

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868

Gazette

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

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Cover image by Pau Balite



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 16

Annual General Meeting

The DSU's AGM will take place in the McInnis room of the SUB and will commence at 6:30pm.

For more information please contact Matt Kelly via email at dsuchair@dal.ca

Wednesday, March 31

DSU Teaching Awards

Forms to nominate your professors for a teaching award are available at the Information Desk in the Student Union Building.

The DSU Teaching Awards will take place on March 31st, in rooms 302/303 of the SUB. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm (time subject to change)

DSU ELECTIONS

Election period is now upon us! Check out the schedule below for this years events:

Saturday, March 13 – *Student Appreciation Night* - Grawood – 7:00pm

Monday, March 15 – *Election Breakfast* - SUB Lobby – 8:30am – 10:30am

Tuesday, March 16 – *All Candidates Debate* – SUB Lobby, Studly Campus – 12:00pm

Wednesday, March 17 – *All Candidates Debate* – Carlton Campus
– Location TBD – 12:00pm

Thursday, March 18 – *All Candidates Debate*
– Sexton Campus, Alumni Lounge – 12:00pm

Friday, March 19 – *Presidential Debate* – Grawood – 3:00pm

Saturday, March 20 – *Residence Charity Hockey Game*
– Dal Memorial Arena – 7:00pm

DSU Accessibility Bursary Applications

Applications for the DSU Accessibility Bursary are available online at www.dsu.ca. Applications can be submitted to the Society Administrator in room 222 of the SUB. For more information please contact Mark Hobbs at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

Walking home after dark?

Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am). Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> 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



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THE FINE PRINT

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

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

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

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

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CORRECTION

The Gazette printed an article last week without disclosing a conflict of interest. The Sports article was a positive profile about sailor Paul Brikis. Brikis is friends with Sports Editor Joel Tichinoff. The Gazette apologizes for this mistake.

FIGHT THE POWER!

OR DON'T.

BUT... WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

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



Editorial



We should consent to sex enthusiastically, not grudgingly. | Stock Photo

WHY DO WE HAVE SEX?

Hilary Beaumont, Copy Editor
Kaley Kennedy, Opinions Editor

Hilary Beaumont: The answer seems obvious: To get off. To make babies. But it's not that simple, is it?

Kaley Kennedy: If sex were just about getting off, then we wouldn't need other people – most of us can get off on our own. Sex offers us a certain type of intimacy. It's awesome to feel wanted, and it's empowering to know we can get someone else off. When we have sex with people we care about or are attracted to, it feels good for all kinds of reasons, not just because we may or may not reach orgasm.

HB: It's true having the ability to control your partner's orgasm can be empowering, but we have sex for the wrong reasons if one partner wields sexual power over another – for example, if your partner makes you feel obligated to please him or her. You may feel pressure from

society, peers or a manipulative partner, or because you feel the need to 'grow up'.

KK: Sometimes we have sex because we think we should, not because we actually want to. Think about how much of a turn off it would be to hear someone say "Hey, I want to have sex with you because I feel obligated." Not hot.

HB: Imagine if consenting to sex were about more than just agreement. What if consent sounded less like, "Yeah, I guess, I kind of want to mildly have sex with you," and more like, "Give it to me right now on this conveniently placed bear rug!"

Jaclyn Friedman, author of *Yes Means Yes*, thinks we need a new model for consent. In her book, she explains that pleasure is a basic human right, and men and women both deserve equal and safe access to that pleasure. She suggests that instead of simply consenting, individuals should ensure their partners are enthusiastically consenting to sex.

KK: I know I'd much rather hear someone tell me how unbelievably hot I was and how they were jonesin' to jump into the sack with me, rather than have them give me the reluctant go ahead, wouldn't you?

HB: Indeed I would! And, as Friedman shows, the enthusiasm model allows us to move past placing blame on a person who was sexually assaulted because they gave in to having sex when they really didn't want to. In the feature "The 'R' word" (on page eight), *the Gazette* addresses how sex can be used as a weapon. Though sexual assault is common among university students, it doesn't have to be that way. If someone is pressuring you to fuck, ask yourself: "Why would I decide to sleep with this person?" If the answer is negative (for example: because you feel obligated) you can make the right decision ahead of time – before you go back to his or her place.

KK: If someone tells you that he or she is not interested in sex – don't be an asshole.

Just because someone isn't going to sleep with you, doesn't mean you're not sexy or macho or <insert desirable characteristic here>. If you are violent toward someone, or you belittle or pester that person until you convince your reluctant partner to have sex, that's what will make you undesirable. Rape and sexual assault make sex about one person: the person in control. If that's what you like, stay home and cultivate a good relationship with your hand.

HB: If we have sex for the right reasons, then talking about sex and having responsible sex will be less of a chore. Fucking responsibly shouldn't be like doing the dishes.

KK: We've all had drunken, sloppy sex. Most of the time it's not worth it. Sex is better when you want it, so make the effort to only have good sex. We're not taught how to do that. We're taught that dudes only want sex, and girls should play hard to get. We've learned we should forget about a road map if we stray from the standard heteronor-

native relationship or the gender binary.

HB: We have everything to gain from asking ourselves why we have sex, and from making sure not only we, but also our partners, are eager to get it on. Then sex becomes less ambiguous and more focused on pleasure.

Resources for people who have experienced sexual assault:

Dalhousie Women's Centre
(referral service): 494-2432 (office),
dalwomenscente.ca

Dalhousie Sexual Harassment Office: 494-6672/494-1137 (office),
sexualharassment.dal.ca

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre crisis line: 425-0122 (24-hour support)

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre: 422-4240 (office) – the centre provides referrals and will walk survivors of sexual assault through the assault reporting process.

News

News

Saying "yes"

Jaclyn Friedman visits Dalhousie to talk about sexual assault on campus

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

For Jaclyn Friedman, sexual assault isn't about saying "no." It's about saying "yes."

The 38-year-old writer, activist and feminist visited Dalhousie University last Thursday to encourage students to actively seek consent before having sex.

The idea is further outlined in her first book, published last year: *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*. It's a collection of essays with varying perspectives on sexual assault and female sexuality. For Friedman, it's an attempt to change society's traditional view on women and rape.

"When we think about rape as a culture ... we think about a stranger jumping out of the bushes - a monster waiting in the darkness for an innocent woman who's walking along to choir rehearsal," she says.

But this idea is staid, Friedman says. Most of the time, people who are sexually assaulted know their attackers. The attacker can be a boyfriend, a friend or a co-worker. In most cases, rape is when one person manipulates or talks another person into having sex. To prevent this, Friedman advocates for what she calls "enthusiastic consent."

"(Enthusiastic consent is) not just someone who's not protesting, not just as someone who you asked them 20 times and they said no, and on the 21st time, they said fine, but that they're actually enthusiastic about what's happening," Friedman explains. "They're into it and if you can't tell, you ask and that's it." "Everybody can do that."

The New Jersey native has written for many publications, including the *Washington Post*. She also started an organization called Women, Action and the Media (WAM) to address women's issues. She also speaks to universities about sexual assault.

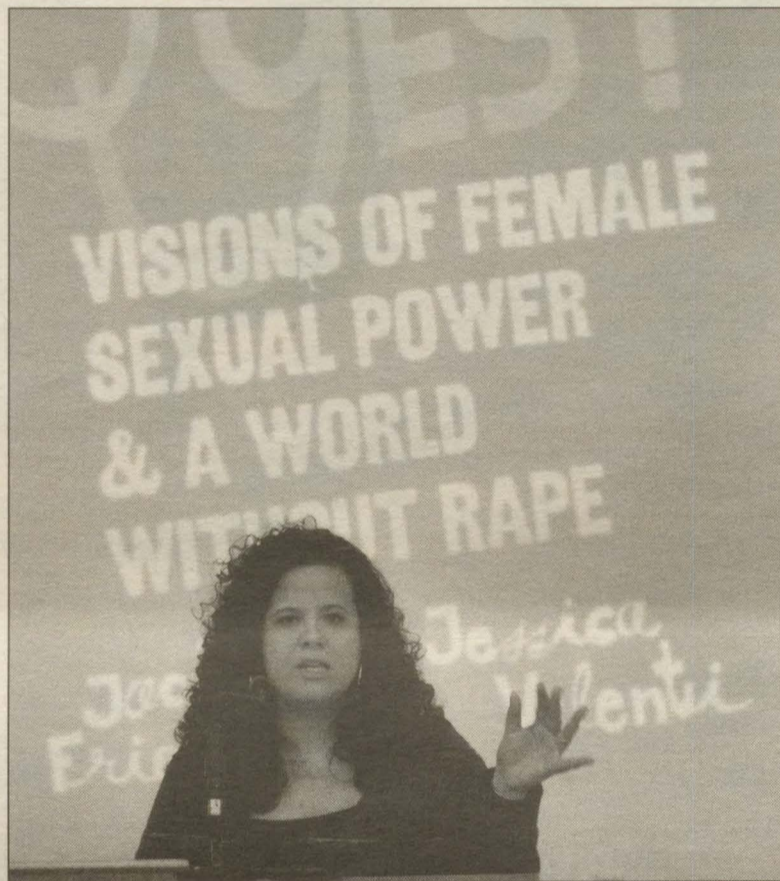
Dal was her first stop outside the U.S. to encourage universities to take a different approach to sexual assault cases.

"Schools routinely handle these cases in the worst way possible," she says. "The schools handle them as though all they want to do is make them go away at all costs and most of the time that means not taking the victim seriously."

Liz McCormack, co-ordinator of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, says that while sexual assault issues are a priority at Dal, they are not often talked about.

"I'm sure if you said 'sexual assault' to a lot of students, they wouldn't know what that means," she says. "Sometimes, I don't even know what that means."

At the university age, she adds, the issue is most critical. According to a report by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 44 per cent of people who experience sexual as-



Nearly 17 years ago, a fellow university student sexually assaulted Jaclyn Friedman. Now she visits schools to encourage students to actively seek consent before having sex. | Photo by Paul Balite

sault are between the ages of 15 and 24.

Friedman speaks from experience. While at university as an undergrad nearly 17 years ago, she was sexually assaulted by a fellow student. As the manager of the school's wrestling team, a fledgling feminist and someone who was on good terms with most of the deans, sexual assault never crossed her mind. But she says the incident, and how the university dealt with the case, shocked her.

"People will say awful things about any woman who speaks about this in public. It's part of the way that silence is maintained."

After the university's student judicial system expelled her attacker for a year, Friedman says a dean told her "I was not to speak of any of this to anyone," she says. "At the time, I didn't think anything of that."

She rolls her eyes at the ceiling as she recounts the story. A flick of her long, curly hair and her boisterous laugh also make up her demeanour during the presentation. But despite the confident front, she says her undergraduate experience nearly 17 years ago still pervades her everyday life. "People came out of the woodwork to

say that I deserved it or that I was lying or, you know ... it was amazing to me, how virulent the reaction was to me just stating simply that I had been assaulted. ... People don't want to hear that."

This attitude still exists today, she says, speaking specifically to anti-feminist comments she's read about her published articles. She says she knows that openly talking about sexual assault comes at a cost.

"People will say awful things about me," she says. "People will say awful things about any woman who speaks about this in public. It's part of the way that silence is maintained."

But until real change starts to happen at an institutional level, Friedman says she won't stop talking. She says she wants to branch out and visit more law schools, so that future lawyers and anyone in the justice system can see beyond the traditional perspectives of rape.

"I'm telling my story as a way to get people's attention so I can talk about the bigger picture," she says

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
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Out of the red by 2015?

Spending cuts and stimulus cut-offs part of Tories' plan to curb the deficit in 2010 budget

Emma Godmere
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — Employment growth, including more support for youth seeking jobs, was one of the top priorities in the Conservative government's 2010 budget released on March 4.

Titled "Leading the Way on Jobs and Growth," the 400-page document offered \$19 billion in stimulus funding to complete the Tories' economic action plan, which is set to end in March 2011. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty explained the winding down of stimulus spending will help cut the current fiscal year's \$53.8 billion deficit nearly in half by 2012.

"We will have savings of about \$17.6 billion over five years," the minister told reporters prior to his speech in the House of Commons. "That aids us to be very close to balance in 2014-15."

In order to incur smaller deficits without raising taxes, however, cuts in government spending had to be made. "This is a tough budget. ... Some very difficult decisions have been made," Flaherty said. "Most of the answers to requests for funding were 'No.'"

Despite the announcement of limited spending, Canadian students will be able to benefit from some employment- and education-related funding. A one-year increase of \$30 million for youth internships is set to take effect this year, along with another \$30 million for programs aimed at helping young immigrants, aboriginal Canadians and single parents gain work experience.

In terms of colleges and universities, \$20 million has been earmarked for increasing accessibility to post-secondary education over the next several years and a total of \$64 million will be funneled into Canada's research-granting councils between now and 2012.

Further support was mentioned in a vague "new approach" the government plans to take in terms of post-secondary education funding for aboriginal students, which will apparently be "co-ordinated with other federal student support programs."

Few changes to income tax breaks were announced, though students in research-only programs and receiving post-doctoral fellowships will no longer be eligible for the Scholarship Exemption and Education Tax Credit.

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No to Navitas

Recruitment program for international students won't benefit Dal say faculty, students

Katrina Pyne
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie University's possible attempt to recruit more international students hasn't received a warm welcome from several faculty members and students. The Navitas program specializes in recruiting and teaching international students whose academic standing is lower than Dal's admission criteria.

"The reason we are looking for other possible pathways to the university is because we have a serious enrolment challenge," says Keith Taylor, associate vice president of Academic Outreach and International Programs at Dal.

Navitas's first-year classes would cover high school courses, and second-year would be equivalent to first-year university classes.

Taylor explained that Dal hopes to go from about 15,000 students to 17,500 students over five years.

But the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) opposes the idea. In an open letter to the Dal community, the DFA voiced its concerns about the private, for-profit pathway institution for international students that may begin a partnership with Dal in upcoming years.

"We really don't think outsour-



Carrie Dawson, president-elect of the Dalhousie Faculty Association. | Photo by Pau Balite

"We really don't think outsourcing is the answer. Students shouldn't be able to buy their way around Dal's standard admission procedures."

ing is the answer," says Carrie Dawson, president-elect of the DFA. "Students shouldn't be able to buy their way around Dal's standard admission procedures."

The DFA is primarily concerned about Navitas's students posing a threat

to Dal's academic integrity. The Navitas courses would be taught by Navitas's staff and the DFA says Dal's departments might not have control over Navitas's academic standards.

"Their reason for being is to make

money," says Dawson. "Ours is higher quality education."

As expressed in the letter, the DFA is also concerned that Navitas teachers would not be protected by academic freedom and would not be leading experts in their fields.

"Dal definitely needs to do more for international students than it is currently doing," Dawson adds.

According to Taylor, only 69 per cent of international students enrol in their second year at Dal. That's 15 per cent less than Canadian students. He says this is mainly due to cultural adjustments and language barriers.

"So it comes to a very relevant, very clear principle," he says. "Do we co-operate with a for-profit company that is delivering part of our higher education?"

"To be totally crass about this: increasing our number of international students will help us to maintain the quality of education for our domestic students."

"If it comes in, it can actually assist international students in getting higher persistence at Dalhousie, that's great," says Chavasse Bain, DSU representative for the International Students Community (ISC). "If it's just there to bring in money for Dal, it's just not worth having."

According to Taylor, the Navitas program would likely charge the same international student tuition fees, but

put the tuition toward assistance for international students. These services could include increased contact hours with professors, extra tutorials, language services and housing assistance.

The University of Manitoba (U of M) partnered with Navitas in 2007. Taylor says several of its departments have had issues with the Navitas program.

"I think the trouble has not been with the program itself but with people refusing to co-operate with Navitas at the University of Manitoba," says Taylor.

Instead of implementing Navitas at Dal, the DFA is suggesting support initiatives for international students such as the Global Assessment Certificate and the English as a Second Language program at the College of Continuing Education. Both programs assist international students with language skills before entering university.

