

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868

# Gazette

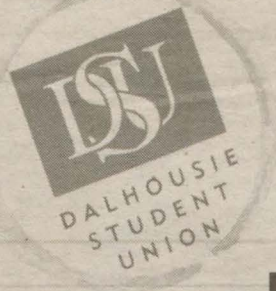
## DIGITAL LOVE

STUDENTS PUSH FOR CHANGE PG:4

TECHNOLOGICAL DOPING IN SPORTS PG:15

DAFT PUNK FUNK PG:13





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## DSU Weekly Dispatch

### Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

#### Events:

#### January 23 and 24

##### Brains for Change

Come join over 150 students in guided workshops aimed at developing student-centered approaches to classroom learning, career preparation, and community engagement. Sign up by January 14, 2010 at [BrainsForChange.ca](http://BrainsForChange.ca)

#### Monday, January 25

##### DSU Speaker Series Presents:

The "Me to We Speakers' Leadership" - Be the Change Series presents: **Michel Chikwanine** - From Child Soldier to Child Activist. The lecture will take place in the McInnis room located in the SUB and will begin at 7:00pm.

#### January 27-30

##### Winter Carnival

##### Wednesday, January 27

- 1:00pm-2:30pm - FREE Skate @ the DAL Arena (Helmets are required)
- 2:30pm-4:00pm - Snow Sculpture Contest in the SUB Amphitheater
- 9:00pm-1:00am - Dalhousie Got Talent Quarter Finals @ The Grawood (WET/DRY)

##### Thursday, January 28th

- 1:00pm-2:30pm - Sled Building Competition on Citadel Hill (Speed & style competitions)
- 9:00pm-1:00am - Winter Carnival Trivia Night @ The T-Room (19+)
- 9:00pm-1:00am - Ill Scarlette & USS Live @ The Grawood (WET/DRY)

##### Friday, January 29th

- 7:00pm-9:30pm - Men's Hockey Game, DAL vs. STU @ The DAL Arena
- 9:00pm-1:00am - Varsity Night and Post Game Party @ The Grawood (Live DJ)
- 9:00pm-1:00am - Two Hours Traffic & The Danks Live @ The T-Room (19+)

##### Saturday, January 30th

7:00pm-12:am - DSU's Annual Charity Ball, "Arctic Ice Capades," In support of Camp Triumph

#### Accused of Plagiarism? Failed a Course?

The Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS) assists students with academic appeal and discipline matters. All inquiries are confidential. DSAS is located in room 310 of the SUB. Phone: (902) 494-2205 Fax: (902) 494-6647

#### Job Opportunities

##### DSU Elections Chief Returning Officer

This is a paid honorarium based on performance.

##### DSU Council Chair

This is a term position. The chosen candidate will conduct council meetings on a bi-weekly basis.

##### Member at Large (1<sup>st</sup> year)

This is a volunteer position

Applications are due by January 15, 2010

Anyone interested can email [dsuvpfo@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpfo@dal.ca) or visit [www.dsu.cs](http://www.dsu.cs) for more details.

Sincerely,

*Your DSU Executive*

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



## GAZETTE STAFF

Josh Boyter, Editor in Chief  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)

Hilary Beaumont, Copy Editor  
[copy@dalgazette.com](mailto:copy@dalgazette.com)

Lucy Scholey, News Editor  
[news@dalgazette.com](mailto:news@dalgazette.com)

Tim Mitchell, Features Editor  
[features@dalgazette.com](mailto:features@dalgazette.com)

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

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

Joel Tichinoff, Sports Editor  
[sports@dalgazette.com](mailto:sports@dalgazette.com)

Susan Maroun, Art Director  
[design@dalgazette.com](mailto:design@dalgazette.com)

Pau Balite, Photo Editor  
[photo@dalgazette.com](mailto:photo@dalgazette.com)

## 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 Street feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

The Gazette's writers or staff. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University. The views or editorial content on the Sextant pages does not represent that of The Gazette. The Gazette is not responsible for material that appears on The Sextant's page. The Sextant is solely responsible for content that appears within their page.

## CONTACT US

Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2  
[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-1280  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-6532  
[advertising@dalgazette.com](mailto:advertising@dalgazette.com)

Dalhousie's campus radio station since 1969.



## ckdu's weekly top 10

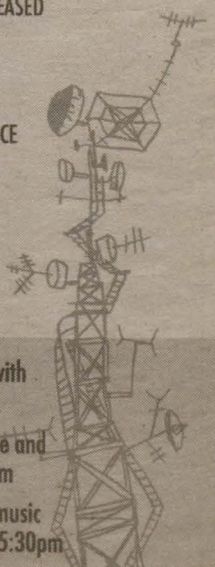
for the week ending  
Jan 11, 2010

- 1 WILCO / WILCO (THE ALBUM) / NONESUCH
- 2 BLUERODEO / THE THINGS WE LEFT BEHIND / WARNER
- 3 JENOCIDE / MACHINES TO MAKE US WET / SELF-RELEASED
- 4 AMELIA CURRAN / HUNTER, HUNTER / SIX SHOOTER
- 5 THE RAVEONETTES / IN AND OUT OF CONTROL / VICE
- 6 GHETTOSOCKS / TREAT OF THE DAY / DROPPIN' SCIENCE
- 7 TINARIWEN / IMIDIWAN: COMPANIONS / OUTSIDE
- 8 COUSINS / OUT ON TOWN / YOUTH CLUB
- 9 GYPSOPHILIA / SA-BA-DA-OW! / SELF-RELEASED
- 10 THE FLAMING LIPS / EMBRYONIC / WARNER

**Halifax is Burning:** Set your radio on fire with pure local music. *listen live:* Tuesdays, 8pm-9pm

**Let's Get Baked:** Bake along with Mat & Dave and their weekly musical guests. *listen live:* Thursdays, 5pm-6pm

**The Latin Connection:** The best of Latin music with Yoanis Roche. *Conectate!* *listen live:* Fridays, 3:30pm-5:30pm





# Letter from the Editor

## YAFFLE MAY BECOME GOOGLE OF ACADEMIA

Josh Boyter  
Editor in Chief

The gates of the ivory tower have long been a menacing and highly protected place with watchdogs, passwords and reluctant faculty. This is all beginning to change with a highly innovative and simple idea: tear the gates down.

Over the past three years, Memorial University has come up with a new search engine: Yaffle. A Newfoundland term that means an armload of fish or sticks, Yaffle is the prized new flagship idea that is beginning to revolutionize how research

reaches faculty, students and the public.

This is changing how we access academic information online. The online search engine works as a database, categorizing various research projects that are being conducted by faculty and staff. It encourages communication and collaboration on various research efforts.

The ability to enrich current research is phenomenal. We often get bogged-down in our own work, frequently researching with blinders on. Collaboration can sometimes be difficult to achieve since academic research may not be widely known. Such technology can aid in developing large working groups, who are neither bound

by institution nor borders to work together.

Additionally, this allows for a two-way conversation to emerge with interested parties, including the general public. The dissemination of ideas can aid in enriching lives far outside academic institutions, as higher education become more expensive and less of an opportunity.

The coupling of this technology with new initiatives such as Apple U can help bridge the stifling gap that exists between "Northern" and "Southern" researchers. Many researchers in the South may not have access to higher education or research assistance, but may have valuable insight into a particular social or research prob-

lem. These can include poverty, food security and education. The ability for projects such as Yaffle to connect researchers who have strong liaising partnerships with interested and engaged partners in the developing world is a massive feat. Research can now become more focused, and tailored.

With the explosion of the Internet over the past 15 years, a great deal of poor information has been born. Often, rigorously conducted research is safeguarded for a privileged few. The safe keeping of research has helped proliferate poor websites with little or no knowledge value. The opening of academic information to a wider audience can aid in developing

stronger, more educated opinions. The development of new social media can aid in bridging the ivory tower, general public divide and create a stronger network of informants and research counterparts.

While Yaffle is still in its infancy, the potential for this tool is endless. While the ivory tower still remains guarded, there appear to be cracks in the mortar. Bridging the chasm that has existed in relation to academia and the public is important. Yaffle in conjunction with dedicated students and faculty can aid in revolutionizing how we conduct and develop research.

### FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is committed to excellence in teaching. It has established a teaching award that honors, each year, a faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution to teaching and serving the students of the Faculty. This award is intended above all to underline the fundamental importance of first-rate and innovative pedagogy.

Candidates nominated for the award must be on-going Arts and Social Sciences members of the Dalhousie University teaching staff. Sessional and part-time lecturers will be considered but must have taught at least two consecutive years. Faculty nominated for the University Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence are also eligible for nomination for the Arts and Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Nominations should be signed by at least three students or staff members, and should include evidence of teaching excellence. This will vary, but might include letters from sponsors summarizing the evidence justifying the nomination, results of student evaluation questionnaires, pedagogical publications of the candidate, confidential letters of support from colleagues and/or former students, evidence of innovative pedagogy and of service to the Faculty or the outside community. Nomination forms are available at the office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. Please contact 494-1439 for more information.

The recipient will be recognized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Nominations and documents supporting them should be sent to the Selection Committee for the Excellence in Teaching Award, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H 4P9.

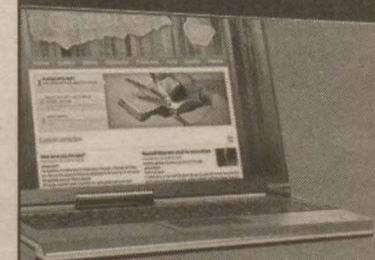
Nominations and all supporting documents should reach the Committee no later than **MARCH 15, 2010**.

### CORRECTION:

In last week's Gazette, we ran a story about Guthrie Prentice's free fortune telling service. Prentice has since contacted us to run the following correction: He says he does not claim to be psychic. His passport shows he is a world traveller.

We originally printed: "Prentice is 24 and a frequently self-proclaimed 'former world traveller.'"

Check  
out our  
exclusive  
web  
content



dalgazette.com



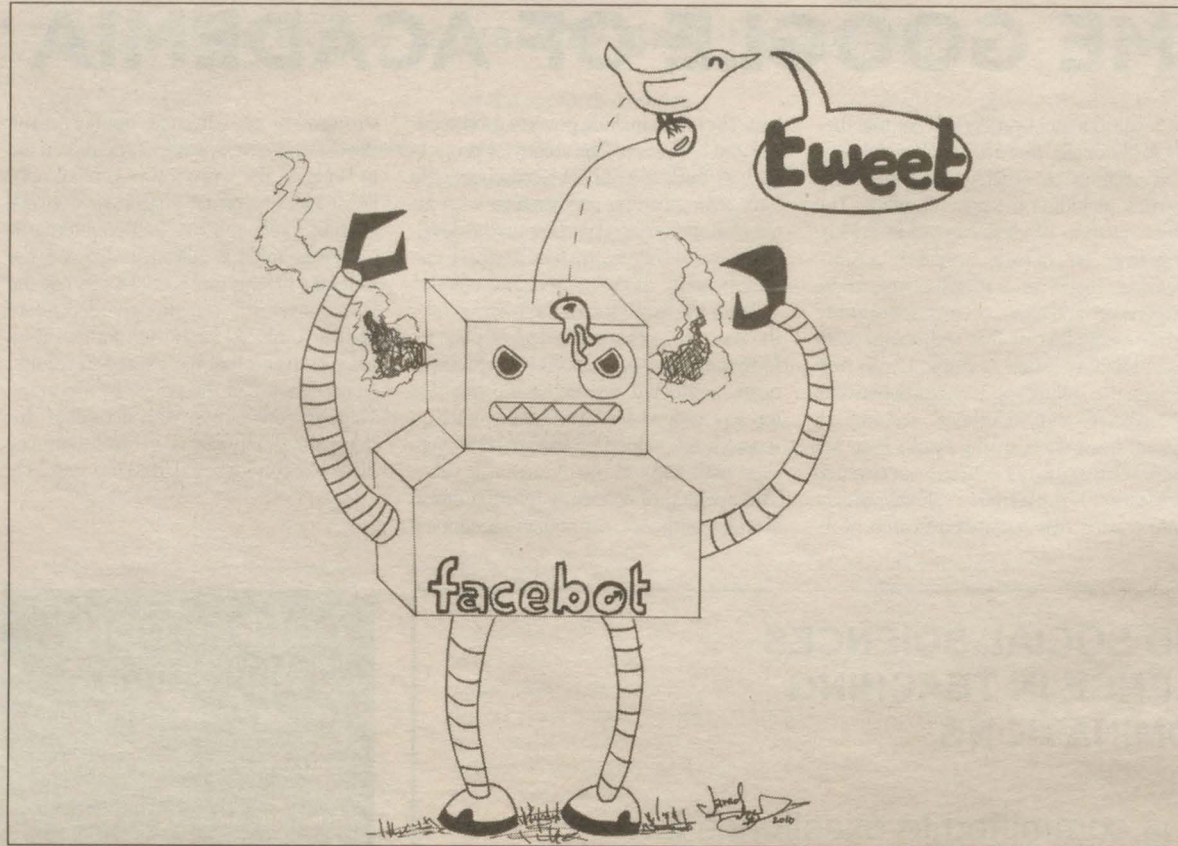
# News

**News**

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Lucy or Laura at news@dalgazette.com



Lucy Scholey, News Editor  
news@dalgazette.com



Can Twitter and Facebook co-exist? | Illustration by Jared Dalziel

## Facebook v. Twitter

Can Twitter and Facebook co-exist?

Scott Beed  
Staff Contributor

Popular culture is sprinkled with stories of 20-something's in their basements or dorm rooms, or slacking off at work, dreaming up the next big Internet sensation. Facebook and Twitter are two of the more influential layers recently added to the Internet mosaic.

Yet they are simultaneously loved and hated by all. Those quick news headlines and constant status updates give us hours of enjoyment and procrastination.

**Facebook**

This site has become as common on university campuses as exams and mid-terms. The fascination with Facebook grows daily and is fuelled by ever-accessible Wi-Fi networks.

On any university campus in North America, it's hard to find a student who has never heard of the social networking site.

Mark Stoddart, an instructor in the sociology department at Dal, says Facebook's appeal stems from the familiarity it brings to users.

"For the most part, it's almost a virtual high school reunion," he says. "You can connect with people who you haven't talked to in many years. All it takes is a couple messages and you're completely caught up."

