

Oct. 30 - Nov. 6, 2009

Gazette 142-08 FREE

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868

# Gazette



Cover Image by Laura Dawe



# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## DSU Weekly Dispatch

### Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

#### Wednesday Nov 4th @ The Grawood

Open Mic Night to benefit War Child  
\$100 cash prize for the best performance!

#### Saturday November 21st @ The Grawood

Tony Lee XXX Hypnotist

#### Wednesday November 25th @ The Grawood

Dalhousie's Got Talent Round 2

### Student information sessions for "Being a REAL Student"

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**Monday, November 2, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

Room A103, Faculty of Engineering, 1360 Barrington Street

**Wednesday, November 4, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

Room 224/226, Student Union Building

**Thursday, November 5, 11:00 to 12:00 noon**

Room 2616, Killam Library

for more information contact Rob LeForte - VP Education  
at 494-1275, or [dsuvsdp@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvsdp@dal.ca)

The DSU would like to thank Chebucto Community Net and The Dalhousie Computer Science Society for helping to host our first speaker series event of the year "Who is Shaping Your Digital Future?" with Keynote speaker Dr. Laura Murray. The event was a success and wouldn't have been possible without them!

Sincerely,

*Your DSU Executive*

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion,  
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### THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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

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### CORRECTION:

Last week, in a review of Dalhousie Theatre's *Fairy of the Lake*, we were wrong to print that Zuppa Theatre would direct upcoming show *Dante's Inferno*. Serbian director Dragana Varagic will direct this play. Also, the actors on stilts were not playing "gods" but rather "Giant Demons of Hela."

In addition, the photo that paired with the News article about the Black Student Advisory Centre did not accurately represent the article. The people shown in the photo do not necessarily hold the same views expressed by those quoted in the article. The Gazette apologizes for any confusion.

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# Letter from the Editor



Joshua Boyter Editor in Chief  
editor@dalgazette.com

## ONE LACKING PROGRAM PER CHILD

Joshua Boyter  
Editor in Chief

Imagine that brightly coloured laptops sit in a small closet in rural Africa and slowly collect dust as the days pass. The school that owns them cannot secure power to recharge their batteries, the broken dreams of a grand philanthropist idea that was supposed to revolutionize the world.

In 2005 at a conference in Tunis, Tunisia, Nicholas Negroponte unveiled the One Laptop Per Child campaign with the goal of outfitting children in the developing world with laptops. The grand scheme was to extend children's knowledge with computers and expand their educational horizons. Four years since the first laptop was touted the program continues to struggle get-

ting off the ground and fulfill much of its early goals. Any person who studies international development knows this story is only one among a long line of philanthropist development program carnage. From One Laptop Per Child to the scandal that marred Gap's RED campaign, these programs often crumble under their own weight.

Be it laptops, using consumerism to end AIDS or using large sums of money to wage war against disease with pharmaceutical drugs, these large-scale philanthropist programs always have one ultimate goal. The development of these programs with one sole goal narrows the view of the project considerably. Development with blinders on becomes the reality of the day, streamlining the project. This fails to address problems outside of the scope of the mission.

Development is a messy and a complicated affair. Rarely can a problem be attributed to one item or solved through one solution. Every problem has to be looked at from various angles and solved through concurrently looking and addressing many issues at once.

The western world is a wired society. Cell phones, computers and technology devices become extra appendages to our bodies. We often think of the benefits that such technology has brought to our lives and want to extend this to the developing world. While this technology could help, the perpetual lack of secure power grids, poor communication infrastructure and high costs mean such solutions have towering walls for developing communities to surmount. These technology solutions often add to the problems that exist within the

community. Lack of tech support, and using valuable fuel to power generators can make it difficult to use such technologies. While technology can help with the spread of information, it is possible to use local means of communication and development to attack problems that technology could also solve.

We often see philanthropist programs develop ventures for themselves and not for their partners in development. This is readily seen in the One Laptop Per Child program. In Ethiopia teachers will not allow laptops in the class since they think it will distract the children from learning. It is ironic the exact issue that the program is trying to solve becomes the problem itself. It is important that local systems be able to use the technology. If the system or the local people cannot use the solution since it fails to work

within their own worldview, the project is guaranteed to fail. It is important that we look at development as a partner relationship in which we take the ideas of the community in question and together develop solutions to problems.

The relocation of philanthropist to the mid section of the development machine will enable huge changes to be made. We can no longer afford to continue with a top-down approach. The development of many grassroots programs over wide area that are well funded will bring about considerable change. This means using money where it is needed, developing programs with local needs in mind and eliminating the strings attached to the money. It is important we study programs as One Laptop Per Child ensuring that we do not make the same mistakes in the future.

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# News

**News**

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! Email Bethany or Lucy at news@dalgazette.com



Bethany Horne **News Editor**  
news@dalgazette.com

# The lost demographic

## Immigrants between the ages of 18 and 24 are living "in a vacuum"

**Sunjay Mathuria**  
News Contributor

Fadi Hamdan has come a long way from Jordan. Only three years after arriving in Canada, the 20-year-old is now a youth worker at the local YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs.

But his accomplishments did not come without trial.

"When I came here, I really needed someone to help show me around and help me around the city, and I didn't have that," he says.

"If you're over 21, you're treated as an adult and you're expected to prove yourself as one. But it's difficult to do when you're in a new country," Hamdan says.

In 2001, Statistics Canada reported 2,260 of the immigrants in Halifax belonged to the 18 to 24 age group.

Many of them face challenges similar to the ones Hamdan did.

Often classified as "adult" children of immigrants, these youth are too old for the public school system, but too young to fit in an adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

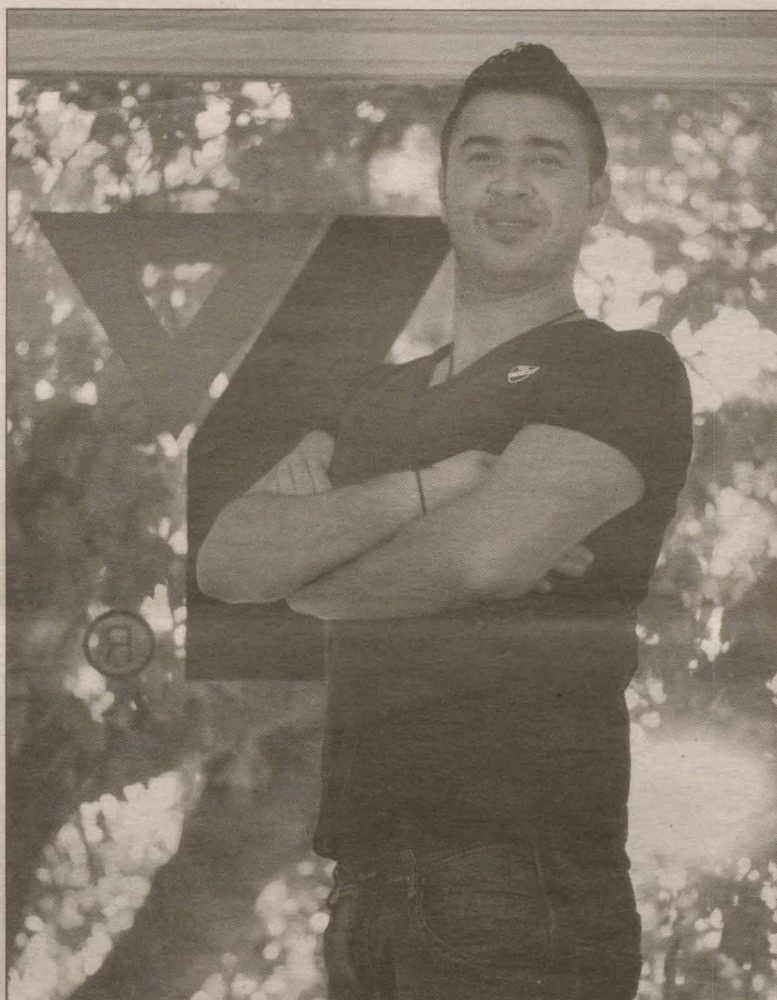
Sarah Cooper, a Settlement Worker for Refugees at the Metropolitan Immigration Settlement Association (MISA) says that there is not enough support for this particular age group.

"To put them in adult ESL is not the best option," she says. "They will be with older people and won't have that peer support their own age. But you also can't put a 21-year-old with grade 10s."

Carmen Moncayo, MISA family counsellor, compares this age group's situation to "being in a vacuum."

She says the options for them right now aren't good enough.

While younger immigrant children are able to adapt quickly to Canadian life, and pick up English easier, their older sib-



Fadi Hamdan faced obstacles when he immigrated to Canada at 17 years old. He now works with older immigrant youth at the YMCA. | Photo by Pau Balite

lings find it more difficult. Social circles and peer groups are almost non-existent for the adult children of immigrants.

For Hamdan this was certainly true. "My younger brothers handled it really well," Hamdan says. "They made

friends and had school and they had a chance to practice their English."

"For me, I had to go to work, and I couldn't make friends a lot of the time and didn't have the same chance to practice my English."

From her experience with refugee cases, Cooper says that a lot of older youth still want to get an education.

"Many of them say themselves that they want to be in high school," she says.

But for those who want to study, the process is strenuous and in most cases, long. While most people their age are in university, these youth are taking years just to get ready for post-secondary opportunities.

"It's very frustrating for them to go through six to eight years of high school and ESL before they are ready," says Cooper.

"There needs to be some flexibility with schooling options, so students can simultaneously have ESL and high school," she says.

Moncayo agrees that the educational options for this demographic is in want

together. Previously, any child over the age of 21 wishing to immigrate to Nova Scotia with their families had to apply separately. As a result, many families were separated.

"The kind of criteria for the old program (was) based on a more western idea of family," Moncayo says.

Cooper says it's more inclusive now. "It's quite challenging to have to leave behind any child," she says.

This demographic doesn't deserve the short straw they have been given. Even though younger newcomers have more opportunities and services available to them, their older siblings prove to be just as successful.

"There is so much potential at that age. They bring a great deal of strength

**"The criteria for the old program was based on a western idea of family."**

of reform.

"We need to find the right way to respond to their situations," she says. "Universities, ESL schools, high schools and immigration services all need to be on board."

A new nominee program that started this past summer may help address some of the issues this age group faces. The program is designed to attract young immigrants to the Canadian workforce. Foreign credentials will also be more widely recognized.

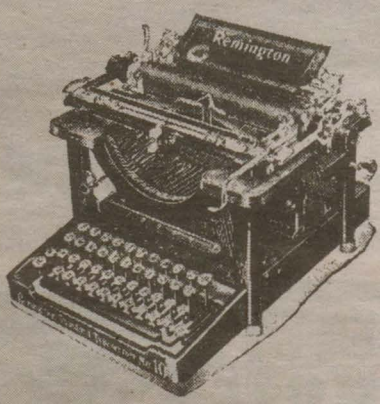
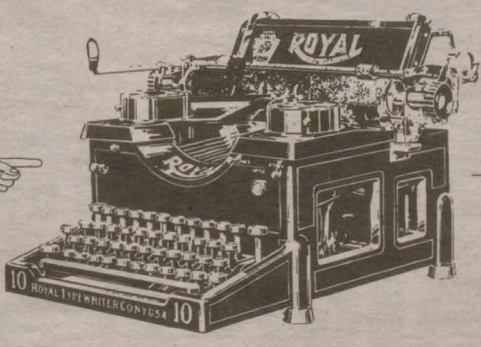
And, people registered with a Nova Scotia Nominee Program visa will be entitled to study in Canada.

One of the goals is to try to keep families

to the table that helps overcome the obstacles," says Cooper. "But they do need help to remove these obstacles."

MISA and YMCA organize mentorships and other programs to help newcomers adapt better to Canada. But Hamdan says older immigrant youth need more recreational activities to increase their chances of practicing English.

"The key is to be patient," he says. "Try to be open-minded and take the good from your culture, and the good from Canadian culture, and mix it up."

## CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

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### DAL GAZETTE

### RM 312 S.U.B.

# From Nigeria to Dal

Advisor to black students uses experience to instruct others

Bethany Horne  
News Editor

**O**lorunke Taiwo says she knows only too well the sting of racism.

The successes in her career in medical microbiology in Nigeria, where she taught and published at the University of Lagos, didn't go far when she moved to Canada in 1998.

"I knew the racism that I went through," she says. "After having a masters for 17 years, having to go back and start. That is a barrier I had to cross."

In Africa, she had been a lab technician and then a lecturer, working with pharmacy students. The United Nations sponsored her to bring her research about antibiotics to Dalhousie University. After the sponsored term ran out, she wanted to stay in Canada.

Her family joined her after a year, but she couldn't find work in her field. At that point, she started a bachelor of social work.

And last year, only weeks away from her graduation from the Master of Social Work program, she was hired to become the next advisor at the Black Student Advising Centre.

Now, her office is decorated with signs of her journey. Two cuddling giraffes, carved out of a piece of blonde wood, sit atop a filing cabinet. Her certificate of counselling skills from International Correspondence Schools is displayed, along with her degrees from Dal and her Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers registration.

More than a year into her job, she says it has not been easy settling in.

"To me, the greatest challenge is actually being accepted by the indigenous black," Taiwo says.

"Because I am the first non-indigenous black (students') advisor. I cannot explain the reason why," she says. "My goal since I came is: 'How do we unite, as blacks?'"

She says as fellow victims of racism, they have more in common than they have differences.

"If they believe that, 'Oh, nobody understands me, nobody has gone



Olorunke Taiwo faced criticisms from students in last week's Gazette. | File Photo

through my problem; this will be an ongoing thing, and it will not end."

"Bitterness will start to evolve in anger," she says. "The generations that are coming after us, they follow what they see, and they will pass that on."

Even though becoming a social worker was not her first plan in life, she now says she enjoys being a counsellor. She says the best part of the job is talking to students.

"Because I am also a social worker, I am able to use my theoretical understanding and skill to get through cognitively to students."

She says her style of counselling consists of setting herself as an example to students.

"If I can go through full-time work, full-time school, and family – you can. And I'm not young."

"I'm able to use my experience to empower people, to encourage people," Taiwo says.

In last week's Gazette, the Black Student Advising Centre's move out of the Student Union Building, and into an old residence at 1400 Henry St., was examined through the words of students. Many of them are worried about this move.

Taiwo says this negativity was a surprise to her.

"In my own silent way, I let the Student Services and the VP know that the house is really important for the students, because it would give them their own space," she says.

"I was flabbergasted to hear that now that they get it, they don't want to move." She says that students haven't given it a chance.

"Only (the) few that have gone in are probably (the) ones telling tales about it."

"If you are given something, appreciate that first," she says. "I will say, let them move, and let them see."

Last week, the centre celebrated their 20th anniversary. Taiwo was one of the main organizers of the banquet and dance, which brought dozens of people from all over the university to the celebration in the McInnis room.

She says the job as Advisor has given her an opportunity to get to know faculties and departments in the university that she wouldn't have otherwise.

"I get to know, I get to meet, I get to be involved. That's really fun."

# Students need more input in contracts – SMAC

Students Mobilize for Action on Campus want contract details made public

Scott Beed  
News Contributor

**O**ver the past few days, petitions have circulated among some Dalhousie University classes. A cup of free soup at Tuppy Thursdays or a study session at the Killam has come with requests for signatures.

Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC) is pushing for greater access to information about Dalhousie Student Union's corporate deals. The deals in question are with Pepsi Co., Moosehead and Sodexo.

"There are issues with contracts that we don't even know about," says SMAC member Brian Lume. "There are potentially private firms that are called upon to do work on campus."

"Full transparency regardless of what the company does on campus is crucial," Lume adds.

