

FREE

ISSUE 137-19, February 10th 2005 - February 17th 2005

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

Let's talk about

SEX

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



DSU Council Meeting

The DSU Council would like to invite all Dalhousie students to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday February 9th at 6:30pm in the McInnes Room. The Council will be taking care of general business as well as Constitutional Amendments. Please see www.dsu.ca for proposed amendments.

Society Info

Indemnity Form:

The Indemnity form has been replaced with the Acknowledgement Form. To access the form, go to www.dsu.ca > Student Life > Info for Societies.

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

DSU General Elections

The DSU General Elections are slated to be held March 8-10, 2005. Nominations will open February 7 and run through the 17th.

Open positions include:

- President
- Vice President (Internal)
- Vice President (Student Life)
- Vice President (Education)
- Senate (4)
- Board of Governors (1)

Dalhousie students interested in being a poll clerk should check the student employment website or pick up an application from the student employment office

For more information contact CRO Ann Berringer at election@dal.ca.

Tiger Patrol

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Editorial

Quentin Casey
Editor-in-Chief

"Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

So goes the expression.

In light of the ongoing sponsorship scandal inquiry, the expression seems quite applicable: taxpayers were first bilked out of millions in fraudulent advertising deals, and now we are being bilked for millions in trying to determine who was responsible.

In the wake of the near separatist win in the 1995 Quebec referendum, millions of dollars were poured into Quebec in an effort to promote unity. In the end, a deluge of funds were given to Liberal supporters, with little benefit produced for Canadians. In February of 2004, Paul Martin called for an inquiry to determine who was at fault for the loss of \$100 million.

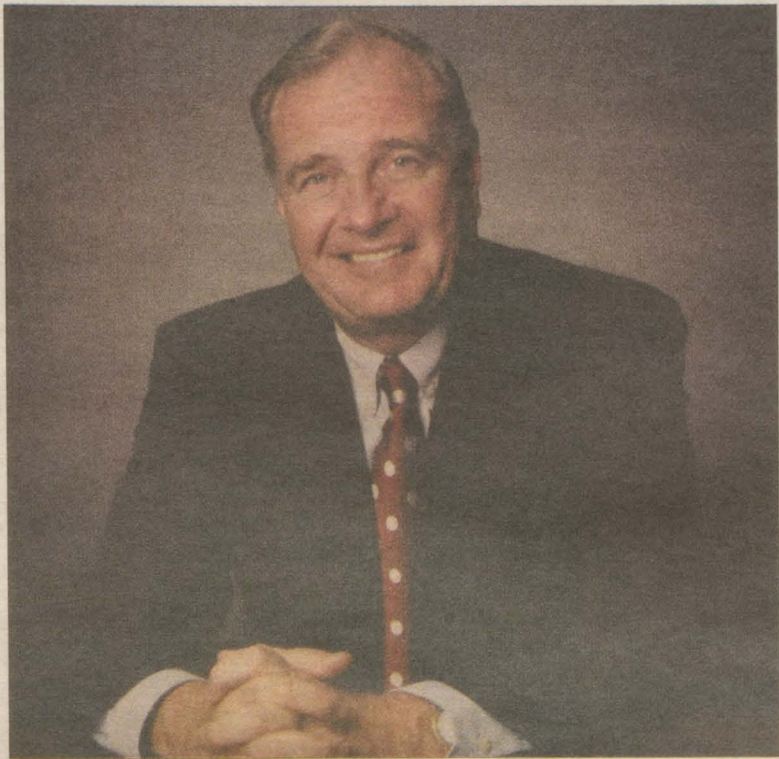
The inquiry, which is overseen by Justice John Gomery, is scheduled to run until the end of the year. The cost: \$60 million.

I'm all for determining who is ultimately responsible for this massive waste of money, but not necessarily at the price tag suggested. I would be supportive if I thought future corruption could be prevented—but come on, this is government we're talking about. This type of activity has been a part of governments since, well, the first government. Sure, we might know who did what, but can we really prevent it from occurring again?

Claiming you can eliminate government corruption is akin to claiming you can eliminate war.

I'm not as cynical as some, like the American writer Henry Mencken, who once claimed that "all government is evil, and trying to improve it is largely a waste of time." But spending more than 60 cents for each dollar that was lost seems, at best, counter-productive, and at worst, an enormous waste of our money.

Many agree, including former deputy prime minister John Manley. "I find the cost too high



Paul Martin called for an inquiry to learn the truth. Unfortunately, the truth is damn expensive.

for a loss of money which was perhaps involved," said Manley.

This fact is highlighted by a recent comparison to the 9/11 commission that investigated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The bill for that inquiry: a mere \$15 million—or, in other words, a fraction of what we will spend. And furthermore, the 9/11 commission, which produced a 550

Claiming you can eliminate government corruption is akin to claiming you can eliminate war.

page report after 18 months of investigation, was seeking an answer as to why thousands died because of a breach of national security. Somehow our American counterparts answered a more important question with less financial resources.

Those involved with the sponsorship inquiry say that the price tag is justified because, as compared to the 9/11 commission, the inquiry has had to delve

back ten years to uncover the appropriate facts.

I'm not convinced.

Some, like writer David Frum, support the inquiry: "There are incessant complaints about the cost," wrote Frum. "Apparently it would be cheaper and more convenient to leave the truth safely covered up."

But will the truth be uncovered? Perhaps we should have cut our losses, admitted our defeat, and saved taxpayers from losing further millions. To return to the aforementioned expression: why get fooled again?