For 15- to 25-year-olds, Facebook will be a permanent fixture, he says.

"I know when I walk through my classes both here at Dal, and when I

was teaching at the University of Victoria, the people who have laptops are most likely surfing Facebook."

This type of distraction is new to university classes. Stoddart says it's surprising how many students are on Facebook during his lectures.

"There are many more modes of distraction in class, and maybe it seems more prevalent and persistent because it is more readily available," he says. "In the '80s and '90s it took more effort for kids to slack off. So distracted students are nothing new. But Twitter and Facebook give students new ways of being distracted."

**Twitter**

This social networking website has also become more popular recently.

According to Twitter's website, the word "micro-blog" was coined to describe short "tweets." Originally, Twitter's main function was for company use because the maximum 140-character tweets are less formal than e-mails. The program eventually expanded for greater public use.

Alex Brodsky, an instructor in the computer science department, says Twitter and Facebook may share common functionality, but Facebook has a more general application.

"Twitter has pretty much one specific functionality, which is publishing short snippets of information, and Facebook is almost an entire platform in itself, which allows users not only to publish short updates but also photos or movies."

**Multi-purpose v. single use**

Though both sites have useful aspects, Brodsky says Facebook's ability to facilitate social networking goes way beyond Twitter's capabilities.

According to Brodsky, Twitter is a focused one-purpose application while Facebook is a very general multi-purpose application.

Brodsky says the nature of the Internet allows people to build and add layers themselves. But Facebook, as Brodsky sees it, adds its own layers on top of the heap with its own third-party applications.

"For example, one could argue it would be reasonably simple to implement a Twitter plug-in or a Twitter (application) on top off the Facebook infrastructure," he says. Brodsky is reluctant to make any predictions on the fate of either site but says Twitter's Achilles heel may be that it only has one purpose.

Jeremy Bishop, a first-year Dal student, says he uses both sites on a daily basis. On Twitter, he observes rather than tweets. He logs on to follow celebrity Tweets. If he has something to say, he uses the Facebook status toolbar.

Brodsky is quick to warn that the success of one site doesn't necessarily mean the failure of the other. They both perform completely different functions and have different uses. For all he knows both could fail miserably within the next four months, he says. That's the Internet's unpredictable nature.



Students popped champagne bottles at a new year's rally. | Photo by Pau Balite

## Students party in protest

Laura Parlee  
Assistant News Editor

The Canadian Federation of Students in Nova Scotia is fed up with broken promises, and the group was willing to celebrate to have their voices heard.

The group held a New Year's Eve party outside One Government Place on Thursday morning, rallying against high tuition costs in Nova Scotia.

Holding up a banner that read, "Education shouldn't be a debt sentence," the students presented a petition to the provincial government asking for increased funding for universities to match the national average, a reduction of tuition, more grants and less loans.

The petition has been circulating since last February, and has collected almost 3,000 signatures.

Kaley Kennedy presented the petition to the deputy education minister Dennis Cochran outside the building after spending 30 minutes blaring party tunes and chanting: "We will not give up the fight. Education is our right."

The federation originally planned to hand the petition to Premier Darrell Dexter, but he and Education Minister Marilyn More were unavailable due to emergency drills for the provincial government members.

After the petition was handed over, the real party began.

In true new year's fashion, the students adorned shiny party hats, tooted party horns, then counted down and popped sparkling grape juice with shouts of "Happy New Year!"

"Let's hope 2010 is filled with no more broken promises," said Jake Byrne, the Nova Scotia Representative for the CFS.

Many students were hoping the election of an NDP government would mean tuition cuts, but so far the NDP's only policies on post-secondary education have been a graduate retention tax credit program that seeks to retain graduates in N.S., and the creation of 250 more seats

at the Nova Scotia Community College.

J.D. Hutton is a long time NDP supporter. He helped campaign for the party this summer when the NDP were elected with a landslide victory. Hutton says he still supports the party, but he is disappointed with their lack of initiative on tuition.

"The NDP has been promising tuition cuts for a long time," he says. "I don't want to be out here. I don't want to be in debt ... I'd like to see some cuts."

In an interview last September, Dexter said tuition was still important to his government, but not now.

"We live in a particular reality of shrinking economies ... We're suffering from the same thing as everyone else is suffering from," said Dexter. "There are going to be trade offs of one sort or another."

Byrne and Kyle Buott gave rousing speeches to the crowd, and encouraged students to share new year's resolutions from their protest signs.

"Let's remind the NDP government who elected them," said Buott, president of the Halifax-Dartmouth and District Labour Council. He said the labour unions "stand in solidarity" with the student movement.

Nicolas Gall held a sign saying he resolved to get a fourth job, even if it meant having to give up sleep or miss classes.

Gall was recently elected to the King's Student Union as external vice president and worked with Maritimes Organizer of the CFS, Rebecca Rose, to help organize the rally.

He says his real resolution is to keep students aware of tuition issues.

Finance Minister Graham Steele will hold public consultations across the province about balancing the budget. Students hope the petition will be an important part of considerations. The new budget is in the works for March.

*Opinions Editor Kaley Kennedy helped to promote this rally, but she did not contribute to the editing or reporting of this article.*





Members of ANSSA stand with Premier Darrell Dexter and Education Minister Marilyn More. | Photo supplied by Shannon Zimmerman

## DSU meets with premier

### Tax credit and post-graduate review discussed

Lucy Scholey  
News Editor

Students made their voices heard in more than one way last Thursday.

The Alliance of Nova Scotia Students Associations (ANSSA), including delegates from the DSU, met with Premier Darrell Dexter and Education Minister Marilyn More.

It was the DSU's first time meeting the premier.

"I felt very good coming out of it today, as a whole," said DSU vice president (education) Rob LeForte. "It seemed that he was fairly receptive to all the ideas and especially the notion of having a strategic plan for post-secondary education."

ANSSA, a student group that represents most post-secondary institutions in the province, presented a pre-budget submission report to the premier. In it, they recommended the government provide more grant money, eliminate the graduate tax credit, eliminate differential fees between Nova Scotians and out-of-province students, and conduct a review of post-secondary education.

But these needs are difficult to meet when the province is facing a \$590-million deficit, said LeForte.

"He talked a lot about the reality of the current financial situation," LeForte said. "So talking about coming into a job and being told that there's a \$500-plus million dollar deficit and how much it's all about balance ... is very realistic and I appreciate that (the premier) was forthright with us in that regard."

But while LeForte is optimistic about the meeting, he says he's not expecting any concrete answers yet.

"I understand that until an announcement is made and until they discuss it ... it's not a firm announcement or anything," said LeForte. "But I think that the reality is that it is a possibility and if something like that is on the horizon, it's something

we're going to keep working towards."

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a funding agreement between the universities and government, is due to expire March 2011. Both LeForte and ANSSA executive director Mark Coffin said a critical review of the province is needed before a new agreement can be made.

"We need a plan, regardless, and right now we don't have one," said Coffin. But the premier and education minister were receptive to the idea, he added.

"We've been pushing this for almost four years now, so it's nice to see something coming from government," he said.

"We sort of reminded him that that's what he told us last time we met and he said, 'You know, I'm not a fan, but the fiscal situation is this,'" said Coffin.

The tax credit has also been a contentious issue for ANSSA. The current government introduced the idea last fall. It comes as a \$15,000 rebate, paid over six years, to any student who works in the province after graduation. Coffin said the tax credit wouldn't work. The province should put that money toward helping students at the beginning of their degrees, not at the end.

Last fall, Dexter said the tax credit would be used to retain students.

**"Given that we're the university capital of Canada now, we're hoping that the province will start enacting policies and reviews like this one that live up to the title."**

"Given that we're the university capital of Canada now, we're hoping that the province will start enacting policies and reviews like this one that live up to the title."

Nova Scotia has the second highest post-secondary tuition rate in the country, after Ontario. On average, Nova Scotian students pay \$5,696 a year.

To ease this, the former Conservative government introduced a tuition freeze for all students, with an added bursary for all Nova Scotian-born students. When Dexter was in opposition, he said he was against differential fees for students from outside the province. Coffin said ANSSA brought this up at the meeting.

"We really do need to find ways to ensure that young people from this province stay in this province," he said.

At Thursday's meeting, Dexter said the province should be on par with other provinces that have the same credit program.

"If another province has a graduate tax rebate program, it's less likely that somebody would stay in Nova Scotia where there wouldn't be one," said LeForte.

Dexter encouraged the student representatives to continue pushing their recommendations in upcoming province-wide consultations with Finance Minister Graham Steele.



Barb Stegemann encourages you to dump your frenemies for Plato. | Photo by Josh Boyter

## In 100 years, you'll be dead

### Stegemann makes ancient philosophy relevant at Dal talk

Katrina Pyne  
Staff Contributor

Barb Stegemann, author, motivational speaker and columnist for The Chronicle Herald, is calling on you to dump your "frenemies" and re-examine your life.

"Always strive to be better than you were yesterday," Stegemann said. "Imagine where you will be 10 years from now."

Stegemann came to Dalhousie's Dunn Building Thursday evening to talk about her new book, *The 7 Virtues of a Philosopher Queen*.

The book discusses how to get your life on track by applying wonder, moderation, courage, truth, justice, wisdom and beauty.

According to Barb, to begin re-examining your life you should put yourself in a positive environment. Dump the "frenemies," she says, and instead flank yourself with people who care about you.

After she finished her presentation, Stegemann continued to speak to students one-on-one about stoic philosophy, and how to live the most fulfilled life possible.

The author says stoic wisdom was not meant to sit on a shelf. In her new book, she brings the wisdom of Plato, Socrates and Adam Smith to people wishing to advance and grow their communities.

"We're all going to be dead in 100 years," she says with a grin. "Isn't that liberating?"

The author's journey began in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She says she spent her last \$5 and started again.

"There came a point for me when I wondered: Why am I here?"

"Now I have a goal: I want to have the wisdom of Solomon by the time I'm 96."

She spoke joyously about plans for her life, the book, and the next generation. She has big plans for herself and even bigger plans for the people who attended the talk.

In order to have a mission in life you must constantly be visualizing, she believes: you must have a dream.

"Now I know why I am on

this earth. I have my vision."

Andrew Rutenberg, a physics professor at Dalhousie who attended Barb's talk, agrees with Stegemann.

"I think you have to articulate a mission for it to become real," says Rutenberg.

According to Stegemann, the details should never come before the dream. She greatly dislikes devil's advocates.

"Don't ever let anyone take your joy from

**"Now I have a goal: I want to have the wisdom of Solomon by the time I'm 96."**

you," she says. "No one owns tomorrow."

"I think it's okay not to have a vision," says Alex Myers, a fourth-year political science student at Dalhousie who attended the talk. "I am going to figure life out as I go."

Stegemann continuously draws inspiration from the wisdom of the past but she's keen to keep it in a modern context so readers can continuously relate.

"I imagine I will have a 56th edition to this book," she says.

Stegemann's next project will be *The 7 Virtues of a Philosopher King*. She's almost finished doing the interviews required for the book.

She also plans to begin a "Perfume not Poppies" project in which she will advocate for businesses trading with war-torn nations.

"I am 40 and my life has just begun," the author says. "Maybe one person comes to these talks thinking they need a compass in their life. If I could only make them realize that they have the compass - I have succeeded."



## Features

# Features

**Features**  
Gazette Features publishes one long feature or two short features every week. E-mail Tim at features@dalgazette.com to pitch an idea.



Tim Mitchell **Features Editor**  
features@dalgazette.com

## MANAGING THE DISTANCE

### Technology has reshaped long-distance relationships

Kimberly Elworthy  
The Cord

**W**ATERLOO, Ont. (CUP) – Love is worth a lifetime of dedication. It is the rare light at the end of the dreary tunnel on the banal journey through life.

One would not have an epic love story without the necessary physical distance between two lovers challenging their devotion and tearing their hearts into pieces every second they are apart.

However, in a contemporary context, long-distance love stories are no longer defined by romantic letters, but by the prevalence of communication technology.

University is the optimal place to find long-distance relationships mitigated by technology. In order to follow one's dreams and expectations, one is often driven out of one's hometown, sometimes even one's country, to pursue an education.

The long-distance relationship is practically inevitable, especially for university students, but all too often those immersed in technology in an attempt to keep in touch with their significant other become obsessed with the standstill their relationship comes to when they find themselves far apart.

By using communication technology and participating in online arenas, couples can further their connection and allow their relationship to evolve. However, technology can transform a relationship and has a tendency to foster hardships for the couple.

This seemingly artificial environment has drastically altered what it means to be in a long-distance relationship.

There is now unlimited access to cheap technology that can bring lovers in front of each other immediately, at least within the world of cyberspace.

It has also created a new realm where couples meet online first.

Kiri Ipsen, a student at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., met her Australian boyfriend, Brad, online and, to the dismay of her family, united with him overseas when she moved there for a one-year exchange.

"My mom thought that I was going to be kidnapped or murdered. My friends thought I was nuts," she recalls.

#### How has technology changed our relationships?

Dr. Alexandra Boutros, a communications professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. explained her unique outlook on how technology has affected our most intimate relationships.

While it's tempting to say that new media and new technologies are how people interact, she believes the key change is



With advancements in technology, staying in touch with long-distance lovers has never been easier. | Photo by Abram Gutscher

that technology – and therefore the ability to communicate – is never turned off.

"Part of what new technology has changed for us isn't exactly how we interact with each other ... but it's the time and the scope, it's the pace of our lives that has changed," she said.

Constant access to partners that are further away can sometimes lead to obsession, as it can be addictive to want to know information about what is going on in the lives of loved ones.

"One of the most significant reasons we do choose to always be on call is for the idea that access to information, even the smallest amount of information, signifies status and power," said Boutros. "Having access to information all the time is a type of power and it is very addictive ... It becomes very difficult to say, 'Oh, I don't need to check Facebook today.'"

Couples who do choose to not partake in the latest technology often face alienation from peers for not participating in this shared social experience.

"The problem is with people who choose not to engage in mobile communication ... (They) find themselves making this choice within a social environment. They are not passively choosing not to have a cell phone, they are making a statement," said Boutros.

When Facebook rears its ugly head

It's not uncommon for couples to check each other's Facebook page (or even sign on as them) just to make sure everything is as they expected. But in long-distance relationships, Facebook can act as a policing system, which can lead to impromptu fighting.

