

FREE

141-20 / Feb. 19, 2009

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

'Rocky the
Revolutionary'
ready to retire
P. 4

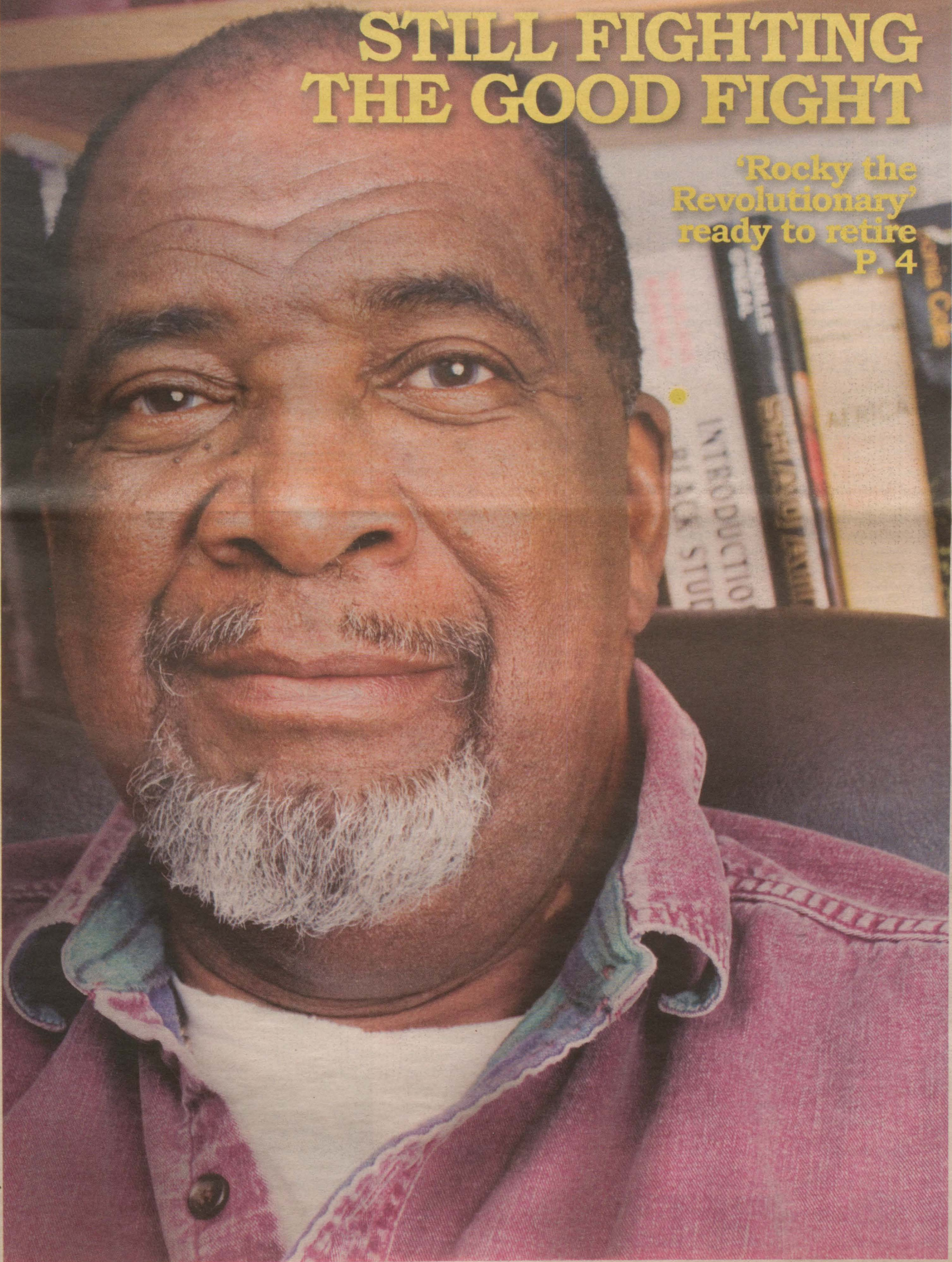


Photo: Josh Boyter



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Important Dates

- March 2nd** - Deadline for applications for position of Vice-president Finance and Operations (contact dsupres@dal.ca for info)
- March 2nd** - Deadline for applications for positions on the Board of Operations (contact dsuvpfo@dal.ca for info)
- March 8th to 14th** - Green Week
- March 15th** - Deadline for Society winter audit

Upcoming Events

Residence Charity Face Off - Open Mic @ The Grawood
March 4th, 8:00pm
 Best Performance Receives \$200 Cash
 If interested in playing, email Kris at dsuvpsl@dal.ca

In Flight Safety Live @ The Grawood.
Wednesday March 11th
 Tickets \$7 in advance \$10 at the door
 Open to all DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests
 If under the age of 19, Dalhousie ID must be provided

Student Appreciation Night "Vegas Comes to DAL"
Friday March 13th, 7:00pm
 FREE
 Dinner, dancing, awards and a magical performance
 For tickets email Kris Osmond at dsuvpsl@dal.ca (limited quantities available)

Residence Charity Face Off for the IWK
Saturday March 14th, 5:45pm
 Tickets \$7 in advance \$10 at the door
 Trojans vs The Bighorns @ the DAL Areana
 Official After Party at the Grawood!

Sloan Live @ The Grawood
Friday March 27th, 8:00pm
 Tickets \$15
 Open to all DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests

Student Accessibility Bursaries - March 13th

Each year the DSU offers two \$1000 bursaries open to all Dalhousie students with disabilities. The DSU recognizes there are financial burdens associated with having a disability. Students are encouraged to apply, regardless of whether or not they have a student loan, or receive outside funding.

Applications are available at www.dsu.ca, or can be picked up at the info desk or room 222 of the SUB. Contact Daniel Boyle at dsuvpi@dal.ca. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on **Friday, March 13, 2009.**

Survey for Student Renters

The Halifax Student Alliance is conducting a survey to collect information on the experience of student renters in the HRM. If you've had a bad landlord, a great landlord or an absentee landlord, we want to hear about it! The information will be used to direct our lobbying efforts in making concrete policy suggestions. Prizes will be drawn from among survey participants! Visit StudentsRent.ca to complete the survey today!

Call For Nominations - March 3rd

Do you have what it takes? Nominations are open on February 16th for the Dalhousie Student Union 2009-2010 year. Positions of President, Vice President (Internal), Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Student Life) are all open for nomination! Also, the student representatives on the Senate and Board of Governors are available. Please stop by the information desk to pick up a nomination form. Nominations close on March 3rd, 2009.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive

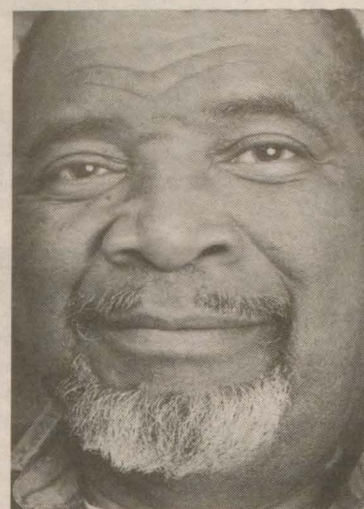


Photo: Josh Boyter

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WE SCREWED UP!

The name of the graduate co-ordinator mentioned in "New musicology MA underway for fall" is Jennifer Bain. The cost of Julien Davis' surgery ("Free to be he") was \$6,200. \$1,500 was fundraised. Incorrect information appeared in our Feb. 12 edition.

The Gazette apologizes profusely for any confusion caused by the errors.

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 Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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To have or have not the computer in class

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We are all guilty of it. We think other people don't notice or care but they do. We open up our laptop in class, hoping no one notices us typing away on Twitter or playing Solitaire.

Every day students bring their laptops to class. Some students are following PowerPoint presentations and taking notes, but most are checking Facebook, chatting on MSN or doing both.

Should students be allowed to have their laptops in class? Is it distracting? Is it helpful? With students increasingly lugging their computers everywhere, the administration needs to create a policy for laptops in the classrooms.

When Dalhousie University launched its wireless network in 2003, the administration and faculties decided to not adopt a policy about laptops in the classroom. Six years later, the network is jammed with students and professors are left to decide what to do about the laptop problem. Some professors don't care. Some professors ban laptops completely. After one of my fellow classmates noisily typed away dur-

ing a 30-minute student presentation, laptop usage was banned for the rest of the term.

Professors should have the leeway to implement policies about laptops in class, but the university should have an underlying policy to protect the rights of students and professors. If there is a ban on laptops in class and a student wants to challenge the policy, what kind of action could be taken? With more students using laptops in class, the university needs to be proactive and decide on basic guidelines to prevent future problems.

Other universities are dealing with the issue. Professors at Queen's University began banning laptops in 2007. The University of Waterloo has a rule about consideration for other students in its Network Connection policy. Schools in the U.S. have varying policies. The University of Chicago allows only work-related activities in class, while the University of Michigan requires students to be respectful to professors by not checking e-mail or surfing the Internet.

But are laptops are useful in classrooms? According to a 2007 study done by Winona State University, laptops

don't help students learn during lectures. Maclean's reported the study found students who used laptops in class learned less and had weaker academic performances than students without laptops. Students with laptops spent an average of 20 minutes during a 75-minute lecture checking their e-mails, instant messaging their friends and surfing the Internet. The study warned their divided attention in class could lead to negative effects on long-term memory and problem-solving.

While this study provides reasons for banning laptops, the counter-argument is to change the way professors teach. Shopping online while listening to a lecture is not a great way to learn. Perhaps to accommodate laptop usage in class, the lecture-based class structure needs to be modified or thrown out. The Education Development Centre at Carleton University provides a few options for its students. Professors could integrate technology into their lectures and put students in small groups to accommodate for students who don't have laptops. If laptops were allowed, professors could use software such as SynchronEyes to monitor students' computer activity. The software

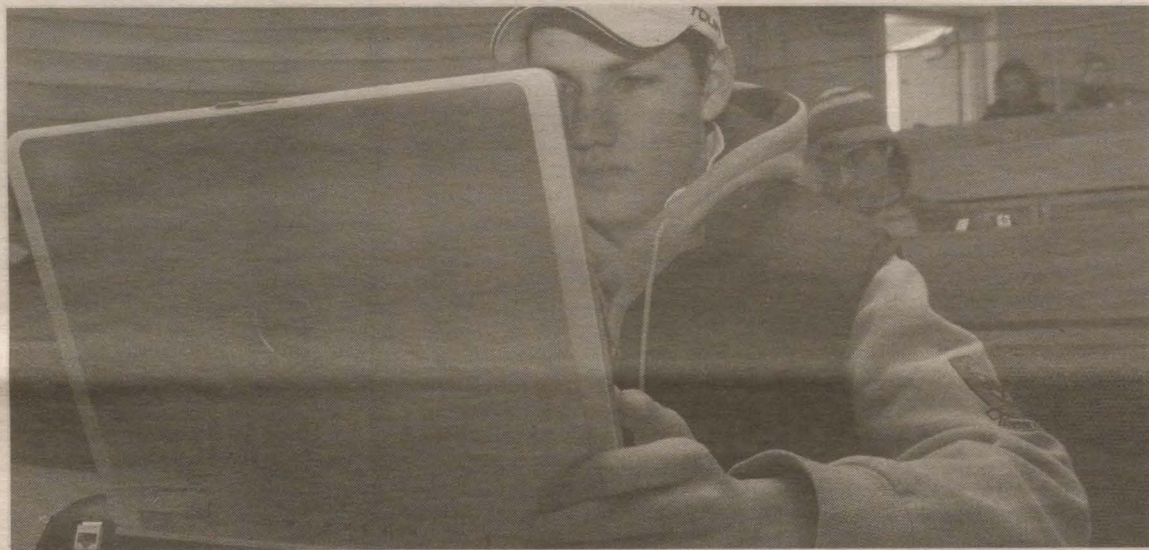
would also allow professors to drop files onto students' computers and turn their screens blank.

The university could create a laptop etiquette policy or professors could create a space within the classroom for those who want to use laptops so other students are not distracted.

If the university were to create a blanket policy, it would probably say laptop use in class is either acceptable or banned. I am not advocating for either of those policies. This all-or-nothing model doesn't work for students and professors. What I want is a policy to direct what is acceptable use

and how laptop usage will be dealt with in the future. Maybe a professor decides to ban laptops but students have the option to receive a waiver based on special circumstances. Maybe professors can use wireless blockers in class. Maybe students can lose the privilege of using their laptops in class as a result of complaints from their fellow classmates. These are options Dal needs to consider.

As for me, as long as my classmates don't distract me with their crazy Facebook pictures in class, I'm good.



Should students be allowed to have their laptops in class?

JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

halifaxsexualhealth.ca
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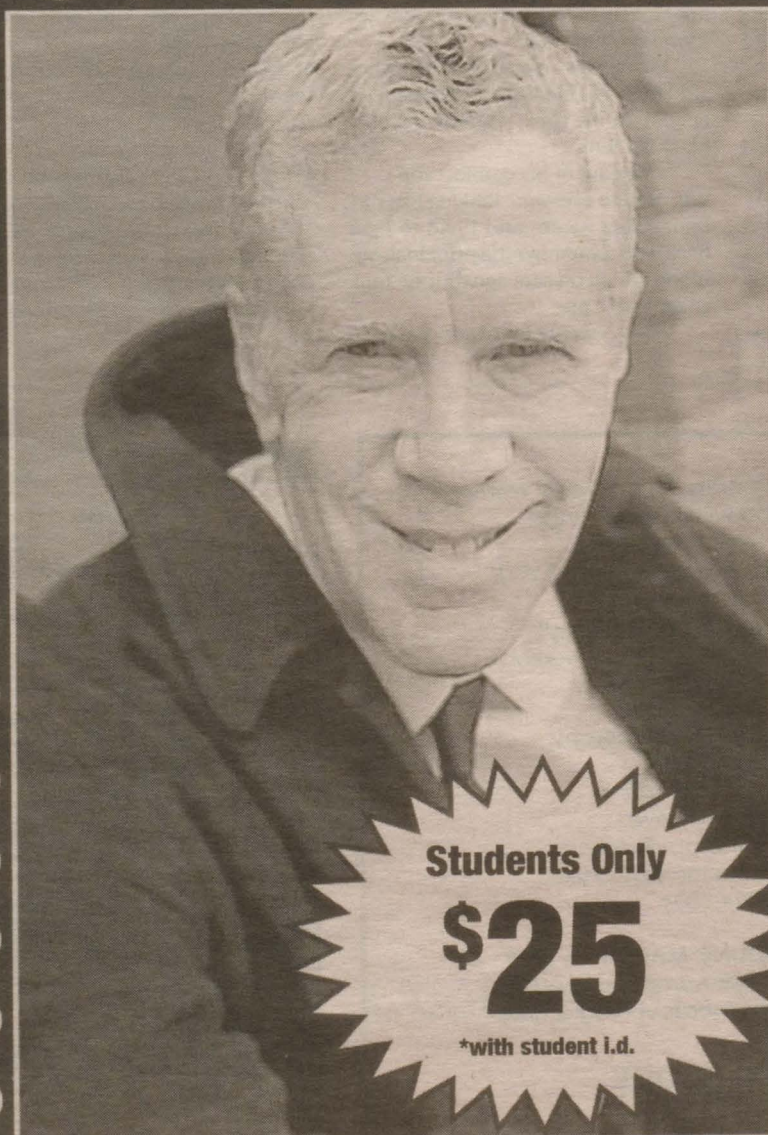
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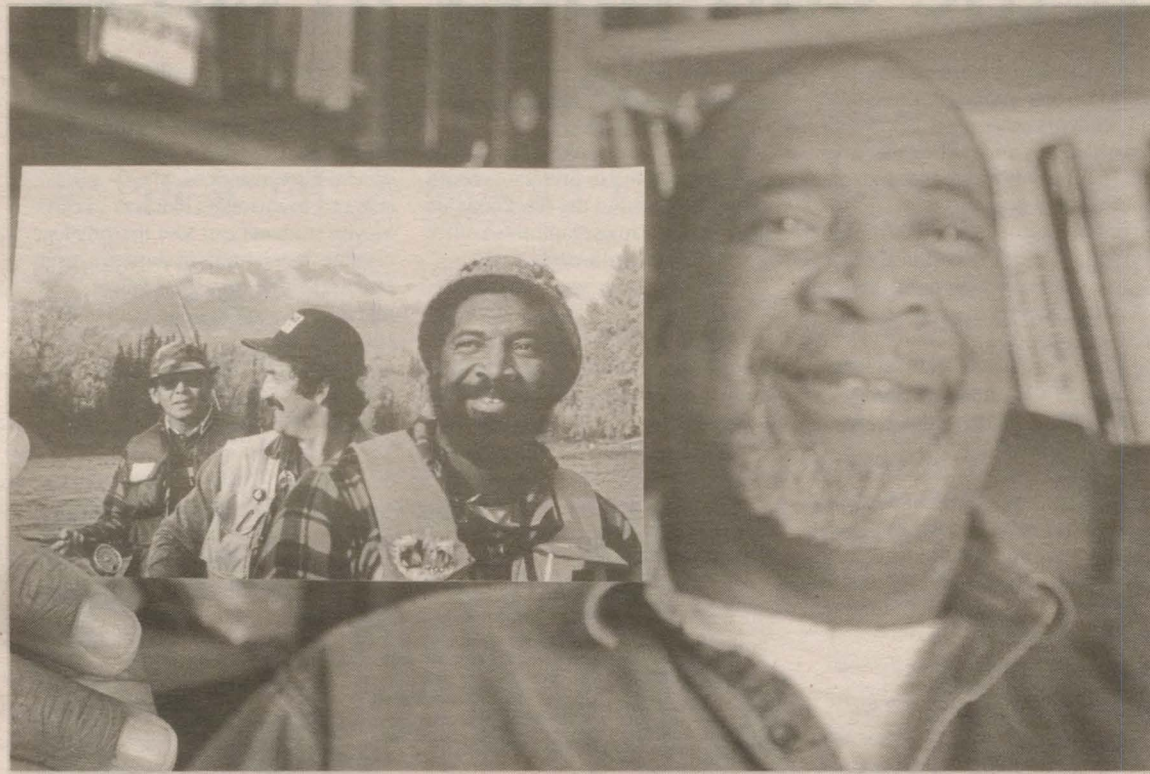
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Black rights advocate refuses to quit



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Halifax lawyer Rocky Jones became a prominent face of the Black Power movement starting in the 1960s.

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The phone rings in Burnley "Rocky" Jones' office, and he rises from his seat.

"Excuse me one moment," he says.

It's a large finished basement filled with hunting and fishing memorabilia. Still, there's a desk, filing cabinets and a plaque on the door that reads "B.A. Rocky Jones and Associates." This is where Jones operates his law firm.

"Hello? Uh-huh, did you go to Dalhousie Legal Aid? Well, I'm actually in the process of retirement," Jones says with a sigh.

He hangs up after a minute or two and returns to his desk.

"Now where was I? Oh yes," Jones picks up telling the story of an opposition to city plans of building a massive public housing project in North End Halifax in the 1960s that would have forced tenants from their homes.

"The tenants were able to organize. The whites that were trying to keep the blacks out of the labour union now had to work with us because we all lived there," Jones says about the area around Maynard and Creighton Streets in the North End. "It became a class issue more than a race issue."

Jones, who got the nickname Rocky at 16 for repeatedly singing Bill Haley and his Comets' song "Don't Knock the Rock" has always been comfortable with a good fight.

Now, at the age of 67, he says he is ready to retire from practising law.

"It's hard because my phone keeps ringing and I'm too stupid to say no," he laughs.

Jones was a pioneer of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and 1970s. The national press painted him as "Rocky the Revolutionary," a radical militant and Canada's own Stokely Carmichael, who was the honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party — an African-American group that fought for black rights — and the man accredited with coining the term "Black Power."

Jones shook up whites in Canada in 1968 when he brought Carmichael and the Black Panthers to Halifax to jumpstart progressive change and draw international attention to the city's racial tensions. The Black Panthers' visits led to the creation of the Black United Front of Nova Scotia that same year.

Jones was under RCMP surveillance for many years and the police kept thousands of pages worth of records on him, following his every move. He was aware of the RCMP's "undercover" surveillance and would often approach its unmarked vehicles to offer them coffee in the morning. One time Jones even asked officers for a drive, seeing as they'd have to follow him anyway.

On Jan. 20, Jones kept five of his 14 grandchildren home from school to watch President Barack Obama's inauguration on television.

"I don't know if they'll remember," says Jones. "Hopefully in 20 or

30 years when I'm dead they'll understand why I kept them out of school." Jones believes Obama can only begin the process of implementing change rather than implementing change itself. He says Obama makes a big difference to the image of change.

"Now a black kid growing up in the worst circumstances believes that they can rise to the top," he says.

Jones was the fourth of 10 children. Growing up in a small black community called the Marsh on the outskirts of Truro, N.S., he was no stranger to racism. Because of the colour of his skin, he was not allowed to bowl at the local bowling alley, even though he worked there, nor was he allowed to play at the local pool hall or eat at certain restaurants. He says the Marsh had a lot to do with him ending up as a civil rights activist.

"I was so protected in that community and encouraged to do anything I wanted to do," says Jones. He recalls learning to swim at the age of seven by being thrown in the river by some older children; he thinks his older brother may have been there to "help" him learn to swim as well.

"In this life you can only sink or swim," he says.

At 16, he quit school and joined the army, but only lasted a year because he "got into too much trouble." A few years later he took a job driving tractor trailers in Toronto and he says that gave him time to read about his interests in black politics.

It was in Toronto that Jones first

became a prominent face for the Black Power movement. He was working for the treasury department of the Ontario government and one day, on his way home from work, he noticed a group of white protestors. They were protesting the denial of voting rights to blacks in Selma, Alabama.

Jones, along with his then-wife Joan and their one-year-old daughter Tracey, protested alongside the group, thinking they couldn't let white people fight their battles. As the only black man at the demonstration, Jones was a magnet for media attention. He soon found his face on newspapers and TV screens across the country.

Talking to the national press, he found in himself a new sense of charisma and an ability to motivate groups. He became an in-demand speaker at civil rights demonstrations and he quit his job at the treasury department to travel the U.S. and speak to people.

He brought the fight back to Halifax in 1965 when, along with Joan, he helped found and run Kwacha House, a Halifax youth program where he taught his philosophy of social reform to predominantly black youth.

"They (the youth) were important in bringing about change in their own communities. We taught them that they have the power to implement change," says Jones.

At Kwacha, a word from Zambia meaning "freedom," they held discussions about employment, housing and education opportunities. The youth group also formed its own police force to keep hard drugs out of Halifax communities and built a park for young children called the "Tot-Lot."

"It got eaten up with the development back in the '60s," says Jones. "That rolls off my tongue like nothing, doesn't it?"

Jones' daughter Tracey Jones, now the manager of ESL and Diversity Services for the Halifax Public Libraries, remembers what it was like growing up with parents fighting in the civil rights movement.

"As a child growing up, you don't know much about what's going on," she says. "As you get older, you start to feel like this is the example you want to grow up to. I didn't really understand the significance at the time. People like Stokely Carmichael, they were just friends of the family."

Tracey was one of the first black students at LeMarchant Elementary School. At the time, she was the only black student.

"I was out of my comfort zone — I was used to everyone looking like me. I got called names and I had to fight back. I do remember the principal, Mr. Black. He died years ago, but he took good care of me."

Jones eventually went back to

school himself and graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in history. He also earned a law degree from Dalhousie in 1992 through the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq (IBM) program. He would later help found the Transition Year Program (TYP), a one-year program designed for First Nations and African-Canadians who "do not yet meet standard Dalhousie entrance requirements." Jones taught as a part-time lecturer in the program for 10 years.

Jones would like to retire, but he's not ready to give up the good fight. His former wife, Joan Jones, who recently retired from her job at the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission, says she understands why he wants to retire.

"We've worked hard on the causes we've worked on," says Joan. "We've earned it. He probably won't totally retire, but he should be able to participate when he wants to and not when he's obligated to."

As Jones sees it, there have been three phases in the international Black Power movement. The first was a philosophy of integration, usually driven by white supporters. Then came the black nationalist philosophy, and now, Jones says, the third phase has moved back to an integration philosophy.

"This time it's not designed by whites, but by co-operation," says Jones, "and that's what we see with the Obama phenomenon. Now we're in a phase where there is that interracial co-operation to the point where a black person can have the leadership role."

But Jones doesn't see this as an acceptance of the black race.

"Society has not changed to accept black people, only to accept a well-mannered, well-educated, well-positioned black man," says Jones. "For all intents and purposes, he is one of them as much as he is one of us. He's managed to walk the finest line that I've ever seen anyone walk. He acknowledges his roots but he doesn't frighten people — because he's trained."

Jones says Canadians deserve to acknowledge that this country's leadership has progressed to the point that Canada's highest political official is a black woman.

"People forget that we've already done that," Jones explains. "The problem is I don't think most little boys and girls know who she (Governor General Michaëlle Jean) is. We need to tell them."

Jones would like to start his own fishing show if he ever gets around to retiring and he's also in the process of "supposedly" writing an autobiographical book about his fights for Black Power in the 1960s and 1970s — he hasn't quite gotten around to it yet.

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Student groups protest university link to weapons corporation

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Police removed several students from the university's Summer Job Fair on the afternoon of Feb. 10 for protesting the presence of Lockheed Martin, a United States-based defence contractor and the world's largest weapons manufacturer.

A group of 21 protestors with the Students Coalition Against War (SCAW) and the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) gathered outside the Cunard Centre – some dressed as weapons inspectors – holding signs that read “No war in our schools” and “Education not occupation.” Dalhousie, Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint Vincent University organized the

event.

Jane Kirby, a Dal graduate student and a member of SCAW, was removed by police for distributing leaflets.

“I find it disgusting that they (Lockheed Martin) are allowed here, particularly in our schools,” said Kirby. “The fact that I was physically removed by police for the simple dissemination of information is an example of the kind of repressive measures that the university seems willing to take to protect itself and its corporate interests from dissent.”

Police and security guards lined the entrance of the building to prevent protestors from entering. Security personnel were checking bags and identifying student IDs and a mandatory coat check was in place.

Christine Frigault, co-ordinator of

the Career Planning Centre at Mount Saint Vincent, said the extra security measures were necessary to protect students and employers.

At least three protestors entered the Cunard Centre and pulled out a large banner reading “War profiteers not welcome” that one student had snuck in under his shirt. Police removed them almost immediately.

“The protestors who were inside did not sneak in, as they would have been screened at the door to ensure they were students from one of the three organizing universities,” said Frigault.

“They were escorted outside the building to continue their protest so as to not interfere with other students' opportunity to meet with exhibitors, or disrupt the event in any other way.”

Frigault and staff ensured all of the protestors got their jackets once escorted outside in the -8 C weather.

She said Lockheed Martin, which paid \$350 to participate in the job fair, will be allowed back next year despite the protest.

Inside, students approached the Lockheed Martin exhibit, where three young employees were distributing Lockheed Martin calculators, pens, notepads, key chains, hockey pucks and posters to rouse student interest.

Lockheed Martin currently employs 120 engineers in Halifax and wants to fill another 50 or 60 full-time positions as a \$2 billion agreement with the federal government for Lockheed Martin to install and maintain a new combat system for Canada's Halifax-Class frigates.

Some students approached Lockheed Martin's table and asked how

the corporate employees felt about profiting from war and how it could be so deceptive in its presentation at the Summer Job Fair.

Michael Barton, manager of communications and public affairs for Lockheed Martin, replied by pointing to a picture of an F-16 fighter jet on a poster behind the exhibit.

“I don't think there's any deception,” said Barton. “We're a defence contractor. It's what we do.”

Barton said the job fair was a success for Lockheed Martin and that the company looks forward to meeting with prospective candidates about job opportunities.

“The Dalhousie Engineering faculty has a strong reputation and we're hoping to add more graduates to our growing list of alumni currently working for us,” said Barton. He also said he respects the protestors' rights to demonstrate peacefully and lawfully.

Lockheed Martin donated \$2 million to Dal for research and development last May as part of a larger agreement between the federal government and the corporation. It was necessary for Lockheed Martin to put money back into the Canadian economy in return for the exclusive purchase of 17 Super Hercules aircraft from the U.S. corporation.

Jesse Robertson, a second-year Dal and King's student who attended the protest, said it's unethical that Dal accepts money from Lockheed Martin.

“While sometimes any money seems like good money, I think it is essential that students question where that money is coming from,” said Robertson. “As the world's largest arms

manufacturer, Lockheed Martin profits from war and conflict around the world, and not its resolution — that money was not ethically acquired.”

Charles Crosby, communications and marketing manager for Dal, said the funding does not influence academic discussion at the university.

“The bottom line is a dozen people (protestors) cannot dictate where Dalhousie receives its funding from,” said Crosby. “We're located in a military city and it's most likely that we'll be involved in it.”

Crosby said the \$2 million funding does not allow Lockheed Martin to influence Dal scientists research, but only that the corporation has a right to the intellectual property produced by the research.

Lockheed Martin will be recruiting at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) career fair in Fredericton on Feb. 23 and 24. The corporation initially planned to visit UNB Jan. 20 but postponed after student demonstrations were planned.

“We just didn't have enough information provided to us to make an informed decision so we decided to err on the side of caution and reschedule the visit for a time when it makes sense to everyone,” Barton said in a statement to Fredericton's *Daily Gleaner*.

Barton said Lockheed Martin enjoyed its experience in Halifax and looks forward to attending future career fairs.

He said he couldn't say if Lockheed Martin's donation to Dal was a one-time occurrence.

“We see a long-term relationship with the university,” said Barton.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

About 21 people from SCAW and NSPIRG gathered outside the Cunard Centre Feb. 10 to protest Lockheed Martin's booth at the summer job fair.

