

FREE

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Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

Flowers to ashes

Dal grad explores Canada's use of deadly chemical weapon Agent Orange in his new book p. 6



Illustration: Laura Dawe



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

The Novaks live @ The T-Room
Thursday, March 26th
Tickets \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door

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

Year-End "Engibeering" @ Sexton field & Parking lot
Friday April 3rd, 8:00pm

Year-End Open Mic @ The Grawood w/ Cash Prize!
Wednesday April 8th

Last-Class Bash @ The Grawood
Thursday, April 9th

DSU Annual General Meeting - April 1st
The DSU AGM will continue on April 1st at 6:30pm in the McInnes room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. A valid Dalhousie student I.D. will be required.

A live-feed room will be arranged for non-DSU members. Media should contact meghann.bryans@dal.ca at least two days prior to the event.

Visit www.dsu.ca for more information.

DSU Elections

Congratulations to everyone who ran in the elections on the spectacular campaigns this year! And congratulations to the following successful candidates:

- DSU President - Shannon Zimmerman
- DSU VP Internal - Mark Hobbs
- DSU VP Education - Rob LeForte
- DSU VP Student Life - Kris Osmond
- Senate Reps - Glen Blake, Meredith Evans and Shane Simms
- Board of Governors Reps - Janet Conrad and Adam Harris

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!

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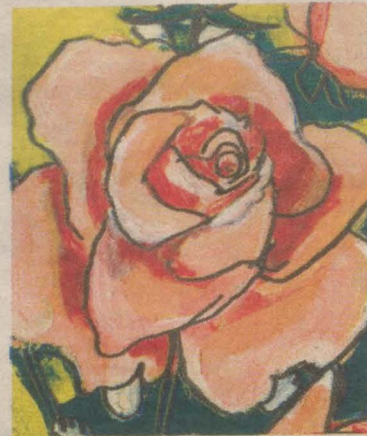
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Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



GAZETTE...STAFF



It seems Agent Orange is harder to find in Halifax than we thought. And I wasn't about to ruin my spring petunias for a cover. So we commissioned Laura Dawe to paint a cover. Thanks Laura.

John, the photo editor

CLARIFICATION:

A quote attributed to Daniel Joyce in "Into the Crystal Cave" (March 19) was misleading. *The Gazette* did not mean to imply that Joyce uses crystal meth. *The Gazette* apologizes for the confusion.

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THE FINE PRINT

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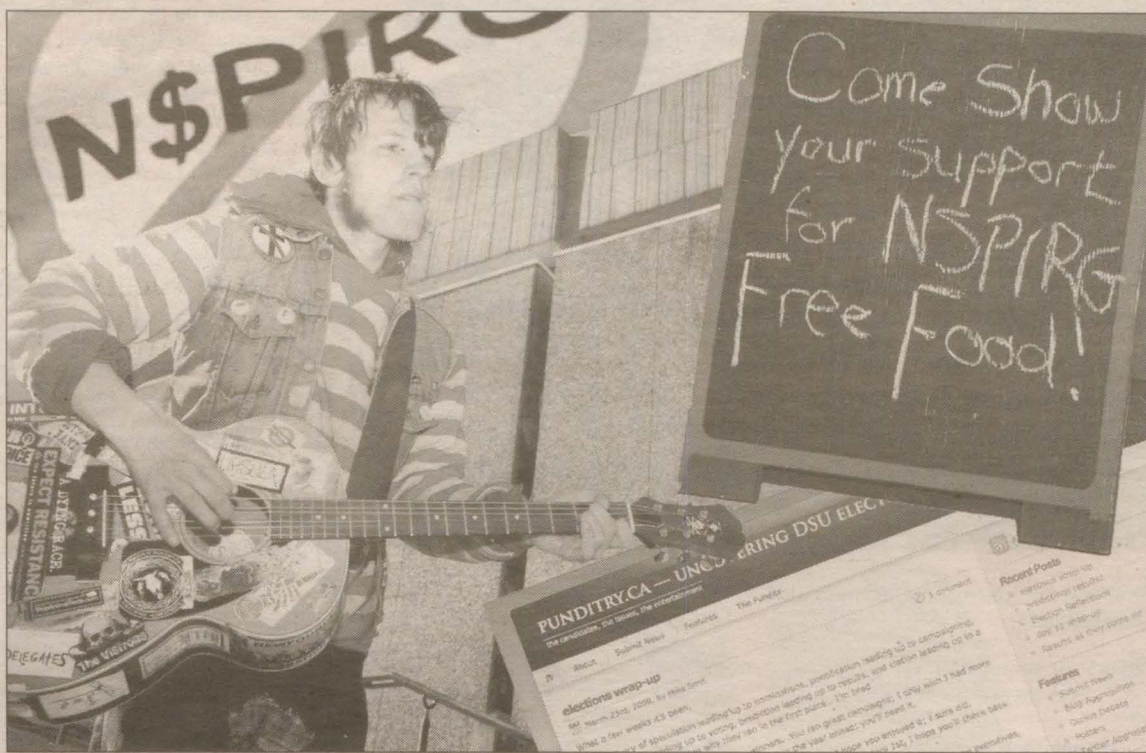
JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The end of the school year usually brings a stress ball of papers, exams and presentations. This year, though, students are abuzz about a crazy meeting, two new student campaigns and the final act to follow next week. Mix in student elections and you have a most exciting time in Dalhousie University student politics.

Much has happened in the last few weeks. The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) originally planned to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 18 until the meeting was cancelled. When the new date was set, a new set of motions were added to the AGM agenda by the cleverly named Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC). Then the AGM happened. Nearly four hours later, nothing was accomplished. While the AGM-sequel date was set for April 1, a new group emerged, targeting the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG). The group calls itself Stop NSPIRG. The name is self-explanatory.

It's a cliché to say much is at stake at the upcoming AGM but there's no other way to describe it. Based on the motions set forth by students, Dal students will discuss issues surrounding defence spending at universities, student apathy, students' rights regarding plagiarism policies and the pesky DSU society policy. And of course there's the whole NSPIRG issue.

But none of this is breaking news, since most of the AGM debacle and the aftermath has been readily documented on the Internet. Dal student politics fully embraced the web during the



JOHN PACKMAN/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

It's a cliché to say much is at stake for several different groups at the upcoming AGM, but there's no other way to describe it.

current upheaval. Headed by a group of Dal and DSU insiders, www.punditry.ca was originally set up to cover the DSU elections but has morphed into a forum for Dal politics. The website crashed twice due to volume of readers during a live blog feed of the AGM. Frequent posts with lots of dialogue, photos and video provide an informed voice to the issues.

Students who missed the SMAC handouts at the AGM can check out the group's website www.studentsmobilize.com.

The site continues to evolve with daily posts explaining SMAC's anti-war, pro-NSPIRG stance.

Stop NSPIRG won't be outdone with its website, www.stopnspirg.org. Students can order their \$4 T-shirts, help the movement through a donation or join the discussion. With the various Facebook and Twitter accounts popping up, students have more avenues to get involved.

The irony of this political atmosphere was a student election occurring

on the sidelines. Turnout for the debates and coverage was pretty good this year as students were focused what our student politicians stand for. Voter turnout was average, at 15.9 per cent, but that statistic alone doesn't tell the full story. Two major positions, the vice-president (student life) and the senate representative portfolio, ran unopposed. The vice-president (internal) position was won by only 36 votes. Some will argue the low voter turnout means student apathy, but political participation includes

more than just voting. Protest, discussion and lobbying on several issues are part of our current political landscape. I wish more people had voted in the elections but at least voter turnout didn't decline since last year.

One place turnout won't be low is the next AGM next Wednesday. I expect those passionate about NSPIRG will be the most vocal at the meeting. I understand the issue of a student-funded organization with views that don't always appease the majority of students, but the AGM will not bring closure to either side. Personally I don't mind giving my \$4 to NSPIRG even though I don't agree with everything the group does, but I do understand why others are bothered by the organization's action. A series of open forums should be set up this year and in the coming school year. All possible solutions need to be discussed before an organization's funding is revoked.

My hope is that constructive, thoughtful debate will result in a productive AGM. But I don't know if we can get through eight motions and three executive reports in one night. Many of the issues surrounding the motions have merit and should be talked about, but one AGM can't solve everything.

Perhaps this is a cause to be picked up by the students of Dal in the next school year. Perhaps the incoming DSU executive will engage students in new way and deal with the issues that students pushed into the AGM. Perhaps the students involved in the various campaigns and those following them will continue on with their work next year and get other students wrapped up in Dal politics. Whatever happens, it'll be interesting.



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GAZETTE

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New DSU executive gearing up for next year

MELISSA DI COSTANZO
RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS EDITORS

Shannon Zimmerman will be next year's Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president, as she took in 52 per cent of the votes in this year's elections.

Zimmerman ran against Eric Snow, who captured 39 per cent of the votes, and Gregory Debogorski, who got 10 per cent.

The results were announced around 9 p.m. in the Grawood March 19.

Zimmerman said the win was "incredible."

"It's always something I've wanted to do since I got here when I became first-year member-at-large," she said.

"It took four years to get here, it's just an incredible moment. I feel like I won a gold medal or something; I swear to God."

She said the challenging part about running for presidency was the uncertainty related to voting.

"You do as much as you can and you just don't know how it's working," she said. "But the worst part about the entire thing was the last 20 minutes before polls closed, because you're like,



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Shannon Zimmerman said winning the DSU presidential election was "incredible."

'there's 20 more minutes, what can I do?' and there's nothing (no time) left."

Zimmerman said she was confident in herself and that she knew she ran a good campaign. But she added Snow and Debogorski were also really

strong in different ways.

Besides "breathing," she said her top priority when she comes into office is to focus on issues coming out of the second DSU Annual General Meeting on April 1.

"We just need to make sure ... that

relationships aren't broken and that we can start working on things right away and making sure that the student body is still a happy student body," she said.

Zimmerman said it was great to see students are still coming out, getting involved and voting: 2,361 students - 15.9 per cent - voted in this year's elections, compared to 2,347 votes in last year's election.

Snow said he felt his campaign went "pretty well" but not quite well enough.

"I put a lot into it and I feel like I did my best and Shannon managed to do better, so, I think she'll do a great job," he said.

He said he highly doubts he will be running next year, but offered his congratulations to Zimmerman.

"I'm sure she'll do a fantastic job."

Debogorski didn't attend the results announcement.

Incoming vice-president (internal) Mark Hobbs pulled in 51 per cent of the votes to Craig Jennex's 49 per cent - with a difference of only 35 votes between the two.

Hobbs said it feels "unbelievable."

"This is a dream that I've had for several months now and, I mean, it's been a close race and I'd like to congratulate Craig Jennex on a campaign

well-run," he said. "To me, this campaign and this race epitomized what working together as fellow students should be."

Hobbs said he knew it would be a competitive race, so he recognized the importance of reaching out to every Dal student. Hobbs added his campaign went well because he kept his word and maintained the integrity of his platform.

"It's that integrity that really was the defining feature for me, and I was hoping that Dalhousie would pick up on that, and they did that tonight," he said.

Hobbs said when he enters office, his top two priorities will be securing a 24-hour study space and keeping all societies in check to ensure they are competitive on the global stage so students can land better jobs.

Craig Jennex said he felt his campaign went well, but his loss was "bittersweet."

"I met some really awesome people. I met Mark (Hobbs) during this. We didn't know each other beforehand. And I think Mark Hobbs is one of the best people I have ever met," he said. "Our platforms were almost identical and I know that everything's in good hands with Mark. I'm not even worried."

Looking back on his campaign, Jennex said he would have liked to talk to more classes.

"I kind of pushed the online campaign aspect (with a blog and Facebook messages). Lots of people had shirts and stuff like that," he said. "I think I should have pushed the old-school class talks - that kind of stuff."

Vice-president (education) winner Rob LeForte took in 61 per cent of the votes. He said his win feels great and he's ready to go.

He also said he made sure he talked to as many students as he could during his campaign.

"I thought that most of what I did, aside from class talks, was listening to what students wanted to have done, and I think that worked really well."

LeForte said his main priority will be to ensure the executive is cohesive and, after that, making sure it is following through on all of its promises it made during the campaign, including sustainability and reaching out to campuses.

Edgar Burns, LeForte's opponent, landed 39 per cent of the votes. He said he walked into the campaign knowing he was "definitely the underdog."

"I got my name out there, and I'm happy to be involved (with the DSU) in whatever way."

He said if he could change one thing about his campaign, he would have spent more time on Carleton campus.

Burns added his other problem was his lack of involvement with the DSU before his campaign began.

Burns said he'd still like to get involved with the DSU and bring ideas to council, and added he wouldn't rule out running again.

"If it was a volunteer job, I'd want to do it."

Running unopposed, Kris Osmond - current vice-president (student life) - walked away with 91 per cent of the votes to retain his position.

He said because he was uncontested, he felt "quite confident" in his campaign.

Osmond said one of his top priorities would be assisting societies and improving their events.

He said a big change already in place for next year is the proposed commissioner position. The vice-president (student life) now has one commissioner for events, but Osmond hopes to institute another for athletics because he said there aren't enough resources for athletics right now.

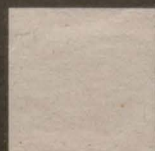
"It's really going to get the word out there as to when and where the events are," he said. "I think it's just going to put Dal athletics on the map like people think it should be."

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Group wants NSPIRG to return to student-run mandate

'Stop NSPIRG' formed after AGM to hold NSPIRG 'accountable' for its actions

MELISSA DI COSTANZO
NEWS EDITOR

A group of students on Dalhousie campus wants to hold the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), an environmental and social justice organization, accountable for its actions.

Ben Wedge, a first-year engineering student at Dal, is one of the members of this group, called Stop NSPIRG. He says the objective of the group is not to destroy NSPIRG.

"If you want to support it, you should be able to. If you don't, it should be very easy to make that happen."

Wedge, 19, says the group wants to return NSPIRG to its student-funded, student-run mandate. The mandate on the NSPIRG website states the group is "a student and volunteer-driven organization working within an anti-oppression framework, and providing a range of events, opportunities, working groups and campaigns to community members."

Wedge says he's noticed when NSPIRG disagrees with events on campus, members try to silence the debate by shouting and interrupting speakers, citing actions at the Dal Student Union's (DSU) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 11.

"They were complaining about the voting process, calling us undemocratic for wanting to put Daniel Pink's motion on the agenda and just overall negativity towards people who aren't aligned with them," says Wedge. He also referred to the Joseph Howe Symposium lecture in November at the University of King's College, where NSPIRG campaigns coordinator Asaf Rashid shouted at *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wentz.

The motion Daniel Pink put forth at the AGM stipulated NSPIRG offer an official apology to Dal students by April 1 for wasting students' money, for their disruptive protests, for misrepresenting Dal students, for abuse of the funding they receive and for funding events such as Israeli Apartheid Week.

It also states the contract for the group's lease in the Student Union Building (SUB) should not be renewed.

"NSPIRG's latest display at the job fair in February (in protest of arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin's presence) was a total embarrassment to the union, its members and the university and many Dalhousie students felt ashamed to say they give them \$4," said Pink at the AGM. "NSPIRG does a terrible job in announcing the opt-out period for students to come to collect their \$4."

Dal students pay \$4 per year toward NSPIRG, which amounts to roughly \$68,000 per year.

The motion Pink put forth is on the agenda for the follow-up April 1 AGM. It is currently in the hands of the DSU lawyer and has been declared in order by the lawyer. The lawyer also proposed several friendly amendments to it, says Wedge.

Pink, 23, says he's as involved with the Stop NSPIRG group "as much he can be."

