

FREE

ISSUE 137-16, January 20th 2005 - January 27th 2005

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette



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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



DSU Council Meeting

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on January 26th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Society Info

Society Fair:

Anyone interested in joining a society come out to the McInnes Room on Tuesday, January 25th, 11:00am – 3:00pm and check out all the societies Dalhousie has to offer.

View the DSU's Audited Financial Statements (Year ended March 31, 2004) at www.dsu.ca > About Us > DSU Finances

Dalhousie Student Union Annual Charity Ball
Friday January 28th

Tickets available at SUB Info Desk
All proceeds go to LT Chris Saunders Trust Fund
For more information contact
Mark Szepes, VP (Student Life)

Tiger Patrol

The DSU, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, provides students with a free shuttle service. Check out the schedule and routes online at www.dsu.ca.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Social Life on Campus by joining the Community Affairs Committee, contact Mark Szepes, VP (Student Life) at dsuvpsl@dal.ca.

The DSU gives out \$40,000 in Grants to students and societies each year. Each student is eligible for up to \$100 per semester and each ratified society is eligible for up to \$1000 per semester. For more information, contact Tamara Conrod, DSU VP (Internal) at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

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Tuesday, Feb. 1 - 2 to 3:30pm
Dalhousie SUB, Room 224

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Tuesday, Feb. 1 - 7 to 8:30pm
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Backpacking Down Under

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Editorial

Quentin Casey
Editor-In-Chief

Over the holiday break, I was standing in the video games aisle of Future Shop, trying to pick out a GameCube game for my youngest brother. I haven't been into video games since the days when Super Mario Bros. 3 was the latest advancement, so it had been a while since I had perused the latest offerings made by video game companies to kids.

What I saw on the shelf both disturbed me and pissed me off.

Amidst the usual Mario Kart, Madden 2005 and a bunch of first person blaster games sat "Medal of Honor: Frontline." I couldn't believe it. This is what kids are playing today?

The game, produced by Nintendo, simulates World War II battles and missions—in particular, the storming of the beaches at Normandy on D-Day.

One of the teaser lines on the back cover states the following as a selling point: "18 authentic WWII weapons to outgun hundreds of Nazi soldiers."

I honestly can't believe that there is someone out there who feels it is morally acceptable to make a game that reproduces the conditions that brought about the deaths of so many young men. It is disgraceful.

Thousands of soldiers died on D-Day—June 6, 1944—including 359 Canadians who fell on Juno Beach. Many of these dead were in their youth.

Youths today sit at their computers, or in front of a gaming system, and entertain themselves by pretending they are storming the beaches and killing Germans, as if this was an enviable or amusing task.

Have we gone completely mad?

Thoughts of such horrific events should produce a somber shudder. They certainly shouldn't provide a way to pass a leisurely Saturday afternoon.

As far as I'm concerned, these games should be removed from the shelves. And I'm ashamed of any parents who dragged this

rubbish home for their kid as a Christmas gift.

Although the game upset me and I considered writing an editorial about it, in the end I thought one incident wasn't worth getting worked up about. Then a recent story confirmed my fears that many kids are oblivious when it comes to simple history: Prince Harry, third in line to the British throne, was photographed wearing a swastika armband at a "colonial and native"-themed party—apparently an attempt at a joke.

What a pompous little ass.

How many men and women—particularly British—died in the name of defeating that symbol and all that it stands for? And Harry has the audacity to wear it on his arm as he casually sips a drink, puffs a smoke and tries to impress girls with his Royal title?

This guy needs to be dragged from the shelter of royal life and have the silver spoon pulled from his mouth. And a history lesson wouldn't hurt either.

I'm glad to see that the finest private schools in Britain are producing solid citizens of the future. Though I guess they skipped the lesson on the Second World War.

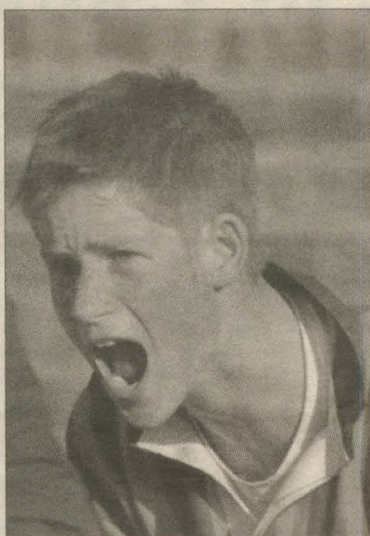
Harry received international criticism in the wake of the photos being published. And rightfully so.

One critic claimed that the incident was in "bad taste" because it would "encourage others to think that perhaps that period was not as bad as we teach the younger generation and the free world."

Harry countered with an apology, most likely crafted by one of his handlers. "[I am] very sorry if I caused any offence or embarrassment to anyone," he said in a written statement. "It was a poor choice of costume and I apologize."

Sorry, Harry: Too little, too late.

It is inconceivable that the Prince could possibly be so ignorant, or plain stupid, as to not know that the costume was highly inappropriate, let alone mor-



Prince Harry: Early contender for "Turd of the Year."

ally repugnant.

As far as I'm concerned, Harry serves as the poster boy for the spoiled youth of this generation, with little understanding or appreciation of the past. All that Harry possesses—and we are talking serious wealth and prestige—has been secured on the back of past sacrifices. Yet he flaunts symbols of yesterday as if they carry little meaning. The whole situation reeks of arrogance.

I wouldn't be surprised if Harry left the party in a drunken stupor, got home and plunked himself down for a few games of "Medal of Honor: Frontline." Dress like a Nazi for a "joke," and then do your best to destroy them in a video game. A productive day, I'd say.

Though I hate to sound morally superior, I am really bothered by this ignorant and reckless disregard for tragic events—events that should be held sacred and remembered for their significance.

Judging by the reaction to Prince Harry's asinine antics, I know I'm not the only one.

Harry's actions, combined with the fact that past losses and moments of heroism are being made into games to entertain, confirms that the past is, at best, being improperly conveyed to today's youth. Or, at worst, being ignored all together.

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If you are interested in contributing to the Gazette, feel free to email us your article to: gazette@dal.ca or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312, Dal SUB.

INTERACT WITH US

<http://www.dalgazette.ca/forum>

Gazette



Student Employment Centre

Employer Information Sessions

Iron Ore: Welcomes 2005 graduates from Engineering, Geology and Business to learn more about their Graduate Development Programs. Co-op students are also welcome to learn about summer opportunities. (Career presentation 9:00 - 10:00am, followed by open discussion.)

Restigouche CBDC: Restigouche CBDC has recently launched the Restigouche Post-Secondary Expertise Program aimed at helping post-secondary students stay and move into the Restigouche area. All disciplines are welcome. Come and learn about the exciting opportunities Restigouche CBDC has to offer you.

Visit www.dal.ca/sec for more information.

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To access job postings go to www.dal.ca/sec

Upcoming Events

Iron Ore
Jan. 24, 9:00am
Room 224, SUB

Summer Job Search Workshop
Jan. 25, 6:30pm
Meeting Room, Risley Hall (behind SUB)

Summer Job Fair
Feb. 11, 10:00 - 4:00pm, Loyola Building, SMU
www.summerjobfair.com

Restigouche CBDC
Feb. 14, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Room 302, SUB



Dal Playing a Role in Tsunami Relief Efforts

Katie Maskell
Staff Contributor
Jenn Paterson
News Contributor

It has been almost a month since Southeast Asia was hit by one of the greatest natural disasters in history. The Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami, caused by a massive 9.0 earthquake about 150 kilometres off the shore of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, created devastation beyond comprehension. Over 200,000 were killed, thousands are still missing and about five million are homeless.

Yet from this tragedy sprung the hope that perhaps people do care.

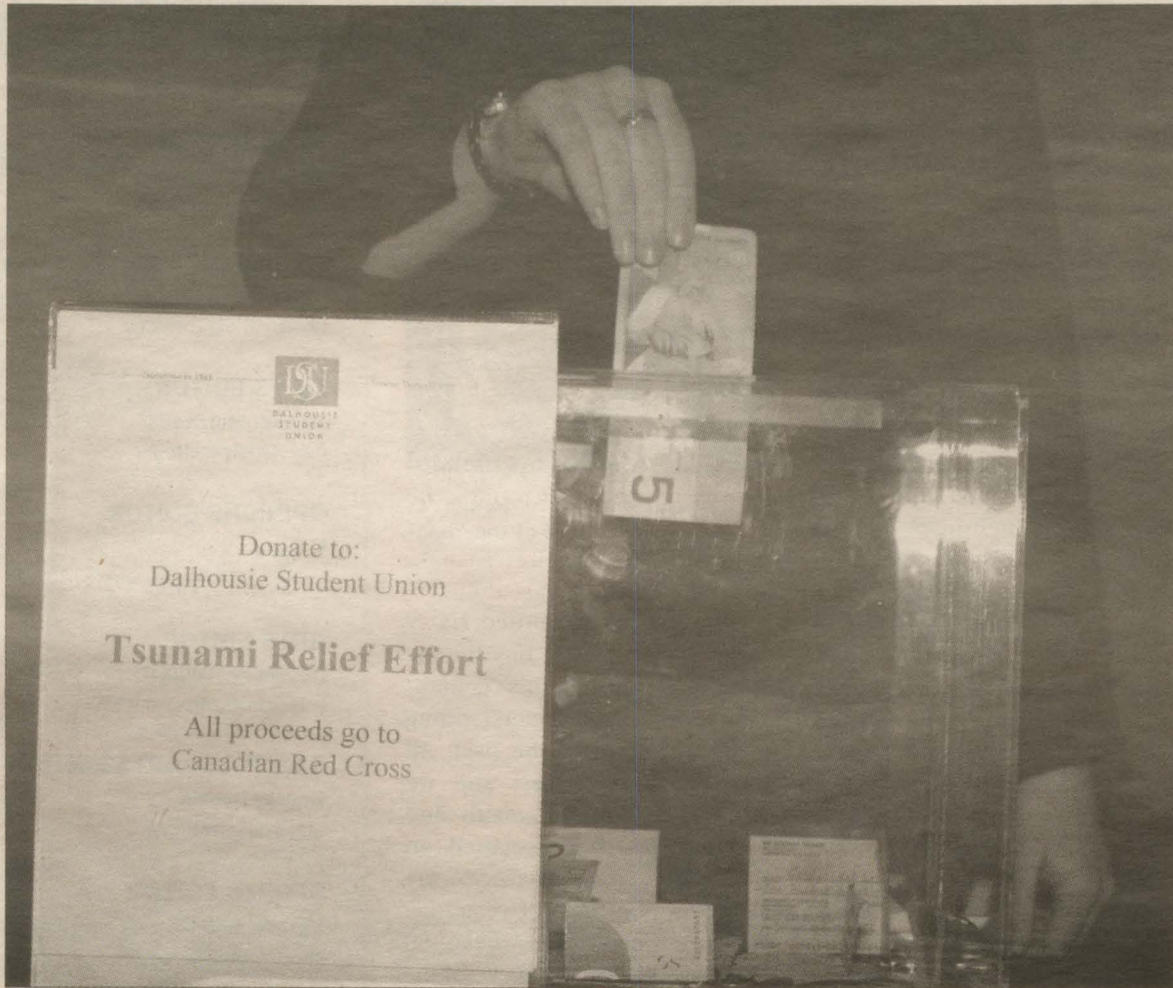
At Dalhousie, students, faculty and staff have been doing what is being done everywhere—donating money to tsunami relief efforts and helping as much as possible.

The DSU acted quickly to raise money before the Jan. 11 deadline for doubling of funds by the Canadian government. The DSU organized a concert at the Grawood that raised \$2,100 and set up a donation box located at the information desk of the SUB that has so far collected nearly \$2,500—money coming from the pockets of generous Dal students.

"A student picked up a hundred dollar bill downtown by the Sobeys on Queen St.," said DSU president Curtis McGrath. Sobeys employees said that no one had claimed the money, so it now belonged to the student.

"So the student said, 'I'll donate this to the fund and I'll also match it,'" McGrath said. "We've had stories like that coming in all the time."

Though he says the DSU will probably remove its donation box from the SUB sometime this week, McGrath encourages students to continue their own efforts to raise money for tsunami victims. "If you have local ideas within your faculty, department or unit, let us know what they are and we will submit a grand contribution from Dal."



Dal students have raised thousands of dollars for tsunami relief efforts / Photo: Megan Best

Whole departments on campus are getting active in raising money for tsunami relief efforts. The Dalhousie Medical School is planning a concert at the Rebecca Cohn auditorium on Feb. 5 to raise money for the Red Cross.

The concert is being partly organized by the band Mir and is a project of the Music-in-Medicine initiative in the Medical Humanities, said Dr. Ronald Stewart, Director of Medical Humanities at Dalhousie. The talent, services and venue are all being donated, and the medical school is organizing a silent auction before the concert. Stewart hopes the event will raise at least \$15,000.

"This is a Dalhousie-wide effort ... and we hope that as many students as possible will be able to attend," said Stewart. "We feel very strongly that we at the medical school have an obligation to continue our efforts to increase the exposure of our students to international health issues, and

... to introduce physicians-in-training to their broader responsibilities in the world community."

Smaller student groups are

event.