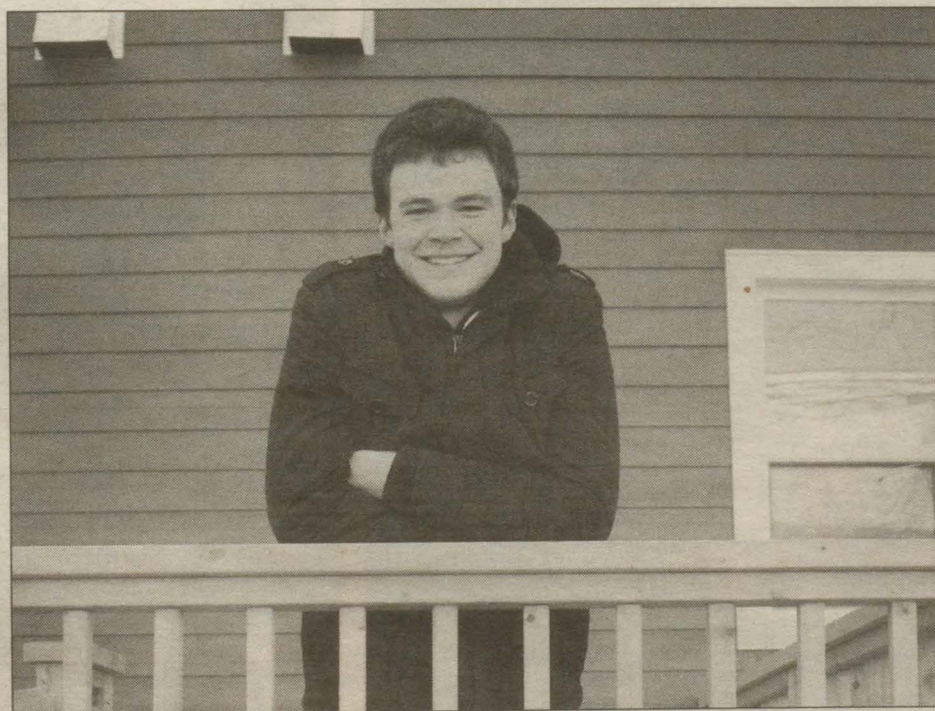
But Taylor says the Navitas process is slow, so the program likely won't come to Dal this September.

He says aside from the U of M, Dal is consulting with another Navitas participant, Simon Fraser University, about the program.

"The program itself I think would be a good idea," says Bain. "But I think it needs to be put on hold until they address certain issues concerning it."

News Briefs

Laura Parlee | Assistant News Editor



The Grad House has experienced more delays, moving the grand opening back yet again to the end of March. | Photo by Abram Gutscher

Grad House experiences more delays

The Dalhousie Grad House was supposed to open this week, and last month, and last September. President of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students, Kyle DeYoung says the new Grad House hasn't opened yet due to construction delays. That's normal for a project of this magnitude, according to him.

"Issues that have arisen include asbestos, lead paint and structural problems," says DeYoung in an e-mail. "All of these have added to the project timeline." He called the process "frustrating but unavoidable." The Grad House opening has been moved back to the end of March.

Expelled student gets refund

Trevor Power was expelled from Halifax's Centre for Arts and Technology in September 2009. Now the school is paying him \$15,900.

Power was expelled for bad-mouthing the school in front of future students while they were on a tour of the facility. The centre says representing the school in a negative or demeaning fashion is against policy. But according to adjudicator W. Augustus Richardson, the expulsion wasn't fair because students were not made aware of the policy. Richardson called expulsion 'educational capital punishment' and decided that Power should be reimbursed for his one year of \$15,600 tuition, plus be paid damages and other expenses equaling \$300. Power was studying graphic design.

CFS, Concordia's \$1 million dilemma

According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Concordia University's Student Union owes over \$1 million in unpaid membership fees. The CFS and Concordia Student Union have been at odds since September, so the student union was planning to hold a membership referendum that would allow the union to end its membership with the federation. But the CFS sent the union a letter stating they couldn't hold the referendum until they paid the federation \$1,033,278.76 in unpaid fees.

Union president Amine Dabchy says she has no idea where this is coming from. The CFS says settling up before ending a membership is standard procedure and that the union was made aware of the fees in the past. There are 13 student unions across Canada currently attempting to end membership with the federation.

UK energy efficiency laws worry universities

The new CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is coming into affect in the U.K., and many universities aren't happy about it. The scheme will require most universities, and all institutions using more than 6,000 MWh of half-hourly metered electricity, to monitor carbon output, buy carbon credits, and register and provide an annual report on their emissions to the government. Universities are being warned to prepare now, and will have to register with the government by April. The cap and trade program is designed to "tackle CO2 emissions not already covered by Climate Change Agreements," according to a U.K. government website. But some universities say the program will be too costly for them, and that they are unfairly penalized for having buildings such as libraries, which do not generate revenue. The scheme will affect more than 20,000 organizations across the region.

News

Exploring your post-secondary options?

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AU student Sarah in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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Global movement condemns 'Israeli apartheid' for sixth year

Israeli Apartheid Week begins in more than 40 cities worldwide

Paula Millar
The Cord

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP) — The sixth-annual international Israeli Apartheid Week is raising more of a stir than ever this year.

Aseel Al Dallal, president of Students for Palestinian Rights (SFPR) at the University of Waterloo, explained that the global movement aims to "expose Israel's system of apartheid." In Waterloo, he said SFPR wants to "expose the injustices that the Palestinians have to live through."

Taking place at about 40 campuses worldwide, it's not without controversy: the Ontario provincial government unanimously passed a resolution condemning the week, citing that it bred "hatred against Israel," with one member noting that it "diminishes the suffering of those who were victims of a true apartheid regime in South Africa."

In Waterloo, Ont., a protest was held on Monday as a collaborative effort between SFPR and Laurier for Palestine from neighbouring Wilfrid Laurier University. The issue of Israeli-Palestinian relations has been a contentious one in Waterloo — in January 2009, Laurier sociology professor Peter Eglin held a number of impromptu rallies, during which he spoke out against Israeli action in the Gaza Strip. Eglin's public spats with the school's Jewish Students' Association led to hostilities months before the week began.

Before it even began, this year's week of protest succeeded in initiating debate and forcing official comment on the issue. Federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff criticized the planned week in a statement on Monday.

"Let us be clear: criticism of Israeli government policy is legitimate. Wholesale condemnation of the State of Israel and the Jewish people is not legitimate.

Not now, not ever," read the statement.

However, despite disapproval from many in the international community, the protests continue.

Fatima Attia, president of Laurier for Palestine, remained undeterred.

"The one message we would like to spread on campus ... is that we are not trying to promote any hatred or infuse a situation and make it worse.

"We need people to know and understand what is going on in Palestine from a humanitarian perspective or from any perspective you look at it," she said.

"The one thing that people need to not forget is that this is not about hate. It is not about spreading hate. We are not trying to hate a race, a culture, a religion, nothing."

Israeli Apartheid Week is taking place at some campuses from March 1 to March 7 and other campuses from March 4 to March 11.

SATURDAYS on CKDU 88.1 FM

8AM: Saturday Morning Musical Box (classical)

10AM: Touchstone (folk)

12PM: Maple Mothership (all-Can hip hop)

2PM: Album Appreciation Hour (eclectic)

4:30PM: Hellenic Voice (Greek news & music)

6PM: Back in the Cut (funk)

8PM: Island Switch (Caribbean)

10PM: Dawn of Tomorrow (Psychedelic)

SUNDAYS on CKDU 88.1 FM

8AM: Aletr Radio (talk)

9AM: Deconstructing Dinner (food issues)

10AM: Groundwire (news)

10:30AM: Radio Payam (Farsi news & talk)

12PM: Arabic Voice

2PM: Inner Connections (spiritual talk)

3:30PM: Voice of Eritrea

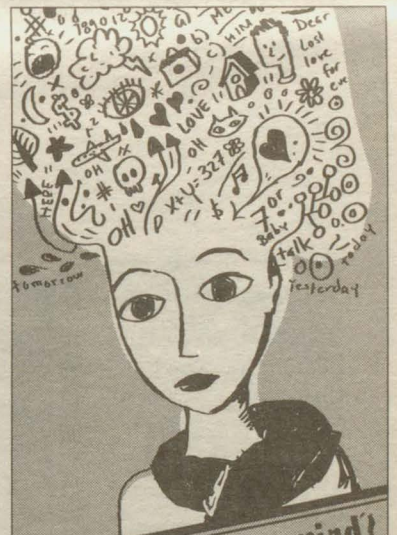
5PM: Smooth Grooves (hip hop)

7:30PM: Groove Manoeuvres (funk)

9PM: Share the Air (local live music)

10:30PM: Live Fast, Die Old (punk)

Check out Dalhousie Student Union election coverage at news.ckdu.ca

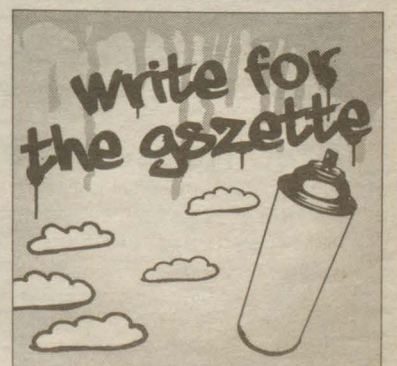


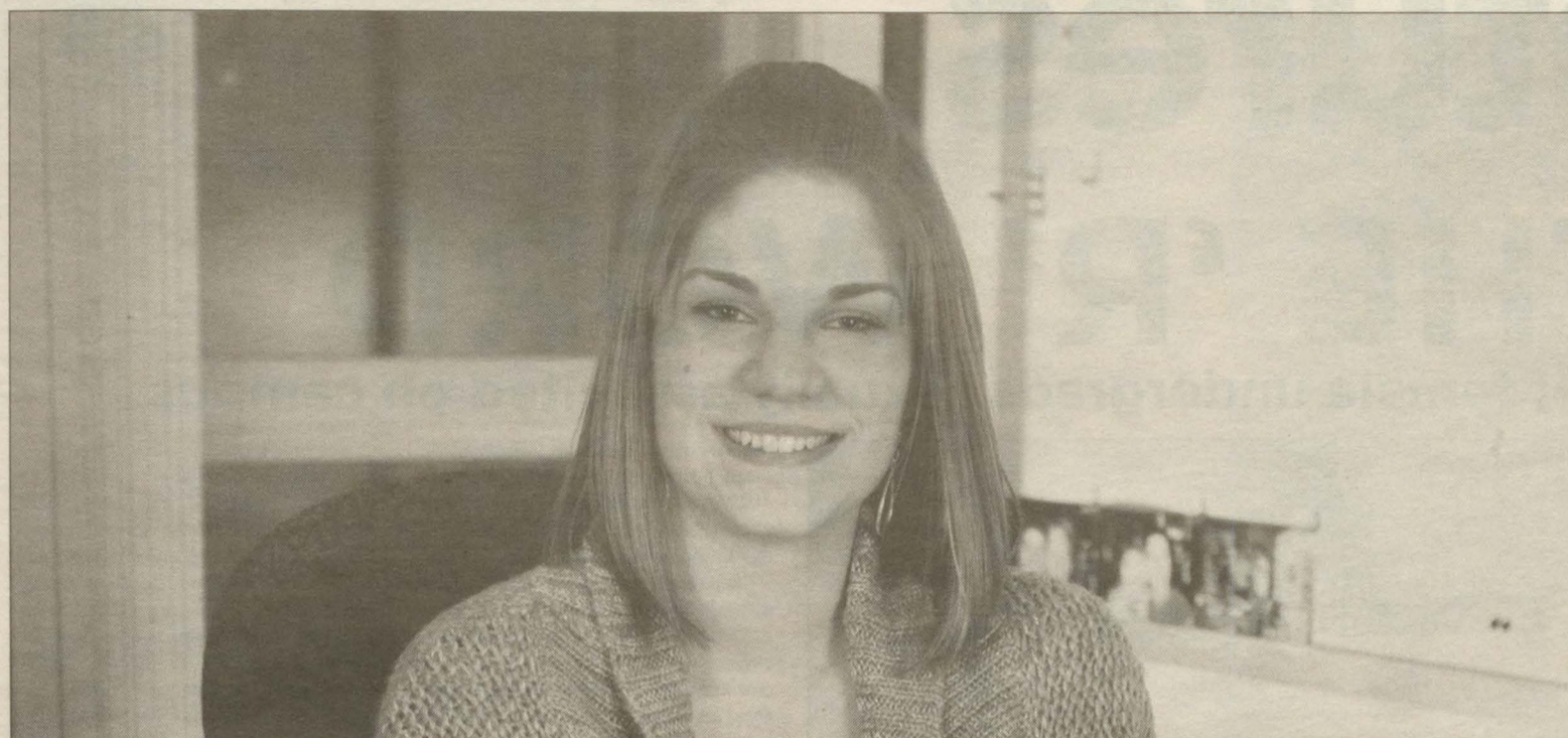
Got alot on your mind?

WRITE!

And become a contributor for the Dalhousie Gazette

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





Dubois just moved in to her office this week. She'll be there until Nov. 1 of next year. | Photo by Jared Dalziel and Aleasha Carr

Elections through her eyes

Chief Returning Officer Anne-Marie Dubois talks about student voter turnout, the DSU, and the challenges of putting on an election while taking a full course load

Laura Parlee
Assistant News Editor

It's a late start this year for the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections. That's because the union had a hard time finding a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to head the elections. But now that Anne-Marie Dubois claims the title, she says she's excited – despite the job's challenges.

"There really hasn't been much support, that's been the biggest challenge: just getting set up and ready to go," she says. "There's really been no transition for me. From what I've gathered, this isn't one of the most desirable positions in the DSU. There's usually a lack of people wanting to do it." The CRO is in charge of every-

thing from advertising the election to moderating candidate debates. Dubois, along with an elections committee, will be in charge of making the election run as smoothly as possible.

The DSU is supposed to hire and ratify the CRO at the beginning of November, but the original candidate dropped out at the end of last semester. Dubois went through the hiring process just after the winter break, but wasn't ratified until late January. Because of the delay, she's scrambling to get the election under control. Election dates have been pushed back about four days from previous years. The election now runs from March 22 to March 24.

"(The delay is) mostly in part to the fact that I was elected so late," says Dubois. "I tried to make it as quick as hu-

manly possible. If I were to have started the position in November like the constitution stipulates, I would have aimed to have them done by (last) week."

Dubois is also working around the schedules of existing council members. Both DSU president Shannon Zimmerman and VP (education) Rob LeForte are out of town participating in student conferences representing the DSU.

"Shannon is really fundamental in being there for the presidential debate," says Dubois. "I thought that if the existing council wants a chance to re-run, they should be given that chance. I don't think they should be victimized due to their job. This is a conference that's related to the DSU that's effective for students that they have to go to. Why should I penalize them and hold an election while they're gone?" She says the biggest problem with a later election will be a shorter transition period between the current and future council members.

"It's a shame I couldn't start earlier so there would be a longer transition program," she says. "Now there's going to be a short transition period between the old executive and the new executive." But some candidates aren't worried. "We are only losing four days of what could be considered transition," says Chris Saulnier, member at large for council and a candidate for president. "While every second someone can spend getting ready for an executive position is valuable, I don't think that these four days will have a noticeable negative effect on the new council," Saulnier says the DSU executive and Executive Review Committee have been working on a new leadership development process that will make turnover even smoother.

Presidential candidate Neil Bailey agrees. "The shorter transition period is not of great concern to me," he says. "Obviously, a longer transition would be easier, but by no means should a short transition period handicap us. I hope that it helps light a fire underneath us and pulls the team together."

Zimmerman says despite the delay, the council is ensuring that transition won't be cut short. "It actually won't affect transition between the executive at all," she says. "We do a scheduled 14-day transition at the end of April beginning of May and the same thing will happen regardless of when the election happened. Due to exams and papers, everyone is pretty busy in April, so that's why we schedule a guaranteed 14-days for the incoming and outgoing to shadow and discuss."

Dubois is incorporating more events in this year's campaigning schedule to give students a chance to meet and assess the candidates, including a campaign kick-off at the Sexton Campus T-Room, and a free 'election breakfast' at the SUB. "I'm all about trying new things," she says. "I have a million and a half ideas for next year. How are we going to reach out to the Dal population if we don't try anything? Obviously what we've been doing for the last three or four years hasn't been working. There was only a 15.9 per cent voter turnout rate last year. I want more."

Even with the tight schedule, Dubois says her main goal is to increase voter turnout. "This is the first time in years we've had such a diversity of candidates," she says. "The DSU is not just arts students. The DSU is all Dal students whether they (are) engineering, business, planning, masters of political science – they're all students. Hopefully, since we have such a diversity of candidates, we'll have different groups voting."

"This (is) your DSU, your voice," says Dubois. "Make your voice heard. We pay fees to the DSU to represent us not only on campus, but (also) on a national and provincial scale. We want the right people there to speak for us. I don't know about you but I want tuition rates to go down. I want my DSU to do that. I want a 24-hour study space. I want a new website. I want this. I want that. Students need to put that in a vote and influence that."

Candidates for the 2010 DSU election

President:
Neil Bailey
Gregory Debogorski
Imad Mekhail
Chris Saulnier

Vice President (internal):
Glenn Blake
Tim Hiltz
Kayla Kurin
Henry Whitfield

Vice President (education):
Karl Dempsey
Rob LeForte
Evan Price

Vice President (student life):
Hannah Dahn

Undergraduate Senate Representative:
Christian Browne
Maggie Lovett
Carly Nicholson
Ben Wedge

Campaign period schedule March 11 - March 21

March 11
8 a.m. Campaign starts
3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kickoff party/meet and greet (T-Room, Sexton Campus)

March 13
7 p.m. Student appreciation night (Grawood, Student Union Building)

March 15
8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Election breakfast (Student Union Building lobby)

March 16
12 p.m. All-candidates debate (Student Union Building lobby)

March 17
12 p.m. All-candidates debate (Carlton Campus, TBA)

March 18
12 p.m. All candidates debate (Sexton Campus, Alumni Lounge)

March 19
3 p.m. Presidential debate (Grawood, Student Union Building)

March 20
7 p.m. Residence charity hockey game (Dalhousie Memorial Arena)

March 21
8 p.m. Campaigning ends

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THE 'R' WORD

Majority of female undergrads sexually assaulted on campus

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

Katie didn't know how she got there, or how to get out. She knew she was standing in the bathroom of a Dalhousie University residence and she knew what building. A male student led her there. He was someone she met at the Grawood that night in 2007, while she waited for a friend. He seemed friendly enough at the time, she remembered.