In recent years, corporate presence has increased at Dalhousie. It's in line with all other post-secondary institutions because of the struggling economy. But according to their website, SMAC wants the information accessible to every member of the student body. It's the central focus in their campaign.

Lume says the privatization of university services limits freedom on campus to choose local or sustainable products. He says the DSU should find partnerships with local organizations because it best represents the interests of the students.

"Students have been receptive," Lume says. "This isn't a partisan issue regardless if you stand left or right on the political spectrum. This is about governmental accountability."

In an email, DSU VP (finance and operations) Doyle Bond says the DSU can't comment on details surrounding the Pepsi contract.

"The reason for this is because of competitiveness," Bond says.

"Contracts that are open competition we cannot share," adds Charles Crosby, media relations and official spokesperson for Dalhousie. "There are confidentiality clauses for reasons relating to basic competition issues. It is not fair to any of the parties involved in the process to share details of the arrangements one may have with the university. It would render the process moot, or at a minimum, unfair. With regard to Moosehead, there is

no exclusivity agreement with Moosehead, and it's not even a contract per se. That is a sponsorship through Athletics."

"This process ensures that these services are delivered with the best value to students at Dalhousie," Crosby says.

"There are many hundreds, perhaps more, of individual contracts at Dalhousie," he adds. "That's the nature of any large

**"This isn't a partisan issue regardless if you stand left or right on the political spectrum. This is about governmental accountability."**

organization. We have similar contracts regarding everything from snow removal to elevator maintenance to monitoring the steam lines, to employee contracts in departments all across all three campuses, and everything in between."

Pepsi contract specifics are not known. Lume says Dal has to fill a quota. If the amount of Pepsi products sold doesn't meet a certain number then Dalhousie doesn't receive funding. Dal didn't meet its quota last year. Essentially, Pepsi had its machines on campus for free, he adds.

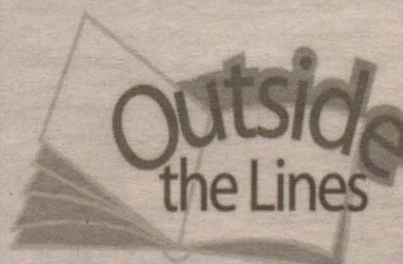
According to Lume, if Dal doesn't make a profit from these exclusive deals, then it's not beneficial to have them. Dal should look for contracts that foster better educational experiences for all students, Lume says.

As stated on their website, SMAC's goal is to create an environment that allows more participation among students. This will ensure greater democratization.

The group is trying to obtain 1,500 signatures so they can present a motion to the senate and get legislation passed by the end of the term to put forth a referendum.

By last Saturday, SMAC had already collected about 400 to 500 signatures. But last year's DSU elections had just a 20 per cent voter turnout. This translates to nearly 3000 students.

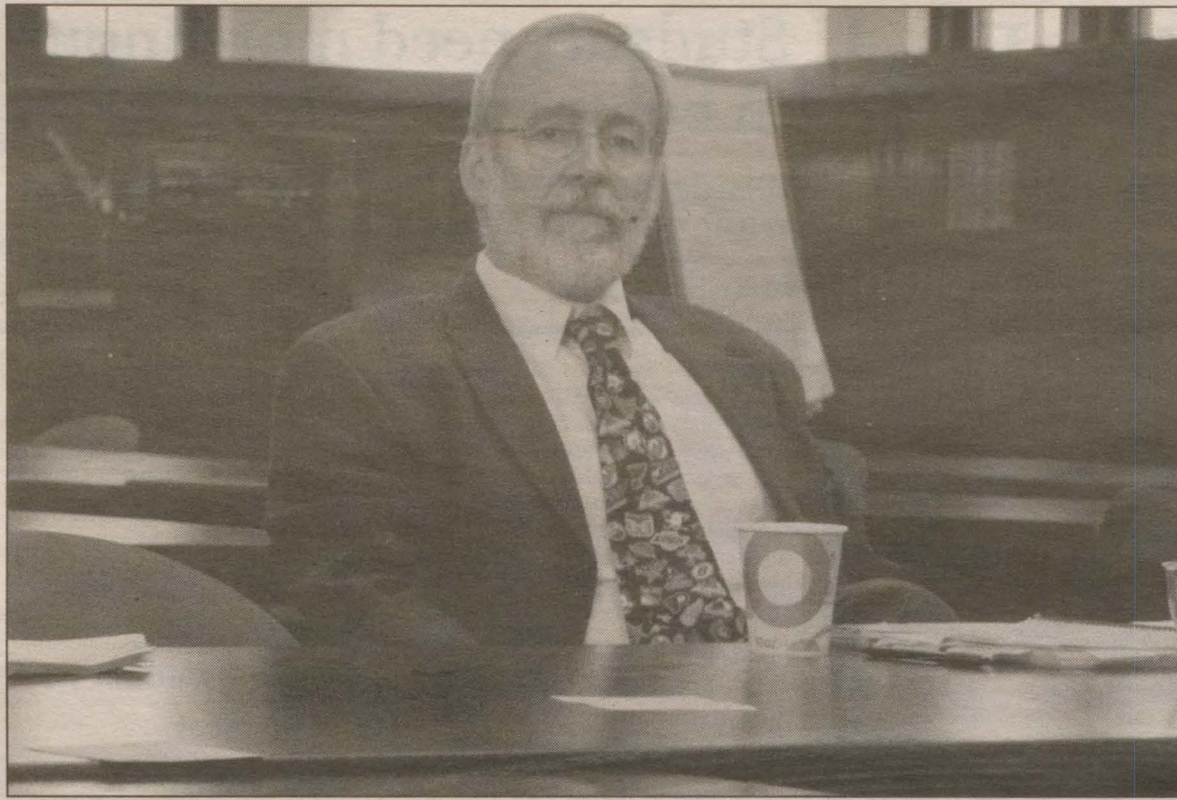




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## News



Wayne MacKay at the Further Along the Way speaking circle. Photo by Bethany Horne

# Fighting old battles

## Consultation is one lesson to learn from 1989 report

Bethany Horne  
News Editor

Twenty years might have gone by, but Black Nova Scotians still face many of the same barriers to education that they did in 1989.

This was one of the realities up for discussion at a workshop organized by the Black Student Advising Centre (BSAC). The workshop examined Breaking Barriers, a report that brought the centre into existence.

More than 30 people met last Friday to discuss how far along the fight against systemic racism at Dalhousie University has advanced.

Wayne MacKay, a professor at the law school, set the tone with his introductory remarks.

"The most important kind of accommodation is systemic accommodation," he said. Lifting a person in a wheelchair above a flight of stairs may solve one problem, but building a ramp makes the building accessible from then on.

He said these systemic changes are what are needed at Dalhousie. MacKay chaired the 1989 Task Force on Access for Black and Native People that put together the Breaking Barriers report.

As recently as 2006, the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies said the enrolment level of Nova Scotian black students at Dalhousie is low.

David Divine told Nova News Net that the disadvantaged position of blacks needs to be "systematically examined."

The M.C. of the event, former BSAC advisor Barbara Hinch-Hamilton, said the workshop on Friday was supposed to bring the report back and find new ways to move forward on it.

"It hasn't been a document with wheels," she said. "It was done, some things were implemented and then it was stopped."

The report was written on the basis of a six-month long consultation process that took the Task Force members all over the province to hear from Black and Mi'kmaq community members, on their own turf.

"The perception of Dalhousie ... in the various communities that we visited was really not a very positive one. It was seen as ... elitist, remote, alien, aloof," MacKay said.

One of the presentations they heard in March 1989, by Darrel Bowden on behalf of the Black Canadian Student Association at Dalhousie, is included in Appendix Two of the report.

"Being Black Canadians, more spe-

Canadian Students Association and Dal administrative staff. It is not clear whether any subsequent hiring committees included the student voice.

There are concerns that students' complaints about the non-indigenous black student advisor, Oluronke Taiwo (profiled in the companion article in this edition) are dismissed for being xenophobic.

Keslyn Adams, who works as the secretary of the BSAC, says students' dissatisfaction with Taiwo are not xenophobic, or racist, at all.

"There are more than a few African students who have also expressed their

**"Dalhousie was seen as ... elitist, remote, alien, aloof."**

cifically Black Nova Scotian, it is important that we are not to be categorized with all minorities, or even other blacks, in the same terms," Bowden wrote.

"There is a significant difference between growing up as a black majority in Africa, than growing up as a black minority with a slave history in Canada."

MacKay, in his speech, said the recommendations in the report prioritized programs that would help indigenous blacks.

"They were clearly, in 1989, the most underrepresented" at the university, he said.

In creating this distinction, the Task Force honoured the requests of the black students.

Last week, The Gazette examined the controversial claim that students' opinions are no longer valued when the university makes decisions affecting the Black Student Advising Centre.

The centre's website says the first committee to select a black student advisor consisted of members of the Black

concerns with the centre under her management, and one has even said so to senior administration at the university," Adams wrote in an email. She has been on sick leave for two weeks.

The next *Gazette* investigation will focus on the meat of students' complaints against Taiwo as an academic advisor, a personal counsellor, and an events organizer. Reporters are relying on students who have experienced Taiwo as a counsellor and leader of the centre, to speak up.

*If you have had any experience, positive or negative, in the last year with Black Student Advisor, please contact gazettenewsdesk@gmail.com to share.*

*Scans of pages from the Breaking Barriers report, including the 40 or so concrete recommendations it made, can be seen at the Gazette website, and Flickr feed. The report in its entirety is available in the Killam Library, call number LE 3 D292 D34 1989.*



Courtney Bragg, Atlantic Canada Coordinator of Experiences, speaks at the program's launch on Oct. 21. Photo by Lucy Scholey

## National program encourages female political participation

### Experiences launch first time in Nova Scotia

Lucy Scholey  
Assistant News Editor

Female political participation is still a new concept in Canada. But a new national program hopes to change that.

Experiences will pair girls and women with female politicians at all levels of government across Canada. The idea is to encourage a mentor-mentee relationship between participants.

"Our mentors can have a cup of coffee with the mentees and that may be just the boost that young woman needs to make a presentation in her class" said Courtney Bragg, the Atlantic Canada coordinator, at the national program's first launch in the Nova Scotia legislature. "Or in 10 years, because of that boost ... and that mentorship, that young woman may be elected as prime minister of Canada."

The free program is a product of Equal Voice, a multi-partisan and non-profit organization that encourages more female participation in Canadian politics.

Francoise Gagnon, senior program director of Experiences, says she hopes to recruit about 6,000 women and young girls as mentees.

The program is also still recruiting mentors. So far, Halifax MP Megan Leslie, Minister of Health Maureen MacDonald, Liberal MLA Kelly Regan and Minister of Immigration Ramona Jennex have signed up for the program in Nova Scotia.

Dalhousie University student Anita Neumann was the only young woman in the group of nearly 20 people at the launch. Aside from her introductory political science class, Neumann says she knows little about the political scene.

"I'm trying to learn more about (politics) and become involved," she says. She's still unsure whether she'll register for Experiences, but attended the event for more information.

She doesn't follow politics, she adds, but hopes the program can change that.

Louise Carbert, Dal political science professor and chair of Equal

Voice for Nova Scotia, says politics is a boring topic for most young people.

"Political parties have to do something to make political life more appealing," she says. "They have to broaden their pool where they're seeking to recruit candidates."

"I think events like this are really important in keeping up that sort of conviction that everybody's at the table. Everybody has to contribute to keeping the democratic process alive," says Carbert.

It's important that the legislature reflects the general population, she adds.

That means getting more women involved. Out of 52 members, the province elected 12 women last June, equalling 23 per cent of the legislature. It's a historical high, but still far from representing the province's population. Women and girls make up 52 per cent of the population, according to a Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women report.

It's been a slow road. Canadian women won the right to vote in 1918, but Nova Scotia didn't elect a female MLA until 1960.

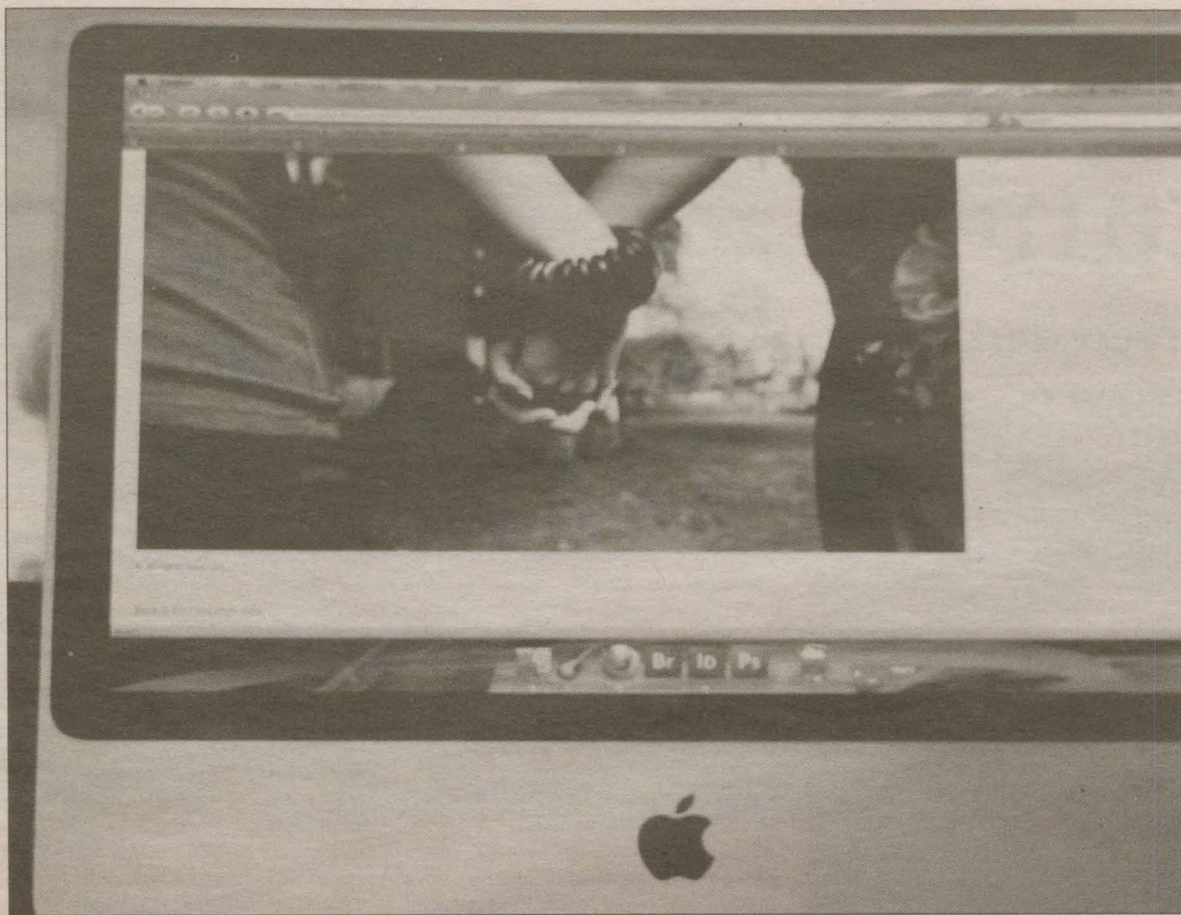
It's difficult to pinpoint the obstacles women face in politics, Carbert adds.

"I think that (the challenge) is just to actually envision ourselves doing it," says Liberal MLA Diana Whalen. "When I talk to other women in politics, they often think that ... they're not ready, even when they're the most accomplished women and they have so much to offer."

Whalen has been involved in politics for nearly nine years, including three in city council. She didn't face many barriers, but says getting involved requires a certain level of confidence.