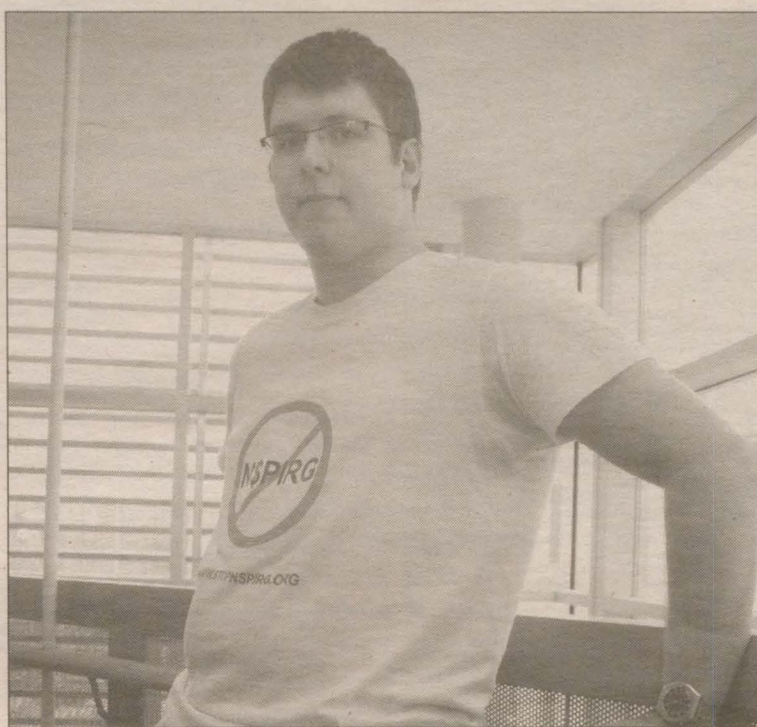
The first-year law student says the motion was written by a lot of people and saw a lot of eyes before it went forward.

"I don't think it's too harsh, and I think a lot of what happened at the first AGM was good in the sense that it shows it should be on the agenda ... the arguments should be put out to the general population of Dal to have a discussion about whether it's all agreed to, or parts of it are disagreed to."

He says there's clearly enough energy and people who want to see something happen on both sides.

The night of the AGM, Wedge, Pink and a handful of other students decided it was time to bring NSPIRG back to a referendum.

The group is now collecting signa-



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Stop NSPIRG member Ben Wedge says the group is not trying to destroy NSPIRG.

tures for a petition that forces NSPIRG into a referendum.

Wedge says the group has two main objectives: the members want to ensure NSPIRG is held accountable for what they do - "they talk great things about their working groups until someone questions the working group and then they say it's a working group, we don't control them" - and to make the funding opt-in because NSPIRG does a "terrible" job of advertising the opt-out option.

Twelve students opted out of NSPIRG fees this semester. Wedge was one of them.

"It has to either be opt-in, or glaringly obvious how to opt-out," says Wedge.

Last week, an e-mail from the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) in Kingston stated the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association (OPCCA) held "workshops apparently sponsored by the Progressive Conservative Party aimed at taking over student government and trying to destroy the Ontario Public Interest Research Group."

Wedge says these claims are "pure coincidence," in relation to the Stop NSPIRG group.

"It's a very unfortunate coincidence that ... these talks were being given, because we honestly had no idea," he says.

"I've heard from others who have been around the campus a lot longer than I have that (NSPIRG) always try and pull the conspiracy card and say there's a conspiracy to overthrow them."

He says the intent of the presentations was not to get Conservatives to overthrow organizations.

"What they want to do is see more Conservatives in student politics, because student politics, in the last number of years, has been dominated by a very left-wing agenda," says Wedge. "The presentations were intended to help Conservatives get the information and skills they need to succeed in student politics."

Chris Stroud, a board member of NSPIRG and a Saint Mary's University International Development Studies master's student, says NSPIRG is a democratic organization in that the group has a board of directors and they solicit applications for projects and programs students fund.

"In general, I think as an organization, we're pretty happy to see that students are activated on campus about an issue, but sort of sad it's not on a particular issue but it's about getting rid of an organization."

He says NSPIRG is active on campus.

"Our current status most of our time is taken up trying to combat a campaign which is trying to get rid of NSPIRG at Dal and trying to correct information that I think a lot of what the stop NSPIRG campaign is: it's based on a lot of misrepresentation and misinformation and it may or not be intentional," he says.

Stroud says the Stop NSPIRG group changed its perspective on its arguments against NSPIRG for being anti-Semitic.

"Now, (the group is saying NSPIRG is) anti-Israel. So this is some of what is happening," Stroud says.

"Students are either supporting or correcting the information and they have to go back and change it."

Stroud says NSPIRG isn't wasting students' money. He says the group has an important function on Dal campus.

"We promote democracy, we promote a very rich market of ideas and I think it's important to have a collective perspective being represented, and that is what true education is really about," he says. "And I think that NSPIRG does that. I think it sort of functions as presenting the perspective of alternative voices that aren't necessarily heard on campus or even in the media."

He says the Conservatives are running a systematic campaign against alternative voices on campuses across Canada.

"There's nothing wrong with an alternative perspective - you don't have to agree with everything. But it's important to understand that there is more than just one voice in an issue," he says.

Stroud also addressed NSPIRG's protest at the job fair in February. He says the group didn't cause any disruption.

"We were protesting, we had signs, we were talking, but never at any point did we stop or not allow students to enter. That wasn't part of why we were there," he says. "We were trying to raise the issue that there was military and security organizations that were part of the job fair and to raise issues with that and the educate students about why that might be problematic."

He also says the protest itself was not necessarily an NSPIRG campaign: it was part of the Student Coalition Against War (SCAW) - a working group under NSPIRG. Stroud says SCAW has a larger membership at Dal than NSPIRG does.

"We weren't antagonizing and we weren't fighting with anyone. It was more of an innocuous protest."

Part two of the DSU AGM - held on April 1 - may determine the future status of NSPIRG.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

SMAC members Kaleigh Trace (left) and Alia Saied say their group stands for the anti-corporatization of Dal's campus.

Student group wants DSU to issue formal apology

Group put forth motions at previous AGM; currently re-evaluating

RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS EDITOR

Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC) member-at-large Alia Saied says the Dalhousie-based group may be re-evaluating some of its motions for part two of the Dal Student Union's (DSU) Annual General Meeting (AGM), slated for April 1.

The motion - among other motions addressing the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), anti-military presence on campus and turnitin.com - states the DSU has "actively worked to raise tuition fees" and it must issue a formal apology to all students for "becoming an ineffective and bureaucratic organization which has lost touch with regular students and their concerns."

Although Saied says there may or may not be changes to the apology motion, she explains it was intended to be provocative and to call out the DSU on its lack of action in replying to student concerns.

"We are at a stage (where) we really need to solidify what we mean by the apology motion, and what we want from the apology motion," says Saied, a fourth-year international development studies and Spanish student.

"I think, seeing as the DSU took offence to it at the meeting, (it) is something that we are discussing and trying to figure out what's fair."

This was the first time SMAC has proposed motions at a DSU AGM. The group, which now includes roughly 20 members, met for the first time one year ago, and was officially founded in September 2008.

Kaleigh Trace, SMAC member-at-large, says one of the group's primary concerns is the privatization and corporatization of university campuses. She adds the un-rated group is not a working group of Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) - which focuses on social and environmental justice within the community - nor is there any affiliation.

"We're completely separate," says Trace, a fifth-year international development studies student. "We support NSPIRG, especially in the current struggle they're facing (with the Stop NSPIRG campaign)."

Saied says since SMAC is a small group, it may appear as if there is cross-over with NSPIRG. Trace is now a member of the Student Coalition Against War, a working group of NSPIRG. Saied was a volunteer co-ordinator at NSPIRG from summer 2006 until spring 2007, and employed during summer 2007 as the group's alternative orientation co-ordinator.

Saied says SMAC is not interested in ratification.

"People might think that to be delegitimizing in not wanting to be ratified, but I think the best way to act in an autonomous fashion is to be an autonomous body, and not have to

concede to whatever arbitrary rules," she says.

She added she felt certain motions the group proposed, such as the apology motion, would not be received well by the DSU.

The reasoning behind the CASA motion, which asks the DSU to drop out of the alliance, was due to the difficulty in engaging with CASA, says Saied.

Trace adds the turnitin motion - a petition to Dal to remove the use of the plagiarism-detecting website from all classes - is unethical, as it forces students to submit their work to a company that will later own it.

Saied explains the policy presumes every student is guilty until otherwise proven innocent.

"As a student, I feel offended, not even on the corporate basis of it, but on the basis that my work is invalidated until this random database proves me (right)," she says.

Mark Coffin, DSU vice-president (education), says the DSU is presently lobbying the university on the matter.

He also says it may sometimes be difficult to see direct benefits from CASA, and SMAC's frustration is understandable.

"The real issue is: does the DSU want to have a seat at the national table; do we want to have a presence at the national table?"

He credits CASA with lobbying to have the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation renewed last year, which provided needs-based bursaries to students. Coffin also says more than \$42 million in financial aid has gone to nearly 15,000 Dal students.

Coffin says the apology motion, which suggested the DSU works to raise tuition fees, took him by surprise because this is the opposite of what the union has been working for in past years.

"I thought it was out of order," he says.

He adds the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) has been instrumental in changing post-secondary education funding in the province, such as saving N.S. students at least \$10,661 over the course of their education and negotiating a tuition freeze.

He says it was alarming to receive a motion such as this in e-mail form.

"When you haven't really had a discussion with the executive about it and you haven't introduced yourself to the executive, or made your concerns known to the executive, and the first time you do you ask for a public apology, I think it was quite inappropriate."

Coffin says he recently met with Saied to discuss concerns regarding the motions, explain the situation, and ensure the second AGM is as "non-chaotic as possible."

"(We want to) get a lot of the conversations out of the way before we have 500 people in a room yelling at each other again."

Dal grad to launch book about Canada's use of a deadly chemical weapon

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

After three or four calls going straight to voicemail, Chris Arsenault finally answers his phone.

"Sorry about that. I've been held up with food poisoning all day. It's not fun," groans Arsenault, the 25-year-old freelance journalist from Halifax, who has contributed to *CBC Radio*, *The Chronicle Herald* and numerous other publications.

He graduated from Dalhousie in April 2008 with a bachelor of arts in history and is now living in Vancouver. He works as a Canadian correspondent for Inter Press Service, a United Nations affiliate based in New York.

"My band had to play last night, and we scarfed this really dirty sushi right before playing, and I've been having shakes ever since," he says over the phone.

For the past three years, Arsenault has been investigating a different kind of poisoning - Agent Orange, a deadly chemical weapon and powerful herbicide used by the United States military during the Vietnam War.

The U.S. military needed somewhere to test the effects of the chemical, so between 1956 and 1984, the Canadian military hired ordinary people, with no protective gear, to spray more than one million litres of Agent Orange and other similar poisons in and around the Canadian Forces Base in Gagetown, N.B., because its dense forests highly resemble those found in Vietnam.

"This is during a time when the Canadian government wasn't supposed to be doing any offensive weapons testing for the war in Vietnam, according to Canada's own policy," said Arsenault.

In 2006, Arsenault was working for *THIS Magazine*, and he covered the story as it unfolded.

"I was pitching something else to a magazine editor at *THIS Magazine*, and she called me back and asked if I'd look into this Agent Orange business," he said. "Initially, I wasn't really that interested, to be honest, but as I started doing more research and more work and interviewing people, I started to realize that what I thought was a mistake, or an isolated incident, or just the idea that some bureaucrat didn't have the proper science at the time and that's why people got sick, I started to realize that that's not what happened at all."

The Canadian Agent Orange scandal was uncovered in 2005 by Louise Elliott at *CBC*, and, as a result, about 1,700 people who suffered from health problems related to the chemical filed a class-action lawsuit against the federal government.

Twenty thousand dollars was offered to the estimated 4,500 people medically affected by the Agent Orange testing.

The illnesses caused by Agent Orange include Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma, respiratory cancers, prostate cancer and Type 2 diabetes, according to the U.S. Institute of Medicine.

"After the story was broken, the government called a fact-finding mission. It said the chemicals were legally registered at the time, and they didn't know they were dangerous," Arsenault said.

Arsenault filed a freedom of information request with the Canadian Department of National Defence and compared the documents he received with U.S. documents. After reading through hundreds of pages of information, much of it blacked out, Arsenault was able to dig up the truth about Agent Orange.

"What I found were the minutes of a meeting of the Defence Policy Board in 1966, and this is at the height of the spraying of Agent Orange. The government was well aware that unregistered, unlicensed and dangerous chemicals



SUPPLIED

Chris Arsenault has been investigating Canada's use of Agent Orange for the past three years and turned his history thesis into a book.

were being used at the base, and they didn't do anything to stop it."

After submitting his 5,000-word piece to *THIS Magazine* in March 2006, Arsenault kept revisiting the issue. He talked to more people and continued doing research. He was majoring in history at Dalhousie at the time, and he decided - at the last minute - to turn the project into an honours thesis.

Arsenault had taken several history classes with professor Todd McCallum, so he chose McCallum as his thesis advisor.

"The first time I met Chris, he was part of a leftist slate running for the DSU (Dalhousie Student Union)," said McCallum. "I was teaching a class called 'Youth Cultures,' and normally students have to write a protest song as part of the class. He wanted to campaign to the class, so I told him he had to write a protest song. Chris brought the whole crew - guitars, drums, tambourines - and did a seven-minute rendition of Woody Guthrie's 'All You Fascists Are Bound To Lose.'"

Arsenault worked the song into his campaign, singing about the DSU at the time, but he lost the election. He recalled McCallum helping him out on his honours thesis by telling him to stop writing in a journalistic style.

"He said 'I'll fail you if you keep writing like this,'" Arsenault said. "He was a hard-ass at first, but it definitely made for a better paper."

McCallum gave Arsenault an A. "I can say that it was the most impressive research base for a thesis paper that I've seen in my time at Dalhousie," said McCallum. "We used to argue a lot. Chris is a student who does an excellent job at defending his opinion. I didn't want to change his opinion, but make him better at saying it."

Now, Arsenault has turned his thesis into a book called *Blowback: A Canadian History of Agent Orange and the War at Home*, which includes everything he's found about the Agent Orange scandal in Gagetown and how the citizens are fighting back to get the truth, and compensation for their losses.

"There's been tons and tons of books about Agent Orange and Vietnam, and veterans of the United States, but there hasn't been anything thorough about what happened in Gagetown, and if you do the math for the amount of chemicals sprayed at the height of its spraying, they were actually using the same chemicals per acre of land as they were using in Vietnam," he said.

McCallum said he is very much looking forward to reading Arsenault's

book, and he also said he doesn't know if anyone has turned an undergraduate history thesis into a book, at least not so soon after graduating.

In February 2008, Arsenault rented a car and drove to Gagetown. He rented a room for \$20 and set up a few interviews. He interviewed veterans and civilians living in and around Gagetown during the time of the Agent Orange spraying.

One veteran he talked to stuck out in Arsenault's memory.

"Jim Cadger; he's since passed away. He was in his 60s and died from a disease that he thought was related to Agent Orange," said Arsenault. "When he was in the army, him and his buddies would take the car and go try to find draft dodgers to beat up, and these are the kinds of guys that now are super-critical of the military industrial complex. Now they see that the army didn't give a damn about their health or give two shits about protecting the people who served."

Arsenault also visited a small village on the outskirts of Gagetown called Enniskillen, which he believes was the hardest hit by the Agent Orange testing.