One can only hope that the huge costs involved will produce major dividends, such as a prominent official(s) being held accountable and receiving an appropriate punishment—like jail time. If all that comes of this inquiry is a declaration that the government mismanaged the money and no blame is passed, then this process will be a monumental waste of time, energy, and most importantly, money.

Canadians want more than answers—we want someone held responsible. When you throw this much cash around, heads should roll.

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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.

Gazette

Student Employment Centre

Employer Information Sessions

Restigouche Post-Secondary Expertise Program invites all post secondary students in their last year of education to an information session concerning the job matching service now available to all recent and up-coming post-secondary graduates seeking employment in Restigouche, NB. This new service offered through **CBDC Restigouche** and in partnership with Training and Employment Development, works with post-secondary students and graduates inside and outside Restigouche County to respond to the growing need for specific skills in the Restigouche area. All disciplines welcome! Please bring a copy of your resume.

Please RSVP by emailing student.employment@dal.ca

Upcoming Events

Summer Job Fair

February 11, 10:00 - 4:00pm
Loyola Building, SMU
www.summerjobfair.com

CBDC Restigouche

February 14, 5:00 - 7:00pm
SUB, Room 302

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

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

 **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**
Inspiring Minds



Life in residence can be sexually awakening. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Sex in Rez

Laura Hynes
Kevin Wasko
Staff Contributors

Living in residence means L sharing a bathroom, putting up with annoying roommates, eating boring cafeteria food—and for many, experiencing a sexual awakening. Many students get their first taste of life on their own in one of Dal's residences, and many a sexual experiment has occurred within residence walls.

While few rules about sex in residence exist, some common-sense regulations apply, says Christine Squire, Residence Life Manager for Shirreff Hall and Eliza Ritchie Hall. The residences promote common courtesy among neighbours—even in the throes of passion. Sex must be consensual, it cannot take place in public areas like stairwells, showers and TV lounges, and noise levels on the floors must be respected.

To prevent these transgressions, residence signs proclaim: "You can pick your friends, you can pick your nose but you can't pick your friend's nose in the shower" and "The walls are thin, but the doors are thinner."

Nadine Boudreau, president of Risley Hall's fourth floor, has the following sex advice for dorm

dwellers: "Be courteous to your neighbors and the people you live with, and be safe."

The lack of concrete rules about sex in residence does not mean that Residence Assistants take the issue lightly. They support students in a number of ways, and providing information about sex is one of them.

"All RAs must give a talk to their floors regarding safe sex and STIs. This involves demonstrating the proper use of condoms," says Squire. "They also have pamphlets and information sheets about various topics surrounding sex education which can be picked up by students at any time."

RAs receive peer-counseling training and participate in sessions with doctors from Dalhousie Health Services on topics ranging from birth control to date rape.

According to Squire, she and other residence life managers also meet weekly with RAs to deal with any sex issues.

"If a student is having any relationship or sex-related problem, their RA is always available for assistance, advice or comfort," says Larissa Teoh, an RA in Risley Hall. "As RAs, we can arrange meetings for you, whether it be with a professional, another person or a doctor."

Women's Studies Gets a Sex Change

Sarah Vanderwolf
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Department of Women's Studies is changing its name to something more inclusive: the Department of Gender and Women's Studies.

The University Senate has unanimously approved the decision to change the department's name. But the Board of Governors' Academic Affairs Committee and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) must also approve the proposal before it becomes formally accepted, according to Andrea Power, office manager of the Senate.

Dr. Susan Campbell, coordinator of the Women's Studies program, says the name change is a reflection of the depart-

ment's current mandate. The department originally set out to "study women's contributions to civilization in many fields of knowledge," including "history, social structures, the sciences, language, literature and culture," says the department's own website.

But the world has changed. "Women's lives and experiences haven't received an adequate amount of attention ... [but] there's been a gradual shift in the area of women's studies to a broader study of gender," says Campbell. Gender is now a major factor in analyzing social dynamics, cultural expression, and belief systems in our society, she says.

Only one of the 25 students currently enrolled in the program is male. Although this number

does not include students who take classes as electives, it seems that women have greater interest in the field than men—but genetics may explain why.

According to a recent *Washington Post* story, "gender is the single greatest difference in the human species, much bigger than race." Science can prove it: MIT biologists have found that men and women differ genetically by one to two per cent—the same genetic difference separating humans from chimpanzees.

Topics of study in the expanded Gender and Women's Studies field include queer theory, sexuality, conceptions of femininity and masculinity, gender and theatre performance and gender and international relations. Gender and Women's Studies will involve economics, sociology, literature, science, history and law—an excellent choice "for people who don't want to confine themselves to one discipline," says Campbell.

Condoms on Campus: Myth or Reality?

Sarah Vanderwolf
Staff Contributor

My search for condom machines on campus has proven one thing, beyond a doubt: Dal has a lot of bathrooms. While condom machines are relatively rare, there seems to be a bathroom every couple hundred feet. The LSC, for instance, has a bathroom on every floor in every department. There are so many bathrooms that I think some have been forgotten—one women's washroom in Oceanography actually had cobwebs on the empty metal tampon dispenser.

Bathrooms aside, my search also resulted in the discovery of three condom machines on Dal's main campus: one on the second floor of the SUB and one each on the second and third floors of the Killam. "Ultra-shape condoms lubricated form fitting," the flashy sticker declares. Why there are two condom machines in the library and none in the



Condoms at Dal: they're rare but they do exist. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

LSC—home to an infinite number of dark corners—is anyone's guess.