Laurier student Alison Price found out that a past boyfriend had been secretly keeping in contact with his ex-girlfriend when he left his Facebook account active on her computer.

Now, she says she and her current boyfriend talk on the phone and rarely use Facebook for communication.

Like Price, many couples avoid having Facebook relationships or find that snooping means there's mistrust in the relationship.

Jessica Botelho is an international student at Laurier. She has been in a long-distance relationship for two years while her boyfriend, Jonathan Perry, goes to school in Chicago.

"I'm not worried, if you're doing stuff like (snooping Facebook) it's because you're worried," said Botelho. "You don't trust that person."

It's important to understand why people feel the need to publicize their relationships on this social networking tool and how it affects the way people interact.

"Saying that you have a relationship on Facebook is a way of validating that relationship," Boutros explained. "It's our way of saying: 'This is true.'"

"We gossiped about people before Facebook, we worried what our partners were doing at work ... but with Facebook we have to re-negotiate these issues. We have to decide what we are going to keep private and what is at stake in making the relationship public," she added.

#### Physical distance

Even though the world may feel as if it's shrinking due to communication technologies, it's important not to forget that physical distance still imposes limitations on the accessibility of one's partner.

Travelling is a large component of maintaining relationships, which takes time out of already substantial schedules – especially for university students. Transportation and time are important elements in the reality of a long-distance relationship.

"In the past, I have taken buses down to Chicago which were ridiculous 24-hour trips," said Botelho. "I've also taken a flight to Chicago. It's a lot faster and you end up spending more time together."

Price also mentioned an added stress in finding the time to visit her boyfriend. "The first thing I do as I'm leaving is try

to think of the next time I can figure out my life to get back up to (see him)," said Price, who normally takes the Greyhound to see her boyfriend four hours away.

Tomlinson finds that, although she and her boyfriend don't live very far from each other and have vehicles, it still becomes hard to make time.

"His work schedule is weekends ... and I can't really go home in the week," said Tomlinson. "We both have jobs and working around those schedules and my school schedule. It's really hard."

Distance took on an entirely new level for Ipsen, who met her boyfriend on the social networking site RSVP before her exchange to Australia.

"We first started on MSN, which lasted maybe a bit over a week. We went from there to Skype, so we knew what each other looked like," said Ipsen, who explained that speaking online made the transition to physical contact much easier.

"When we met it was weird," Ipsen said. "I thought I knew him so well. The first time we spoke it was for over 14 hours (on MSN) and then, after that, a few hours every day."

After their year together in Australia, Brad immigrated to Canada where they both now live in Hamilton. He works full-time while Ipsen is in her fourth year at McMaster University.

#### Keeping intimate

Trying to keep the spice alive and diminishing the possibility of wandering eyes can dominate the minds of long-distance couples. Our long-distance interviewees explained the intricacies of how technology can play a critical role in the upkeep of intimacy. Stay creative and read these suggestions.

Phone sex is best executed when one person tells the other what they like done to them by the other person. Include your vibrator or just manually masturbate; moaning is always helpful, but being focused is important. Laughing can ruin a good phone sex session.

"If you're going to have phone sex you might as well do it over Skype so you can see something," said one interviewee, who preferred to remain anonymous. "It's nice to see him getting turned on. I do a strip tease. I have a vibrator and we both masturbate at the same time."

Or you could send photos over cell phones or e-mail.

"This one time when I was younger and we started dating I took this picture in my bra and I sent it to him. Then his dad transferred files from my boyfriend's computer to his computer. One day I'm sitting in the living room and I see this bra picture go by on the slide show ... No one saw it but I was mortified."



# Opinions

## Are you(th) engaged?

### Youth political involvement can fly under the radar

**Holly Huntley**  
Staff Contributor

During the event with Michael Ignatieff on Monday, Jan. 11, a student asked Ignatieff, "When youth political engagement is at an all time low, how do these attack ads give us something to believe in?"

Voter turnouts are low across all generations, but the second-year political science student who spoke forced me to ask: How can we increase youth political engagement? Why do I care?

I would like to live in a true democracy. One in which every single eligible person casts his or her vote. If Harper still wins, at least I would know that my country was full of nincompoops and there was nothing that could have been done differently.

So, I investigated the issue of youth political engagement further by asking Ignatieff during the media scrum: "How would you increase youth political engagement?"

"By showing up," he replied. "By getting in a room with students and taking any question they ask you. That's the key, I think, because that seems credible to them and we had a great turnout today. Then listening to students with respect. Listening to young people with respect. Being prepared to change your position if you're wrong and then showing a vision about where you think the country ought to be in 2017."

It all still seemed like an ego-massage to me.

How convenient that everything Ignatieff did on Monday is all that is required to politically engage youth.

When Stan Kutcher, the Liberal candidate for the Halifax federal riding, was asked about youth engagement he said, "The first thing is to respect young people, and I really mean respect young people, not pay lip service to young people. To provide opportunities for them to make their voice heard."

Kutcher also says that meaningful youth engagement requires more dialogue between politicians and youth in order to be effective.

"Don't just come to people and say what is on your mind and then leave," Kutcher said. "What you do is you come, say what is on your mind, what your ideas are and then how can you stay involved with me so we can work on your ideas together."

It was the lack of dialogue in Ignatieff's response that was the erking me. But it was an interview with Kutcher's son, Dan, a second-year Dalhousie law student, also a member of the Liberal Party, that made me realize students are engaged on many levels.

"The students' questions reflected more than just university issues," Dan Kutcher said. "It shows now that students have a broader outlook."

Students questioned everything from the economy, to prorogation, to lack of Canadian environmental policy. Only a couple questions about specific student issues came up.

### "How convenient that everything Ignatieff did on Monday is all that is required to politically engage youth."

"I think it's about taking the kids' gloves off and not classifying (youth) as young people – classifying them as people who are learning and engaged and connected in a way that older generations aren't connected," Dan Kutcher said.

Many students were engaged and I was impressed. Approximately 400 people attended the Ignatieff event, but there were only enough chairs to seat 300. Even more surprising, hundreds more were turned away, and about 30 students lingered outside the event just to listen.

I had to wonder: Are youth actually less politically engaged? Or should I reconsider my traditional definition of political engagement? Voting and partisan commitment may be low, but what about other forms of political engagement?

Consider this: Have you made an ethical decision when purchasing something – for example, local versus fair trade? Or have you volunteered for something or someone you believe in? Or have you decided not to work for an organization or company that does not correspond with your values? These are all forms of political engagement and political decision-making.

Rob LeForte, DSU vice president (education), drew my attention to this.

"Direct political action isn't required to be engaged in the political process," said LeForte. "Sometimes people in social movements have more impact on

policy development than somebody who is a member of a political party."

I reconsidered my initial disappointment in low voter turnouts. Sometimes there isn't a better option. Sometimes no matter whom you vote for, you will be left unsatisfied with his or her political platform. Perhaps the key is fostering these other forms of engagement and forcing each and every political leader to adapt to our values in these ways.

As long as you have a responsive government, this can be made possible. That's another issue entirely.

But there is another important consideration for political par-

ties attempting youth engagement.

"I believe that when people are trying to engage young people broadly they tend to sort of skew the line between student and youth," LeForte said.

He believes this confusion can be problematic and might be the root of the problem political parties have when engaging youth. This might be crucial for politicians attempting to engage youth. They need to break the traditional idea that addressing student issues equates to addressing youth issues.

I drew a few different conclusions Ignatieff's talk at Dal.

Youth and students cannot be clumped together and politically addressed as one. Students do more than just study, and not all youth chose to be students. Many students are politically engaged – some in the traditional sense and even more in the non-partisan sense. So while partisan participation can be extremely influential, non-partisan political engagement has the potential to be of a greater social influence.

*Holly Huntley is a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. She interviewed her boss, Stan Kutcher, for this article.*

*Josh Boyter, Gazette Editor in Chief, took photos of Ignatieff's speech for the Liberal Party.*

### Opinions

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



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

## Prorogation shuffle

### How to fix what no one knows is broken

**Justin Ling**  
Opinions Contributor

"Get back to work," reads the simple text, superimposed onto a postcard picture of the Canadian parliament building.

This blunt display is the icon for the now-famous Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament Facebook group, which has seen its membership rocketing towards 200,000 people in recent days, with dozens more joining every minute.

This outlet has helped fuel the righteous indignation over Harper's undemocratic actions and has garnered daily attention in just about every Canadian news outlet since that fateful Friday. Harper had no doubt hoped to bury the news under new year's excitement.

The online reaction was immediate and fierce: "What kind of slow-witted alcoholics does he take us for?" But this isn't new territory.

Unlike last time, where he prorogued the house to dodge an unruly group of "separatists and socialists" who were trying to install themselves in the prime minister's office, this time Harper is avoiding backlash from the detainee abuse inquiry.

What have we learned since? Is it that Stephen Harper is holding Michaëlle Jean hostage, or that our prime minister has the same social inability to play with others as a five-year-old child? While both may be true, they are beside the point.

What we should have learned is that it's time for change.

Some are quick to accept the prorogation because their abhorrence for parliament is so deep-rooted and perpetual that no matter what is being done and who is in power, they will find a reason to take issue with it. In the views of these disgruntled naysayers, our members of parliament wouldn't be doing anything but bickering anyway, so what difference does it make if they're at work or not?

Unfortunately for these folks, apathy does not get results and the occasional gem that comes out of Ottawa is reason enough not to give up all hope.

What both sides are failing to realize is that there is a third option. The most recent prorogation is merely a symptom of an overall disease that plagues our house of commons, one that must be rooted out with good, old-fashioned populism. And no, not like the fanatically hilarious tea-baggers that besiege our neighbours to the south.

Imagine, if you will, a system where electors can write their own bills to be debated on the floor or one where voters have the ability to put their members of parliament up for a special election when they're dissatisfied with his or her performance.

And yes, that means the voter could theoretically fire the prime minister whenever they damn well please.

Right now voter outrage and fury

between election dates has no outlets other than petitions, letter-writing campaigns, rallies and Facebook groups. If we truly respected our democratic institutions, we would be pushing ways to channel this frustration into more productive activities.

Such revelations have been whispered about in fringe circles for quite some time. Well-intentioned advocacy groups, such as Fair Vote Canada and its Nova Scotia subsidiary, have pushed for democratic reforms for the past decade. In the past they've succeeded by putting ballot initiatives on electoral reform forward in Ontario and British Columbia.

### "Make no mistake that the democratic institutions in Canada do belong to us."

Other partisan groups have suggested similar ideas. The federal New Democratic and Green parties, as well as the provincial start-up Atlantica party, have advocated for varying degrees of democratic reform, yet have essentially accepted defeat. They know that the ruling Conservatives and Liberals would never support a resolution that would diminish their seat totals or cause them submit to genuine accountability.

The Liberals and Conservatives won't join the movement willfully. Why would they, knowing that they'll be subjected to a system where they must respect those other parties, the ones that make up a third of the vote? Their hands must be forced.

The first step to doing so is to recognize and correct the fact that there is too large of a disconnect between our house of commons and the average voter. Make no mistake that the democratic institutions in Canada do belong to us, and shrugging them off as tainted by partisanship and politics-as-usual is merely a way for us to pass the blame.

The next step is to accept that there is no immediate answer to the myriad of dizzyingly frustrating questions, but there are points of departure available to us. A good start would be the anti-prorogation rally on Jan. 23 at Province House. The real question is: What must we ask when we get there?

We cannot afford to let parliament resume only to allow red-faced politicians to pass us over in favour of the petty squabbling that has marked the once-lauded lower chamber.

No, we must demand a voice in the House of Commons instead of timidly knocking on the door.

[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)



Opinions

# Hungry for Apple

Leyland Cecco  
Opinions Contributor

A couple of weeks ago at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the most innovative, expensive and useless devices were unveiled for tech-eager buyers. While 3-D televisions made headlines, the idea of the tablet computer was at the centre of everyone's minds. Lenovo and Hewlett Packard released touch screen 'slates' to usher in a new era of personal computing.

But as many blogs and newspapers noticed, the most popular and talked about product was one that doesn't actually exist. The CES was littered with reports about the mysterious Apple Tablet, a product whose existence is of debatable veracity. The media, fulfilling their roles as advertising proxies, were back at work predicting what the tablet might look like. Fed by analysts from Piper Jaffray, Oppenheimer and the Yankee Group, media outlets played their dutiful roles as rumour reporters.

It will have a seven-inch screen. No wait - 10.1 inches! It's for e-books, of course! Of course not - movies and television! It will cost \$500. Ha! \$1000. \$750!

Here, a problem arises. It's understandable that the public will consume gossip about a product that these tech-reporters predict will change the way consumers will use computers and entertainment devices.

But that's Apple's job. It's the company's obligation to push its product to consumers - to hawk its wares to a base of students with disposable incomes. However, thanks to a brilliant

marketing strategy that costs nothing, Apple remains tight-lipped on the actual existence of the product.

Apple has a long history of being clandestine in their product development. It adds an air of mystique to a company that changed the way we consume music, how we watch movies and how cell phones are used. Apple didn't

**Apple uses the media, a media that purports to be bias and interest free, as a trumpet of product praise."**

confirm the existence of the iPhone until they announced it at a press conference. David Yoffie, of the Harvard Business School, estimated that Apple received more than US\$400 million in free advertising from the release of the iPhone. It came from countless praise pieces in reputable newspapers (such as the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal), as well as in online publications (such as Gizmodo and Wired).

Advertising is a key part of any business, and large companies will shell out millions of dollars for omnipresent advertising. It seems that Apple not only realizes this, but also has decided that paying less than they should works better. BNET.com published a report that showed Apple's 2008 advertising budget as US\$467 million. So in 2008, Apple paid almost half a billion dollars for ad space, and received the equivalent of more than US\$867 million dol-

lars. Sounds like a pretty good deal.

The most unfortunate part of this great deal is that Apple uses the media, a media that purports to be bias and interest free, as a trumpet of product praise. By forcing publications to worry that they might be missing out on a vital story if they don't cover a rumoured device, Apple subtly coerces

media behemoths to wage a rumour war, each seeking to out report the other about a nonexistent tablet. While these battles are fought, while tales are spun, Apple sits on the sidelines and watches with a widening grin as interest in its fabled product becomes rampant.