The program receives its \$1.5 million in funding from the Canadian Advisory Council of the Status of Women, Merck Frosst and TD Bank Financial Group.

The speakers at the event included representatives from the latter two organizations, Leo Van Dijk and Hazel Campbell, respectively, and Denise Peterson-Rafuse, Nova Scotia's minister responsible for the Advisory Council of the Status of Women.



The ethics of researching handholding versus ethical campaigns against it. | Photo Pau Balife

## Internet crusades should be a last resort

### Electronic exchanges elicit ethical review

Lucy Scholey  
Assistant News Editor

**T**o post or not to post? In an era of quick and dirty access to social media, the ethics of launching campaigns is often lost in the fray of the campaigns themselves.

Darren Abramson, computer science philosophy professor at Dalhousie University, says Internet campaigns are ethical only if all other alternatives have been tried first.

"We need to take exceptional steps to make sure we're not being hasty," he says.

The issue came up when – as reported in *The Gazette* on Sept. 25 – a survey about lesbian hand-holding patterns triggered an outcry from LGBTQ activists in Halifax. They said the research of Richard Wassersug, Dal professor of anatomy and neurobiology, demeaned and misunderstood lesbian experience. But a campaign against Wassersug's project also stirred debate surrounding the ethics of Internet crusades.

Abramson says to keep the campaign ethical, the party concerned must have contacted the person associated with the problem to clarify whether the accusations are based on fact. If the person initiating the campaign doesn't feel comfortable doing this, then they should seek other expert opinions.

These steps are important to prevent any harm to the accuser and accused, says Abramson.

"When you have the potential to damage someone's career, you need to corroborate," he says, especially when launching campaigns on the internet, where there's a greater risk of causing harm.

He refers to "The Morality of Whistle-

blowing" by Sissela Bok. The philosopher says whistle-blowers – those who "make revelations meant to call attention to negligence, abuses, or dangers that threaten the public interest" – should only use that technique as a last resort.

Wassersug says he never heard directly from the people who started the campaigning. He feels he was wronged by the rumours spreading on the Internet against him.

His research of heterosexual couples reveals the man's hand is always on top. He wants to know whether the reason is height – males are usually taller – or whether it's because the male is more dominant. Wassersug says factoring out gender might determine if it the dominant hand means anything.

The Research Ethics Board approved the project, but shortly after, a group called "Stop the Lesbian Handholding Study at Dal" formed on Facebook.

The Dalhousie University student who initiated the group says her goal was to raise concerns to the ethics board.

"This is not an issue of who is right and who is wrong, or even if the project should continue or shouldn't," says Erin Fredericks, in an online conversation. "I hope that this raises awareness about the importance of research ethics and starts a discussion in the community about how research can be done ethically."

She has since removed the Facebook group because she says it accomplished her goal to have the Research Ethics Board re-review the project. It was approved.

"The final decision regarding the project is with (the board), but the community

discussion can continue," adds Fredericks.

But Wassersug says he doesn't think community discussion was her intent. It was unethical for Fredericks to initiate this online campaign, he says.

"When you look at what she wrote, she said, 'No lesbians have been consulted,'" he says, adding that he's contacted various lesbian scholars about this project. "So she did something very unethical and she's trying to mask it on the ground that she's trying to encourage ethical discussion."

"She didn't say this project is worthy of discussion; she said this project will do harm," he says.

"I would argue that there is a significant difference between developing a project and then having lesbians review it, and having lesbians involved in the beginning stages of development," says Fredericks. "I believe that any effort to characterize intimacy between two women from a heterosexual perspective has a potential to be harmful to a community that has fought hard to challenge these perceptions."

Wassersug says the problem could have been avoided if Fredericks, or anyone else with similar concerns, had contacted him.

Fredericks didn't say whether she consulted with other people before starting the Facebook group. But she did say that filing a research ethics complaint doesn't require any contact with the researcher.

"As community members or researcher we have the right and responsibility (if we are able) to notify the ethics board and community members if we believe a research project has the potential to cause any form of harm," she says. "We are not required to meet with the researcher."

## Olympics critic speaks out against harassment

Samantha Jung  
The Ubyyssey (University of British Columbia)

**V**ANCOUVER (CUP) – "It was meant to send a chill, and it does. I think many people are shocked and horrified."

Over the past year, UBC professor of Ophthalmology Chris Shaw's friends and ex-wife have been approached by Olympics authorities, simply because they know him. The most recent incident was last week, when Danika Surm, a 24-year-old nursing student and friend of Shaw, was approached and questioned by two police officers at Langara College.

Shaw is an outspoken critic of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, and said that he has been for seven years. He opposes the Games because of the impact it has on the environment, the excessive amount of funding to security measures and laws that restrict rights to free speech. He said that his opinions have nothing to do with who he knows.

"What's that got to do with my friends?" he asked. "It's meant not to find information about where I hid Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, it's meant to send a chill ... It's meant to send a message that if they can approach a student at Langara because she knows me ... They can approach anyone."

Shaw believes that the officers, who were from the Integrated Security Unit (ISU), VANOC's security unit, are threatening BC citizens.

"We still have charter rights," he said, "and they are trying to send a message to people like you and others that you really don't want to be making waves, you don't want to be asking questions, you don't want to be hanging around with that Chris Shaw ... because you're going to get a knock at your door."

Mandy Edwards from the public affairs and media department of the ISU said that officers approached Surm "to speak with her with any information that she had in regards to any threats of security or safety to the 2010 Winter Games," and that she could not comment on why the officers chose to approach her at Langara.

"I can confirm that we are looking to speak to anyone who may have information and we're looking to confirm or disregard persons who pose a threat to the Games," she said.

When asked if Surm was engaging in dangerous acts, Edwards said, "I'm not going to comment on that, but basically we're not looking at speaking to everyone, we have specific people we want to speak to ... but we're looking to speak to anyone, and it could be associates of persons, it could be family members, we're just basically trying to gather information."

Am Johal, Chair of the Impact on Communities Coalition,

an Olympics watchdog group.

"If people have committed crimes, if they have broken the law, (then) certainly the police have a reason to investigate them," said Johal. "In these circumstances, they are preemptively meeting with people and creating a climate of fear."

Shaw and the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) filed a lawsuit last week against the proposed Bill 13, which, if passed, would give municipal officers the ability to enter residences after only 24 hours notice to remove or cover illegal signage during the Olympic period. The bill also restricts signage from

**"You don't want to be hanging around with that Chris Shaw."**

being displayed over four city blocks in prominent areas such as Robson Street, Granville Street and David Lam Park.

David Eby, Executive Director of the BCCLA, said that this proposed law is similar to the restrictions placed on commercial signage at housing at UBC.

"It's definitely similar because I understand that the motivation for this comes from the IOC, which would like very much for the city to be free of all messages, except for its messages and the messages of the official Olympic sponsors," he said. "So whether it's UBC it's dealing with, or Whistler or Vancouver, it's always the same."

"Some places are more willing than others to agree to those demands and Vancouver seems to be the most compliant so far."

Shaw echoed Eby's statements, claiming that UBC and Stephen Owen, the school's Vice-President (external), legal and community relations, "should know better," and that what UBC and Vancouver are doing trumps the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"If that turns out to be the legacy of 2010, I suggest that will haunt us for a long time to come," Shaw said. "If that is in fact what we get out of 2010, if we discover that our charter is just a piece of toilet paper and politicians will wipe their butts on it every time they get the chance. And they will do that, I guarantee you they will do that."

"I think it will continue to escalate through the end of the games. I would bet my mortgage on it."

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## News

# Know where your legislators stand

## Dal student launches campaign for recorded votes

Ben Wedge  
Staff Contributor

Since 2006, approximately 1500 votes for second and third readings of bills occurred in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. Of these, only 12 were recorded in the Hansard. The rest? They were voice votes, meaning there is no record of how each member or party voted.

Third-year political science student Michael Kennedy wants this to come to an end.

Kennedy launched a blog, [knowtheyvote.wordpress.com](http://knowtheyvote.wordpress.com), to lobby provincial MLAs to be more accountable to the public. He says it's easy to change the process: any two MLAs can call for a recorded vote when the speaker calls the vote, and then the result is noted in the Hansard, the name for the record of the meeting.

Kennedy emailed 49 MLAs, and the speaker, Charlie Parker, to encourage them to hold more recorded votes. He also contacted the candidates from last week's byelections. Newly elected Antigonish MLA Maurice Smith did not respond to the email, and Inverness MLA Allan Thompson said he'd look into it if he wins. As for those members elected in June, only Dartmouth East MLA Andrew Younger, and Parker responded.

Younger says anything to increase the accountability of elected representatives is a good thing, but he feels the change will be hard to bring about.

He says that to permanently change the voting process in the house, the government must call the Committee on Assembly Matters, which has not met in years.

Younger says he "would like to see the legislature move to an electronic system, which would allow a paperless workflow and would also make electronic, recorded, voting a matter of regular practice."

It would also reduce their carbon footprint.

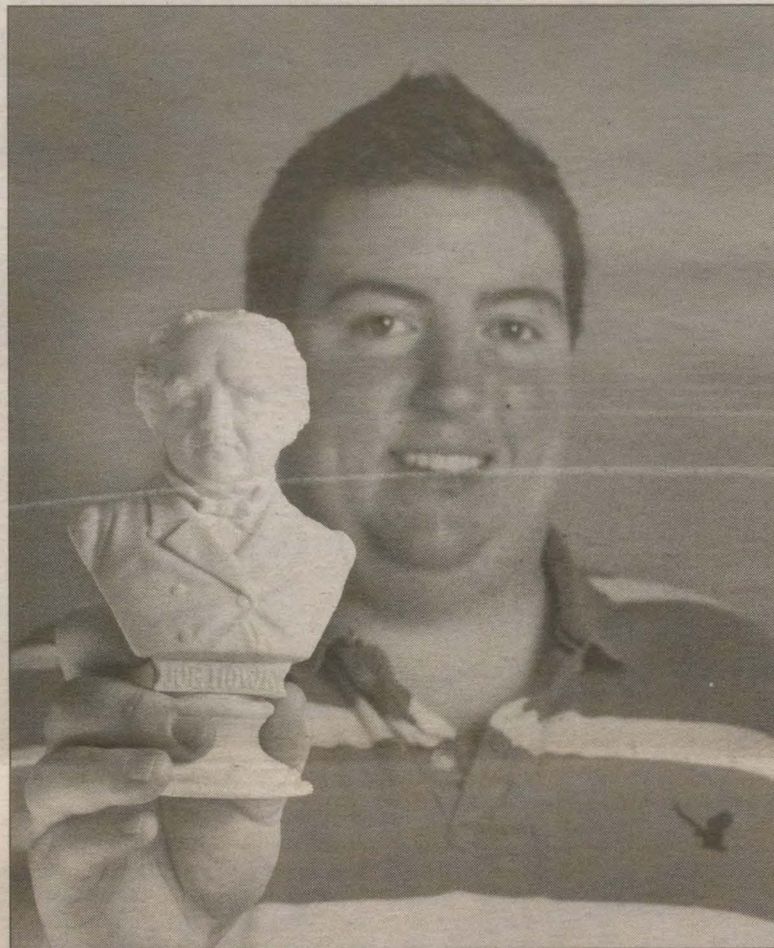
This is a change he successfully pushed for when he was a Halifax city councillor.

Kennedy is a member of the Dal-King's campus Conservatives, but says that the issue of recording votes is one that stretches across party lines. He's not asking anyone to change their vote, he just wants it written down for others to see.

Nova Scotia elected its first House of Assembly in 1758 – the first in the British Empire outside of England. Back then, and until at least 1848, there is an extensive record of votes. We can look back in the Hansard and see how Joseph Howe, or James Boyle Uniacke voted on many issues, from university tuition, to land expropriation, to taxation, and more.

Since 1848, with the advent of party politics, voting has changed, and fewer votes have been recorded.

It doesn't need to be that way, Kennedy argues.



Only 12 votes out of the past 1,500 in the Legislative Assembly have been recorded, says Michael Kennedy. | Photo by Pau Balite

### "Choosing not to record votes is choosing not to be transparent and accountable."

"The democratic deficit in Nova Scotia is growing," he says. "With every unrecorded vote in the legislature, our MLAs get farther and farther away from our scrutiny."

"Choosing not to record votes is choosing not to be transparent and accountable to the constituents that you represent."

He says it's a simple change that will help democracy in this province.

Paul McEwan, Speaker of the House from 1993 to 1996 wrote a letter to the Cape Breton Post on Oct. 19 to respond to Kennedy's points arguing for recorded votes in a previous letter.

McEwan wrote that recorded votes could take a half an hour away from the duties of the House.

"The normal procedure of a voice vote, which takes maybe 10 seconds, is more conducive to keeping the House moving along," he wrote.

Kennedy counters that over an hour each day is dedicated to member statements on things like barbecues in each member's constitu-

ency, essentially a chance for each member to say they made it to LegTV that day. He says this could be trimmed by a few minutes to make up for the added time it takes to do a recorded vote.

In Ottawa, recorded votes often take place after question period, or at another time that is indicated several days in advance. Members will show up, vote on as many bills as was agreed to in advance, and then return to their other business. This removes the need to stop House business and to ring the bells for an hour before each vote, thereby alleviating some concerns.

Kennedy is looking for supporters of his campaign to write letters and talk to MLAs. He hopes that the campaign will increase accountability, and maybe even reform the House of Assembly's daily proceedings.

Ben Wedge and Michael Kennedy are friends and fellow members of the Dalhousie-King's Campus Conservatives.

## Got extra cash? Study in Ontario

Selma Al-Samarrai  
The Silhouette (McMaster)

HAMILTON (CUP) – Nova Scotia no longer has the highest undergraduate tuition rates in the country. Statistics Canada announced last week that Ontario now has taken the crown at an average of \$5,951 annually.

Statistics Canada issued a news release on Canadian University tuition fees on Oct. 20 examining provincial comparisons of tuition fees and discussed the costs of education for graduate students, dentistry students and international students within Canada.

Canadian full-time, undergraduate students experienced the same 3.6 per cent increase in tuition for the 2009/2010 academic year that they did in the 2008/2009 academic year.

Only three provinces were exempt from tuition increases this academic year: Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick, where tuition was unchanged, and in Nova Scotia, where students experienced a 3.1 per cent decrease in tuition.

Manitoba students saw a 4.3 per cent increase in tuition fees, Saskatchewan experienced a 3.4 per cent increase, British Columbia experienced a two per cent increase and Ontario experienced a five per cent increase.

Reportedly undergraduate students in Ontario paid the highest tuition fees in Canada at an average of \$5,951. Quebec undergraduates paid the lowest tuition fees this year, at an average of \$2,272.

Estimated nationally, graduate students experienced a higher rise in tuition fees, at 4.7 per cent, than undergraduate students who experienced an increase of 3.6 per cent. In addition, fees for graduate students went up in eight provinces.

In both the academic year of 2008/2009 and the academic year of

2009/2010, undergraduate students in dentistry paid the highest tuition fees, at an average of \$13,988. This amount is three times the average of most undergraduate disciplines. The second highest undergraduate discipline was medicine, at an average of \$10,216.