After searching the bathrooms in the Arts Centre, it suddenly occurred to me that I was engaged in an exercise of futility. So many old people go to the Arts Centre to see Symphony Nova Scotia and the like that there is no way Dal would install condom machines there. If an elderly woman saw such a thing, she might die of shock.

My search on the Sexton

Campus turned up one condom machine, conveniently located in the women's bathroom by the T-Room. No flashy sticker here though. Those condoms are probably as old as everything else on Sexton.

Perhaps the message Dal is sending to its female students is: "Go to the drugstore instead," which is healthy advice. None of the condoms on campus were textured or flavoured, and where's the fun in that?

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Debating Missile Defence at Dal

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

The public will soon get a chance to air their views on one of the most contentious issues in Canadian politics: Canada's participation in ballistic missile defence (BMD). The Halifax Peace Coalition, the Council for Canadians and local MPs Alexa McDonough and Peter Stoffer are sponsoring a town hall meeting on BMD, to be held Feb. 21 at Dalhousie.

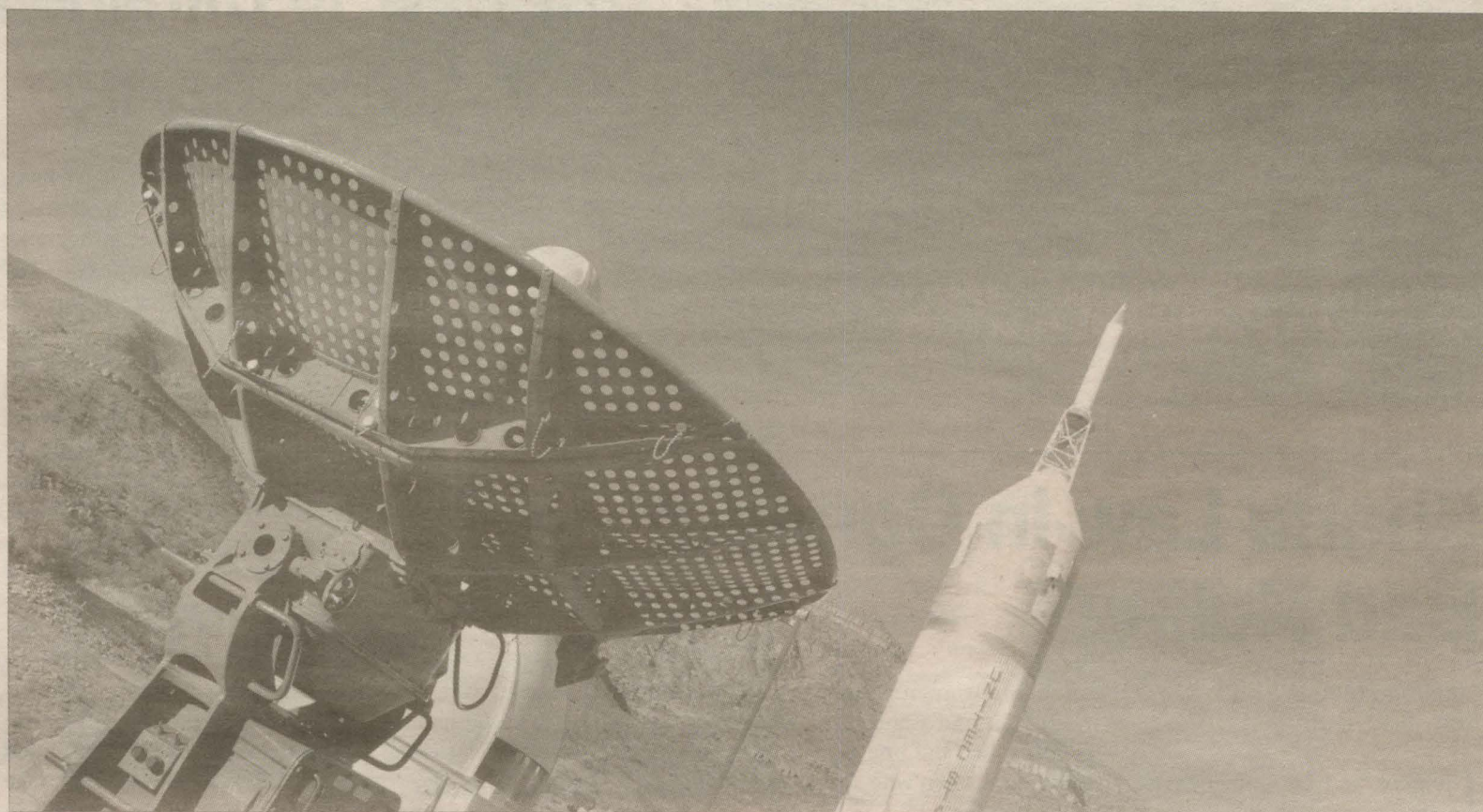
Dr. Frank Harvey, political science professor and Director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie, testified on BMD in front of the Standing Committee on International Trade and Foreign Affairs in December, opposite Mel Hurtig, a well-known BMD opponent.

Canada should go ahead with BMD—and likely will, Harvey says. "Ultimately, I think it's in Canada's interests ... I think logically and rationally and for a variety of policy reasons, it makes more sense to participate." The alternatives to dealing with proliferation and weapons of mass destruction, like multilateral arms control, have a poor track record, he says.

Harvey believes the probability that a rogue state will launch a missile at the United States, or that an ally like Russia or China will accidentally launch a missile, is high enough to justify investment in BMD.