For some, the realization that a tsunami hit Southeast Asia was more personal. Dal student Chutima Pisarn was hit harder

"We're very pleased to see the depth of activity by Dalhousie students in response to this tragedy. The Student Union is playing a significant leadership role in the effort and they are making the Dalhousie community proud. We're glad to support those efforts."

- Tom Traves, Dalhousie President

organizing a variety of fundraising events. INDISA, the Indian subcontinent student association, held a fundraising party at Pacifico Bar & Grill last Friday. They also set up donation boxes in three Indian grocery stores around town.

The Jewish Students Association is organizing a fundraising cocktail party or dinner and dance sometime in March. They have invited other ethnic and religious societies to help plan the

than most when she learned that tragedy struck her hometown.

"I woke up in the morning and saw the news and saw that it had hit Phuket, my hometown, so I called back to my father and he said that my family is fine," said Pisarn. Phuket is an island resort town in southern Thailand. The tsunami killed about 5,300 people in Thailand, including several hundred in Phuket.

Pisarn's family was lucky. Her relatives lost two cars and their

house was flooded, but nobody was hurt. "It's so scary," she said. "It's like in a movie, but this time it's real. I feel shocked."

Pisarn studies computer science in Bangkok and is at Dal for a year as a visiting student. While her friends in Thailand are helping tsunami victims directly, Pisarn is helping here at Dal. Along with other Thai students, she is helping organize a Thai food and culture night to raise money for the Red Cross tsunami fund.

The tentative date is Jan. 26, and the computer science department has volunteered space and a sound system for the event. "People will dress in Thai costumes and learn about Thai culture and get cheap Thai food and it will be a lot of fun," said organizer Hathai Tanta-ngai.

McGrath said the university has identified 169 students who come from areas affected by the tsunami. The university has contacted each of these students and offered counseling services and the possibility of tuition relief if their family finances have been affected by the tsunami.

Vice-president of student services Eric McKee, who is responsible for dealing with the concerns of students affected by the tsunami, says several individuals have come forward looking for help.

"I know of one student who was in the affected area at the time, but is safe," he said. "Others have family members there, some dead or missing, some alive but having lost their homes and possessions, and so forth."

Dalhousie president Tom Traves says he has been impressed by the university community's efforts to help those in need. "We're very pleased to see the depth of activity by Dalhousie students in response to this tragedy," Traves said. "The Student Union is playing a significant leadership role in the effort and they are making the Dalhousie community proud. We're glad to support those efforts."

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An Official Look at Campus Sustainability

Chantelle McGee
Staff Contributor

In the Jan. 6 issue of the *Gazette*, Dalhousie students defined campus sustainability as the responsible use of resources in the present so that the environment can be preserved for the future. But how do Dal's caretakers at facilities management define the concept?

Michael Murphy, manager of Dal Environmental Services and ex officio member of the Senate Committee on the Environment, says that campus sustainability must take into account both economic and ecological sustainability for the university. "We operate with limited funds, therefore the work we perform and changes introduced must be financially sustainable within the budget of the entire university," Murphy says.

These practices include energy efficient codes for newly constructed buildings, programs diverting waste from landfills and

custodial practices built on waste reduction. New buildings, such as the Kenneth C. Rowe management building, are constructed in compliance with the Commercial Building Incentive Program. This is a federal program, developed by Natural Resources Canada, providing financial incentives for construction projects meeting certain standards of energy efficiency.

Murphy says that the university is now using heat reclaim systems and more energy-efficient lighting systems. "As well, motion detectors have been installed in the Tupper building and in all new buildings in order to keep lights off in spaces when they are unoccupied. Such installations will be expanded as funds permit," he says.

Since 1991, Dal has had a waste diversion programme, which Murphy says has increased levels of waste diversion since it was initiated. "In 2003, almost 600 tons of paper products, beverage containers, batteries and

organic waste were collected on campus," he says. "17.8 tons of scrap metal and 104 tons of construction and renovation waste were diverted from landfill." Dal's custodial services have also instituted environmentally-friendly practices to reduce the need for packaged chemical products.

Murphy's concerns are shared by the several groups on campus trying to make Dal a sustainable university. For example, he praises the bookstore's efforts to provide used bags for customers, the purchasing department's anti-idling notices for delivery trucks and the SCE's fall 2004 proposal to food services coffee vendors to promote the use of reusable mugs.

"As the student population grows, it [waste reduction] will present an increasing challenge to us," he says. "On a positive note, incoming students tend to be more well-versed these days with regard to recycling, reduction and conservation issues."

Dal Staff Strike Likely Off the Table

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

Negotiations between Dalhousie administration and its non-teaching staff have entered month number six with both sides saying it is likely they will reach an agreement soon, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

"The mood is good and things are on track," said Zita Hildebrandt, president of NSGEU Local 77, which represents roughly 800 non-teaching technical and clerical staff.

"Unless something major happens, I don't think a strike is looming."

Dalhousie spokesperson Charles Crosby was also optimistic about the chance of reaching a deal, but would not make any predictions. "We're still on common ground, and I haven't heard

of any surprises," he said, "so this is a case where no news is good news."

The union, which has been without a contract since June 30, has met with the university 13 times and has another negotiating date scheduled for later this

"Unless something major happens, I don't think a strike is looming."
- Zita Hildebrandt, president of NSGEU local 77

month. At the latest meeting the union tabled its wage package, which the university is examining. So far, there have been no agreements on monetary issues.

"We're waiting for the university to come back with a counteroffer," said Hildebrandt, estimating that negotiations are about three-quarters finished. "These things usually take six to eight

months, so if everything continues to go smoothly, it could all be resolved by the end of March, beginning of April."

Hildebrandt said that this prediction includes the time required for conciliation and a ratification vote. A conciliator is usually brought in only after negotiations have reached an impasse, but Hildebrandt said it should be expected.

"Let's put it this way: we've never had negotiations with the university where a conciliator hasn't been brought in," she said.

"I wouldn't want to speculate about [conciliation]," said Charles Crosby, but he agreed a conciliator is sometimes brought in to "carry the ball over the goal line."

"We're hopeful and feeling pretty good," he added, "but you never know."

On Another Campus

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

UNB Staff Vote to Strike

360 support staff at the University of New Brunswick have voted to walk off the job if their contract demands aren't met by the university's administration. The strike vote, held last Thursday, allows the UNB Employees Association to call for a legal strike with only 24 hours' written notice. The association, representing non-management administrative staff and trades people, has been without a contract since June. The administration says that if a strike were to happen, it has plans in place to minimize the impact on students. No further talks are scheduled.

STU Profs Hold Strike Vote

Faculty at St. Thomas University in Fredericton have voted 84 per cent in favour of holding a strike vote after rejecting the university's latest contract proposal. The 105 professors at STU could be on the picket lines by late January if they decide to vote in favour of a work stoppage. The UNB paper *The Brunswickan* reports that the administration is already preparing for a professor strike and could even decide to lock them out.

This latest news comes only days after both sides agreed to mediation during negotiation sessions. The main stumbling blocks in negotiations are faculty workload, class sizes and salary increases. Union officials still planned to meet with university negotiators and the mediator this week.

Acadia Students Grill US Ambassador

About 500 students gathered

at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. last Friday to hear departing U.S. ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci speak. Cellucci focused on foreign policy and U.S.-Canada relations during the hour-long Q&A session. Cellucci admitted that his country had invaded Iraq based on "wrong" information, but he said the U.S. wouldn't apologize for protecting itself.

He explained that the Bush government wanted a new regime in Iraq and said, "I don't think anyone would disagree that removing Saddam Hussein was a good thing." Cellucci also stood up for the proposed ballistic missile shield, saying that despite the fall of the Soviet Union, the world is in danger of a nuclear attack from terrorists and rogue states. The U.S., and Canada still share the same values, Cellucci said, despite recent disagreements.

Bomb Threats Delay York Exams

Two bomb threats within minutes of each other delayed six exams and forced over 1,000 people to evacuate at York University in Toronto last month. University security notified police and tried to evacuate the targeted buildings, but people didn't begin leaving until 40 minutes after the threat was made. Many students were unwilling to leave their exams or interrupt their studying, believing the incident to be a drill or hoax.

Toronto Police and York security swept the buildings for explosives but found nothing. They suspect the bomb threat was placed by a student trying to get out of writing an exam—and if so, they succeeded, as the disrupted exams were postponed until January. An investigation is ongoing.

VOLUNTEER!

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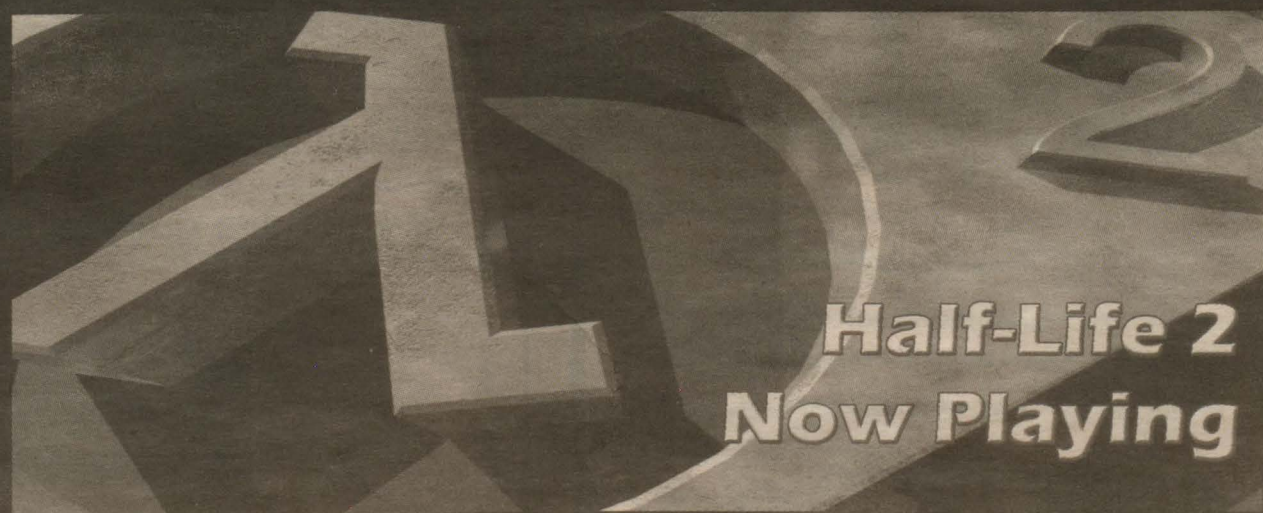
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SUPERBOWL Party, Feb 6th

Rooming Houses the Pesky Neighbours of the South End

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

The South End of Halifax is undergoing an unwanted facelift and university students living in illegal rooming houses are to blame.

Peninsula South Community Association (PSCA) member and former St. Mary's president Dr. Owen Carrigan says more and more houses in the South End are being bought up and converted into student rooming houses.

"Numbers have increased and will continue to increase. Any property that comes up for sale, you wouldn't have any problems selling it to property investors," Carrigan says. "Property investors buy up a house and stuff 10 or 15 students in it and it's a party house."

Carrigan's concerns aren't

just his own: at a December public meeting with the Dalhousie University Community Committee (DUCC), South End residents unanimously complained about rooming houses. One resident attributed 90 per cent of the noise and other disturbances caused by students to rooming houses.

Students may not be getting a good deal either, as they often end up in expensive, substandard housing, says Carrigan. "Some of these places are garbage heaps and they're ripping students off."

"I think it's a problem for students," says Mary Somers, manager of communications and marketing at Dal and a member of the DUCC. "Some of these rooms are tiny. Is that a good environment for study? I don't think it's a good thing for the neighbourhood. It's overcrowding."

"A lot of these places are

firetraps," says Carrigan. "Because they're illegal, they're not inspected. If the fire code was applied like at a legal rooming house, they'd be shut down."

Rooming houses aren't permitted in the South End, zoned by the city as a residential area allowing only single family dwellings or up to three units per property. In 2003, one member of the PSCA researched the number of rooming houses in the South End and found 24, despite the no-rooming house law, Carrigan says.

zoned by the city, are limited to one kitchen and can't have locks on the outside of the bedroom doors. Beyond that, "if 17 people decide they're going to share a kitchen, there's not a damn thing I can do about it," she says.

Carrigan also points to this legal loophole as a problem. "If you have a rooming house but no locks on the bedroom doors, it's not considered a rooming house under the bylaw," he says.

Eric McKee, Dal's vice-president of student services, says he is especially worried about the

"We're not taken seriously by the courts," Uteck says. "At HRM, we're not in the business of prosecuting, we're in the business of complaints. We need a complaint."

But once a complaint is made, evidence has to be gathered and taken to court to get an injunction. Injunctions are not always effective either, Uteck says, citing an incident where an injunction to stop an illegal addition was obtained. The addition was removed, and then put back up at a later date. The legal process is also slow, taking up to two years.

Meanwhile, Dalhousie administration is working on some initiatives to improve students' quality of life and discourage them from living in rooming houses. The U-Pass, a mandatory Metro Transit pass program that could begin in September, is one of such initiatives. The U-Pass would reduce the demand for housing in South End by making transportation to campus from Dartmouth or the North End easier. This would encourage students to live in those lower-rent areas, Somers says, and lower student costs.

New criteria are also being established for landlords wanting to list their properties on the Dal's off-campus housing web site. "Sometimes people end up taking housing because they have to," says Somers. "We want to work with landlords and the city in raising the bar a bit."