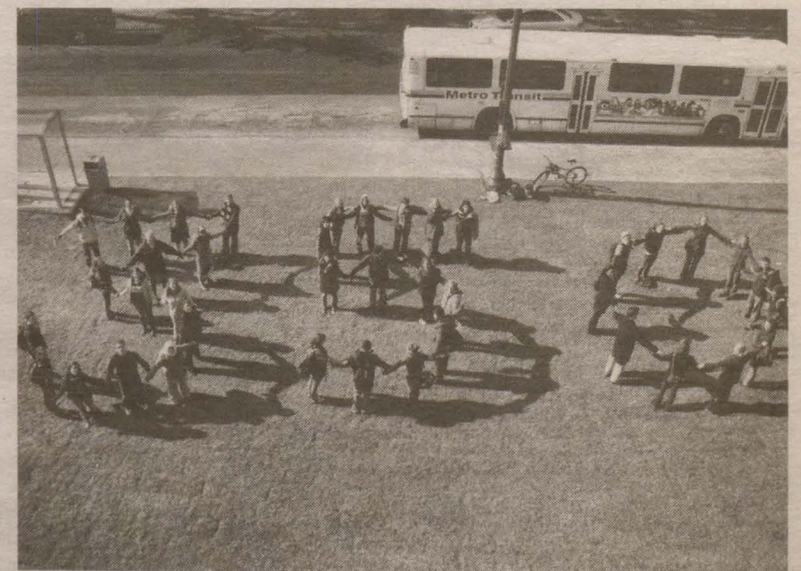
Veterinary medicine undergraduate students experienced the largest tuition fee increase of 15.6 per cent, followed by a 6.5 per cent tuition fee increase in architecture. Law students experienced a 5.9 per cent increase, and business, management and public administration students experienced a 1.9 per cent increase.

The national increase in tuition fees for international students in undergraduate programs was 7.1 per cent at an average of \$15,674. Tuition fee increases for international undergraduate students were implemented in all provinces but Newfoundland and Labrador. The international undergraduate tuition fee increase ranged from 0.4 per cent in Nova Scotia to 18.9 per cent in Alberta, according to the release.

International graduate students' tuition fees experienced an average 5.1 per cent increase from the previous academic year in most provinces, except in Manitoba where they decreased by one per cent and in Prince Edward Island, which experienced a nine per cent increase and Quebec, which experienced an 8.2 per cent increase. The international graduate student tuition fees remain unchanged in the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick.

Compulsory fees increased 6.8 per cent nationally, compared with last year, the release says. Alberta, at just over 31 per cent had the highest increase in compulsory fees for undergraduate students and Prince Edward Island had the highest increase in compulsory fees for graduate students at 8.9 per cent.

## 350 SPELLS 'CLEANER ENVIRONMENT'



These students outside the Student Union Building were just one group of hundreds worldwide who promoted environmental change last week. They say 350 parts per million is a safe limit for CO2 emissions. | Photo by Pau Balite



# Gulu Walk promotes peace in Uganda

Katrina Pyne  
News Contributor

**H**aligonians with a mind for change stepped it up this year by taking steps in the fifth-annual GuluWalk. Last Saturday, 50 students walked to promote a more peaceful and stable northern Uganda. Collectively they raised \$650.

"This event is about a group coming together for a common purpose, it's about something bigger than your self," says Jennifer Keeling, who was co-organizer of the GuluWalk this year. "We are here to help out."

The event didn't draw as many people as last year, when nearly 100 Haligonians participated and raised over \$7000. But it may be because this year's event conflicted with the International Day of Climate Change, says former Dalhousie international development studies and political science student Claire Dykhuis. This year's donations will go toward building an arts and culture centre in Gulu to help bring the war-torn community together.

Northern Uganda is the site of a 23-year-long war, which has left the country in a state of devastation. In the beginning, the Lords Resistance Army would roam the streets of rural communities at night abducting children and indoctrinating them to become child soldiers. Thousands of children were forced to leave their homes and walk to cities like Gulu each night for safety to avoid abduction. Since the army began terrorizing northern Uganda in 1987, the infrastructure and opportunity for youth has all but disappeared.

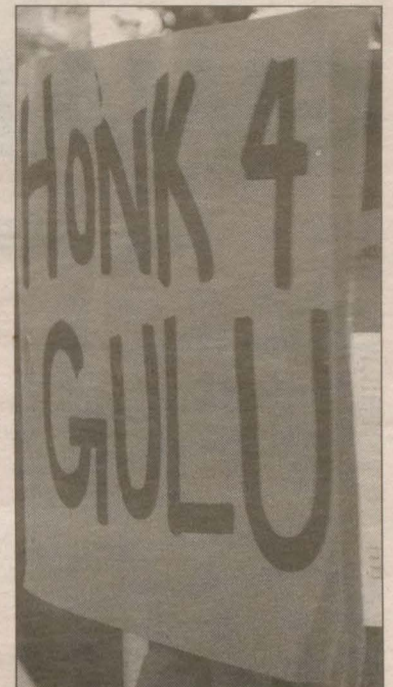
"Imagine if it was going on here," says Dykhuis. "It would be like walking to Bedford every night."

"We are the night commuting generation," she says. "This war has been going on for longer than I have been alive!"

The night commuting in northern Uganda has stopped, but the reconstruction of a fallen city is just beginning. Children who lived through the war have scars – both physical and emotion-



Photo by Ilyana Chua.



heard about the plight of the children in northern Uganda. They decided to do something about it. Every night the two of them would commute to city hall in downtown Toronto. They would sleep for a couple of hours, and then walk back to their homes and jobs at dawn. In doing this they were mimicking the harsh lifestyle of the children who were night commuting in Uganda. Over 31 days they walked 775 kilometres and took 872,739 steps. It was from this start that GuluWalk came into being and grew to the extent that it has.

Last year, more than 30,000 people in 75 cities and 16 countries took to the streets to urge the world to support peace in northern Uganda.

The war in Uganda is "ignored and forgotten," says Keeling. "Many people have not even heard about this war, yet it has been going on for 23 years."

"It is time now to rebuild a torn apart society," adds Claire Dykhuis. "Our time is now."

al – that will last a lifetime. GuluWalk seeks to give these children an oppor-

tunity to reintegrate back into society. The idea for the GuluWalk began in

2005 when Toronto residents Adrian Bradbury and Kieran Hayward first

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# Features

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Tim Mitchell Features Editor  
features@dalgazette.com

## GWAR DESTROYS CANADA

### The intergalactic space-metal band that rocked Halifax

**Nick Khattar**  
Features Contributor

I remember it like it was yesterday; the moment that my soul curdled and was shit on. The year was 1992. People were already into wrapping flannel shirts around their waists, but it hadn't yet become cool to be depressed. I was a strapping-young-lad of eight. It was lunchtime, and while waiting for my chicken noodle soup and chocolate milk, I was sifting through daytime television. Flipping along in the innocence of my soon to be soured childhood, I stopped, jaw-dropped, on the Jerry Springer Show.

There on the television was a sight bewildering to my Ninja Turtle and G.I. Joe-mind. It was a sight of horror and gnarliness; a sight of sci-fi absurdity.

There, sitting in a chair, surrounded by other such spectacles, was a giant humanoid barbarian looking creature. He had a face like old hamburger meat, and a head that looked to belong to Satan himself. He had two giant blades coming out of his back and spikes all over his shoulders. His legs were clearly human, but the rest of him was something from a smack withdrawal hallucination. The creature was Oderus Urungus, front man of the disgusting and epic space-metal band "GWAR."

As the story goes, eons ago there existed a mighty group of galactic warriors known as the "Scumdogs of the Universe." The Scumdogs roamed the universe terrorizing their victims and appeasing "The Master" until one day they grew too strong and were banished to the worst place in the universe: Earth. Here they rested for millions of years until pollution de-thawed them from their Antarctic coma. Since that day they have been roaming the planet using their powers of space-metal rock and lewd antics to torture the human race.

Their goal? The complete destruction of the human race and existence itself.

In their time on Earth, besides torturing humans, they have been nominated for two Grammys and have appeared on The Jerry Springer Show (aired in 1990, the show I saw was a rerun of this episode), the Joan Rivers Show (1990, 2006), Mystery Date (1991), Viva La Bam (2008), and Empire Records. Gwar was featured in the Super NES video game Beavis and Butt-head in Virtual Stupidity, where the main objective of the game is to attend a Gwar concert. Most recently, Oderus Urungus has been showing up on the Fox News show "Red-Eye" as their "intergalactic correspondent."

Yes indeed, Gwar is much more than a metal band, but as Oderus has put it, "it's just a bunch of rotting humanoid diarrhea that isn't meant to do anything but barely entertain you."



Gwar aren't they cute? Oderus Urungus, lead singer of Gwar (centre front). | Photo provided by band

Recently I caught up with Oderus Urungus and had the displeasure of having a chat with him.

**Nick Khattar:** So what's up? You guys are in Florida right now?

**Oderus Urungus:** Yeah, yeah. We just started this huge fucking coast to coast-up and down, all over the fucking place tour with Red Cord. We're also doing some shows with Lamb of God. It's fucking completely off the hook!

**NK:** Shits going off for you guys!

**Oderus:** Yeah! Shows are huge. It's the greatest fucking ... it's the 25th Anniversary of "GWAR"!

**NK:** You guys have been celebrating that now for two years.

**OU:** Yeah well it's been 25 years since Gwar was unearthed in an Antarctic stronghold and it's been 25 years of unrivaled mayhem ever since. Every year has been bigger and this year is the biggest Gwar show ever. So everybody's gotta get out and go down to the show and go through the enduring, enjoyable cultural ritual that is Gwar!

**NK:** Abso-fucking-lutely! We are pretty excited that you guys are coming all the way to Halifax.

**OU:** Yeah! All the way! Canada has a lot in common with our homeland

of Antarctica, but the one thing that Canada has that Antarctica doesn't have is people. And what Halifax has is people that support the fucking hell out of metal and love their Gwar! So yes, we will be there very soon trying to destroy that section of the world.

**NK:** So rumour has it there is a second World Maggot that may make it on tour this time?

**OU:** Yeah there is a rumour that there is another one but we haven't seen it yet, so hopefully it will make it on this tour. But we've had a ton of other things that beat the shit and eat people, ya know, like maggots, giant dinosaurs, cybernetic/intergalactic assholes. I mean there's just a ton of shit up there.

**NK:** So how's it been working for Fox?

**OU:** Oh yeah, they are great! They basically told me from a distance that they're smart enough to only let me be used at their affiliate stations, but there's a couple times I've been down in the studio in New York and it's been really awesome. I have been instructed by my manager, Sleazy P. Martini, not to kill or eat anyone. And I've held to that so I've had a lot of success doing it. So as long as I don't kill the host of the show, I think I am in there!

**NK:** By host you mean Greg Gutfeld?

**OU:** Yeah! He is a delectable little

Pillsbury of a Doughboy, and Oderus and him get along well. Every time I am on the show I am sure it is going to be my last but they just keep calling me back.

**NK:** So you guys were at the Waken Open Air festival in Germany this year, how was that?

**OU:** Yeah we played that gigantic fucking metal fest. The barricade was about 30 metres across and we were confronted with about 100,000 screaming Germans. When we were killing Obama, they thought we were just killing a black person. That was pretty funny. We were like, "No, no, no. We're not just killing black people in general, that's actually President Obama and he deserves to die."

**NK:** So you guys aren't down with Barack and Roll?

**OU:** No, no, we like him a lot actually. I think he is definitely a step up from the last President. It's interesting to see though how Americans are freaking out that they finally have a black president, but there has been a ton of black presidents all over the world for hundreds of years. And they've even had black and female presidents at the same time. And then everyone in America is like, "Oh, really?"

**NK:** So what is Gwar's role in being a politically outspoken band?

**OU:** We basically hope to show the human race that our stance on politics

and politicians is that they are completely fucking useless. They should just be the people setting up the timetables, not telling people how to live. So basically our stance is that they should all be put to death, or made to fight each other, to death, with the crudest of weapons, for the entertainment of the masses. Yes, there should be crude anarchy in the streets, we believe. Let people fight it out, and let the barter system return. Let Gwar be their futile overlords. This is a system we advocate, we understand it is a little different than what most people would want.

**NK:** So word on the street is that you guys are recording another album while touring to be released in 2010?

**OU:** Yes, I've heard this as well. What has started as me just randomly blabbing in some interview has turned into a question I am regularly asked. So I have not even run it by my band mates at all, and I will gladly agree to this: yes! We'd love to put out another album by the end of the 2010 and it doesn't seem that difficult to do it.

**NK:** So what's the deal with your battle against Cardinal Sin?

**OU:** Well we got off the planet this year and went back to outer space and found out everything sucked out there. Essentially Cardinal Sin had turned outer space into one gigantic Branson let's just say. Just a huge bad TV show full of terrible strip malls and corporate headquarters. There wasn't any crack or strip clubs or heavy metal anywhere. So we had to come back to Earth to get the things we love. Earth is the only place left in the whole universe that has crack! That's why we stand side by side with the humans (who we created by butt fucking apes remember) to defeat this menace Cardinal Sin.

**NK:** Will Cardinal Sin be showing up in Halifax?

**OU:** I think Cardinal Sin will be showing up at the Halifax show. So get down there! It's more than just a fucking show. You better come on because we are going to be struggling for the fate of the human race. I mean, do you want to be destroyed by Cardinal Sin, fucking intergalactic puritan asshole? Or do you want to get raped to death by Gwar? I think the choice is obvious.

*Editor's note: Gwar played the Cunard Centre on Oct. 29. If you were only confused by the author talking to Oderus about an upcoming show that already happened,*

# Opinions

## Opinions

Gazette Opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. Email Kaley at [opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com) to contribute.



Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**  
[opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com)

## Halloween: the holiday when racism is OK

Kaley Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

I dread Halloween like the plague. Each year, while my friends all get super into creating clever costumes, I just spend all of October panicking.

It's not that I'm not stoked on costumes and dressing up – I like clever costumes just as much as the next person. I'm just petrified of inevitably realizing that the people I hang out with are racist.

Halloween seems to be that holiday when society embraces racist, classist and sexist jokes with giant, open arms.

You – wearing the hillbilly costume or the "white trash" pregnant teen – do you hate poor people? Or you – in the "Indian" costume or dressed up as Pocahontas – how do you feel about residential schools?

Each year, I am amazed at the level that costume bigotry goes. After 9-11, I'm sure everyone attended at least one party where a white person donned a beard and a headscarf and claimed they were Osama bin Laden.

Muslims across the country were facing extreme levels of racism and islamophobia, but dressing up as Osama is still funny right?

I've seen a myriad of costumes donned by people in bad taste, and bad faith, but each year I'm still shocked when Halloween comes around and someone has thought of something even more offensive than the year before.

This year's award for most offensive costume probably goes to the "illegal alien" costume that had to be pulled from the shelves after immigrant rights groups complained. The costume, complete with alien mask, orange jumpsuit with "illegal alien" printed across the chest, and fake citizenship papers, plays on the term "alien" often used to describe people without legal status in a country. The costume was pulled last week from the shelves in American department stores Target and Walgreens. Ebay is also banning the costume for promoting hate.

Wearing an illegal alien costume doesn't seem so bad when you're privileged enough to have status, but for those people living without status in Canada, their reality is a horror they don't get to take off at the end of the night.

Undocumented workers are often people whose refugee claims have been denied, a reality for more and more Canadians. Over the past 20 years, the number of refugee claims accepted has dropped by half, according to immigrants rights organization No One is Illegal (Toronto).

Immigration policy is becoming increasingly harsh in Canada, with new visa requirements introduced specifically for people coming from Mexico and the Czech Republic, and an increase in temporary worker programs.

Undocumented and migrant workers often have little recourse against exploitation such as below minimum wages, unsafe working conditions and unlawful termination. In some cases, workers often have their documentation held by their employer and face physical and emotional abuse.

**"Halloween seems to be that holiday when society embraces racist, classist, and sexist jokes with giant, open arms."**

This past spring, the Canada Border Services Agency conducted several raids in Southern Ontario, picking up hundreds of undocumented workers on their way to work, in their homes, and even when they went to pick up their children from school.