Critics have argued that Canadian participation in BMD would increase the threats of terrorist attacks in Canada. Dr. Janet Eaton, the National Co-Chair of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an activist with the Halifax Peace Coalition, will be a panellist at the upcoming meeting. Eaton says it would be suicidal to get more involved with the Bush administration. "We know now that whoever's a companion of the United States military are targets for terrorism," she says.

But Harvey argues that Canadian participation in BMD won't increase the risks of terror-



Dr. Janet Eaton: "We know now that whoever's a companion of the United States military are targets for terrorism."

ist attacks any more than other foreign policy initiatives. "We're on the Western reform-of-the-Middle-East bus, we would like to accomplish that, and those are the issues that are likely to create enemies, not participation in ballistic missile defence."

Another contentious BMD issue is whether it will actually work. "Does it work perfectly? Absolutely not," says Harvey. "Is the technology completely useless? Absolutely not." He ar-

guments NORAD regardless of what decision the Government of Canada eventually takes on ballistic missile defence," said Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew in an August press release.

Harvey disagrees with Pettigrew's assessment. "Most expert opinion has concluded that NORAD will dissolve as an effective bilateral security organization if Canadians decide clearly to separate themselves from that core function that NORAD will

Harvey says, reflect Canadian perspectives on American foreign policy in general, not particularly BMD. "You're likely to see opposition to any American foreign policy initiative, including ballistic missile defence, as the Canadian population becomes disenchanted with American foreign policy."

NDP MP and town hall sponsor Alexa McDonough recently wrote in the *Herald* that "the federal government was on the verge of signing on to Bush's missile defence, designed to weaponize space, and launching the next chapter in a dangerous and wasteful global arms race." The U.S. is currently researching space-based weapons technology, while the Canadian government has stated that any weaponization of space would be a "deal-breaker."

"The reality is there's research going on now on the weaponization of space ... Most analysts who are against this see that very clearly evidence is there that it's about controlling the future of the world from space, and controlling space ... Do they really think that 10 years down the

road, we can just suddenly back out?" says Eaton.

Harvey says that weaponization of space isn't part of the current system, and is a long way off. "There's an interesting logical inconsistency in the argument put forward by critics because on one hand, they're saying the ground-based system is not even close to being technologically feasible and should be shut down accordingly. The same critics are saying we are that close to deploying weapons in space when the technology and costs for that are exorbitant and almost unrealistic for any defence budget. Which is it? We have the technology to do something more advanced, or we don't have the technology to do something really simple?"

Eaton says that the answer for Canadian security is in multilateral agreements and work at the United Nations. "Maybe we should be standing back as a premier nation in the world that has tried to work toward peace. Why would we want to be joining into Bush's empire right now?"

The town hall will take place on Feb. 21 in Ondaatje Hall, McCain Building.

"You're likely to see opposition to any American foreign policy initiative, including ballistic missile defence, as the Canadian population becomes disenchanted with American foreign policy."

— Dr. Frank Harvey, professor of Political Science

gues that probabilities of hitting incoming missiles can be improved by launching more interceptors at targets. Recent tests of long-range interceptors have had mixed results: five out of eight have been successful.

In August 2004, amendments were made to the NORAD agreement, opening the door to intertwining NORAD with BMD. "This amendment safeguards and sus-

be running," he says. Without NORAD, which oversees the aerospace defence of North America, Canada would be responsible for surveillance of its own territory, as well as protection of the Arctic and maritime security.

In a recent informal *Globe and Mail* poll, 80 per cent of nearly 37,000 Canadian respondents were against Canadian participation in BMD. These numbers,