"It's basically a ghost town now. It's a very strange place. There's all these houses that were pretty clearly abandoned in the middle of the night," said Arsenault. "I interviewed one woman named Doreen Thomas. Doreen really had her life destroyed by what happened there. In the 60s they were really poor, and when the spraying started they couldn't leave and didn't have enough money to go anywhere else. They would go and plant flowers by their house and the next day they would come out after the spraying happened and it would be a pile of black ashes."

He had to overcome much difficulty to find the information, including a situation in a small museum in Gagetown.

"I asked the curator if he had any information on American soldiers at the base during the 60s. He looked me up and down and said, 'you're here about Agent Orange aren't you?'" said Arsenault. "How the hell did you know? I asked (the curator). 'I could tell from the moment you walked in here (said the curator). I'm not talking to you; no one is.'"

Arsenault is currently earning his master's at the University of British Columbia. He will be in Halifax on April 14 to launch *Blowback: A Canadian History of Agent Orange and the War at Home* at Dal.

Dal's deal with daycare centre to increase spots for children

LUCY SCHOLEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Moms and dads at Dalhousie might be relieved to hear of an increase in daycare availability on campus.

The university has applied for a membership with Kids & Company, a corporate daycare centre, to meet increasing demands for space. Dal's partnership with this company guarantees childcare services for anyone who applies.

Dal will maintain its University Children's Centre (UCC) services on South Street and in the Life Sciences Centre, but Kids & Company is set to open an additional daycare near Fort Needham Memorial Park on Barrington Street and possibly one on University Avenue. The corporation will also provide emergency drop-in care, with the option to purchase 15 emergency days per year for \$350.

"I think it's a great idea," says Peter Jones, a Dal departmental engineer. "Anything that improves accessibility to child care in this university is good."

The father of four put his youngest son's name on UCC's waiting list nine months before he was born. That was nearly three years ago. Jones says he withdrew his application just last fall.

"They need to expand it," he says of the university's daycare services. "They've had that long waiting list as long as I've known people (who) have been trying to get kids in there."

The waiting list for daycare has nearly 250 names. This is many more than the centre can care for. Its preschool location on South Street holds 78 children and its school-age daycare has room for 30.

Talk of expanded daycare services popped up in the campus master plan workshops two weeks ago. UCC daycare availability might still be included in the university's development plan. The new Kids & Company membership hasn't overridden this possibility, says human resources assistant vice-president Katherine Sheehan.

"This is just interim," she says. "(It's) another option for people because there isn't anything that we can give very quickly in any other way."

She says the emergency drop-in option is a unique service and will benefit many Dal parents.

But Elizabeth McCormack isn't so sure about the new Kids & Company membership.

"For-profit child care is not going to serve students and their needs," says the co-ordinator of the Dal Women's Centre. "Students need available, accessible, not-for-profit child care."

She says students won't be able to afford up to \$900 a month for Kids & Company - roughly 30 per cent higher than UCC's costs. The corporation's costliness is one reason she thinks it might "inadvertently shut down access to choice" rather than create more daycare options.

"Our concern is that Kids & Company, as a response to student needs for child care, may not necessarily be the best way to address that need and we have yet to hear, from the university, anything around how they feel that this will help students," she says.

But McCormack says she still doesn't know enough about Kids & Company to judge whether it'll provide the kind of services students need. She questions whether enough spots will be available in Kids & Company and whether it'll provide the same standard of care.

"For a lot of people, it will be a great convenience and a wonderful thing," she says. "We're just waving these red flags because the idea should be that we're creating as many options and choices available on campus for everybody."

Margo Kirk, the UCC's executive director, shares similar views.

"The non-profit (daycare) is coming from an entirely different philosophical base for early childhood education than a commercial venture would be. We're not in the business to make money," she says.

She also questions the quality of care the company will provide. She says the emergency drop-in option is a problem because it'll create inconsistency. Children need a familiar daycare routine, she says.

Jenty Mawan also thinks consistency is important. This is one reason she likes Dal's daycare services.

The Dal nursing student was lucky to get both her three-year-old and five-year-old into UCC. She says the program has helped her and her husband, a Saint Mary's University student, through their studies.

"It's a big, big help for me," she says. "If there was no daycare, I wouldn't be able to go to school."

She says she also appreciates subsidized care. She's currently paying roughly \$400 per month for both her children. Like McCormack, Mawan says students should be the priority on the daycare waiting list because they're lower on the income bracket.

Departmental engineer Jones says daycare should be accessible to everyone on campus.

"There's a daycare here," he says. "And I should be able to get my kids into daycare here, if I choose to do so."

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More maintenance required for on-campus water, SustainDal survey reveals

ROSIE JACOBS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Student group SustainDal released a report this month that shows the choice between drinking bottled or tap water on campus may be more complex than it appears.

The report discusses the findings from a survey the group conducted last semester concerning the quality of water fountains at Dalhousie. The survey was open to all students and surveys were posted over all the university's water fountains. It asked students to gage the water temperature, water pressure, appearance and accessibility of water fountains on campus. The survey results varied quite a bit.

Gillian Pritchard, a second-year student who led the survey, says some buildings had positive results, but others did not.

"One interesting finding was that near food services locations and vending machines, there are generally no water fountains," she says. "The McCain (building) is one of the only places where there is a vending machine near a water fountain."

The report also shows only 34 per cent of the fountains on campus are wheelchair accessible and only 57 per cent of the fountains had an agreeable taste.

Pritchard says the current state of the water fountains on campus encourages students to buy bottled water out of convenience instead of searching for the nearest water fountain. And buying bottled water is not always the best alternative.

"Bottled water companies say that they check it for the highest standards, but it is really self-regulated," Pritchard explains. "So there is not really a lot of accountability there if something goes wrong."

The group's report, called "The Water Fountain Assessment Report: Dalhousie University," which will be available on the SustainDal website and the Sierra Youth Coalition website, shows that compared to municipal water sources that are inspected twice a week, bottled water companies inspect their water three to five times a year. The report also shows some bottled water companies, such as Aquafina, use municipal water sources that are then processed through usually ineffective purifying techniques.

"Some purifying techniques can actually add things to the water that shouldn't be in there," says Pritchard. "And the longer it is sitting in the bottles, the more (polyethylene terephthalate) leaches into the water — especially if it is exposed to a lot of light or heat."

Plastic bottles made with polyethylene terephthalate (PET) contain polyester fibres that make some forms of plastic. Water bottles that use PET



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Gillian Pritchard says the current state of campus water fountains encourages students to buy bottled water out of convenience.

have been shown to leach antimony, a chemical that is used to produce alloys such as lead and some types of metals, and Bisphenol A, which can lead to antimony poisoning. One study referenced by Sierra Legal Defence fund report — Waterproof 2: Canada's Drinking Water Report Card — says water stored in PET bottles had 95 to 165 more antimony than tap water.

The choice between buying bottled water or drinking from a tap is not only an environmental issue, but an issue of health and equality as well, says Pritchard.

"If everyone had to buy bottled water, really it is only the people that can afford it," she says. "Then there is less pressure on the government to fix problems when they arise and this decreases the water equity."

Pritchard and eight other students involved in this project presented their report at the Green Leader reception, a reception that occurred in conjunction with the DSU's Green Week two weeks ago, and the group has already shown its findings to the Dal Sustainability Office, the Dal Student Union Sustainability Office and Facilities Management.

The report has already influenced some change among those on campus, such as Darrell Boutilier, acting director of operations at Facilities Management.

"The report definitely opened my eyes, especially where there were a lot

of short-term issues," says Boutilier. "We are going to set up a PM (post-maintenance) program to inspect (the water fountains) regularly so that we can keep them up."

Despite these changes, Facilities Management has not committed to any long-term changes in the foreseeable future due to the expected high cost of renovations, explains Neil Landry, the department's acting mechanical planning manager.

Landry says the workload could be heavy.

"If we chose to renovate a wing in a building, then we upgrade the whole wing," explains Landry. "Some of the fountains, for instance porcelain fountains, we just maintain them. They never jumped out to us as a high priority, but we never looked at them that way."

It is still not certain, though, whether students are willing to make the switch to tap water.

Dal student Lauren Earle doesn't mind too much.

"I use (water fountains) now," she says. "It's not the most sanitary way of getting your water, but I try not to think about those things."

Pritchard is still hopeful these adjustments will change some students' behaviour when it comes to drinking water on campus.

"I want to at least get the bug in their ear by the end of this year and then the start of next year, too," says Pritchard. "I want to see change."

Palestinian Media Watch founder exposes anti-Israeli propaganda

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Itamar Marcus, director and founder of the Palestinian Media Watch, spoke at Dalhousie on March 18 about anti-Semitic propaganda in Palestinian media and schoolbooks.

"Children are not born hating, but if you keep feeding them poison, Israel and Palestine cannot live side-by-side," said Marcus.

The Palestinian Media Watch is an Israeli-based non-profit interest group that monitors Palestinian Arabic language media and schoolbooks. It says on its website, "the world's view of the Palestinian Authority, to a significant degree, is the result of Palestinian Media Watch research."

Marcus screened about 20 Palestinian videos translated into English to roughly 40 people that showed that Palestinians, from childhood, are taught to hate Jews and fight against Israel. Some of the videos also suggested that Hamas and Fatah teach Palestinians, through television and schoolbooks, to encourage violence, conquer the world for Allah and praise Shahada (death for Allah).

Hamas is the elected Palestinian National Authority government for Gaza, but is widely recognized as a terrorist organization. For this reason, no peace negotiations take place between Israel and Hamas. Hamas was ousted from governing the West Bank in 2007, and rival party Fatah — a recognized legitimate political party — took power.

One of the videos Marcus showed was of a children's character named Farfur — who bears a striking resemblance to Mickey Mouse — being beaten up and killed by an Israeli. The video portrayed Israelis as terrorists.

"Hamas is an Islamic group that wants to see a world subjugated under Islam. This is what they write," said Marcus. "Israel is one particular domino that Hamas needs to fall."

Marcus claims Fatah, as well as Hamas, are responsible for spreading anti-Semitic propaganda in Palestine, and that Fatah, like Hamas, does not acknowledge Israel as a country.

The Palestinian Media Watch has met with government officials in numerous countries, including Canada and the U.S., and in March 2008, a presentation had the U.S. Congress rethinking a \$150 million emergency aid package to the Palestinian Authority. The aid package was still sent out.

Israel launched a three-week military campaign in the Gaza Strip on Dec. 27, 2008 after rocket and mortar

fire from Gaza killed a number of Israelis in the West Bank.

According to United Nations estimates, 1,314 Palestinians were killed and 5,303 were injured. Ten Israeli soldiers and four civilians were killed, and 518 were wounded.

Marcus was invited to speak at Dal by the Israel Action Committee (IAC), Students for Academic Honesty and Truth in the Media, as well as the Committee for Security and Peace in the Middle East.

Paige MacPherson, president of the IAC, said she wished more people came out to hear Marcus' presentation.

"A lot of people had midterms ... I think the amount of anti-Semitism in Canadians is outstanding, and there's a lot of misconceptions of the conflict in the Middle East and that's really the root problem behind all the anti-Semitism on (Dal) campus. It's good to clear it up."

Marcus said he believes Hamas-funded media encourages Palestinian civilians to be used as human shields.

Waleed Khadry, a second-year Dal student of Palestinian-Lebanese descent, was suspicious of Marcus' motives.

"I thought he was trying to paint Arabs in Islam, the ethnicity, as a religion of hate," said Khadry, who visited Palestine in 2007. "Not once did he say this doesn't refer to Islam as a whole. Yes, there are some minorities that promote hate, but the majority of Palestinians aren't like that."

Khadry was curious about when the videos Marcus was showing were made.

"He didn't say. I'm assuming as early as 2000 or 2002. These Palestinians are being oppressed more and more each day," said Khadry. "The number of children being affected by this (war) is inconceivable."

He acknowledged that promoting hate and violence with Palestinian media is a problem that needs to be addressed.

"It made me feel saddened that there are Palestinian leaders that do this, and it made me want to change it. You can't hate the people, you should hate the government, and God forbid you do it for Allah."

Marcus will be presenting the Palestinian Media Watch's presentation to the Canadian Parliament this week.

"All of this (Palestinian propaganda) goes out to the entire world," said Marcus. "Our purpose in exposing this is so that the leadership of the world will change their education, and re-adjust their ideology, so we can have peace in future generations."

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Beyond 'Commie bastards' and 'right-wing coups'

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

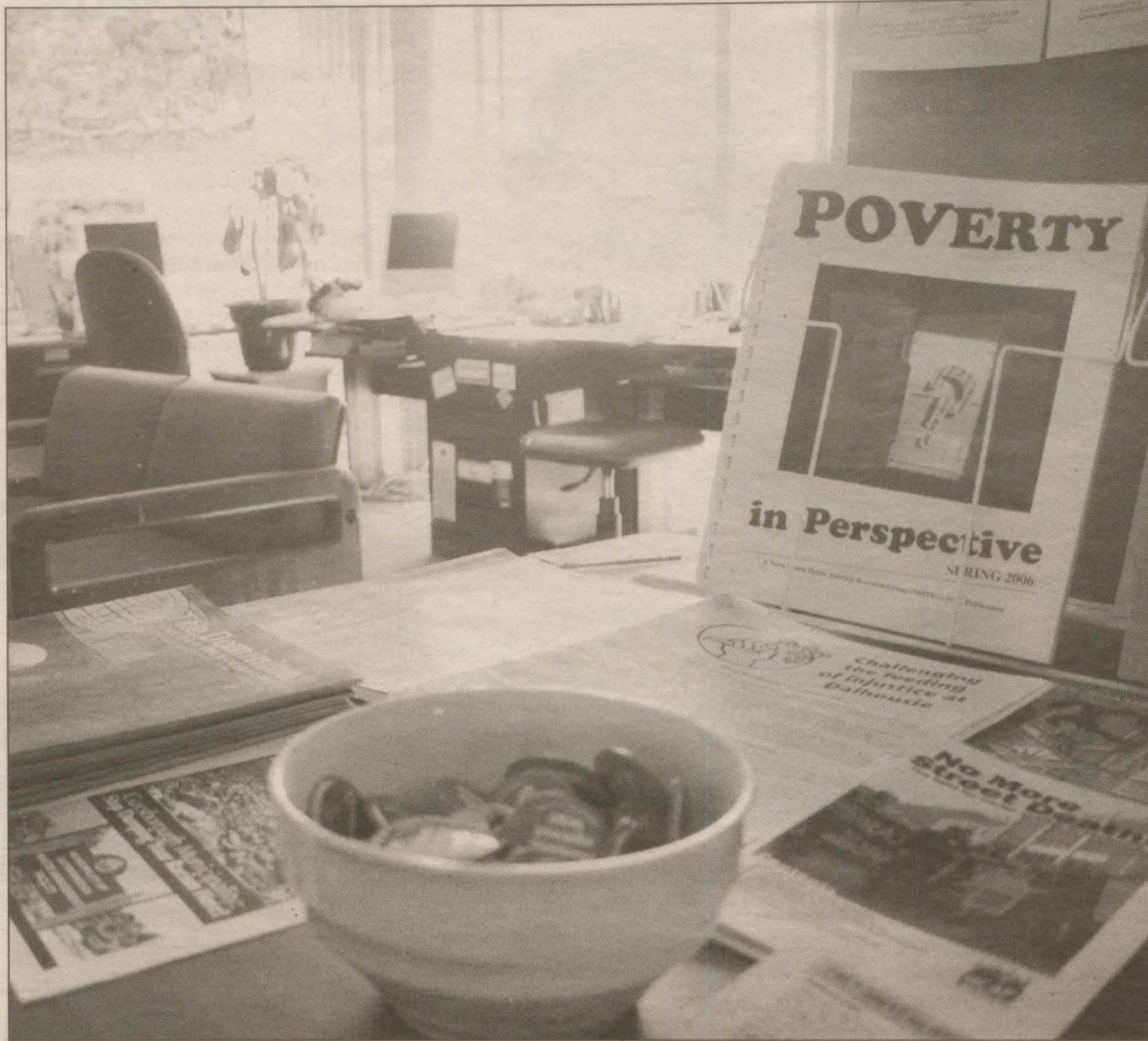
Prepare to be informed. It is unlikely that you will go a single day between now and the upcoming Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 1 without hearing some new and shocking piece of gossip about either the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) or the anti-NSPIRG petitioners. You will likely encounter many diversionary, ideologically charged debates between partisans on both sides, but these are only distractions from the real issue at hand: ensuring that NSPIRG is accountable to the students who provide the group with its levy money.