They sat in the bar together, talking and drinking. She had met him downtown on another night, but tonight she felt a connection. They talked about school and family. He introduced her to his friends. He bought her drinks, and challenged her to drink up or else he would make her buy the next round.

Then he invited her back to his room. He wanted to order food, he said. She declined. He persisted so she gave in.

"OK," she said. "We can order food. But I'm not going to bang you."

She thought she made herself clear. He laughed when she said it. She told him again as they left the bar. She told him again and again as he took her hand and led her across the campus, through the doors of his building, down many hallways and up staircases.

She began to panic. She suddenly realized that she had been drinking, she was with someone she didn't know and she didn't know how to leave. Her first thought was to call a friend back home in Ontario. Her friend told her to leave if she didn't trust the guy.

"It's not that easy," she explained. "I don't know where the exit is."

Then he walked in the washroom. He asked her if she was OK. Yes, she was OK, she replied. So he brought her to his room.

"Then it happened," she said. "He didn't even turn the lights on."

She won't exactly say what happened that night, during her first year at Dal. She calls it the "R" word because saying it makes her cringe. She knows she was raped. To her, that's clear.

But to Dal, it wasn't. To Dal it was a "miscommunication" between two people. Katie formally filed her case to the Harassment Prevention Centre. They conducted an intensive investigation that took months.

"Men and women need to learn to communicate better because this was a miscommunication," she said, reciting the report from memory.

The university's definitions of "rape" and "consent" are not straightforward in its Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. It defines sexual assault as "non-consensual kissing, fondling, grabbing, and oral, anal or vaginal penetration." But how Dal specifically addresses rape isn't defined in the policy.

"There are two sides to every story, and both sides are pretty compelling, and there are no witnesses," says Gaye Wishart, harassment prevention advisor. "It's a very difficult thing to try to investigate."

Universities are environments where people are more vulnerable to sexual assault because of the age bracket. Four out of five fe-



About 44 per cent of people who are sexually assaulted are between the ages of 15 and 24. | Photo by Abrahm Gutscher

male undergraduate students are sexually or violently assaulted according to a 1993 study by Walter DeKeseredy and Katharine Kelly.

But the issue goes beyond university campuses. Nearly 44 per cent of people who are sexually assaulted are between the ages of 15 to 24, according to a report by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. According to the report, Nova Scotia has the highest rate of sexual assault in Canada.

university level.

Friedman has visited nearly a dozen universities in the U.S. and made her first stop in Canada at Dal earlier this month. Her personal goal is to educate university students about sexual consent and rape. She said she hasn't seen change in the system since she graduated nearly 18 years ago.

"Schools routinely handle these cases in the worst way possible," she said. "The schools handle them as though all

"Then it happened. He didn't even turn the lights on."

Spelling out the 'R' word

Sexual assault is a subject Jadlyn Friedman addresses on a daily basis. She's the author of *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Power* and *A World Without Rape*. One of the essays in her book addresses "rape culture."

It's a term that describes common social attitudes toward women. In a blog post, Friedman used the example of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's sexual assault accusation. She said the woman he sexually assaulted was victimised when people didn't believe her story.

"Rape culture" is an extension of the traditional perception of rape, she said. "When we think about rape, as a culture ... we think about a stranger jumping out of the bushes, right? A monster waiting in the darkness for an innocent woman who's walking along to choir rehearsal."

However, in 65 per cent of reported sexual assault cases, the person who was sexually assaulted knew her or his attacker, according to a report by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. These numbers are apparent at the

they want to do is make them go away at all costs, and most of the time that means not taking the victim seriously."

During Friedman's undergraduate degree, a fellow student sexually assaulted her. She had been drinking at a party and wasn't in a position to consent.

In Katie's case, she didn't fight back or scream.

"I guess he took that to mean I was consenting," she said. "I didn't know how to say, 'I'm uncomfortable with this.'"

But simply agreeing to sex isn't the same as consenting, said Friedman. It's still sexual assault.

"Women are taught to fear rape from a young age," she said. "So a lot of women, when they are being assaulted, they freeze up or they're afraid. ... A lot of women are taught that the best thing to do is to not say anything and get it over with and that's the safest way to survive."

Liz McCormack, co-ordinator of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, said that skews the meaning of rape.

"Rape is so political," she said. "It

has so many meanings. That's what I mean by political. It's a contested word."

Though we're afraid to talk about it, McCormack said it's crucial when addressing the all-encompassing term "sexual assault."

"Rape is the pinnacle of sexual violence," she said. "So obviously, if we could tackle the most difficult, most taboo form of sexual violence that women can experience, then obviously we'd be more comfortable talking about sexual harassment or sexual touching."

Negotiating sexual assault

When someone reports sexual assault to Dalhousie's Harassment Prevention Centre, the university can address it in three ways: formally, informally or through a mediation process.

In the formal process, the accuser files a written statement detailing the incident and the accused's name. The university sends the complaint to the accused, who also has a designated investigator. Once the university decides how serious the offence was, the accused could face punishment.

When a case is informally addressed, the accuser seeks advice from the Harassment Prevention Centre.

The mediation process is similar to the formal process, but the goal is for both people to negotiate a solution with a mediator's help.

"The cases are complicated," Wishart said. "That's another reason why it's important to be more proactive with respect to educating students so these kinds of situations don't happen."

Because sexual harassment is a crime, Wishart said the centre sometimes encourages students to contact the police. But she said not all students who walk into the centre want to file a complaint. Sometimes people just don't want to be in the same class as someone who allegedly sexually assaulted them. The Harassment Prevention Centre works toward helping students in those grey-area situations.

With its "No Means No" campaign and active steps to educate students about sexual consent, McCormack said the university has taken great strides in recent years. Last fall, the Harassment Prevention Centre held training sessions for residence assistants and orientation leaders about consent and sexual assault.

Wishart said one of the biggest challenges is that few people report sexual assault. According to a report by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, only eight per cent of sexual assault cases in 2004 were reported to police.

"It's difficult to reach out to people because they haven't self-identified," Wishart said. "Are people getting the help that they need?"

What needs to happen

Last summer, Carleton University caused a stir among the student body after the university administration made comments about a pending sexual assault case.

A young woman was sexually assaulted in a laboratory nearly two years ago. In the statement of defence, Carleton said the woman "was not keeping a proper lookout for her own safety."

She didn't lock the laboratory door after her professor left.

To Friedman, the issue of sexual assault stems from a larger societal problem. Change needs to happen on a larger scale.

"What you do want to do is create a culture where no one accepts that behaviour," she said. "Where people don't look at that and think, 'Oh she probably just woke up and regretted it.' Or 'What was she thinking wearing that skirt?' They look at it and say, 'Hey, you didn't bother to find out if she was consenting or not.'"

McCormack said universities aren't fostering negative attitudes towards sexuality.

"Is this Dal's fault? No," said McCormack. "However, I think Dalhousie could be a wonderful advocate at the regional, provincial level in terms of speaking on behalf of students and what they experienced."

"We can reach a lot of people through the residence system," said Wishart. "But it is something that we still need to talk about on campus."

"It's a work in progress."

Katie said she has a clear idea about the definition of rape. She said it's the university's job to properly address sexual assault issues on campus, so that cases like hers aren't misunderstood.

"I think the education needs to happen," she said. "It was not a case that was grey by any means."

Disclaimer: The name of the woman who experienced sexual assault has been changed to protect her identity.

WHAT IS RAPE?

"Rape is when someone does not care whether there is or is not consent" - Jaclyn Friedman, writer

"If you drug them, it's rape. If you ply them with liquor, it's rape. If you pressure them into saying yes, when they really mean no, it's rape. If it's, 'Oh, well we've been going out for six months and I want some,' that's rape. If you're wife doesn't wanna have sex with you (in a certain way), and you force her, that's rape." - Liz McCormack, co-ordinator of the Dalhousie Women's Centre

"Rape, ladies and gentlemen, is not today what rape was. Rape, when I was learning these things, was the violation of a chaste woman, against her will, by some party not her spouse. Today it's simply, 'Let's don't go forward with this act.'" - Tennessee State Senator Doug Henry, February 2008

Opinions

Opinions

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



Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**
opinions@dalgazette.com

Women and children first

Harper does little to address real issues of gender equity, violence

Kaley Kennedy
Opinions Editor

Recently, the government has been doing plenty of posturing regarding gender equality, proposing changes to the national anthem and indicating that its plan to focus on maternal health in the upcoming G8 and G20 meetings that will be happening in Canada this year. Coming from a government that has repeatedly made moves to erode women's rights – be it cuts to Status of Women Canada offices across the country, eliminating the law challenges program (which was essential in many fights in the court for women's legal rights), and the erosion of pay equity amongst the civil service, forgive me for being a little skeptical.

"It is incumbent upon the leaders of the world's most developed economies to assist those in the most vulnerable positions," reads a press release from the Prime Minister's Office outlining Canada's goals for the upcoming G8 summit. In Harper's world, vulnerable economies need support, but vulnerable people don't.

Much has been said about the exclusion of birth control and abortion from the definition of maternal and child health that both Harper and Minister Bev Oda are using.

"This is the last place to start playing politics here and ideology here," Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff told the House after concerns that maternal health wouldn't include abortion or contraceptives. "Women are entitled to the full gamut of reproductive health services and that includes termination of pregnancy and contraception."

The ability of women to exercise control of their reproductive function is not only a human right, but also is essential to any program that seeks to create healthier children and families. It is harder to feed five children than it is to feed two. But more than that, reproductive autonomy for women is a precondition for equality. When the ability of women to have children when, how, and under what conditions they want, their ability to exercise control and power in other sectors of society is eroded.

But regardless of whether or not Harper's concern for mothers and children abroad comes with a side of moral indignation, what is Harper doing to help the women in his own backyard?

Without even addressing the most obvious issues – no national childcare program in Canada, the wage gap, painfully low rates of women eligible for employment insurance, and little to no support for aboriginal women and children – the government is terrorizing some of the most vulnerable women and children in our society: undocumented workers and women without status

living in the women's shelter system.

According to No One is Illegal, a migrant rights organization active in several cities including Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, Canada Border Services Agency entered a women's shelter on Feb. 27, looking for a woman living without status in Toronto. The woman, whose name has not been released, is a single mother who fled violence in Ghana.

"We have heard of the CBSA waiting outside of shelters, looking to apprehend women without status, but I have never heard of officers actually walking into a shelter to look for women," said Eileen Morrow, co-ordinator of the Ontario Association for Interval and Transition Homes, the largest shelter association in Canada said in a press release earlier this month. "This is an unprecedented attack on women in our communities and we demand it end immediately!"

In fall 2008, women's organizations in Toronto launched the Shelter Sanctuary Status campaign to combat a growing problem with the treatment of women and children in vulnerable situations by CBSA.

Rape and trauma crisis centres, women's shelters and group counselling service centres are there to provide services to survivors of rape and domestic abuse, to help women and their children recover from domestic violence, to provide support so that women are able to take care of themselves and their families. To condone CBSA's attack on these safe spaces is to risk the safety of the women in need of these services, but it also perpetuates a situation in which women are too afraid to come forward and get the support they need after they have been assaulted.

CBSA has come under criticism from several different organizations in Ontario for their tactics to detain people living without status. Some of their tactics have included waiting outside of shelters for women to leave and apprehending them, waiting for parents who are picking up their children from school, and waiting for students without status outside of their exam rooms.

This April, when Bev Oda and her counterparts from the seven other G8 nations roll into town with a lot of talk about their concerns with mothers and children, don't be fooled. We can keep talking about the "mothers and children" of some distant far off place, or we can demand that our government stop its attacks on women and children.

Kaley Kennedy is part of a coalition of people and organizations that are organizing resistance to the G8 Development Ministers meeting in Halifax. For more information on No One Is Illegal Halifax, contact jane@nspirg.org.



Why do people hit the bottle when they know they shouldn't drink? | Photo by Pau Balite

The Healthy Student Love the way we drink

Rachel Sunter
Health Columnist

It's a disease. It's a medical condition. It runs in the family. It's a sporadic yet predictable expression of adolescent freedom. It's a bad habit, a crutch, a relief and a vice. You choose it, you ignore it, you're hoping to grow out of it, and it just might kill you if you don't.

Alcoholism is an ambiguous term these days. Google it, ask your friends, your doctors, and you'll find an array of answers as colourful as the Friday-night crowd at Reflections.

I'd say it's safe to say I know a lot of borderline alcoholics. They're not particularly scruffy, jobless, uneducated or homeless. They don't drink all day every day, and don't seem to go to extreme lengths to get alcohol. They're students.

Attempting to scare students into sobriety is not my prerogative. That would be ineffective, cliché and shamelessly hypocritical. Employing medical

"The scariest part of the alcohol reality check is that though we know it's bad, we keep drinking anyway."

facts and statistics to scare us students out of our drinking habits discredits our status as intelligent and aware beings.

Nevertheless, I will summarize some major concerns with alcohol-abuse. Definitions of standard drinks, alcoholism and alcohol-abuse vary by community, country, religion and individual experts.

In Canada, various health organizations cap men and women between seven and nine drinks per week in order to remain low-risk for alcohol-related problems. If you're drinking more than

this, you're at risk for damaging your digestive tract, your liver and your pancreas.

You're also skyrocketing your chances of getting all kinds of different cancers. Melanoma, lung cancer, breast cancer and especially oral cancers are but some of those made more likely by alcohol abuse. According to a 2006 study in the *International Journal of Cancer*, 3.5 per cent of worldwide cancer cases can be attributed to drinking too much alcohol.

These numbers are scary; it's true.

I don't want cancer. I would like to be old and active and happy. But the scariest part of the alcohol reality-check is that though we know it's bad, we keep drinking anyways. It's clearly not a lack of knowledge that keeps the Halifax bar scene alive, just like photographs of rotten teeth don't dissuade smokers from reaching inside the pack.

I think if students are going to change their drinking habits, they are going to have to act together. As admirable as it may be to drink milk and watch a movie

many students binge-drink. There's alienation and loneliness: coming to a new school, or a new city, and lacking the comfort and reassurance of childhood friends and the unconditional love and support from family. There are new and oftentimes stressful responsibilities. There's academic stress in a new environment where teachers don't call your parents and don't chase you down, where you have complete responsibility to pick the right courses and stay on top of it all, or drop out. Whether you're buying your own groceries, dealing with landlords and/or luck-of-the-draw roommates, taking out your first loans, and working part-time to balance the books, financial stress is inevitable.

For the first time, when we're sick we're making (a.k.a. microwaving) our own soup, trying to decide if it's a headache or a fever, and tucking ourselves into bed.

With new responsibilities, choices, mistakes, stresses and social disconnect to boot, is it any wonder the student population is prone to high levels of social drinking? If socially fruitless, a drunken night out offers an instant escape to simulated connections and warmth. While drunk tunnel-vision impairs driving, awareness and general decision-making, it can also neatly wash over negative feelings that are not being soberly addressed.

These factors help to explain an alcoholic student population, but they certainly do not validate it – especially not in the face of causing bodily damage, making dangerous decisions and gambling with cancer.

If anyone wants to change this generation's drinking problem, I think it's going to be important to pay less attention to the reasons we 'shouldn't' drink, and start looking at the big old keg of reasons we do.