Journalists fail when covering Middle East: former U.S. prosecutor

MATT BUBBERS
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When it comes to covering the Middle East, the press gets suckered in all the time by propaganda and lies, says former United States prosecutor John Loftus.

Loftus, an ex-U.S. Army intelligence officer and former prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice, gave a lecture to about 25 people at the University of King's College on Feb. 10.

He said journalists are failing to do their jobs properly when reporting on the Middle East.

Loftus cited several reasons for journalists' failure, including a lack of education, lack of resources and a changing news business.

“Journalists are under-educated in Middle East studies. They're not taught how to research which websites are pro-Israel or pro-Palestine,” he said at the lecture, which was organized by the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Committee for Security and Peace in the Middle East. “We need educated journalists who can tell fact from fiction.”

Graeme Smith, the *Globe and Mail's* correspondent in Afghanistan, said in Kandahar, finding the facts means finding more sources.

“If in Toronto (a story) needs two sources, here it needs four, and if it needs four sources in Toronto, here it needs eight,” he said on the phone from Kabul, Afghanistan.

“I think (Loftus) is right in his concern we're not covering the news in a rigorous way.”

But Smith is optimistic that the news business is changing: for example, in online news, there is no way to hide behind voiceovers or other devices because news consumers are going to know.

“We need journalism that is naked, journalism that is transparent,” he said. “The more we show how we got it, the more people will trust us.” But journalists need more than just sources and interviews. Loftus said

it is crucial for journalists to know the history behind the issues they're covering.

Scott Taylor, who has logged more than one million air miles as a Middle Eastern war correspondent and publishes *Esprit de Corps* magazine, agreed, but said there are also many knowledgeable, experienced journalists out there.

“Very naive journalists are sometimes brought in, and that's part of the problem,” said Taylor.

But he also said there are journalists like Smith and Adrienne Arseneault, the *CBC's* award-winning former Middle East bureau chief, who bring an invaluable wealth of knowledge to the stories they cover.

Taylor's own knowledge of the situation in Iraq was so valuable that in 2005, after being held captive for five days by Ansar al-Islam fighters in Iraq, he returned to the country to brief U.S. soldiers.

Journalists must be skeptical whenever they hear a blanket statement such as the one Loftus made about the entire press being under-educated, Taylor added. But it's not only a lack of education that is the problem, Loftus said in his lecture. Many of the journalists he meets are good people trying to do good work, but the organizations they work for are holding them back. Big media companies either don't have the resources to spend on expensive foreign coverage, or just aren't interested.

“Old journalistic tradition is dead,” he said. “It's all infotainment now, bubblegum for the mind. I think there is a crying need for something better.” For Loftus, incidents such as the Muhammad al-Dura case are results of under-educated journalists, bad TV news and a shift of priority in the news business toward infotainment. “TV news is being written by college interns reading the wire services,” he said. “TV news is so bad in the U.S. It's tragic.”

The case revolves around the photograph of 12-year-old

Muhammad al-Dura huddling behind his father while under attack during fighting in Gaza in 2000. The authenticity of the image was always in question, wrote the *New York Times* in May 2008, but the image became a symbol of the conflict.

Egypt and Tunisia issued stamps featuring the boy, and suicide bombers invoked him as a martyr, the *Times* reported in 2005. The issue of the image's authenticity remains unsolved and continues to generate debate.

“It makes people very uncomfortable because they have been suckered in. But journalists have been suckered in,” said Loftus, who also said the image was deceitful.

Loftus said journalists should use a sort of moral relativism.

“We can't say we have to give both sides of the story if one side is lying. Journalists can't be used to disseminate propaganda,” he said.

“You can try and get interviews with the Taliban, but why?” Loftus said. Smith, of the *Globe and Mail*, organized video interviews with 42 Taliban fighters in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

He wanted to interview the Taliban because he was curious but also because a lot of academics, CEOs, intelligence agencies, analysts and other people were also interested.

“Talking to the Taliban is definitely part of finding out what's going on,” he said.

Kim Kierans, director of King's school of journalism, said the lecture gave her a new perspective.

“We have to have all kinds of debate,” she said. “Then, as intelligent beings, we can decide for ourselves what to think.”

But getting the facts in a conflict zone isn't easy.

“I got little pieces of suicide bomber stuck in my shoes today,” Smith said over the phone. “It's not because I enjoy squishing around bombing scenes. It's because I am willing to risk my life to get every aspect of the story.”



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Former U.S. prosecutor John Loftus spoke at King's Feb. 10 and said journalists need to tell fact from fiction.



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NEWS BITES



CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

York students aim to drop student government

Students at York University are collecting signatures for a petition to recall the executive body of the York Federation of Students to a by-election, reported *Excalibur*.

Those campaigning for the "Drop YFS" project believe the student federation didn't support students adequately during the lengthy faculty strike.

Campaign organizers have collected the required 5,000 signatures for the petition to recall the YFS and ask for a 12 per cent tuition fee refund.

YFS president Hamid Osman said the "Drop YFS" campaign is dividing students.

YFS chief returning officer Casey Chu Cheong is set to review the petition for legitimacy of signatures.

Source: *Excalibur*

Legislation in Quebec could control governing body in universities

Universities and student unions are talking to the Quebec government about deterring failed legislation that could control the highest administrative body of Quebec universities, reported *The Link*.

Bill 107, would, for example, make Quebec universities control the size of university boards of governors and which boards could be allowed to post on their websites.

Boards would also have to at-

tain gender parity.

Initially tabled by education minister Michelle Courchesne in October, the bill died when Premier Jean Charest dissolved the National Assembly and called the December provincial election.

Student unions are against the bill because it could decrease student, faculty and staff representation on the board.

Source: the *The Link*

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

N.S. NDP pitches tax credit

Darrell Dexter, leader of the provincial NDP Party, said he would re-establish a tax credit if his party formed the government.

CBC reported Dexter announced to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce he would propose a 10 per cent manufacturing and processing tax credit. The Progressive Conservatives eliminated this credit in 2002.

Dexter said this investment

would trigger the creation of more than 2,000 jobs. These would come from construction, the purchase of machinery and equipment and increased operations.

He added existing government revenue could pay the \$20 million to \$25 million per year required to pay for the tax credit.

Source: *CBC*

Sarkozy writes back to Quebec political leaders

Parti-Québécois Leader Pauline Marois and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe sent French President Nicolas Sarkozy an angry four-page letter saying the president is "misinformed" about Quebec's independence movement, reported *CBC*.

During a January ceremony in Paris in which he inducted Quebec Premier Jean Charest into the French Legion of Honour, Sarkozy

discussed Canadian unity and said there was no room in the world for division. He also expressed his dislike for "sectarianism" and "self-confinement."

Sarkozy didn't directly mention Quebec. Marois and Duceppe said Sarkozy was referring to them and that Sarkozy said they were responsible for secularism in Quebec. Sarkozy wrote a letter back last week, saying the duo misinterpreted his comments.

Source: *CBC*

International pipeline project ready to start

Jim Prentice, the federal environment minister, said the country's new pipeline project will begin soon after many delays, reported *CTV*.

The Mackenzie Gas Project would deliver natural gas through a 1,220-kilometre pipeline from the Northwest Territories to Canadian and U.S. markets.

Prentice explained the project

would deliver clean gas and would complement Canada's environmental agenda.

He added Canada and the U.S. share common environmental principles — Obama has announced his goal to reduce coal emissions, which constitute roughly 70 per cent of U.S. power production.

The pipeline is set to cost more than \$16 billion.

Source: *CTV*

Medical Musings



Cutting down on the green



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

One blue-skied afternoon two years ago, I was driving my little sister to a singing competition in downtown Ottawa. She remembered it was April 20, or "4/20," and mourned over not being able to celebrate with her friends on Parliament Hill. To mollify her disappointment, and to satisfy my curiosity, I said we'd drive past.

I gaped as we passed hundreds of teens and adults lounging on the sunny grass by the capital's green-roofed buildings. Navy blue police figures dotted the crowd, but everyone looked peaceful and relaxed, chatting in groups and walking across the lawn. I squinted and couldn't see anyone smoking, but I knew in whose honour the party was being thrown. It was for Mary Jane.

Who is this Mary Jane, you ask?

Her green face adorns the alternative Canadian flag. She hovered over our fathers' long-haired plaid-shirted days. Illegal but sometimes turned a blind eye by police, Mary Jane drifts through the streets of Halifax, wafting down from windows, sneaking out of alleyways and crashing on squishy second-hand couches in students' homes.

Weed, pot, hemp, dope, grass,

cannabis, cheeba, herb and chronic are synonyms for the drug which brings bleary-eyed Canadians across the country together over joints, bongs and weed-spiked chocolate brownies.

Studies in the 1990s concluded smoking weed was more carcinogenic than tobacco cigarettes, giving authorities (mothers included) another reason to disdain the drug.

But the National Institute of Health's most wide-scale study showed that smoking the drug had no cancer-causing consequences.

The 2006 study surveyed more than 1,000 moderate-to-heavy weed-smokers. Heavy marijuana smokers who estimated a lifetime use of more than 22,000 joints proved to be no more likely to end up with respiratory cancers than people who never smoked marijuana.

Though marijuana does contain carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) like those in tobacco cigarettes, these carcinogens were of no consequence in weed.

Scientists speculate the tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, in weed counteracts the smoke's cancer-causing properties by destroying aging cells.

Weed's anti-cancer benefits haven't been proven to be preventative, so researchers urge people not to smoke marijuana to lessen chances of developing cancer. Medical marijuana is used to combat tumors already in existence, not to prevent cancer altogether.

But don't be fooled. Just because marijuana hasn't been proven to cause cancer doesn't mean it's a harmless drug.

Increasing evidence supports

strong correlations between marijuana use and psychosis, especially during teenage years.

Psychosis is a psychological term to describe a loss of contact with reality. Hallucinations and delusions characteristic in manic depression and schizophrenia are examples of psychosis. As a psychoactive drug, marijuana is still an object of study and debate among scientists. It has both physiological and psychological addictive properties. Especially when used as a regular sleeping aid or relaxant, marijuana creates drug-dependency, causing withdrawal symptoms of anxiety and restlessness.

Social enjoyment aside, I used to think potheads were just lazy types of people who enjoyed being in a weed-daze more than I did. But as I approach my mid-20s and people are starting to drop the drug, I'm noticing those friends of mine who can't seem to quit.

Though stoners aren't more likely to get throat cancer than anyone else, I worry about the mental disorders that will come from chronic smoking. I worry about the silent battles so many weed-smokers face, lying awake at night because they're not high. I worry about the good, bright people I've seen sink into weed addictions that are socially regarded as insubstantial and easy to stop.

Insomnia and psychosis are heavy consequences for such tiny joints. Don't smoke them into your life. As with any treat — chocolate cake, potato couch sessions, Internet porn — moderation is key.

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

274,000: the number of homes in the United States that received at least one foreclosure-related notice in January.

3 per cent: how much Japan's Nikkei index fell Feb. 12.

\$3.2 million (USD): how much ransom the MV Faina — a ship filled with tanks and ammunition — was released for after being held by Somali pirates. It finally reached the Kenyan port of Mombasa Feb. 12.

1 per cent: how much retail sales in the United States rose in January, the biggest jump in 14 months.

3: the number of terms Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika said he hopes to seek come April elections. He was first elected in 1999.

3 to 4 million: an estimate of the number of jobs senior advisor to President Barack Obama, David Axelrod, said the government plans to create with its stimulus package.

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

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Wedge is wrong about abortion

JOHN DOUCETTE
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Ben Wedge's article "Abortion hurting birth rates in Canada" in last week's *Gazette* was the straw that broke the camel's back, and convinced me that Wedge's string of poorly thought-out conservative viewpoints needed some rebuttal.

First, the Irish issue. Wedge credits the banning of abortion with major boom in the Irish economy. I did some research myself, and found interesting results.

A simple Google search for "impact of abortion ban on Irish economy" returns just 6,310 hits. The first hit is actually a document on the impact of a smoking ban on the Irish economy.

I read some other articles about the "Celtic Tiger" boom Wedge mentions and I tried another search: "impact of tax policy on Irish economy." Unsur-

prisingly, there are 121,000 hits for that one, with numerous scholarly articles in the top results.

Alternatively, "impact of European Union membership on Irish economy" returns about 128,000 hits. Every source I could find on the Celtic Tiger boom mentions these causes. They do not mention the abortion ban or the population boom. Don't take my word for it. Try it out yourself.

See, it turns out Ireland's population problems didn't have as much to do with high abortion rates as they did with the fact that most people weren't staying in Ireland, thanks to poor economic prospects, religiously motivated violence and domestic turmoil.

Ireland had an emigration problem, not an abortion problem. Abortion was illegal in Ireland before 1982, and the only change the country made that year was to enshrine that belief in its constitution. Since then, as is com-

mon with improved economic power, Ireland's abortion rate has continued to increase. There is no statistical collation between the legal status of abortion and the rate of abortion in a county, so these results make perfect sense.

That aside, Wedge failed to look at Ireland's demographic trends: Irish birth rates since the mid 1990s, when well-educated young people jump-started the economy, have declined quite dramatically. In essence, Ireland had a baby boom. Those young people are now waiting longer to have kids, regardless of the country's abortion stance.

From this we can infer that even if making abortion illegal in Canada (which is not what the Irish did) directly led to a short term population boom (though the evidence suggests it wouldn't), and even if that population boom massively stimulated the economy (though the evidence suggests it

wouldn't), even then, the gains in birth rate would be short lived – a generation at best.

If Wedge's article was intended to provide a rational argument for anti-abortion laws, it has failed miserably.

Wedge bizarrely suggests Canadians should fear a coming population bust, and that we need to breed more often, like the United States, to keep Arab countries from becoming "responsible for the safety of the world."

Ignoring the many obvious problems with this line of reasoning, I'll say only this: Canada's growth rate is 0.9 per cent, and the U.S. growth rate rounds to 0.9 per cent. How is this possible with our lower birth rate? Simple: our multicultural policies and welcoming immigration views mean our population growth due to immigration is nearly twice that of the U.S. We aren't about to face a traumatic, economy-ending labour shortage. In the worst

case, we'll have to lower immigration requirements a little bit so more people in over-populated, despotic countries who want a shot at our way of life can have one.

Wedge's article embodies all the things that prevent people with my political views – pragmatic libertarians – from voting Conservative. Its tone is xenophobic, condescending, degrading to women and minorities and filled with selective facts designed to support ideological bullshit.

If there's any group that needs to get its head out of the sand, it's Dal-King's Conservatives. Canada is a socially progressive country, and talking about taking away a women's right to control the fate of her body, in any form, is, frankly, naive and un-Canadian.

Water-walking, sweet-talking Obama

It's time for the press to ask some harsh questions

BEN WEDGE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

If the best prime minister we never had, Robert Stanfield, had ever walked to Dartmouth on the water of the Halifax Harbour, the front page of the next day's *Chronicle Herald* would have read: "Robert Stanfield can't swim!"

This joke is very popular in conservative circles, and people outside of Nova Scotia repeat the joke, replacing the *Herald* with *The Globe* and *Mail*.