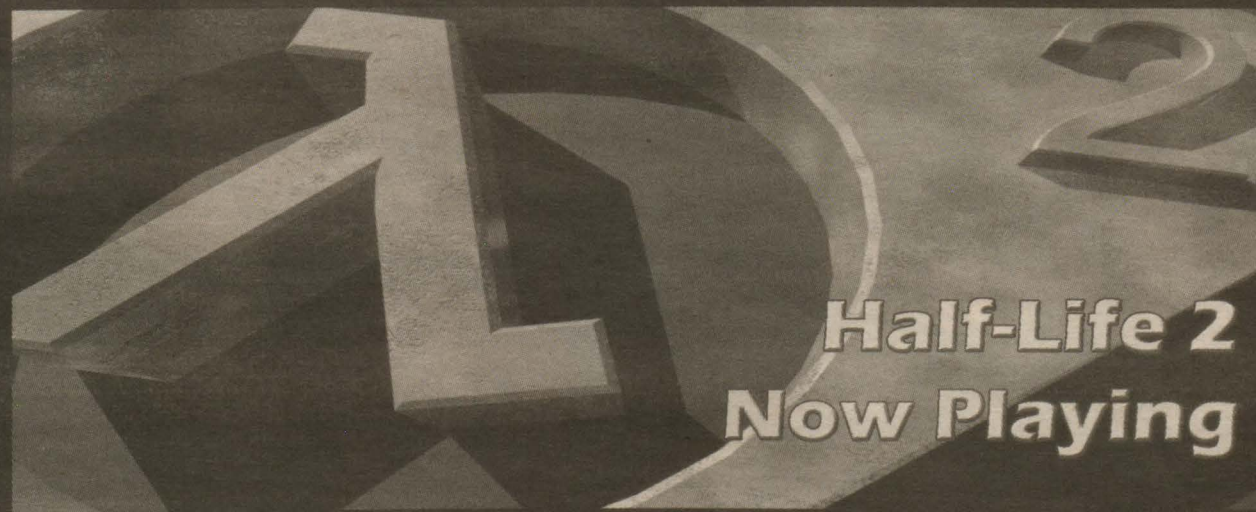
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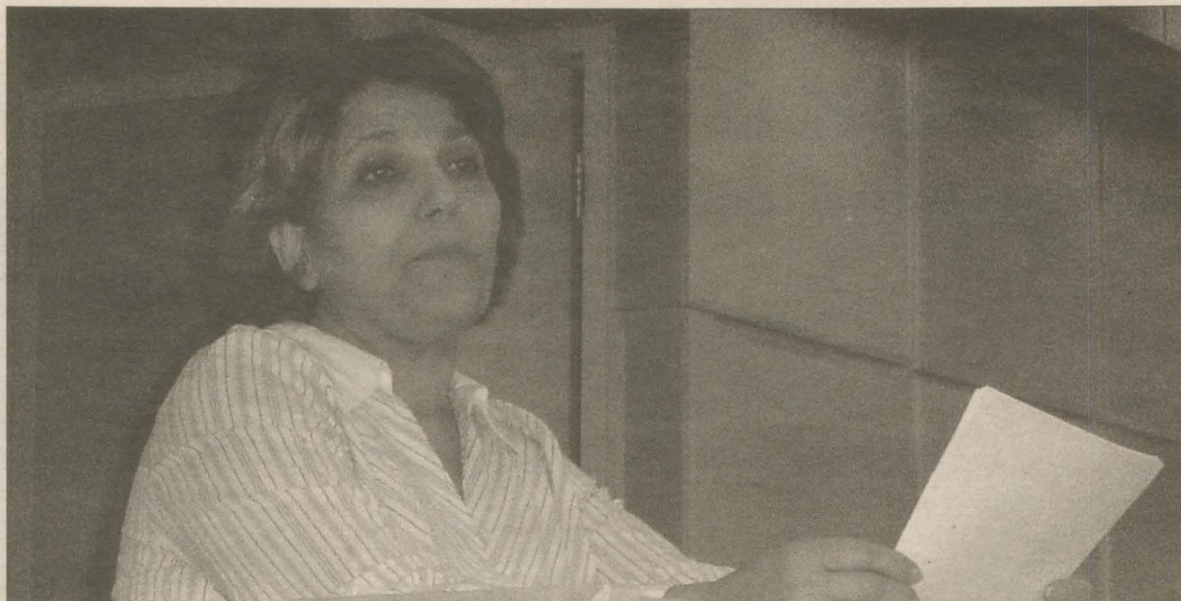
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Homa Arjomand, an anti-Sharia activist speaks at Dal. / Photo: David Irish

Sharia Law in Canada: Bad Ruling?

Chantelle McGee
Staff Contributor

Imagine you are an Ontario woman getting a divorce from your husband. Because divorce is a civil dispute, you are encouraged to have your divorce settled by an arbitrator from your religious community, in accordance with Ontario's 1991 Arbitration Act. Imagine too that you are Muslim, and the Sharia, the justice system inspired by the Qur'an, is used to settle your case. Some interpretations of the Sharia conflict with Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including the Charter's guarantee for equality of the sexes. As such, you could lose your property, children and financial support.

On Feb. 4 at the Dalhousie's law school, Homa Arjomand, the Canadian coordinator for the International Campaign Against Sharia Court, spoke about the dangers for minority and women's rights in Ontario's Arbitration Act. She recalled her own experi-

ences as a women's rights activist in Iran and Canada, as well as cases, like the one described above, of women who she is currently helping.

Though the Arbitration Act recognises Canada's multiculturalism, Arjomand explained that it also segregates cultural

"Minority rights ignore individual rights within that minority."

— Homa Arjomand, Canadian coordinator for the International Campaign Against Sharia Court

communities and overlooks the rights of specific individuals in those groups. "Minority rights ignore individual rights within that minority," she said, noting that social pressure often forces people to undertake religious arbitration against their will. The result? Two sets of laws for some

Canadians. Instead, Arjomand is campaigning for "one law for all, no matter where you came from."

Arjomand spoke of a woman who called the police because of her abusive husband. When the police came, they saw a Muslim family. Instead of intervening, the police officer's response was something to the effect of, "In Canada, we don't beat our wives, though I can see that it is OK in your culture to do so." Arjomand pointed out that this form of multicultural sensitivity is what makes the Arbitration Act controversial.

Instead of making people choose between human rights and their faith, Arjomand believes that religion should be removed from the justice system altogether.

For Arjomand, the Sharia is archaic, belonging to a society that existed 1200-1300 years ago that ignores the hard-earned rights of modern women. She worries that those who must subscribe to the Sharia do not have the money for legal services, whereas richer people could use the public legal system instead. To correct this imbalance, Arjomand is on a mission to "shout to the government" that "... one nation should obey one law, no matter what."

Dal Students Play Role in Ukraine Election

Katie Maskell
Staff Contributor

After two elections and a revolution, Ukraine has finally declared Viktor Yushchenko prime minister—and two Dal students helped make it happen.

Yuriy Shelkovyy, a Dalhousie MPA student, is a Ukraine citizen who was involved in the 2004 elections and the Orange Revolution, the protests led by Yushchenko's supporters after his contested loss to Viktor Yanukovich in November.

"I was involved in different roles," Shelkovyy says. "I arranged a meeting with the representatives of election headquarters in Chernihiv region. I also was the director of the Go to Vote Project, which was aimed to mobilize young voters to take on active part in the election in the northern and central parts of Ukraine. As well I [was involved in the] European Commission Project to the mobilization of young voters in the Chernihiv and Poltava regions."