"Some of these places are garbage heaps and they're ripping students off."

—Dr. Owen Carrigan, member of the Peninsula South Community Association and former St. Mary's University president

"Investors buy the properties and they know they can make a lot of money, and they get away with it because the city doesn't enforce bylaws," he says.

After the PSCA brought 14 of these properties to the municipality's attention, the city spent three months investigating them, says South End city councillor Sue Uteck. But not one of the properties actually met the definition of a rooming house.

There is no legal definition of a family in Canada, Uteck says—so 17 students in a rooming house could technically pass as a family. Single family homes, as

lack of privacy in rooming houses. "Students want places to live and we want students to have acceptable places to live. We don't think renting a room in a building with people you don't know without a lock on your bedroom door is acceptable," he says.

The tricky legal process involved in shutting down a rooming house further complicates matters, say Carrigan and Uteck. "One problem is that the city doesn't have enough bylaw inspectors. The other problem is getting legal evidence that will stand up in court," says Carrigan.

CKDU-FM, Dalhousie's campus-community radio station, is hiring a Station Coordinator to manage the station's administration and finances. This is a full-time paid position.

Application Deadline: Thursday Jan. 27 at 5 p.m.

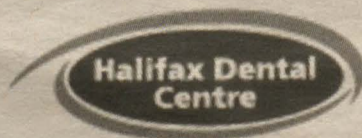
For more details check the full posting at the station (4th floor SUB) or the Dal Employment Centre.

Dr. Douglas MacNeil and Dr. Donald Copp

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Dr. Mark Sutherland

as an Associate in General Dentistry.



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Attn: Students

A Costco representative will be in the Student Union Building on January 27 between 10am and 1pm to sign up new memberships for Costco Wholesale • \$57.50 cash/cheque. There will be door prizes, coupon booklets and a \$10.00 cash card for anyone joining that day.

If you have questions, please contact 450-5305.

COSTCO
WHOLESALE

Grawood Programming Director Leaves

Katie Maskell
Staff Contributor

Things are changing at the Grawood—without the guidance of Mike Pope, the former director of programming and promotions at the Dalhousie Student Union-owned and operated bar. Pope was fired before Christmas, but DSU officials are keeping quiet about the circumstances that led to his departure.

Though DSU president Curtis McGrath did confirm that Pope is no longer an employee of the DSU, he declined to offer more details concerning Pope's firing.

According to sources who only

Szepes said. "[Pope's] responsibilities... have been divided up among full-time staff and executive."

"I am told different stories on both ends as to Mike's discontinued involvement," said one source.

"Mike felt that his time with the DSU had come to an end. He's very happy to be able to focus his time on his other projects."

Another source said it was his/her impression that the firing was due to Pope's job performance, and not an attempt by the DSU to restructure the Grawood.

"[I don't have] much to say

"By having a student oversee programming, Dal is now in the majority of universities in the country. I hope it works well for them."

— Mike Pope, former Grawood director of programming and promotions

agreed to be interviewed so long as they remained anonymous, DSU's vice-president of student life Mark Szepes is supposed to take over Pope's responsibilities. But like McGrath, Szepes was non-committal when asked for more information. "I am the vice-president of student life and I work for the students of Dal,"

really," Pope said when he spoke to the *Gazette*. "I have moved on and Mark is the VP student life. By having a student oversee programming, Dal is now in the majority of universities in the country. I hope it works well for them."

The Grawood underwent a physical restructuring in 2002



"We have worked hard to provide a social environment on campus where students want to go and unwind. Those who have been at Dal for a while are quick to note that the new Grawood is not like the old Grawood," said Curtis McGrath. / Photo: Jenine Dowden

when the bar was moved from the lower floor to the main level of the SUB.

"We have worked hard to provide a social environment on campus where students want to go and unwind," said McGrath.

"Those who have been at Dal for a while are quick to note that the new Grawood is not like the old Grawood. [But] new students on campus have remarked that the Grawood is a great facility with an excellent programming line-

up, great food and drink prices, friendly staff and a safe atmosphere."

For McGrath, the Grawood is still a work in progress: "It takes time to get things just right, but we are well on our way."

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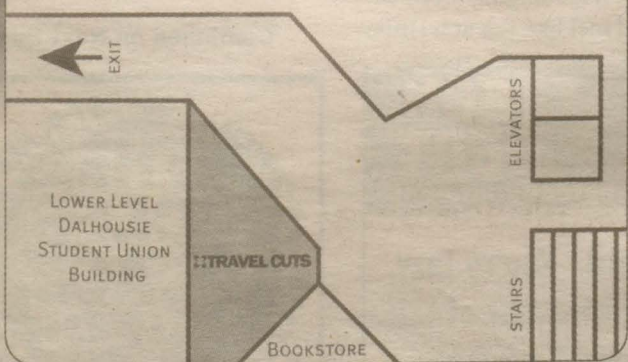
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THE ANNUAL KING'S UNIVERSITY FORMAL BALL

I don't go to King's, so it was a special treat when I was asked to attend their annual formal. With my sparkling date at my side, I felt arrogantly confident (what chap wouldn't?) and was determined to put on a seminar in rowdiness for these King's kids. What resulted was me standing wide-eyed in the middle of a

gong-show of mammoth proportions. I had willingly thrown myself into the asylum believing I could out-crazy the inmates... but the lunatics ended up showing me what true madness really is. I didn't think people in suits and dresses could be that drunk. Sins of the flesh and impure motives haunted the ball rooms

like a fever. That guy who talks a lot in your classes (you know the one) was there putting MC Hammer to shame. Somewhere in between the ethical discussions about the essence of why a girl should be allowed in the guy's bathroom and the futuristic Cinderella whose glass heels emitted blue and red

lights as she danced... I realized that this was one helluva scene. I had a blast chatting with all the drunkards there. Mark my words, I will never—ever—write another ill word about King's students again. They know *how to party*.

Vent Rave (Li Dong)

The Power of Kindness

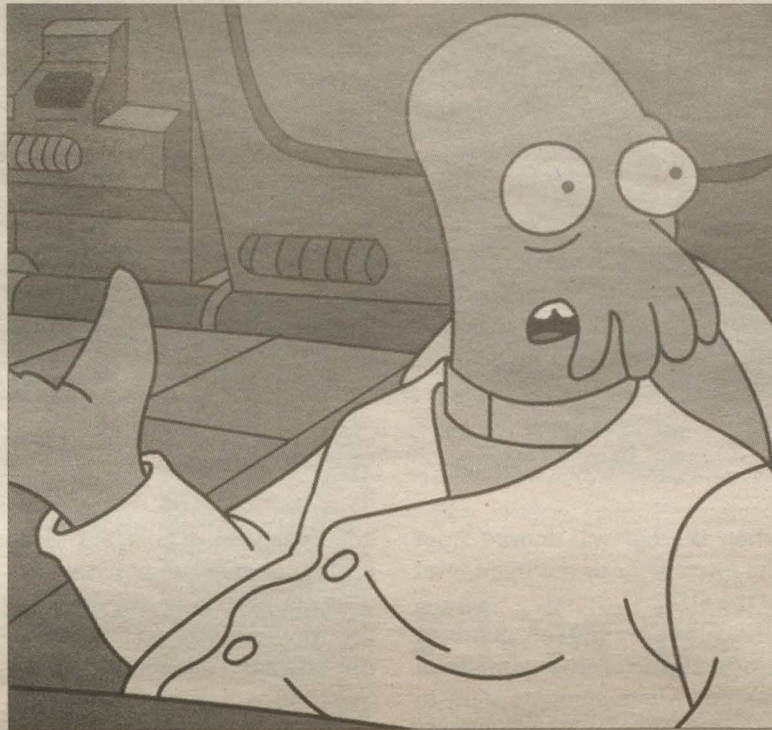
It shouldn't take a disaster to spark our love for humanity

Katherine Charters
Opinions Contributor

"And then a wonderful thing happened, why not?" Why not indeed. In the immortal words of Dr. Zoidberg, we are reminded of the surprise of the kindness and capacity of human nature to care for others. If nothing else, the disastrous effects of the Dec. 26 tsunami have raised a global consciousness concerning the positions of others worldwide. Reports state that over 212,000 have lost their lives, and millions more their homes—and the outpouring of aid relief has been tremendous. But why has it taken a disaster like this to open our eyes to the needs of those less fortunate?

Canadians, many of them children, have mobilized their kindness and raised funds to send to areas directly affected by the tsunami. From the shower-radio came stories of schools throughout the HRM, my roommate came home from her job at Oxford School with a story of the school's efforts, and my mother told me about a boy in grade seven from my hometown who is urging his classmates to each raise \$100. My family and friends have donated, and even here on campus the DSU is urging all Dalhousie students to reach into their pockets and contribute what they can. Latest figures have the Canadian government pledging \$425 million in aid, and a couple in Toronto made a private donation of \$5 million. DART, the Canadian Disaster Assistance Relief Team, a \$20 million effort, has been deployed to Sri Lanka where it will provide medical care and clean water.

Worldwide, the response has been the same. The G7 group of industrialized nations has recently announced that it will freeze the debt payments of countries directly affected for



"And then a wonderful thing happened, why not?" – Dr. Zoidberg

approximately one year. This will most likely come as a relief for governments of these countries, and although this freeze does not mean a cancellation of the debt, every small bit will make a difference when Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India and Thailand begin to rebuild.

I commend the Canadian people, individuals, groups, children, and the government for our ability to reach out and give what we can to the affected areas. It's a wonderful thing and it should not be a surprise that people are compassionate and sympathetic to the plight of millions of victims. But while the outpouring of grief and sympathy is spectacular, why did it take such a large disaster to open our eyes? Will our support, both financial and emotional, continue in the coming months and years? The media coverage and attention has been extensive, but how long can it last? And what about the millions affected worldwide not by large-scale disasters, but everyday life?

While there is no contestation that aid is being directed to developing nations struggling to deal with HIV/AIDS, poverty and conflict, these disasters, while not natural, have seemingly been swept aside in the fervor created by the tsunami. Let us remember that while the many millions of people affected by the tsunami need help, they are not the only ones living without homes, clean water, food or other basic supplies. Remember that after the waves from the tsunami crisis recede, there will still be millions who need our help and our spare change even if they are not staring at us from every news broadcast or newspaper page. Perhaps the response to the tsunami will result in the increased social consciousness of those who have less, and individuals from developed nations will continue to send support to where it is needed. Let us remember that wonderful things can happen every day—things that should happen—regardless of a crisis or natural disaster. Why not?



This is my very own suburban nightmare.

Suburban Nightmares South of the Border

Philip Duguay
Staff Contributor

I was born in Canada, but mainly grew up in the rolling hills of the picturesque New England town of Simsbury, Connecticut. Maybe the horrors of attending public high school in the post-Columbine age have jaded me, but the fact is that I dislike Simsbury quite a bit. Even though we in Simsbury live many miles from any serious metropolitan area, people seem to be in a big city rush and under big city stress all the time.

This is my very own suburban nightmare.

I noticed over the past few days in Simsbury, more than ever, that the U.S. is gripped by the fact it we are at war... a war more serious than anyone had anticipated. At the airport there were soldiers everywhere, some of them having very emotional reunions with families right in front of my eyes. Yellow ribbons adorn many houses, trees, and every other car that passes by. Stars and stripes are more omnipresent than ever. Every telephone poll on Simsbury's main drag has a flag hanging off it. Oftentimes I feel like I'm at a Hitler

Youth rally. On the highway I saw two cars pass by with peace bumper stickers, then a pick-up with a sticker that said "My passenger is a Smith and Wesson." Yes... this is definitely the divided America everyone is talking about.

My parents live in a blue state. Senator Kerry is from next door, in Massachusetts, and although we have our own issues with the *Massholes*, Connecticut overwhelmingly voted for him.

But this doesn't mean that I live in an area that shares a "liberal" viewpoint. If you bring up politics at a party here, the room goes silent within seconds. People that I grew up with are sharply divided, and I find all the time that people I respect(ed?) are supporters of Bush's deadly debacle in Iraq.

For me, it's hard to separate politics from everyday life. I see government as an extension of the values of society. So what are American values? I presumed television could give some indication. News broadcasts here extol the bravery of American soldiers. My first evening home I saw several human interest news stories about soldiers and their

Continued on Next Page...