Newspapers would be heavily criticized if they published rumours and hearsay; they would be discredited as tabloid publications if their sources were an insider who has a friend who knows this guy who used to work at Apple. Until this point, however, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Globe and Mail and (sadly) many more news giants have been giving free advertising to a product that you can't buy, that hasn't been announced, and that might possibly be only in the minds of desperate consumers.

So stop it. Get back to covering real news: Tiger Woods.

# Victory lap not just for slackers

**Fifth-year students have more than one reason to take their time**

Alex Bruvels  
Staff Contributor

The fifth-year victory lap is often dismissed as a slacker's approach to an undergraduate degree. It conjures images of an unmotivated lollygagger who gives way to the pitfalls of partying or is content to drift aimlessly knowing they he or she will inevitably earn a degree regardless of the timeline.

The reality is there are a variety of reasons that students take more than the projected four years to complete a bachelor's degree.

Students often transfer from other schools mid-degree, change programs or don't declare a specific major until midway through their degree. A study of U.S. colleges found that the average undergraduate student now changes majors at least twice during the duration of their degree, most often forcing students into staying on for another year.

Instead of scrambling to make up for lost time by overloading summer courses, killing your well-earned summers with summer courses, accepting the five-year plan may be well suited to your situation.

Many young people wear multiple caps, not only as students, but also as workers, athletes, volunteers and family members. These other commitments often distract valuable time from studies, and instead of resenting and cutting back on these activities, we make room for them.

Graduate schools and potential employers increasingly seek well-rounded applicants. Not to say that a 4.0 GPA won't get you into a program of your choosing, but for those of you who aren't at that level it's what you do with your time outside of school that will dictate the likelihood of gainful employment or acceptance to future scholastic endeavours.

Sports, volunteer work, hobbies and family time keep you mentally stable. Putting all your eggs in one basket with school is enough to make any person go insane suffering from the depravity of life's luxuries. Find a healthy balance, even if it results in you taking an extra school year to do so.

If you're in a program where the workload is extremely intense and you're a perfectionist with high academic ambitions, consider taking only four courses a semester to achieve your aspirations.

If your course load is riddled with

bird courses such as the History of Rock and Roll or Introduction to Playing Guitar you may not need to take one less course to obtain high grades, but if you're slotting in biochemistry or finance for example, give yourself adequate time to do the work you are capable of.

**"Many people wear multiple caps, not only as students, but also as workers, athletes, volunteers and family members."**

It's common knowledge that come midterm and finals time, excuses such as "Oh, but I have so much work in my other courses," tend not to fly with professors.

I may sound like a broken record harping on the current state of the economy, but the post-graduate job market is currently in the shitter. Even if the economy is supposedly recovering, it still isn't a cornucopia of employment opportunities.

If you aren't graduating with a degree in engineering or accounting or are hooked up with a job via parents or friends of the family, why not wait for better weather in the job market in a safe, and familiar atmosphere?

The aptly dubbed "real world" can be a scary place. After a few years in a semi-stable environment, or at the very least one of familiarity, you've carved out a life for yourself; an identity, social niche.

This will change at least to some extent post-grad. If you're trying to "figure out what you want to do with your life" people usually recommend travelling as an opportunity to do so. Alternatively, why not spend another year in a place surrounded by friends, and familiarity, cultivating your plan of attack on the real world from the safety of your academic bell tower high atop the clouds of la la land.

*Alex Bruvels is a fifth-year Dalhousie student.*

**EU CAN YJA**  
Canada Young Journalist Award  
Students are invited to enter by January 29, 2010

**Win a trip to Europe**

For further information about the Young Journalist Award  
Contact: (613) 238 - 6464  
info@eucanyja.ca  
www.eucanyja.ca

**Check out our exclusive web content**

**dalgazette.com**

**STUDENTS!**  
EARN 20.00 FOR RESEARCH SURVEY!

Is your first language neither English or French?  
Did you immigrate to Canada before your 14th birthday?  
Are you enrolled in a Canadian University?

**\$\$\$**

If so, we would like to hear about your experiences in Canadian schools and universities. We will pay up to 500 students \$20.00 to complete a 20 - 30 minute online questionnaire. Please share your views at:  
**surveymonkey.com/s/6SDLVCVM**



# Arts

## Arts

Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. E-mail Laura or Matt at arts@dal-gazette.com to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor  
arts@dalgazette.com

# Machines at Play works

## Jean-Pierre Gauthier gets ears thinking at the AGNS

Nick Laugher  
Staff Contributor

Headphones dangle daintily from the ceiling. Chisels and files delicately scrape across wire while a shimmering piano hauntingly rambles a jarring jumble of melodies: this is the world of Jean-Pierre Gauthier. Gauthier's exhibit at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, entitled "Machines at Play", is one of the most conceptually stunning and ground-breaking that the gallery has seen in decades.

A Sobey Art Award winner from Montreal, Gauthier has exhibited work heavily and extensively throughout North America and Europe. He is adept at the construction and engineering of complex machinery and is a talented musician — skills that enhance his prodigious art making. Many of Gauthier's pieces depend on found objects that are heavily manipulated and combined in radical ways to produce sounds, and events that are unpredictable but exude a disturbing sense of intention.

Machines at Play is concerned with engaging the public with the pure essence of sound. Kinetic motion, the fluidity and absurd randomness of noise and its convoluted synergy with time are all buried deep within Gauthier's vision. Spanning the most influential 10 years of his artistic voyage, the exhibition is a survey of the most prolific and inspiring works of Gauthier's career.

The over-arching statement of the show is how essential motion and interaction are in the sonic world and thus how immensely chaotic and unpredictable the

art of sound truly is. Most of the exhibits hover around the principle of kinetic interaction, expressing the necessity of motion and energy in the world of music.

"Marqueurs d'Incertitude" (Uncertainty Markers) are among the most revolutionary and interesting pieces in the exhibit. They consist of a wire-frame entity

**"Gauthier's exhibit is concerned with engaging the public with the pure essence of sound."**

on a wall, attached to motors and gripping charcoal sticks in its tiny wire hands. The sound and range of motion of the visitors shuffling around and gawking at the piece is interpreted by the wire entity and reiterated in awkward, jerky movements on the wall. Relaying movements from the gracefully intrigued observer to the stiff, nervous nature of first-time gallery patron, it sketches eerily apt triangle effigies.

The piece "Battements et Papillons" (Beats and Butterflies), however, is the true embodiment of Gauthier. Attached to an electrical box of micro-controllers that is stimulated by movement is a beautiful 19th-century piano, found by the artist and redone in cracked and frayed metallic foil. Gauthier's inspiration for the aesthetic of this piece stems from his fascination

with the random and chaotic patterns of sidewalk cracks. The sensors attached to the piano interpret the direction and aggression of the observer's movement, which the piano then communicates.

The musical interpretation of the observer's movements creates a progression of "controlled randomness" according to Gauthier. The resulting cascade of sound is surprisingly melodic. As an onlooker it is a frighteningly poignant representation of thoughts and feelings. It seems much too natural and descriptive to be random. Your heartstrings are tugged and plucked either with or by the piano. It's enough to make even the most cynical art-goer stand back in awe and inspiration.

Perhaps the most bizarre and surreal piece of the exhibit, "Le Cagibi" (based on his piece in 2000 entitled "The Big Cleanup") is a painstakingly crafted, intricately detailed replica of a janitor's closet. On first glance, the piece seems ludicrously out of place in the realm of Gauthier's work. A grimy sink, rusty lockers and grungy paper towel litter the room. As the minutes tick away inside the room, you slowly realize how meticulously planned and designed it is. Motors tug just hard enough on metal doors to craft a delicate squeaking, the sink slowly gurgles pops as bubbles rise. There are calendars and postcards and Stephen Hawking novels littering the walls and lockers.

Gauthier has, down to the last detail, produced a stunningly accurate soundscape of the mundane. The more time you spend scanning the walls and imbibing the sounds of scraping wood and creaking metal, the deeper you are lost in the trance

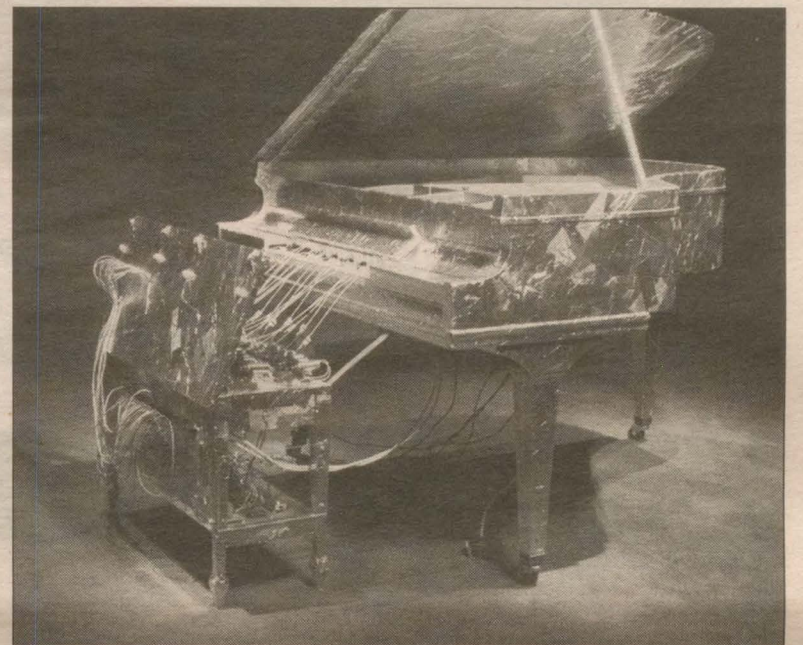


Photo supplied by AGNS

of the room. It truly feels as if you have stepped out of the gallery and into a closet tucked away in the back of a schoolhouse.

While Gauthier's exhibits differ radically, they all possess the same central essence: the dissection and investigation of our relationship with sound. Gauthier is a modern poet unconcerned with the fleeting notions of words. He takes our preconceived notions of sound as a static waveform and he begins to deconstruct and manipulate it in ways that render us speechless. This exhibit investigates our synergistic relationship with sound

and perception not only by integrating onlookers into the exhibit but basing the entirety of the exhibit around them. From the janitor's closet to motorized horns, Gauthier allows us to crawl inside the belly of the beast and experience sound in stark, alien ways that truly illuminate his talent as a conceptual and technical mastermind. Gauthier is fully in his element.

Jean-Pierre Gauthier's exhibit "Machines at Play" runs until March 15 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

## Monotonix at the Paragon

Cheryl Hann  
Staff Contributor

### Grade: A

As Monotonix tuned their guitar (singular), the mounting energy on the floor of the Paragon was palpable and palatable. It tasted like salt and wet arm-pits. Within 30 seconds after the show started, I was covered in beer. Within 40, I was on my knees praying that the mosh-pit gods would be merciful. Less than a second later, I was back on my feet, helped up by a burly man with a flannel shirt, and a killer mustache. For the next hour, I found myself caught in the undertow of a violent sea of people, who had all made a pact, written in sweat and signed in elbows, to never stop thrashing. Some people watched

the show from the Paragon's second bar, away from the otherwise inescapable writhing mass. Those people actually got to enjoy a band, the rest of us were just trying to stay alive, or trying to kill anyone who was smaller or weaker than ourselves.

There was a lot of hype surrounding Monotonix, a three-man "garage-rock" outfit from Tel Aviv, whose last Halifax show ended with the entire band hitting the streets, audience in tow, climbing a traffic light, telling everyone to shut up, and then crowd surfing while the police stood watching, mouths agape.

This show wasn't quite as crazy, but the band did continually migrate, first from the stage to the top of the bar, and then into the eye of the mosh-pit hurricane, where, surely, I thought, the band would be devoured. They weren't. Those 40-something Jewish dudes from Israel

held their own, working the crowd into a frenzy, then climbing the walls (literally) to avoid the crowd's punching, thrusting wrath.

Monotonix's music is simple: guitar driven, eight-beat anthems, drums optional, but heavily desired, screaming vocals, barely audible, with the occasional solo from the singer's anus. Yes. The singer put the microphone into his ass, and then passed it around to unsuspecting concert-goers who wanted nothing more than a chance to show off their pipes. It was gross. The show ended without incident, no one bled, and the police weren't called in. Though the guys from Source Security never abandoned their "this is the worst" expressions. By 3:15 a.m. I was in bed, my ears ringing, my body aching and my smile singing me to sleep.

## LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Convenient Weekend Schedule
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Experienced Course Instructors
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Limited Class Size
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

### OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719  
416-924-3240

www.oxfordseminars.ca

## STRANGE ADVENTURES COMIX & CURIOSITIES

5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
strangeadventures.com

Toys, games, manga & more!





**BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR NEW TERM!!**

**Jean's Restaurant**

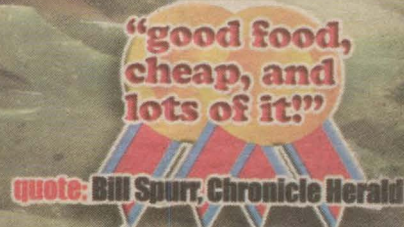
**444-7776**

5972 Spring Garden Rd.  
www.jeansrestaurant.ca

We Accept **Dalcard**, Cash, **Debit** or Credit on EAT IN/TAKE-OUT/ **ALL DAY DELIVERY**

**We Won Again in 2009**

**Jean's Achievements in 4 Years**



1st runner up:  
"Best of Chinese restaurant 2007, 2008, 2009" the Coast  
2nd runner up: Best Server

Check  
out our  
exclusive  
web  
content



[dalgazette.com](http://dalgazette.com)

# TUESDAY WING NIGHT

*"best wings in town"*

4:30pm-close. Beverage purchase required.  
35¢ per torpedo shrimp. | 35¢ per regular wing.  
40¢ per Thunder Crunch wing.