It is worth clearing up an unfortunate rumour before beginning. The growing anti-NSPIRG movement on campus has nothing to do with the Conservative party. I'm sure NSPIRG supporters would prefer it that way, since Conservatives are a minority on campus. I can testify, however, that while many conservatives are involved with the movement, it is really a hodgepodge of many different political affiliations, including prominent Liberal and NDP supporters.

I have observed attempts by these anti-NSPIRGers to organize a common front, and it is clear that the group has no external funding or guidance of any sort, nor any larger political objectives beyond holding NSPIRG accountable to the students that pay their bills. When the Dal-King's Conservatives come to an agreement on an issue with Victoria Jones, the head of the Young Liberals, you can be sure that it is as non-partisan as an issue can get!

Though the movement was born out of the showdown that took place at the AGM on March 11, its popularity has grown due to several longstanding and legitimate grievances that students of all political stripes have seethed over for the past several years.

Among these complaints is that NSPIRG's budget is far too top heavy, with \$40,000 of its \$60,000 levy going to pay two staff members, one of whom is



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

NSPIRG needs to put its funding to a referendum to be held accountable to students.

not even a Dal student. Does promoting critical thought and a diversity of viewpoints really take that much money? In most successful societies, energetic, passionate volunteers are usually the heart and backbone of awareness projects. Given that NSPIRG's working groups could ratify as proper, accountable DSU societies, many have questioned whether the services provided by the NSPIRG executive justify their disproportionate weight within the

NSPIRG budget.

Another strike against NSPIRG is its utter lack of accountability to students. NSPIRG was founded by a referendum that took place almost two decades ago, and it has yet to face another trip to the polls. I've heard some people argue that NSPIRG shouldn't be brought back to a referendum because it does "insert random service here" very well. The problem with this is that no cause automatically deserves student fund-

ing - the decision as to whether students want to fund a society should be up to the students themselves rather than some set of assumed morals.

Some argue that there is no need for a referendum because students are allowed to opt out of the \$4 a year NSPIRG levy. At the March 11 AGM, one NSPIRG supporter proudly announced that Dal students are huge supporters of NSPIRG, backing up her statement by pointing out that only

12 students opted out of their levy last year. Given that more than 350 supporters joined the "Students against NSPIRG at Dalhousie" Facebook group in its first week of existence, one might suspect there is something fundamentally wrong with the opt-out system if so few students actually succeeded in getting back their money. NSPIRG has traditionally done a terrible job of publicizing this opt-out period, and I know of many, including myself, who have intended to opt out for years, only to miss out on the short window of opportunity each and every time.

Also complicating the opt-out process is the level of intimidation involved with walking into an office full of passionate partisans, and demanding your money back. I have heard anecdotal evidence of those seeking their levies over the years being ridiculed or scorned, but even if these are nothing but stories, the fact remains that even if they disagree with paying the levy, most students do not feel that working up the courage to ask for it back is worth the \$4 reward.

Instead of assuming that inaction equals support, perhaps NSPIRG ought to shift into an opt-in system, where interested individuals make the conscious decision to contribute dues to the organization. There is no intimidation factor associated with giving your money to an organization you care about. An opt-in system would provide a much more accurate picture of the level of support that NSPIRG enjoys on campus, and would ensure that students who passionately disagree with NSPIRG's positions are not forced into paying the fee due to shyness or a poor publicity campaign.

Issues like these ought to take center stage in the upcoming days. This is not necessarily to say that debates over NSPIRG's position on Israel and Palestine don't have their place, but rather to suggest that there are some fundamental, non-partisan problems with the very foundations of NSPIRG itself. Please show up at the AGM of a lifetime on April 1 to have your opinion as a member of the DSU counted!

NSPIRG and you

ANGELA DAY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is the centre of attention these days. This is great. NSPIRG staff and volunteers are continually working to get the word out about NSPIRG so that more students can get involved, come out to events, and participate in some of the dynamic research, education and action that we are mandated to do.

The only bad thing about the spotlight being on NSPIRG is the fact that most of the information circulating is false. It is unfortunate to see even the DSU presidential candidates spouting false information about NSPIRG, one of the most vibrant societies on campus.

Yes, NSPIRG gets \$2 per term, per full-time student, which was agreed upon during a referendum in 1990. Since then, thousands of students have come through NSPIRG, which has provided a link to the wider Halifax community and a counter-perspective to the dominant discourse. NSPIRG has become a dynamic hub for students who are interested in engaging in debates about social and environmental issues. There is so much to do at NSPIRG that there are two staff members, a board of directors comprised

of elected Dal students and two community advisors and dozens of active volunteers.

NSPIRG hosts events and workshops weekly, conducts unique research that is then disseminated through educational events, provides students with critical resources not available elsewhere, and supports grassroots community organizations.

Maybe you've already been to one of our workshops or skill-shares that help students learn journalism skills, know their legal rights, learn screenprinting, or inject creativity into activism? Or maybe you've browsed our unique library, or volunteered at a service organization that NSPIRG has helped support, such as the Atlantic Refugee and Immigrant Services Society. Or maybe you live in a student-run co-operative that originated from an NSPIRG working group, or have been part of our community garden, SeeMore Green?

Sure, NSPIRG perspectives are related to social and environmental justice; this is what NSPIRG is mandated to do by students, and what our most active members are passionate about. This is why students believe that NSPIRG should continue to exist.

We recognize that not all students agree with the stance NSPIRG takes on some issues - for example, NSPIRG

members have been vocal about having less of a corporate stronghold over food services at Dal, less discrimination and less ignorance. They have been vocal about more local food options, more safe spaces for students and more critical thought. Still, for those who don't agree, NSPIRG offers a transparent opt-out period so no student has to financially support an organization she or he doesn't agree with, unlike other levied societies.

You can get involved by being on our board of directors, by volunteering, by simply stopping by, or by showing up at our AGM where all decisions (including where our money is spent) are made by students. We would love to provide you with factual information about what NSPIRG does so you can come to your own conclusions. And, we are happy to answer all of your questions by e-mail, phone or in person, in our office space in room 314 of the Student Union Building. Stop by anytime. It is a safe, non-discriminatory space, wheelchair accessible, and we offer free organic tea and coffee throughout the day. In the meantime, check out our website for updates and info.

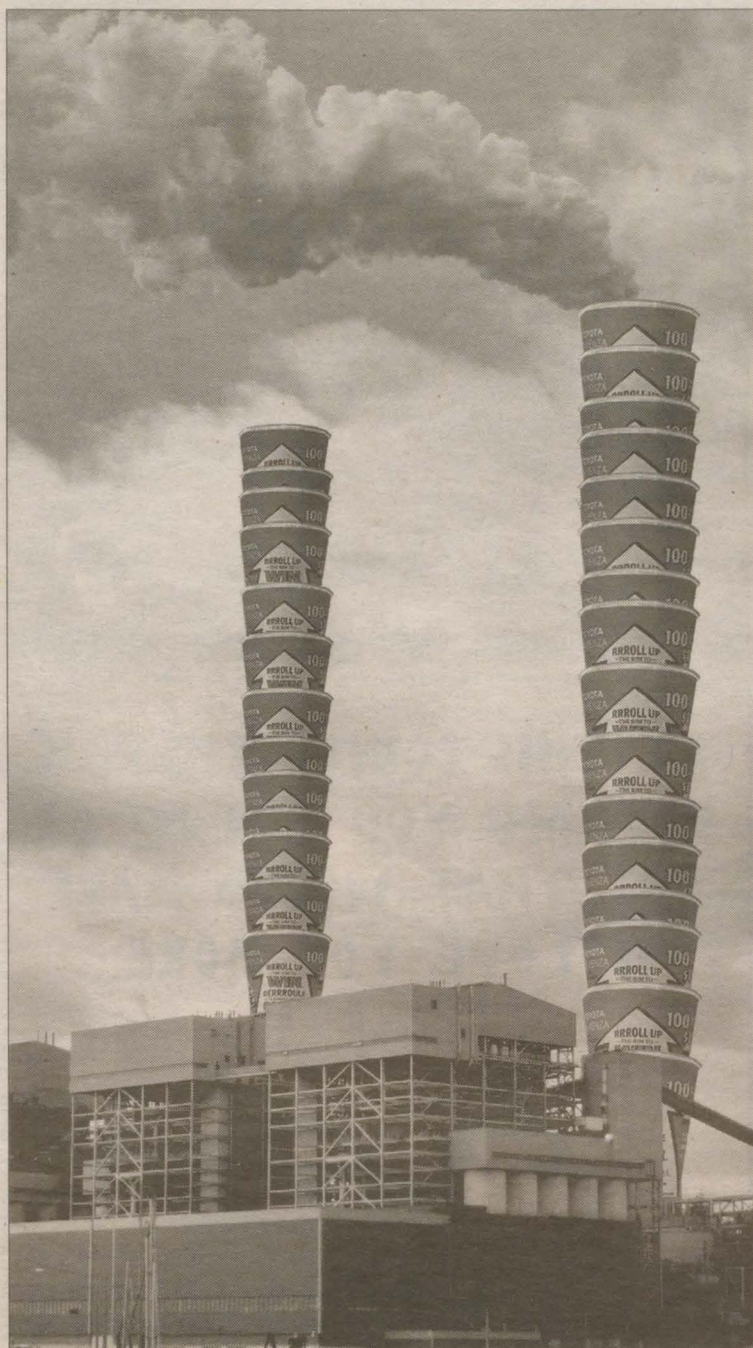
Angela Day is NSPIRG's programs co-ordinator.

in the spotlight

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Proceeds going to the Provincial Autism Centre

DANCE



JOHN PACKMAN/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Tim Hortons needs to come up with a planet-friendly contest alternative.

Roll down that rim

BEN WEDGE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's students have put their environmental concerns aside for this month, which is strange, since last week was Green Week.

What evidence do I have for this claim? After years of slowly transitioning to carrying re-usable travel mugs, we are in droves abandoning the practice in favour of buying more and more disposable paper cups.

Why are we doing this? Is one company to blame? Yes. That company is Tim Hortons. The frenzy over the "Roll Up The Rim To Win" contest is causing students to drop the travel mugs and take the 10 per cent penalty to play the lottery, usually with no gain, only to toss out the extremely wasteful cup.

I must admit, I'm not immune to this. My travel mug has been idle since before reading week, in part because I'm too lazy to make coffee at home in the morning, but also because the promise of riches and fame (and free donuts) attracts me.

"Roll Up The Rim to Win" is a wildly popular contest in this country. There is one prize per Canadian, and odds of winning are one to nine, which means that we are going to throw away more than 270 million cups. Were we to go with reusable containers, we would save more than 11 million pounds - the equivalent weight of about 27 Boeing 747 jets - of garbage from going into the landfill during the Roll up the Rim campaign alone!

Why can't Tim Hortons give out some Roll up the Rim scratch cards the size of a business card to customers who bring their own mugs? The paper and plastic waste would be much less. Plus, if they ran out of contest cups, they can just hand out the scratch ticket. It would be the ultimate fusion for environmental (and budget) con-

scious Canadians.

The fact that Tim Hortons continues to double-cup, while places like Starbucks, Coburg Coffee, or my favourite, the Smiling Goat, use cardboard sleeves, is another example of the company's lack of commitment to common environmental practice.

Dalhousie students and professors are some of the most educated people in the country. Many of us choose to lobby government and private corporations through co-operative suggestions, well-written and researched proposals and conciliatory discussion, a method that has been shown to encourage response and action. I'm sure if every reader of The Gazette talked to Tim Hortons corporate office by way of conciliatory dialogue, we could see a more environmentally friendly "Roll

up the Rim" campaign next year that could also save us poor students 10 cents per coffee.

Companies take notice when friendly people make suggestions that can help the company save money or resources and improve its public image. The worst that can happen is Tim Hortons will persist with the "double-cupping" status quo and continue to carry out its contest using exclusively disposable cups.

The people of Dalhousie University should become active and take five minutes to write a letter of concern to Tim Hortons.

It's our country. It's our environment. It's our decision to buy the cups or not. Unfortunately, for many, the temptation overcomes the moral belief. Take five minutes to draft a quick letter. Help make this campus more environmentally friendly. Take a leading role in eliminating our use of 370,000 paper cups per week on campus.

Ben Wedge is a conservative guy, but that doesn't make him a planet hater.

Is undergrad the new high school?

ANTONY DOBRZENSKY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

After paying some of the highest post-secondary tuition fees in the country, a Dalhousie grad in 2009 may be disheartened to find that an undergraduate degree is hardly the employability guarantee that it seemed a generation ago.

No sooner has a graduating ingénue flung her mortarboard cap skywards for that fleeting Kodak moment than she realizes she's standing up to her knees in far more discarded caps than there are desirable jobs. The degree in her hand, like bank notes in a country printing money at an inflationary rate, may be losing value as it gains ubiquity.

How do you stand out in a world where everyone else does? If the point of a college degree, notwithstanding the intellectual value of higher education, is to get a job that you couldn't get before going to college, why do so many graduates find themselves in high-turnover McJobs that hardly warrant a college education? At what point did jobs that baby boomers walked into right out of high school become the jobs that college grads struggle for? How much longer will it be until you have to write a PhD thesis on the postmodern significance of processed cheese just to bag the assistant manager position at Wendy's? More and more college graduates are beginning to ask themselves the hard questions. Graduating into the worst economic climate and least hospitable hiring market in living memory doesn't make the answers any easier.

An undergraduate education used to be a way of getting ahead; today, it's all you can do not to fall behind. The explosion of community colleges and online degree programs over the last

decade are direct responses to expectations for higher education in the job market. Unless you were drafted by a sports franchise or signed to a record label straight out of high school, you'd be hard-pressed to justify why you didn't pursue what has become the middle-class default of undergrad. The undergrad degree may have become de rigueur, but there are three ways students can compensate for that fact.

The first method lies in the fine print that accompanies every degree: no, not the bill, but the exponentially smaller number that is the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) on your transcript. To many employers, an arts degree is an arts degree, and the nuances of GPAs or majors are trifling or even meaningless. Outside of applying to graduate school, many find that, after undergrad, their GPA is never given a second glance. In a job market super-saturated with degrees, however, the GPA may find renewed importance, becoming an ever-finer filter for employers to sieve through job applicants by separating the summa cum laude wheat from the barely passing chaff. So you might want to cram for that midterm, after all.

The second way for undergrads to get the leg up is through the perceived quality of their alma mater. The ubiquity of the undergrad degree makes status comparisons inevitable. When there were 1,000 cars in this country, it was enough of a status symbol merely to own a car; now that practically anyone can own a car, the Mercedes (McGill) and BMW (Queen's) rule the road. I'll let you extend the analogy to your automaker of choice for Dalhousie. It looks pretty good and it's fuel-efficient, which helps on the drive back to Toronto.