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American Beauty

US media's spin on the disaster in South East Asia

Jenny Cooper
Staff Contributor

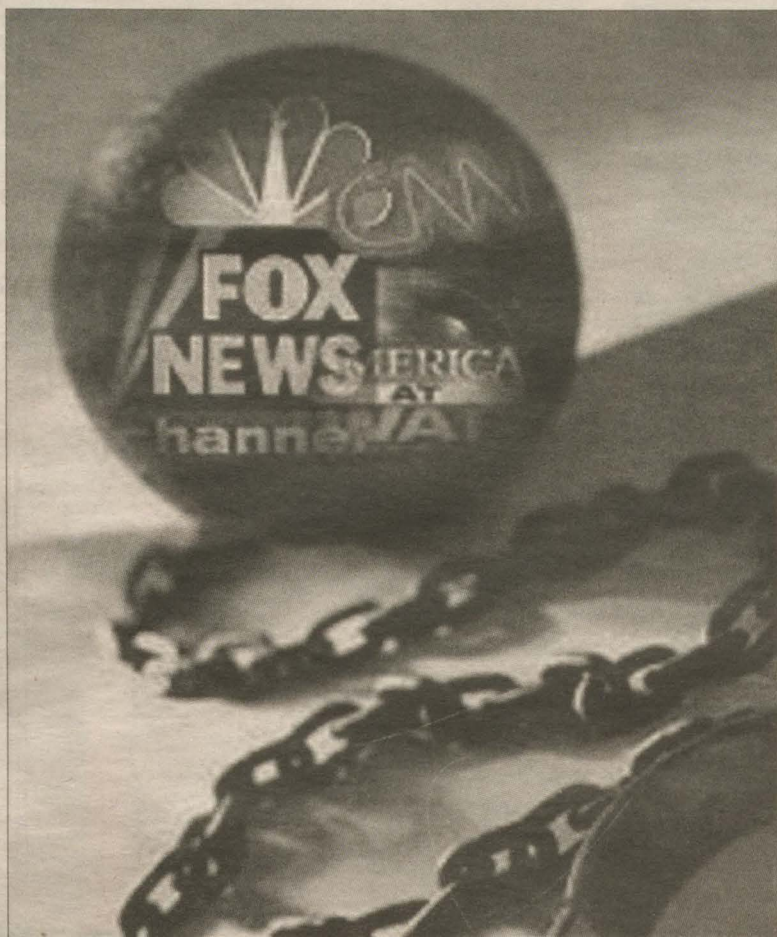
This year's Boxing Day began much like the rest of them: A tradition that my best friend and I partake in every year involving getting up at the crack of dawn and hitting the shops of downtown Toronto—where we blow all the Christmas money we just received on pretty things that we don't really need.

After spending a crazy morning on Queen St. West and the Eaton center, I staggered home with a Starbucks latte in hand, smug with my successful purchases. I entered my house and saw my mother sitting in front of the television watching *CBC NewsWorld* with tears in her eyes. The story on TV was, as we were all soon to find out, about the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia.

A Thai man, interviewed by *NewsWorld* reporters, stood on a barren piece of land that was once his home, and where his wife and 17 children (now all dead) had once lived. I have never been more disgusted with myself than at that moment, with a coffee in my hand that was the monetary equivalent of food for that man's family for a day, and bags of clothing that were made in sweatshops by people who may have been washed out to sea forever.

Yet when something is so distant and detached, it can be really hard to truly relate to a situation, especially when it was so far away. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 had more impact on our own society as they were so close to home. Yet for this one, I only became much more real and frightening as I remembered that four close family members were vacationing at a beach resort in Thailand.

News images of the tsunami dramatically changed from being detached and horrifying to making me feel sick to my stomach, knowing that four lives that were part of my own were experiencing this tragedy first hand. Days



"All the American broadcasts focused on tourist deaths in the high end resorts—'dramatic survival' stories of American tourists on holiday."

passed with no news of their survival, until at last we found out that they had escaped harm. Within that span of time, I followed the story on the news and noticed something self-righteous and depressing: all the American broadcasts focused on tourist deaths in the high end resorts—"dramatic survival" stories of American tourists on holiday. One of these stories included a Barbie and Ken look-a-like couple who had observed the catastrophe from a mountain top resort—what brave souls, indeed!

A few days hence, CNN began to profile American self-praise in all the money they gave to aid efforts; the network then swiftly moved to a very sad, sad story of how California was having a bit of a heavy snowfall, causing commuters trouble. Sigh. So dramatic a difference to CBC and BBC broadcasts, which focused on areas with no vacationing Americans (i.e. the locals), demonstrat-

ing that this disaster did actually destroy the lives of hundreds of thousands of non-American non-tourists. To think a disaster that took place on the other side of the world would have nothing to do with America—who would have thought?

Though the efforts in seeing the world come together on such a large scale to help out in dire times does restore my faith in human race, it also makes me angry to think that the U.S. has somehow managed to put itself in the spotlight again. Think of the statements that the survivors of this disaster are "the next wave of young terrorists": America, get over yourself. If over 50 per cent of your population can reelect the most incompetent fool that ever had the privilege of existing, then perhaps the Western world is doomed. Or maybe, just maybe, Darwin's theory is just working its magic in mysterious ways.

Suburban Nightmare

Continued from Previous Page...

families. I even saw one about a local 18-year-old Marine being honoured by his high school hockey team on the eve of his departure for Iraq. Flipping around the channels I could watch MTV, which doesn't play music videos anymore, Hollywood gossip shows and reality police programs. Searching for actual news I watched a documentary on CNN examining *Time Magazine's* decision to name George W. Bush the "Person of the Year." After flipping off the television I felt more befuddled than enlightened.

Walking down my street fills me with sadness and, frankly, slight disgust. I can see my neighbour's shiny gas guzzling black hummer. Looking across the street I can see where another neighbour used to live before he died of health problems caused by his Green Beret service in Vietnam (most likely he was poisoned by Agent Orange). Another neighbour, a high school buddy, was killed in Baghdad last April, incinerated in a Humvee which lacked proper armour. He was 22.

Through it all I have to won-

der where the substance is. Why are Americans so quick to slap a bumper sticker on their car but so reluctant to engage in meaningful dialogue that could evoke some type of positive change?

Will we ever ask these tough questions of ourselves? Will we see a correlation between our opulent lifestyles and the horrible decisions our government is forced to make. Will I return in 20 years and see electric cars in the place of all those SUV's? Peace signs hanging in windowsills instead of "United We Stand" posters? A balanced budget? Towns enforcing the Kyoto Treaty instead of busting university students with dime bags? What we need in America is some soul searching and prioritization. And we won't find happiness in cheesy television, irresponsible lifestyle habits (dammit I hate Hummers) or politicians who push fear and war, hand in hand with tax cuts for the rich and slashes in social security. I write this because I know there are at least 56 million Americans out there who feel more or less like I do—scared of the future and wishing for a Canadian passport. Oh wait... I have one.

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African conflicts continue to be largely ignored by the media and by governments who have the potential to help.

Global Village

The nature of the tsunami relief effort

Courtenay Kyle
Opinions Contributor

If any good can be seen to have arisen from the horrific events in Southeast Asia, it is the way in which so many countries as well as individuals, rich and poor, have come together and donated billions of dollars for the victims of the tsunami. People who have next to nothing are giving what little they have. Paul Martin has said that Canada will donate \$425 million over the next five years and that sum has been complimented by the \$147 million raised by individual Canadians. The U.S. has been quoted to be donating at least \$350 million. There has also been talk of some industrial nations reducing debts owed to them by tsunami-hit nations. Canada alone is owed some \$999 million by eight countries that were hit by the tsunamis. The speed and size of this generosity raises a question: where is the aid for the millions of Africans dying every year from disease and warfare?

The past few weeks have demonstrated that there is money available for people in desperate need—and yet African conflicts continue to be largely

ignored by the media and by governments who have the potential to help. The International Rescue Committee estimates that 1,000 people die every day, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from malnutrition and curable diseases. In Sudan, 1.65 million have been displaced due to civil war. Over 500,000 have been killed since the fighting began in Feb. 2003, making the situation in Sudan the greatest humanitarian crisis since the Rwandan genocide. These numbers don't even include the more than 18 million Africans who have died from AIDS since the mid-1980s. In South Africa alone it is estimated that 700 die every week from the disease.

The international aid that has been granted to these crises pales in comparison to the money given to assist the victims of the tsunami in the past few weeks. This by no means is an attempt to undermine the suffering in Asia—but the question of what makes this disaster different from the crises in Africa must be addressed. If we wish to legitimately continue to refer to the world as a global village, our charity should address all crises equally, regardless of geography.

The New Workout Plan

One and two and three and four...

Lina Hussain
Staff Contributor

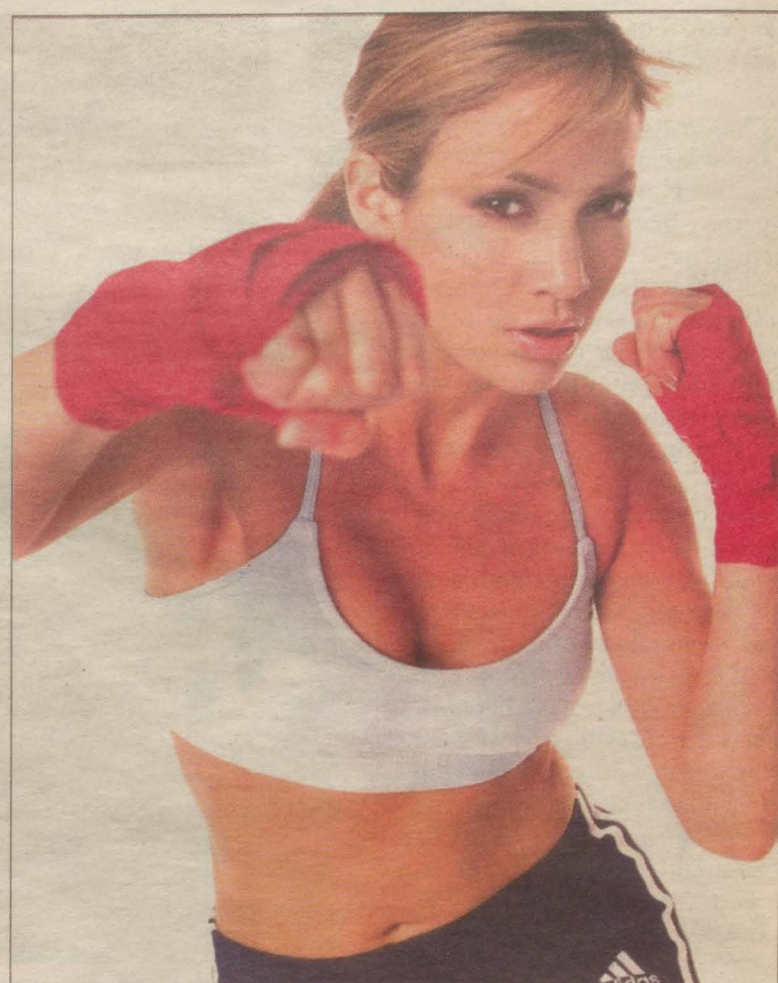
We all know exercise is good for us. Day after day, study after study, science demonstrates that exercise can lower your risk of heart disease, make you look younger, increase your years on the planet and even alleviate depression. So why are we finding it so hard to follow the exercise schedule that can make us mentally and physically fit?

The problem is in our mindset. We have a tendency to associate exercise with a skinny, fit, "Hollywood" body. People don't stick to their exercise routines because they imagine themselves in a "perfect" body, eating the perfect (healthy) food and living in perfect world.

Personally, I try to stick to my Pilates workout at home. Twenty minutes of it and I'm feeling energized, rejuvenated and in shape. But a few days of it and I toss it to the side and promise myself that I will make a schedule for it...someday. Why don't I stick to it the way I'm supposed to? Because I have a mindset that exercising is here to make me look thin, fit and perfect. When I think of exercise, I envision J-Lo's abs and sculpted legs, then I realize that it will take me a very long time to get her perfect body. So, I sit around envying her and thinking "what's the point?" before giving up without even trying.

I always end up deciding, "when I have the time, I will make a schedule and stick to my routine," but does that time ever come? Nope. So, I think: "maybe if I lived in Hawaii... or Florida... maybe if I were rich and could afford a trainer... or maybe if I marry an athletic guy, maybe then I would be motivated to work out."

Most exercise programs tell you to exercise to "get in shape." What would it be like if exer-



She's fit enough to make you bleed *In Living Color*.

cise videos were advertised on the basis of *mental*, rather than *physical* health? Would we stick to our programs then? Let's try and think of what it would be like if exercise marketing was based on "do this exercise to lift your mood, energize and rejuvenate you every morning," or

Thankfully, I have changed my mindset about exercise into something that is a mentally and psychologically fulfilling experience rather than setting unrealistic goals. Now I tell myself to go for a swim because it will make me feel good, regardless of whether I am happy with my

What would it be like if exercise videos were advertised on the basis of *mental*, rather than *physical* health?

"do this exercise to increase serotonin levels in your brain, to relieve depression and to make you feel good about yourself. You can even use it as a picker-upper any time of the day." How likely would you be to stick to your exercise routine then?

body or not. One exercise session can have a great positive impact that is not seen, but *felt*. That's the beauty of exercise — it's a natural high that will elevate your mood no matter how you are feeling, and you will end up enjoying it simply because of that.

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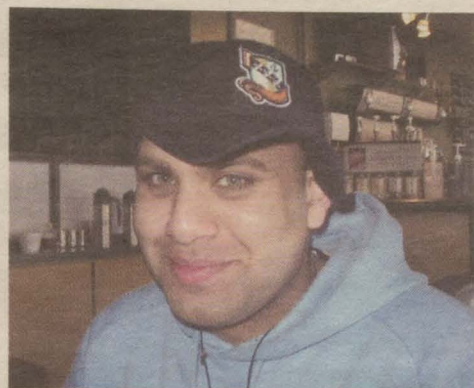
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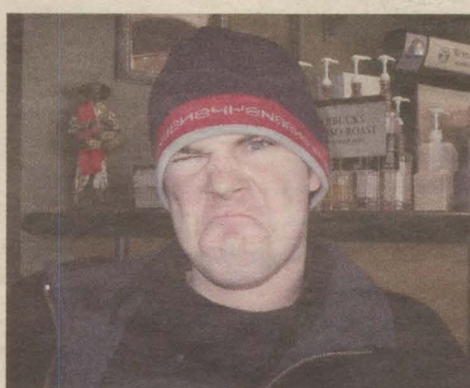
What's your favorite thing to do when it snows?