# HALF PRICE PIZZA

Wednesday 4:30pm-close. (while quantities last)

**THE SPLIT CROW PUB**  
Eat. Drink. Be Social

[www.splitcrow.com](http://www.splitcrow.com) | 422.4366





# 2010 ACADEMIC PROGRAM FAIR



## Major? Minor? No idea?

Meet with advisors and explore the variety of academic programs available at Dalhousie University

**Friday, January 29th**

**McInnes Room, SUB 10:00am - 3:00pm**



## KIT KAT PIZZA

DONAIR-SUBS-SEAFOOD  
429-3223 or 425-2229  
2314 Gottigen St. Halifax

Buy a 16" pizza  
w/works for  
\$14.99  
get 9"  
garlic fingers for  
\$1.99

16" pepperoni  
pizza for \$9.95  
or two for \$18.99

2 med pizzas  
w/3 toppings  
\$16.99

3 small donairs  
for \$8.99 plus tax

Check  
out our  
exclusive  
web  
content



# dalgazette.com



Arts

# Sister act

Sainthood marks a collaborative effort in song-writing

Erica Eades  
Staff Contributor

With the release of their sixth studio album, Tegan and Sara are confronting what they call our "obsession with romantic ideals." *Sainthood*, which takes its name from a lyric in Leonard Cohen's song "Come So Far For Beauty", addresses issues such as desire, unrequited love, and the attempt to live up to others' expectations. During a long day of interviews and radio shows, Tegan Quin took some time to speak by phone about their latest album. Quin was thoughtful and well-spoken as she discussed the production process, her creative influences, and how a trip to New Orleans inspired *Sainthood*.

**Erica Eades:** So, *Sainthood* is your sixth album, but it is the first time you and Sara have co-written a song. What was it like writing together?

**Tegan Quin:** It was a neat experience to sit down and write together. There were a lot of things to learn about each other. When we play "Paperback Head", which we wrote together, it feels really exciting. We wrote a bunch, but not all of them made the record and I think a lot of the songs that we wrote together, we're still going to release. It felt really different from anything we've ever written separately. After six records, it's important to try new things and keep it interesting, and it was definitely really interesting writing together. After knowing each other our whole lives, it was like "Oh, there is stuff I don't know about you."

**EE:** What impact did this new dynamic have on the outcome of the album?

**TQ:** Well, I think the whole record itself felt much more collaborative because

of it. I think we realized that there was a lot to come out of playing together, and we should definitely do it more often. We live in different cities, so often times it's not as easy as just going over to each other's house to write, but with the Internet we're absolutely able to make it work. When we started pre-production, we set up as a band and played for five months, and when we went in to the studio, we did the same thing. So I think this record, more than any other record, really was a collaborative effort. Sara and I sang on each other's songs, and we picked tempos and switched keys, and did all sorts of things as a group, and we've never done that before. I think *Sainthood* is a really strong record because of that.

**EE:** You worked with Chris Walla, who produced your album *The Con*, and Howard Redokopp, who produced your album *So Jealous*. What made you decide to work with both producers on *Sainthood*?

**TQ:** Chris really wanted us to have a co-producer to work with him, just to increase the team so there wasn't so much work on one person. When we made our initial list, he put Howard on it. I thought that was really cool. I loved *So Jealous*; it's still one of my favourite Tegan and Sara records. I thought it was really neat – the idea of collaborating with the *So Jealous* producer and *The Con* producer to make *Sainthood*. It brings some of what I loved about both albums together. They both brought really different things to the mix too. Howard comes from more of an engineering background. He's a great producer, but he's very technical and I like that a lot. Chris is definitely an artist through and through, you know? It really comes from his gut. It

was really cool combining those things.

**EE:** I have read that a trip to New Orleans acted as the inspiration for *Sainthood*. How did this trip influence the album?

**TQ:** Well, Sara had mentioned that she really wanted to try challenging us to write a little differently than we had in the past, so we came up with this idea to write together. When we went to New Orleans, we rented a rehearsal spot in a hotel. Every day we would get up and go to this rehearsal spot, and we'd just sit there, in this room. We had a drum kit and a couple guitars and a couple mics. It was really different than how I'd written before. It was really boring at times, just sitting there staring at each other, but the songs all had a certain sound, you know? They were really stripped down. We didn't bother bringing keyboards out, we didn't bother layering anything – we just kind of worked with guitar and vocal ideas and then played drums and moved on. So there was this really interesting sound that came out of it, which ended up influencing the record a lot, because we decided that we wanted the record to be playable live.

While we were in New Orleans though, Sara wrote a song called "Sainthood." I spent a lot of time listening to that song, and also the other songs that we had come up with while we were there. I realized that there was a theme that we were both approaching the record from. We were writing from this perspective of someone who is newly getting into a relationship: the insecurity and the obsession and the delusion, and just the intensity and all the crazy feelings that you feel when you meet somebody. You want to be perfect – you want to do good by them. You present all of your positive attributes, and you're putting all this crazy stuff out there. Then there's this moment, this edginess that comes from realizing that reality's going to kick in soon and this relationship is probably going to start to feel a lot like your last relationship. We do all these crazy, amazing, beautiful gestures and it goes unnoticed, and at the end we start to change ourselves. I think Sara and I felt that we both had done that many times over. So we kind of just walked away thinking: "That's what this record should be about. Let's take all the songs that reflect that. Let's call the record *Sainthood* and let's go with that theme."

**EE:** What song on *Sainthood* means the most to you personally?

**TQ:** I've really been enjoying playing "Paperback Head". I think that's because Sara and I wrote it together. It feels really exciting to both be singing and playing a song together that we wrote together. I also love playing "Someday". It's the album closer, and it feels like a really positive song. It's been a long time since I wrote a positive song. It's all about feeling empowered within your relationships and asking for what you need. It's a fucking mouthful, that's for sure. When I play it, my heart gets beating pretty fast.

*Tegan and Sara will play at the Halifax Metro Center on Jan. 27.*



Tegan and Sara hit Halifax on Jan. 27. | Photo supplied

## STUDENT SPECIAL

Join Today!

ONLY

\$169

+ TAX

1-800-597-1FIT

for the club nearest you!

GoodLife  
FITNESS

goodlifefitness.com

\*When joining you will be required to pay \$169 plus applicable tax. Must be 18 years of age or older with a valid student ID. Membership expires 4 months from date of purchase. Offer expires January 31st, 2010. One club price only. Offer valid at participating clubs only. Other conditions may apply, see club for details.

## LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE

Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Convenient Weekend Schedule
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Experienced Course Instructors
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Limited Class Size
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719  
416-924-3240

www.oxfordseminars.ca

## STRANGE ADVENTURES

COMIX & CURIOSITIES

5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
strangeadventures.com

Toys, games, manga & more!

The widest  
& wisest  
selection!





## Doing Daft Punk's Homework

Delia Macpherson  
Staff Contributor

### Grade: B+

On Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Seahorse Tavern, Scientists of Sound performed Daft Punk's debut album *Homework*: one of the most innovative and foolproof electronic albums of our time. And they did a bang up job.

Besides the usual hang-ups of any good show worth seeing: sobering 30-minute wait in line, overpriced alcohol, hard-nosed bouncers and a packed dance floor, for the most part the night went on without fault.

Scientists of Sound have clearly put hundreds of hours into perfecting the album, studying it and mastering ever little detail that makes Daft Punk's work undeniably good.

The accuracy of each song was staggering. It was truly nothing

other than a privilege to watch the music being performed live.

The boys from Scientists of Sound are Aaron Collier and Craig Mercer, who both play a variety of instruments. Grand Theft Bus drummer Bob Deveau and Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees producer Colin Crowell joined them.

The show started late: after midnight. The thousands of dollars of equipment found on stage was entertainment in itself. Hundreds of cables and chords covered the stage.

As the show was about to start, three figures clad in lab coats and scary animal masks took their positions on stage. The crowd went wild. Scientists of Sound kicked the night off with "Daf-tendirekt", the first track on the album.

Musically, creatively and artistically speaking, the show was one of the best I've seen in the past few months. After speaking to a dozen random people at

the show, all I heard were good things.

But there was something a little strange about the evening: the shocking amount of people who were completely and totally fucked out of their brains on ecstasy.

The common side effects according to Wikipedia are: mental and physical euphoria, mild psychedelia (enhanced colours and sounds), increased urge to communicate with others, enhanced sensation, reduced insecurity, defensiveness, and fear of emotional injury.

There are also side effects overlooked by Wikipedia: every 20 seconds or so feeling the need to yell, "I'm on ecstasy!"

People were falling over, they were crying, they were puking. It was chaos. Scattered groups of people drank casually and enjoyed the music, but for the most part the crowd didn't seem to be appreciating the talent of the artists. Great show, tough crowd.

## Youth in Revolt

Rebecca Spence  
Staff Contributor

### Grade: B

Thank goodness for Michael Cera. If it weren't for this cute and cuddly Canuck, *Youth in Revolt* would be a complete and utter waste of 90 minutes of film.

*Youth in Revolt* is an adaptation of a series of novels by C.D. Payne, which is structured by a number of journal entries and letters from the perspective of 16-year-old protagonist Nick Twisp (Cera).

Nick is an awkward virgin who feels alienated and isolated from both his family and his own generation. On a summer vacation he falls madly in love with the lovely and wickedly interesting Sheeni Saunders (Portia Doubleday in her debut role). The rest of the film follows the insane lengths that Nick will go to in order to get with Sheeni. Nick's creation of an alter ego known as Fran-

cois Dillinger (Michael Cera wearing a pencil thin moustache) who encourages Nick to rise up against authority in order to get what he wants. Francois/Nick's acts of rebellion include everything from petty insults to sabotage and even arson.

Nick's antagonizing authority figures include much of the film's impressive supporting cast: Nick's mother (Jean Smart), his mother's boyfriend (Zach Galifianakis, Ray Liotta), his father (Steve Buscemi), and his neighbour, Mr. Ferguson (Fred Willard). The actors all do their best with the material – but there's only so much that they can do with the less than stellar script. Doubleday's smooth and seemingly effortless acting style particularly stands out throughout the film.

The humour of the film is extremely dry, and at times dark and a tad quirky – almost a prerequisite for any movie with Michael Cera. Ultimately much of the dialogue is either hit or miss. For example, a scene in which several important characters eat some magic

mushrooms (*Knocked Up* demonstrated how hilarious of a plot device mushrooms can be) is uncomfortable, pointless and generally disappointing. On the other hand, the conflict that repeatedly arises between timid Nick and the mischievous Francois is superb.

Overall the film's chain of events is silly and implausible. Although this is likely connected to the idea of a teenager's imagination running wild, it is sometimes difficult to fully get on board with the direction of the story.

Most movies are somewhat subjective. *Youth in Revolt* is a film that is especially subjective. A multitude of factors must be taken into account in order to predict whether you will like this film: age, gender, interests, values, humour, style and mood. An easier way to decide whether to see this film consists of a simple yes-or-no question: Do you enjoy Michael Cera?

If you don't, shy away from this film.

# Dallery shows private collection

## School's founder unveils rarely seen works

Hannah Griffin  
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Art Gallery's current exhibition Lord Dalhousie: Patron and Collector showcases for the first time the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia's private collection. The ninth Earl of Dalhousie, also known as George Ramsay, wanted to convey the unique culture of Canada by commissioning various artists to produce depictions of the landscape, wilderness and people he saw during his time in Canada from 1816 to 1828. While the exhibit includes many different artists, a large portion of the works is by John Elliot Woolford, Ramsay's primary artist for Nova Scotia subject matter.

The flashiest piece of work in the collection introduces the exhibit: a portrait of Ramsay himself by Sir John Watson. The painting sits in a detailed gold-painted frame, and shows a formally dressed Ramsay holding a scroll and looking very proud. Following this portrait are other works showing the life of Ramsay, including two less striking portraits done on watercolour over graphite.

This exhibit is especially appealing because of its exclusivity and diversity. Although many of the works have been shown at various galleries around the country, some have never been shown to the public at all. This is also the first time that the entire collection has been shown as a whole, an endeavor that took curator René Villeneuve six years to accomplish. The benefit of this is that Ramsay's vision in building his collection to include eight points of focus that he saw as integral to Canadian identity is apparent. These include works representing Ramsay's life, small villages in towns, impressive buildings found in Nova Scotia and Quebec, and depictions of aboriginal culture. The exhibit is effectively organized into these eight groups, giving a focused flow to the show.

This diversity in representations of Canada shows a complex picture of Canada at the time of Ramsay's stay. The inclusion of aboriginal culture in this exhibit is impressive. It is significant because it's presented in a number of ways and does not rely on cliché representations. Most interesting of these is John Crawford Young's "Indian and French Canadian Market Place," an almost cartoonish watercolour showing an aboriginal in traditional dress sitting beside a Quebecois man in the middle of a crowded marketplace. The contrast between the two cultures is accentuated in the detailed attention to dress.

Diversity is not limited to subject matter. The exhibit's artistic mediums are varied as well, including sketches, watercolours, paintings and prints. Some of the works are extremely small – especially the prints – while many of the works in the landscape section are quite large. Interspersed throughout the exhibit are several display cases showing artifacts from Ramsay's life and artistic interests. These include a collection of eight serving pieces from 1820 with Ramsay's coat of arms, a sword presented to Ramsay by the city of Bordeaux in 1814, and a logbook documenting roads from Truro to Halifax with sketches by Woolward. Adding another layer to the exhibit is the inclusion of many quotes from Ramsay's journals, which

**"(This) is a rare chance to see the entire private collection of a man who wanted the Canadian identity to be represented as diverse and complex."**

line the walls of the gallery. One of these expresses his wish to have Canada represented in these works so that when he returned to Scotland he could "refer to (his) sketches for the beauties of the country."

There are many different works showing beautiful landscapes in this exhibit, and it is clear that Ramsay had a major fascination with waterfalls. There are numerous watercolours of enormous Canadian waterfalls, and these paintings are among the most colourful and large in the collection. Charles Ramus Forest's "The Saint Anne Falls" shows the misty Quebec waterfall rushing into a deep crevice framed by vibrant fall trees.

"Lord Dalhousie: Patron and Collector" is a rare chance to see the entire private collection of a man who wanted the Canadian identity to be represented as diverse and complex. The variety of subjects and types of work in this exhibit make it a worthwhile visit.

The exhibit is showing at the Dalhousie Art Gallery from Jan. 14 to March 7. Admission is free.