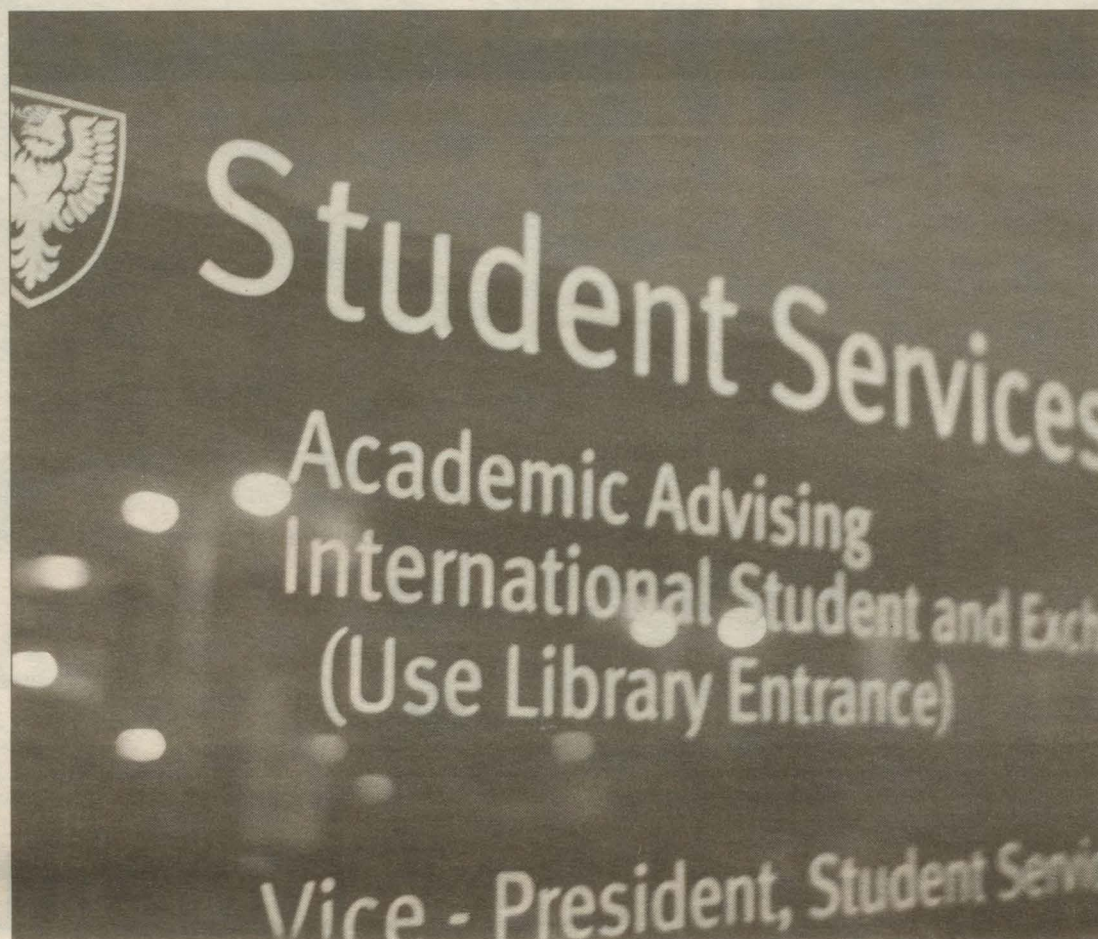
alone while your friends hit the bar, the prospect doesn't attract many followers.

In addiction treatment programs for drugs, gambling and eating disorders, a critical part of making change involves not only looking at the costs and downsides of the problem, but also acknowledging the benefits – the reasons intelligent, capable people choose to cause harm in their lives.

While such a topic is worthy of a greater discussion, in brief, I believe there are some obvious yet unaddressed reasons

Opinions

Frosh Guide



Getting advice on what classes to take will save you stress in the long run. | Photo by Pau Balite

Registering right

Katie Ingram
Opinions Columnist

Reading break is over and classes have resumed. You're all rested and ready to conquer that new essay, lab report or midterm, but wait – you have to choose courses for next year starting March 23.

A few years ago, Dal moved registration from early summer to March.

While it may be a good idea to get courses chosen early so that you don't have to worry about it over summer holidays, the school picked a time when end of term assignments due dates are looming. You may feel that since you chose classes last year, this year it might be easier. You might be wrong; for many students, regardless of what year they're in, choosing classes can be stressful and time consuming. Don't worry, here are five things to keep in mind when registering that will hopefully make the process go smoothly.

1. Timetable management

Starting March 8, the timetable will be up for viewing. Don't wait too long after this date to glance through the offered courses. Give yourself at least a week. This will give you time to look over possible courses well before it's time to register. Even if you don't like history or biology, there might be a random course that you find interest-

ing and have the prerequisites to take.

2. Remember requirements

Over the next year, usually students declare their major. You still have time to decide, so don't worry about hurrying to declare. Regardless, you should have some idea about what faculty interests you. If you are interested in English be sure to look at the requirements for whatever kind of degree you are looking at (15-credit, 20-credit, double major, major with minor, or honours). If you're unsure of your academic path, try taking a few courses that would count as requirements anyway and see if you like it.

Also, you should pay attention to the general requirements of your degree. If you haven't completed your language or writing credit, try taking one or more of those courses, so you aren't scrambling to meet requirements in your final year. You should also make note that you can only take a certain amount of first-year courses, so be aware of how many you are taking next year.

3. Balance your schedule

Don't make second year any harder than it has to be. Try balancing out some of your harder courses with ones that you find easier or have a lighter workload. If you have an interest in music, take a course you might find fun and relaxing such as Guitar: History and Techniques (for non-music majors)

or the Rock and Roll Era and Beyond.

4. Backups

If you wanted take Astronomy: The Evolving Universe as your science credit, but the class is full, make sure you have a backup course. Most students tend to get into their preferred classes, but sometimes they aren't so lucky. Make sure you have one backup for every course you're taking. That way you won't waste time during registration.

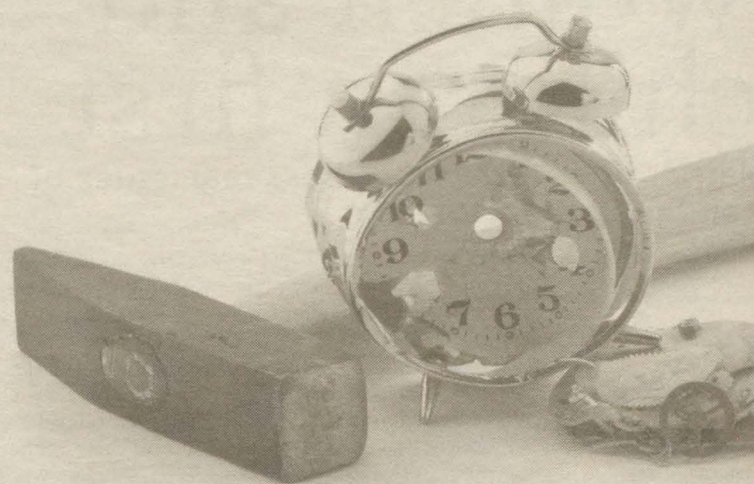
5. Advice is key

If after looking at the schedule, you are still worried about what you have chosen, speak to an advisor. There are two types of advisors you can visit. If you are worried about the requirements for a certain degree, you should visit the departmental undergraduate advisor. Go the specific department's website, click on the page that lists their faculty and the advisor should be listed there. If you need general advice, you should make an appointment with the Academic Advising Centre located in the Killam Library. They will help you figure out what courses you still need to take, and can give you suggestions.

Keep these tips in mind and you'll be ready to roll right into second year.

For more information and contact information for the Advising Centre visit: <http://bit.ly/cfflWL>.

Textbook: Still required.
Alarm clock: Not so much.



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Women and climate change

The gendered repercussions of the environmental crisis

Zaren White
The Muse

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. (CUP) — Knowledge of climate change's irrevocable damage is becoming more common and widely shared. In spite of this, many of us are still stuck perceiving climate change as a purely environmental issue, distancing ourselves from the fact that we are completely dependent on the environment.

Just like any other species, our survival is jeopardized by environmental degradation.

It's time to see climate change as what it essentially is, to us — a human issue. More than that, it is a human rights issue.

As the damage and depletion of the planet accelerates dangerously, the distinctly gendered repercussions of climate change are coming to the fore.

Beyond the impact on all human

beings, climate change is distinctly linked to women's rights and gender justice, and is an urgent global issue that needs to be framed with attention to gender due to its exacerbation of pre-existing inequalities.

The Oxfam publication *Climate Change and Gender Justice* notes that, "Climate change is not happening in a vacuum. ... It is one trend interacting with many others," including economic liberalization, globalization, conflict, unpredictable government policies, and health risks.

Although climate change reflects great injustices for both women and men, posing an increased threat to those suffering from poverty in developing nations — those who have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions — 70 per cent of the 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty around the world are female, according to Oxfam.

As a social development issue, climate change is pertinent to women's equality. The minimal feminist and gender-focused study and input on issues and policies related to climate change to date has resulted in the omission of gender issues from the overarching discourse developed globally, such as the fact that 1992's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change does not mention gender, with gender perspectives having been omitted from its analysis.

Our collective interaction with the environment affects every aspect of our existence as humans, so it's crucial to explore how gender equality will be factored into the discussion as we move forward.

The current climate crisis reflects issues of women's disadvantage, such as access to resources and domestic responsibilities, and underscores the need for the inclusion of gender-based viewpoints

in environmental policy development.

We're endangering our very survival by failing to curb limitless economic development, industrial expansion, insatiable use of resources and the effects of global warming.

This estrangement from nature that allows humans to feel impervious is especially true of those of us who are far removed, in terms of geography and wealth, from the immediate consequences of global warming.

As a privileged Canadian, I do not and will not experience the repercussions of climate change as intensely as a poor farmer in Asia whose crops are ruined by drought or flood, or a woman whose household workload increases due to prolonged searches for increasingly-scarce water.

All human beings will become threatened, but it is poor nations in which livelihood is more immediately

dependent on farming, reliable rainfall and nature's resources where people are more vulnerable to the detrimental changes induced by global warming. Women, being the world's primary farmers according to the 2009 report by the United Nations Population Fund, are in turn particularly vulnerable.

Climate change, poverty and gender are interconnected. With climate change aggravating existing inequalities such as gender, many social scientists, scholars and women's rights advocates have reached a consensus: climate change must be understood as a human rights and social development issue first and foremost.

Moving forward as a society, issues of gender equality should be prioritized in the development of strategies and policies to adapt to climate change as a global community.

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TICK-TOCK!

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Gazette writers win awards!

Four of our staff writers and editors recently won Johnnies – annual awards for outstanding journalistic work in a Canadian University Press publication! The winners are:



Tim Mitchell, Features Editor, 1st place for Diversity Reporting



Lucy Scholey, News Editor, 3rd place for Diversity Reporting



Bethany Horne, News Editor, 1st place for News Reporting



Holly Huntley, Staff Contributor, 2nd place for Solutions Oriented Reporting

Congratulations Tim, Lucy, Bethany and Holly!

Want to have your writing considered for a CUP award? Contributor meetings are at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays in room 312 of the Student Union Building. See you there!

20  10

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

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DEAR READERS:

There were slim pickings this week when it came to Overheards. So this week, listen closely for the funny things your peers and professors say. Feel free to submit Overheards to opinions@dalgazette.com.

IN PHIL 1000:

Prof: "So on Friday I was at the Palace around 3 a.m. ..."
 Prof: "And if it was one of you who asked me if I was okay or if you could call someone for me, I thought I was doing great! I was representin'!"

SECOND FLOOR OF THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING:

Girl 1: "You should start a kissing booth for Haiti."
 Girl 2: "I'll have to have my bi-weekly shower first."

KING'S QUAD:

Girl: "Oh my God, I wish I had facial hair. That would be so awesome."

GUY (ON THE PHONE):

"I love you too mom. No I wasn't trying to whisper it. No I wasn't. I LOVE YOU TOO! There, you happy? Good. K, love you too. Bye."

Views expressed in Overheard at Dal, are solely those of the contributing writers and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff.

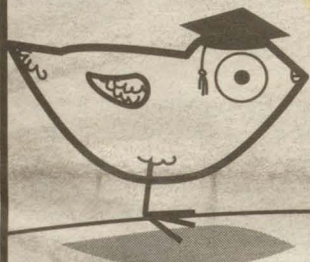
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Arts

Arts



Rich Aucoin brings electro-pop to the ECMAs. | Photo by Nicole Feriancek

The Gazette gets glamorous at the ECMAs

Delia Macpherson and Nicole Feriancek | Staff Contributors

Like as usual, we sprinted across the crosswalk on Robie Street, crossing our fingers that Jim's Shuttle hadn't driven to Sydney without us. We made it just in time, and were soon on our way to "One Big Kitchen Party", listening by force to terrible country music from the back seat of the stuffy van.

We made last minute phone calls to hotels, desperately seeking a room for the weekend, but settled for a friend's living room floor at Cape Breton University.

We dropped our stuff off, re-applied our deodorant and packed the camera bag.

The cabby on our way in to Sydney from the university gave us a detailed tour, including descriptions of each of the Chinese food restaurants. We pass Huang's on our left.

"Oh Jesus, stay away from that one, girls," he says with a serious look on his face.

We arrived at the Delta Sydney, which we soon discovered was the hub of the East Coast Music Awards. After dealing with dazed receptionists and grumbling stomachs, we picked up our official media press passes.

Dinner was served at Governor's Pub – picture deep red walls, dark cherry stained wooden tables, bubbly waitresses, live music and two members of In Flight Safety sitting at the table beside us.

Delia: "Should we interview them?" Nicole: "But they're eating. We don't want to disturb them."

We were clearly both too nervous, but refused to admit it.

Biting winds, slippery streets and an unknown city greeted us as we left the pub.

"Do you guys know where Smooth Herman's is?" Nicole yelled across the street to

two not-so-sober boys heading for Subway. At Herman's, which reminded us of the Dome, we heard three bands: The Sidewalks, Carleton Stone Drives the Big Wheel and The Easy Bleeders. Unimpressed by the venue and the talent, we left.

Our adrenaline pumping, we ran – Delia in heels – back to the Delta, hoping for better luck. We made it just in time for Nova Scotian electro-pop artist Rich Aucoin. His uplifting sound and interactive performance left Nicole feeling the same as she had after hearing him before Christmas Break at King's College: overwhelmed and pumped up.

The room was large and half full. Round tables of eight left little room for a dance floor. The seats were filled with an older crowd that didn't jive with Aucoin's upbeat and energetic set.

Haunted Hearts, a four-piece swing/country/rock band from Charlottetown, P.E.I., were up next. With cowboy good

"Back to bed, or should we say floor."

looks and up-tempo melodies, they charmed their way into Delia's heart.

Back to bed, or should we say floor. Planned wake up: 8 a.m. In reality, we woke closer to noon. Subway for lunch: meatball marinara.

Nicole aimed for the Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion, home of the giant fiddle, to see the SOCAN Songwriter's Circle featuring, among others, Coco Love Alcorn and Gordie Sampson. Finding herself instead at a Saturday morning flea market, she soon realized she was a day early. We met at the Discovery Stage at Capri Cabaret – picture a dimly

lit, one-room bar with a relaxed atmosphere. It was the venue where the musicians hung out. The Discovery Stage featured a new artist every 40 minutes and we were able to catch Kick, The Subtitles, Roundelay and The Danks.

A guy wearing a red American Apparel hoodie and a black leather jacket sat down next to us and said, "What's up?" It turned out he was Ryan Stanley, lead guitarist from Halifax band The Grass. He recently returned from touring with Hey Rosetta! at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. The band has been playing together for four years but this was their first time playing at the ECMAs.

"It's such a great opportunity," Stanley said. "With the music industry, you just have to network. It's all about who you know. We played last night at the Sydney Curling Club. It was fucking packed." It was time to go. We ran to the Delta Hotel.

Somehow we slipped into the end of a private shareholders meeting, open only to record label owners, band managers and the like. After charging the video camera and helping ourselves to some leftover buffet food, we watched the last band. The Novaks were on stage, playing to an almost entirely empty room. The trio from Newfoundland sounded so good it was hard to believe they were live.

When Delia asked them how they felt playing to an empty room, lead guitarist and vocalist Mick Davis said, "We can lie around jerking ourselves off in our hotel room, or we can be on stage doing what we do best." Bands, bars and people flew by. Every possible minute was jammed with live music.

All in all the ECMA experience was extremely educational. We felt unbelievably privileged all weekend to be able to enjoy the quantity and depth of East Coast talent.

ECMA report card

Delia Macpherson and Nicole Feriancek | Staff Contributors

(*) = Comes with video coverage on www.dalgazette.com

Tim Chaisson and Morning Fold

Grade: A

This pop-rock band had catchy melodies and consisted of cute boys in plaid with great voices.

Mel Keith and The Strombachs

Grade: F

Female lead with a back-up band. Mediocre at best. If their sound were a food it would be cold lumpy oatmeal.

Rich Aucoin

Grade: A+*

An interactive music experience that created communal happiness. Random video clips and cartoons were part of the high-energy show. Aucoin mixed electronic beats on the spot, sang and got the crowd to join in on the chorus. Probably the best dance party we had ever experienced.

Haunted Hearts

Grade: A*

Charming, passionate and talented country-rock band. Sounded similar to Johnny Cash. Enthusiastic yet relaxed. The entire crowd was smiling and toe-tapping.

Kick

Grade: F

Acid washed jeans and excessive air gyrating wasn't enough to save this band from their lack of talent and charisma.

The Subtitles

Grade: A*

Four-piece rock band with electronic keyboard elements. A hot chick on the keys made this solid band stand out. Great melodies and vocals. No other way to say it: they're really, really good.

Roundelay

Grade: B

Good instrumentals and sound. Vocals needed work. Hilarious crowd interaction – they talked about pink dragons fighting robots. "What we lack in tunedness, we make up for in loud-edness."

The Danks

Grade: B

Typical rock band. Lead vocalist in black leather jacket. Slightly undecipherable lyrics. Solid guitars. Lazy attitude. Seemed talented, but their low energy made the performance forgettable.