I make snow penis sculptures outside of my house.
- Lindsay Carruthers, first-year pharmacy



To get drunk, Bailey's and hot chocolate, what else is there to do?
- Krishna Parmar, fourth-year political science



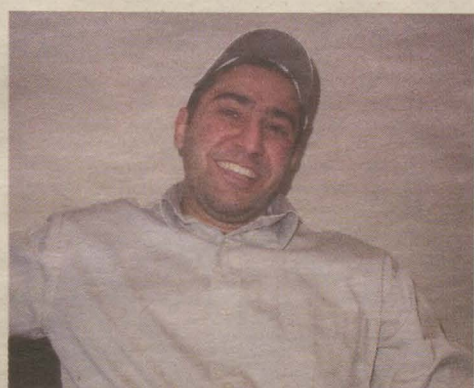
Pelt random people in the face with snowballs.
- Kieran Hanley, second-year commerce



Sit at home and watch it melt... it's freezing out there!
- Ezgi Tekin, third-year political science



Make snow angels. I haven't done that in a long time.
- Diva Miri, third-year neuroscience



To use the snow-blower instead of shoveling.
- Basin Sobeih, third-year electrical engineering



To go skiing at Ski Martock.
- Jill LeRue, first-year sciences



I like to drink six pots of coffee, go outside, and compose neo-Marxist manifestos in the snow.
- Chris LaRoche, third-year cat burglar

Letters

letters@dalgazette.ca

Flag Flap Continues

The *Gazette* editorial on Jan. 6 (137:16) was an excellent display of general Canadian ignorance and jingoism. It's sad to see the editor of a major Eastern university newspaper make so many incorrect assumptions about Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 1946, Canada's High Commissioner to Newfoundland outlined Canada's keen interest in acquiring Newfoundland for its resources. In 1947, Canada's external affairs department feared Newfoundland's improving relations with the U.S. would jeopardize Canada's position. These are early examples of Canada's plans for Newfoundland.

If anything, by choosing to fly the Canadian flag again, Premier Williams was too soft on Canada. Why fly the maple leaf when Canada's decisions have consistently denied Newfoundland and Labrador fair account for the resources it brought into Confederation? Canada is not a nation. It's not a unitary state. It's a federation. Without the provinces that federated to create it, Canada is nothing.

Newfoundland spent decades offering positive policies for fisheries management, Canada stubbornly chose a route of destruction. During the 200-mile limit negotiations in 1975, Newfoundland proposed claiming the Nose and Tail and Flemish cap. Canada

refused. It proposed joint fisheries management many times. Canada refused. It proposed custodial management many times. Canada refused. Instead, Canada used Newfoundland fisheries as a bargaining chip with non-Newfoundland Canadian interests as well as foreign interests. Since the government of Canada refused

Why fly the maple leaf when Canada's decisions have consistently denied Newfoundland and Labrador fair account for the resources it brought into Confederation?

to share jurisdiction, it must accept most of the responsibility for fisheries devastation.

In the mid-1960s, Newfoundland legislators asked Canada to keep its own energy policy precedents (set to aid Ontario) and use its constitutional power to prevent interference with the transmission of Labrador hydroelectricity across Quebec. Canada refused. Since 1974, that refusal has cost Newfoundland \$800 million annually in revenues. \$800 million eclipses Newfoundland's equalization payment.

Originally, equalization did not penalize provinces for developing non-renewable resources. Alberta got its start under such a system. In June of 2004, Paul

Martin promised a similar (100 per cent) to Newfoundland. So far, Paul Martin has once again confirmed his reputation as a liar.

As far as I'm concerned, the Maple Leaf should stay down until such time as Newfoundlanders have reason to be proud to be Canadians. Danny Williams might put the flag back up, but I see no reason to fly a flag that reminds me only of thievery and lies.

Liam O'Brien
3rd-year Law

NFLD Historical Significance

Dear Editor,

This is a response to your Jan. 6 editorial on Newfoundland and Labrador premier Danny Williams' actions during the latest episode of the offshore oil revenue negotiations with Ottawa. I am disappointed that your opinion of Williams' objections is so predictably Canadian. You stated that, "They (Newfoundlanders) do not realize that the rest of the country is laughing at them." You are wrong, for Newfoundlanders have been aware that Canadians have been laughing at them since they joined this country, and Canadians' continuous preference to laugh at Newfoundlanders rather than

listening whenever they do complain is something that Canadians should be ashamed of.

I disagree with your opinion that Newfoundland should be more willing to share its oil revenues with Ottawa. Why? Because since joining Canada in 1949 three major resources have been exploited by the federal government largely to the overall detriment of Newfoundland itself. During the early 1960s the federal government gave Quebec the rights to develop hydroelectric facilities at Churchill Falls in Labrador, a project worth \$800 million a year to the Quebec economy (Newfoundland takes home only \$20 million a year from the same project). In 1992, after years of mismanagement by the federal government, the North Atlantic cod fishery was shut down, immediately putting 30,000 Newfoundlanders out of work (comparable to 600,000 Ontarians being laid off with no notice). Oil has been flowing off the eastern shore of Newfoundland for the past two decades, but the province receives only 14 percent of the revenue (Ottawa takes home the remaining 86 percent). As a Canadian province, Newfoundland has never benefitted from its resources the way it should.

You are right that the revenue Newfoundland stands to gain from these negotiations is

a, "glistening turkey," but can you blame Newfoundlanders for wanting to hold onto it? Ottawa

... since joining Canada in 1949 three major resources have been exploited by the federal government largely to the overall detriment of Newfoundland itself.

ruined the province's first two turkey dinners (being hydro and the fishery), proving its inability or unwillingness to help Newfoundland prepare a financial recipe for success. Newfoundlanders want all the oil revenue, and they don't want to share for that reason.

Many Newfoundlanders lack faith in the ability of the federal government to manage the offshore oil industry, and they are wary that Ottawa may spoil another prospect that could enable Newfoundland and Labrador to finally become a 'have' province. I believe the grievances of Newfoundlanders are totally justified, and their collective outcry of opposition is not the most embarrassing aspect of this issue - the refusal of Canadians to take Newfoundlanders' grievances seriously is.

Robert Harding

TSUNAMI S.O.S.

Stratagem-musik, Massive Productions, MovetheMasses, and The Evolve Festival are putting on a benefit concert for the Tsunami victims in Asia. Proceeds will go to Oxfam Canada and It's Halifax. Stratagem-musik is also holding a clothing drive for the Salvation Army and Phoenix House here in Hali. Stage Nine, Jan. 29.

Hot Spots

TOM CRUISE

He will not be coming to Halifax, no. But Kings College presents *Top Gun!* the musical. Denis McGrath wrote the book and lyrics and the music was created by Scott White. Production opens Thursday, January 20 and runs until Saturday, January 22 at the Pit Theatre. Tickets are \$7/\$5 for students and Pay-What-You-Can on Thursday. For reservations call 448-5080.

S.O.S. TSUNAMI

Rock-A-Billy T. & the Mushkat Three, Dusty, the Jonathan Andrews, Jon Stevens and Jenn Grant will be performing a benefit concert for Tsunami relief efforts in Asia. All proceeds will go to the Canadian Red Cross. The show is scheduled for 10p.m. sharp, Friday, January 21 at Tribeca Bistro & Bar at 1588 Granville Street. Suggested donation is \$5.

THOUGHT THE MARQUEE WAS CLOSING?

Think again. This Thursday, January 20, Classified, J-Bru, Universal Soul, Tachi-chi, Alpha Flight, Parker Lewis, Jesse Dangerously, Phakt, Mic Jones Cess, Jo Fo, Second Front, Jay Bizzy, Apt, Kuttin Kracker, Cosmo, JoRun, Gordski, DJ IV, Plaeboi, Androc, Y Rush are set to play The Marquee Club/Hell. Show starts at 10p.m. Cover is \$7.

Gravity and Grace

Stars find balance by working from the ground, up

Lindsay Dobbin
 Assistant Arts Editor

“When there's nothing left to burn, you have to set yourself on fire!”

The godlike voice that commands the opening of Stars' new album, *Set Yourself on Fire*, grabs the listeners' attention, makes them stand up and declares that they must give into the chaos, go down to the marrow and start again—more beautiful and aggressive than before. An interesting counterpoint to Stars' last album, *Heart*, which emphasized beginning and then building up, *Set Yourself on Fire* emphasizes burning down what you've built—and it does it well.

Stars (Torquil Campbell, Evan Cranley, Pat McGee, Amy Millan and Chris Seligman) are able to communicate their ideals effectively because of balance. Their music walks the fine line between aggression and beauty and, content wise, grounded individual experience in their lyrics is coupled with overarching ideas such as the soft revolution—a call for the rising of the humble and ordinary folk. The band members' songwriting methods are balanced—Campbell and Millan are fairly conceptual whereas the others approach music very methodically.

It's these particular balances that make Stars successful. They are able to find the middle ground between various paradigms and also turn them into something tangible—something meaningful. And in the end it isolates the listener without making them feel isolated.

I spoke to Torquil Campbell of Stars to find out how the band maintains these balances:

In your online diary, you mention that your music was originally supposed to be a beautiful reminder of youth. Even though you have garnered a lot of attention and, ultimately, have affected people who have listened to your music, you indicate that in the end it will end up being a beautiful reminder of your youth.

Ironic isn't it? In a strange way it's the most important thing in our lives and it's everything we are doing right now. And then time will pass and it won't be the most important thing in our lives, and it will be a memory. I think that's kind of beautiful. I'm



Ageless Beauties Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan

looking forward to that. Not that I am having a great time in it. It was meant to be something that we could hold onto about our friendship and about youth, and it's beautiful that we're living it. But, sometimes when it becomes so much of a job and so much of a horse race, you forget that there are timeless reasons for doing this that are private, in your own head, reasons.

In terms of holding onto memories and private moments, your lyrics are filled with references to those.

I think we do try to make a big effort to relate the personal to the political. And I think that we're all people who decided that the most we can do for the world is live in a certain way, and feel in a certain way about things. If you don't understand love and you don't understand love's importance in everybody's life, everyday, then you don't really understand social change or politics. You can't have one without the other. There's no revolution in the world that will succeed without love in it. I think that's something we try to examine in music.

There are some critics who have said that you overly roman-

tize ordinary experiences.

I think it's sort of like eating an orange and saying 'this tastes too much like an orange.' Art in general, and pop music in particular, is a forum and a venue for the moments in our lives when we are not taken up by the mundane and by the everyday. But in those mundane and everyday ex-

Art in general, and pop music in particular, is a forum and a venue for the moments in our lives when we are not taken up by the mundane and by the everyday.

periences we suddenly discover incredible beauty and incredible truth about ourselves.

To be a bit restrictive, you essentially write pop music which is an interesting venue because of its accessible nature. There is a fine line between gravity and grace within the pop realm and many bands are dismissed because they're not able to tread that line and find a balance in their music—a balance between enlightening weight and emotional whimsicality. I find that Stars has an effective balance. How do you maintain that consistency and not fall off the line?

That is the main foundation of what we're doing, trying to maintain that dichotomy. Even our name, Stars, refers to the most profound thing you can imagine—the stars in the sky—and the most trivial thing—Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston. [...] That's something I've always loved about pop music. I've al-

ways really responded to how completely light and completely small, inconsequential it is except when you play it, it has this massive effect on you.

I am curious as to how much of the songwriting on *Set Yourself on Fire* was due to natural evolution as a band and how much of it was a product of the environment in which they were written—during the winter within a thin-walled house in the small town of North Hatley, Que.

We created the environment that we felt we needed to make the record. There were clear decisions we all made together

about what the record should sound like and what we wanted to try and create together. We've been playing with Broken Social Scene and the Dears, and we've become very aware of the power they have as bands to bring dynamism into the live setting and to create excitement in the audience by having drama in their music. We were influenced by that, and we wanted to try and expand our songwriting in the sense that we wanted to try and bring more sections into songs, and a little variance into it. *Heart* is an album that exists very much in one mood, and we wanted to bring several different ones to the table this time.

Due to the fact that you lived within such an insular world with the other band members during the writing process and you also give the impression of being very much a unit in creative circumstances, how do you avoid creating music that is limited? In other words, how do you keep the door open to intent listeners?

I think you have challenge your own self a lot of the time—how do you keep your own mind open? We want to do that, we want to be open to things when we are making music but it's easy to be influenced by things and it's less easy to find your own specific voice, and keep listening to that and trusting that. So, really the process of recording was much more about that than reconciling our influences. It was honing down things and getting rid of influences and trying to find exactly what it was that we did that made us, us. It's something special that happens between this particular group of people, and that's why it's this particular group of people. It's very rare to find people that you have an unspoken language with and when you find those people—that is a band. It's a vulnerable thing. You can't examine and understand it.