The third way for college grads to stand out is by one-upping the competi-

tion with yet another degree, or several: "I'll take your bachelor's and raise you a master's and top that with a master's in business administration for good measure. Go fish, college boy." People are applying to graduate school in overwhelming numbers and these students freely admit they have no aspiration to become professors, researchers, or academics. Increasing numbers of students make the sizable financial, intellectual and temporal commitment to attend law school without any intention of ever practicing law, but simply believing that a law degree can enhance their earning power and competitiveness in a variety of non-legal careers. They're simply responding strategically to a knowledge economy with ever-rising educational standards.

The bloated ranks of grad school attendees nevertheless illustrate that an undergrad education has, in effect, become the new high school, while grad school has become the new undergrad.

Of course, there are infinitely more methods than these three to stand out from the pack. The bravest of today's college grads may altogether reject the idea of marketing themselves as employees, choosing instead to blaze their own entrepreneurial trails. The democratization of higher education, the levelling of the proverbial 'ivory tower,' is hardly undesirable as a societal trend. The more people who have access to higher learning, the better off we'll all be, both on an individual, human scale and on a national, economic one. Nevertheless, it doesn't take a college graduate to see the relevance of George Orwell in paraphrase: you can make everybody equal, but some people will still have to be more equal than others.

Antony Dobrzensky is graduating this year with a BA in theatre.

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STREETER

What's the best April Fool's joke you've ever seen?



“My brother being born.”
Emma Cooper, fourth-year recreation management



“Kool-Aid in the showerhead. It colours the water and stains the shower.”
Brittney Gavin, first-year science



“Flipped everything in my friend's room upside-down and covered it in Saran wrap. It took three hours.”
Mila Profit, third-year biology



“My friend's girlfriend called him and said she was pregnant.”
Keely Abercrombie, third-year microbiology and immunology



“In high school, the graduating class boxed our headmaster's car in with cinder blocks at his house.”
Will Badger, second-year management



“My dad once told me he bought me a car, but the driveway was empty.”
Britnie Steptoe, third-year IDS



“Saran wrap on the toilet seat.”
Alexandra Soengkono, second-year psychology



“I spiked the punch at the A.A. meeting.”
John Packman, failure

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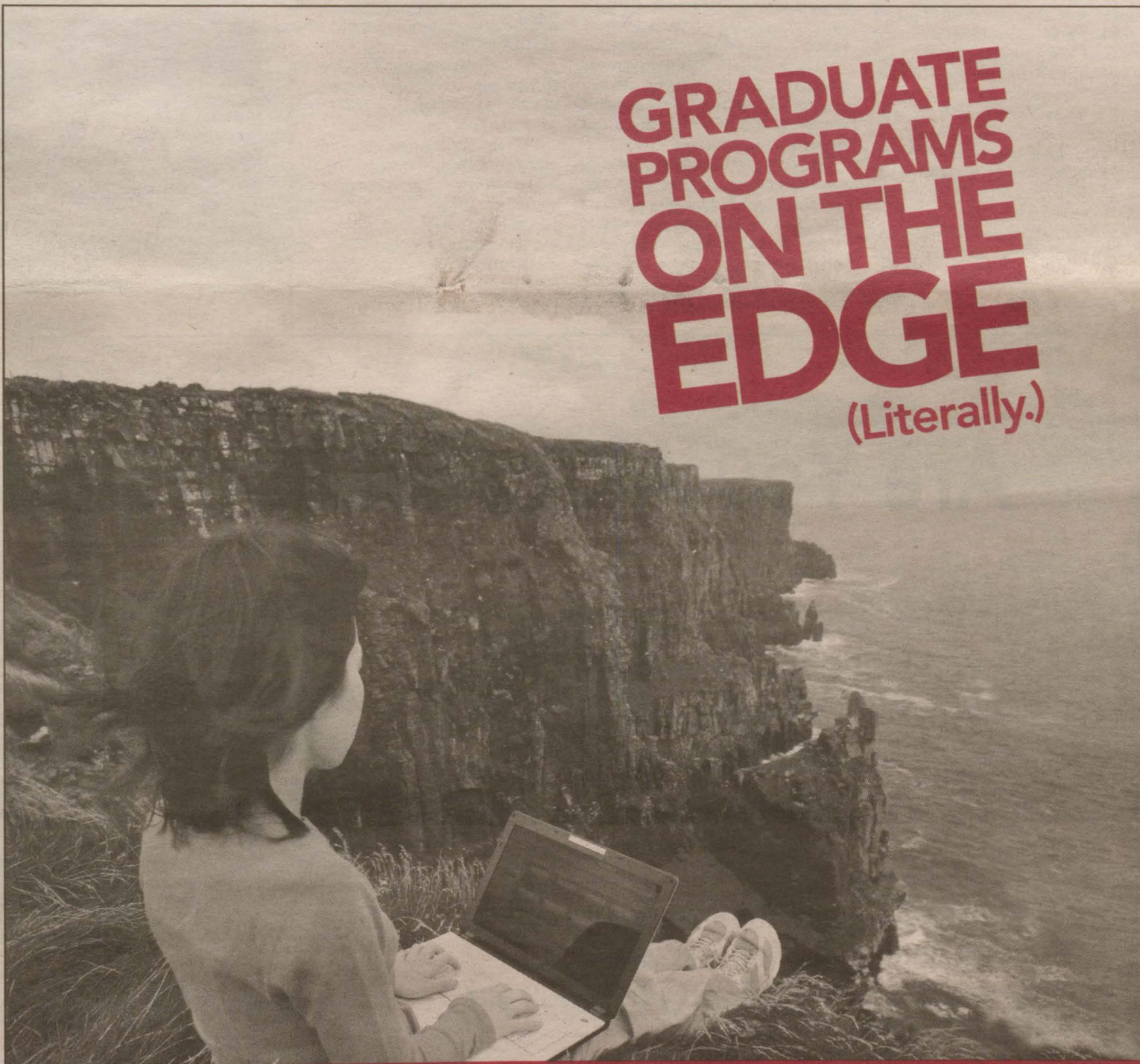
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You don't need to drink to be happy

HILARY STAMPER
GREGORY WADE
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTORS

These days, most people associate university life with alcohol consumption. It is a common phenomenon for the typical university student to engage in leisure drinking. Though the alcohol-fixations of university students has engendered problems like street fights and noise complaints, there is another issue that needs to be addressed: how do you survive university as a non-drinker?

Being a minority in a society that so frequently favours the majority is a difficult task. University is a society with social drinkers, hard drinkers, and some who forego it altogether.

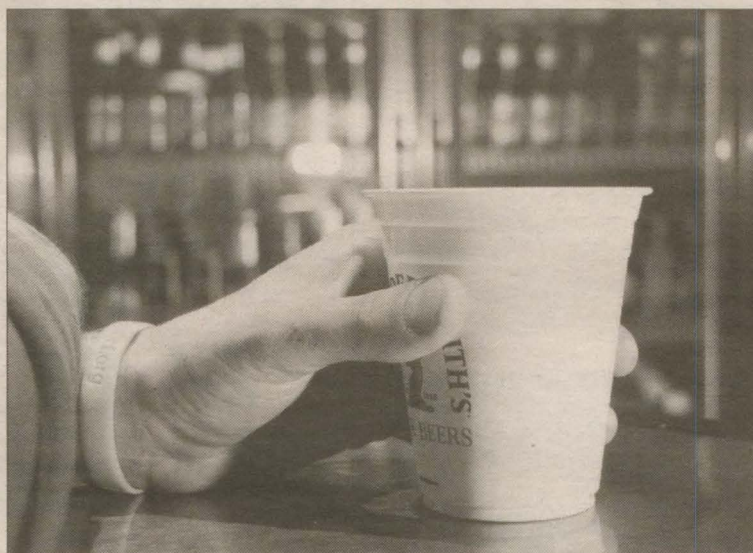
This minority group has come to be known as "straight edge." Socials, pub-crawls and frosh weeks are all geared toward university students who drink. Even this newspaper you are reading is partly funded through drink-culture advertisements.

At times a straight-edger can feel the desire to revert back to drinking, or start drinking, in order to fit in. There are a few ways, though, you can survive the pressure.

Don't be afraid to go to bars. You won't get kicked out when you order an orange juice. Don't be afraid of people who are drunk. Remember that the essence of being straight edge is to not drink but also to not be a hermit. Parties are fun. Go to them.

Let people know that they can relax around you. You are not a narc. Don't shy away from friends when they're drunk. Remember you are there to have fun, not to judge or to take incriminating photos for Facebook.

If you are a bit nervous about strangers at a party, who unlike you're friends



JOHN PACKMAN/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Another screwdriver, please; hold the vodka.

do not know about your way of life, use the old tricks. Cradle a drink all night, get glasses that aren't clear so people can't readily know what you're drinking, and finally remember that a rum and coke looks just like a coke and an orange juice can easily masquerade as a screwball.

But: don't go overboard on pretending to be drunk. Be discrete about your beverages, but do not try acting drunk, unless you are a really good actor. If you were caught faking, it would be really embarrassing.

You do not have to explain why you are straight edge. Everyone has different reasons. Some people will try to hound you for an answer but remember that your reasons are your own.

In the same vein, don't let people paint you and other straight-edges with the same brush. Just because you don't drink does not mean you are religious, or that something tragic happened to you. If those are your reasons, that's fine.

But remember, the majority of us are just people who do not like drinking but still like to have fun – both in drinking and non-drinking situations.

Do not try to buy your friends' love. Yes, you probably have more disposable income than they do, but don't let people make you tonight's ATM.

Make sure you explain to your friends up front that you aren't the automatic designated driver or any other kind of babysitter.

Don't preach or proselytize. I cannot stress this enough. It is annoying and will not make you likeable. You are at a party to have fun, not change lives.

Finally, do not feel pressured to change your lifestyle for others. As cliché as it might sound, friends should accept you for who you are. If they have a problem with you not drinking, talk to them. Do not let them peer pressure you into drinking. You've resisted this long, right?

Letters to the editor

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

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

Articles

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

DSU silences students

I have been a social advocate for many years here in Nova Scotia. I am also a full-time Dal student.

Recently I have noticed there have been drastic changes in the Dalhousie Student Union's (DSU) attitude towards students. For example, at the last DSU Annual General Meeting held on March 11, a Gazette journalist was forced to leave the meeting by Dal Security and the police. The ground of removal was that the journalist was a King's student and so was not allowed to attend the meeting.

This is completely unacceptable. The Gazette is the students' newspaper, a voice for Dal students; this action was not only disrespectful to Dal's student body but it was downright undemocratic.

Speaking as a social advocate, I am deeply concerned about DSU's approach towards some student societies. The DSU has made some policy

changes this year, changes that have mostly impacted student-supported societies such as the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG).

A group supported by many DSU members is working very hard to shut NSPIRG down.

Since 2006, I have worked on many advocacy projects with the support of NSPIRG. For my last project I successfully lobbied the federal government to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities on March 30, 2007.

This project has impacted the quality of life for more than two million Canadians living with disabilities today; I could not have done this work without the support of NSPIRG. Who can put a price on this kind of work? Isn't it worth the \$4 a year Dal students pay to NSPIRG?

Sincerely,
Robab Haghpanh

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Fighting it out

Dog Day debates new album and sun signs

LAURA DAWE
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

The members of Dog Day talk about their new album, *Concentration*, the night before they leave for Ontario, where they'll play shows and record with Elevator's Rick White, who wrote a song for them.

It quickly becomes obvious that it takes all members of the band to tell a full story. Their bickering might be because the band is comprised of two pairs of people in various stages of marriage: one pair together and one pair divorced. But if you asked them, they'd blame it on the alignment of the planets.

"We're astrologists," says KC Spidle, the drummer.

No one argues.

Asked to each tell their sign and three adjectives to describe it, Spidle says, "I'm a Gemini. I'm a self-deluded escapist."

Crystal Thili, the keyboardist, corrects her ex-husband of just more than a year. "That's not three adjectives, that's just something he ripped out of a book."

Thili's a Leo with a Gemini moon.

"You have three main signs," singer and guitarist Seth Smith explains without looking up. He is making Ren and Stimpy-type music on an unplugged electric guitar in the far corner.

"Yeah, there's your sun sign, your moon sign and your rising sign," shrugs Thili. "Apparently they are the three main parts of your personality."

"She's trying to sound skeptical," says Spidle, "but she's obsessed with astrology."

Dark-eyed bassist and singer Nancy Urich takes her turn. "I'm a Virgo so that means I do things properly, I'm accurate and I -"

Spidle interrupts, calling her a "nit-picking crank," which only encourages the little smile growing in the corners of Urich's mouth, "I'm not a wing-nut like those two lying sacks of..."

Singer and guitarist Seth Smith is a Pisces. He just had his birthday. He asks the room what his three traits are.

"I have it on the Internet there," Urich says, nodding toward the computer. "What is it? Idealistic, charming, escapist."



Local indie heros, Dog Day, are set to release their latest album, *Concentration*.

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"Sensitive," says Spidle,

"Unsocial," says Smith.

"Anti-social," says Spidle.

"Dumb," says Smith.

"Not smart," says Urich.

And they all laugh together.

Memorizing celebrity star signs passes time while touring, something Dog Day has been doing a lot of. In the hours between towns in the Southern U.S., they might discuss the shared traits of various sound guys they've had. Smith says sound guys are often Earth signs. Urich says they vary. People are referred to as "the Aquarius" or "that Virgo." They agree that booking agents are usually Capricorns.

They write their records through compromise.

Take "Rome," for example, the song that everyone is fighting about tonight. It was released on the Internet the day of our conversation, as a teaser for their album that comes out on April 28. Thili is nervous because they've never

played it live and she doesn't know her part.

"We just realized," Smith says of the tour they leave for in the morning, "that people might expect us to play that."

"That's what I've been saying!" Urich interjects. "I've been saying it all week."

Despite this current dilemma, the band is excited about *Concentration*. They mixed it in New York, with one of their heroes, John Agnello, who worked on Sonic Youth's *Rather Ripped*, a Dog Day favourite. Agnello's also worked with Dinosaur Jr., Bruce Springsteen and Cyndi Lauper.

"Rome" is not a single, the band adamantly asserts, but a teaser. Urich sings, which Smith says she does a lot more of on this album.

"'Rome' was once Seth's song," says Spidle. "It turned out 10 times better when she sang it. Because it was either that or it was a low singing ghoul."

Smith nods in agreement, not offended by this description of his voice.

"It's great to have that option," he says, "because then you can mix your record up a bit. It's not just some guy mumbling the whole time. Hopefully, you don't get as sick of the singing easily. We really wanted to do kind of a longer record this time. I just can't listen to a record that's over 35 minutes. I start getting really sick of the guy. I don't care what he's talking about."

Dog Day debates for a minute about how long *Concentration* is. Urich's assertion of 48 minutes is accepted.

"I've never released a record past 35 minutes in my life, I don't think," says Spidle, who also plays with Husband and Knife, and played with Thili in The Hold back when they were dating.

Of Dog Day's last two records, "Thirty-two minutes was *Night Group* and *Thank You* was like 11 minutes or something," Spidle jokes.

"So we just really all wanted to release a little bit longer of a record," Spidle says. "People have waited quite a long time for this album so you might as well get 10 extra minutes."

"There weren't any real flops or anything," says Smith, of the band's shared confidence in the new album. "I don't know, every now and then you'll record a record and some song that you thought was going to be the best is like 'what the hell?'"

The album art, made by Smith, who is one half of the popular screen-printed poster magnate Yo Rodeo, well-exemplifies the "symmetry" and balance of positive and negative on the record. On a black background is a multi-coloured design inspired by Aztec-like drawings Smith made after returning from a trip to Mexico when he was three.