Arts

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



Laura Dawe **Arts Editor**
arts@dalgazette.com

Erin Costello

Grade: A-

Singer-songwriter with incredible vocals and a huge range. Good keyboard, even better lyrics. The more than 200 people in the audience were silent, hanging on every word she sang.

Kevin Fox

Grade: B+

Solo cellist who writes and sings. Unexpected and original. Beautiful strings, steady voice and good lyrics. Entrancing.

Radio Radio

Grade: A

An insane Francophone trio that mixed synthesized beats with catchy electro-rap and boy-band choreography. Musically inspired by gypsies and inanimate objects such as deck shoes, La-Z-Boy chairs and Jacuzzi's. Weird and freaking awesome. Insightful lyrics such as: "Je mange les onion rings dans mon Jacuzzi."

Gypsophilia

Grade: A

Guitars, cello, violin, trumpet. A seven-piece band that was remarkable – not just for the quality of the original compositions, but also for the beautiful integration of so many instruments. They surpassed all our expectations with their great chemistry and emotional sound.

Alert the Medic

Grade: A

You don't need us to tell you this high profile band is talented, but the venue (Smooth Herman's) was absolutely awful. No melody broke through the overpowering crashing guitars and drunk yelling. Even a guest bagpiper was inaudible. The speakers were so loud that from a block away, it sounded like two giants having angry sex. However, an artist in the corner found it inspiring, and painted along to the music.

Three Sheet featuring Colin Grant

Grade: A*

Badass female vocals over rhythmic rap over freestyle beat boxing? Yes, please. Incredible. Unlike anything else at the ECMAs. Three Sheet plays regularly in Halifax and you may have seen singer Vanessa Furlong on our cover in the past. Do yourself a favour and go see them. Now.

English Words (formerly Smoothed in Hugs)

Grade: B*

Five-piece band from Charlottetown, P.E.I. Upbeat, fun, together and charismatic.

Wilco (the concert)

Chicago rockers bring Bahamas to warm up Halifax

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

The bearded masses and the flannelled masses, along with the both bearded and flannelled masses had their roots-rock wet dreams answered on March 3. On an unusually blustery Wednesday in Halifax, Chicago roots rock band Wilco came to Halifax in support of their seventh studio album. Although appearing only a year earlier with Neil Young, the desperate crowd of young and old Haligonians craved more from their previous short set in the city.

Wilco are a band known for playing in some of the more beautiful locations across the globe. Coming previously this year from shows at Toronto's elegant Massey Hall and Chicago's Vic Theatre, the boys in Wilco were certainly out of place in the Halifax Forum Multi-Purpose Room (later in the night, front-man Jeff Tweedy would comment "If I had a nickel for every Bingo Hall I've played in, I'd have five cents"). Large venues such as the Cunard Centre and the Halifax Metro Centre are bad enough to witness concerts in – but a full time Bingo Hall? Really?

Due to the popular nature of the band, the majority of ticket holders seemed to purchase their tickets on Wilco's ticketing website in fear of the concert selling out. However, the concert sold out only a week before the scheduled show. Those who ordered tickets at Will Call five months in advance were forced to wait in a line of more than 100 people in order to pick them up. Once we got past lax security, patrons were greeted to a decent stage set up in comparison to the Forum's famed Modest Mouse show – a concert with multiple power outages during the night.

After an extra 15-minute wait, Canada's own Bahamas took the stage. Although naming his album after his cherished pink Stratocaster, Bahamas performed with nothing more than a hollow body guitar and an accompanying drummer.

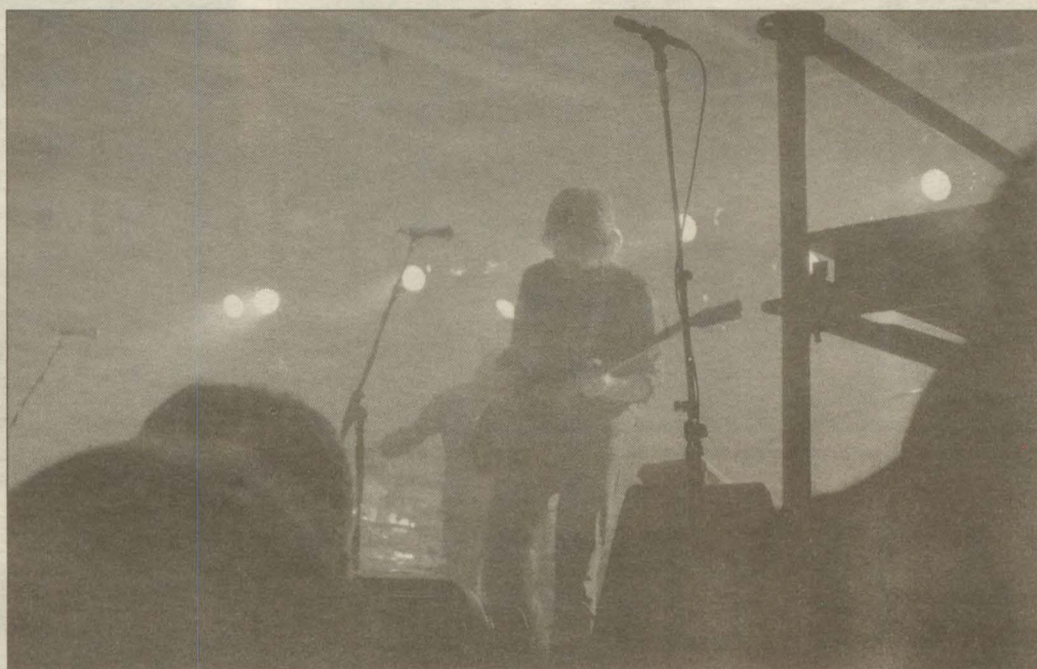
Where his recent album *Pink Strat*'s songs sounded light and fragile, his guitar roared through the majority of the album's tracks with heavy distortion. The accompanying drums added to the weight of the songs, making Bahamas a stand out opening act. His on-stage banter was funnier than your average musician's. At one point, when a member of the audience yelled "White Stripes" at the guitarist and drummer, Bahamas sarcastically replied, "Yes. The White Stripes are a band. We are not them."

He continued to make jokes at the teenagers in the middle of the pit commenting on them "getting too antsy" and "rowdy" as he played his smooth dancehall songs.

After a gracious "thank you" to the Halifax crowd, Bahamas left the stage to the screams of "Wilco!" from everyone in attendance.

As the lights dimmed and odd polka music began blaring from the speakers, the sextet that is Wilco hopped on stage and blasted into a spot-on rendition of their new single "Wilco (the song)".

Although Wilco are known to be a more serious band, following the release of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* and the anxiety-attack influenced *A Ghost is Born*, they are a band made up of 40-something-



Bahamas got smooth and sexy while Wilco offered a more ethereal feel. | Photos by Erica Eades

year-old fathers who know how to have a lot of fun. With breaks of Jeff Tweedy screaming "Wilco", a spotlight shone on each member of the band while a robotic voice announced their name. It was nice to see a rock band not take themselves too seriously, and it wouldn't be the last time this happened during the night.

The band followed it up with some hits from the entire Wilco catalogue. Second song "A Shot in the Arm" got the night off to a noisy start as lead guitarist Nels Cline pick scraped his guitar to make a wall of fuzz. The band followed it up with newer tracks such as "Bull Black Nova" and "You Are My Face", all with extended guitar solos.

One of the weirdest parts of the night came when the band performed the *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* hit "I am Trying to Break Your Heart". As front man Jeff Tweedy mimed the lyrics he was singing and waved at the crowd, almost the entire crowd sang "Goodbye" when the correct lyric was "Hello." Tweedy was obviously taken aback, and corrected the audience mid song, but it seemed a little odd that a few hundred people who spent more than \$40 a ticket would mess up such a popular song.

As it was the last Canadian concert of their tour, the band was in a silly mood and excited to head home. During a break in the set, the group thanked their entire road crew. Jeff Tweedy finished the band's thanks by getting the entire audience to sing "Happy Birthday" to their touring merch guy Andy. Tweedy dropped a cake into the audience along with forks and plates and got the entire crowd to pass it back to the merch table. Upon reaching the table, Tweedy remarked, "Wait, Andy isn't back there. Where's Andy?" The whole audience called his name, but with no reply Tweedy said, "Well now I'm worried, where's Andy?" The birthday surprise offered a comical break from the evening's music. Tweedy later claimed he had spotted Andy, but mistook a girl for him instead.

It also marked a weird turning point in the crowd. As the evening continued and the licensed section got boozier, one patron screamed, "Andy sucks!" Tweedy turned around immediately and ac-

costed the speaker for his rude comment toward the merch manager. The patron turned out to be a greying 50-something cowering in the corner. For the rest of the night there were even boozier jeers from that section of the crowd.

The crowd participation was amped up throughout the rest of the set with the inclusion of Being There classic "Misunderstood" and "Hate it Here." Tired of signing alone, Tweedy asked the crowd if they were ready for a sing-along. The band burst into a rendition of "Jesus Etc." and the crowd took over the vocals. Although it was a pitchy rendition, Tweedy beamed at the excited crowd.

Following a short break the band returned at 11:30 for an encore of old and new tracks such as "Late Greats," "Heavy Metal Drummer" and "Casino Queen."

The highlight of the night came with the band performing the rarely heard Mermaid Avenue track "Hoodoo Voodoo." One young member of the audience looked at his girlfriend and asked, "Hoodoo Voodoo?" She shook her head and shrugged in response. Most of the crowd responded the same way. The track went from unknown to memorable half way through when multi-instrumentalist Pat Sansone and Nels Cline battled in a three-minute guitar duel. The country-influenced Sansone, with his greying beard, played Flying Burrito Brothers-inspired riffs, while the jazz-trained Cline offered up avant-garde textures in response. Meeting across the stage, the two hammed it up by playing single-note guitar solos and pointing around the room, almost as if they were bouncing the notes against each other.

Ending with Meat Puppets-inspired "I'm a Wheel", the band left. They had played a marathon set that lasted more than two hours and covered an astounding 25 songs from their back catalogue.

Shitty acoustics aside, Wilco proved David Fricke's claim that they are "the greatest rock band in America." Offering humorous stage antics, classic song-writing and musical chops to back it all up, the virtuosos in Wilco had by far the best concert of the year.

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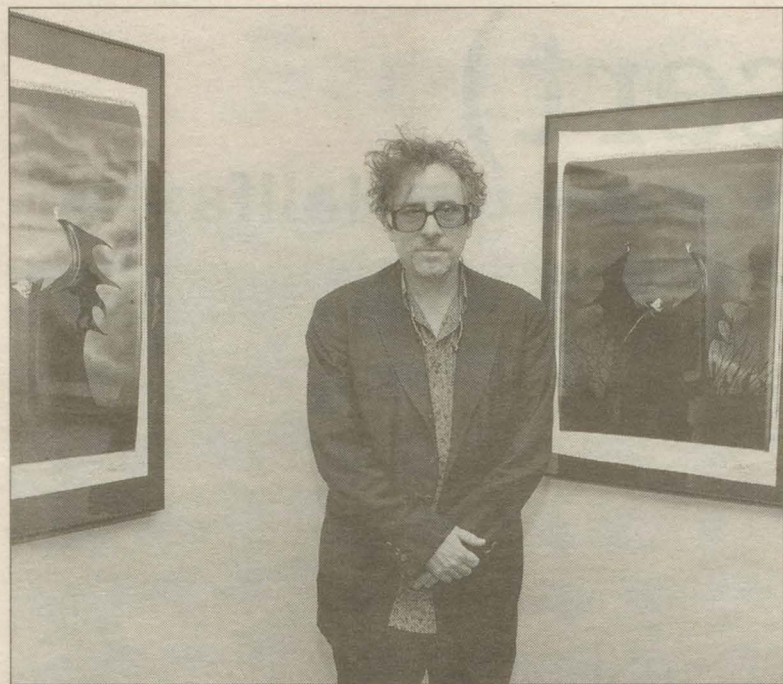
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Arts



Tim Burton is not surprisingly married to Helena Bonham Carter. Creepy. | Stock photo

All things Burton

Alice in Wonderland filmmaker lets his freak flag fly

Anna de Mello
Staff Contributor

Over the study break I spent six days in New York City. I have to say that one of the most fun experiences of this trip was seeing the Tim Burton exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. This was my first visit to the MoMa and one of my favourite museum visits so far.

The exhibition is being held from Nov. 22 last fall to April 26 this spring. Tim Burton has had quite a career in film, although, as evident from the new exhibit, his talents extend well beyond just one medium.

From a young age he was interested in painting, drawing and of course movies. His film credits include *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* (1985), *Beetlejuice* (1988), *Batman* (1989), *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), *Batman Returns* (1992), *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993), *Mars Attacks!* (1996) and *Big Fish* (2003), among many others.

I was familiar with his work and impressed by his creative ability before walking into the exhibition, but I walked out in absolute awe of his talent. Not only were there sketches, paintings, photographs, storyboards, costumes and puppets, there were also replicas of some of his most famous movie characters which appeared in the exhibit. His replica of Edward Scissorhands was one of the most striking.

There were over 700 pieces of art in total among the entire exhibit. People excitedly glanced around and seemed as though they didn't know what to admire first due to the plethora of pieces. There were a multitude of children as well as adults in every room, energetically stepping into Tim Burton's world. It was quite clear that everybody connected with his work in some way or another and it was

easy to understand why such an exhibit was essential in expressing his creativity.

Some of the most interesting work was his early sketches and storyboard ideas. These showed the immense amount of work that goes into producing ideas for film, and allowed the spectator to easily trace his thought process as well. These go back as early as his childhood and continue straight through to adulthood. Right from the beginning there are examples of the freakish, ghoulish, wondrous characters that make up Burton's films in his sketches. Characters with bulging or hollow eyes, stitched faces, alien-like protrusions and general freakishness seemed to whirl around before viewer's eyes and reach into the very corners of the imagination.

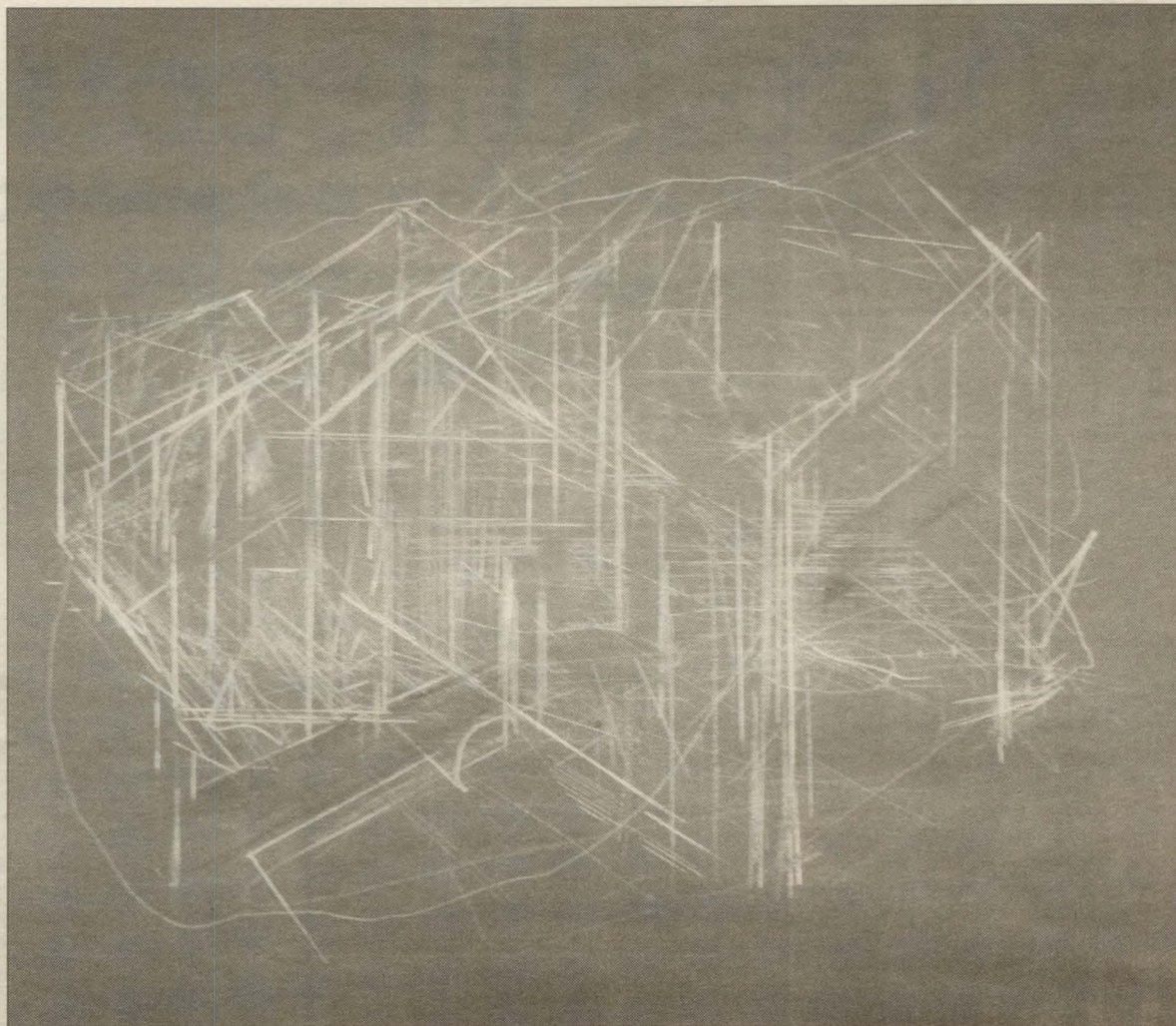
Children gathered in front of moving-image works and others howled in delight as they enjoyed Burton's Hansel and Gretel, a live-action short that was aired on the Disney Channel in the 1980s.