Stars play with Broken Social Scene on Jan. 21 (with In-Flight Safety) and Jan. 22 (with Winter-sleep) at the Marquee Club. Admission is \$17.50 in advance, available at Musicstop, Biscuit General Store and the Marquee Club. A limited number of \$30.00 weekend passes are available at Musicstop only.



K-Os doesn't want to change the world, he only wants to stop pretending / Photo: Christina Stefanski

K-Os: The Hip Hop Evolution comes to Dal

Christina Stefanski
Staff Contributor

Heaven Brereton's *Knowledge-Of-Self* comes from confidence and ambition—and genuine dream to redefine hip hop. Brereton, AKA K-Os, has engaged the masses, despite having only released two albums thus far—*Exit* and *Joyful Rebellion*. Currently touring throughout North America, Brereton brings with him a powerful message: a revolution needs to take place in hip hop music. The initiation of this change is not up to the individual musician, he insists, but depends upon the coming together of people who want to listen to socially conscious music.

"It doesn't matter if I exist, if I don't [change the way people think about hip hop music], someone else will."

Brereton delivered this message, in the flesh, at Dalhousie's Grawood on Jan. 13. The next night, playing the Marquee Club, Brereton demonstrated what he means by this revolution: he and his band blended rock, soul, hip hop beats and poetry in an energetic style, aptly demonstrating K-Os's talent and creativity. Brereton insists that

Brereton says that the majority of people are manipulated by the media to like a certain type of rap music. Young adults have been "listening to lifestyles that aren't real" in popular rap music, he says, which has led them to

start looking for something more substantial. "Depending on how intelligent kids are about their revolution will dictate where it goes ... the masses are hungry for something beyond a perfect Aryan ideal on the media," he says.

Buck 65, a renowned Canadian hip hop artist known for his continuously evolving style, has influenced Brereton—who says he is "influenced by anyone who has faith or pride in their own ex-

"The Beatles weren't afraid to lose a rock audience when they did 'Revolver,' but for some reason in hip hop everyone feels that if you expand you're not 'hip hop' anymore," Brereton says. "Evolution is always a state that causes some kind of kafuffle, because not everyone evolves at the same rate." K-Os' evolution, Brereton says, is "something from my own experience.

On "Crucial," a track from *Joy-*

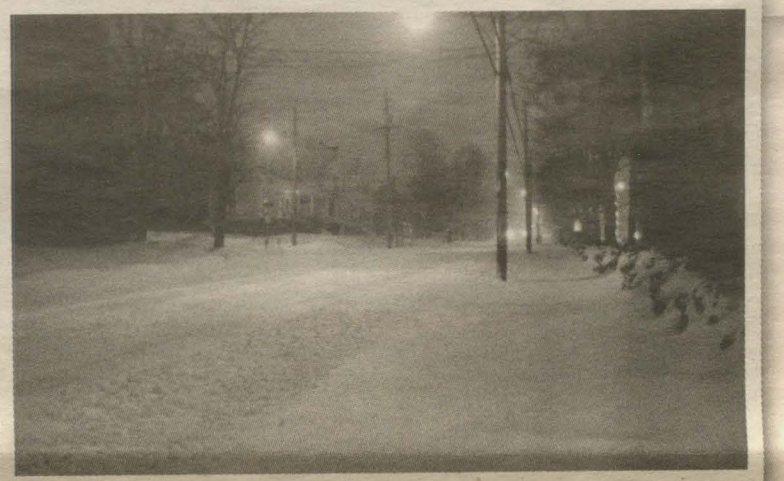
Evolution is always a state that causes some kind of kafuffle, because not everyone evolves at the same rate.

periences [and] understands that it's smarter to represent yourself based on where you're from, rather than trying to gravitate to whatever is hot at the time." For some hip hop enthusiasts, appreciating Buck 65 can be a touchy subject. He has established his name in North America and Europe while experimenting in different cultures and with new sounds. At the same time, some argue that Buck 65's pursuit of discovering his own musical style has disconnected him from the North American hip hop audience—and Halifax in particular.

Is K-Os risking the danger of losing his audience, in the same way that Buck 65 perhaps has, if he does not produce what the mass public expects to hear?

ful Rebellion, Brereton sings: "I don't wanna change the world/I only wanna stop pretending." Pretending to change the world, for K-Os, has to do with "trying to go about change by criticizing the current establishment and being a reactionary revolutionary."

As far as the future of hip hop music is concerned, Brereton says the time has come to end the polarity between different categories of hip hop music. "There shouldn't be such a polarity [that classifies] 'conscious,' 'unconscious,' 'good hip hop' or 'bad hip hop.' It should be more balanced where hip hop is just like life," he says. "There are sunrises and there are sunsets of all types of music."



Photos of the Week
Snow storm, by Rafal Andronowski

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Elvis impersonator Max Pelicano: the resemblance is uncanny.

Elvis to the Max

Impersonator proves he is a hunka' hunka' burnin' love

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

"Max Pelicano is Elvis Presley." That's what the posters that played up the walls of the casino's corridors said. Upon closer inspection, the microphoned man in the photo did indeed have similar features to Elvis, but I couldn't help feeling a little alarmed and even disturbed at the thought of someone, this—this guy—trying to emulate and even be the King.

I swallowed my cynicism, however, and found myself entering the Schooner room the following Saturday afternoon.

Welcomed by my (uncannily biographical) favorite 1961 Presley tune, "Little Sister," I felt more positive about the night to come. As I inched my way closer to a side row seat I watched the man dressed in the early Elvis period gold lamé blazer.

Max lacked the baby-faced smile of the young Sun Records signee and filled out the black pants a little more than the 20-something 1950's Elvis had, but when he opened his mouth and sang, all those dissimilarities faded away.

Of course this impersonator could not resurrect the bluesy trills of the soulful line "your daddy was a gree-ee-ee-eyed mountain jack," in the King's 1958 hit, "Trouble." He could not capture the Elvis half smile or the signature karate-inspired hip swivel, but he did his best, and soon I felt my head bobbing along to the beat with the rest of the crowd.

Then Max left the stage.

We had barely begun to clap when his pint-size back-up singer stepped up to the mic and belted out a perfect rendition of "Walking in Memphis." And he really was wearing blue suede shoes—how fitting.

Again, before we had time to think, Max came barreling out from back stage, clad in Elvis' 1968 "Come Back Special" black leather jumpsuit. Although Pelicano merged the 1960's Hollywood era Elvis and the "'68 Come Back Special" Elvis into one set, the audience didn't seem to mind as they roared with laughter at every retold punch line. Max did his homework: he recited every joke right on cue, like the famous "Colonel Sanders" in reference to his long-time friend Colonel Parker rambling, and he remained in character all night, kidding, "I did 33 movies in 33 days," just like how Elvis used to joke about his films—which did amazingly at the box office and horribly in the reviews.

He performed "Hound Dog," "Are You Lonesome Tonight," "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Don't Be Cruel." The senior citizen crowd was alive with rhythm and there was a female shout of "I love you" from a grandmotherly voice. Then Max left again.

When he came back, head to toe in Elvis' white studded bell-bottomed Vegas gear, Max's over-sized pompadour and full figure finally fit this last Elvis era character. He wore a decorative acoustic guitar—free of cords (and chords)—and was backed by a 10-piece brass, percussion

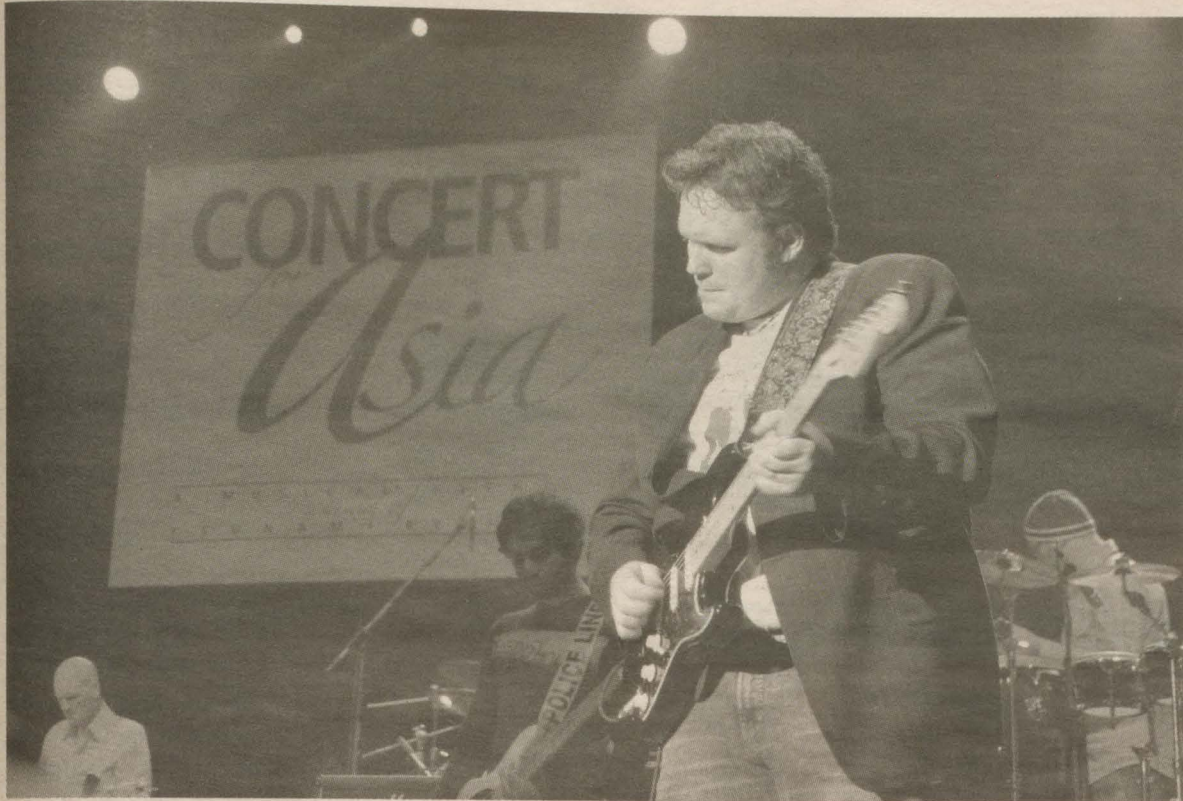
and strings orchestra, most of whom were local musicians.

Then came the "Phat Elvis" period hits like "Suspicious Minds," "Proud Mary" and "In the Ghetto." Pelicano even sang "A Little Less Conversation A Little More Action," which was first recorded in 1968 but was not released as a single until 2002.

At the end of this last set, Max had been performing for an hour and a half with few breaks, just like how Elvis used to willingly play all day, sometimes for three or four shows straight. As Elvis once said, "I get such a thrill out of [performing] until I wear myself completely out."

All in all, the impersonation was very good. Had he included more of the King's early era of pink and black, more accurate dance moves, and more of the finer hits like "His Latest Flame," or "Always on my Mind," the show would have been better, but Max did well, especially during the 1970's Elvis part of the concert.

And he taught me something too. I think it is wrong for someone to claim he/she is the King; after all, nobody would ever claim to be Charlemagne or Henry VIII. But that's not what Max Pelicano was doing—he was merely paying homage to the King. He was paying tribute to Elvis. Max Pelicano is not Elvis Presley, and he did not wish to resurrect the King, but he did prolong the life of his soul—and I guess that's what impersonators are for.



Charlie A'Court sticks it to his six-string at the Concert for Asia last week. / Photo: Megan Best

Singing For Tsunami

Halifax entertainers perform benefit concert

Trevor Murphy
Staff Contributor

20 years ago, Bob Geldof played the opening chords that unleashed Live Aid. 30 years ago, Ravi Shankar's sitar put the Concert for Bangladesh in motion. Last week, it was Indian musicians Aditya Verma and Subir Dev that kicked off the Concert for Asia at the Halifax Metro Centre.

40 acts took to the stage to lend many-a-helping-hand to victims of the tsunami in South Asia.

"It's probably the biggest natural disaster I've seen my lifetime," says Stephanie d'Entremont, one of the 8000 people in attendance at the concert. "It's such a huge thing and it affects the whole world. It's hard not to want to help in some way."

And help they did.

The event, the second of its kind in the past week, raised nearly \$105,000 by night's end. The cash is being donated to Oxfam Canada, a non-profit Canadian organization "dedicated to fighting poverty and injustice around the world."

Jim Houston, Oxfam's treasurer and board of directors member, praised the audience for its help, saying every penny of the

money raised would go directly to South Asia to rebuild vital elements of the torn communities, like schools and hospitals.

The sold-out show was the brainchild of Asif and Shehab Illyas, two members of Halifax pop-rock group Mir, who are natives of Sri Lanka—one of the regions worst affected by the disaster.

The show came together in less than a week with the help of the Halifax Regional Municipality, which provided the event's venue, and many other sponsors like the Centre for Diverse Visible Cultures and Musicstop.

"It was great to see so much local talent on one stage in one night for such a worth-while cause," says d'Entremont.

The line-up for the concert was a melting pot of genres and performers. Super City indie-rockers In-Flight Safety, Wintersleep, Matt Mays and the Jimmy Swift Band shared the stage with more established East Coast acts like Bruce Guthro, Sons of Maxwell, Universal Soul, Terry Kelly and Charlie A'Court. Singer/songwriters like Susan Crowe, Meaghan Smith, Steven Bowers, David Camichael and Andrew White mellowed the mood while cellist Denise Djokic and violinist brother Mark Djokic garnered

a standing ovation after their riveting performance.