Undocumented workers and their families are found throughout our communities. There are likely people without status at the Halloween bash you're planning to attend. I don't think they'd appreciate the alien pun you know.

I'm all for having fun and playing pretend for a day, but I think donning poncho and sombrero Mexican costumes, or crystal ball and bangles gypsy costumes, when the government just made new laws against Mexican and Roma immigrants is just poor taste.

## Anemia is a bloody nightmare Healthy eating is a must-do, just like your mother told you

Sarah Volpatti  
Opinions Contributor

Growing up, my mother was very protective and very strict. She had rules about everything; from what outfits I was allowed to wear, to what movies I could watch, to what my diet was.

During my younger years, I resented her health-conscious attitude. I would enviously watch my friends devouring their lunches of burgers, sodas and fries, while I chomped away on my "cucumber on rye sandwiches" and "apple chips." Our typical family dinners usually ended in arguments over what exactly qualified as a serving of vegetables.

When grade 12 came to an end, I had the opportunity to move across the country, a chance at freedom and a new life far, far away from my mother – so I took it. Two months into this whole new life, I was nearly hospitalized for a blood transfusion. I had become severely anemic to the point I was operating 30 per cent lower than the average human being.

Anemia is a lack of red blood cells, or hemoglobin, meaning your body is not getting enough oxygen. Anemia is usually due to a lack of iron or folic acid. Nowadays, iron deficiency anemia is extremely common, especially for women. About two out of 10 women in Canada are anemic because of iron deficiency. Some common symptoms are fatigue, shortness of breath, dizziness, paleness, hair loss and difficulty concentrating.

After this episode, I had to avoid

movement as much as possible and take heavy iron doses to recover.

All of this happened in a matter of two months. Two months of being on my own, of being able to choose what I wanted to eat, of being able to drink, of being free from a curfew.

Freedom is not doing whatever tickles your fancy, going about it carelessly and ruthlessly; true freedom is doing what you've got to do, while putting your own personal spin on things.

**"Health should not be seen as a financial burden, it is a necessity."**

If you see university as an opportunity to do everything, to eat everything and to drink everything you could not at home, you will only be doing yourself harm.

Associated with the privileges of living on your own, there are responsibilities and obligations. You have to take care of yourself. If you don't know how to take care of yourself, you have to learn how.

In residence, I found it difficult to eat enough iron and protein due to some questionable-looking meats. If you are not already taking one, adding a daily multivitamin to your diet is a quick way to add nutrients. But always remember that vitamins don't substitute for food.

Also, look to add in yummy iron rich foods. Livers, mussels and clams are the highest sources. If that's too much to ask, beef, poultry and seafood are also

good sources. Other iron rich foods, though not as easily absorbed, include spinach, broccoli, asparagus, beans, peas, molasses, seeds, nuts, dried fruits, eggs, enriched cereals, barley and oats.

Increasing your iron and protein intake can be as easy as eating an egg with breakfast, throwing some nuts into your cereal, or adding beans or peas to salads, pastas and rice. Eat your iron rich foods with vitamin C – it will enhance the absorption.

Have you heard the saying, "You are

only as good as your health?" It is true. Good health enables you to think better, to feel better, and it generally makes life easier.

A university lifestyle of beer, pizza, caffeine, bingeing and skipping meals is not healthy. We're all starving students, barely scraping by, but your health should not be seen as a financial burden, it is a necessity. Your health is something you have to constantly be working on and aware of.

Developing poor health does not occur drastically. I didn't even realize I was sick, but it took two months to lose my health and almost three years to regain it.

*If you do think you have any symptoms of anemia or want to learn more about anemia, visit Dal Health or your regular doctor.*

## Overheard at Dal

Girt 1: "I haven't seen that really hot guy in so long!"

Guy: "Oh, your frosh guy?"

Girt 1: "Yeah! He was sooooo hot!"

Guy: "I'm pretty sure he's gay."

Girt 1: "He's not gay! He just goes to Kings."

Girt 2: "If he goes to Kings, there's a 50 per cent chance that he's gay."

Girt on the #1 bus: "Yeah, in Montreal, people get pregnant on the bus."

Guy: "I think Jesus was righteous."

Girt: "What makes you say that?"

Guy: "Well I'm sure people wouldn't worship a total dick."

In stats class: "And when the numbers get high – not on coke, I mean – large in value."

In Howe Hall: "Lick my armpit and you'll understand."



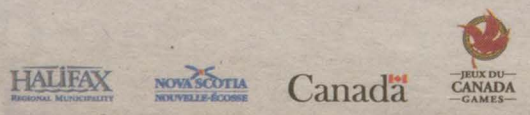
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# Streete<sup>r</sup>

Question: What will be the most popular Halloween costume this year?



"Definitely zombie."  
**Gwen Veenema,**  
King's Foundation Year



"French maid."  
**Alisha Perron,**  
second-year marine biology



"Vampire. People are really into *Twilight*. Not me though."  
**Kirsten Taylor,**  
second-year neuroscience student



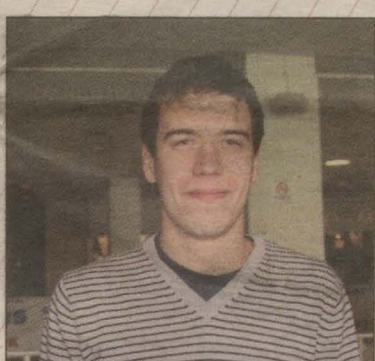
"Michael Jackson."  
**Katie VanPatter,**  
second-year nursing student



"Swine."  
**Neil Haley,**  
first-year science student



"Vampires for sure."  
**Bireanna Stevens,**  
first-year science student



"It'll definitely be Max from *Where The Wild Things Are*."  
**Shane Simms,**  
fourth-year management student



"Braaaaaaaains."  
**Matt Ritchie,**  
ninth-year undead

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## THE IMAGINUS POSTER SALE

Happy Halloween!

from the staff at the Dalhousie Gazette

# Arts

## Trick or Eat

Door to door campaign is a real graveyard smash

Eleanor Greer  
Arts Contributor

Think you're too old for trick or treating? Think again.

Enter Trick or Eat, a cross-Canada campaign by Meal Exchange. Meal Exchange is a student-founded, non-profit association dedicated to helping 2.4 million Canadians who go hungry daily. It began in 1993 at Wilfrid Laurier University and has since expanded to include over 50 universities.

Despite its breadth, the organization's focus is still very much on addressing local hunger issues in individual communities. In Nova Scotia alone, at least 38,000 people per month receive some kind of food assistance as counted by Feed Nova Scotia, the provincial food distribution centre.

Erica Szegedi, co-ordinator of the Meal Exchange program at Dalhousie for this semester, emphasizes the importance of local, community-based organizations like this one. "There are always going to be people

who need help in your own neighbourhood," says Szegedi. "You don't have to go far to help somebody."

Meal Exchange's largest event each year is the Trick or Eat initiative. Groups of costumed students take to the streets on Halloween in cities all across Canada and ask for donations of non-perishable food items instead of candy. The organizing committee here at Dal was hard at work as early as September, planning route maps and making flyers to distribute to houses in the south end.

Students sign up online in groups and are given a pre-determined area to cover. Local grocery stores lend shopping carts for the evening to collect food. The area stretches between Robie Street and Oxford Street, and as far north as Quinpool Road.

Don't worry – you won't have to cancel your wild night of partying. Canvassing takes place early and only lasts about an hour and a half. Once the food is all collected and taken to a base on campus, organizers count and sort the items before they

are picked up by Feed Nova Scotia.

Last year about 20 groups signed up at Dal and organizers are hoping for more this year. The overall goal is to raise \$400,000 worth of food and \$30,000 in online donations across the country.

If dressing up and hitting the streets isn't your thing, you can help by making a donation online at the same address, or by assembling a bag of food items to donate. The most urgently needed items include diapers, peanut butter, canned or powdered milk, canned vegetables and cereal.

In the end, it doesn't matter which option you choose; you're helping to make a difference to people in need in our own city.

"Helping people this way, you can really see how you've bettered their lives and strengthened your own community," says Szegedi. "It's very rewarding."

So gather your friends, plan your costume and head to [www.trick-or-eat.ca](http://www.trick-or-eat.ca) to register your group online.

## 'Twas a dark and stormy night Varma Prize brings out fans of Gothic Literature

Amy Donovan  
Staff Contributor

Devendra Varma laughed 25 years ago when David McNeil – the young professor assigned to take over Varma's Gothic novel and romantic poetry classes during Varma's upcoming sabbatical – asked to see his syllabus.

"When the wind blows and the leaves whirl around the clock tower, I teach Ode to the West Wind. When the snow comes I teach Mount Blanc or Frankenstein. I deal in the spiritual world, Dr. McNeil. There are no syllabi," the Gothic literature expert told him.

Varma, who was a professor at Dalhousie between 1963 and 1991, passed away in 1994. He was 71. Today, his legacy is honoured at Dal by the annual Varma Prize and accompanying Varma Readings. Three cash prizes of \$500, \$150 and \$100 are awarded to winners of a creative writing contest in Gothic literature. The winning entries as well as honourable mentions are read by the authors at the event.

"It gets students engaged," says McNeil, from his book-filled office in the upper reaches of the McCain. "It also keeps Professor Varma's image alive, his reputation alive. From my point of view, that's wonderful."

Professor Varma's image, as McNeil describes it in a tribute he gave for Varma last year, is that of a man with deep spirituality, intense passion for his work and great appreciation for the romance and mystery

of the world. He lived in a round house because – to quote McNeil – there were "no corners for the vampires to hide in."

He is even featured in the Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology as well as compiling modern editions of over 200 Gothic novels. He also made several trips to Transylvania in pure gothic fashion.

"He was quite a flamboyant person," says McNeil. "He had a real theatrical presence in the classroom and his students really responded." McNeil speaks admiringly, and almost reverently, about the late professor. You can see his fond memories in his smile, and hear them in his warm tone of voice.

"The prize is supported by William Blakeney," he says, one of Devendra's students. "He was so entertained, educated, and moved by Devendra that he established this prize."

The criteria for the prizes are simple: you have to be an English student, write a piece of literature no longer than 250 words, and make sure your piece is gothic in nature.

"Gothic literature to me is very psychological," says Bruce Greenfield, who is chairing the English department's prizes committee this year. "It explores people's fears, and their illicit desires."

Greenfield doesn't feel the recent fascination with Gothic literature and television show is something that is unique or more pronounced within our modern culture; on the contrary, "it's been very popular for three centuries at least."

Because of this popularity, the Varma

Prize is one of the more sought-after writing awards in Dal's English Department, receiving upwards of 50 entries per year.

The award, says Greenfield, serves not only to recognize students' achievement but also as "a reminder that the arts originate with creative individuals."

"An English department studies creative writing," Greenfield adds. "I think it's possible in an English department to forget that the poems and stories and plays that we study were written by actual people who were once the age of our students."

McNeil recalls in his tribute a cold November day when he encountered Varma on campus.

A group of crows were making a ruckus in one of those tall trees near the Hicks Building," he writes. "(Varma) looked up and then glanced over at me and said, 'And I suppose you think those crows are just crows.'"

Some of us might think the stories submitted for the prize in Varma's memory are just stories, or the wine that's served at the readings is just wine. But rumour has it (and David McNeil has it) William Blakeney's been sending in special vampire wine over the past couple of years. On the day before Halloween, maybe a little taste of the supernatural is just what you need.

*The Varma Readings take place Friday, Oct. 30, at The Grawood from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Costumes are welcome and refreshments will be served.*

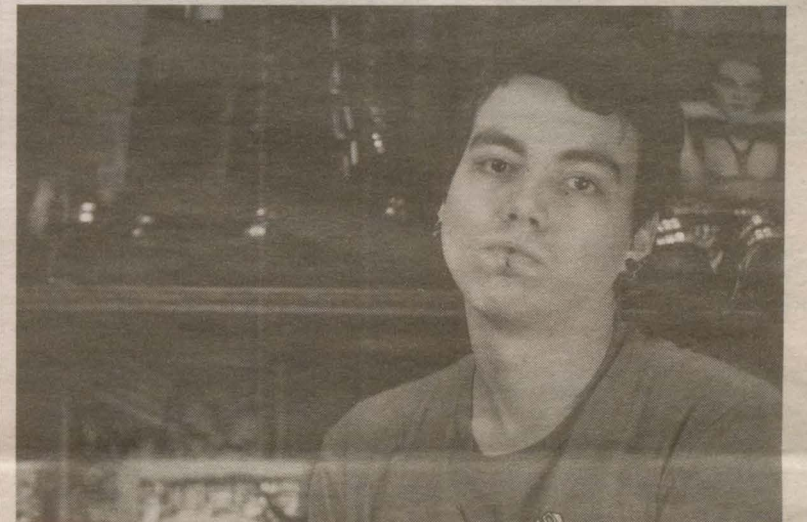
**Arts**  
Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. Email Laura or Matt at [arts@dal-gazette.com](mailto:arts@dal-gazette.com) to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor  
[arts@dalgazette.com](mailto:arts@dalgazette.com)



Photo by Ilyana Chua



Goths see Halloween as a chance to celebrate their subculture. Photo by Abram Gutscher

## Fashionably Dead

A store for all your ghoulish needs

Hilary Stamper  
Arts Contributor

Just down from Pizza Corner on Blowers Street there's a little store known as Fashionably Dead. The small yet attention grabbing shop is filled with dark, Beetlejuice-like apparel, patent leather bags, menacing jewellery and boots that could literally kill someone. It is tucked away behind the surf shop and the tattoo parlour.

It is a relatively new store on the block and caters to those who find their style influence from the more morbid aspects of our world such as skulls and cobwebs. After three years of being an online retailer, Fashionably Dead came across the perfect space for them to open up a physical store location.

Store owner Kate Rankin is perched behind the front counter.

"October is definitely a very busy month for us because of Halloween – it's crazy."

Rankin fits the prototype of one who subscribes to "dark fashion." She wears all black with matching long black dreadlocks and has several piercings and tattoos. However, she is so approachable and kind that it makes me wonder how she was drawn in to a culture that fuels itself on the dark and the scary.

"Back a long time ago I was kind of into Pagan and Wiccan culture and that probably influenced me somewhat to be into darker fashions, but for

the most part, I just love spooky things."

The average customer for Fashionably Dead could be, as Rankin says, "from any walk of life."

"We get the 40-year-olds in here looking for dresses and we get teenage kids in here. Regular customers are 20 to 30 year olds who are really into horror."

Of course during October, Rankin says the store gets a ton of new customers looking for Halloween outfits or costumes.

"Halloween is a chance for people who do not normally dress in dark fashion to feel comfortable," she says. "Regular customers just see Halloween as a more accepting shopping season where they can get everything they love everywhere. Like bats and stuff."

Halloween at Dalhousie usually results in first-year girls showing off their freshman 15 in sexed-up costumes and a whole lot of drunk. For kids, Halloween is an opportunity to get free candy like it's their job. Goths see Halloween as a chance to celebrate their subculture of creepiness.

To shed light on this, I asked Kate what she was going to be for Halloween.

"Are you familiar with Victorian Post-Mortem photography?" She answered. I was not. "Well basically people used to have their family portrait taken with a deceased family member's cadaver as a way to commemorate their life, so I figured I'd go as one of those Post-Mortem Cadavers."

## Crunching on some Dinosaur Bones and Crystal Antlers

Cheryl Hann  
Staff Contributor

### Grade: A

I showed up at the Halifax Pop Explosion's Tuesday night Paragon show at 10 p.m. a little disappointed that I missed the first band, A History Of, but a little glad that I had eaten a late dinner of homemade Pho. Word to the Wise: It takes almost five hours to make a pot of Pho. No joke.