The exhibit unveils many of Burton's unrealized and relatively unknown projects. His photography, comprised mainly of Polaroids in this exhibit, shows quirky and creepy characters amidst strange and unique backdrops. Many photos are from Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*.

It was cool to realize that Burton stuck with his own creative taste throughout his career, and managed to attract such a large audience in the process. He searched for projects that suited his unique vision, and in doing so became successful because of the alienated subject matter.

If you happen to be in New York City before April 26, visit MoMa. You will not be disappointed.

The Museum of Modern Art's Tim Burton Exhibit run until April 26. Alice in Wonderland is now in theatres.



Martin's work explores the points where architecture and environment meet. | Photo supplied

Lily Martin's one night show

New north end venue focuses on the art, not the scene

Laura Dawe
Arts Editor

It's Feb. 16 and it's the opening night of Lily Martin's solo drawing show.

Tall, blond and smiling an enormously bright smile, the artist stands in the kitchen, accepting congratulations from proud attendees. When asked how she is, Martin takes a deep breath and says, "I'm kind of too happy."

She should be. The collection is beautiful, fully realized and engaged. There are 30 or so people, laughing and chatting as they wander the unconventional space. Martin brings them small glasses of mulled wine. Baker Jess Ross brings out fresh artisan bread and cherry molasses, adding to the incredible spread.

But as much as I want to, I can't recommend that you go look at Martin's show. Because it's gone. It was awesome, but it was a one-night-only show. Luckily, hosts Ben Gallagher and Zoe Nudell are organizing more shows and events, and they are open to the public.

Tonight's exhibition is 20 drawings that Martin has been working on for the past four months. All are untitled. She actually made 22 pieces, but opted to leave two off the walls because she says, "There have to be some secrets in a body of work."

Half of the drawings are on white paper, half on black. Each measures one and a half by two feet. In limited palettes of mostly natural colours, the work is quite a departure from Martin's highly detailed botanical drawings. The change in subject matter, and to some extent style, is Martin's first step into architecture – a field that deeply interests her. The drawings, comprised of sharp lines and soft ovals,

could be described as abstract. They address two linked ideas: "Land forms divided, and how architecture cuts the land."

A handwritten sign taped to the wall when you walk in says simply: "Art by Lily Martin." But if the show must have a proper title, Martin says it would be "The Causes and Conditions that Led to This Moment", which is one of those lovely names that refers not only to a finished product, but also to the process.

This slightly unorthodox exhibition could easily be considered part of the process and is exactly how Martin wanted to show her drawings. "Art openings always make everyone a little bit nervous," she says.

The apartment is getting almost as much talk as Martin's work. It's essentially a large white rectangle with an eight-foot wall that zigzags through, creating rooms but not touching the high ceilings. I overhear, in quick progression, these statements from fellow attendees: "I wish this were my apartment." "This is so un-Halifax."

"Art openings always make everyone a little bit nervous."

"The angular thing just works with the work so well."

"Work really stands out in this space," says Ben Gallagher, a poet who shares the apartment with artist Zoe Nudell. "There're so many walls."

The uncommon layout allows each piece of art to get the individual attention it deserves. Though it takes Gallagher and Nudell six to eight hours to

transform their home in to a gallery and back, they are happy to host their friends' endeavours. The amazing illustrator Sydney Smith had a one-night show here. Leslie Menagh and Zoe Nudell both have upcoming exhibitions, but it's better to think of the space "not as a formal gallery but as a mid way point," says Gallagher. "(It's) an opportunity for people to show their works to their friends and community without the formality of a gallery."

Nudell had been considering opening a separate art space for a while – something like the Clay Café, but for projects. But, she says, "I walked into this apartment and went 'Art!'" Running the endeavour from home is way easier than the responsibility of operating another space, and it gives the couple the opportunity to share their amazing apartment with others.

Visual art shows are not all the unnamed space will accommodate. Soon there will be poetry readings on Tuesdays called Poems by Candlelight. Four people will bring and read four poems by someone other than themselves, for a total of 16 poems.

"I think it's just really sweet of these people to be giving up their space for a night," says the grinning Martin.

She has let Gallagher and Nudell choose a drawing to keep, so maybe you will get an opportunity to see it at a future event.

"I'm happy to be leaving one here," says Martin. "It's like tagging a space or something."

Aziz Ansari

Intimate Moments for a Sensual Evening is an amazing film

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: B+

Who can deny the highly sexual and rich performances of comedian Aziz Ansari? Born in South Carolina to an Indian family, the young comedian has gained a lot of notoriety in a short amount of time through the comedy troupe Upright Citizens Brigade. Starring alongside comedians Rob Huebel and Paul Scheer in the cult MTV classic *Human Giant*, Ansari quickly branched off into movies and as character Tom Haverford in NBC's *Parks and Recreation*.

Ansari gained his largest following to date not by playing himself as a comedian, but by creating an alter ego. In the Judd Apatow film *Funny People*, Ansari adopts the moniker of RAAAAAAAAANDY (yes, it is spelled with eight As), an obnoxious and un-intelligent comedian that resembles a poor man's Dane Cook (who is pretty poor as it is). Upon shooting the film, RAAAAAAAAANDY performed a number of shows in and

around Hollywood – surpassing the comedic following of Aziz Ansari himself.

In the Comedy Central DVD *Aziz Ansari: Intimate Moments for a Sensual Evening*, he draws on both his alter ego RAAAAAAAAANDY as well as performing the majority of the stand-up as himself.

Ansari's comedy is pretty standard fare. It isn't entirely one of those "What's the deal with milk?" brand of observational humour popularized by Jerry Seinfeld, but it isn't too out there either. There is definitely some of that Mitch Hedberg odd ball/drug addled style of storytelling going on here, but where Aziz's comedy really shines is not in the style, but in the anecdotes he tells.

In most cases, when you hear a comedian tell a joke, it's pretty easy to tell they are embellishing some of the situations. When Louis C.K. makes a joke about how dumb his daughter is and calling her a "fucking bitch," you can be almost certain that he is over-exaggerating (if not, someone should call Child Protective Services). Ansari, on the other hand, tells his jokes in an entirely realistic sense. Some of the scenarios he gets in are even so ridicu-

lous they have to be true, such as witnessing Kanye West bobbing his head to his own song and saying "This beat is dope!"

RAAAAAAAAAANDY makes an appearance for 10 minutes near the end of the DVD and it is glorious. Ansari runs around the crowd making it rain on top of the front row with ghetto booty dancers, all while a fog machine strobes the stage. This becomes even more comical because Ansari is a five-foot-something Indian man with a soft beard. RAAAAAAAAANDY goes on to tell mostly jokes about getting his dick sucked, but where this segment really makes you laugh is the use of his on stage DJ/hype man. After one joke about getting his dick sucked on a roller coaster, he throws out "You must be this tall to ride RAAAAAAAAANDY." It's actually funnier than the original joke.

Overall, Ansari is a comedian with a unique storytelling ability that totally enraptures the audience. In the past, people used to label him a hipster's comic, but he is far from it. If you like outlandish stories about travelling to San Francisco on a whim with your best friend, this is the DVD for you.



Their name is obviously derived from their furry appearance. | Photo supplied

The Sheepdogs are Halifax's new best friends

Shaggy dead heads bring roots rock to the East Coast

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

Upon first glance, The Sheepdogs look like a bunch of intimidating, shaggy fleabags. In reality, they are just a litter of earnest young pups, eager to share their music with people across Canada.

The band played a show last week at The Seahorse Tavern. The four musicians agree that it is one of the coolest venues they have every played.

"It looked like a bar that pirates drink at," says drummer Sam Corbett, 25.

"It reminds us of some of the bars back home," adds lead vocalist Ewan Currie, 25. "Except without the sea shanty vibe."

The Sheepdogs hail all the way from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They say that growing up in a relatively small town has made them appreciate the kind of intimate atmosphere The Seahorse offers.

"Not to knock big cities like Toronto or Montreal, but it seems that Halifax audiences appreciate the music more," says bassist Ryan Gullen, 25. "Halifax is a good fit with us."

The band believes the quality of a venue is mostly based on the people who fill it. Apparently, The Seahorse was full of people who really like music; especially The Sheepdogs' music.

"Everyone is really nice here too," says guitarist Leot Hanson, 25. "People seem more eager to talk to you and strike up a conversation."

This was The Sheepdogs' second gig in Halifax, and they hope to return this summer for their third. The band is almost at the end of their cross-country tour, in which they have been trying to promote their third album, *Learn & Burn*.

Artists of the '60s and '70s predominantly influence the band's new album. This includes the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Humble Pie, Credence Clearwater Revival, the Allman Brothers Band, the Guess Who and Neil Young.

"Basically anything that sounds cool," says Currie, who loves anything that has a good groove with grit and soul.

The Sheepdogs also say they identify with several contemporary Canadian artists such as Sloan, Sam Roberts, Thrush Hermit and Matt Mays. But the

band makes sure to maintain their own unique style by refraining from being influenced by only one or two places. Otherwise they believe they might just end up mimicking other artists.

The album features a collection of hearty rock 'n' roll songs with howling guitars, organs and congas, as well as acoustic guitars reserved for those sentimental campfire harmonies.

"We're pretty proud of this new album," says the bristly Currie. "We're pushing it pretty hard."

Some of the highlights of The Sheepdogs' careers over the past four years include their opening acts for Matt Mays, the Arkells and Tricky Woo. They have also played at Juno Fest, the Western Canadian Music Awards and the Red Gorrilla Festival in Austin, Texas. They have already independently released two full-length albums: *Trying to Grow* and *The Sheepdogs' Big Stand*. In the fall of 2009, The Sheepdogs' Big Stand was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award for Independent Album of the Year, and the band was nominated for Artist of the Year on XM radio's The Verge.

None of this is to say that The Sheepdogs have not faced hardships along the way. They say that touring in Canada has been a huge challenge because of the physical distance between major cities. At times, being constantly on the road can become expensive and tiresome.

But The Sheepdogs also like to look on the bright side of things.

"It's nice to be able to see all the different landscapes," says Gullen.

They also love being able to travel around and meet new people. Ultimately, their main priority is to get their name out there and spread their music across the country.

"Our goal is always to get more people to hear our music and like our music," says Gullen. "Even if we can get one or five or 10 more people to really like our band, that would be great."

"It's cool to be able to do something and then have people clap," says Corbett.

"The best part of it all is being able to put effort into something and get recognition for the hard work you put in," says Gullen. "It's very comforting and rewarding."

Shutter Island

Surprise, surprise: Scorsese makes another amazing film

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

Grade: B+

There are three things that enticed me to go see *Shutter Island*: Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio and the movie's preview. The trailer is intriguing without giving too much of the plot away. I have seen it at least a dozen times in the past six months, and it has repeatedly sent shivers straight down my spine – especially that shot of the ghostly woman with the thinning hair and ice blue eyes who shushes at the camera. You know what I'm talking about.

Shutter Island is set in 1954, post-Second World War, and at the start of the Cold War, and the McCarthyism era when paranoia was at an all-time high. What's more is that this story is not only set during this anxious time period, but also on a secluded, Gothic island with only one way to leave.

The story follows two U.S. Marshals named Teddy (DiCaprio) and Chuck (Mark Ruffalo) who are assigned to investigate the disappearance of a patient from the island's treatment centre for the criminally insane. I can't say anymore than that, as it is important that anyone who chooses to see this film knows nothing more than the bare minimum of the story.

If that kind of plot doesn't excite an audience, it should simply be Scorsese's style. Although some of the choices of sets and sounds can be a bit kitschy and overdone at times, Scorsese does his job by giving you the chills in all the right places. The film is full of flashbacks and haunting dream sequences, some of which taking place at the concentration camp at Dachau. Ultimately, the audience faces an agonizing struggle in deciding what is reality and truth versus what is fantasy and delusion. At certain points the viewer is caught between wanting to believe one thing, despite all logic pointing to something entirely dif-

ferent. It's almost like you're a prisoner yourself, or a lab rat trapped in a maze.

The acting in *Shutter Island* is nothing less than top shelf. DiCaprio proves himself once again in this dark, gritty role. Ben Kingsley is superb as Dr. Cawley, the institution's psychologist. Michelle Williams, Patricia Clarkson and Emily Mortimer provide worthy supporting female roles – my only complaint is that Clarkson should have had more screen time.

As a general warning, this movie experience can be frustrating, but I say that as a somewhat of a compliment. The film does mess with your mind in its intentional inconsistent style of editing scenes. The pacing begins to slow down about two-thirds in to the 138-minute film, making you wonder if there will ever be a satisfying conclusion. In the end, Scorsese manages to put all of the puzzle pieces together without cheating his audience. It can be assured that the final destination is worth the trip on this long and winding road to *Shutter Island*.

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Sports

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



After a strong season, Dal fell short of the finals. | Photos by Pau Balite.

SSN broadcasts university sports from coast to coast

Online web-caster brings national exposure to CIS

Dylan Matthias
Staff Contributor

There is a new force in CIS, and this time, it's not a team. The Streaming Sports Network, a Canadian web-casting service, is now bringing CIS varsity games and tournaments to computer screens around the country. Now a Dalhousie student can watch their team play St. Francis Xavier on the road. Now an athlete's parents in Ottawa can follow their son or daughter in Nova Scotia. The network covers both women's and men's sports, and doesn't restrict itself to the big tickets: you can find football and volleyball side by side on SSN.

Anyone who has tried to find amateur sports on TV or online knows that it can be difficult and coverage is sporadic at best. SSN is changing that. "We want to be the place people come to watch games," says SSN producer John Bower in a phone interview.

Like any good Internet start-up, SSN didn't arrive with a bang. It began at the University of Ottawa by streaming hockey games, and then all UOttawa sports. A lucky break happened. Roger's cable was supposed to cover the women's CIS basketball championships, but couldn't do it. Bower was marketing director with OUA, and knew about the broadcasts at UOttawa.

On two days notice and without promotion, they got 250 viewers online for women's basketball. At the 2007-2008 CIS women's hockey tournament, SSN simulcast a feed from The Score. They added their own pre-game and studio material, though. Then they did the same thing the next year at St. Francis Xavier, although on a somewhat lower-scale due to travel expenses.

"The coaches, the parents who saw what was happening, they wanted it," says Bower.

The network contracts with a university's athletics department, charging a membership fee in exchange for cameras and streaming equipment, as well as permission to stream the games. The school then finds local journalists to provide play-by-play, analysis, and camera work. SSN also recruits some journalists as bloggers and broadcasters.

"We're trying to teach people who don't have experience in the field

how to do this kind of stuff, which is kind of fun, actually," says Bower, who is a former reporter himself.

"The people who follow university sports, we recruit them. ... What we would love to do eventually is to have a network of young reporters who ... can produce reports for us."

The arrangement works because streaming is so cheap – streaming costs, in Bower's estimation, about 1/10th of a TV broadcast. The only downside is that the licensing arrangement only allows home games to be streamed, meaning road trips to non-SSN schools are off-limits.

SSN began by covering mainly CIS national tournaments, along with a smattering of OUA games, mainly hockey.

The Dalhousie Gazette used SSN to watch the 2008 soccer championships from Carleton and Trinity Western. To do so, we had to download RealPlayer media player, and the quality made seeing individual player numbers – and even the ball – a bit difficult. There were rain delays and other technical problems, and no more than 1,000 viewers could watch any given game at one time.

"Sometimes there are delays," says Bower. "But people accept that they're not going to see it otherwise."

This year, SSN is contracted with 22 schools and covers games from Canada West, much of OUA, QSSF, and AUS, although the only two AUS schools affiliated with SSN are St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie.

Again, the Gazette used SSN to cover the 2009 soccer championships this fall. This time, we didn't have to download anything, because SSN has switched to Flash, a much more common player, which also gives them the ability to stream in HD.

"A couple of universities have HD capacity," says Bower. "UOttawa is all HD. But it depends on university regulations."

SSN is looking to expand to more schools as well, and they have "unlimited capacity" according to Bower. One of SSN's founding members, Bengt Nethery, works for ISI Global, who are partners with SSN. ISI does work for the government, and that gives SSN a lot of bandwidth. Amateur sports had an opportunity for more coverage when word emerged of an idea to create a Canadian Amateur Sports Network, which would

focus on CIS and Olympic amateur sports. According to Bower, CASN hasn't even been presented to the CRTC (who regulate Canadian broadcast licenses). It faces competition from the CBC, as well.