"I was trying to think it if it was darker," says Spidle of *Concentration's* sound. "It's just slower and more patient."

"I think *Night Group* was more frantic," says Smith,

"Worldly. It's a little more worldly," says Spidle. "Because we've been around the world."

"Well, we've been around the Atlantic Ocean," corrects Urich.

"We wrote 'Rome' in Rome," says Smith. "We did get influenced, going through the states and Europe."

"No, I wrote 'Rome,' like the verse, on that stage in Italy," recalls Spidle. "With his (Smith's) electric guitar, picking away, and then we finished the chorus in Rome."

"It was still all written in Italy," says Urich.

"'Rome' was influenced by a show we played in Germany," recounts Spidle, "It's all coming back to me."

"I think it was influenced by a picture I saw of your mother in Italy," says Urich.

"It's like seven minutes or something," explains Smith, "It's a weird song to be a single."

They eventually agree that their first single will be "Happiness."

"We can actually play that song live, too," chuckles Spidle. "So that's cool."

"It's an attempt at being positive," says Smith.

Teach ESL in Korea

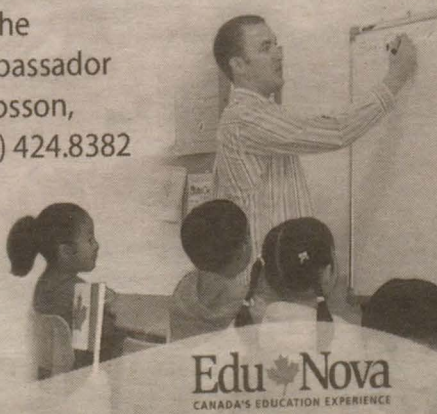
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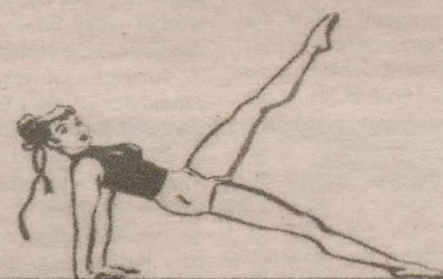
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The insider

Professor shines a light on Dal's prejudices against minorities

HILARY BEAUMONT
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Too many times, 44-year-old Anthony Stewart has walked past one of his colleagues on Dalhousie campus only to face a blank stare from the other professor.

"There would be this moment when you would half lock eyes and there would be nothing there. No glint of recognition," he explains, describing one such encounter with a fair-haired male colleague. "He would basically look right through to the back of my head like I wasn't there. He wasn't ignoring me; he just didn't recognize me."

Stewart, a tenured English professor at Dal, says it's because most of his colleagues don't expect to know anyone who looks like him: "tall, black and male."

"It's not really this person's fault. Because of what this person does for a living, being a university professor, having gone to graduate school, this person just does not expect to know a lot of people like me."

Stewart is not telling this awkward story to draw attention to himself. A blank stare from a fellow professor doesn't ruin his day. To him, it's about larger implications.

"I'm not pointing it out just to be malicious or just to make them feel guilty or just to put them on the defensive, but because it matters and it means something. If that's a blind spot in their perception and I notice it, then any of the kids they teach who superficially resemble me, those kids notice it too."

Stewart's concern is for the Dal community. He says universities, especially this one, are keeping minorities out of teaching positions. And at the same time, students are suffering the consequences of a prejudiced system. He explains this premise in his most recent book, *You Must Be a Basketball Player: Rethinking Integration in the University*.

Stewart has attended university since 1983, first as a student at Guelph, then at Queen's and now as a professor at Dal. During this time, people have stereotyped him as a basketball player. He says the examples are countless.

Outside a library where Stewart had gone with a friend to hear professor David Divine speak, a white woman approached him.

"You must be a basketball player," she said.

His friend's mouth fell open in shock. Stewart had told his disbelieving friend just moments before that this happens to him frequently.

"No," Stewart said, looking down at the woman from six feet, six inches. "I'm an English professor at Dalhousie University."

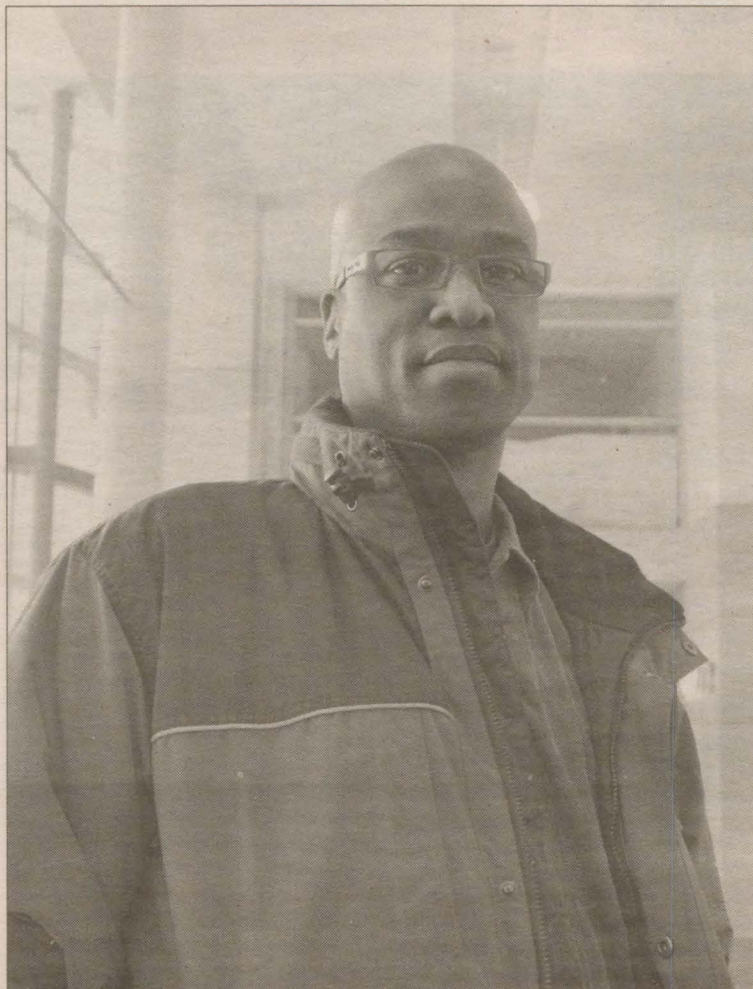
"Good for you," she replied sincerely.

For Stewart, the persistent assumption that he must play basketball has become a symbol for the struggle of minority groups within the university system.

In his book he uses anecdotes, told bluntly in first person, to highlight similar situations where students, colleagues or complete strangers have leapt to assumptions about him. As before, these anecdotes are meant to shed light on the bigger issue.

"If you major in English, history or philosophy at this university, among the full-time professors, the only professor you're going to get who's a person of colour is me."

There are five black people, including Stewart, out of 130 staff in the Fac-



HILARY BEAUMONT/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

In his new book, Anthony Stewart says prejudice at university stems not from policy, but from individual decisions.

ulty of Arts and Social Sciences.

"Right now, the sort of unstated set of beliefs is that every white guy who works at a university is here because he was the best and the rest of us are here because of the benevolence of some other white guy, basically."

When he began to write his book three years ago, he discussed this idea with professors from other faculties who belong to minorities. There is a clear consensus among them that prejudices exist within the university. But when he talked to faculty members who belonged to the majority, he found most were oblivious to the idea that Dal might have hidden prejudices.

In his book, Stewart says the reason minorities aren't hired into teaching positions is because of preferential hiring. A problem he addresses in the book is one he calls the "benefit of the doubt theory."

He starts by clarifying that most prejudice does not take place at the level of policy. It takes place when individuals make decisions.

Imagine a job interview where two candidates are vying for a position as a professor. One is a black woman with an ethnically marked name, the other a white male, "with a name like Anthony Stewart," he jokes.

Both candidates do OK in the interview, but not great. They are on equal footing in terms of qualifications.

"As people are thinking about whom to choose between them, she doesn't look like anyone who has taught them, she doesn't look like anyone they've taught, really, and she doesn't look like a whole lot of people that they know. He does. He looks the part already. At that point it would be very easy for her to be characterized as not being ready for the job and him being characterized as just having had a bad day."

So when university administrators make that decision, which candidate do they hire?

"I'm here to tell you," Stewart says

solemnly. "Eight or more times out of ten, he gets the job. Because he reminds you of somebody."

It happens for the same reason Stewart becomes "invisible" to his colleagues on the sidewalks of campus.

"It's not volition, it's not intent, it's not malice. It's practice."

Stewart says he isn't laying blame, because that would end the conversation he hopes to foster. Instead, his book brings the flaws of the university mentality into an unflattering light while simultaneously offering solutions.

"When people talk in terms of systemic discrimination, a lot of what is systemic is a collection of decisions made by individuals. So there's blame to go around, but once you start talking in terms of blame people stop listening to you. I've tried to keep a measured tone in the book because I want people to read it, I want people to think about the issues."

Stewart is not optimistic about change in university policy, although his book aims to cultivate it.

"Irrespective of intent, the effect is the same," Stewart says. "If the place you work in looks like an exclusive country club, then it doesn't matter whether you don't want it to look like an exclusive country club. If it does, then some people are going to see it that way and some people are going to react to it that way. They're not going to feel that they're welcome there because they don't feel welcome at exclusive country clubs."

Stewart is confident a shift in policy will come when a critical mass of people want something done. He says it's unfortunate, but universities work that way. He would know.

"I'm an insider. I'm a university professor. I'm not somebody railing at the gates yelling about how I've been kept out."

Stewart will be reading from his book, *You Must Be a Basketball Player*, at the Dalhousie Art Gallery March 26 at 4 p.m.



SUPPLIED

Death Cab for Cutie will perform at Dal April 3, but good luck finding a ticket.

Death Cab for Dalhousie

Rogers contest brings Seattle band to campus

JASON COHANIM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

After a long, hard fought battle through the text messaging trenches, Dalhousie has come out on top. What has your humble school won in reward for its efforts? A free show in the Student Union Building's McInnes room on April 3, performed by Death Cab for Cutie.

Over the past month, Rogers Communications Inc., partnering with Live Nation, ran a nationwide contest for all Canadian universities. The shtick: The school that sends in the most text message and Facebook votes as a percentage of its student population would win a free Death Cab for Cutie show on campus. With a voter turnout of 15 per cent, Dal doubled the runner up's turnout and almost topped the voting turnout for the recent Dal Student Union (DSU) elections.

For the months leading up to the vote, the campus was plastered with posters, voting tables and LCD screen ads, as well as placemats and napkins urging students to bring Death Cab to Dal.

For Kris Osmond, DSU vice-president (student life), the contest wasn't just about the band.

"This was a great way to show everybody that Dalhousie has a lot of school spirit, in spite of what most students think," Osmond says. "From all of our promotion efforts, by the DSU and Rogers, our school is being rewarded for that spirit with a major concert from a huge band to close out the school year."

The stoke factor is running high all over the map. Not only from the students who voted and the DSU, but even from the band members themselves.

"We were waiting in anticipation to hear where the contest would take us, and we couldn't be happier that Dalhousie's win is bringing us to Halifax," says Death Cab drummer Jason McGerr. "We've never been to that part of Canada, so we're excited to finally get to play for our fans out there."

Although Halifax wasn't originally a planned stop on Death Cab's upcoming spring tour, the contest win has made the upcoming show at Dal the band's unofficial kick-off gig.

"It's an amazing feeling for us that you guys won, because you had to go out and vote and show your love," says McGerr. "That shows us that you really want us to play so we're going to give Halifax everything we've got."

Bringing a band from Seattle to Halifax seems quite appropriate, considering that Halifax has been dubbed the "Seattle of the East."

"Geographically Halifax and Se-

attle are quite similar," says McGerr. "They're both tucked up in their respective corners of their countries, which presents a challenge for some tours to work their way up there," says McGerr. "When you've got a scene like that, the bands that are from there tend to stick together and develop a rich and rocking atmosphere."

The students who actually voted with their text messages were put into a lottery to win tickets to the show. First dibs went to Rogers customers who voted, then second dibs went to those with other cell phone carriers. The company also released a bunch of tickets to radio station Z103.5. The Beat of Halifax, and listeners who called in could win tickets. To win tickets through the radio station, however, participants have to register for a Z103.5 account in hopes of getting randomly selected for the prize.

This giveaway process has upset its fair share of Dal students and Haligonians alike.

"The whole situation is a pretty big disappointment," says Dal student Danielle Spychka. "I don't have a cell phone so I couldn't vote and now the one chance I get to see Death Cab in the Maritimes, I get left in the cold. The whole Rogers exclusivity is bullshit. Everyone should have a chance to see them."

While Osmond says it would be great for everybody if Death Cab were able to play a show anybody could buy tickets to see, it's a matter of finances.

"We would love to be able to bring Death Cab for Cutie to our campus and let anyone buy tickets, but a band of their size just doesn't fit within our available budget," he says. "The Rogers contest allowed us the chance to get a band as big as they are without putting us under the table."

Death Cab for Cutie tickets are listed on kijiji.com for upwards of \$300 each.

There have also been rumours floating around, mainly through Facebook channels, of Death Cab playing another show open to the public. McGerr says those are just rumours. With the band officially starting its three-month spring tour on April 5 in Toronto, there would be too many logistical issues to deal with in setting up a last-minute second show.

"We'd love to have time to play for all of our fans in Halifax, but it just wouldn't work this time around," he says. "But if the response from our show at Dal is super positive then we'll definitely keep you in mind for our next tour. Also, since this is our first time in Halifax we want to show you everything we've got, so if the fans at the show go wild enough, we'll play till the sun comes up."

GAZETTE

Write for us!



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Stewart Innes brings video-based art to the Khyber with his new project, Veni Vidi O.

The art of video at the Khyber

KRISTIN SLANEY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

It's not very often you walk into a gallery and see video displayed as art. These days most video ends up confined to the ranks of YouTube, potentially getting lost in the white noise of the Internet.

Stewart Innes knows video sometimes gets overlooked as an art form.

"Video art doesn't have a huge venue," says Innes. "It's not the kind of art that's tangible in a sort of way that you can take it home and put it above your sofa. So it doesn't get touched by a lot of commercial galleries."

Innes is trying to change that. He is organizing Veni Vidi O, a one-night-only event of video art set to take place at the Khyber Institute of Contemporary Art on March 28. The white walls of the Barrington Street building will turn into projection screens, and a regular room will turn into a formal sit-down theatre, with old televisions displaying installation video art set up all around.

"We show pretty much any form of video-based art," explains Innes. "We do anything ranging from traditional, narrative based film that we screen in a formal theatre to projections on walls. We do installations on TVs. We do live performance that involves video. It takes a lot of different forms."

Veni Vidi O was born last year, when Innes decided to take a year off from studying at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) and went back to Ontario. His co-curator, Alison Kobayashi, first came up with the idea and the two of them organized three different incarnations of the event in Toronto, with video always at the forefront.

This year, Innes returned to NSCAD and decided to bring Veni Vidi O with him.

"Since I've been back I've been wanting to really get one going here," says Innes. He has had an enthusiastic response from Haligonians since he posted a call for submissions on Facebook. The night will include work by local video artists and filmmakers, and it will also showcase the work of some artists from Toronto and Montreal.

The event will feature musical guest Snow Picnic later in the night. The electronic dance musician will be teaming up with Noah Logan, who will do projections during the performance.

And, much to the delight of a student's empty wallet, Veni Vidi O will be free.

"People can go out and spend five bucks cover someplace, or they can come to the Khyber and see some awesome free videos," says Innes.