Around the world, however, U.S. President Barack Obama walks on water day in and day out and no one seems to be complaining. The double standard exhibited by journalists worldwide is appalling.

Political pundits may remember the day Obama's teleprompter broke during the campaign. If you don't, it's on YouTube, and is quite funny. It shouldn't be a surprise that on Feb. 9, when Obama held a press conference, he was the first president in history to use a teleprompter during his inaugural press conference.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper likes to hand pick the reporters who ask him questions, and the first time he did, the story the next morning ignored the answers he gave and focused on the fact that his staff picked the questioners.

But we don't have to look far to see another example of a world leader hand picking reporters to ask questions. On Monday night, Obama would look down at a list after each response, read a name, and look up for the person who would snap to at-

tention for his or her moment in the spotlight.

Former President George Bush never selected journalists before a press conference. Bush was lambasted any time he showed any preference to any journalist. Obama, however, is now the poster boy for stifling free speech, because when he does it, people eat it up!

Let's go back to the Harper/Obama contrast: Harper has a list of reporters who will each be allowed to ask a question at the conference, and then he picks randomly from the list – any reporter can request to be on it. Obama's approach? He gets his staff to pick who makes the list and tells the reporter in advance that it's his or her day to ask a question.

Obama has held numerous town hall meetings around the United States with similar screening processes. At one meeting in Elkhart, Indiana, an audience member asked a pointed question about two of Obama's recent failed appointments. Seems like a great opportunity for the crowd to turn on their president, right? Wrong. The crowd booed the questioner loudly and security personnel escorted the questioner from the room. Obama then issued a rhetoric-filled response and the night went on.

If the media doesn't hold Obama to task, who will? The media has a responsibility to balance its coverage and to ask tough questions. You're not usually going to get tough questions at a partisan event, though it happens. The responsibility belongs to the independent press.

This problem goes further than the Obama/Harper issue. People on the left openly stifle freedom of speech in this country. The *Chronicle Herald* spent a week covering a flare-up at St. Mary's University, where a pro-life speaker was removed from campus because a group of protesters interrupted his speech.

Not one letter to the editor or follow-up story questioned the speaker or his views. They all questioned the university for removing the speaker and not the protesters.

At the University of Calgary, police officers have been going to the homes of students who are part of a pro-life group and arresting them for trespassing on university property. Universities are supposed to promote free speech and find answers to tough questions. If we aren't doing this, who will?

It's time to judge the left the same as the right. It's time to ask the tough questions to our leaders.

If it's OK for Obama to pick reporters in advance, why can't Harper have a list to call from? Obama needs to be held to task if he's going to lead his country, and the world, out of this recession.

Empty rhetoric and softball questions will not get us anywhere. The next time you watch an Obama press conference, pay close attention. He will be transfixed by the calculated words streaming through his teleprompter and by his pre-determined list of reporters. We cannot let this happen any longer.

Break your shopping addiction

ANDREW MILLS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Shopping is not a hobby. Stamp collecting is a hobby, playing music is a hobby, but shopping, when it becomes an end in itself instead of a means to an end, is an addiction. Like all addictions, it hurts a lot more people along the way than just the person who is addicted.

When you shop, you are participating in a long line of processes that start with the extraction of resources and carry through to production, distribution and, finally, waste disposal.

Do you know what sweatshops are? What about resource depletion? I know you've heard of these things, and they can seem abstract, but they are stark realities on our planet.

The average person doesn't know where their clock radio or vintage shoes come from, and doesn't care. Like crack addicts who have given up questioning why their lives are a cycle of meaningless letdowns, we've given up questioning our basic societal model. There are a few reasons for this.

First of all, it is a part of our culture. If you've been in front of Park Lane Mall lately, you will have noticed a 12-foot banner reading "Eat. Sleep. Shop." Personally, I don't like being talked to as if I were a zombie, because zombies are the ultimate conformists. If you say to me: "Oh my God, I was shopping all weekend," all I hear is "brains! Brains!" and I look around the room for a weapon in case you go all *28 Days Later* on me.

Which brings me back to the point: movies, television, and even this newspaper – which has more advertising than content – are all implicated in the hive-minded consumerist conformity of our culture.

How do governments get people to condone a war? They disseminate their values through propaganda. The same principle is at work in consumerism. That music video that made you think owning diamond chains and fancy cars was cool, as well as those commercials

during *Grey's Anatomy* episodes, are both tools of propaganda.

The Marxist philosopher Louis Althusser called the process by which those in power feed us our values "reproducing the means of production." This is how a society imparts to young people a sense of what is important and valuable, thereby replenishing the work force for continued production. This occurs unconsciously through the media, education and interaction with our peers. Capitalism can have a particularly nefarious way of conditioning us to believe driving a Jaguar to our two-storey house in the suburbs is normal.

Unfortunately, a lot of our formal education reinforces traditional concepts that prompt us to spend the meager span of our days chasing the almighty dollar. But time is not money; time is infinitely more valuable.

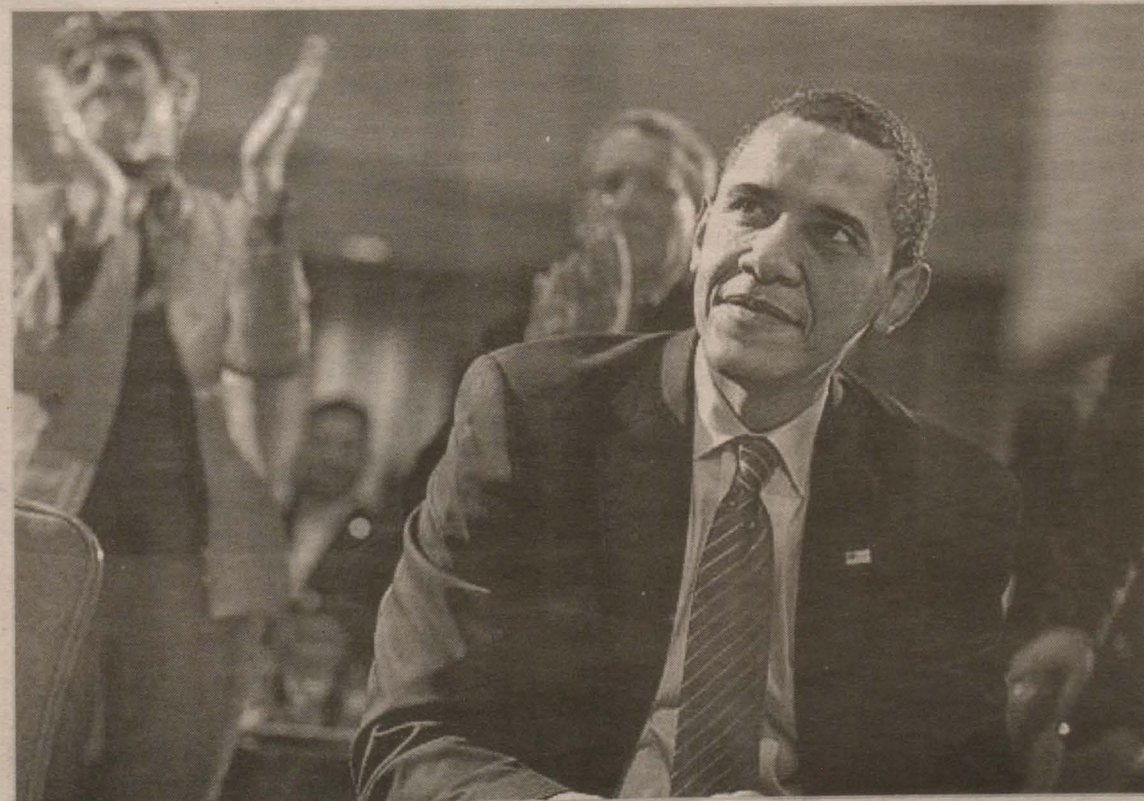
We need a rebellion. I know others must also hate it when massive billboard signs talk to us as if we are brainless zombies. I know you don't really want to be a conformist. The problem is we are in love with buying things we don't need.

We all have a favourite superfluous item that we like to shop for, be it books or vintage shirts. But there can be a balance, just as there is a difference between a couple drinks with friends and a night alone with Jack Daniels.

"Buyer's remorse" is the term for the twinge of guilt we feel after a bad purchase. Unfortunately, instead of using this guilt to change our ways, we simply dissipate the guilt by turning on the TV or talking to our friends to validate our weird, destructive behavior.

Change is the mantra right now, but change is hard.

As with any addiction, recovering from our participation in rampant consumerism is a difficult and lengthy process and we will probably mess up once in a while. So get someone to hold you accountable. If that's not enough to convince you to curb your spending, I have two magical words that might do the trick: tuition and recession.



WHITE HOUSE PRESS PHOTO

The teleprompt president stifles free speech by planning his press appearances to perfection.



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CANADIAN BEER OF THE YEAR!

Dal silenced unflattering information about Lockheed Martin

JESSE ROBERTSON
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

A university is the sum of its parts – the students, the faculty and the administration. Decisions made by one group affect the others.

For this reason, when Dalhousie's Career Services Centre encourages ethically morbid companies, such as weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin, to participate in student career fairs, it cannot claim amorality in that decision. Rather, that decision implicates Dal's students, faculty and administration. Nonetheless, the officials at the Career Services Centre responded to criticism over its recent decision by saying they wanted to let students make their own informed and moral decisions – thus absolving themselves of any ethical scrutiny.

Judging by the university's reception to protesters at the Feb. 10 career fair, an informed student decision appears relatively low on the career centre's agenda. Mandatory coat and bag checks were set up to prevent protesters from entering the building. When a protestor outside used a megaphone to describe Lockheed Martin's many atrocities, the coat check line was forced inside with the demand that the door be kept closed. The protesters able to make it inside were forcibly removed by police at the request of university personnel, merely for distributing informational leaflets. Upon arrival, protestors became aware of

several other ethically questionable recruiters, such as the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian Security and Intelligence Services, who were not even mentioned on the career centre's website. Failing to mention career fair attendees prevents potential protestors and prevents students from doing their homework on recruiters prior to the event.

This is not what "informed decision making" should look like. A university should actively encourage critical thinking, but by stifling alternative opinions on the behalf of corporate friends on Feb. 10, ours has overlooked this essential part of its mandate.

It is crucial for students to understand that Dal has a vested interest in keeping Lockheed Martin satisfied and comfortable. Last May, Dal announced a new partnership with the company. Our university received \$2 million in research funding from Lockheed Martin, which would in return be given the right to all intellectual material resulting from that research. President Tom Traves claimed the university would welcome open debate on its agreement with Lockheed Martin, but by announcing that agreement in mid-May, weeks after the majority of students had returned home for the summer, he safeguarded himself from any student opposition. Welcoming debate in the absence of opposition can hardly be called debate at all. Debate was absent last May, and with it critical thinking.

Lockheed Martin prospers and

thrives from the maintenance of conflict, not its resolution. By contributing the existing structures and intellect of our university to the development of increasingly efficient killing machines, Dal becomes complicit in that conflict. Our eyes may glitter when faced with copious amounts of money, but we must not allow our critical and moral capacities to fade as a consequence.

As a student who spends thousands of dollars every year to attend Dal, and as someone who feels attached to the intellectual and extra-curricular community here, I can't help but feel like I'm a part of this university. As a result, I can't help but feel like the university has already made a moral decision on my behalf when it partnered with so corrupt a company as Lockheed Martin – accepting tainted funding, encouraging its presence at university events and stifling opposition.

My opposition is simple. Because I have never supported the illegal war in Iraq, from which Lockheed Martin has profited massively, I cannot support Lockheed Martin. Because I oppose the use of indiscriminate cluster bombs, which Lockheed manufactures despite their criminalization in recent international law, I oppose Lockheed Martin. Because I was shocked by the disproportionate assault on Gaza, in which Lockheed weaponry was deployed against civilians, I am equally shocked by our university's co-operation with Lockheed Martin.

When a university makes a deci-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

If the university makes an immoral decision, students are soiled by association.

Each of its parts are implicated in that decision. The students who protested Lockheed Martin's presence at the career fair on Feb. 10 recognized that. The many faculty members who have endorsed a letter of protest against Lockheed Martin have also recognized

it. It is time our administration, the career services centre, and President Tom Traves acknowledge this as well.

Jesse Robertson is a second-year political science student, and a member of the Student Coalition Against War.

Climate conference a chance to put studies to work

EMILY RIDEOUT
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Canada is making one of the worst mistakes in its history – at the expense of the future of the world.

Between Dec. 1-12, 2008, I attended the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Poznan, Poland, on behalf of the Sierra Club Canada.

Readers may wonder what this round of the Kyoto Protocol negotiations had in store and whether we have moved closer to the goal of creating a post-Kyoto agreement that will pick up where the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. Unfortunately, the outcomes of this round of Kyoto negotiations were disappointing, to say the least, and Canada only made it worse.

Canada played an extremely obstructive role, stalling negotiations at every opportunity. For example, Canada is using 2006 as a baseline year instead of 1990 like everybody else, and has adamantly opposed adopting the recommended target range of reducing emissions 25 to 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.

The Canadian delegation had several justifications for its inertia. According to the Canadian delegation, Canada's cold climate and large size are reasons it can't reduce emissions. These were true about our country when we ratified Kyoto in 2005, but only now are

they being used as excuses for inaction. This is called the "national circumstances" excuse.

Another excuse was that the government can't do anything because Canadians want and need fossil fuels and until Canadians use less of them, the government is helpless. This is called the "consumer structure" excuse.

As usual, the Canadian delegation wouldn't commit to very much because it demanded equal effort from developing countries, emerging economies (China, India, Brazil South Africa) and from the U.S.

Our performance as a nation has been so poor at these negotiations that we were awarded a monumental 10 "Fossil of the Day" awards by the international non-governmental organization community. The Fossil of the Day award is given to the top three countries or groups of countries that have done the most to obstruct negotiations. Canada was awarded the dubious distinction of Fossil of the Year.

Let's take a step back from Canada's position and look at what happened overall. Despite the high hopes after the 2007 Bali Action Plan on climate change, there were only a handful of things accomplished in Poznan, and not all of them are good.