**Contributors**  
are popular.

**KNOCK**  
**BANG**  
**THUMP**

**RATTLE**  
**RATTLE**

**JOIN US!**  
Write for the Dalhousie Gazette

**Outside the Lines**

Books for Critical Minds

6265 Quinpool Road  
(902) 422-3544 [www.outsidethelinesbooks.com](http://www.outsidethelinesbooks.com)



Arts

Vampire Weekend - Contra

Matthew Ritchie  
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: B

Vampire Weekend is a technological marvel in the music industry. Creating a sound that is based in Ska, Paul Simon's Afro Pop and the guitars of Tinariwen, Vampire Weekend are a band that garnered attention in the blogosphere at break neck speed. Employing the use of music websites Hype Machine and Stereogum, the band rose from a little known pop band made up of Columbia grads to tour with The Shins.

Following the release of their self-titled album in 2008, the most hyped band of the decade saw their songs become the backing soundtracks to films, television and most collegiate dorm rooms.

Vampire Weekend have returned this week with *Contra*, an album that derives its name from the term given to rebels opposing Nicaragua's FSLN as well as the popular Nintendo game. The majority of Vampire Weekend's listeners may be unaware of the previously mentioned political movement. Because of this,

the album sounds more like the video game bearing the same name. Much like *Contra 3: The Alien Wars*, this album is a bombardment of a variety of stimuli that only intensifies as it progresses.

The album begins with lead-off single "Horchata". In pure Ezra Koeing fashion, the wordplay resembles British wordsmith Morrissey's lyrical content. It's impossible to enjoy this song without examining a dictionary between breaks. What the hell is "Aranciata" anyway?

Surprisingly, the first track on *Contra* is the most restrained as well. Gone are the days of baroque gems that resemble the classical stiffness of a La Coste Polo's collar.

"California English" is a quirky R&B jam that employs the use of auto-tune vocals to great success. In a world of T-Pain albums and T-Pain apps, it comes as a surprise that no other pop band has used the popular Pro Tools device in their songs. Auto-tune is a device used primarily to enhance a bad singer's ability to hit notes correctly, but Koenig sings perfectly already. Due to this, the track doesn't sound like a club jam. Instead Vampire Weekend creates a quirky layer over top

of an already energetic composition.

"Cousins" may be the highlight of the record. With an ever present bass drum pounding away at four on the floor, bassist Christopher Thomson lays down a tasty cyclical groove while Koenig and multi-instrumentalist/arranger Rostam Batmanglij have a surf guitar duel. If there was ever a Vampire Weekend song most likely to end up on the next *Guitar Hero*, "Cousins" shredding throw-down may be the one.

The album has more surprises in store. "Giving up the Gun" is the most radio-friendly song by the band yet. Koenig's affection for New York urban radio station Hot 97 materializes in this track via hip hop inflected drums, grimy synthesizers, and bells that follow the vocal melody. The bass pounds in 16th-note carnage, akin to Constantines "Trans Canada", creating a complex sound unlike one previously made by the band.

Besides these four stand-out tracks, the rest of the album may get lost. Upon further listens it is sure to delight. Pick up *Contra* if you have affection for boat shoes and The Specials.

30 Seconds to Mars

Nick Laugher  
Staff Contributor

Grade: D

Between the auto-tuned punk screams, the stock photo of a menacing tiger on the album cover, and the hawk screeches littering the songs, it's hard to pick just one aspect of the newest 30 Seconds to Mars album, *This is War*, to ridicule.

The third full-length from Jared Leto (Claire Danes' pseudo-badass punk crush from *My So Called Life*)

is supposedly a concept album and rock opera. The only thing unifying the 12 songs on this album is a stunning essence of cheesy, generic angst.

Beginning with the opening track "Escape", and prevailing throughout the album, Leto screams six or seven key lines of tired, cliché sentiment about an ambiguous "war" that is not only approaching and currently being fought but that apparently has already been won: "I do believe in the light / Raise your hands into the sky / The fight is done / The war is won."

Musically, the album is a cross be-

tween My Chemical Romance, post-apocalyptic Nickelback, and flamboyant '80s synth rock with a side serving of chanting crowds, military drums and Kanye West. Yes, Kanye West, who mumbles some almost inaudible vocals and lays down a cookie-cutter beat for the track "Hurricane" in such a half-assed way it feels like he's ashamed.

With *This is War*, Leto and his minions transcend the world of benign emo and adolescent TV drama to martyr themselves as the thunderous, auto-tuned rally cry for the 14 year old troops.

Now's the time to write for the Dalhousie Gazette

**EXPLORE**  
WITHOUT LIMITS

LIVE THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

FIVE-WEEK FRENCH-LANGUAGE BURSARY PROGRAM

Discover another region of Canada while learning French. Enjoy five weeks of learning and adventure, friendship and discovery.

• MOST EXPENSES ARE COVERED •

www.myexplore.ca  
1-877-866-4242

cmeC  
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada / Conseil des ministres de l'Éducation, Canada

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

**STRANGE ADVENTURES**  
COMIX & CURIOSITIES

5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
strangeadventures.com

Toys, games, manga & more!

The widest & wisest selection!

**Seeking Young Adult Cancer Survivors**

If you would like to participate in a study examining the cancer follow-up care needs of young adult cancer survivors, please contact:

Krystle @ 506-452-5127  
1-866-323-1833 (toll free)  
Email: [krystle.hussey@dal.ca](mailto:krystle.hussey@dal.ca)  
Facebook search: YAC Study

The study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and was reviewed by the Dalhousie University Research Ethics Board # 2009-2098



# Sports

**Sports**

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



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

## Athleta ex machina Technology 1 - 0 human performance

Joel Tichinoff  
Sports Editor

Jerry Seinfeld and George Costanza sit across from each other at the local coffee shop discussing sailing as an Olympic sport. George says it's too easy to cheat: "You stick a small motor under the hull. They'd never check!" To which Jerry replies: "Don't you think they'd be suspicious when one boat one wins by 16 hours, with no wind?"

While the advantages conferred by technological improvements in sports equipment haven't quite reached that point, the recent banning of the Speedo LZR swimsuit, which not only reduced drag but also added buoyancy, from international and Olympic competition suggests we have reached the threshold of what technological enhancements we are willing to accept before human performance takes a back seat to technological performance.

The LZR suit was so effective that

some swimmers wore two at a time. The LZR was made available in early 2008, a year that saw 93 swimming world records broken by swimmers sporting the body-compressing, skin-vibration-reducing, ultrasonically-welded suits. If it sounds like space age technology, that would be because many components of the LZR were developed by NASA. Thirty-three of 36 total swimming medals went to LZR-wearing swimmers at the Beijing Olympics.

Within a year of the LZR's release, FINA, the international governing body of swimming, had announced new regulations meant to address the outcry of "technological doping" from across the swimming world. Not surprisingly, the NASA-designed LZR was the first to go. The question now is whether or not those world records set in 2008 will stand. After all, they belong to the LZR as much as they do to the swimmers in the suits.

The blurring lines between technological performance and athletic performance are not limited to swimming; ice

hockey for example has seen the rise of the carbon-fibre hockey stick, and now heated skate-blades seem a marketing campaign away from becoming a reality. But aside from the moral questions of technological enhancement of sports

measured by the micro-second, appear to be generating more force than human knees and ACLs can handle. Many also place the blame on the water-injected race courses meant to reduce friction by artificially icing the course. The highly-touted Canadi-

formance out of athletes. However with FINA's ban on the LZR, a horizon setting limits to the advantages of performance-enhancing technology, has come into view. The better regulated the technology, the better for sports as a challenge to human performance. Perhaps the most disturbing ramification of the interplay between technology and sport is the problem of access to performance-enhancing technology. Had Michael Phelps come out of a less affluent nation's swimming program that did not provide him with an endless supply of expensive, buoyant swimsuits, could he have competed at the same level he did? If the regulation of sports technology fails to prevent technology from outstripping human performance in determining athletic success, there must be an effort made to keep the playing field level ensuring everyone can compete in sports, not just those who can afford to swim in spacesuits. If we're going to put motors on our sailboats, let's all do it; one would hate to see those sailors using only the wind, left behind.

**"However much it will rankle the purists, manufacturers will always be tweaking their products to squeeze every drop of increased performance out of athletes."**

there are growing concerns about the dangers of uncontrolled sports tech. As companies vie to produce the latest must-have innovation in athletic gear, their products have begun to test the limits of the human body in a different way.

The skiing world in particular has witnessed an epidemic of horrible injuries attributed to new ski designs, which, while improving performance in a sport mea-

an ski team lost five of its most promising athletes to leg injuries between November and December 2009. The ski-equipment industry's response? New knee-braces and boots meant to mediate the new stresses put on skiers' knees and legs.

However much it will rankle the purists, sports equipment manufacturers will always be tweaking their products to squeeze every drop of increased per-

## Capers edge Tigers by two

Fouls cost both Dalhousie teams wins against Cape Breton

Natasha White  
Sports Contributor

Things were looking extremely promising for coach Anna Stammberger and the Dal Ladies as the Tigers raced out to a 10-0 lead, holding the first-place ranked Capers scoreless for the opening five minutes. But with the help of a stifling full-court press and some long twos, Cape Breton University (CBU) came back to tie the score at 22 by the half. Second half action was a fierce back and forth battle, with the Tigers and Capers swapping the lead several times.

An upset by seventh-place Dal seemed to be in the making. After an admirable first half free-throw shooting percentage (75 per cent), Dal was unable to get to line in the second, while the Capers went 10 for 15. However, turn-overs would prove to be the Tigers' Achilles heel. Giving up the ball an unheard of six times in the final 90 seconds, Dal turned over possession 32 times to the Capers' 12.

Undeniably, it was the Dal ladies' best game of the year. If they can break the press on a consistent basis, they're sure to be up there with the top-ranked teams in the AUS. Alas, the Tigers came up just short, in a heartbreaking loss to CBU, 51-53. Keep your eyes on the evolution of fifth-year forward Cailin Crosby, player of the game with 21 points, who continues to develop in confidence and skill throughout the season.

The Tigers men also put on show against division leaders CBU. The first half was highlighted by a beautiful through-the-key baseline feed from guard Andrew Sullivan to forward Sandy Veit for two, and a crowd-pleasing half-time buzzer beater drop-in (from star Simon Farine off a Dal missed three) left the score 44-42 for the Capers after 20. Farine drained 26 points and eight rebounds to the delight of the 300 to 400 fans packed into the Dalplex.

Events took a down turn for Dalhousie in the third with starter Sullivan forced

to sit - he committed his fourth foul after five minutes in. Sullivan wouldn't be alone in his foul trouble. Dal's Sandy Veit and Will Yengue eventually fouled out.

In a promising start to the fourth, Farine again led scoring with two straight buckets. Unfortunately, CBU's Jimmy Dorsey shot a game high of five three-pointers, edging out Farine for top point scorer: 27-26. A five-minute drought saw CBU outscore the Tigers 14-8 in the fourth - sealing the Tigers' fate.

A tighter game than the score would suggest, Dal succumbed to CBU 65-80. A special acknowledgement is due to all the Tiger fans, players and volunteers who raised funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Association at Dalhousie Athletic events Saturday.

Both basketball teams will be in St. John's next weekend visiting the Memorial Seahawks and will return to the Dalplex on Jan. 30 to host the UPEI Panthers.

Got something to say?

Write for the  
**Dalhousie Gazette**

depression mortgage  
terror President  
global Green  
manipulation bombing  
research market elections war  
interest barrel melting energy  
global warming  
oil financial nature world  
attack media TV

Contributor Meetings are held  
each Monday @ 5:30 pm  
in room 312 S.U.B.

CONTRIBUTORS  
NEEDED

DAL GAZETTE  
RM 312 S.U.B.



Sports

# Young talent promises bright future for Dal Volleyball

Joel Tichinoff  
Sports Editor

Lalani, Shepherd, Schinkel, Yorke and Sears. Not to mention outside hitter Louise Facca, who had 14 kills and was named player of the game, or libero Lauren Smith, who had 14 digs in last Friday's 3-1 win over the Memorial University Seahawks. Each player named above is a sophomore or rookie on a Tigers roster that features only two players with one or less years of CIS eligibility left in their AUS careers.

Although Dalhousie hasn't won an AUS championship since 2003, the current squad of fresh talent has the potential to revive the tradition of dynasty teams in women's volleyball. Between 1970 and 1990 the Tigers won 10 AUS championships, and a national title in 1982.

With back-to-back wins over the last place Seahawks over the weekend, the young Dal team gained some much needed confidence improving their record to four wins and six losses – good enough to bring them into a tie with Cape Breton for third in the AUS. In a bizarre statistical twist, every women's volleyball team in the AUS has a losing

record, except for St. Mary's University, which sits in first with a .500 win record.

The Tigers will have a chance to move into first place next week playing host to SMU and Acadia teams currently sitting atop the AUS.

The Tigers opened scoring in the first set on Friday, but a handful of aces served up by Manitoban outside hitter Lauren Schinkel, and middle blocker Kirstie Shepherd throwing up a series of superb blocks, was not enough to contain the Seahawks. They benefited from a number of errors from the Tiger team to win the first set by a score of 25-13.

Dal stormed to a 4-1 lead early in the second set, but the Newfoundlanders were able to find their way through Dal's blocking while shutting down the Tigers offence with effective play close to the net.

A number of balls sent sailing out of bounds by the Tigers gave the lead to Memorial, despite strong play at the back of the court from Schinkel and rookie outside hitter Raeesa Lalani. Calgary-native Lalani anchored Dalhousie's scoring, and while serving, managed to put her team up 22-21. Second-year science student Kirstie Shepherd sealed a 25-22 win in the second set.

Having made a game of it, the Tigers built up their confidence in the third and fourth sets, making fewer mistakes and improved co-ordination under the net. Setter Hilary Sears, a first-year engineering student from Bible Hill, Nova Scotia combined with teammates Maggie Morrison and Louise Facca in wearing down the Seahawks. Six-foot-tall rookie Amy Yorke dominated the left side of the court, hammering several spikes down to Memorial's hardwood.

The Seahawks kept the score close enough to keep the action exciting, but they were outmatched and surrendered the third and fourth sets by scores of 27-25 and 25-12. The Tigers dominated the Seahawks in the second match on Saturday, winning three straight sets 25-18, 25-13 and 25-18.

The Dalhousie men's team also played back-to-back matches with Memorial over the weekend, winning both matches 3-0. The Dal men are undefeated against Atlantic teams this season, and are currently third in national rankings. Dalhousie's men's volleyball program has claimed 23 consecutive AUS titles, but has yet to produce a national champion.