He says Veni Vidi O can even be a powerful tool for filmmakers. By bringing together different kinds of artists, it becomes easier to establish connections with artists who could possibly work together some day.

"We had Slim Twig, who is a really great Toronto jangly, bluesy rock kind of guy, and he connected with one of the groups that shows videos for us, called *Exploding Motor Car*, and they collaborated and made a video. This was after they met at Veni Vidi O," says Innes. "It's really neat to see that happening. That's when we kind of know it's serving its purpose."

Overall, Innes thinks, the Khyber will work well as a location for the event.

"Because it's so white and open, it just leaves you with lots of opportunities to change it and manipulate it - to make it new and exciting," says Innes, who volunteers at the Khyber. "I think people are really responding to that right now. The parties are getting more and more packed."

The Khyber definitely seems to be picking up steam lately, with recent successes like Get Fit, an 1980s aerobic-themed dance party, and February's Paranormal Formal.

"It's appropriate for the Khyber to have this because the Khyber is sort of a multi-disciplinary kind of gallery that likes to show all different kinds of work. Not just paintings on a wall, but more contemporary work as well," says Jody Zinner, one of the events co-ordinators for the Khyber.

She says having a venue like the Khyber is important for Halifax in terms of exploring sometimes overlooked forms of art.

"Because it is a government funded artist-run centre, we have certain opportunities to do all sorts of different projects there that we wouldn't be able to do if we were market driven or capital driven," Zinner says.

She also notes the rising support of the student population the Khyber has experienced recently.

"It's not like a NSCAD clubhouse, so it's exciting to branch out, and to keep incorporating students into the arts scene in Halifax."



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Local band Nerd Army delivers old Nintendo favourites on its new release, *Mario EP*.

Army of Nerds

JORDANA LEVINE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Nerd Army, a video game cover band, charmed the audience at Gus' Pub and Grill on March 19, playing fun, familiar tunes and injecting some light-hearted comedy into the performance. The show celebrated the band's latest release, *Mario EP*, a collection of songs from the original three Mario Brothers games for Nintendo.

The songs were all short and sweet, allowing the band to play a variety of songs to satisfy all of the video game fanatics in the audience. The music was even enjoyable for the non-gamers. Almost everyone's heard the well-known Mario tunes that they played from their new EP - whether you played the games as a child or sat around on the couch watching your friend play, the chief melodies are unmistakable.

Nerd Army carried sharp, but complex tunes with a great beat from drummer Brad MacDougall to hold the music together. It was obvious that the musicians have a lot of experience and talent. James O'Toole, the bassist, explains the four band members all play in other bands, ranging in genre from country to punk.

Shawn Hunt, one of Nerd Army's two guitar players, says he isn't a huge fan of video games.

"I mean, I was as a child," he says, but now, "a lot of these songs are sort

of just songs to me. It's just sort of fun from a technical standpoint."

Hunt gestures to O'Toole. "This guy's a geek."

O'Toole doesn't argue.

"Yeah, I love video games," he says. "I have over 150 Nintendo games that I collect. I'd say I'm probably the most video game-savvy guy (in the band)."

Although the band members are split on their love for video games, Hunt says, "we're all friends and we all hang out."

Nerd Army's fun and friendly dynamic invited the audience into the performance. Craig Hamlin's witty comments onstage and Hunt's offstage humour contribute to their charm.

Hunt jokes about the band getting in trouble for playing music from video games.

"My goal from the start is to get a cease and desist from Nintendo," he says. "I think that would be amazing."

But, O'Toole says, "most of the stuff we do is like, over 20 years old now so I don't know if they even care. A lot of the companies that we cover games from don't even exist anymore."

Hamlin was full of jokes and bits of conversation throughout the show, getting the audience involved, asking "has anybody here actually played that game? How was it?" He also made fun of O'Toole, telling everyone "he would get tears in his eyes" while playing songs from a specific game.

The band also conversed onstage,

changing their mind about songs; when Hunt was not too keen to do one song, Hamlin coaxed him into it, saying, "we'll do another one if we fuck it up."

They did another one, although it was hard to tell if there were actually any mistakes.

The band was spent after the show, since they didn't start playing until after midnight, following Wax Mannequin and Electro Chiac Therapie. O'Toole was very pleased with Nerd Army's performance. Hunt, in his tongue in cheek manner, simply said, "Yay... I need a beer."

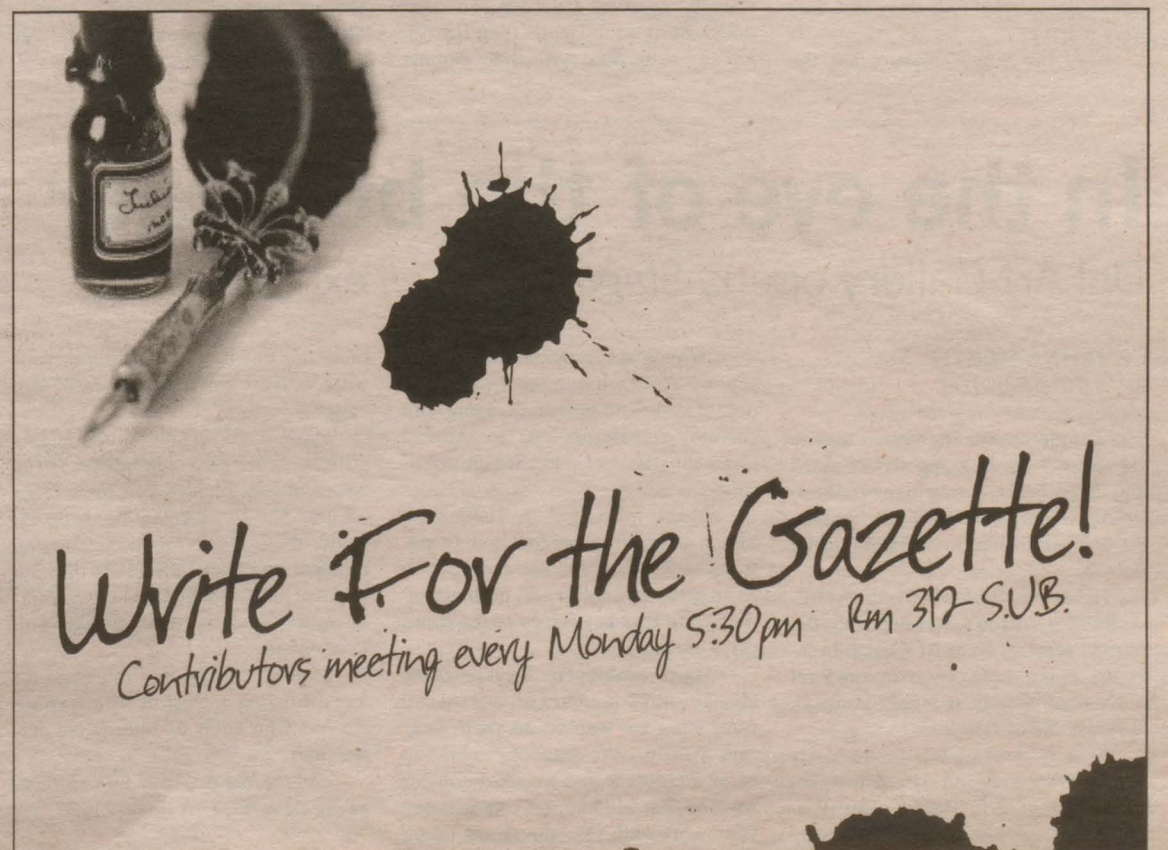
O'Toole says the band is going strong, after releasing a self-titled album last year, and plans to keep playing.

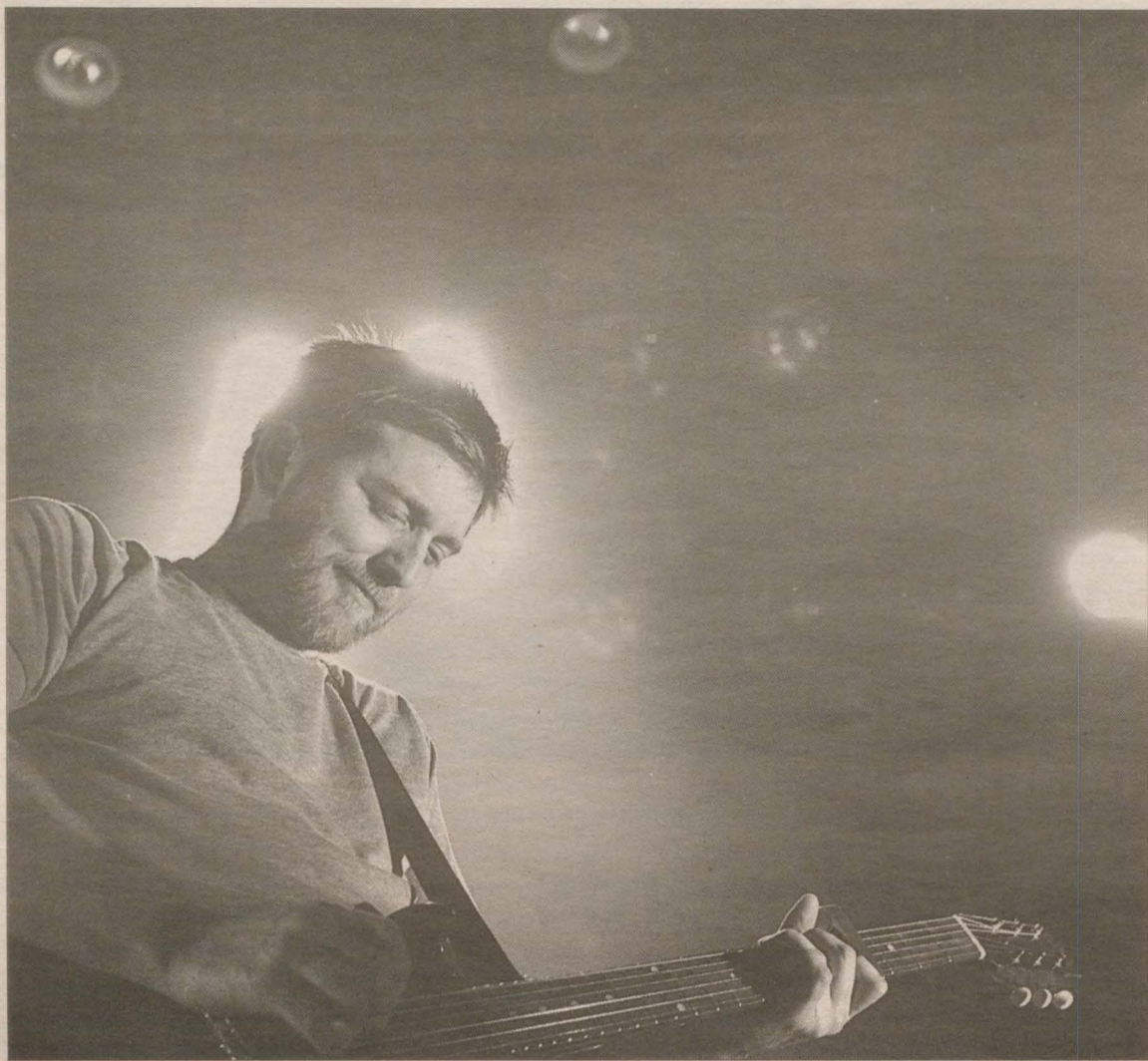
"I don't see any reason to stop. I guess we're pretty enthusiastic about the project," he says. "We're going to release a new, full-length album soon. We've already started recording for it."

The Nerd Army guys don't take themselves too seriously and they like to play around, but it's clear they care about what they're doing.

"I guess this band just kind of started as the side project and after we did one album, we decided to keep doing it," says O'Toole. "Now we're gigging pretty steadily and releasing a lot more material."

Nerd Army is set to perform at Awesomefest March 28 at the Pavilion.





RYAN HEISE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

John K. Sampson of The Weakerthans rocks out at The Palace March 20.

Picky Palace crowd greets Weatherthans and Constantines

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

March 20 was an odd day in Halifax. It was freezing outside and dipped even lower in the evening. Despite the cold in the air, this was a day people had been excited about for quite awhile: The Weakerthans and Constantines would be playing The Palace.

But all this excitement and anticipation was unapparent upon walking into the Palace when the show started at 8 p.m. on the frigid Friday. As the Superfantastics came onto the stage to deliver a strong opening performance, there was a lack of people who really cared. Maybe this was because their performance wasn't advertised on the tickets; maybe not many people knew who they were. Either way, the crowd was dead during the duo's brief set, leading the Superfantastics to leave the stage after their final song with not even a goodbye. It seemed like the house lights were still on while they were playing.

After the Superfantastics left the

stage, the crowd surged forward, getting ready for the Constantines. After setting up their instruments themselves and waiting long enough for the fog machine to fill the stage in a dark haze, the Toronto band burst into a perfect set of old and new, rare and popular songs from its catalogue.

Even for those who went to the show not yet as fans of the Constantines, it was apparent that this would be an energetic set. In the first song, lead vocalist Bryan Webb played with his mic stand like it was a foreign object and acted like he didn't even know how to sing into it. Extending the mic upwards until it grazed the house lights, Webb dropped it down in front of him to deliver a chorus without missing a beat.

The stage theatrics wouldn't end there. The band members delivered the most energetic set of the evening, throwing their guitars around and bashing them into their amps occasionally, creating a denser and more disorienting soundscape than the one already associated with their albums.

During the sludge-y Cure meets Joy Division performance of "Trans Canada" the guitarists drenched the stage in distorted reverb, slamming the guitars against themselves while the funky bass line of the song kept surging it forward.

The only downside was that almost half the crowd wouldn't stop talking during the songs.

That changed when The Weakerthans took the stage after a 15-minute turnover of equipment. After the lights had been set up, the band charged through a set of old and new songs. The crowd sang along to almost every word and stayed on the trail of lead singer John K. Sampson's lyrics. Bass player Greg Smith bounded around on stage, still a live image of the punk roots of the band.

After an encore, the band members stepped off the stage and continued along on their cross-Canada tour, but not before giving one of the more fun performances Halifax has seen in awhile, even in a venue like The Palace.

In the eye of the beholder

Dal Art Gallery opens *Staging the Self* exhibit

JOHANNA MERTH
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

"People are boring unless they're extremists," reads a slightly wrinkled and faded T-shirt sitting in the Dalhousie Art Gallery's new exhibit "Staging the Self", featuring the work of Martha Wilson.

The show, curated by Peter Dykhuus, follows Wilson's artwork over the past 30 years as an artist who embraces the avant-garde, contemporary art movement through a highly political, feminist and activist lens.

As a student at Dal in the early 1970s, Wilson began her introspective works here in Halifax. Her photographs deal with the issues ranging

from female subjectivity and the perception of the self through the exploration of male and female personas and costume transformations to satirical impersonations of mainstream political figures.

Wilson, who was in Halifax on March 21, gave a guided tour to patrons and explained her progression as an artist and social and political activist. She says key issues of the times drive her work.

"Your ambitions never really change - time marches on but we still want what we wanted 30 years ago," says Wilson. "We want the world to be a better place and we are doing our work so that will happen... keep doing your work and, OK, the world might

blow up, but if you keep doing your work at least you'll be at peace with your own effort."

Many of Wilson's pieces offer highly critical yet hilarious approaches to the issues of war, politics and impending "doom." She also displays her keen wit in her more recent work, challenging political and social identities through satirical impersonations of key public figures such as Nancy Reagan and Laura Bush.

Staging the Self is a must-see for any art-loving activist or simply those viewers who enjoy an alternative perspective.