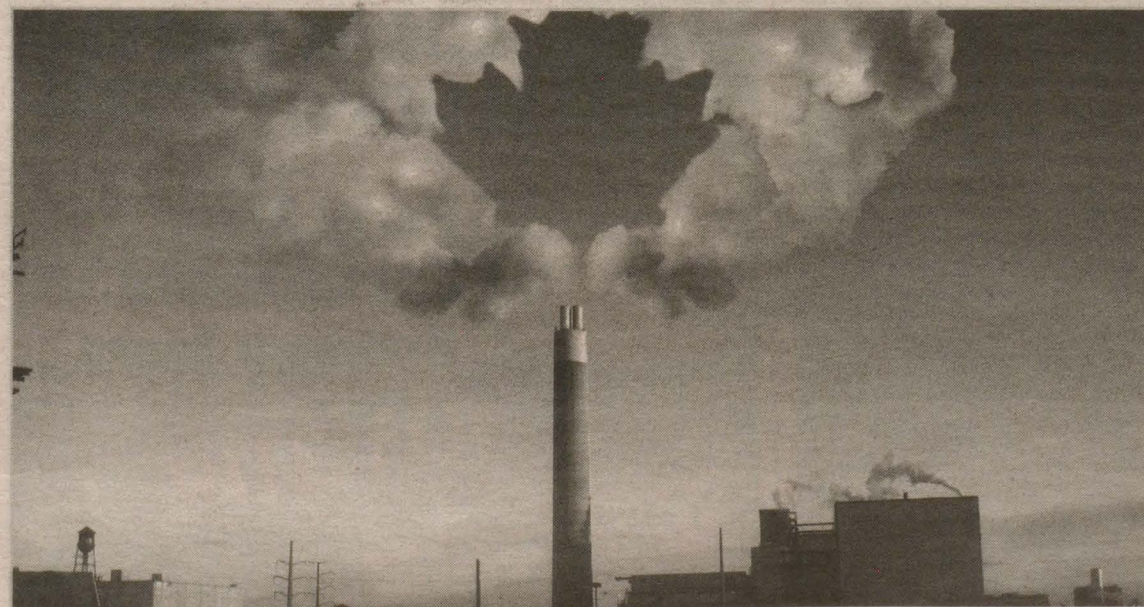
The adaptation fund created several years ago was finally put into operation. It will collect money from

Clean Development Mechanism projects, and puts them toward emissions-reducing projects in developing countries. This round of Kyoto Negotiations saw a scaling up of investment for the transfer of technology from developed countries to developing countries.

A weak European Union climate package was also approved. Although it sets a decent target – 20 per cent reductions below 1990 emission levels by 2020 and up to 30 per cent if other industrialized countries agree to comparable cuts, it has several exemptions for the energy, aviation, auto manufacturing and chemical sectors.

So what didn't happen in Poznan that should have? Plenty. There was zero progress on emission reduction targets from industrialized countries. No countries improved existing targets so they would fall within the 25 to 40 per cent range. Work plans for several sub-groups were delayed until June 2009, which may be too late to develop strong action plans before the next conference in December. Industrialized countries ignored proposals from developing countries on a number of topics.

The world is further from reaching a new post-Kyoto agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. The economic recession and political circumstances in the U.S. were widely blamed for the lack of action.



JOHN PACKMAN/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Canada's obstructing role at the UN climate change conference in Poznan, Poland shamed us all.

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STREETER

In 10 words or less, what's your perfect reading week?



“Reading lots of science fiction.”
Jordan Davis, first-year arts



“Fly to Paris for croissants and cheese.”
Ryan McDonald, third-year IDS



“Nap. Nap. Nap. Nap. Nap. Nap. Nap.”
Megan Bragg, fifth-year health promotion



“One that never ends.”
Andrew Tomash, fifth-year chemistry



“Pickup truck. Case of beer. Three lovely ladies.”
Stew Paterson, MBA



“Constant themed house-boating party around the Greek Isles.”
Kate Dinning, third-year psychology



“Stay in my room. Sleep all day. Cook for myself.”

Tara Thompson, fourth-year psychology



“Backwax. Toothbrush. Pedicure. Shower. Dome. Blackout. Hospital. Morphine.”

John Packman, fifth-year cliché

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

At Needs convenience store:

Girl: So, are you going to incorporate your black eye into your make-up?

In the Killam:

Girl 1: Ohmigod I can't believe we're actually at the library!

Girl 2: I know! We're such nerds.

Guy: Does the apartment come with a deep freezer?

Girl: What's a deep freezer? Oh... is that the really big freezer?

Guy: Yeah.

Girl: Oh, yeah. We just call it the big freezer.

In class:

Guy: I'm going to be Helen Keller drunk. Can't speak, can't see, can't hear.

In Howe:

Girl: I was, like, almost ready to cook my own food.

On the #1:

Bus driver: I go up South Street ...

Little old lady: Did you say you go up South Street? I thought you went up Coburg.

Bus driver: Oh, yeah. My bad!

Little old lady: Yeah, you are bad!

In the Killam:

Girl: Oh my God, guys – if I die, someone has to promise to straighten my hair!

In first-year English:

Guy: Do we have to use a pencil? Or can we bring our laptops?

Girl: Yes, you have to use a pencil, that is... if you know how to write!

Prof: If you have any problems with the writing aspect, come see me in my office or contact Accessibility Services.

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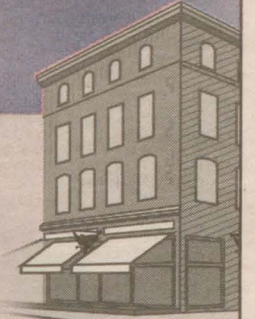
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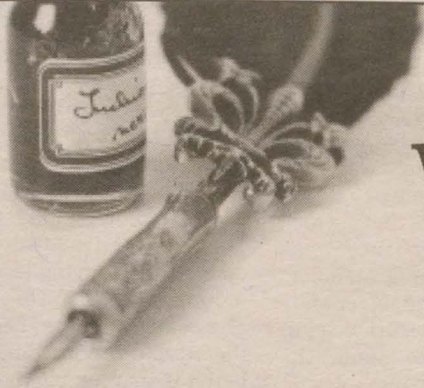


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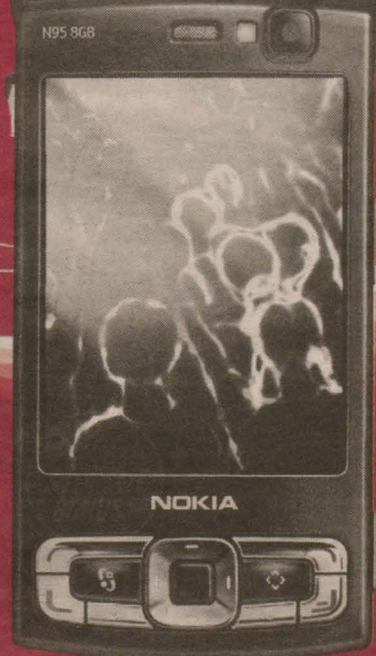


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Gypsies record new album

Local band compared to The Beatles, Chuck Berry



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Halifax band the Gypsies has some unusual influences.

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It is the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 4, and it's cold. That is to say, it is exactly like every other evening in the middle of a Halifax winter. The streets are empty. Snow has piled up into a thick layer of ice on the sidewalks in the downtown core, leading more than one business to simply throw salt down in hopes of avoiding a lawsuit. The night club Tribeca is trying desperately to fill the void the Marquee will leave when the popular Halifax venue closes down three days later.

Inside Tribeca, things are slowly warming up. Forty-some people are in attendance for one of the first rock showcases the popular dance venue is putting on this evening. Members of the showcase include singer Mary Stewart, playing her beautiful semi-hollow-bodied electric guitar. The soft sounds of the slightly

reverberated guitar combined with her rich vocals create a mellow atmosphere for audience members, most of whom are lounging and deep in discussion with each other. Later on in the night, Scribbler will go on, but not for a while.

The meat of tonight's rock sandwich is Halifax band The Gypsies. Sitting at the bar, guitarist/singer Dan Egilsson and guitarist/singer Jeremy Butler begin to discuss current music they've been listening to and what they sound like.

"We get a lot of comparisons to The Beatles and Chuck Berry, not for quality though," Butler laughs.

It is simple to see the connection. Four friends playing rock music with two guitars, bass, and drums. The three stringed instrumentalists taking turns singing leads and harmonizing together. They may not be The Beatles, but they certainly have the structure down and pull it off better than other bands.

Bassist/singer Mike Walker enters the club, a little tardy after playing a rousing game of soccer. He'll later state on stage that it was actual soccer and not the Xbox equivalent of Fifa 2006, a game the band is fiercely competitive over. Walker's taste in music lately is surprising.

"I've been listening to some older pop music," he says, staring at his glass. "Sugar Ray."

He begins discussing the intricacies of the song "Fly" and that band's following record, which was filled with radio and television friendly hits. The Beatles? Sugar Ray? It seems these guys are really interested in pop music.

"As Sugar Ray is concerned Mike is listening to it for the vocal harmonies," Butler says. "He was definitely on a Sugar Ray bender a while back. There are a lot of weird melodies that don't entirely make sense but sound great."

This interest in vocal harmonies is apparent in the results of The Gypsies' previous week in the recording studio. Tucked away inside of a massive abandoned coffee shop in the heart of the university area, the band had finished up the instrumentals and Walker was working on the vocals in the makeshift recording booth.

While sitting in the back of the coffee shop, Butler and Egilsson began talking about MGMT, the popular counter-culture-infused pop band that Egilsson said "started as a joke." Butler couldn't get over the ridiculous lyrics and was unable to see past them. Egilsson praised their instrumentals, but Butler wasn't having much of it as he rolled drunkenly across a pile of insulation.

Later in the week, Butler talks more about the different influences their band is having during the recording process.

"Dan likes MGMT and there is definitely an influence as far as we'll hear a sound and want it on the record," Butler says. "But don't expect any synthesizers on the next record."

The conversation drifts back to the Tribeca gig and Butler muses on the Marquee closure and Halifax's lack of venues.

"There are definitely some great ones like Tribeca and The Seahorse, but there really needs to be a better large venue here," he says. "We're just happy to be all in the same place right now playing music together."

Catch The Gypsies Feb. 21, 8 p.m., at Ginger's Tavern.

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LAURA DAWE
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

Chairs hang high, suspended from the ceiling as though by the hands of poltergeists. Massive black and white projections provide the only light in the eerily tall ballroom. In one of the smaller rooms are a tarot reader, a black metal face painting station, games with handmade voodoo doll prizes, and a photographer who will take a photo of attendees in a coffin. The air is a pounding with electronics and drums. The band, Room Doom, is unreal and brand new. The packed crowd is a mass of sweaty, costumed, spasm-dancing young bodies flopping around like this is New York in the early 1980s.

This is not New York. This is the Khyber Institute for Contemporary Art during The Paranormal Formal, one of its monthly fundraisers. Not only is the formal raising funds for a Halifax institution that had one foot in the grave, but it is raising the standard of a night out in Halifax. It's not a bar, though you can buy booze. It's not simply an art installation and not simply a concert. It is a full-on sensory experience.

Earlier in the day, the Khyber looked more like a beautiful, spacious, heritage property than a mass grave of hard-dancing zombies. With the sun streaming in and volunteers setting up, Dan Joyce and Jody Zinner, the Khyber's two new employees, talked about the Khyber's past, pres-

ent and future.

"This place is here for the community, musicians, this space is here for us," Joyce says. He recites their mandate by heart: "To present contemporary arts, plural. Not just visual art, whatever. Poetry. Dance is even in our mandate."

"I started volunteering when I found out I could have a show upstairs in the then-alternative space in the summer of 2007," he continues. "I painted the walls. I painted the floor in the ballroom, and set up my own show. And that's how this place gets by - people coming in and really taking initiative."

Currently, 60 volunteers make everything possible. Usually the only staff person is a director. Joyce and Zinner's dedication is paying off; the fundraisers are making enough money that they can have jobs at the Khyber to focus even more on its improvement.

Artists started "occupying" the empty city-owned building in the late 1970s. They eventually received the city's support, and 14 years ago, the Khyber Society - named after a health food store that had once been in the building - was born.

"The whole board and membership flipped upside down in the last couple years," says Joyce. The already unstable art centre/bar had to downsize and no longer operates on the main or the third floor.

"That's one thing that really gets

my goat about all the publicity about the Khyber - it's always people griping about what it used to be," says Zinner. "But I think it's really exciting (as) it is, and how we've just used what we have already, and turned it into something awesome."

Things now, despite the dark paranormal theme of the night, are looking bright. The Khyber promoters are in talks with the city to ensure that the building is "perfectly stable and sustainable, indisputably," says Zinner.

"It just sort of seems that artists make for great visionaries but they kind of make for terrible administrators," she says.

She hopes the whole building could once again be home to contemporary art of all flavours.

New members, volunteers and ideas all help the Khyber run. Memberships cost \$10 if you're a student and qualify the member for the membership show coming up on March 5.

"Our theme is the Crystal Cave. We're leaving it at that," smiles Zinner. "We might try to turn the ballroom into a cave."

Joyce adds, "we're quickly approaching our 15th anniversary, which is the crystal anniversary."

The two are looking forward to the show, which, like the Khyber, is not just for artists, but for the entire community that surrounds the arts in this city. They are excited to show the works of people who have never had exhibits in professional settings before.



LAURA DAWE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Carey Anne Jernigan (left) and Stephanie Oliver at the Paranormal Formal.

There are a few weeklong solo shows planned before then. Next month's big fundraiser will be the Black Eyeliner Party, where members of the public get in for half price if

they're wearing the title item.

"It's important that people get involved and let the city know that they are so happy that the Khyber is alive," Zinner concludes.

Tits, metal and beer Black Moor takes over Hooters

ALEX FOUNTAIN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

If the rumors are true and the promoters of the upcoming Kiss concert are seeking out local bands to apply for an opening spot, Dartmouth's Black Moor might want to think about throwing its hat in the ring.

The band's back-story is as legendary as any great rock formation: four friends with a bond as strong as *Detroit Rock City* characters Hawk, Jam, Lex and Trip form a band in their last year of high school and start tearing up the all-ages scene. After a few years honing their chops, Eric Hanlin (guitar, lead vocals), Nick Jones (lead guitar), Sylvain Coderre (drums) and Rob Nickerson (bass) start playing bar shows and become one of their hometown's most revered metal acts.

Cut to summer 2008. The boys pile into their guitarist's mom's car and drive up to Montreal to play a show and take in a huge metal festival headlined by Iron Maiden. They are living the dream. Nothing can touch them, or so they think.

On the drive home, a drunk driver swerves into the wrong lane and hits their Chrysler 500 head on. The man and one of his passengers die, and all the members of Black Moor are in critical condition. Their future, once so bright, is suddenly dark and uncertain.

Drummer Coderre has it the worst: it's not quite a Def Leppard-style arm loss, but it's close. On top of breaking his leg and a few ribs, he lacerates his skull. Precious metal locks must be cut to treat the wound.

Hanlin talks about the band's forced hiatus from music with disdain.

"We got to a point where we were

all at each other's throats, he says. "We didn't wanna do anything; we weren't playing any shows. It wasn't fun."

But wounds heal. It wasn't too long before Coderre is ready to get back behind the kit.

"He's really driven," says Jones. "If anyone else in the band got it that bad, they'd still be recovering."

Black Moor returned to the stage last Halloween at a house party. The band has played a few more shows since, but last Friday the 13th's gig was certainly the one that will go down in history as the band's triumphant return to form. And it was at Hooters.

It's a long and confusing drive to get to Dartmouth's Main Street, home of the restaurant's latest franchise. The first and likely the last show to happen at this venue, it was one for the history books.

Broken Ohms starts the night off with its own brand of grungy weed-fueled cock-rock, chicken wings are ordered in spades, and underdressed waitresses are inevitably ogled. Pantera sing-alongs set the tone between bands as everyone anxiously waits for Black Moor to assume its position under the fake neon palm trees.