A few Halifax celebrities also showed up to take part in the concert. Robb Wells and John Paul Tremblay, otherwise known as Julian and Ricky on the pop-culture mockumentary reality phenomenon *Trailer Park Boys*, and *Canadian Idol* finalists Gary Beals (season one) and Kaleb Simmons (season two) were among them. Comedians Shaun Majumder and Mark Critch of CBC's *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* hosted the evening.

Mir played the role of house band, playing a few of their own songs, backing Lenny Gallant and Mary Jane Lamond on some of theirs, as well as playing a few tunes with Crush members Paul Lamb and Corey Tetford. Mir also moved up to Toronto the day after to be part of a televised national benefit for the tsunami victims.

In addition to these first two *Tsunami relief benefit concerts*, *The Pavilion* will host an all-ages show, "Rock for Asia," on Friday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. All proceeds go to the Red Cross and World Vision for their efforts in Asia. Mir, Charlie A'Court, *The Contact* and *Human* are on the bill. Admission is give-what-you-can; suggested donation is \$10 at the door.

BURN BABY BURN

The Elvis Presley Edition

In honor of our beloved King—may he rest in peace—we are dedicating this week's Burn to the pelvis himself. Here is a compilation of his best number one hits.

Heartbreak Hotel (1956)

Love Me Tender (1956)

I Want You, I Need You, I Love You (1956)

Don't (1958)

One Night (1958)

Trouble (1958)

Are You Lonesome Tonight? (1960)

His Latest Flame (1961)

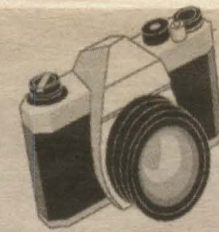
Can't Help Falling in Love (1961)

Little Sister (1961)

Kentucky Rain (1969)

Always on My Mind (1972)

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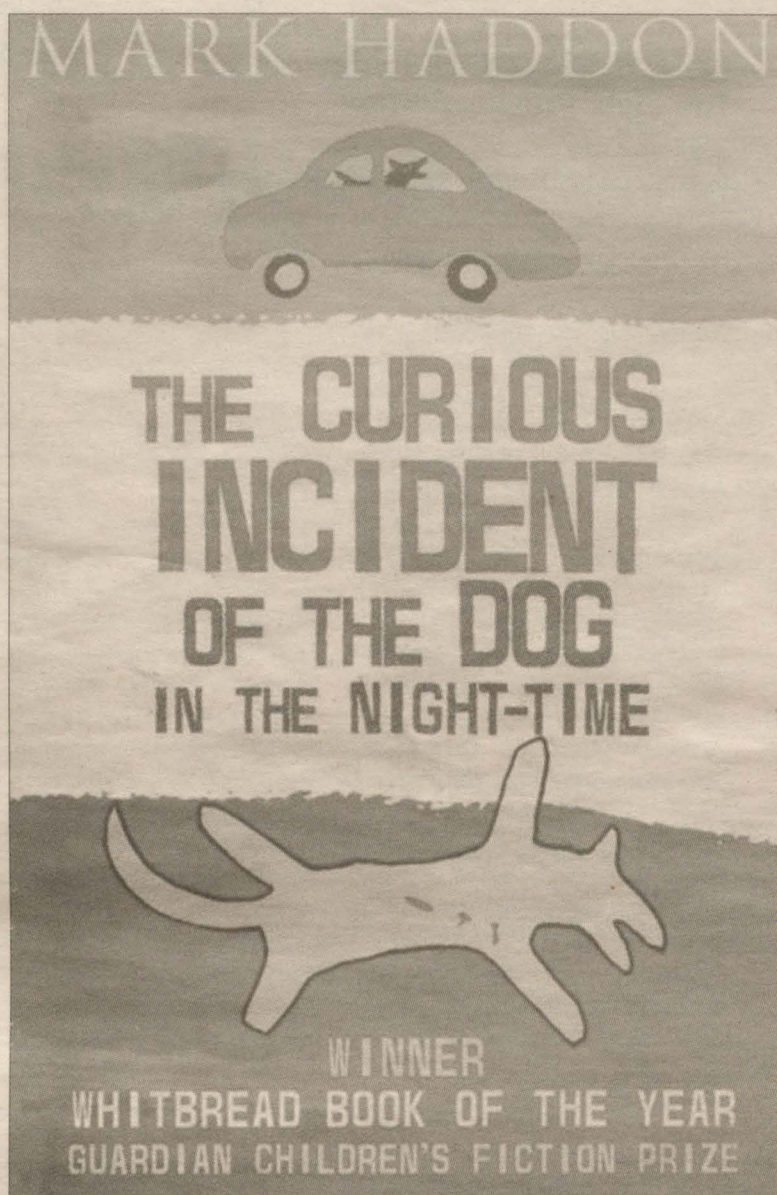
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Book Review:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon

Nicole Trask
Staff Contributor

The *Curious Incident* may strike the reader as a painstakingly simple tale of a boy investigating the murder of his neighbor's dog. Within the first few pages, the narrator tells us that this is, indeed, a "murder mystery novel."

The main character, Christopher John Francis Boone, knows

all the countries in the world, is a mathematical genius and cannot stand to be touched or yelled at.

Christopher is a 15-year-old autistic boy living with his single parent dad.

The novel unfolds almost like a children's story. Christopher's perspective of the world is governed by equations, rules and his lack of ability to understand human emotions. Mark Haddon weaves a complex framework that gradually explores issues of infidelity, a father's secrets, and the fascinating aspects of Christopher's outlook on the world.

Ultimately, Christopher must take a journey to discover the whereabouts of someone he did not believe still existed. Told through the eyes of a child, Haddon cleverly depicts the pain of uncovering the mysteries of one's own life. *The Curious Incident* proves to be a heart-wrenching and worthy read.

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Wanderlust

What's Cookin'?

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Staff Contributor

If you are planning a trip to someplace warm and exotic then the Cook Islands will satisfy your urge for simple life on a powdery sand beach. After several flights across North America and the Pacific Ocean you will reach this radiant locale; you don't just end up here by accident, although many probably wish that they could.

The hub for travel in the Cook Islands is the sleepy hamlet of Rarotonga. Most North Americans arrive via Honolulu, but it is possible to stop off in the Cook Islands en route to New Zealand. Seasonal temperature shouldn't be a concern, as the weather is consistently warm all year long. Local festivals that are rich in Polynesian culture and colour

are popular, and take place in both April and August.

What makes the Cook Islands a premier destination for sun seekers is the fact that traditional lifestyles remain fairly untouched. Natural splendour can be found on land or underwater. On the main island of Rarotonga you can dive in the translucent waters of Wigmores Waterfall, for example. If lounging in a misty cascade gets boring then strap on some boots and hike Rua Manga, a 415-metre peak that crowns the island, affording a unobstructed 360-degree view of the main island.

Because of the Cooks' remoteness, it is economical to purchase a "Paradise Island Pass," sold by Air Rarotonga. This will allow you to explore a range of islands on a shoestring budget.

One of the closest islands

from Rarotonga is Atiu. At Matai Landing you can walk out to the coral garden, accessible during low tide. As the tide drops, tropical fish become temporarily trapped in small pockets of water between the coral, allowing landlubbers an opportunity to see some of the South Pacific's exuberant aquaculture. If immersing yourself in a foreign environment is more your speed, you can hire diving equipment and swim with rays, sharks and the marauding barracuda.

If you want to live the castaway experience then go to Suwarrow. The only inhabitants on the island are a caretaker and his family. For this very reason New Zealand author Tom Neale passed six years living as a hermit on Suwarrow; he eventually published *An Island to Oneself* based upon his experiences.

If Suwarrow isn't far enough then go to the very limit of the Cook Islands: Pukapuka, AKA the island of danger. This island is so wafer-thin that it barely rises out of the water; coconut trees are the tallest feature on the island! Attractions on Pukapuka include exploring some of the earliest anthropological relics in the South Pacific and observing traditional pearl farming in the circular lagoon. But don't run around and stress yourself out, the Cook Islands are all about rest and relaxation on a sun kissed beach—just don't get hit in the head when the breeze shakes coconuts out of the palms. You could get knocked out and miss the last boat back to modern society.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

Warming up and cooling down

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Staff Contributor

Dear Dave,

I'm a second-year student and I guess I'm a bit of a player, as I'm never seeing one woman at a time. I like to have a close circle of friends with benefits. What can I say, I like to get busy.

My question is about women. All my girls want me to kiss and cuddle, before and after sex. Don't get the wrong idea, I want to feel close, but not that close. I have to go along with it because if I don't give her some petting then she won't give me any attention. How can I get my girls to stop concentrating on foreplay? Where are all the nasty girls who like to get it on?

A: Foreplay and its often forgotten cousin—after play—are the bookends of sexual intercourse. Foreplay, for lack of a drawn out explanation, is the act of touching and caressing that gets your mojo up and running for hot, astounding sex. After play, also known as afterglow, is the cooling down period after sizzling sex and can be as simple as lying in bed together in a spooning position. What strikes me

about your question is you seem to dismiss the value of foreplay and after play; however, with a few techniques I'm sure that you can quickly become a friend of foreplay and an afterglow aficionado.

Author John Gray popularized one of our generation's buzz testimonials: men are from Mars and women are from Venus. Nowhere else is this more true than in the realm of foreplay. Generally, guys want to get down to busi-

With a few techniques I'm sure that you can quickly become a friend of foreplay and an afterglow aficionado

ness and are eager to skip the foreplay in favour of intercourse. Women, on the other hand, tend to enjoy foreplay more as it helps set the mood for penetrative sex. Frankly, I consider it to be a matter of biology. Guys just need to get an erection and that takes little more than a stiff breeze! For women, arousal assists in creating a sexual aura, thereby creating essential, natural vaginal

lubrication. Nothing can bring about arousal better than foreplay.

Foreplay can include any number of activities. Massage is a way to set the mood while also relaxing both partners. It is important to hit the erogenous zones, which for women are the neck, ears, lips and scalp. Men also enjoy stimulation in these areas, and enjoy having their chests and inner thighs touched. Above all else, exploring these areas is a good way to flatter your lover. If they work out, comment on how hard and sexy their physique is.

Nipples are also loaded in super sensitive nerve endings, although it is important to start slowly and work your way up to more impulsive stimulation as we all have different likes and dislikes.

As with all aspects of sexual activity, communication is fundamental, either by telling your partner that something feels good or perhaps that something is disagreeable. Ultimately, sex is like a road trip, half the fun is the destination and the other half of the fun is the journey getting there.



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DUSCES News and Events

As many of you have noticed, the countdown to iron ring is on. As March 2 quickly approaches, there are several important dates that you need to remember. Firstly, there will be an information session held on Jan. 31 at 4:30 p.m. in room B228, and another, same time and place, on Feb. 1. Secondly, perhaps the

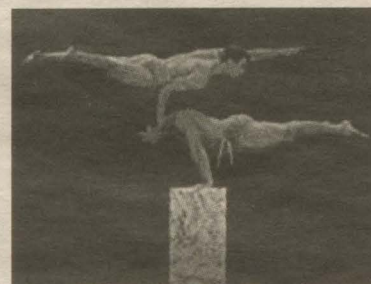
most important date is the iron ring registration. This will be held on Feb. 9 and 10 in room A221 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You must go to this registration, or you will not receive a ring. At this time you will need to pay \$10 to register.

This Friday, the associated universities head to Sexton Cam-

pus for their annual visit. Any assistance that can be provided for this event is appreciated.

Jan. 28 marks the beginning of winter carnival. There are many great events planned for Sexton Campus, with tech ball being the biggest. Everyone is encouraged to come out and participate in the winter carnival events.

Acorbazia!!



Bryden Berkvens
Sextant Contributor

What is acrobazia? I was wondering this myself as it was announced as the half time show at a recent Toronto Raptors game I attended. I thought to myself that this was going to be pretty cool, as it had been a while since I had been to the circus. But when the clock stuck zero on the second quarter, I was in for a shocker. The lights quickly dimmed, and the announcer proclaimed that we were now going to get our chance to see acrobazia. Then to my surprise,

two scantily clad men pranced out to center court carrying two boxes. I remarked to myself that these guys must be setting up for the show, but then the spotlight focused on them and the music started.

For the next nine minutes, these two men lifted and twisted each other into positions that I thought were impossible to male members of the species. When their time was up, I found myself unable to look away. While I have always been heterosexual, there is something about strong men twisting and contorting themselves that puts a smile on my face. Since that faithful day, my obsession for acrobazia has grown to the point that Jeff Nephew and myself have started our own version of acrobazia. Come down to the T-room on Thursdays and tell us that you are interested in acrobazia and we will gladly give you a demonstration. ACROBAZIA!!