Staging the Self will be exhibited at the Dalhousie Art Gallery until May 10.



SUPPLIED

Lesley Boutillier, here with her husband, Graham, during their European vacation, turned the trip into a book.

Marriage meets travel meets Murphy's Law

Dal grad writes book on backpacking Europe

SANDRA WHITTY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie graduate Lesley Boutillier recently released her first book, *Backpacking with a Husband: Chasin' Murphy's Law* about her adventures travelling to eight countries in seven weeks.

Boutillier, who grew up in North Sydney, Cape Breton, graduated from Dal in 2004 with a major in English before becoming a teacher at a Riverview High School in Riverview, N.B.

After getting home from work in June 2008, Boutillier announced to her husband, Graham, that she wanted to go on a trip to Europe, and they were on a flight the very next day.

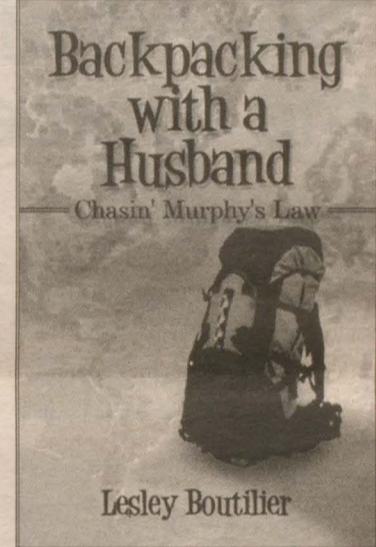
The couple explored Europe and documented their adventures: seeing the Pope in Italy, sky-diving, bungee-jumping and white water rafting in Switzerland, attending a sex show in Holland, bar-hopping in Ireland and visiting the Louvre, The Arc de Triomphe, Shakespeare's Globe theatre, the Coliseum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican, the Swiss Alps, the Guinness Storehouse and Juno Beach.

The Eiffel Tower holds a particular soft spot in Boutillier's heart.

"I had no idea what I was getting myself into," says Boutillier of walking up the stairs of the Eiffel Tower. "By the time we reached the first level, I felt like my heart was going to explode. The beauty of the city and the thought of being on top of France made it worthwhile. The view was spectacular and it was only topped by sharing it with my husband."

After returning home, Boutillier wrote *Backpacking with a Husband: Chasin' Murphy's Law* in less than a month.

"I don't think about the writing process or what I'm putting on the page. I just write and write until I have nothing left," says Boutillier. "Sometimes, my writing is so mindless, that



I will type my stories while watching television, talking on the phone, and having a conversation with my husband. Sometimes, I will wake up in the middle of the night and type five pages. Everything in my life is very sporadic."

Boutillier is already working on a second novel that will focus on what she calls her crazy, fun-loving family and the hardships that they faced in the last few months. Since November, Boutillier has been trapped on the side of the road for 16 hours in a snowstorm, she lost her great-grandmother and her uncle, her grandparents' house burned to the ground and she caught a virus similar to shingles.

"We may have been through hell and back, but we are still standing strong because we are a supportive, caring, thoughtful family that will survive whatever life throws our way," she says.

Boutillier plans to travel again this summer with her husband to see several more countries in Europe and continue to travel - by backpacking, of course.

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CKDU to mark second anniversary of UN convention

ANNA DEMELLO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Two years ago, on March 30, 2007, a Dalhousie student successfully lobbied the Canadian federal government to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century, according to the UN.

Robab Haghpanh, a single mother of a young son with special needs, was that student. Her hard work has helped improve the lives of people across this country who are in need of support and resources, but she says more must be done.

In 2007, Haghpanh was heart-broken upon hearing that the federal government did not wish to sign the convention. She says that for the sake of her child, she decided to start a petition, and worked to gather signatures every day - between classes, in the evenings, and on weekends.

"It was hard emotionally," says Haghpanh. "Sometimes I asked over 300 people in a day to sign. I had to explain over and over what the convention was about, but the most painful part for me as a mother was explaining to strangers that my child is special needs."

Even after all of this, out of the hundreds of people I would speak to, only about 30 would support my petition."

In the end, however, she was able to gather and turn over 800 signatures to then-MP Alexa McDonough and the convention was later signed.

"Everything I did was for (my son's) future to become a little easier," says Haghpanh.

The UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities outlines its principals as those of dignity, autonomy, non-discrimination, inclusion in society, equal opportunity and accessibility for men, women and children with disabilities.

Whether the convention adequately addresses the needs of those with a disability is really up to the communities and society as a whole. Haghpanh



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal student Robab Haghpanh is raising awareness about Canadians living with disabilities.

says now things are quite different than they were even 10 years ago.

"Lots of improvements have occurred," she says. "People are more vocal now. Parents and community members are more active. They express what they need."

Haghpanh knows that those with special needs face huge obstacles in everyday life.

"Life is not the same. The person has to deal with emotional and physical drain constantly. Asking strangers to help - it's so draining. You feel exhausted. There is much vulnerability to violence and discrimination. That's why they need the support. It's a very

tough life."

On March 30, CKDU radio will mark the second anniversary of the signing of the convention.

"We asked some people, from a Montreal-based organization lobbying for women with disabilities, to speak and bring their concerns," says Haghpanh.

An hour of interviews and discussion will occur on the program.

"I will be there myself, letting the public know we need their support," says Haghpanh.

For more information on the convention, visit: www.un.org/disabilities.

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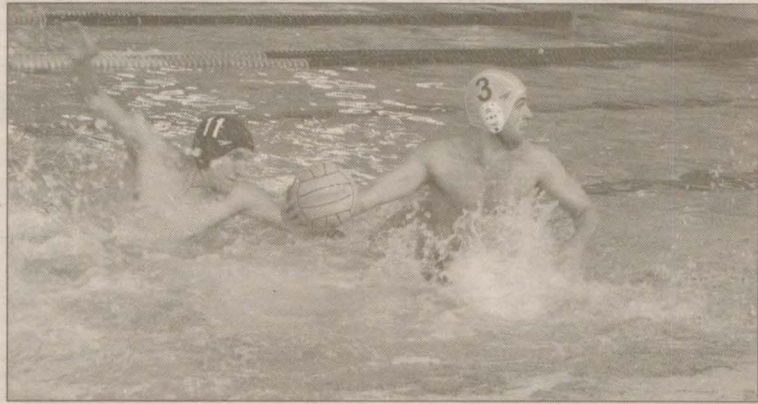
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Bronze for Dal waterpolo at fifth annual spring meet

SCOTT MONEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

One of two Dalhousie teams in the fifth annual Invitational Water Polo Tournament swam away with third place after victory in the Dalplex pool from March 13 to 15. Dal Black won against New Brunswick A, 10-7. In the round robin, Dal Black won two of four games while the other team, Dal Gold, won zero of four.

Dal Black defender John Gauthier and coach Al Hennen said they were pleased with the third-place finish. They praised the talent and skill of the two teams who played in the final, the Newfoundlanders and the Old Timers Reunion Team. Both teams featured previous members of the national wa-



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

The Dal Invitational tournament was revived five years ago and has since thrived.

ter polo team and former Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) champs. Dal

Black was one of the favourites to make the finals, along with the Old Timers Re-

union Team and the Newfoundlanders.

The tournament format was made up of two divisions of four teams, each with a preliminary round and a divisional round robin. Crossover games then determined playoff contenders before the final.

This year's Invitational was the first time in the history of Canadian water polo that a tournament featured eight different teams from three Atlantic provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Dal Invitational Tournament was a regular event, but it was cancelled due to a decline in interest. Five years ago it was revived and the event has since thrived.

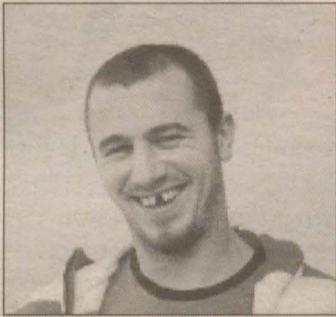
Head referee of the tournament, Christi Bardecki, says she's really excit-

ed to see water polo growing as a competitive sport. Bardecki is no stranger to water polo. She played in the World Championship, the Pan Am Games, the Commonwealth Championships (held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games), and in the World Cup as a member of the Canadian Junior and Senior teams. She also played professionally in France and Britain. Bardecki says the Dal Invitational does a lot for the development of players. She hopes to see Eastern Canadian teams competing once again at nationals, something she hasn't seen in more than a decade.

The Dal Water Polo team is looking for new players for the upcoming fall 2009 season. All Dal students are welcome to play, regardless of skill or commitment level.

Sport retort

Take time to play



TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Why is it that no one knows how to play anymore? In today's world, there never seems to be enough time for play. And that's just sad. Today's world has become a constant struggle, with financial woes and constant competition dominating our lives. Organized sports and activities have taken over more and more of kids' lives, overtaking the time that used to be spent on unorganized play. This time lost means a loss of intangibles in today's youth. The time spent on play is time spent developing skills and personality traits, things like creativity, individual initiative and social skills.

Why is it that no one ever just picks up a ball and makes up a game anymore? It seems that games now have to be completely organized, completely officiated, and most of all completely safe. Am I the only one who thinks that maybe we're losing something here? By completely controlling our children's play, we are controlling what they learn from it. Children today are so used to being told what to do and how to do it that many of them become dependent on instruction. Recent studies conduct-

ed by the American Toy Institute, the philanthropic arm of the American Toy Manufacturers, have found that children who are exposed to unorganized play are overwhelmingly more competent in many areas, including imagination, self-confidence, creativity, problem solving, and cooperation, not to mention the physical benefits of actually playing outside.

So if we all know that playing is good for our children, why is it that we continue to allow children to waste away their days in front of television screens? Is it laziness, or is it simply that there is no chance of children hurting themselves while watching TV? Parents today seem to be so afraid their children might hurt themselves that they take outlandish steps to prevent any injuries. I recently witnessed a child attempting to take its first steps - with a goddamn helmet on! None of us learned to walk without falling. Falling - and injuring ourselves - is a natural part of learning, and a big part of developing our bodies to deal with pain and injury. Without these minor scrapes and cuts, we develop into individuals scared to ever injure our bodies. Now I'm not saying that turns those people into pussies, but those people are pussies.

This new generation just doesn't know how to play. A recent day at the park saw people all over Gorsebrook field, playing catch, playing Frisbee, and my group of friends playing an entirely too-high-energy game of football. I was happy to see everyone outside until I noticed one thing - there wasn't a person under the age of 19 at the park. Not one. So on a beautiful weekend, with the sun shining and the air crisp, where were all the kids?



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Write For the Gazette!

Contributors meeting every Monday 5:30pm Rm 317 S.U.B.



THE SEXTANT

MILITARY MATTERS

Matt Morrisey
Anna West
Editor

Over the weekend another four Canadian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan. One of whom was from my home town and his mother attends the same church as my parents. This is very much tied into the on-goings on Iraq and Iran. I went to a well informed friend of mine to get an update on the latest tidings. This is what he said:

"On March 20th, 2009 Barack Obama reached out to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, leader of Iran. First a little back story on the relations between the United States of America and Iran: 1953 was the year the United States really got involved with Iran and overthrew Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq. Mossadeq wanted to nationalize the oil operations in Iran, and clearly America at this time would have taken this as "communist" so Mossadeq was removed from power in favour of the Shah of Iran. The Shah was a ruthless man, and in my opinion this is just another example of the United States' administration preferring totalitarianism over anyone remotely left of centre.

Eventually the Shah of Iran would be overthrown in the Iranian Revolution of 1979. So like the government/ruling bodies of Latin America set up by the United States, Iran fell to the opposition. Also in 1979, 52 American diplomats were kidnapped for 444 days. Jimmy Carter's administration then severed ties with Iran in 1980. Since the end of diplomatic ties between America and Iran there have been many problems from the Iran-Contra affair under Ronald Reagan's administration to George W. Bush and his "Axis of Evil" comments.

President Barack Obama appeared in a video wanting to re-attach severed ties with Iran and discuss with Iran their problems concerning America's ally Israel among other things such as terrorism and nuclear weapons. This represents the first steps towards the right direction for America's foreign policy regarding Iran. However Iran's leader sees no difference between Former President George W. Bush and current President Barack Obama according to CTV and FoxNews. Obama's words do seem to be rather condescending to Iran, and Obama seems to still be treating them as an "Axis

of evil" much like Bush did.

If peace occurs between the United States and Iran it will need to be done without a condescending attitude from America. Apologies should be made to Iranians by America for supporting Saddam Hussein during his vicious attacks on Iran during the 1980s. An apology was made in 2000 for America's support in the 1953 coup but by the Secretary of State not by then President Bill Clinton. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made a good point about how Obama's administration has preached change but yet much remains the same. Khamenei remarked in his response to Obama, "Have you released Iranian assets? Have you lifted oppressive sanctions? Have you given up mudslinging and making accusations against the great Iranian nation and its officials? Have you given up your unconditional support for the Zionist regime? Even the language remains unchanged."

US and Iran relations are clearly far apart, but at least this is the early signs of better times ahead. Maybe in the not too distant future Obama and Khamenei could sit down and actually discuss restarting diplo-

matic relations between their two countries."

This subject is always a hot-topic, but now even more than ever for the students of Dalhousie University. NSPIRG (Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group) is an anti-oppression group trying to fight for social justice. They are currently attempting grave changes to the Dalhousie Student Union and constitution by basically removing any military presence on Dalhousie University property. The Canadian military offers funding, jobs and many great opportunities for Dalhousie students. Some Dalhousie students are current members of the reserves and have their education paid for by the Canadian military. There are several motions on the agenda for the additional Annual General Meeting that will be held on April 1st, 2009 at 6:30 of the McInnes Room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Please come and have a say. Remember to bring your ID card, as it will be required for entrance. For more information visit: <http://www.dsu.ca/news/dsu-agm-update>

YOU MIGHT BE AN ENGINEER IF...

- You'll assume that a "horse" is a "sphere" in order to make the math easier.
- You bring a computer manual / technical journal as vacation reading.
- The salesperson at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions.
- You're in line for the guillotine... it stops working properly... and you offer to fix it.
- You go on the rides at Disneyland and sit backwards to see how they do the special effects.
- You have any "Dilbert" comics displayed in your work area.
- You have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.
- You think that when people around you yawn, it's because they didn't get enough sleep.
- You would rather get more dots per inch than miles per gallon
- You've ever calculated how much you make per second.
- You chuckle whenever anyone says "centrifugal force".
- You've actually used every single function on your graphing calculator.
- It is sunny and 70 degrees outside, and you are working on a computer.
- You have a pet named after a scientist.
- You laugh at jokes about mathematicians.
- You can translate English into Binary.
- You consider ANY non-engineering course "easy".
- You understood more than five of these jokes.

Engineering Humor . You Might Be An Engineer If... Accessed on March 23, 2009 from: <http://www.gdargaud.net/Humor/Engineer.html>



CO-OP CORNER

Important Dates:

- March 19 • Last day of Round II.
- March 20 • Employer rankings and offers posted for Round II.
- March 20 - 23 • Question and Answer days with the Co-op Office.
- March 23 • Student Rankings for Round II must be posted by 2:00pm.
- March 24 • Round III begins. This round has no ranking system.

Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>
- Remember that students are encouraged to do their own job search as well as to utilize the postings on PlacePro.
- 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 profes-



Thursday March 26 • The Novaks
Friday March 27 • Trivia
Thursday April 2 • Open Mic
Friday April 3 • Big Engineering



Wednesday April 1 • DSU General Meeting. Come to McInnes Room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building for 6:30.
Friday April 3 • Big Engineering in the Parking Lot: Live Music, Food and Drinks!

Sick.




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