The boys pick up their axes and start playing. Harkening back to the glory days of Megadeth, Maiden and Metallica (before they started sucking), Black Moor play well-structured songs full of thrashy riffs and mosh-worthy breakdowns. The crowd erupts into a push pit within the first few seconds and doesn't let down for the hour-plus the band plays.

Coderre has lost none of his drumming prowess since the accident; he carries the songs with intensity and precision. Sleeveless jean jacket-clad bassist Nickerson melts minds with dark

picking interludes, and the guitarists shred and wail like Kerry King on LSD.

The crowd's aggression makes Hanlin unable to sing into his mic for a good chunk of the set, but he still remains the perfect frontman: charming and full of raw animal sexuality.

The band must pause several times between songs: first, when the restaurant's clean-cut manager tells them to make the crowd "settle down" and again when a bottle is broken over someone's head and some drunken metal head must be escorted outside.

Despite the insanity, Black Moor is allowed to finish its set; stopping the musicians prematurely would do nothing but increase the chaos, so the show must go on. The boys bust out a cover of Kiss' "Love Gun" close to the end and the irony is perfect: Edward Furlong stripped to this song in *Detroit Rock City*. The cover is spot on and the crowd goes wild. An encore follows and one of the Hooters girls is actually dancing on top of the bar. It's so surreal.

The destructive set, coupled with the liquor inspector throwing out an underage girl and suspending the restaurant's license earlier in the evening, spells a dim future for shows at Hooters.

"This is definitely more people than they've ever had in this place and probably will ever have in this place," says Hanlin, who had never been to the restaurant before this show. "I'll probably come back for a beer, if they don't turn me away at the door."

Black Moor is playing Saturday, Feb. 21 at the all-ages Pavillion with In This Style, Envision and A History Of.



Taken full of clever twists

CASSANDRA WHITTY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Taken is an action-packed-man-chasing thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat with its riveting suspense and non-stop action.

Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) is a retired secret agent living in the U.S., trying to get closer to his 17-year-old daughter Kim (Maggie Grace). Living with his divorced wife Lenore, Kim is spoiled by her rich stepfather, however, he cannot give her the one thing she really wants: parental consent for her to leave the country and fly to Paris.

Vying for his daughter's affection, Mills agrees to allow Kim to take a trip to Paris, but all goes wrong when Mills receives a frantic phone call from Kim before she is abducted. The call ends with Mills' promise to the kidnappers: "I don't know who you are but if you don't let my daughter go, I will find you. I will kill you."

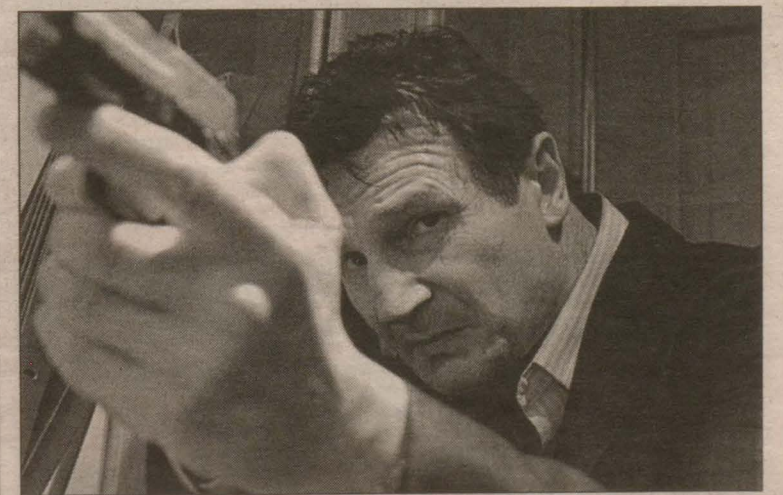
The viewer learns that Kim is

taken by a group of Albanian human traffickers operating out of Paris. Mills promises to find his daughter and return her safely home, knowing he has a short window of time before the trail of evidence disappears with the captors.

Mills' determination to find his daughter knows no bounds as he does everything to gain information on Kim's whereabouts and kill those responsible for her kidnapping. His training allows him to be amazingly stealthy and clever, adding to the twists and turns that pull the viewer through the movie.

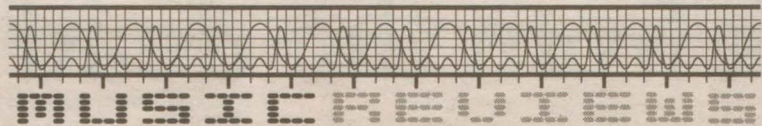
Taken deals with kidnapping and the tracking of terrorist groups in the vein of *24* and *Flight Plan* while offering a fresh perspective and well-plotted story. Directed by Pierre Morel (*The Transporter*, *War*), *Taken* has unbelievable stunts and fight scenes that will keep audience members locked in their seats.

Taken is a great selection for anyone who likes a high action suspenseful flick.



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MUSIC REVIEWS

Late of the Pier: *Fantasy Black Channel*MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Today's genre is New Rave (also occasionally called Nu Rave). Urban Dictionary defines the term New Rave as "electro trance indie type music." The term was coined, as its generally recognized, when The Klaxons article appeared in the March 2007 issue of *NME*, then music fans in the United Kingdom either praised the supposed genre or stuck up their noses.

Some people took this movement seriously and began signing artists who remotely sounded like or looked like they belonged in the New Rave genre. Late of the Pier is one of these bands. Its members employ the use of vintage synthesizers, play loud drum- and bass-heavy music, recorded their album while living in a castle and occasionally wear capes. The premise is simply ridiculous.

But some listeners may enjoy the band's record, *Fantasy Black Channel*. It sounds like a dance record version of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The band definitely steals some sounds from Gary Numan's "Cars" with the use of Moog synthesizers



and, for that matter, kind of sound like The Cars. "Space & The Woods" channels side one of The Cars' greatest hits when singer Samuel Dust practically rips off Benjamin Orr's robotic timbre. "Heartbeat" has the happy-gay-lucky sounds of Morris Day and the Time, and dance hit "Focker" has one of the best bass-fart squelches that could have ever come out of Justice's ass.

If you're a fan of modern British pop acts like The Kaiser Chiefs or Bloc Party, you will most likely enjoy this record. It has a predominantly upbeat tempo and takes you on a magical journey to a part of the English countryside you've probably never heard of before.

Valentine's Day
metal massacre

Bands let loose at Gus' Pub

TIM MITCHELL
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

What better way to spend Valentine's Day, the most romantic day of the year, than at an uninviting metal and thrash show at Gus' Pub? If you saw posters around Halifax and were offended by a band called Fuck the Middle East, that was this show - The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre.

The first band of the night was Novichok, a fairly new metal three-piece from Halifax that sounded like the members been playing together for years - fast and tight riffs made the transition from melodic intros into a heavy kick-in-the-face of complex time changes on drums and shredding guitar solos. The band walked off stage after an amazing set without even breaking a sweat.

Next was The Orchid's Curse, an established five-piece from Dartmouth, but on this night the band didn't offer much in excitement. Josh Hogan, the lead singer, kept fairly still. But to be fair, the stage at Gus' doesn't offer much room for mobility. The band put forth a more progressive style of metal that, while slower, was still epic and at times anthem-like. The last couple of songs - all new material - set the performance apart, especially a 15-second song. The band's last song, "The Delicate Art of Dying," sounded like Opeth in certain parts.

"So uh, Happy Valentine's day everyone," said Brian Jones, one of the Orchid's Curse's guitarists, to which a drunken audience member replied, "Fuck that!"

Terratomb, another five-piece black/death metal band from Halifax, has been playing together forever, minus line-up changes, and naturally was the most talented act of the night. The band members' unrivalled sea of hair and death growls were enough to scare the elderly VLT crowd out of the bar and get the younger crowd pumped. Terratomb never disappoints.

Fuck the Middle East - before you get your knickers in a knot - is a tribute band to the 1985 hardcore punk/thrash band Stormtroopers of Death (S.O.D.), which was known for writing politically incorrect lyrics just to get a rise out of people. The tribute band from Trois Rivières, Que., almost nailed the S.O.D. sound, except, of course, for their French accents, which made their cover of "Speak English or Die" particularly hilarious.

Blinded By Faith from Quebec City ended the night on a good note. While starting its set with some technical difficulties (too much feedback from the monitors), singer Tommy Demers made light of the situation by drawing feedback on purpose every now and then. Even though the band's set began 20 minutes before closing time, Gus' management let the musicians play most of their set anyway. This band was the most fun to watch of the other acts that night, as all the members seemed to have their metal rock star moves rehearsed in advance.

Overall, the Valentine's Day Massacre was a good show put on by some bands worth checking out in the future.

Poor Boy an intriguing junkie romance

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Though heroin plays no part in *Poor Boy*, the Zuppa Theatre Company's "Pop Music Fantasia" has more in common with the strung-out decadence of Lou Reed's *Berlin* than another kind of "Pop Music Fantasia" like The Who's *Tommy*.

The story, based on the legend of Orpheus, is simple - boy meets girl, girl commits suicide, boy is very depressed - but the way everything is presented is jaunty and cut-up like a William S. Burroughs novel. The plot and the ways in which the characters talk and act are sporadic and inconsistent.

Everyone is miserable, everyone is dependent on something or someone else and a desolate vibe rings throughout the entire performance. *Poor Boy* is a tale of junkie romance not in its content, but in its style.

Half the intrigue of watching the play is trying to piece together the story. The basic premise is as follows: Sherman Oaks is a big rock star whose true love, a nutty rock star in her own right, Ella Savant, committed suicide by jumping off the roof of the River's Edge Hotel. Oaks has come back to the hotel to try to grasp why she did it and how everything went so horribly wrong. Oaks is followed there by his flamboyant manager, Desmond Landy, who's trying to get him out of his funk and back on the road but Oaks isn't really going for it. Instead, he would rather hang out with the out-of-whack Miranda, sister of the domineering Eunice, who's been taking care of her deranged sister at the hotel. Meanwhile, throughout the play we see Savant, though the other



SUPPLIED

Zuppa Cicus' *Poor Boy* is a depressing yet captivating production.

characters can't see her, mysteriously standing at the back of the stage wearing a pair of big black sunglasses and playing cello, hovering metaphorically over the events of the play.

The performances are solid across the board, with special credit going to Stewart Legere, who plays Sherman Oaks, for soldiering on despite injuring his ankle. He wears a cast and walks with crutches throughout. He also wears a neck-cast for some reason, possibly theatrical, as the plot integrates his injury/injuries and attributes them to Oaks' desire to jump off high places after Savant's suicide.

The device actually works and, as unquestionably pretentious as it sounds, Oaks' physically handicapped state ends up mirroring his mental handicap, thus benefitting the performance. It also adds to Legere's movements constantly appearing frustrated, as though not only is his character incapable of fully express-

ing his sadness through his music, but he is now restricted from catharsis in his physical being as well.

The music, by Jason MacIsaac and David Christensen of Halifax power-pop band The Heavy Blinkers, is notable, though not prominent enough to truly make *Poor Boy* qualify as a musical or rock-opera. There are a couple of pop-format songs and there's plenty of background music to provide mood for the events of the play, and the way that the two seamlessly flit between each other is something rarely seen in other works.

Poor Boy is not a crowd-pleaser by any means. It's pretty depressing. Even so, it's a play with a great deal of character, confidence and ambition. It knows what it's about and it ably goes about being it. It's not something everyone, hell, maybe anyone, will enjoy but it is definitely art and it is definitely interesting.

New exhibit dazzles Dallery goers

DELIA MACPHERSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Abstract art isn't meant to be objective, according to the curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

"Artists spend decades on perfecting the art of creating stripes," says Peter Dykhuis.

The gallery's newest exhibit, *Razzle Dazzle: The Use of Abstraction*, is a collection curated by Gil McElroy.

According to Dykhuis, McElroy wanted to show the beginnings of abstract art in Canada and how cubism and abstraction can be found in the unlikelyst of places, including the sides of military vessels.

The show has been on tour across Canada with The Robert McLaughlin Gallery and features modern abstract art and naval themed art, including the late Arthur Lismer's "Olympic with Returned Soldiers."

Lismer, a member of the Group of Seven and the principal of the Victoria School of Art and Design (now NSCAD), was fascinated by ocean liners and began drawing and painting them. The collection of his art featured in the show is borrowed from art galleries all over Canada, including The National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian War Museum.

The namesake of the exhibit comes from the Olympic, a massive military

ship docked in the Halifax harbour in the winter of 1919. Transporting thousands of soldiers from Halifax to England during the First World War, the Olympic was an easy target for German submarines looming below the dark, cold waters. At a length of 882 feet, its only hope for making it across the Atlantic was with camouflage.

Large blue, white and black stripes and patterns decorated the massive military ship, which came to be known as a Dazzle ship. The colourful patterns acted as optical illusions to confuse the enemy submarines.

During the First World War, German submarines weren't equipped with binoculars and relied entirely on periscopes. Periscopes work by reflecting the image with mirrors, therefore, the patterns and stripes on the Dazzle ships were especially effective in puzzling the enemy. Ships were also painted with jagged designs that look like icebergs and killer whales. Huge black waves, arrows, lines and swirls trick the viewer.

"It was all about optically confusing the enemy," says Dykhuis. "You weren't sure how large the liners were, how fast or slow it was moving or whether it was coming or going. You could sometimes not even tell if there was only one ship."

The dynamic and deceptive effects of abstract art are present not only in

Lismer's depiction of the military ships, but also in the modern pieces.

"Abstract art allows you to study the dynamic energy from colours alone," explains Dykhuis. "Contemporary abstraction questions what the base of an image really is. In a way, you're removing the imaginistic noise from the art, leaving only spare elements."

On display in the show is a portrait of a man done by Canadian Isabel McLaughlin in 1993. The piece is titled "Qui Sait?" meaning, "who knows" or "who am I." The piece is meant to be subjective and gives the viewer a feeling of mystery.

A mixture of vibrant blues, oranges, purples, reds and greens compose a captivating work by artist Claude Tousignant, entitled "Accélérateur Chromatique." It looks like a target with a defined centre, an excellent example of how colours and shapes can cause an optical illusion. Because of the spheres encircling the centre, it would be incredibly difficult to actually hit the target. The spheres create a distortion so that the eye cannot decipher the depth or position of the dot in the centre.

Razzle Dazzle: The Uses of Abstraction will be at the Dalhousie Art Gallery until March 8. Admission is free.



Abstraction tricks the eye at the Dallery's *Razzle Dazzle* exhibit.

DELIA MACPHERSON/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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

The true blue jeans

Denim's rise through the ranks of society

LAURA WALTON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Denim jeans are one of the most widely accepted garments in fashion. But like many accepted values of the 21st century, they first had to survive times of struggle and discrimination that many people forget about when donning the pant each day.

Starting out in the lowest parts of society, denim first found its place as a part of the working class. Coveted for its durability, the garment was used as a material for tents. Its strength and tenacity started to earn it recognition by a wider population and in Europe, officers in the Genoese Navy put denim to use as an all-purpose pant designed for sailors. When in need of cleaning, the pants could be dumped by the masses into large nets that were then dragged through the water behind the ship.