The Tigers are two points out of first place in the AUS. | Photo by Pau Ballte

# Mike Danton returns to hockey

Convicted former NHL star will play for SMU

Zack Wilson  
Staff Contributor

On Jan. 14, former NHL player Mike Danton attended his first class at St. Mary's University. The 29-year-old Brampton, Ontario native was recently given clearance by his parole board to make the move to Halifax and attend school on a full-time basis.

In one of the most bizarre cases the sporting world has ever witnessed, Mike Danton pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder in 2004 and was sentenced to seven years and six months in a United States federal prison (FCI Sandstone). At the time, the alleged target was his agent David Frost, who represented him in a managerial sense, and doubled as his mentor.

In a recent interview with Roger's Sportsnet reporter Nick Kypreos, Danton claimed that the target in his murder-for-hire plot was not Frost, but rather his biological father Steve Jefferson. Many skeptics around the sport have questioned whether or not Danton should be given the opportunity to play for the Huskies.

Originally born Mike Jefferson, Danton changed his last name while playing in the New Jersey Devils organization, after years of turmoil between he and his family. A number of reports have surfaced that allege the name change came on the suggestion of Frost, whom Danton is now believed to have been in an intimate relationship with. A taped phone call between the player and representative was aired in a November, 2005 episode of CBC's *The Fifth Estate* entitled "Rogue Agent", in which Frost demanded that the young player tell him he loved him, to which Danton eventually complied.

Much like former Swift Current Broncos Head coach Graham James, who was sentenced to three years and six months in

federal prison for sexually abusing young men such as Sheldon Kennedy and Theo Fleury, it has been suggested that Frost had taken liberties with his players. A number of details regarding the relationship between Danton and Frost have recently surfaced including allegations that while playing junior hockey in Ontario, Danton and a number of teammates were made to perform sexual acts with young women in hotel rooms while Frost watched.

On Aug. 22, 2006, David Frost was charged with 12 counts of sexual abuse. The charges stemmed from crimes apparently committed against four boys and three young women between the ages of 14 and 16. Frost was later acquitted of all charges due to what the judge saw as tainted testimony on behalf of certain witnesses.

Frost has since resigned as a NHL Players' Association agent. Conditions of Mike Danton's parole forbid him from having any contact with his biological father and have restricted him from engaging in any face-to-face reunions with David Frost. The former St. Michael's Majors star admitted recently that while in jail he tore up and sent back letters to his parents, Steve and Sue, whom he has not spoken with since he was 15 years old.

No date has been set for when Danton will make his return to the ice in a Husky uniform.

While in prison, he was given the opportunity to skate from time to time, but the St. Mary's coaching staff have deemed that this is not sufficient preparation for a league as elite as the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport).

This is not the first time that a former NHL player has made the leap backward to the CIS. During the 2007-08 season, former Los Angeles Kings second rounder Jared Aulin became the first player in 20

years to return to the CIS from the NHL. Although, in Aulin's case, his time with the University of Calgary was meant to be a conditioning stint – a stepping-stone in his climb back to professional hockey.

Given his criminal record, Mike Danton will most likely never be allowed back into the U.S. and therefore will probably never again be afforded the opportunity to play in the NHL.

While behind bars, the former St. Louis Blue had been enrolled in correspondence courses from Queen's University and is well on his way to obtaining a university degree. He is currently enrolled in three sociology classes at St. Mary's.

Many sceptics have questioned whether or not Danton should be allowed to partake in university hockey. His criminal record aside, that Danton will be a 29-year-old man playing against kids as young as 18 has been questioned. Unlike basketball, the CIS governing body has no age restrictions as far as hockey is concerned. Mark McGregor, the CEO of the CIS has looked at the case carefully and believes that Danton is deserving of a shot at playing for the Huskies, who are currently ranked eighth in the country. It will likely be another week before his first game, St. Mary's athletic director Steve Sarty said in a recent interview.

It is easy for critics and sceptics alike to look at a man such as Mike Danton and say that he is not deserving of a fresh start. It's effortless for them pass judgement on a troubled individual that they look at as nothing more than a would-be murderer.

Danton has acknowledged his mistakes and is attempting to turn his complicated life around. He should be afforded the same rights as every other citizen of this country. If he wants to come to Halifax in an effort to bring a national championship back to Nova Scotia, I say we let him.

Dalhousie's campus radio station since 1969.



**Dal Tigers Basketball**  
listen live on CKDU!

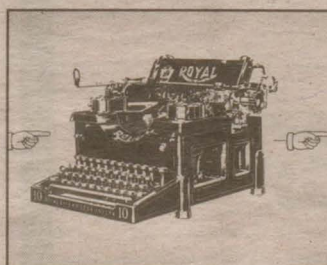
**Dal vs UPEI: Saturday, Jan 30**

women's 3pm men's 5pm

**Dal vs UNB: Sunday, Jan 31**

women's 2pm men's 4pm

**CKDU SPORTS** • Tuesdays, 10:30am to 12pm  
scores • recaps • analysis • interviews  
local • national • university • professional  
**Live on 88.1 FM or anytime on CKDU.CA**



CONTRIBUTORS  
NEEDED

DAL GAZETTE  
RM 312 S.U.B.



## Tigers end skid with three goals in third

### UPEI Panthers 1 - 4 Dalhousie Tigers

Joel Tichinoff  
Sports Editor

Winless since Nov. 28, 2009, the women's hockey team skated onto the ice at Memorial Arena to begin the third period up 1-0. The University of Prince Edward Island led 11-8 in shots, with a two-minute penalty to defenseman Alyssa Hennigar for body-checking. The Tigers killed the penalty easily, even managing a good deal of offence against a UPEI power-play unit that ranks third in the AUS with a PP percentage of .150.

The Panthers have struggled ever since launching their women's hockey program in 2005. But lately they have enjoyed some modest success, coming into last Friday's game riding a winning streak of two convincing wins over Saint Mary's University and Mount Allison University.

On the other side of centre-ice, the Tigers had gone from a seven-game unbeaten streak against Atlantic Canadian rivals in November to three consecutive losses and a string of crippling injuries.

To date the Panthers have played disciplined hockey - they are the least penalized team in the AUS. However, a slew of penalties allowed the Tigers to capitalize on their strong offence and shell UPEI goaltender Bailey Toupin on and off the

power-play. Toupin, who has managed a .890 save percentage this season, shakily held off a two-on-one rush by Dal forwards Robin Mullen and Jocelyn LeBlanc early in the third. But she was unable to block a well-aimed slap-shot from Dal captain Laura Shearer less than four minutes into the frame. From just inside the blue-line, Shearer slapped the puck into the top-right corner on a cross-ice feed from fellow defenseman Brooklyn Winch. It was the second goal of the year for Shearer, a fourth-year sociology student from Falmouth, Nova Scotia.

Shortly after her goal, the Dal captain was unable to break up an odd-man rush by Panthers forwards Suzanne Cortilet and Cathleen Loughlin, who beat Tigers goalie Ashley Boutilier (back after a two-game absence).

Boutilier's spoiled shut-out was avenged by her teammates, who pushed UPEI back to their end for much of the last 10 minutes of the game. Five-foot-four-inches blue-liner Alyssa Hennigar took the lead electrifying the game whenever the puck came within her reach, ripping shot after shot at the UPEI goal. She made clean passes and hustled to beat opponents to every puck.

When UPEI's Kelsey O'Donnell went off for hooking at the 15-minute mark,

Hennigar railed two quick shots from the blue line before a desperate Kristen Nash drew a second UPEI hooking penalty. A dedicated crew of fans cheered from the beer gallery as Shearer and Hennigar took full advantage of the five-on-three to bounce the puck back and forth between themselves high in the slot before Hennigar fired a wrist shot at Toupin's pads. A mad scramble ensued in front, which allowed third-year science student Robyn Nicholson to tap in her seventh goal of the year for Dal. She was assisted by Robin Mullen and Laura Shearer (who had a three-point game).

With one player still in the box, the UPEI net-minder sprawled in the crease to block a rapid succession of shots but ultimately could not handle the relentless Dal offence. Deep River, Ontario-native Sarah McVey batted in Dal's third power-play goal of the night with under two minutes left in the game sealing a much-needed win for the Tigers. Friday's win brought the Tigers' record to 8-5-0 with ten games remaining in the regular season.

*The Dalhousie Tigers will return to Memorial Arena to host Mount Allison at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 31. Admission is free to all Dalhousie Students.*

## Beat the Kipper

### Questions:

1. Who holds the record for most points in a single NHL game?

2. Has a Canadian ever won an Olympic gold medal on home soil?

3. When was the last year the Dalhousie Women's Volleyball team won the Atlantic Championships?

Answers:  
1. On Feb. 7, 1976, Daryl Sittler of the Toronto Maple Leafs scored 10 pts (6 G, 4 A) against the Boston Bruins.  
2. In neither the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal, nor the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, did a Canadian stand atop the Olympic podium.  
3. The 2004-2005 season.



Are you looking for a Chiropractor?

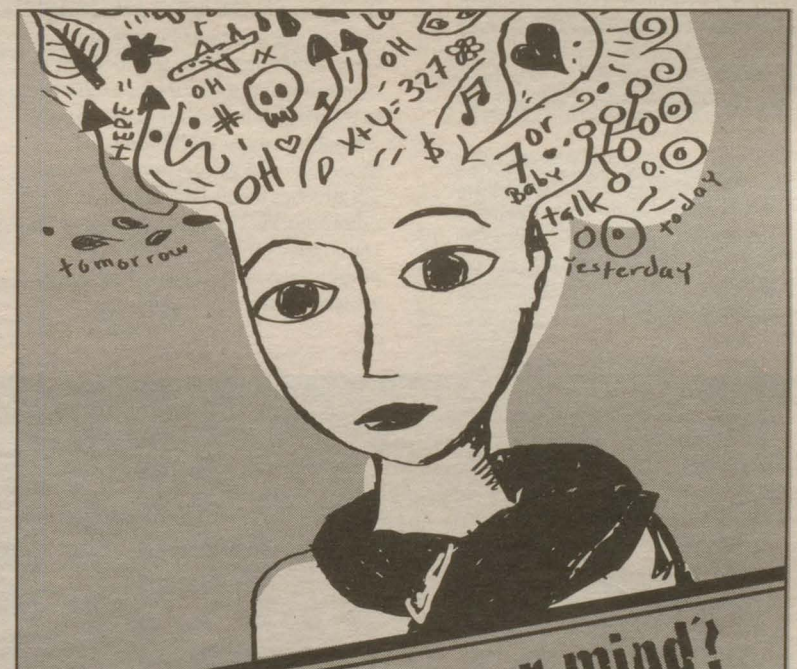
Dr. Brad Lohrenz  
Robie @ Spring Garden  
Chiropractic Clinic

- Stress
- Headaches
- Back / Neck Pain
- Numb Legs / Arms
- Nutritional Questions

422-[EASY] 3279

Halifax Professional Centre  
5991 Spring Garden Road  
Main Floor (beside Starbucks)

Close to Dalhousie (1 block to main campus)  
Works with Dal student insurance.  
No referral needed



Got alot on your mind?

# WRITE!

And become a contributor for the Dalhousie Gazette

Contributor Meetings are held each  
Monday @ 5:30 pm  
in room 312 S.U.B.



## Sports

# Dal student pioneer in e-sports world

## University home to varsity gaming league

Joel Tichinoff  
Sports Editor

How many people do you know who have never played a video game? How many student houses are without some kind of gaming system, be it an ancient N64 for MarioKart and GoldenEye, or the latest Guitar Hero? For every group of students out kicking a soccer ball around on Wickwire field, how many more are at a friend's place playing Halo? Gaming has arrived.

From Korea to Finland to Canada, video games have eclipsed athletics as a favourite activity for young adults. As a form of entertainment, video games have graduated from the arcades to overtaking even the biggest Hollywood blockbusters in terms of profit. The wildly popular Twilight Saga movie, the record-holder for opening-day box-office sales, made just under \$74 million in the first 24 hours of its release. Halo 3 took in sales of over \$170 million in the US alone during its first day on the shelves. There is now also a Halo film in the works.

On top of popularity and profitability, video games represent the vanguard of electronics and computer science technology; Xbox's controller-free Natal system, slated for release in 2010, promises to revolutionize how humans interact with all categories of technology, not just video games. With this in mind, third-year management student Evan Oberman founded Varsity Gameco Inc. in 2007, and as a freshman launched the Varsity e-Sports League (VeSL) project based at Dalhousie. As of 2010, the VeSL is comprised of 29 affiliated gaming societies at universi-

ties across North America.

"I'd love to see it considered on par with a varsity sport," Oberman says of inter-university e-Sports and his vision isn't far from becoming a reality. The Dal e-Sports Society, of which Oberman is President, boasts roughly 50 members, while the DeSS counterpart at the University of Toronto, the UofT e-Sports Club, has 500 to 600 members.

While Oberman works toward developing the e-sport society at the varsity level, competitive gaming has grown enormously in the form of international competition. The 10th World Cyber Games is to be held in Los Angeles next fall. The last WCGs saw 600 participants from 65 countries assemble in Chengdu, China to decide which nation would reign supreme from Counter-Strike to Guitar Hero. (Poland defeated Sweden in the gold medal round of Counter-Strike, while Brazil took home gold in Guitar Hero. Canada is ranked among the global Team-Fortress superpowers.) While still somewhat off the pop-culture radar in the West, professional e-sports have exploded in South Korea where notable games of Starcraft and Warcraft III are broadcast on national television.

"Pro-gamers walking down the street in Seoul are mobbed like rock-stars," Oberman notes before pointing out the marketing opportunities for Dalhousie in the vast on-line gaming community. Arguably Dal spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every year supporting athletics teams that, among many other valuable benefits, help spread the Dalhousie name abroad. An e-Sports program would cost a fraction to operate while gaining recognition in a vast

tech-savvy community on the cutting-edge of electronics and programming. For a university pushing its reputation for innovation, Oberman's project does seem to fit nicely with the school's marketing interests.

On balance, the VeSL project isn't as far-fetched as it would appear, chances are a Dalhousie e-Sports team is a much more realistic proposition than, say, a Dalhousie football team. E-sports represent just another point at which the boundaries between sports and technology are rapidly disappearing. As for the argument that sports require a level of physical exertion to truly qualify as athletics, anyone who has played with a Wii has experienced the electronics industry's first timid steps into the realm of fitness and human performance. Wii Fit, which incorporates yoga, strength training and aerobics in game play, stands as the second-highest-selling video game of all time.