Iron Ring Ceremony Countdown 47 Days

As of Friday January 21st, 2005

Iron Ring Ceremony: March 9th, 2005

CFES 2005

Bryden Berkvens
Sextant Contributor

CFES is the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students. Each year, they hold a congress where all engineering schools across Canada come and discuss the issues that are facing engineering students. This is a great way for schools to get together and share ideas about how they are making their schools a better place. For instance, one idea that was created here was the prankers code. This document has been ratified by the CFES and is a guideline of what is acceptable and not acceptable, as far as pranking goes. The CFES has also set up an alliance with their counter parts in Europe

(BEST, and BONDING in Germany) which allows for delegates from each group to attend events set up by the other group. This international cooperation has brought us great ideas such as continuing education courses like the one that will be held here at Dalhousie this summer. The order of the coveralls program was an idea that was brought back from this congress. This is also an opportunity for students from different parts of the country to experience culture from the rest of the country, as each region takes turns hosting hospitality suites. It is a great experience for anyone who has the opportunity to attend, and I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend to go to this congress.

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Men's basketball vs. UPEI
Jan. 23 @ 4 p.m.

Women's volleyball vs. MUN
Jan. 22 @ 1 p.m.

Women's volleyball vs. Acadia
Jan. 26 @ 7 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. UNB
Jan. 22 @ 6 p.m.

Women's volleyball vs. MUN
Jan. 21 @ 6 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. UPEI
Jan. 23. @ 2 p.m.

Track and Field meet
Jan. 22 @ 6 p.m.

Sports Briefs

The Engineer of the Blue-line

Joey Ryba
Staff Contributor

Two things have been consistent since the start of the 2000-01 season for the men's hockey team: coach Fabian Joseph and Billy Browne.

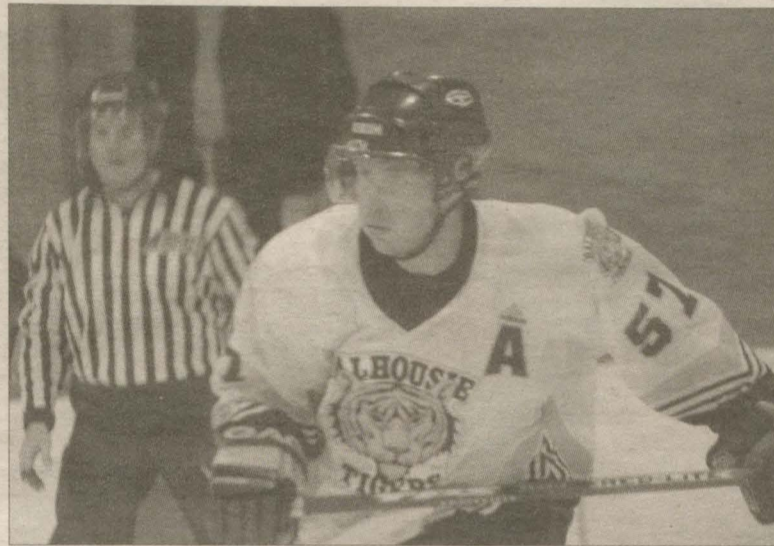
"We call him No-Skill Bill," jokes defensive partner and bingo aficionado Scott Wright. "Billy has been a real inspiration to all of us on and off the ice, so maybe I'll go to the bookstore and get some books," Wright says.

Browne, a native of Grand Falls, Nfld., is at stay-at-home defenseman. Prior to Dal, the fifth-year metallurgical engineering student and four-time Academic-All-Canadian skated for four seasons in the OHL suiting up for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds and the Kitchener Rangers.

During the last two seasons of his major junior career, Browne decided that combining hockey and education would be far better than opting for pro hockey. "I was interested in getting a good education," says Browne. "I thought about dentistry, so Dal seemed to be the best place. I then talked to Fabian who was just hired as the new head coach and he was really excited about making Dal a contender."

In September 2000, Browne started his BSc in biology but after a year and half biology, he decided it wasn't his best option. "I really wasn't interested in biology. I talked to a few friends who were in metallurgical engineering and they said it was a small program with a lot of one-to-one contact with the professors," he says. "I decided to switch to engineering and I really liked it."

Moving from the classroom to the ice, Browne says he's hap-



Browne is a big hit with teammates, on and off the ice.
Photo: Nick Pearce

py with his choice to play AUS hockey. "Our league has so much parity," he says. "There aren't any lopsided scores and the level of play is so high. Not to put down the other university leagues in Canada, but overall this is the best league in the country. Last year St. EX., UNB and Dal finished one, two and three at the nationals."

Since Browne is in his fifth season, he's been a part of some memorable games and has had some really great team mates. The veteran defenseman says the 2002 AUHC final against St. Mary's was the most intense hockey he's ever played.

"That was an awesome series," he says. "Three out of the five games went into overtime. All the games were sell-outs and the atmosphere at every game was electric. It was really tough losing game five in double-overtime."

Browne adds that in addition to that series, the St. Mary's Huskies are his favourite team to play against. "We always get pumped up to play St. Mary's. I always

liked playing them at their arena, the Ice-box. We always played well there, so I guess that's why St. Mary's moved their games to the Halifax Forum."

Jokes aside, over the past five seasons the Tigers have had some top-notch players. Browne credits his team-mates for helping him on and off the ice.

"I've had some excellent team-mates," says Browne. "Marty Johnston is the best captain I ever had. Jasmin Gelin was a great defensive partner for the first two seasons. Jas really helped me with my game. I can't forget Dan Tudin and Chris Stanley. Both of them were hard workers on the ice and with their studies as well."

Being a student and athlete is demanding, a combination made even more difficult by Browne's status as a key team member and a top student.

But he handles it admirably. "I don't let my work pile up," Browne says. "Hockey is a release. Going to school and playing competitive hockey, I wouldn't have it any other way."



Roger Federer is the guy to watch this year.

The Water Cooler

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

The Australian Open is once again upon us, bring a bi-nightly chance for you to see the most dominant athlete in the world today—Roger Federer.

Federer has been the best tennis player in the world for what seems like forever. The current world no. 1 is riding a 21-match win streak and he's also won the last 14 match finals he's played in. All of this, and the 23-year old defending Aussie, Wimbledon and U.S. Open champ doesn't even have a coach.

Federer has been so dominant that in the year-end world rankings for 2004, he had over 500 more points than world number two, Andy Roddick.

There are few reasons better to stay up into the wee hours of the night than to watch the clinic Federer will put on over the next two weeks in Melbourne.

The Swiss champ plays with the grace and finesse of the bygone era in tennis, while possessing the power and speed so vital for today's game. But what's truly amazing about Federer isn't that he's doing all of these things

better than anyone else on the planet today, it's that he might be doing them better than anyone else ever.

It was just over two years ago that we were saying "good bye" to Pete Sampras, the guy everyone was crowning as possibly greatest ever. No one was supposed to come along this quickly and challenge Sampras's billing. And yet here is Federer, with no clear roadblock preventing him from blowing away the field at any given tournament at any given time.

To watch him is to know how tennis should be played. The guy is a walking, breathing how-to-play tennis manual.

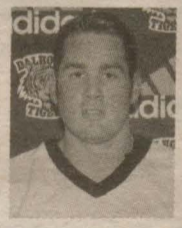
He makes it look easy. The very fact that he's so far ahead of everyone else, though, tells you that it isn't easy. In fact, it's damn hard. And in case any of his opponents have forgotten that during the off-season, Federer will punish and embarrass them for the next two weeks in an effort to remind them and the rest of the world of one thing: that right now, no one is better at anything than Roger Federer is at tennis.



Adrienne Power
Track and Field

Adrienne Power is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Power left the competition in the dust at this past weekend's Blue et Or Invitational meet at the Université de Moncton. The reigning CIS champion easily won her marquee event, the 60m sprint, in a time of 7.59 seconds. Power also anchored the winning 4x200m relay squad. Power is a fifth-year Commerce student from Eastern Shore, N.S. who currently holds the CIS 60m standard of 7.48 seconds.

Athletes of the Week



Pat "Patty" Berrigan
Hockey

Patty Berrigan is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Goaltender Berrigan, stopped 101 of 106 shots over three games; two of those resulted in desperately-needed wins for the Tigers to stay alive in the playoff hunt. Berrigan, the starter both weekend contests, was stellar in nets. First against seventh-place St. Thomas, he stopped 29 shots in the 3-2 victory over the Tommies. In Saturday's face-off against second-place Moncton, Berrigan denied 38 shots in the 3-2 victory, garnering Player of the Game honours. Earlier in the week, Berrigan relieved JF Perras just five minutes into the away game against top-doggers, the St. Mary's Huskies, allowing only one goal and recording 29 saves in the losing battle. Berrigan is a fifth-year management student from Halifax, N.S.

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Hockey Women Soon to be Road Warriors

Theresa Anne Salah
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie women's hockey team has been the victim of some tough games so far this season, losing contests with only two minutes remaining in the third period and once, with only five seconds left in the game. But head coach Leslie Jordan, the Tigers' head coach, won't let the bad breaks on the scoreboard shake her team's confidence.

"We haven't gotten the wins we expected to get, but on the other side, we've gotten the performance that we need," says Jordan. "Our team is still confident. We'll keep the focus on competing and performance and hopefully that'll add up to some wins."

That's the game plan Jordan plans to follow this weekend as the team heads to Ottawa and Montreal to compete against three teams outside their Atlantic Conference. Along with the Tigers, St. Mary's and St. FX. will also participate in the competition. All three AUS teams are scheduled for match ups against Concordia, McGill and Ottawa.

The road trip, which is only a set of exhibition games, will have no affect on the AUS standings, where the Tigers currently sit in fourth place.

"It's simply just a development of our hockey program," says Jordan. "We want to test ourselves against other tough teams in the country."

It may prove difficult as all three of their opponents this weekend are currently ranked in the top ten in the country.

"We know that we're capable of competing against them," says Jordan. "We've already played McGill and Concordia when they came down here in October, so we know what to expect from them."

The Tigers have never played against Ottawa, who were not in the tournament last October. Jordan says she has a fairly good idea what to expect, as Dalhousie will play them first in the nation's



Kimberly Carcary leads the breakaway. / Photo: Nick Pearce

capital on Friday night.

"Ottawa's a very good team," she says, "but they're a lot like us, small and fast with some good goaltending."

After that, it's off to Montreal for a game against McGill Saturday afternoon and a final game against Concordia on Sunday. In their previous match ups last fall, the Tigers 3-2 to McGill and 3-1 to Concordia.

"Both games were very competitive," says Jordan. "We had equal chances to win either one."

Jordan can't seem to understand what's caused some of their bad breaks. "If I knew that answer, I would have fixed it a long time ago."

Nevertheless, Jordan hopes this weekend's road trip will serve as a good test for the playoffs, which will be hosted by Dalhousie this year starting on Feb. 6.

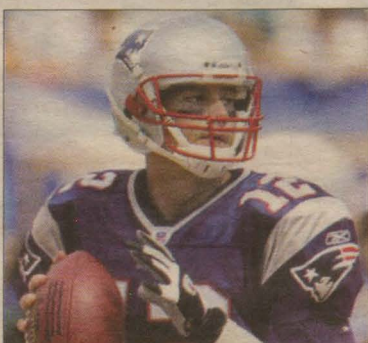
"I'm sure when we come back (from the road trip), we'll wish we had done things differently," she says, "but three wins this weekend would be ideal. That's what we're going to shoot for."

NFL Playoff Preview and Picks

Michael Gorman
Gambling Addict

Falcons vs. Eagles

I was shocked at just how badly these two teams beat up their opponents last week. This week they'll take turns beating up each other. It could be a high scoring offensive battle. If it is, look for Falcons' quarterback Michael Vick to lead his birds to the Super Bowl. On the other hand, the way these two defences played last week, it could be very low scor-



ing. In that case, the Eagles will finally get over the hump and into the big dance.

Falcons to win

Patriots vs. Steelers

The Patriots showed all the naysayers last weekend why they have won two of the last three Super Bowls. Meanwhile, the supposedly invincible Steelers looked lost against the lesser Jets. Cory Dillon and Tom Brady should blast through the holes exposed by the Jets and if you thought Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger looked lost last week, wait until you see him try and deal with a real defence.

Patriots to win

Inside the locker room alumni edition with ...



... Rob Coleman. Rob was on the swim team for five years. He was a CIS medallist, conference record-holder and Academic All-Canadian.

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

What have you been doing since you left Dal?

Working with a property development company and their flagship project, the Humber Valley Resort. Check it out at [warning: blatant promotion!] <http://www.humbervalley.com>. You'll be surprised what's going on in Newfoundland.

What do you think the team misses most not having you there anymore?

I think I was always the first to get in trouble. Now that I'm gone I'd have to say it would be Doug Young taking the hit... he definitely must miss me.

What is life like after being a varsity athlete?

I feel like royalty. Once it's in your blood you're in for life.

Who do you like in the Super Bowl?

Let's just say that Bowman's Online offered a fantastic early season deal on the Steelers.

How do you fill your early mornings now that you don't have practice?

I tried to get up a couple of weeks ago to hit the pool but the cold water still haunts me. Instead I usually opt for coffee and a paper.

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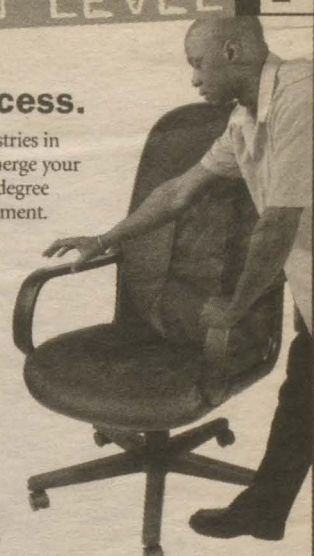
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