I arrived just as Toronto indie rockers Dinosaur Bones started their set. Looking like they had just rolled out of bed and into their tightest jeans, Dinosaur Bones' sound is a knife that first spreads smooth, dreamy pop-butter on to your bread, and then proceeds to stab you repeatedly with gritty, confident rock and roll. They experienced a couple of technical difficulties, but lead singer Ben Fox charmed away

any annoyance the crowd might have felt. After an amp went out, the mop-topped crooner broke into a finger pickin' rendition of "I'll See You in My Dreams," a little ditty from the '20s that just happens to be one of my favourites and one of the most endearing songs you'll ever hear. After recovering from this minor malfunction, the band broke into "N.Y.E.," a dynamic track that was the highlight of their set. Its melody and sincere energy moved the crowd into a serious bout of toe pointing, echoed by the smiling band onstage. It also moved the unjustifiable Sauza Tequila girls into a bout of short-shorted pillar grinding. I'm not sure what a ninth grade boy's fantasy gym-class was doing at an indie rock show, but it was amazing to see so many confused, be-mustached faces.

Those faces remained confused while Montreal's Red Mass played. The hallucinogenic space-rock foursome hit the

stage looking like Kiss as Wiccan Vampires with blood for make up. At least, three of them did. Someone apparently forgot to tell the bassist that everyone was wearing costumes. The band fused elements of punk, electro and surf, producing something that sounded like Dick Dale on a rockabilly murder rampage. The set had unquestionable energy, but the crowd barely responded. The result was a five-minute noise-fest at the end of the set that felt unnecessary, and sounded like the Transformers transforming inside of a vortex. I dug it.

The show closed with a set by California buzz band Crystal Antlers. I didn't know they were a buzz band. After the show a friend leaned into me and said, "I wasn't expecting much from such a buzz band, but they really delivered!" This led me to the depressing revelation that, by the time I know about something,

it is no longer "cool." But, my friend was right about how promptly and forcefully they delivered. Despite their insanely trendy band name, Crystal Antlers are not an insanely trendy band. When I sat down to write this review, I had a hard time thinking up genre words to use. Is 'awesome bass' a genre? No? Here's an alternative: garage-fused-psychedelic-lo-fi-abstract-prog-rock. Yeah, I went there.

Driven by lead singer and bassist Johnny Bell, Crystal Antlers' music is nothing like the "Cruisin' the beach in my dune buggy" drivel you might expect from a band out of Long Beach, California. It is dynamic, engaging, and constantly mutating. A song that starts out as a mind-bending call back to a mushroom trip, ends as an all out thrash fest of beastly proportions. Obviously, I think the band was great. At any rate, they were far better than the crowd that came to see them. I've never

seen such a lack of movement at a rock show. Crystal Antlers kicked out the jams for realies, but still found themselves playing for a motionless mass of floor gazers. I felt so bad that I actually apologized to the guitarist after the show. I still can't decide what that meant. Either the crowd was super into the show, but didn't know how to show it, or I'm an idiot, because I thought the band was incredible. A call was made for an encore though, which the band obliged, and they broke into "Parting Song for the Torn Sky," a bass driven, noise monster that roared for your very soul.

"I want to eat that soul!" the song screamed, and you almost obliged it. The band finished to an uproar of deranged, lunatic applause that was well earned. I think the crowd would have swallowed another heaping helping of that psychedelic sludge if it weren't for the Pop Explosion's strict scheduling policy.

## Girl Talk caps off Pop Explosion with historical performance



Matthew Ritchie  
Assistant Arts Editor

Standing in line at Girl Talk's Oct. 24 performance at St. Antonio's Dance Hall, it was hard not to listen to the anxious crowd in attendance spilling along the side of the venue. "I don't think any fights will happen here tonight," said one attendee. "Girl Talk makes pretty intelligent music and he has intelligent fans."

It's kind of hard to support this argument when you have groups of girls jumping up and down screaming "I love having sex, but I'd rather get some head." But it wasn't the last time Girl Talk's genius would be discussed this night.

Starting the set off early was Rich Aucoin with a chunk of his live band. Although having fewer instrumentalists on stage in comparison to his Deerhoof opening slot last year, Aucoin certainly had one of his best opening performances of his career thus far. The half-filled venue was jumping up and down and

going crazy for Aucoin's upbeat mixture of Sufjan Stevens meets a pep rally.

Once the crowd filled out a bit more and the balconies became packed, the lights were dimmed, followed by a deafening scream from the crowd. Girl Talk came through the curtains hopping up and down while addressing the crowd. As quickly as the mic was put down, fans charged the stage in an attempt to get close to one of their favourite musicians. Security helped a large array of girls clad in American Apparel and thrift store rejects onto the narrow stage to begin the dance party.

Girl Talk soon lost half of his clothes ripped off by girls clamouring around his laptop as he mixed Jackson Five, Jay Z, segments from "Footloose" and Daft Punk into semi-coherent mash ups. The crowd surged back and forth, trampling on the smaller girls in the crowd more than once.

Girl Talk head banged his way through the majority of his final songs, ending with a screaming ode to Kelly Clarkson's

"Since U Been Gone" and a slowed down version of Elton John's "Tiny Dancer" that had the whole crowd switching between verses by Elton John and Notorious B.I.G.

As soon as the concert had begun, it was over. The dehydrated crowd filtered to the front in search of water. Some in attendance resorted to throwing ice at each other and getting cups of water from the bottom of beer coolers. Mascara bled from girls eyes and some of the jocks in the crowd couldn't stop high fiving each other and proclaiming Greg Gillis as their savior.

A small crowd of 10 to 20 people were centered near the front of the venue where a sweaty and shirtless Gillis stood, answering questions and taking pictures with fans.

"I love you so much!" exclaimed one girl. This was followed by a humble "Thanks," and a smile from Gillis.

*Pick up next week's issue of the Gazette for an exclusive interview with Girl Talk about copyright and why "H to the Izzo" may be the best song of the decade.*

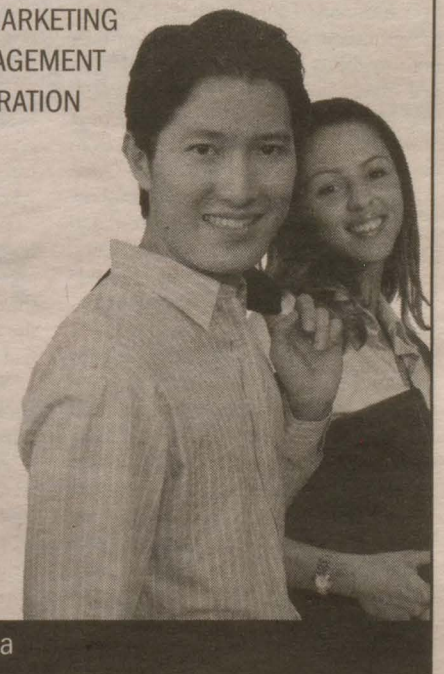
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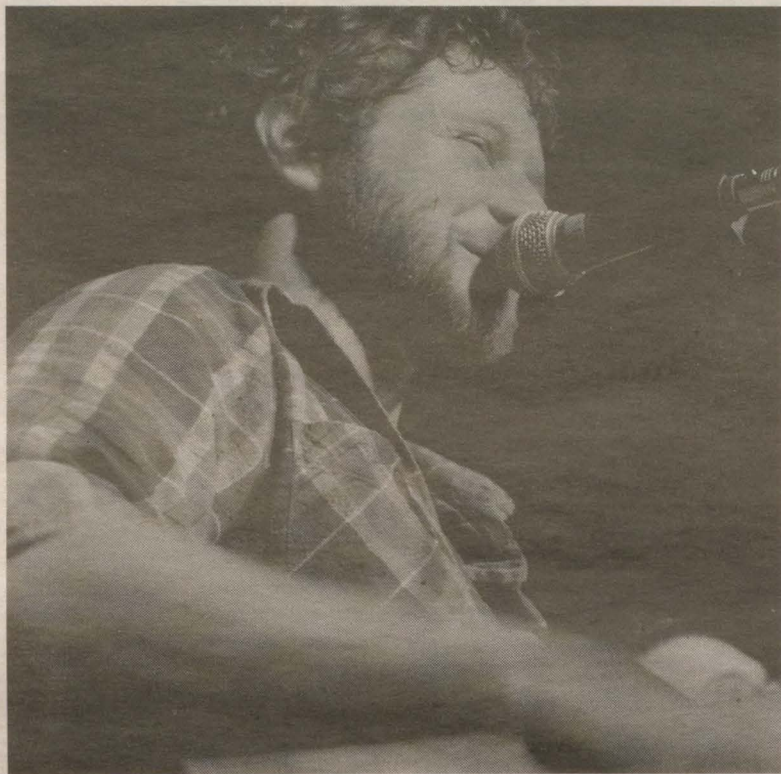
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Arts



Dan Mangan sang soulful, gritty tunes at The Company House last Friday. | Photo by Mark Teo

## Pack us up, we're sold Mangan seduces Halifax with sweet songs and swine flu

Hilary Beaumont  
Copy Editor

Grade: A

Giggles and high-pitched voices pierced the air at Coburg Café on Sunday. "Dan Mangan was so, so good," a girl told her three wide-eyed friends. "So good."

Two days after his first-ever Halifax show, Mangan's music was still the talk of the town. Last Friday, about 150 people packed The Company House. They gabbed through opening acts Norma MacDonald and Edie Orso, but when Mangan stepped from behind the velvet curtain the chatter ceased. It was as if he anticipated the Company House crowd when he wrote the lyric "I can hear the eyebrows raise when I start singing."

Mangan took the stage with two fellow B.C. musicians, Laura Smith and Michael-Owen Liston, who took time out of their solo spotlights to join the tour. Smith flitted from trumpet to keyboard to vocals and back. Liston played banjo with a bow.

Between soulful, gritty melodies from his latest release, *Nice, Nice, Very Nice*, Mangan told classic tour tales of how a train almost hit the band's trailer, and how he caught swine flu in Ottawa. "Might wanna sanitize this mic," he said once - often turning from the crowd to cough.

Mangan has a tendency to push himself too hard. In this case, little sleep and lots of interviews plagued his tour enough that he cancelled his first Halifax show at Dalhousie's T-room. So it was no wonder Friday's show was packed.

"I'm a really ambitious person," he said. "I always take on more than I can. I always work best under fire, too."

Vancouver homeboy looks like a teddy bear, but there's a growl to his voice. His tunes seem simple, but his lyrics are deep. Mangan writes unapologetically about

what he knows: himself. He's "a sneaky kind of selfish," according to one lyric, and Canadians coast to coast are eating it up.

Who can blame them? No one wants to listen to a modest singer-songwriter these days. Ho hum. Seductive is the musician who sings humbly while simultaneously bearing his soul.

A close friend of Mangan's who attended the Halifax show, said the singer has a nearly undetectable ability to squeeze every last note out of a song as it ends, guiding the crowd, then starting the next tune without losing them for a second. He compared it to squeezing every last drop out of a wet towel. Patrons sipped up every note.

Before he began his final song, Mangan offered two tambourines, a tomtom and a set of sleigh bells to audience members so they could clamour along to "Robots." What followed was the single best live song of this year's Pop Explosion - a sing-along celebration of Mangan's fast rise to national recognition.

"Robots need love too," the audience sang, as if gathered around a campfire. "They want to be loved by you, they want to be loved by you."

As the song finished, the crowd was still hungry enough to spontaneously burst into an a capella verse of this final tune. Here, on the opposite coast from the trio's home, was the first place on the entire tour the band had experienced an a capella encore call.

"We didn't plan anything," Mangan apologized. "Do you guys want a six-minute sad song?"

As the set ended, Haligonians' hearts were as fuzzy and warm as if they'd just squeezed a stuffed animal. Maybe that's why women's voices go up an octave when they recommend Mangan to friends during coffee dates. I doubt it's the caffeine. Though Mangan certainly mimics the rush of "coffee refills far as I can see."

## See Herman Dune and Julie Doiron play St. Matthew's Church

Jenner-Brooke Berger  
Staff Contributor

Grade: A

Leave your house early. On the way, wonder if Julie Doiron is nervous. Sit in a church pew in the second row. Commend your good timing. Watch people arrive. Notice they are all beautiful. Have your shoulder touched by someone you are happy to see.

When the house lights turn down, be calmly excited. Watch Doiron set her purse down beside an amp. See the slim silver needles sticking out of it. Wonder what she is knitting. Have her tell you she is, in fact, nervous. Listen.

"It's been a really long couple of days," she says. "Well it's been a long life, really."

Laugh with her. Listen to her new song. Get choked up. Don't let anyone notice. See her hand with no pick in it. See her hurried fingers expertly pluck the strings.

Listen to her play "Spill Yer Lungs." Decide the beginning of that song is your favourite guitar riff. Later, listen to her sing in French. Wish you understood while the amps make your ribs shake.

See Fred Squire play drums. When it gets quiet, see Squire flick the cymbals with his fingers. Notice at the end of songs Doiron and Squire lean back then slowly forward, ending their set on the same beat, together. Lunge with them.

Have the house lights tenderly warn you the next band is starting. Watch David Herman Dune appear on stage alone. Think he sounds like John Darnielle. Have your friend say he's reminded of Jonathan Richman's deadpan humour. Agree. See Dune walk and dance on his tiptoes. Picture a praying mantis. Admire the way he plays guitar as if it were just another of his long limbs.

Get to know David Herman Dune before Neman Herman Dune approaches the drum kit. Welcome his arrival. Listen

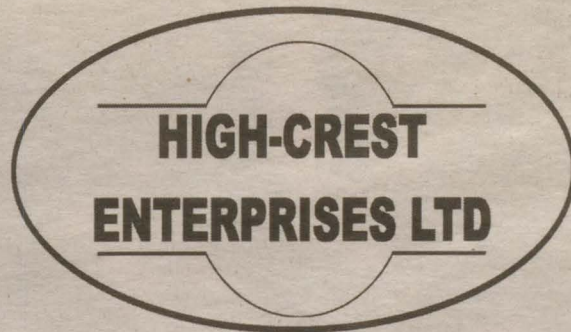
to David sing a song about being drunk, but not on wine. Hear your roommate Julia say, "I think he's drunk right now."

Tell her, "I think he's just French." Listen to them play this really long intro to "My Home is Nowhere Without You." Feel how the recording really doesn't to it justice. See Neman concentrate, appear almost feverish; his gaze fixed past your head, mouth open. See him rest his chin in his hand in between songs, nodding slowly. Wonder what he says yes to.

Feel their set come to an end, see the trees outside scrape the stained glass windows of the church. For the last song, sing along when David tells you to; you've signed on. Clap with everyone until David and Neman return to the stage. Have them play a three-song encore. Feel appreciation. As you leave, realize you don't know how to play music, but you do know how to love it.