The talk of this omnipotent pant spread through working communities across the world. In the 1850s, Levi Strauss brought the jeans to North America and started selling them to factory owners, professing their strength and durability. The pants became especially popular in

the mining communities of California. Farmers also started wearing jeans for work in the fields, where they proved to be tough and dependable. When the Second World War began, jeans played a backstage role and were worn by factory workers producing guns, equipment and an array of war necessities.

It wasn't until the 1950s that blue jeans started to rise out of the working class and into mainstream culture. People started embracing the item as a protest against conformity. Soon jeans became a catalyst against the strict dressing standards of the time. The pressed slacks and pleated wool trousers they were competing with made jeans seem rough and unpolished, but the garment embraced this reputation. As a symbol of rebellion, the pants became popular with young adults and teens. Bad-boy actors such as James Dean also played a role in the jeans' growing popularity by wearing the pants in box office hits, pushing denim into the spotlight.

Many people reacted strongly against the pants. Jeans were labelled as low-class and viewed as disruptive to the standards of sophistication in

society. Prejudice led to signs banning jeans from theatres and restaurants, where anyone who wore them could be refused entrance.

The liberation movement of the 1960s embraced minority groups across the nation, denim pants included. Slowly, the uproar around the pant quieted, and they became more accepted.

Their newfound liberation allowed jean-wearers to start experimenting. After finding a secure place in society, the pants were developed into a range of styles, embellished with embroidery, patches and paint. Flared legs became an immensely popular trend with the item. Acid and stone washing techniques later followed.

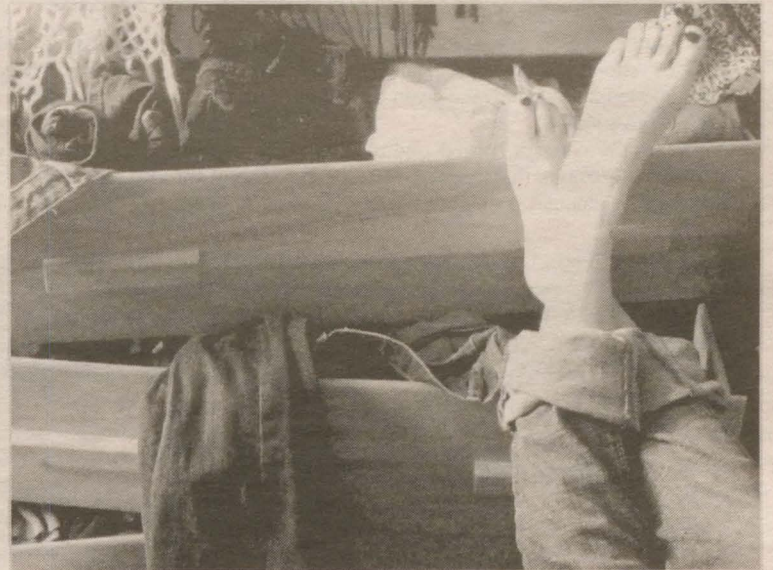
By the 1980s, the pants reached the peak of their fame and found a place in high-end fashion. Top fashion designers started creating unique styles of jeans that were included in their ready-to-wear runway collections. While jeans had previously been sold for a moderate price, the glass ceiling had been broken and the pants emerged into high-end retail. Specialty labels with top quality jeans sprung up, quickly becoming

coveted brands and symbols of status.

From casual to formal, trendy to conservative, jeans are now worn by every age group and for every type of occasion. Once considered an inappropriate item to be worn in public, jeans are now a staple in any ward-

robe.

So next time you pull them from a crumpled heap on the floor, shrugging them on without a second thought, take a moment to appreciate your denim for all it has been through and all it has become. Here's looking at you, blue jeans.



DELIA MACPHERSON/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Know the history of your tried and true blues.

Halifax vegetarians heart Heartwood

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It's not always easy giving up meat and going to the green side, but with a great vegetarian restaurant around, it's substantially less difficult. For those of us living in the Dalhousie campus area, Heartwood Bakery and Café is that restaurant.

Located at 6250 Quinpool Rd., Heartwood not only boasts a menu that is primarily vegan and gluten free, but it also tries to use only local and organically grown ingredients whenever possible.

Heartwood also serves as kind of a hotspot for its own little artistic community, including local musicians, artists, actors and various other creative types.

To start, in the kitchen is the magnificently bearded Dave Ewenson, co-host of the CKDU radio cooking-show "Let's Get Baked", an engineer/producer at Echo Chamber Studios, drummer extraordinaire, and co-

founder of the Halifax-based Just Friends Records. Back there you'll also find Andrew Erskine, who sings and plays guitar and keys in the band Their Majesties.

As for Heartwood's patrons, it's not uncommon to walk into the café and see musician Brent Randall or members of Wintersleep grabbing a meal. The staff reports they've also served singer Jenn Grant, Cathy Jones (This Hour Has 22 Minutes), singer Laura Peek, Mike O'Neil (formerly of The Inbreds), Jason MacIsaac (The Heavy Blinkers), Joel Plaskett, and Juno actress Ellen Page, who "is in here every other day," according to Ewenson. "A lot of our patrons have been coming here for the 12, 13 years we've been open. We have a lot of new people but we see a lot of similar faces and it's just kind of like a modern day Cheers," says Lacey Hayne, one of Heartwood's always-cheerful servers.

Capitalizing on the restaurant's local-music cred, Heartwood holds

a small concert series about once a month called "Heartwood After Dark," which usually features performer Mike Evans on the Heartwood's piano. According to the staff, he's pretty good.

"We just bring in Mike to, A: play his own material, and B: (because) he does a sing-along. Basically any song you can name from any era, he can play and knows the lyrics to," says manager Levon Campbell. "So, (we just let) him go wild and he gets people drunk."

But Evans isn't the only performer at Heartwood's After Dark series.

"There's been a couple of times where other people have opened for him: Daniel Gerard and Andrew Erskine have played and it's a lot of fun," says Hayne. "It tends to be a lot of people who work here and their friends and sort of that extended community."

Good people, good music and great food are what you can expect from the Heartwood experience.



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Grab some warm iced tea and nacho salad at the Heartwood Bakery and Cafe.

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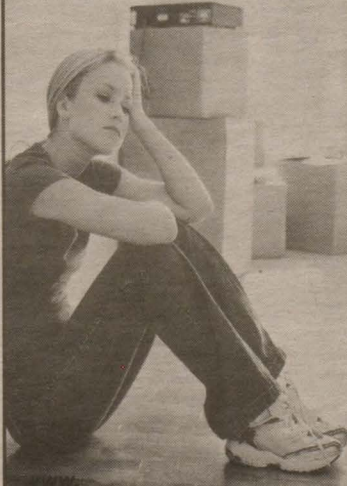
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Love your letters

Artists find inspiration at Argyle exhibits

RACHEL ROSENFELD
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Remember that shoebox full of letters you kept under your bed during high school? The one you hoped your mother would never find? Well, imagine shoeboxes all over Halifax were opened and letters were given to artists as inspiration.

That's the concept behind one of the two art exhibits that opened Feb. 13 at Argyle Fine Art on Upper Water

Street.

The group show, *For the Love of Letters*, features 17 artists who interpreted letters given to them by the public into paintings, inks, ceramics, music and film.

The letters are displayed next to the work of art, giving the viewer a chance to see how the piece of art was inspired.

Adriana Afford, the owner of Argyle Fine Art, says the concept for the show came about through a conversation about how people really don't send let-

ters anymore.

"Everyone is trying to connect on all these blogs," she says. "But when you write something, it really shows emotion... you can really connect."

Gordon MacDonald, a painter who showcases regularly at Argyle Fine Art, was given a long letter written in stream of consciousness format at the laundromat.

"(The letter was) nothing profound, just this rambling letter about little more than the weather," says MacDonald.

But as he read the letter, he began to imagine two figures, one handing off the letter to another. MacDonald specializes in painting landscapes, but really wanted to use the opportunity to incorporate a figure into his landscape scene. The result is a grandiose landscape of largely blues and orange hues. A figure stands at the center, holding a letter.

"She is imagining the laundromat and Truro and all the images evoked by the letter are around her," he says.

The content of the letters vary, from a sombre and imploring letter written to God from a five-year-old's perspective to a letter written entirely in Gaelic from a soldier the day before he died.

Artist Stephen Gillis felt it was important to be able to get as much onto his canvas as was included in his letter for his first time exhibiting his work at a gallery. His letter was so long and confusing, it was dizzying to read. His painting, called "Wheelchair Man," was a wood canvas filled with depictions in black ink and watercolour.

"See how it takes you so long to get through half the letter," says Gillis. "It should take you as long to get through the painting."

The second exhibit to open on Friday featured a collection by recent Nova Scotia College of Art and Design graduate Eryn O'Neill. The focus of her collection - called Northwest-Southwest - as with her earlier collections, is on the city of Halifax, which has been so inspiring to her.

O'Neill recently left Halifax for Ottawa and the dark colours she uses give her paintings a sense of nostalgia.

"I wanted to combine the more urban aspects, like the refinery, with a bit of nostalgia, and the waterfront, she says."

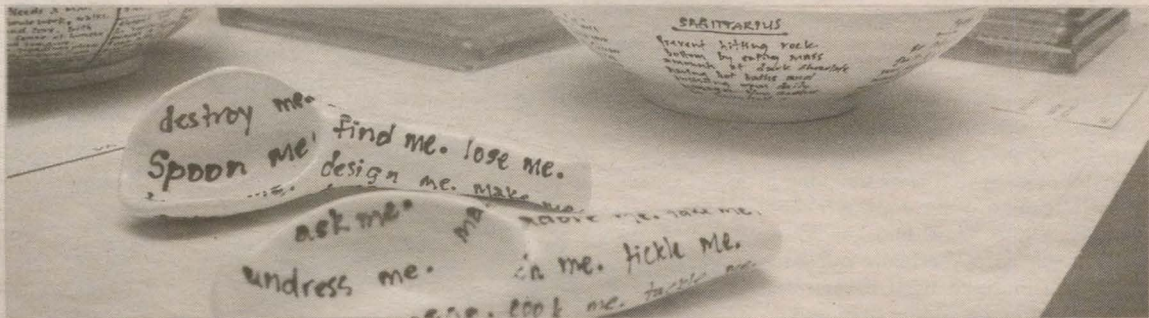
She combines urban industry with paintings of the oil refinery and cranes and the VIA rail station, with a focus on leisure, illustrated through boats and the ocean.

"I have been drawn to the industry aspect since I left," O'Neill says.

Her favourite painting of the collection features a tugboat out on the ocean.

"It's kind of quirky but just so common here," says O'Neill. "It has a lot of good character to it."

Both Eryn O'Neill and the *Love of Letters* show will continue at Argyle Fine Art until March 9.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Artist Marla Benton's "Spoon" is on exhibition as part of *For the Love of Letters*.

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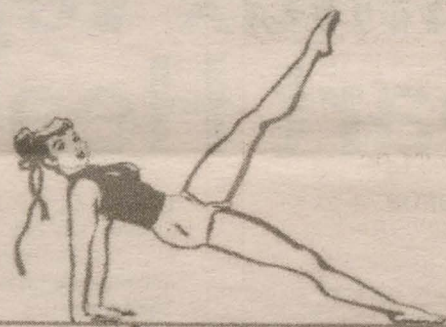
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A take on Dal's playoff chances

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

With playoffs fast approaching, it's time to evaluate Dalhousie's playoff hopes in the remaining varsity sports.

Swimming

With only four sports still running, Dal's best hope for Atlantic University Sport (AUS) glory looks to be in the swimming pool, where the men's and women's teams took home gold in last weekend's AUS championships. With only the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships remaining, heavy hopes lie on the shoulders of last week's stars Bryce Tung and Kristen Vandenberg. If the swim teams' previous records and the predictions of head coach David Fry are on target, expect the team to finish among the top five in the country.

Volleyball

The men's volleyball team was very successful last weekend. Though the Tigers had already qualified for the Feb. 27 CIS championships at the University of Alberta, the team chose to enter the tournament through the front door, beat-

ing the UNB Varsity Reds twice over the weekend to claim AUS gold. The team posted a 16-2 record over the regular season. With only the CIS championships left, expect the men to have a good chance at becoming national champions.

Basketball

Basketball is a toss up. Both the men and women are in good position to qualify for the playoffs. The women are currently holding strong at third place in the AUS, while the men sit at fourth. With only three games remaining in the regular season, the men will look to scoring leaders Simon Farine and Josh Beattie to make baskets, while AUS assists leader Andrew Sullivan will try to get them good looks at the net.

On the women's side, Laurie Girdwood has put up 14.1 points per game, good for seventh in the AUS. Her 7.4 rebounds per game are sixth in the AUS. Jenna Kaye has provided secondary scoring, putting up 13 points per game while dishing out an AUS-leading 5.4 assists per game. The team will rely heavily on Girdwood and Kaye to get them into and through the upcoming playoffs.

Hockey

In contrast to all the good news coming out of the other sports, let's take a look at the Dal hockey team's current predicament. The men dropped an astounding 13 games in a row to end the season, finishing in last place in the AUS. With a final record of 4-23-1, the team will have to watch the playoffs from the outside this year and try to put this year's disappointment behind them for next year.

On the women's side, the Tigers will have to break out of a recent rut and start to play good hockey leading into the playoffs. Currently on a seven-game skid, the women sit in a comfortable fourth place, five points up on surging fifth-place Saint Mary's University. The team will rely heavily in the playoffs on the services of leading scorer Jocelyn LeBlanc, whose 25-point season puts her fifth in AUS scoring. LeBlanc's 18 goals is good for second in the league. Team captain Kim Carcary currently sits second in defensemen scoring, picking up 19 points on the season.

With only a short time left to play in the seasons, the Tigers have the chance to make some noise in the playoffs, should they decide to do so.

Dal's basketball records drop

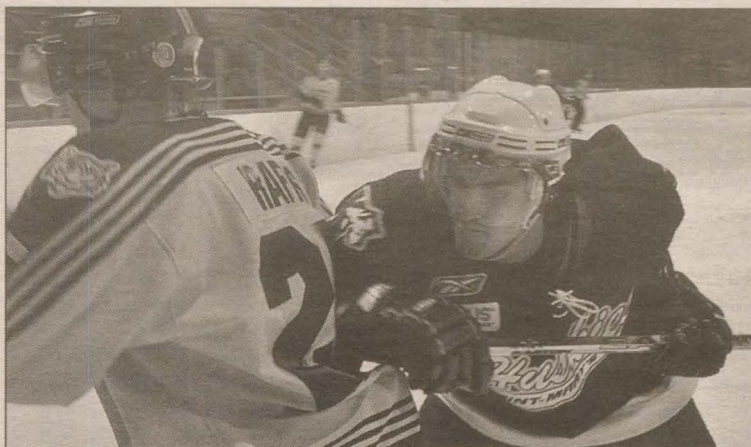
TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a disappointing weekend for the Tigers basketball teams in Cape Breton. Needing wins to move up in the league rankings, the Tigers dropped games to the Capers on both the women's and men's sides.