For now the Dal e-Sports Society remains an informal student group intended to bring together Dal students with a shared passion for video games. Oberman and the DeSS have collaborated on the highly successful Frag For Cancer gamer fundraising events held annually at Dal to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. The fourth FFC event, held in 2009 at the Dal Student Union Building, drew 200 people to the MacInnes Room and raised roughly \$5,000 for cancer research. "It's a community more than anything," says Oberman of the group. "Whether you're into casual gaming or hard-core competitive gaming, above all it's about getting together with friends and having fun."

# Brain drain

## Dalhousie's new helmet policy



As of 2010, helmets are mandatory at the Dal rink. | Photo by Matt Ritchie

Tim Pain Van Der Kooi  
Staff Contributor

In the bleachers of Dalhousie's Memorial Arena, 50-year-old Henry Rudolph tightens his laces for a noon-time skate. He talks to two women beside him about the arena's new helmet requirements as they strap on their shiny, black hockey helmets. They are the only skaters in the arena.

As of Jan. 1, Dalhousie requires all skaters and staff to wear Canadian Standards Association approved hockey helmets during public skating sessions and ice rentals at the arena. The requirement was introduced after a year of observation by Dalhousie professor and neurologist David Clark. Two people have suffered serious head-related injuries due to falls in Memorial Arena. Those injuries, combined with conversations with other colleagues, led Clark to suggest the helmet requirement.

Rudolph, who usually skates at the arena once or twice a week, has noticed fewer skaters are attending Dalhousie's public skates since the change.

"I've seen nearly 100 come out for these public skates, but now the numbers have dropped dramatically," says Rudolph.

Sarah Wheadon-Hore, senior manager of Dalhousie facilities, cannot confirm declining public skate numbers because Memorial Arena just began monitoring public skate attendance on Jan. 1. However, Wheadon-Hore says she has received lots of feedback that praises and denounces the new helmet regulations.

"Some people are saying, 'About time,'" says Wheadon-Hore. "But we knew we would face opposition, you know. 'We're adults. We should be able to make our own decisions.'"

Wearing a helmet doesn't bother Rudolph - his mother strapped one on his head when he was six. He applauds Dalhousie for the new regulation, though he realizes that some skaters will not appreciate the uncomfortable nature of a helmet.

"The people who are complaining are (doing so) just for aesthetic purposes," says Rudolph.

But Wheadon-Hore says it is more than just looks. She says the greatest opposition to the helmet regulation

are figure skaters. While Dalhousie's figure skating group is exempted from the rule, figure skaters participating in any public skate still need a helmet.

"With public skates you have a full range of abilities. You could be a strong skater and have a weaker skater wipe out behind you, which could take your feet out and then you smack your head on the ice," says Wheadon-Hore. "You may be a good skater, but it's the other skater that could take you out."

Dalhousie's figure skating club does not have to wear helmets because Wheadon-Hore considered their sessions were in a controlled environment with only 25 skaters. She says a figure skater's balance and vision could be affected if they wear a helmet. The club is also exempted because of additional waivers and insurance with Skate Canada. But insurance and waivers will not be a loophole for other skaters looking to get on the ice without a helmet.

"It would be an administrative nightmare," says Wheadon-Hore. "Waivers don't always hold up in a court of law. They don't save the facility operator in every situation."

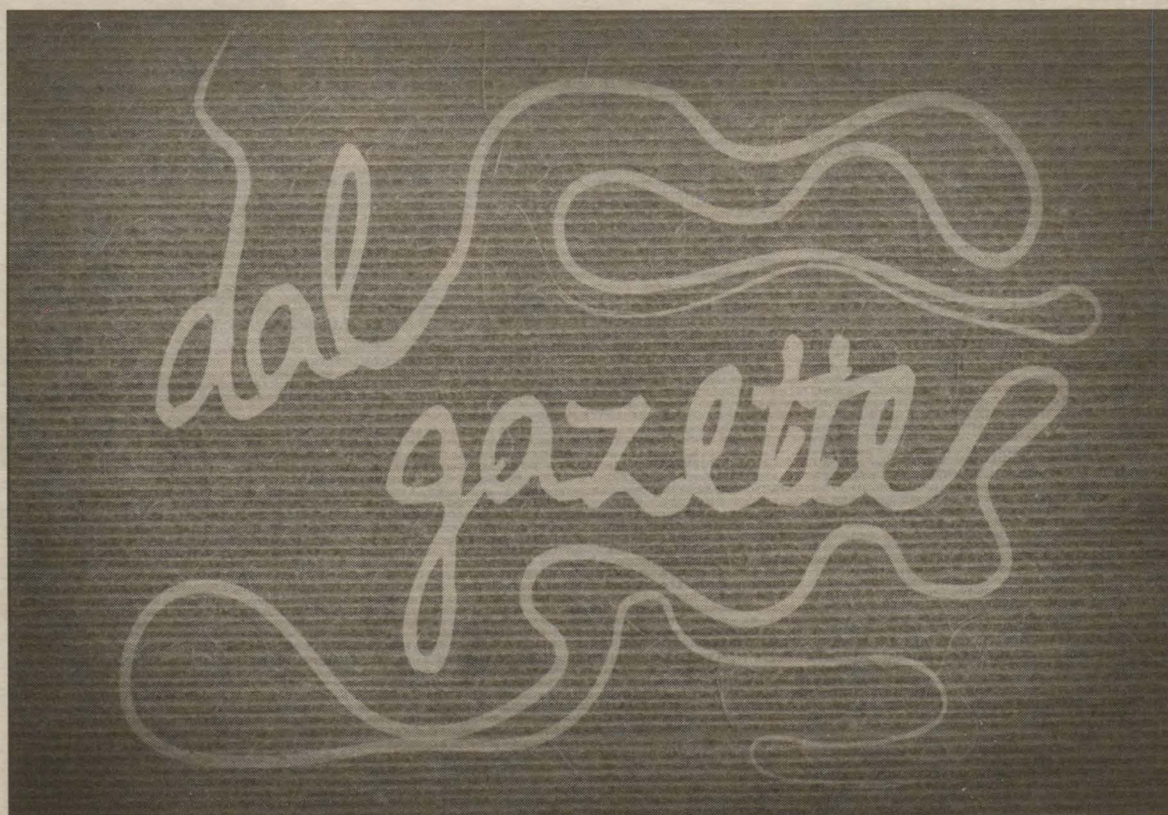
Amanda Jamieson, a member of the figure skating club, has decided she will not attend Dalhousie's public skates anymore because of the price of helmets, which can cost \$30 to \$100. She has been figure skating for 11 years, which makes her confident that she is not at risk to fall at a public skate.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous because skating backwards or forwards is like walking to me," says Jamieson.

Wheadon-Hore hopes that educating the public about CSA-approved helmets will help cease opposing arguments.

Lynn Fennerty, a Dalhousie research co-ordinator for injury prevention programs, and fourth-year nursing students have been hosting safety information sessions during public skates. Wheadon-Hore says these sessions have already converted one individual who was initially opposed, but returned the next week with a helmet in hand.

"There is a chance we will never see some skaters again," says Wheadon-Hore. "But once people are informed, once they see the impact, they agree with the helmets."







# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

JANUARY 22-28, 2010

## ENGINEERS VS PROFS TRIVIA

Dr. Josh Leon  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

I have been asked to speculate on who would win in a trivia contest between professors and students. It is a very difficult question. I have learned that prediction is a very dangerous game. For example, every year for as long as I can remember, a very bright man I know has said to me "this is the year of the Toronto Maple Leafs." Similarly, I have predicted that the Montreal Canadiens would win the Stanley Cup 45 times over the last 45 years. I note that I have been right exactly 12 times, or slightly better than 25% correct.

So, that being said, I will take a stab at predicting the winner of the upcoming trivia tilt. The facts:

- Dalhousie Engineering Students are some of the brightest and best;
- Many of the Dalhousie Professors were at one time top Dalhousie students;
- The profs have the advantage of age and experience;
- The students have the advantage of youth and enthusiasm;
- Students have the advantage of home ice;
- Profs are experienced and always play well on the road.

Using the same logic I use to predict hockey, I think the Profs will win.

Zhindra Gillis  
Sextant Treasurer  
BEng (Industrial) '10

There is no doubt in my mind that the Engineering students are going to win. Solely based on track record alone we know that engineering students dominate at trivia. For years, we have battled faculties such as Commerce, Nursing, Science; our grad students have taken on the MBA students and the Law students. The T-Room, DSEUS, and DEGS keep settin' em up and we keep knockin' em down.

Now we are ready for the ultimate challenge (well, as ultimate as it can get I guess). We are challenging the profs to trivia! They may have book smarts, but many of the students I know spend hours a day acquiring useless knowledge. How many profs know the record for stuffing peeps in a person's mouth or the name of the monkey from Captain Planet? Students have spent countless hours entertaining themselves by Googling random stuff. They have essentially been training for this since their first year. That's why this week's profs vs students matchup is a cinch to call. Knowledge is powerful, but trivia is priceless.

All of those hours you spent procrastinating studying thermo by watching *Top Gun*, playing *World of Warcraft*, or organizing a fantasy football league will finally pay off. We need to make this a real challenge. Profs have to come for this to happen, so

make sure to invite your favourite prof (or your least favourite prof) whose butt you'd like to kick at trivia. Bring a well-rounded team of your best and brightest to seal the deal too. We want to show the profs who the pwners and who the pwnees are, and make sure they have no excuses such as "only the Mech profs showed."

So come to the T-Room tonight (Friday January 22nd) and be part of schooling those who educate us.

## IIE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Dal Industrial Engineering students participated in the Institute for Industrial Engineering Canadian Student Conference in Winsor last weekend, and put on a strong showing.

Dal came in 1st or 2nd place for all competitions that they fully participated in and won 5 prizes all together:

- Technical Paper competition: Dalhousie did not present a paper.
- Design Competition: The design team placed 2nd.
- Theoretical Competition: The theoretical team placed 1st.
- Order cards competition (Group of 4): The group placed 1st.
- Order cards competition (solo): 2nd place.
- Robert F. Moore Award (best managed chapter): 2nd place.

More details, and photos are available at [www.thesextant.ca](http://www.thesextant.ca)

in, and so far my great plan isn't going so well. Assignments have started to pile up, I have left tutorials without finishing assignments, and distractions are still in my life. I know school is only going to get busier and I should be more pro-active and try to catch up before it is too late, but work term lag is making me lazy! Plus, things like being the Civil Engineering Society President, and applying for co-op jobs, and becoming assistant editor of *The Sextant* are way more exciting than actually doing work. Spending the rest of my free time at the T-Room or going to see *Avatar* is clearly way more important than learning. Mmmm, distractions!

Clearly, I am exaggerating a little bit. (But not about *Avatar*, time should be wasted seeing it!) I'm not that far behind at school, and I know I will get used to the school pace again. But it is an adjustment! Consider yourself warned, future co-op kids, work term lag is real, and it is just something you need to deal with. Unfortunately, unlike jetlag, you can't just sleep it off, because then you will be even more behind!

-The post-Christmas lag isn't fun either.

-Ed

## PULLING FOR THE KIDS



Don't forget!  
Pulling for the Kids on February 6th.  
Sign up or donate money at [www.pullingforthekids.ca](http://www.pullingforthekids.ca)

Look up Camp Triumph at [www.camptriumph.ca](http://www.camptriumph.ca)

## CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: [www.engandcompsscicoop.dal.ca](http://www.engandcompsscicoop.dal.ca)

## Have an opinion?

Share it with us.

Get \$25\*

[sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)

\$20 for pieces shorter than 500 words, \$30 for pieces over 1000 words. We pay only for articles that are published.

## Website design contest

Suggest a Drupal theme by emailing [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)

If your theme suggestion is picked for [www.thesextant.ca](http://www.thesextant.ca), you'll get \$25!

Open to all Dal students, faculty, and staff. Deadline January 25th at 12pm.



Trivia Every Friday Night!  
January 21: Band, TBA  
January 22: Engineers vs. Faculty Trivia  
January 29: Winterfest Show with Two Hours Traffic

## THE WORK TERM LAG

Kaylee Shannon  
Assistant Editor  
BEng (Civil) '11

"Work Term Lag" (noun): A state of laziness during the first month of school following an eight month co-op term. See also- post-summer slump.

As a civil student, you complete an eight month co-op term. Eight months of co-op means 32 weeks without homework. This breaks down to approximately 2300 hours of free time (I did the math). Free time is awesome. The worst thing about free time is when it ends.

My work term was in my hometown of Bathurst, NB. The eight glorious months full of free time went by fast. My summer was filled with friends and sun, and in the fall some of my free time was spent tutoring and babysitting. I didn't want to get too lazy because I knew, soon enough, school would start again. My rationale was that since I was already used to getting up early, being at

work all day, and even being busy in the evenings, I would have no issues adjusting to school. I was very, very wrong. I had heard horror stories about the term after the eight month co-op, especially starting school in January. I heard that it takes a month to get used to being in school and that assignments pile up, and there is NOTHING that can be done! Not to mention the beginning of Senior Project for the Civils (AHHH!). Because I was aware of the work term lag, I created a plan to beat it.

- Step 1: Start assignments the day they are assigned;
- Step 2: Actually do work during tutorial time as suggested;
- Step 3: Avoid facebook/tv/distractions of all kind.

With this plan, I would be ahead of the curve. I would succeed at beating the work term lag. Well I must admit, I'm two weeks

**DSEUS** dalhousiesexton  
engineering undergraduate society

Every Friday Afternoon • EngiBEERING in the Design Commons  
Wear a Sweater Vest for a Free Beer!  
Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

Questions, Comments and to Contribute [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)



Visit Sexton Campus's Online Resource [dalsexton.ca](http://dalsexton.ca)

[a.dalsexton](http://a.dalsexton)

[www.thesextant.ca](http://www.thesextant.ca)

[facebook.com/dalsexton](http://facebook.com/dalsexton)





ARE YOU A  
**6%ER?**  
PROVE IT: SEARCH 6%ER ON FACEBOOK

HE WAS AWARE OF HIS GIFT  
BUT IT NEVER DEFINED HIM.

\$12.99  
8 PACK CANS