"We would try and work hand-in-hand with CASN (if it comes to be)," said Bower. "CIS is one of the backers of it and we are the official webcasters of CIS."

Official webcasters? Is SSN part of CIS? John Bower is a former OUA marketer. Bower also says that SSN monitors all its streams. Is this an independent broadcaster?

"We dealt with a lot of sensitive issues this year," says Bower. "My columnists hammered the CIS this year. There were times when I had to edit stuff out because it wasn't factually accurate. ... I'm well known within the CIS. ... The one thing people know about me is that I will be fair."

"We have editorial freedom."

SSN has progressed an amazing amount within a single year, from a glimpse at CIS to a reliable and consistent broadcaster. Bower envisions much, much more. He'd like to see more HD, allowing SSN webcasts to be streamed in campus bars and restaurants and also allowing SSN to put together highlight packages for TV news stations. Bower says advertisements (which already exist on www.ssnCanada.ca) are coming to the broadcasts. Bower says these will allow schools to raise money for broadcasts. But long-term, Bower says he'd like to see a situation where SSN pays the schools for broadcast rights. That would be a significant move for CIS, which right now has very little broadcast exposure outside SSN. Bower, though, thinks it's worth it.

"We want to tell the stories of these young men and women who combine academics and sports. ... It's not something you do to get rich – you do it because you have a passion for it. These are (athletes) who should be held up as role models. ... These are stories that need to be told, and we can tell them."

The author of this story, Dylan Matthias, has appeared on SSN broadcasts as a colour commentator and analyst. This work is unpaid and volunteer. Dylan Matthias has no official affiliation with SSN Canada.

Tigers come within five points of AUS finals

Women's basketball eliminated 61-56 in semi-finals

Natasha White
Staff Contributor

Our Dalhousie Tigers' 2009-2010 ladies' basketball season came to a close over spring break. Results from the AUS tournament have to be seen as a success for coach Stammberger's Tigers, as their two hard-fought quarter- and semi-final battles aptly reflected six months of entertaining ball.

Their Friday night quarter-final match-up against St. Francis Xavier elicited some impressive stats. The Tigers pulled out a seven-point victory, 59-52. The ladies went 10 for 10 from the line and put up a field goal percentage of 45. All season long, St. Francis Xavier lived and died by the three, and fortunately for us, they died by it on Friday night, shooting a paltry 17 per cent. Dal's victory was due in large part to a stellar fourth-quarter effort, with the Black and Gold outscoring St. Francis Xavier 22-6.

The top scorers of the game were Brooke Sullivan and Cailin Crosby, each with 14 points. Notably missing from the line-up was starter Alex Legge, who blew her knee out at the last home game of the season against St. Mary's University.

Legge's absence proved costly in the semis when Dal faced the host Cape Breton Capers, who are ranked fifth nationally, in semi-final action Saturday night. The Capers eked out a narrow

win over the Tigers, 61-56, advancing Cape Breton University to Sunday's finals.

A quick perusal of the stats sheet gets one's Spidey senses tingling. Dal went to the line twice the entire game, while the Capers saw 20 free throw opportunities come their way. Fouls were 19-8 for Dal, and the Capers miraculously committed a mere three fouls heading deep into the third. The Dalhousie charge was led by fourth-year guard Rachel Harrison. On fire from the arch, Harrison hit four of her seven three-point attempts, boosting her points total to 18.

April Scott also had a good showing on what would prove to be her last game in the Black and Gold – 12 points, four boards and two steals rounded out Scott's effort in the near upset. The Capers shut down Crosby and Laurie Girdwood, contributing just six points total to the cause; however, Laurie's twin Leah Girdwood had one of her best games of the season, giving the Tigers 10 points.

So what have we learned from this past season?

One: Ladies ball, contrary to popular belief, is exciting, gritty and worthy of student support. Two: The Tigers are competitive with the top teams in the nation, as proven by their semi-final bout with the Capers.

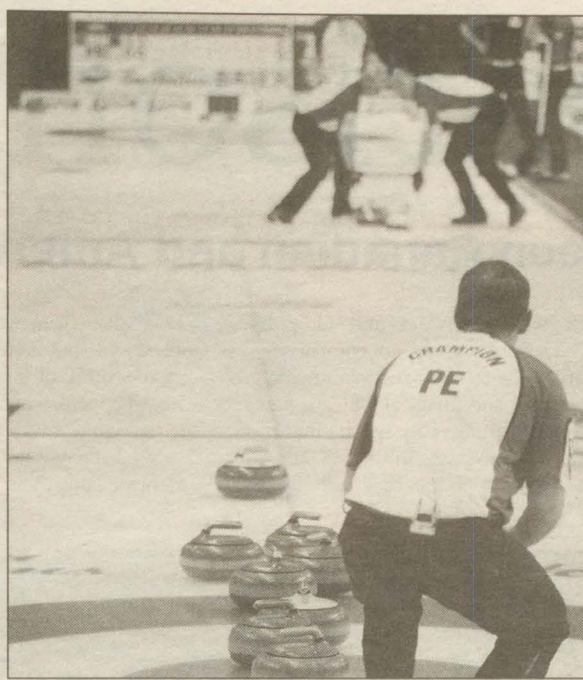
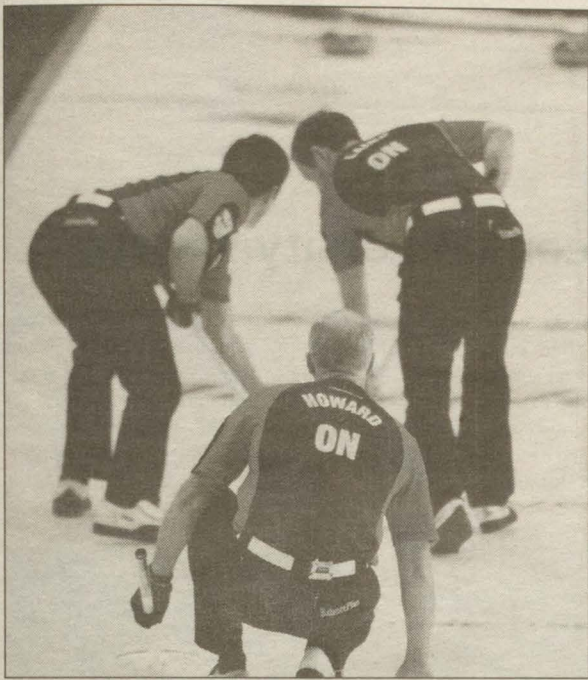
Three: Those in the know, know how sorely Crosby, the Girdwoods, April Scott and Alex Legge will be missed.

Outside the Lines

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The Brier finals will be held from March 12 to 14 at the Metro Centre. | Photos by Pau Balite and Anna Millar

Rock stars

The 81st Canadian Men's Curling Championships

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Olympic Gold medalist Kevin Martin was on hand to celebrate the opening of the Halifax Brier, the weeklong curling championship that brings together the best men's curling teams from each Canadian province to compete for the national title. Having won 11 straight matches against the world's best in Vancouver less than a week before, the Martin team was in Halifax to enjoy the event from the stands rather than from the ice-sheets.

As winners of the past two Briers representing Alberta (and owners of a 26-game unbeaten streak in the Brier competition), Martin and his teammates have little to prove. The team's presence was largely symbolic but they were still welcomed like visiting rock stars underlining the surprise run-away success curling has become; after hockey, curling was the most watched event at the 2010 Olympics.

"In the '50s and '60s, everybody did it," says Canadian Curling Association Executive Danny Lamoureux. "Every small town in Canada had a club and the whole community would come out to watch. Then society changed - first television, then the Internet. People went out less and curling became associated with smokers and bars. The sport was dying; it was the Olympics that saved us."

At the 1998 Nagano Games, curling made its debut as an Olympic sport to widespread derision as a pseudo-sport of smoking granies and beer-bellied barflies.

"Letterman and Leno were ripping us every night and no one took it seriously," Lamoureux continues. "Then Sandra Schmirler won Gold and Mike Harris won Silver and Canadians really stood up and took notice."

While gaining attention in Canada, curling remained off the map until an accidental international breakthrough at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. Inclement weather led to the cancellation of a prime-time Alpine ski event leaving networks scrambling to fill a

gap in the schedule, so curling won its first truly international exposure. Ratings soared as a new generation was exposed to the complicated strategies, physics-bending technical skill and addictive suspense of elite curling.

"TV viewership spiked and the phones at local clubs were ringing off the hook," Lamoureux says. "Curling was the perfect TV sport. The athletes' faces were visible, the basics of the game could be quickly grasped and the athletes (wore mics). It was like being able to hear Tiger Woods talk to his caddy."

A second wave of popularity has followed in the wake of the Vancouver Games. Another scheduling fluke had curling broadcasts coinciding with the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange, so a cult-like following developed in the New York City financial community. In Canada, youth interest in the sport has also exploded.

"We're seeing clubs getting 20 calls a day from parents looking to sign kids up and young people wanting to try it," says Lamoureux.

In response to the demand, the CCA has put a brief free training program in place at member clubs to teach potential curlers the basics of the game. Curlers claim that broad appeal of the game is the premise that everyone can do it, whether they chose to play socially or competitively.

"The range is from players in their 90s who still do it because they can and it keeps them active and social, to elite athletes."

Following a flag ceremony and singing of the national anthem the teams slide onto the four ice sheets at the Halifax Metro Centre one after another on one knee like a group of loons landing on a still lake surface. It is the second draw of the tournament and with team Nova Scotia resting after an 8-6 loss to New Brunswick, New Brunswick is back in the second draw as the home-crowd favourite matched against the Yukon/Northwest Territories, on sheet A. Next door on sheet B, the title match of Quebec and Ontario is preparing before a brigade of TSN cameras. Plucky UPEI is facing Saskatchewan on sheet C. Fi-

nally, Northern Ontario - a team from an empty land of trees and lakes that enters separately from the Ontario team - is facing Manitoba in the 'Battle of the Boreal'.

By the of the fifth-end break, New Brunswick leads the Northwest Territories 6-2, drawing roars of delight from the flag-waving thousands packed into the Metro Centre.

Ontario is up 5-3 on Quebec, a province that has only recently begun to take the "Anglo" sport of curling seriously. P.E.I. and Saskatchewan are tied at three each and the northerners are holding off the Manitoban team whose last Brier loss was to Martin's Albertans in the 2009 championship.

The sixth-end pits two radically different strategies side by side as the Ontarians and Quebecers go stone for stone, keeping a clean house. Meanwhile, one sheet over, Saskatchewan and P.E.I. build up a complicated and messy house which at its height sees 14 rocks in play at once. The Ontario-Quebec strategy is one that results in low scores, and centres around possession of the 'hammer' stone - the last stone of the round. Saskatchewan and P.E.I. play a Byzantine strategy of built-up defences and strategies as intricate as a game of chess aiming for the highest possible number of points to be gained in a round. The Quebec team forces Ontario to a blank end. There's no score but the Belle Provence maintains the hammer advantage into the next round, wearing down Ontario's mental energy.

Saskatchewan brings a sizeable crowd of moose-calling fans to its feet as skip Darrell McKee, 46, sneaks the hammer into the centre of the house for a three-point end, putting P.E.I. down 6-3.

Final scores of the second draw give New Brunswick its second win of the Brier - 10-3 over the Territories. Ontario buried Quebec 8-3. Saskatchewan edged P.E.I. 7-6. Northern Ontario bested friendly Manitoba 8-5.

On his final throw, with a loss assured, Manitoba's skip performed a crowd-pleasing 360 while launching a perfect stone down the ice - a cheer-inducing reminder that curling is a granny sport no longer.

Gazette glossary of curling terms

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

House: The target-shaped ring of concentric circles - the outside 12-foot ring, the middle eight-foot ring, the inner four-foot ring and the button.

Button: The centre of the house. Points are awarded based on the number of a team's stones with proximity to the button.

End: A segment of the game, in which each team throws eight stones after which points are awarded. There are ten ends in a game.

Hog-lines: The lines before which a thrower must release the stone on one side, and which the stone must cross on the other to remain in play.

Skip: The team leader who throws the last pair of stones and who determines the overall strategy of the game.

Backline: The line on the far side of the house. Stones that cross this line are removed from play.

Curl: The amount a stone's path bends while in motion.

Hammer: The last stone thrown in each end belonging to the team that lost the previous end. In the event of a blank end, the hammer is retained by the team into the next end.

Blank end: An end in which no points are awarded.

Guard: A stone positioned to block or 'defend' another stone.

Take-out: The removal of one stone from play from being hit by another.

Beat the Kipper

Questions:

1. Who tied Cindy Klassen's Canadian Olympic record of six career Olympic medals at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games?

2. How many Gold medals did Canada win at the 2006 Torino Olympics?

3. Who is currently ranked second in the world for competitive eating according to the International Federation of Competitive Eating?

3. Takeru Kobayashi
2. Seven
1. Clara Hughes

Answers:

www.dalgazette.com

Sports

No comparison

LSU trip highlights disparity between Canadian and American university sports

Andrew Hawley
The Fulcrum

As I walked toward the centre of the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus on Feb. 20 (during a reading week trip), a mammoth building came into view, commanding all my attention. This was Tiger Stadium, home of the LSU Tigers football team. At first glance, it easily dwarfed Ottawa's Frank Clair Stadium. As I gazed at the towering superstructure (later I learned it could seat an ungodly 92,400), it became apparent that I had entered a different world.

LSU's world also includes the Pete Maravich Assembly Center (PMAC), a white-domed building that houses the school's basketball court. Inside the PMAC, I roamed the large halls filled with concession stands and saw

"Then the orange and black beast appeared - Mike the Tiger, a real Bengal and the official LSU mascot."

walls adorned in the team's colours (purple and gold), feeling as though I was attending a professional game.

I opened the doors to the seating area and saw 13,000 purple seats surrounding a shiny court with "LSU" painted at centre. A high-definition scoreboard hung overhead, along with the numbers of retired Tiger alumni, including No. 33 for Shaquille O'Neal. Almost every fan in attendance wore LSU apparel, including hats, shirts, and jackets. The beauty of the facility, the program's celebration of its history, and the dedication of the fans was incomparable to any university

in Canada (including Queen's University).

At times, it was hard to remember that I was watching a basketball game. An entire section of the stands was devoted to the LSU band, which played high-tempo songs during stoppages in play. They were complemented by not one but two cheerleading teams, one of which changed outfits three times during the game. The entertainment was almost too distracting, even as the Tigers fell 60-59 to the Bulldogs in the final minute of play.

As I exited the PMAC, I saw groups of people approach a stone wall with glass windows. Feeling curious, I ventured forward. Plaques were displayed on the wall, with six names, "Mike I" through "Mike VI." Through the glass, I saw a jungle-like environment, complete with waterfall, lush plantings, a flowing stream, and a rocky plateau. Then the orange and black beast appeared - Mike the Tiger, a real Bengal and the official LSU mascot, living happily inside a 15,000-square-foot habitat outside the PMAC. If there was a symbol of American college sports excess, this was it. LSU proved that through massive private investment, even animal mascots can come to life.

Next, I headed to Alex Box Stadium, home of the 2009 national collegiate baseball champions. The 9,000-seat ballpark - featuring a high-definition scoreboard with the batter's picture, name, school, and number - was nicer than Ottawa Stadium.

Once again, everyone in attendance was in purple or gold. Both dugouts had "LSU Baseball" painted on their roofs, and everything was akin to the big leagues, except for the score - the Tigers easily chewed up their mismatched visitors, winning 25-7.

As I watched the game, I couldn't help but be reminded of the University of Ottawa's baseball team. The Gee-Gees competitive club made it to the semi-finals of the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association last October - so talent-wise, there might be a parallel. But that's where the similarities end.

The Gees play at Heritage Park in Orleans (far away from campus), which has no scoreboard, no concession stands (there's a food shack), no UOttawa dugouts. There is a maximum attendance of about 100 people, and certainly no man-made habi-

tat with a Garnet and Grey horse.

There is simply no comparison between the facilities and investment, both personal and financial, of Canadian and American university sports. But I wonder if the excesses in the U.S. are worth it - or even if they're at all necessary.

Mike the Tiger was certainly incredible to see, but aren't there other causes more worthy of financial support? And what happens when the extraneous entertainment overshadows the game?

While there is nothing excessive about Heritage Park, there is also nothing there

to detract from the games themselves. The happy medium, it seems, would be to find a way to combine the modest Canadian method that focuses on the games with the American ability to generate mass interest and fan support.



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Of life and hockey pools

David Berg
Sports Contributor

Sometime between the end of September and the first weekend in October, just before the opening puck drop of a new NHL season, groups of friends gather together to perform that sacred rite of hockey fandom: the hockey pool draft.

Each contender an armchair general manager has poured hours into analyzing the stats, studying player movements, line-mate match-ups, assessing potential rookie breakthroughs and career revivals all in the name of getting an edge in the pool. Every pool's members have put their souls on the line, risking a year of miserable frustration for a shot at glory: first-place in the hockey pool – the bona-fide alpha-male of the hockey fan tribe, arbiter of opinions, settler of disputes. "Dude. He's winning the hockey pool by like, 40 points."