The men took a drubbing, falling 91-53 to the Capers. Philip Nkrumah led the dominant Capers, picking up 31 points in the win. The second place Capers improved their record to 12-4. The Tigers' Simon Farine and Andrew

Sullivan both picked up 10 points to lead Dal, whose record falls to 9-6.

On the women's side, the Tigers fell 77-60. Canadian Interuniversity Sport scoring leader Kelsey Hodgson had six three-pointers, picking up 30 points for the Capers and moving her team one step closer to clinching a first round playoff bye. The Capers currently sit in second place with a 13-4 record. Jenna Kaye, who picked up 17 points in the game, led the Tigers. The loss moves the Tigers' record to 12-5, still in the hunt for a playoff spot.



RYAN HEISE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Saint Mary's Huskies' Colby Pridham knocks Kyle Raftis into the boards during last Saturday's game at the Dal arena. SMU beat Dal 5-3.

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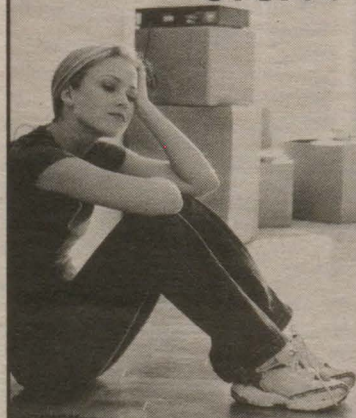
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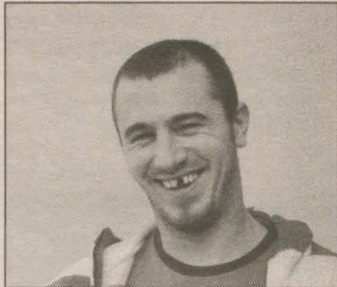


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Inspiring Minds

Sport retort

A hick of a good time



TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie has a lot of obscure sports teams. Some are more random than others, and some more valid than others - Frisbee or inner tube water polo, anyone? But Dal students seem to have embraced the craziness out there, and damn it, we might as well be a part of it. After another random weekend, I want to propose yet another addition to the Dal sports canon.

Lumberjack competitions, also known as woodsmen competitions, are a ballin' good time. Picture the most "hickish" event imaginable, then double it. Last weekend, Feb. 13-15, was the final event of the Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association (CILA) woodsmen series. Held in Truro, N.S., the 24th annual NSAC Rick Russell Memorial Woodsmen

Competition brought the season to a close.

There are currently seven schools that are badass (or hickish) enough to field a woodsmen team in the CILA. Dal is not one of them. This year's season was dominated by the University of New Brunswick, which, along with McGill University and Sir Sanford Fleming College, is the powerhouse of the lumberjacking scene. It's a rather small scene.

Lumberjack athletes compete in events such as the single buck and super swede saw (in which competitors cut through 16-inch logs, looking for the fastest time possible), log burling (two competitors stand on a rolling log and try to knock each other off with fancy footwork) and, believe it or not, axe throwing. Axe throwing is exactly what it sounds like, only maybe a little sexier.

So that's where I found myself last weekend: surrounded by all the mayhem and lumberjacks, it was hard to not get too excited. The stands were full, the drinks were cold, and everywhere I looked I saw plaid. Orange hats were all the rage, as it seemed there was a competition going to see who could look the most like they just stepped out of the woods.

The highlight of the event,

other than my beloved axe throwing, is the Stihl Challenge. The challenge pits the best woodsmen from each team against each other in a "mano a mano" competition, with the winner walking away with bragging rights and a really big trophy. The competitors face off in three separate events - the underhand chop, which involves an axe and an obscene amount of confidence about where you're swinging it; the single buck, and the self-explanatory chainsaw event.

It was a proud day for me, as my good friend Billy Freeman of Greenfield, N.S., walked away with the title, proving once again that rural Nova Scotia produces some dang fierce woodsmen.

The competition wasn't all guts and glory, though. As it turns out, woodsmen really know how to party. The after party was held in the Truro Agridome, a classy spot if I've ever been in one. I found myself wondering what I was doing under a nylon tent, in the dead of winter, listening to a shitty cover band but then I realized these folks wouldn't have it any other way. So I bought a drink, pulled down my orange toque, and wished I could fit in just a little bit better.

Dal really needs a woodsmen team.

Dal swimmers sweep AUS awards

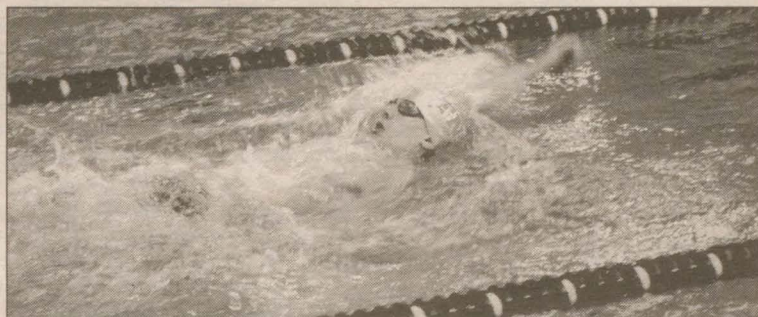
TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Stellar pool performances by Dalhousie swimmers Bryce Tung and Kristen Vandenberg at the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Championships Feb. 7-8 garnered the attention of the powers-that-be, who awarded the pair the AUS Subway Player of the Week awards.

Tung helped the Tigers to handily win the men's championship, winning the 50-metre backstroke in an AUS record time of 25.66 seconds. Tung was also a member of the gold medal-winning 50-metre freestyle team and the 4 x 100-freestyle relay.

The fifth-year kinesiology student was named AUS male swimmer of the event for the second consecutive year. The team won championship gold for the 11th year in a row.

Vandenberg destroyed the competition in her events, winning the 400-metre freestyle by eight seconds and the women's 800-metre freestyle by an astounding 25 seconds. Vandenberg also anchored the gold medal after winning the 4 x 200 freestyle relay, and took fourth in the women's 200-metre freestyle competition. Vandenberg was named the female swimmer of the meet, and the lady Tigers took home their ninth straight AUS crown.



DANIEL BLENICH/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

After qualifying the maximum number of swimmers for next weekend's CIS championships, the Tigers will go for national gold.

Men's volleyball team gets AUS gold

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's men's volleyball team secured its 23rd Atlantic University Sport championship win last weekend, coming out on top in the best of three games at the AUS finals. The Tigers, ranked fourth in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) league, put away the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds 3-1 on Friday.

Dal's Sander Ratsep showed why he was named the league's Most Valu-

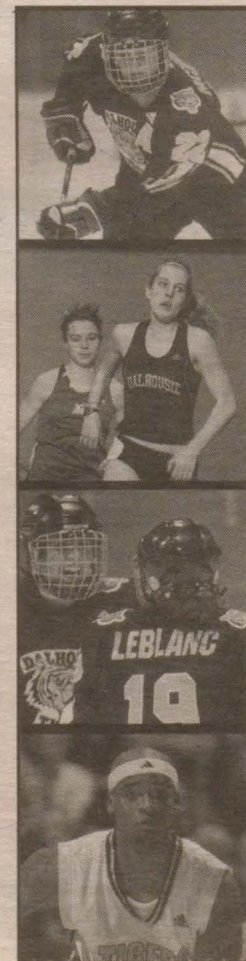
able Player, picking up 13 kills and seven digs to lead the Tigers. Dal's Dan Murray was also instrumental in the win, picking up 14 kills, six digs, and three aces in the match.

Though Dal started strong in the first set, winning 25-13, the underdog Reds gave the Tigers all they could handle in the next three sets. The Reds took the second set by a score of 25-22 before pushing Dal to the limit in the third. The Tigers were able to take the third set 25-23 after picking up two quick points with the score tied at 23. The Reds took the game

to the Tigers in the fourth, leading most of the set. A Dal comeback was finished with a Ratsep kill to tie the game at 24 and erase a seven-point UNB lead. The Tigers again scored two quick points to take the set and game, eliminating the need for a fifth set.

The Tigers finished off the Reds again on Sunday, winning all three games: 25-18, 25-20, and 25-15.

Both teams have qualified for the CIS championships, to be held Feb. 27 at the University of Alberta.



TIGERS AT HOME...

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- SAT., FEBRUARY 21 WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs UPEI, 2PM
- TRACK & FIELD MEET, 4PM
- SUN., FEBRUARY 22 TRACK & FIELD MEET, 1PM
- WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs MtA, 2PM
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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

PETROLEUM'S DEEPEST SECRETS

Moustafa Youssef

The theory of fossil fuels was quickly adopted by western geologists shortly after the discovery of oil in the 1860s. With this discovery, we presumed that petroleum is an exhaustible reserve. In the last few years we came up with other reasons to expedite our shift to other sources of energy: global warming has received serious academic, social and political attention and we therefore have to take more proactive measures to reduce, eliminate or even reverse our carbon emissions. Tremendous growth in the demand for energy by developing nations exasperated by political conflicts, war, and speculative trading in petroleum markets sent oil and other global commodities to record prices (which can also be easily argued as one of the many reasons for the credit crisis). Just all more reasons to neglect these limited, bloody, dirty and costly, energy supplies and focus on more sustainable, possibly cheaper alternatives in solar, nuclear, geothermal and hydroelectric energy; carbon quenching and remediation technologies.

But what if we are actually *not* running out of oil?

The provocative abiogenic or deep-earth gas theory for petroleum goes against traditional belief that crude oil, natural gas and coal are actually fossil fuels. Instead, they existed ever since

the accretion of the earth in vast quantities, 300 kilometers from the surface where their buoyancy allows them to trickle up to the edges of the crust, about 1 kilometer from the surface where we drill and produce it commercially. Thomas Gold was the first person to really document this theory in the late 1970s, although it received earlier consideration behind the closed doors of the Soviet Union, where both sides of the debate were still being considered, mainly because the revered Russian chemist Mendeleev supported the deep-earth theory. The evidence that supports Gold's theory is overwhelming and stretches to explain geochemical observations that the theory of fossil fuels simply can't. These include the presence of helium, nickel and vanadium in petroleum, the formation of diamond, and concentrated heavy metal ores like iron, gold, silver and zinc.

Because Gold refuted the argument from fossil fuels, he now had to explain the observed biological activity in non-biological petroleum. He proposed what he coined the *Deep Hot Biosphere*. As opposed to surface life, subsurface life does not have access to sunlight and therefore its source of energy must work in a very different way, nevertheless life as we know it requires oxygen and a rich source of carbon. He proposed that subsurface microbes can feed of oxygen that is readily available in rocks and in the oceans where it can

leak between cracks in the crust. The only missing ingredient here is of course a food source of carbon, which Gold argued to be the deep-earth gas that is trickling to the surface, mainly in the form of methane gas. Evidence for subsurface geothermal life has been widely observed in ocean vents and active subsea volcanoes. Of course this new phenomenon, that an ecosystem can fully support itself without solar energy, found ways to excite the prospects of life on planets that receive too little or too much solar radiation (like for example our sister planets Venus and Mars).

In 1983, Gold had the opportunity to present his ideas on deep-earth gas and the deep hot biosphere to the senior officials of the Swedish State Power Board. He challenged that because the biogenic theory assumes that petroleum can only become concentrated in the pore spaces between sedimentary rocks, it would make no sense to find petroleum deep within hard, Swedish granite. They drilled for four years in the Sijlan ring and reached a maximum depth of 6.7km where they discovered hydrocarbon chemicals distributed as expected. Not very surprisingly after the findings of the Sijlan Experiment, the Russians drilled more than three hundred deep holes in bedrock areas, and as deep as 11 kilometers to discover serious inventories of hydrocarbons. The prospects of new petroleum developments exploded, especially in

the former Soviet Union countries Ukraine and Russia.

Aside from all this overwhelming evidence, one might think that the poor geological guess work on oil reserves should also be considered as credible evidence for the deep-earth gas theory. The producing fields of the Middle East, where the phenomenon of petroleum reservoirs that seem to refill themselves, sometimes at rates similar to at which they are being depleted has been widely reported, and interestingly enough has absolutely no "fossil fuel" explanation. In 1970, it was believed that the entire region only had another few decades of oil reserves. Today Kuwait, which is only the Middle East's third largest producer of crude oil, estimates over a century of reserves at current production amounts, about two times greater than they were in the 70s and expected to double again by 2020.

It is important to consider Gold's theories in light of our strategies in regulating carbon emissions. We need to be able to transfer to renewable sources of energy *before* we run out of oil, because that day is highly likely not waiting to come.

Thomas Gold was a Jewish-Austrian born, professor of astrophysicist and astronomy at Cornell University and a member of the National Academic of Sciences and Fellow of the Royal Society in London. He died in 2004.

GET IN 'GEAR' FOR NATIONAL ENGINEERING WEEK

Francine DeLorey

March is National Engineering Month. Its purpose is to increase awareness of the importance of engineering and technology in our everyday lives, and to encourage young people to consider a career in engineering.

As Engineers-in-Training at Dalhousie University we will be celebrating this the week of March 3-7.

The week will be kicked off with the annual "Gear Head" One Tenth Marathon, held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, beginning at

7:00am. The race is open to professionals, engineering students and guests. The starting line for the race will be the Morris Street Entrance of the Faculty of Engineering. From there the course goes on to Queen Street, South Street and South Park to the Point Pleasant Park Gates and then circles back to Morris Street.

Playing cards will be handed out at the beginning and at strategic locations throughout the race. First place goes to the runner with the best poker hand.

Pre-registration is required, please contact Christine Larocque at clarocque@apens.ns.ca to register

for this event.

Throughout the week there will be a pancake breakfast, BBQ, discipline challenge, engi-beering and other fun activities. The week will end with the annual Iron Ring ceremony on Saturday, March 7. This ceremony will symbolize the senior student's commitment to the engineering profession by receiving their iron rings.

Please keep a look out for more information about these events from your d-level class representatives.



CO-OP CORNER

Important Date:

- February 17, 2009 • Round II begins

Things to Remember:

- If you have yet to pay your co-op fee and are wanting to be released, pay as soon as possible or you will miss the opportunity to be registered in co-op for the summer 2009 term.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompsscicoop.dal.ca>
- Remember that students are encouraged to do their own job search as well as to utilize the postings on *PlacePro*. If you get a job without going through *PlacePro*, be sure to let the co-op office know so they can designate you as 'placed'.
- Forms are online or at the co-op office for those students who get jobs outside of *PlacePro*. If you do not fill out this form, then your work term may not be eligible for co-op and may not count as time towards your E.I.T., or professional engineering designation.

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Friday February 20 • Trivia
Thursday February 26 • Closed for Reading Week
Friday February 27 • Closed for Reading Week

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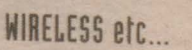
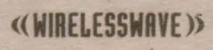
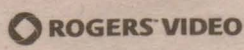
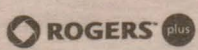
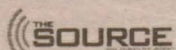
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