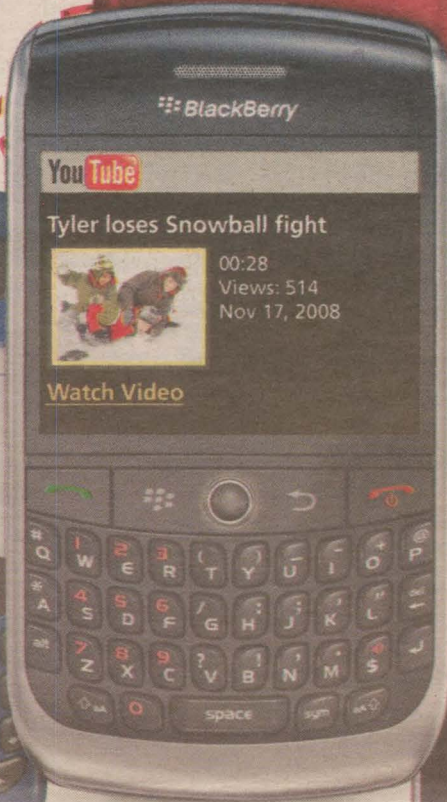
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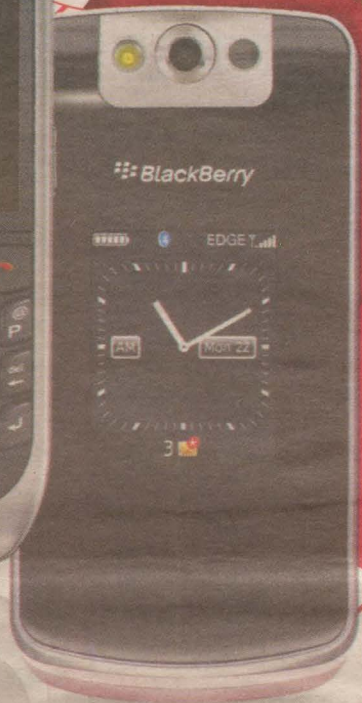
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