"I'd been watching [the election] on the news," says Cherniak. "When I heard about it, it seemed like an opportunity to go do something for the world. It was an important situation that I wanted to play a part in and I liked the idea of representing Canada abroad."

With the new Ukraine government in place, Yushchenko's supporters say democracy has gotten its foot in the door, moving away from the integration with Russia that Yanukovich favoured towards closer relations with Western Europe.

"It was definitely a West-versus-East thing," says Cherniak. "I think that it comes down to two factors: one of them is the lack of trust because you haven't had a very free media there where people can get to know what the other part of the country is like. The other thing is that Yushchenko isn't anti-Russia, it's not in that sense; it's more that he wants to have other options for the country. And I think that if you have a free media and if he does a good

"I'd been watching [the Ukraine election] on the news. When I heard about it, it seemed like an opportunity to go do something for the world. It was an important situation that I wanted to play a part in and I liked the idea of representing Canada abroad."

— Jason Cherniak, Dal law student and Ukraine election volunteer

In 2002, at the age of 22, Shelkovyy was elected to the city council of Chernihiv, his hometown, and remains a council member there even though he is taking a year off to study at Dal.

As a city councillor, Shelkovyy has been involved in numerous development projects, particularly focused on youth issues. When the Orange Revolution took center stage in Ukraine, Shelkovyy was quick to support Yushchenko. He demonstrated in Kyiv and in Chernihiv, led city council meetings and encouraged the mayor to support his candidate—and free elections.

But Shelkovyy wasn't the only Dal student involved in Ukraine's elections. Jason Cherniak, a third-year law student, volunteered there.

job for the people [they're] going to respect him for that."

Shelkovyy says he has faith that democracy will prevail and Ukraine's important relationship with Russia won't be severed. "[Russia is] our neighbour and it's a very strong relationship. I'm confident that Yushchenko's main task, what he'll do now, he will create a hospitable environment which will be good and attractive for the people ... of Russia," he says.

"I think that [the] Russian and Ukraine relationship will be built on a new level," concludes Shelkovyy. "What it means is that ... what will be good for Ukraine will be, on the same side, good for Russia. I'm confident that if the new government shows good results people will feel it."

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The Allies program helps Dal students help each other. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Safe Spaces on the Go For Dal's LGBT Students

Meera Gupta
Staff Contributor

Is it safe to "come out" at Dal? According to Sheila MacNeil, a psychologist at Dal's Counselling Services, this is not an easy question to answer—but she thinks the "Allies at Dalhousie" program may make things safer.

"There are many ways in which Dal is a safe environment," says MacNeil—but there is also a need for a widespread effort to improve the safety for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students at Dal, she says.

Issues facing Dal's LGBT students are not unlike those confronted by other students, MacNeil says: "They are, like other students, at the intersection of learning, maturation to adult-

hood, academics and planning professional careers. However, they do all this in the context of a sexual orientation that is often discriminated against."

MacNeil is an active member of Dal's grassroots "Allies" program, dedicated to the campus LGBT community. Heard of it? If you haven't, you are not alone.

Allies are students, faculty and staff who are committed to creating a safe environment for LGBT students. As an Ally, your role can be as simple as displaying an Allies sticker on your clipboard, like the one on the front door of Counselling Services, on the fourth floor of the SUB. If you prefer a more active role, you can attend the Allies general meetings to learn more. "Basically, student Allies know where they

stand on these issues and work to confront homophobia within their own comfort zone," says MacNeil.

Allies is the first step in creating visibility of the support for LGBT students. However, MacNeil says that society still has a long way to go. "There are so many resources and richness of support on campus, but we struggle to tailor these to the individual needs," she says.

Correction: In a previous Your Health article, www.migraine.com was incorrectly listed as a recommended reference. It should have listed www.headache.ca. We apologize for the mix-up.

What's Spirituality Got to Do With It? Reflections of a Burnt-Out Rejuvenated Development Professional

Sarah Harrigan
News Contributor

How often do you think about who inspires you? On Feb. 2, Dalhousie PhD candidate in International Development Studies (IDS) David Fletcher broke away from traditional academics and urged his audience to question their inspirations—the core values that "you really believe in, no matter what." Living by these values, he says, will help you be more effective in any job, and most importantly, will help protect you from career burnout.

He should know. Fletcher has been involved in, as he says, "efforts to work with people in a cross-cultural setting to promote social change"—for 20 years. He has worked on projects in the Maritimes, Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia and South Africa on issues as diverse as food security, racism, HIV/AIDS and gender. Most recently, Fletcher worked with Save the Children in Ethiopia.

Although he had always dreamed of working for a NGO overseas, Fletcher found there

was something missing in his work. Rather than accepting a directorship position in Ethiopia, he returned to Halifax to continue his studies. But he soon found that most literature on career burnout did little to help

"I believe that there are some universal truths, and that you can find them—if you're quiet."
—David Fletcher, Dal IDS PhD candidate

him analyze his experiences with development work. Fletcher says that when he began reassessing his core values, he was better able to figure out his future.

"Remember that sixth-grade science experiment with the sugar crystals?" he asks. "It was frustrating because you keep adding more and more sugar crystals into a beaker of water and stirring them until they dissolve—for a long time, it seemed

like nothing exciting was happening." But if one is persistent, he says, there always comes a point when just one more grain of sugar transforms the water into solid sugar crystals. Perhaps, Fletcher suggests, there comes a point in any process when "just one more little bit of effort will make a change."

But how does one go about finding your core values in order to put them into practice? And how are personal morals differentiated from cultural values? For Fletcher, learning meditation was helpful.