## NURSES

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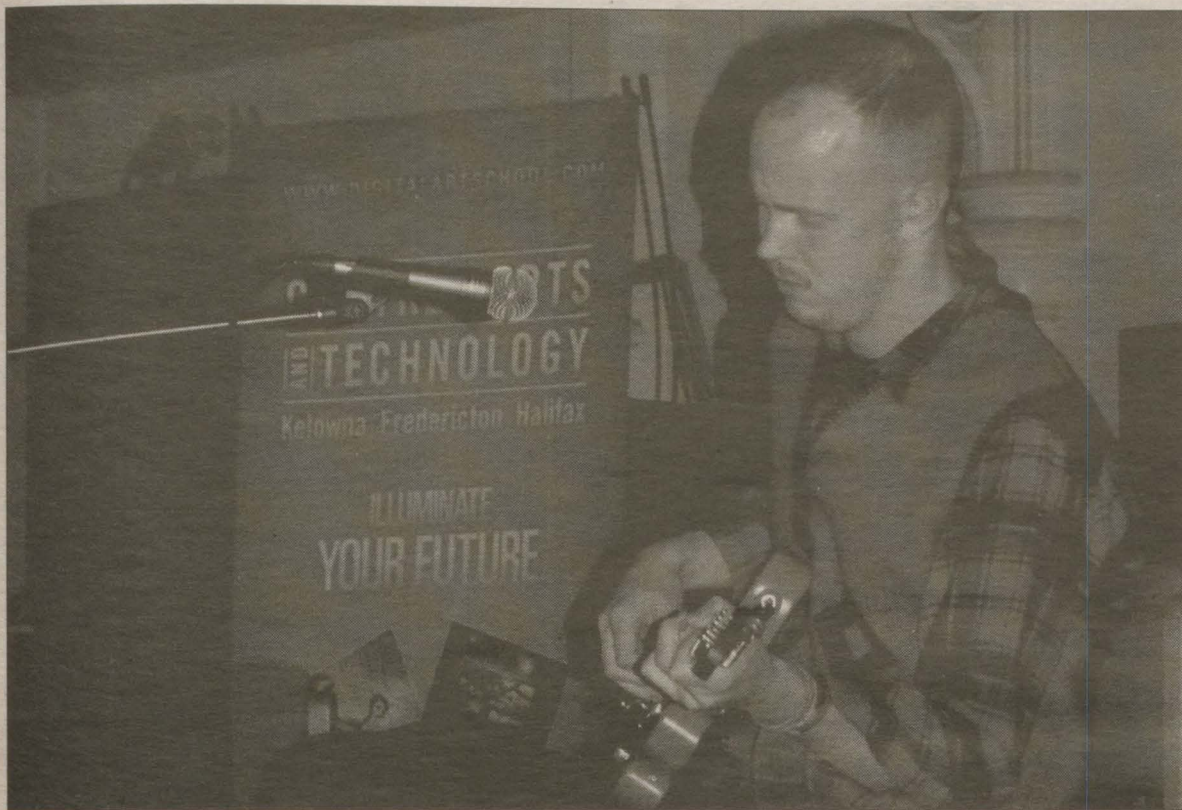
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"CARING FOR SENIORS"



This band will shiver ye Timber Timbres. | Photo by Hannah Griffin

## Timber Timbre makes spines tingle

**Nick Laugher**  
Arts Contributor

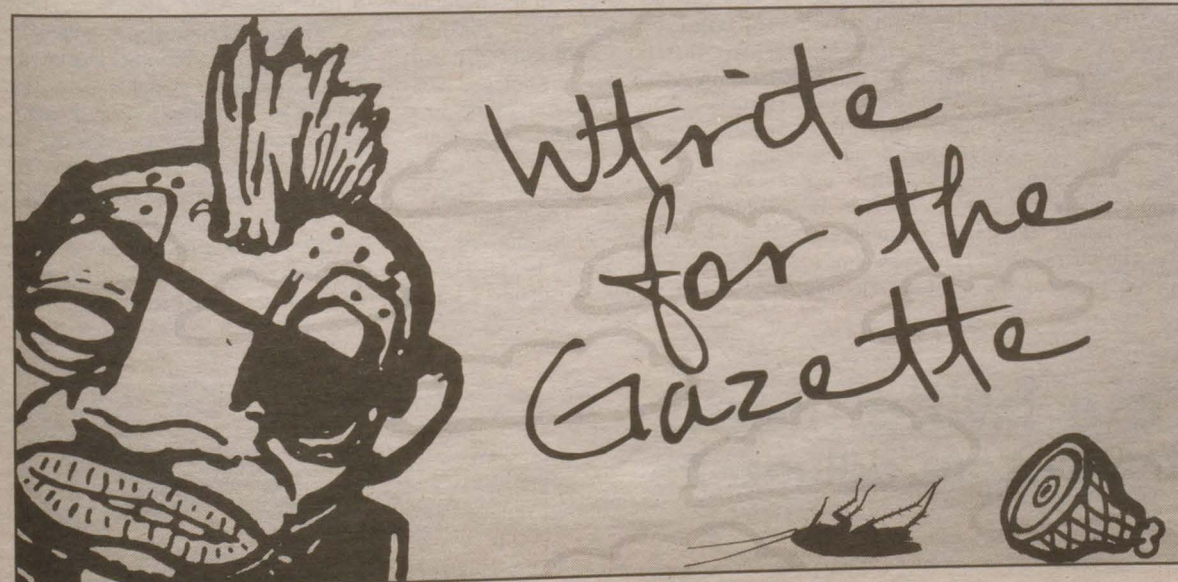
From under a brooding, vermilion-red show light, the sound of a weathered mind filled up the delicate wood grains of St. Matthew's Church. Timber Timbre, more intimately known as Taylor Kirk, projected his unique blend of haunting and laboured folk onto the fair weather watchers of the Halifax Pop Explosion. Aided by the haunting violin of Mika Posen and the subtle yet captivating lap steel of Simon Tottier, Kirk crafted frail soundscapes with the stinging bite of a wounded and weary soul. Between the jarring, almost overwhelmingly emotional Tom Waits meets Bob Dylan meets Devandra Banhart musing and jagged bursts of swamp-blues Fender Telecaster, the crowd's roaring applause cascaded through the hall only to become dead silent at the hint of another

song. Well-behaved and respectful, the crowd hung on every moment of Kirk's performance. Waiting anxiously as songs wound down, they wondered whether to clap or remain sitting in awe.

Though throwing a few classics and fan favorites to the audience, Kirk relied heavily on the sounds of his recent self-titled album. Armed with sparse instrumentation, the church was filled to the brim with eerie, atmospheric blues and folk driven by a piercing and homely bass drum played by Kirk himself. In songs like Demon Host, the sense that you were experiencing this ethereally haunting music in a church became increasingly apparent and quickly sent shivers down your spine. Playing to the ambient and his surroundings, midway through the set the Ontario native, aided by a looping pedal, created a cacophony of fluttering bird calls and whistles to back his already sonically rich perfor-

mance. Though he was devilishly silent, almost withdrawn, the audience was appreciative and captivated by the immense conviction that Timber Timbre exuded.

Quietly shuffling offstage, Kirk chivalrously made way for headliner Jenn Grant. While certainly lightening the mood and engaging the audience with some charming stories and quirky banter (not to mention her lighthearted repertoire of bouncy pop-folk), Grant failed to deliver with the same urgency and emotion that Kirk seemed to leak like a sieve. One might wonder if the venue had gotten its wires crossed on the performance order, for although the crowd were all ears to songs like "Blue Mountains" and her much adored hit "Dreamer," it seemed the fiery conviction had been snuffed out. Grant's performance - while beautiful in its own right - seemed reduced to a subdued lull after the seething sounds of Timber Timbre.



## P.E.I. groups steal the show at Coconut Grove

**Erica Eades**  
Staff Contributor

**Grade: A-**

The Prince Edward Island music scene invaded Coconut Grove on Friday night, as Charlottetown-based groups Smothered in Hugs, The Danks and Two Hours Traffic joined local boys Mardeen as part of the Halifax Pop Explosion.

Although the audience was sparse during opening act Smothered in Hugs, there was a determined group of five or six fans in the front row keeping the energy levels high. They danced continuously throughout the set and shouted enthusiastically at the end of every song. Even with the minimal crowd, Smothered in Hugs gave their all to the performance. They played a fast, hard set that was drenched with enthusiasm and a passion for their music.

The Danks brought the energy up a level as they played songs from their newly-released album, *Are You Afraid of the Danks?* The band performed their standard Strokes-inspired music, but with an edgier vibe than on the album. Front man Brohan Moore's vocals sounded coarser than usual, possibly from the strain of the group's cross-country tour.

Nevertheless, The Danks gave a driving performance. The highlight was their hit "Treaty Connector." When they played it, the audience roared with excitement.

Sadly, Mardeen was less than memorable as a follow up. This could be because The Danks were such a hard act to follow. Or it could be the result of having to open for the evening's headliners, Two Hours Traffic. Either way, they were unable to steal attention away from the other acts. This is too bad, because Mardeen can put down excellent album tracks, but their live show seemed to lack the passion and drive of a release such as "Read Less Minds." Their Pop Explosion show left me drumming my fingers, waiting for something more involving. Maybe they're just a better studio band than live act.

Two Hours Traffic took the stage at about 1 a.m., at which point the bar was almost at capacity. They opened their set with the title song from their latest record, *Territory*. Album producer Joel Plaskett mingled with the audience as he enjoyed the show as both a friend and advisor.

After the opening song, the band went back to their previous album *Little Jabs*, where they slowed down the tempo with the track "Nighthawks." The audience seemed unimpressed by the band's more laidback tone, but was ecstatic when they came back with one of their most upbeat hits, "Sure Can Start."

The Charlottetown groups certainly stole the show away from our local talent. However, Friday night at the Coconut Grove proved once again that East Coast music is a force to be reckoned with.

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## Arts



Hitchcock helps Schroeder celebrate retirement. | Stock photo

# Playing the audience

David Schroeder discusses the use of piano imagery in Hitchcock's films

**Nick Laugher**  
Arts Contributor

If there were one word you could use to describe David Schroeder, it would have to be multifaceted. A Professor of Music at Dalhousie University, Schroeder is a musician, author, avid film buff and, in what little spare time he has, an Alfred Hitchcock aficionado. In conjunction with a new lecture series to honour the inauguration of a new graduate studies program in Musicology at Dalhousie, he's finally going to make a place for his love of Hitchcock in his professional life.

Schroeder, a classically-trained musician, has taught music at Dalhousie for 28 years, offering classes ranging from musicology and musical history to opera and music in film. Though music is

central to his occupation and dear to his heart, he also possesses an undying love for the marriage of film and music. After a long and successful run at Dalhousie, Schroeder is finally ready to step down, remarking slyly how it's "best to leave on your own terms."

Having just completed a book on Hitchcock, his second about film, Schroeder saw the new lecture series as the perfect way to celebrate his retirement. Being the Hitchcock fan he is, he chose to lecture on a topic that has captivated him for years to finally bridge the gap between Hitchcock and his teaching.

"Hitchcock was very into classical music," says Schroeder. "Composers and especially pianos."

The main focus of the lecture centres on Hitchcock's use of the piano as a seductive form of imagery.

"Hitchcock used the image and the idea of the piano to imply a raw, seductive power in his films," Schroeder remarks.

He explains that originally, the piano was a very gender specific instrument, tailored to women.

"It was part of their studies in finishing school," he adds. "The only men who played piano were professionals."

Over the years, authors picked up on this notion and the piano developed as a sensual, almost erotic image. Schroeder thinks Hitchcock, along with the likes of Jane Austen and Jane Campion, also picked up on this.

"There are 53 Hitchcock films," says Schroeder. "Fifty-two that we know about ... and about half of them feature the piano prominently."

Schroeder's love of Hitchcock films is deeply rooted in the silent era. He says

silent films were heavily reliant on a sense of rhythm and sense music, even if it wasn't there. He points to a quote from Hitchcock to illustrate just how intimately these things are connected.

"I was playing the audience as I play the organ," Schroeder says. "The director himself had to think in musical terms, to transfer the music into visual images."

He thinks the most beautiful Hitchcock scenes have no dialogue.

So what does Schroeder do with his time when he's not waxing intellectually about films and music to a new generation of Hitchcock hopefuls? He's just recently penned a new book on Franz Schubert and has been invited by the BBC Logos Journal to do a piece for the 200th anniversary of the death of composer Joseph Haydn.

He also admits he spends a lot of

time in the Hitchcock archives in L.A. and London, sifting through early and variant scripts. He's read over 20 different scripts to Hitchcock's "Vertigo" – admittedly his favorite Hitchcock film – including one with a dramatic and lavish opera scene that was cut from the final version of the film.

You were woefully unlucky enough to miss Schroeder's "Pianos in Hitchcock's Films: Instruments of Seduction?" Check out some of the other lectures the music department is holding this year and maybe even drop in to pick Schroeder's brain and have a chat about the poetic piano scene in Hitchcock's "The Ring." He definitely won't disappoint.

Visit <http://music.dal.ca/> to keep update to many more talks in the music departments lecture series this winter.

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# Bang Bang Burlesque

## Empowering eroticism

Anna DeMello  
Arts Contributor

Halloween is all about getting your freak on. You can re-invent yourself, explore a strange character, or morph into whatever Gwar-esque monster your heart desires. The young women of Bang Bang Burlesque, a troupe of 16 students here in Halifax, have chosen to express their inner freak by performing a series of sexual and thought-provoking dances on Halloween night.

It all began last year, when then first-year University of King's College student Delia Macpherson decided to start a performance troupe. Macpherson is a combined honours student studying journalism and theatre. She loves all things erotic and dark. She directed her high school play, *Peter Pan*, a couple of years ago. She says her love of spooky erotic movements emerged in part from that experience.

"We did an alternative version (of the play). The mermaids were creepy and seductive, they were painted metallic silver with shells in their hair," Macpherson says. "They were really sexy and creepy looking. It was heavy choreography with creative music, and it was really well received."

It was last year that she first joked with her friends about starting a burlesque troupe.

"Roxy Velvet was a massive inspiration for me. She's a model from the U.K. who does a routine where she's a nurse. She's sexy and plays out the whole fantasy thing, but in the middle she cuts herself open. It's a combination of beauty and sexual fantasy with gore, death and blood. It's really erotic and hard to watch, but you're fascinated. You can't not watch."

Macpherson held auditions at King's last year, and accepted girls with a huge variety of talent. Their capabilities ranged from dance to yoga to karate. Some girls had previous dance training while others have none at all. Some have also done theatre and



Bang Bang Burlesque poster. | Image provided

others simply wanted to get involved. Right now there are 16 members in the troupe, including Macpherson.

She admits there was a negative response to Bang Bang Burlesque at first, but that people became more open to the idea once they understood what it was all about.

The Halloween gig, which will be held at The Seahorse Tavern on Argyle Street, is actually their first public performance, but their girls are planning another for the spring.

Macpherson admits that originally she only wanted to choreograph and direct the shows, but

ended up performing as well.

She'll even be performing a solo on Halloween night, which was choreographed by Hayley Lynch. Macpherson says she seeks advice from the other girls when she feels stuck.

"It's a group thing and we collaborate," she says. "I'm not power tripping

or anything like that. At least I hope not."

Promotions manager at The Seahorse, Troy Arsenault, helped big time with setting up the Halloween performance.

"I went in to meet him and he was the nicest guy," says Macpherson. "He gave us the Halloween spot and we started rehearsing in September."

There are 16 dances in total, each set to a different song by one of four great local bands. Bloodbath will open the show before the dancing starts. Other bands accompanying the dancers that night will be Myles Deck and The Fuzz, Broken Ohms, Gloryhound and Big Game Hunt.

Each dance has a different number of girls and a different theme. Expect solo performances. Themes include Broadway, "fucked-up ballerina," rock and roll groupies, vulture demons, skeleton dance, master and slave, cops and sexy librarian among others.

"She's wearing a body suit with a terrifying mask, and she's stunning," says Meghan Oliver, another member of the troupe, describing the "creepy mask dance," a solo performance by Julia Hutt. "It's sexual and scary. She's very monster-like and disjointed, but she's so sweet in real life!"


Dani Pacey will perform the "skelton dance" solo. She'll be almost nude with bones painted on her skin.


"She's a very tiny girl and completely embraces that," says Meghan. "She made this something great."

The girls are quick to tell me the performance is not about a bunch of Barbies on stage. It's about being erotic, beautiful and sexy in unconventional ways.

"It's all about creative movement, about moving your body in a certain way and taking on a character," she says. "Attitude is so important."