Some, in need of more than simple bragging rights, put money on the line, emphasizing the supreme confidence felt by the hockey fans in their ability to assemble a better team than their friends can. Flash-forward to the final stretch of the hockey season when students are strapped for cash and the \$100 to be won in the hockey pool becomes more tantalizing. It is an interesting phenomenon: people constantly checking the standings of a pool when there is little you can do to alter the outcomes. Some pools will allow player movement while others won't. However, the value placed on the pool creates a significance and rivalry that gives an added excitement to each game. While the money can be needed or instead spent on for a fun night out, it is the sense

of pride each person secretly gets when leading the pool that is the true benefit.

By March, the hierarchy has been well established, from the top contenders down to the 'Swinebergs' of the pool floor, each player now more or less knows his place. A sizeable first-place lead at this point is virtually untouchable and the Swineberg of the pool is left molested by his bad decisions last October. Yet each day the pool is constantly checked and chatted about amongst its members. While the pool is done with feelings of friendship, some causal chirping of the cellar dwellers will inevitably happen. The significance placed on it does not allow for too much bending of the rules, held sacred by the pool members. As in life, the pool members must live with their choices. Thus even if a person selects a player that will not be in the NHL this season then they are stuck with it and have to try and win one player down.

For those that have not been in a hockey pool or cannot grasp why they create in their players an obsession that would put a *Lost* fan to shame, at the end of the day, it is a great way to keep social when school and work takes up most of your day. That, and the undying faith in redemption; even the player who took Jason Blake in the first round has hope to make good on his mistakes in the playoffs. When the regular season ends, the pool is remade, battle lines redrawn and a new game begins.

This year was a special treat as there was the chance for a third hockey pool with the Olympics. Coming up to the start of the third pool, the Playoffs, it is certain that computers will be occupied in the Killam for the purposes of checking stats. Maybe you should start checking too.

Olympic hangover

Dalhousie reflects on the Vancouver Games

Zack Wilson
Staff Contributor

It's been almost two weeks now and our entire nation is still suffering from an Olympic hangover. The Vancouver 2010 marked the third time that Canada has played host to the Olympic Games and there is little doubt in most minds that this year's version has left the previous two attempts in its dust.

On the whole, our country has yet to shake the Olympic buzz that intoxicated Canadians for two weeks. After disappointing efforts in Montreal in 1976 and Calgary in 1988, in which Canadian athletes failed to stand atop the podium, our best experienced a Gold rush in Vancouver. Prior to this year, the record for Gold medals at a single Olympics stood at 13, held by Norway (Salt Lake City, 2002) and the Soviet Union (Montreal, 1976). On the final day of competition, in the final event, that record fell.

Despite a relatively slow start to the Games medal-wise, Canada proved to be more than formidable on the world stage. The red and white set a number of records in Vancouver, both personally and internationally. Prior to 2010, our record medal haul stood at 24 (at Torino Winter Games in 2006) and we bested that by finishing with 26. Fourteen of those 26 were Gold, which is the largest

amount ever won by a host country.

The Olympics have the ability to unify a nation unlike any other major sports competition. For two weeks maple leaf flags, jerseys, T-shirts and toques were everywhere you looked. Radios were constantly tuned in to hear the latest on the Games; living rooms were filled with people coming together to watch each day unfold; from coast to coast bars were packed to capacity with fans rooting for their country. And when Gold was won, all across our nation, perfect strangers of all races, colours and creed, from all walks of life, in varying levels of sobriety danced, sang, hugged, laughed and cried together.

There was an undeniable buzz all around the country.

"I've never experienced anything like it," said Todd Gill, a fourth-year Dalhousie history major and proud Canadian. Dave Ellett, a second-year political science student said: "For two weeks our country came together and showed the world what we are made of. Aside from hockey, I'm not good at sports, so when I see our athletes standing up there on the podium wearing our country's colours, it gives me and the rest of the nation the chance to live vicariously through them."

One of the beautiful things about the Vancouver Olympics is that it brought

together athletes from all parts of Canada and showcased to the world just how talented our athletes are. Given that Canada has just over 30 million people and the American population is just over 300 million, it is staggering to think that they were only able to amass 11 more medals than our men and women.

Rob Pearson, a third-year Dal commerce student said: "If Canada had a population anywhere near the size of the States' we'd probably end up with 100 medals. There's gotta be something in the water up here. I just don't know how we do it."

The defining moment of the games came in its final competition: men's hockey. Roughly 26.5 million Canadians (more than 80 per cent of the population) tuned in to watch the final against the United States, making it the most viewed event in the history of Canadian television. After he was forced into overtime by a Zach Parise tally, Sidney Crosby scored "the Golden Goal". And with that the nation breathed a collective sigh of relief. Jamie McCowan, a second-year Dal biology student said: "I don't think that there could possibly be a better ending to the Games. I still get the shivers every time I see that goal. It makes me really proud to be a Canadian."

In a Dispute with your Academic Institution?

- Accused of plagiarism when you've done nothing wrong
- Treated unfairly by a professor
- Accused of improper collaboration with others on assignments

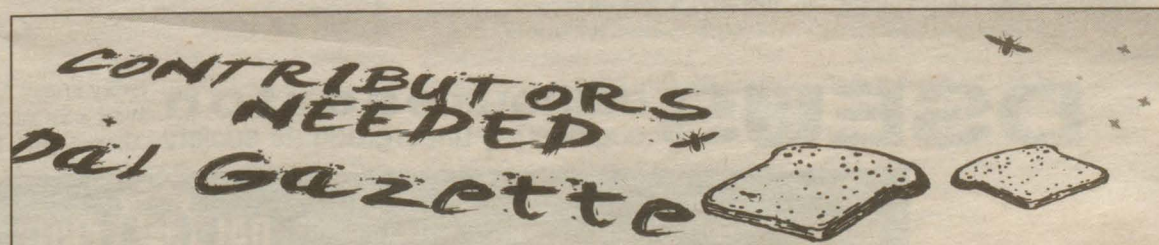
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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

MARCH 12TH, 2010

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AUTHOR OF "WHAT KIND OF ENGINEERER ARE YOU?"



Zhindra Gillis
Industrial '10

I must say, I read the article "What kind of Engineerer are you?" (January 15th, 2010) and was a little confused at first. For one thing, Engineering on Sexton does not have that kind of variety. For years, it was Keiths, and then we switched to Molson, so now we have two choices: Coors Light or Canadian. They're not the beers everyone goes crazy for, but it's \$2.50 beer. Why be picky? Engineering, for those of us who have been doing it for 5 years, is not about what you drink, but who you drink it with. It's about relaxing with a beer at the end of the week while you finish that pesky assignment. For those of us on Sexton Campus, it can also be about wearing a sweatervest for Sweatervest Friday, and looking librarian chic, while we pound a free beer.

So as I was confused at first. I still read on, understanding that the article about Engineering at Studley, and sort of about engineers drinking beer in general. Even knowing this did not save me from thinking that this article was a pompous load of hangover green.

The Miller Lite Guy analogy just kind of fell flat. It's like you were going for an

insult but couldn't really think of anything good. Miller Lite is a fine beer, I really doubt either of your reasons someone would choose ML are legit and it sounds like you listened to a short wave radio and copied down the first two full sentences that came up.

The Keith's Pale Aler; you imply that this is something that Maritimers drink, and as such, that is why it is traditionally the beer of engineering. Ironically, Keith's is the "Classic DalEng Ale," not because it was drank by East Coasters, but because the founder of Engineering, Scott Blake, who is (gasp!) from Ontario, really liked it. In Ontario, it's a premium beer, but here it is sold as domestic, so the people that usually drink it either drink it because it's cheap, or because of the novelty that it's cheap here. Also, when Engineering first came to be, the DSU was serving mainly Keith's, which may have influenced the decision. Maybe you should check on your facts if you are going to bring up that it's the DalEng classic and correlate it with the fact that we are on the East Coast. Since you are an IE, don't worry, you will also eventually learn the difference between correlation and causation.

The Coors Light Chooser: Dude where are you from? You're saying guys from

the West Coast choose it because there are mountains on the front and it looks like Kokanee? Truly you have no idea, while I was on the West Coast, I was told that Kokanee out there is the equivalent of Wildcat here. It's a cheap and dirty beer. People who choose it are probably just not wanting a heavy beer, but still want to chill. It is after all still afternoon. Give them a break. Also, as a female, I resent the notion that the "maximum three" girls at Engineering would all be drinking this, because what? It's not a manly beer? Just because you're a woman, it doesn't license you to perpetuate a male stereotype. I work with the Dal Women's Centre every year, and I'm sure they would agree that the worst kind of hate is the girl on girl hate. Why not try to form some bonds of sisterhood? With the deficit we are running of women in engineering it would be a good idea.

The Rickards White 'Man', and The Rickards Dark Manly Man. You really lost me here. These are two awesome beers that many guys drink. Once you get past the initial "drink to get hammered" stage of university that so many of our youth unwittingly go through, you will find a lot of people drink beer because they like it, it complements what they're eating, or they need a change. For whatever reason, these beers shouldn't classify a person as manly or not. Notice I said person. I personally love Rickard's Dark but that doesn't make me a manly man or a manly woman, or really tell you anything about me.

The Sextant has launched a new Sexton-area sublet directory. Go to www.thesextant.ca/forum to post or find a sublet for your next coop or study term!

CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca
- Round 2: Going on now Check PlacePro



Trivia every Friday!

So Engineerer with all the judgments and opinions on what type Engineerer people are, I would like you to take one thing away from this. There is only one type of Engineerer, the drinking kind. The spirit of having something like Engineering is that it's a chill place where people can go and have a brew with buddies, but not necessarily be in the bar scene. It should be free from this type of classification. It's supposed to be a getaway from jumping through the hoops the profs dish out. Most importantly it's a place to be yourself. Whoever that is.

ST. PATTY'S DAY



Alana Robertson
(Industrial '11) &
Francine DeLorey
(Industrial '10)

Before we start telling you that the T-room is the place to be this St. Patty's day, let us tell you about the true spirit of St. Patty – or at least the gong show that occurred last year.

It all began on sunny Tuesday afternoon with a bunch of lassies, some engineers, and some engi-wannabes. Since the semester was coming to an end, the lassies had copious amounts of homework to complete that night. The long list of assignments was followed by a long list of midterms to study for and reports to write. But the lassies knew there was no way anything was going to get done when there was green beer that needed to be drunk on that sunny Tuesday afternoon.

Over the fence and down the road they adventured, in their green attire, to an engineering party. The party was brewing with some St. Patty's Day cheer, in hope that some drunken shenanigans would soon be here. When the beer bottles hit the fan, literally, it was time

to continue on their way to the T-room.

Maybe it was all the excitement, or maybe it was all the green beer, nobody will ever be quite sure, but one of the wee little lassies got lost along the way to the T-room, and ended up at the Grawood to celebrate St. Patty's day. The wee little lassie was startled to find herself at the Grawood, and immediately began to find her way to the T-Room by any means she could. She was fortunate enough to hitch a ride on a passing shamrock and made her way to Sexton. Unfortunately the leprechaun who was driving the shamrock hid all of her belongings and she was without money, phone, lipgloss or keys! Thankfully green treasure awaited at the T-Room (free beer). Where this free beer came from is still a mystery. Was it everyone's favourite mechanical leprechauns? Was there just a rainbow shinning down on the T-room that day? Or was it the spirit of St. Patty? Nobody will ever know, but one thing is for certain, it was magical!

This year is sure to be just as magical, with Tristan and the Irish ramblers serenading all you nerdy Irish and Irish wannabes.



St. Patrick's Day at the T-Room

Live Celtic Music! Photo: <http://www.joedigi.com/ostonstpatricksdays/>

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Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MARCH 12TH, 2010
PAGE 2

KILLING SEXTON'S VOICE



Ben Wedge
Editor-In-Chief
Industrial '13

The Dalhousie Student Union is currently reviewing several constitutional amendments, many of which are run-of-the-mill rewordings, grammatical fixes, and moving some items from one section to the next.

Two items, however, concern me greatly as the Engineering Representative for Studley Campus. The first is that at a time where the DSU is being accused of not listening to students, council is considering trimming numerous spots on council, having each Faculty Society represented by one lone voice. Arts has over 3000 students. They currently have two seats. Health Professions is large. They have two seats, plus Medicine, and Dentistry. Science also has two seats. Engineering, thanks to our nearly 100 year history as two separate Universities, maintains two voices.

Under the proposed arrangement, Arts will have as many voices as Computer Science, and Architecture. How can you represent 3000+ voices at the student level with one person, who gets no attention from the outside?

A better proposal was discussed outside of the meeting, which involved representation based on population. Faculties would have between one and three seats, and it would be reexamined every four years to avoid annual fluctuation of groups on the fringe. This arrangement would keep two

voices for the Engineering students, and would alleviate the fears of large faculties being forced out.

The second issue at council is specific to Sexton Campus. First, a Board of Governors seat is held by Janet Conrad, an Engineer. Two Member-At-Large positions are held by Engineers, Chris Saulnier (*Electrical '11*) and Daken Coleman (*B.Eng. '14*). In addition, the Sexton Campus Director, Zhindra Gillis (*Industrial '10*), is an Engineer. Coupled with our two Faculty Society Representatives (Steph Hagmann (*Mechanical '10*) and me), we hold six of 39 votes. Some councilors think that this is too many, but only two of the seats are truly ours.

The Sexton Director position was to be replaced by a Sexton Member-at-Large in the amendment package. Gillis was opposed to the idea, as that would allow the council as a whole to appoint someone to represent Sexton. Her idea was to have a "Sexton Campus Representative," appointed by the Sexton Campus Advisory Committee, and require the person to attend the Committee's meetings. This is how the Women's Centre, the Black Students' Association, the LGBTQ representative, the Aboriginal Students' Representative, and many others are chosen.

Rather than stick to this one issue, some councilors took this as an opportunity to suggest removing our voice, saying the Engineers have too many voices on council, and that this position should not exist. But if Sexton can't have a Member at Large, or Representative, whatever the name may be, why should the Studley and Carleton members at large in the proposal remain?

We need to stick up for our voice on council. We need to ensure that Sexton is represented fairly. We should not allow an Arts student, who doesn't know the difference between the Alumni Lounge and the Design Commons to appoint the Sexton Campus Representative.

Eric Snow (*Master of Public Administration Candidate*), a former councilor, agrees that representation by population is the best way to go, but was one of several people present who wants to trim Sexton's voice.

Council eventually opted to drop all constitutional amendments, even though we've been discussing this exact package since January 2009. We will revisit them after the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 16th. Then, we will put them on the table for a meeting to be held in the fall.

Whenever this motion comes before the DSU General Meeting in September, we need to stand up for our voice. We need as many Engineers, Architects, Planners, and Gerard and O'Brien Hall residents as possible to come to the meeting and stick up for Sexton, and allow a Sexton Representative to be chosen by Sexton, for Sexton.

If this issue, or any other, matters to you, I encourage you to write a letter to all councilors. Put your thoughts down on paper. Cite sections of this article. Whatever it takes, lobby, and don't let anyone's voice die. It may be Sexton now, but some other group will be next.

LORDS AND LADIES OF THE RINGS

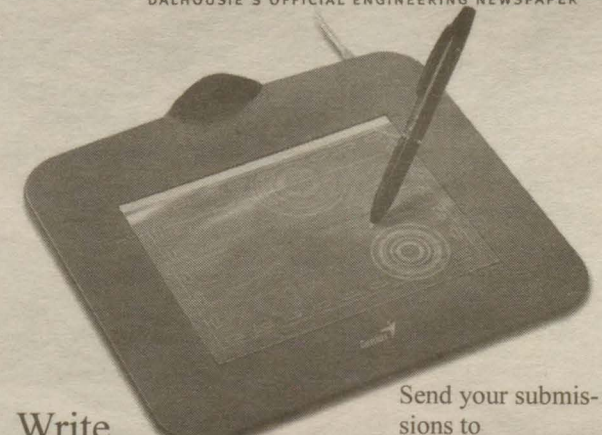


Editors

On Saturday, March 6th, nearly 300 students received their Iron Rings as part of the Camp 7 (Dalhousie) Iron Ring ceremony.

The Iron Ring awards went to Nadia Dajani (*Industrial '10*) and Anna West (*Materials '11*) for their academic excellence and contribution to the student body.

At left, we've pasted only a few of the hundreds of smiles seen on Saturday at the T-Room.



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The Dalhousie Sextant is produced by the Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society, and aims to represent students studying and living at Sexton Campus.

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- Word of the Week: Rigid Member (n):
- (1) A red bar used to hold the door to the T-Room open;
 - (2) An ancient term of Engineering lore, which, even when mentioned in an upper year class, causes enough laughter to put SNL outdo SNL's best.
 - (3) A tool that is sometimes used to create more Rigid Members.

Editors' note: Word of the Week is a humour column defining common engineering terms. If you have any complaints or suggestions, please email sextant@dal.ca. Obviously, we prefer suggestions.



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This could get awkward.

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