"I believe that there are some universal truths, and that you can find them—if you're quiet," he says. The problem, he continues, is we're usually "just not quiet enough in this society."

"[Living true to your values] is the most important thing, not just for people working in development, but for everyone, young and old," Fletcher says. "Do what you're going to do with virtue, with pure intent, with strong effort and be unattached from outcome."

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LIFE AT FENWICK

As if paying \$2,000 a month for a lousy three-bedroom apartment wasn't painful enough, enduring the constant non-existent level of service at Fenwick makes daily life a perpetual pain in the ass. Every time it rains there are puddles of water on the inside ledges of my and my

roommates' rooms, forcing us to stuff soon-sopping towels by the windows. Every time I get in the shower I spend half the time jumping out of the way of the spray as I frantically turn the knobs in a futile attempt to control the water temperature which fluctuates from

scalding hot to icy cold without warning. And don't even get me started on the damned elevators that often go down to the basement even if you've pushed the "up" button, and whose doors sometimes close and then open again before moving anywhere. If they're working at all. Would

whoever has the authority to do so please take a portion of the tens of thousands of dollars Dalhousie has stripped from its students and invest it in that lousy building? Thanks.

Vent (Sarah Vanderwolf)



"There were mouths and fingers everywhere and orgasms happening all the time." / Photo: Scott Wetton

Bisexual Morality

It's either her way or the bi-way

Reid Southwick
Staff Contributor

There is nothing sexier than a couple of luscious ladies locking lips north and south of the navel. Whether between lesbians, bisexuals or the incurably curious, this odyssey of sex-ploration has many people panting.

"There were mouths and fingers everywhere and orgasms happening all the time," says a former Dalhousie student, recalling a previous all-girl threesome. "There were juices everywhere. It was extremely dirty."

But the one-time Dal nursing student says sex with other women is generally more of an intimate, "sensual experience" than it is with the opposite gender. Soft skin and that gentle female touch takes the ruggedness out of the act, she says.

As a primarily heterosexual lust-lover, she prefers her same-sex flings to be in scattered, bite-sized servings. But when she is good and ready for some homoeroticism, where do you suppose she feels are the most appropriate venues? Bars, pool halls, dojos—anywhere will do. And she always draws an audience.

"It's funny to me to make out

with some girl and see men's jaws dropped with drool coming down their lips, all around me. It is very empowering."

Some foxy femmes have even been able to market their playful same-sexcapades. Dal Engineering student Lydia Dunn says when she was in junior high and high school, boys would give her money, cigarettes and booze to watch her make out with her female friends.

But a line has to be drawn somewhere. Although women may get kicks out of watching guys lose a little bit of their dignity, don't they do so at the expense of their own? Are they not just turning their sexuality into a commodity?

Unfolding her line of defence, Dunn likens her exhibitions to the work of a stripper. "If men are stupid enough to pay to sit there and believe this woman has any interest in them while she's dancing in front of them, making thousands of dollars off them a month, that's their own problem."

Selling your body for a living could be seen as a problem as well.

And what about public image? Pictures of Dunn getting down and dirty with her long

time friend and lover, are posted on the Internet. An already-voting member of a campus society, Dunn's chances of getting elected to a new position could be undermined by her heedless public displays.

"That's just scandalous media projection of absolutely nothing that has to do with me as a person," she says. "I'll never be ashamed of who or what I am in front of anybody."

But some of her peers could be ashamed of her.

Even as she upholds her self-respect as the greatest of all of her virtues, Dunn's bravery borders on bravado. Many gays, lesbians and bisexuals fear "coming out" because of the ever-present stigmas attached to their sexual orientations.

"When I came out, I was terrified and didn't know who to talk to," says Sarah Connolly, the president of DalOUT, the society geared toward making homosexuals feel comfortable and safe.

This is not to suggest the ignorance of others should prevent Dunn, or anyone from exploring their sexuality. It is still hot. But whether they like it or not, their dignity and reputations are on the line when they flaunt it publicly.



Scientists at Duke University have discovered that male monkeys will give up their juice rations to watch computer images of female monkeys' rear ends.

The Seedy Corner Store

What's Love got to do, go to with it?

Jennifer Morrison
News Editor

We were young and innocent, but we decided to do something illicit that long-ago night. We begged J.—the only one in the group who had turned 18—to go into the curtained-off room, tucked away discreetly in the back of the seedy corner store. She yelled a few choices: "College girls? Cowboys?" We exited triumphantly a few moments later with our chosen film. We rushed to K.'s house to watch the pornography, in awe of our bravery and the exuberantly-sexual women onscreen.

How times have changed. After years of naively thinking that sex was just another commodity, an act to be objectified by low-class actors in low-budget movies, I have realized that—call

me conservative—sex should be more than that.

Yet pornography (of the down-and-dirty variety, not the *Bleu Nuit* kind) is everywhere, and our culture's appetite for the tasteless seems to be on an upswing. Take *Nip/Tuck*, an intelligent television drama that showed promise—at least until the plastic surgeons started screwing blow-up dolls and implanting breasts on a male patient.

Just last week, the annual Bur-Mac cup hockey game was cancelled at St. FX. after pornographic posters were plastered in one of the competing residences. One poster "contained a drawing of a woman naked from the waist down, a papier mache penis and an offensive caption," reported the *Herald*. At least two girls were

Continued on Next Page...

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The Culture Shock of "Pooling" Birds

One student's venture into the sexually-charged country of Scotland

Phil Duguay
Staff Contributor

I vividly remember my first days in Scotland as an exchange student at the University of Glasgow. It was pretty much my first time overseas, and certainly my first time in Europe. I had a pretty solid notion of what the Scots would be like—pubs would be abundant, folks would be more-or-less really friendly. The food would be crap.