*The performance will take place at The Seahorse on Argyle Street, at 10 p.m. on Halloween night. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Visit [www.bangbangburlesque.yolasite.com](http://www.bangbangburlesque.yolasite.com).*





CONTRIBUTORS  
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DAL GAZETTE  
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# Sports

## Sports

Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. Email Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff **Sports Editor**  
sports@dalgazette.com



## Pray the fat away Faith and fitness

Elissa Gurman  
Sports Contributor

I may not be speaking for all of us here in the Dalhousie community, but until recently I had never considered "praying and seeking God's wisdom" as a step on the path to improved physical fitness. However, with the fear of the freshman 15 looming, I decided to look into the faith-fitness connection.

Apparently, I'm not the first. From meditative yoga to spiritual aerobics, the market is flooded with faith-based workouts. As Michelle Spadafora, founder of Faithful Workouts, writes, "when you put your focus on doing your best for God, exercise is more enjoyable, rewarding and effective." Spadafora's workouts promise to "put your focus where it belongs - on God" through the use of "faith-building songs." This spiritual soundtrack will "improve your overall health, your physical appearance and reduce your stress."

Brad Bloom, publisher of the online Faith & Fitness Magazine, expressed a similar view in a recent interview with the Dal Gazette. Bloom, who is "not the traditional type of minister," started his zine in November 2003 and his readership has been growing steadily ever since.

The magazine started from his frustration with typical fitness publications: "Many of the magazines often have good fitness content. However, they are borderline soft porn (well maybe not even border-line or soft) and they cover sex topics - lots of sex topics - from a very secular point of view. Not quite what you would want your child to see or what you would have sitting next to your Bible on the coffee table."

He sought to produce a fitness magazine that would not only be child-appropriate, but that would "help people build physical and spiritual strength."

For Bloom, the two are inextricably connected. Akin to Spadafora's claim, Bloom suggests that "giving your exercise time to God increases the likelihood that you will be committed to your fitness goals. Dealing with your spiritual challenges improves your ability to achieve and maintain your physical fitness goals."

Bloom argues that his magazine goes beyond "the tacky, carefully packaged, overly religious and restricted style of the vast majority of Christian content in today's marketplace."

"We work to produce content that is challenging," he says. "I don't want to make a magazine that is simply nice Christian reading. I don't think that is very use-

ful. I want the Christian reader to grow."

But what about the non-Christian reader? Bloom claims that Faith & Fitness nurtures those readers as well. Though the magazine is unabashedly Christian, the fundamental point is about the connection between the material and the spiritual. The main message is motivation.

"Faith & Fitness Magazine targets the core elements that trigger motivation: passion, desire, and commitment. It does it in new ways by connecting attitudes and spiritual dynamics to our personal physical world ... It works because it helps people tap into their deepest beliefs and their heart-felt ideals. It helps them connect at the very root of 'want' where motivation and faith become virtually synonymous."

So for those of us with a strong faith, we might want to think about connecting our religious beliefs, whatever they may be, to our workouts. As for the rest of us, I think the main message to be taken from the faith-fitness ideology is this: though on the surface our fitness routines may seem to be about sloughing off those extra pounds, exercise, like anything else, is a mental and spiritual journey that requires strong motivation and commitment, whether grounded in religious faith or not.

## BEAT THE KIPPER

### Questions:

1. How many Stanley Cups have the Montreal Canadiens won?
2. Who are the only two Toronto Blue Jays to have led the American League in Home runs?
3. Who was the last Canadian Olympian to win a gold medal in swimming?

Answers:  
1. 24  
2. Jesse Barfield in 1986 with 40 and Fred McGriff in 1989 with 36  
3. Mark Tewksbury at the 1992 Barcelona games in the 100-metre backstroke

## Who's best in the CIS?

UWO is an elite sport school, but so are many other CIS schools

Evan Daum

The Gateway (University of Alberta)

EDMONTON (CUP) - While perusing the Internet for the latest CIS gossip, I came across an interesting blurb on CISblog.ca about which is the best sports university in our fair country.

Radio talk show host Norman James, based out of London, Ont., has thrown the challenge out there for "anyone to find a stronger school than the (University of Western Ontario) in all 38 major sports contested at the university level in Canada. I think I'm right on the money when I say UWO leads the pack, in the OUA, and the CIS," he challenged.

His comments over the past few weeks have stirred up some debate amongst online CIS enthusiasts. James' statement was bold without a doubt, but the validity of his claim is certainly up for debate.

Before you dismiss his notion as another fallacy being spread by the media in Southern Ontario, take a closer look. First off, let's clear up one thing that James was off the mark on - there aren't 38 major sports at the CIS

level. No matter what you consider to be a "major sport," if it's not at the varsity level, it's tough to consider it a major CIS sport. Right now, the Western Mustangs have 27 varsity teams.

Now that that's straightened out, let's take a look at another factor that should be considered when looking at whether or not a school can be classified as a top-tier sports school, let alone being dubbed the very best: winning. Simply put, if you're not victorious, you can't be considered the best at anything, especially in sports. I could throw out a pile full of stats, but that wouldn't prove my point - besides, stats are vastly overrated.

Western has had a lot of success in the CIS sporting world, but has been outpaced by other schools like the University of Alberta in the grand scheme of things. Unlike Western, U of A's Green and Gold have won national titles in every team sport. Although conference titles are significant, when looking at who is the best on the national level, national titles are what matter.

There are so many factors that come into play when looking at what makes one school better than another, be it academically or athletically. As I

mentioned above, I'm not sure where the number 38 came from with respect to major sports, but sheer numbers alone don't make a school better than another with respect to athletics.

Just because you can field more teams doesn't mean you're automatically the best. Fan support, school spirit, individual athletes' success, tradition, and so much more help create the definition of a true sports school. Western is, without a doubt, a top-tier sports school - however, to make the assertion that it's the best goes too far.

I don't totally agree with James, but I must applaud him for sparking some interest. His radio program The Hook on AM980 might now be getting a listen or two by a few die-hard CIS fans ready to defend their schools all across Canada. James made a bold statement that's caught the attention of CIS fans, and one can only hope sparks the interest of the casual fan, because after all, everyone likes a good old-fashioned verbal throw-down.

As James said on his show, "Some of our friends, particularly out of market, think I'm an idiot. And that's okay. They're wrong. But again, it's all okay."

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# Tigers sports briefs

## Men's Soccer records first loss of the season

Dal fell back to third place in AUS rankings losing 2-0 to fifth place St. Francis Xavier. The Tigers' record now sits at 6-1-3 with three games left in the regular season. The CIS still ranks Dalhousie fourth nationally in men's soccer and the team remains undefeated at home where they will host the AUS Championships in November.

## Women's soccer win in Antigonish

The women's soccer team avenged the men's loss with a 5-0 pounding of the X-women. The women's team has only allowed three goals all season and sits one point out of first place in AUS Standings. The Women's Tigers are undefeated this season and are ranked sixth nationally by the CIS.

## Women's Hockey beat X-women at home

Tessa Boudreau, Fielding Montgomery, Liz Matheson and Jocelyn LeBlanc scored for the Tigers in a 4-3 victory versus St. Francis Xavier. Dalhousie goaltender Ashley Boutilier made 29 saves in Friday's win.

## Men's Hockey still winless

Pete Belliveau's Tigers dropped all three games of their three-game 'road trip' being outscored 17-7 versus St. Francis Xavier, Universite de Moncton and St. Thomas University. The Tigers stand at 0-3-1 on the season. The Tigers return home this Friday to host the U de Moncton Aigles-Bleus at Memorial Arena.

## Field hockey misses playoffs

UPEI will be representing the Mari-

times at the OUA playoffs in London, Ontario next weekend. The Dalhousie Tigers were 5-2-3 and ranked third in the Atlantic region going into the final tournament. The Tigers beat UPEI in penalty strokes and handed St.FX a 3-0 loss, led by the strong play of captain Julie van der Hoop. Dal lost to SMU in the Bronze medal game.

## Football Huskies continue seven-game winning streak

Following a 39-23 win over the McGill Redmen in Montreal, the Huskies returned to Halifax where they hosted conference-rival St.FX. The X-Men handed SMU their sole loss of the season winning 24-19 on Sept. 12 in Antigonish. The Huskies' avenged the loss with a 41-7 win in front of the home crowd.

# Jock Talk:

Dal rugby's Liz Lumsden

Q: Who would you rather: Zach Morris or Zac Efron?

A: I love Zach Morris, but I think Zac Efron is hotter, so Efron.

Q: Could you take Miley Cyrus in a steel cage match?

A: For sure. She's young and probably not as strong.

Q: What is the sluttiest Halloween costume you have ever seen?

A: I went to the Dome on Halloween once, and there was a guy dressed as a penis.

Q: You had the privilege of going to Croatia this summer. I hear that they have nude beaches there. See any old man balls?

A: So many I lost count.

Q: Which member of New Kids On The Block would you least like to see in a whip cream bikini?

A: Jordan.

Q: Some of the girls on your team play the position of hooker. Which bar star on the squad lives up to that title?

A: Ryan a.k.a. "Pooley" is the biggest bar star of the guys and girls rugby teams.

Q: Would you break up with your boyfriend if his night-light was a fully functional donair spit?

A: Well, I wouldn't be sleeping over as often.

Q: Would you get back together with him if he also had a blue slushie machine?

A: That would definitely bring me back!

Q: Can you name the truck that's four lanes wide, it smells like steak and seats 35?

A: I believe that would be the Canyonero, 65 tons of American Pride.

Q: If you were the father in the film Honey I Shrunk the Kids and you were starving, would you eat that bowl of cereal knowing that your shrunken children are in it?

A: It depends on the type of cereal.



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## MEET THE TIGERS!

**WOMEN'S SOCCER, RIEKA SANTILLI, #19 - Centre/Midfield**  
Hometown: Halifax, NS  
Degree/Major: BCOMM  
Favourite pump-up song: Homecoming - Kanye West  
Lucky superstition: The right coloured pro-wrap  
Favourite sports hero: Fabio Cannavaro  
Favourite class: Beginner Italian  
Favourite hangout: Local Jo Cafe & Market

**MEN'S HOCKEY, RYAN JENNER, #44 - Defence**  
Hometown: Port Williams, NS  
Degree/Major: BCOMM/Finance  
Favourite pump-up song: Slipknot - Before I Forget  
Lucky superstition: Left side gear goes on before right side  
Favourite sports hero: Sidney Crosby  
Favourite class: History of Rock n' Roll  
Favourite hangout: Alehouse/Toothy Moose

### CATCH THE ACTION!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
Men's Hockey vs. UdeM, 7pm\*  
Men's Basketball vs. RMC, 7pm (Exh)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
Soccer vs. UPEI, W 1pm, M 3:15pm  
Men's Hockey vs. STU, 2pm\*  
Men's Basketball vs. York, 3pm (Exh)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
Soccer vs. MtA, W 1pm, M 3:15pm

\*Visit [www.athletics.dal.ca/tigers](http://www.athletics.dal.ca/tigers) to view the webcast.  
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# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Yes, it's a good ol' fashioned mustache growing contest! **FOR THE MEN**

**DALENG PRESENTS**  
**November**

Not only can you grow a stache, but you can raise some money for charity at the same time! Be clean shaven on November 1st, and then start the growing process. Throughout your growing, get support for the stache from your friends and family. There will be a prize for the person that raises the most money in support of their masterpiece. BIG Prizes will also be given out for best mustache, worst mustache, and most creative use of facial hair.

Come on out on November 27th to the Troom, between trivia rounds, for judging, and see if your stache is a winner.

All proceeds will go towards prostate cancer research.

**ROCK THE STACHE. WIN SOME CASH**

VERSUS

Yes, it's a good ol' fashioned BIG HAIR contest! **FOR THE LADIES**

**DALENG PRESENTS**  
**Frovenember**

Not only can you grow a fro with pride but you can raise some money for charity at the same time! Throughout the month of November, get support for the fro from your friends and family. There will be a prize for the person that raises the most money in support of their masterpiece. Prizes will also be given out for best fro, worst fro, and most creative use of hair.

Come on out on November 27th to the Troom, between trivia rounds, for judging, and see if your fro is a winner.

All proceeds will go towards breast cancer research.

**ROCK THE FRO, WIN SOME DOUGH**

## SEEF CALL FOR PROPOSALS SEXTON ENGINEERING ENDOWMENT FUND

### What is SEEF?

The Sexton Engineering Endowment Fund is funded by the \$15 fee that each student pays each term they are enrolled in engineering programs at Sexton campus. The purpose of SEEF is to support the pursuit of excellence in education, research and public service in the faculty of Engineering at Dalhousie University, Sexton campus.

### What kinds of activities are supported by SEEF?

Anything from research to equipment and facilities upgrades may be funded by SEEF. This includes lab enhancements and lab equipment, library books, teaching enhancements, and much more. For example, the design commons were funded by SEEF.

**Have an idea that you think would enhance the academic experience of students at Sexton Campus? Then we want to hear from you!**

### What you need to do:

**Information guides are available in the DSEUS office, which outline the application requirements. Make sure to follow all instructions on the application guide!**

**DEADLINE IS  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER  
6<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M.**

## UPPER YEAR ENGINEERING EXAM LOCATIONS

It has been brought to the attention of the Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society (DSEUS) that all engineering exams will be written on Studley Campus for the fall academic semester. The students at Sexton Campus would like to express their dissatisfaction with this change.

All upper year engineering exams have been written on Sexton Campus in the past. Engineering students feel strongly that they should write their exams at Sexton Campus and provide the following reasons to support their opinion.

Sexton Campus parking passes are not valid on Studley Campus. As a result, Sexton students required to write exams on Studley Campus will run into problems finding legal parking spaces.

Many Sexton Campus students live near Sexton Campus and do not have access to a vehicle. These students will be required to use Metro Transit or walk to the exam facility. The possibility of adverse weather conditions and unfamiliarity with the bus system and the Studley campus may instill additional anxiety in students. Furthermore, students will require significantly more time to commute to and from exams which will re-

duce the amount of preparation time for other exams.

Extra materials for exams (textbooks, calculators, design tool kits, etc.) are available on Sexton Campus. If a student requires these supplies, the supplies are more readily available at Sexton Campus.

Engineering is a very challenging program, and professors / Teaching Assistants often make themselves available up to the day of an exam to answer last-minute questions a student has. Relocating all engineering exams to Studley Campus will reduce the amount of time professors will be available to assist students.

This change will disrupt the study habits that students have formed in their time on Sexton Campus, placing greater stress than necessary on students.

Students in their final year of study will be preparing reports for their senior year design projects. Many of these design projects require the use of specific computer programs which are only available on Sexton Campus. The additional commute will result in less

time available to do final year project work, which can be crucial during the exam period.

There has been no official notification sent to Sexton students notifying affected people of this change. Without proper notification, some upper year students may find themselves at an incorrect location on the day of the exam.

It is the understanding of Sexton Campus students that the Dalhousie University vision states that Dalhousie is

committed to advancing provincial and regional development by offering a diverse student body of about 17,500 an outstanding personal experience at a national university built around an excellent learning environment

Sexton students believe that the location change for engineering exams does not facilitate an excellent learning environment designed to create an outstanding personal experience. Please consider holding engineering exams at the Sexton gymnasium, as has been done in previous years.



Thursday October 29 • Discipline Challenge  
Friday October 30 • Halloween Trivia

**DSEUS** dalhousie sexton  
engineering undergraduate society

Halloween EngiBEERing • Design Commons on October 30th!  
Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

## CO-OP CORNER

### Important Dates:

- Round II begins on Tuesday October 27th, 2009 and continues to the end of the term.

### Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is:  
<http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>





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