But what caught me off guard was the utter sexual openness in Scotland.

A recent *BBC Online* article entitled "Selling Sex on High Street" (Nov. 12, 2004) detailed the massive increase of sex shops and lingerie stores on main streets in British cities and towns. Although sex shops were prevalent in Glasgow, I don't think I really caught on to what was going on in Glasgow until I hit up my first club, where dildos and sex toys were on sale in vending machines in both the male and female washrooms. Upon leaving at the end of the night, my Scottish buddy asked me, "how many birds you *pull* mate?" I honestly admitted that I had no idea what he was talking about, but that happens a lot in Scotland where cheap alcohol, thick accents, and an entire nation of bullshitting blowhards intersect.

When he said *pooling*, he meant "pulling." Pulling is a British activity which involves pulling a female towards you and making out with her. I'm not talking about a peck on the cheek either. And yes, one is really supposed to just grab on and heave her in. Essentially, in Scotland, if you make a girl smile in a bar you can immediately grab her and make out with her. Don't worry ladies, this is an egalitarian activity and frequently women are the

ones reaching out and pulling (they can be quite aggressive!). Young men and women at a bar might easily pull five people a night. When multiplying this by several nights a week, because Scots party more frequently than any other group on earth, this means one could plausibly make out with 15-20 people a week. I wish I was joking. With that said, it is important to note that pulling does not mean sex is to follow whatsoever. Indeed, it might not even lead to a phone number. Foreigners oftentimes seem perplexed when a young lass shoves her tongue down a visitor's throat all night—only to take off with some other bloke at last call.

In Canada, smooching a girl at the bar it is usually seen as slightly "gauche." Even in France, just across the Channel from the U.K., such a quick attempt at a kiss might be met with a slap. Although I was first very put off by

Foreigners oftentimes seem perplexed that a young lass might shove her tongue down their throat all night and then take off with some other bloke.

the thought of making out with various females in one night, let alone in one bar, I must say it can get fun—from a purely academic, sociological standpoint, of course.

For Scots, pulling is just part of the game, much like eye contact or conversation is part of the game to us. Pulling seems to be a way to crack the ice quickly, and because the Scots are a very open people, this sexual habit makes quite a bit of sense. Besides the fact that pulling cheapens the

"first kiss," which always seems to be the best, it also leads to some atrocious social hygienic conditions. I'm glad I didn't live there during the flu season.

The University of Glasgow should consider promotional information on pulling: "What to do if Someone Pulls You." My advice to any future Dal students headed to Glasgow; don't freak out! Pulling seems to be as normal to the Scots as our predictable "where ya from?" conversations are to us. It's a lot more personal, a lot more fun, and sometimes a kiss is just a kiss. We Canadians oftentimes tout ourselves to be fairly sexually liberated, but I certainly wasn't the only Canuck there taken aback by the pulling phenomenon. Pulling is not as awful as it might sound—and aren't we supposed to respect the cultural traditions of other nations?

Sex isn't just sex, con't...

Continued from Previous Page...

involved in the depraved stunt; why they would choose to downgrade themselves and their fellow students by twisting sex into

Yet pornography (of the down-and-dirty variety, not the *Bleu Nuit* kind) is everywhere, and our culture's appetite for the tasteless seems to be on an upswing.

something it's not—namely, a grade-school-style art project gone terribly wrong—is still unclear.

Maybe promoting porn is in our genes, as a recent study suggests. Scientists at Duke University have discovered that male monkeys will give up their juice

rations to watch computer images of female monkeys' rear ends. Despite all the ways humans have evolved past our distant jungle cousins, we have kept one of their most primitive instincts: a penchant for porn. But with all apologies to The Bloodhound Gang, I don't think we should just give up and, well, do it like they do on the Discovery Channel.

It is all too easy to think of porn as abstract, as part of a fantasy. But I have a friend whose boyfriend tells her he needs to download porn—and crash her computer—because she's not always around to have sex with him. This hits too close to home. So does scandalous television with sickening sex, a hockey game cancelled because of a pornographic prank and a monkey study that proves natural selection still has a ways to go. Sex isn't just sex. Love has got a little something to do with it.

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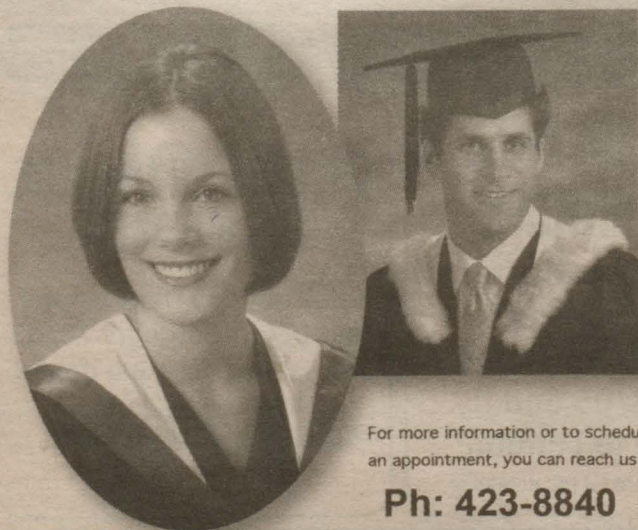


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The Phantom of the Oprah

Dear Ms Cooper,

I think you got it all wrong on Oprah's South African trip. On Oprah giving sneakers and white bread sandwiches to those South African kids, you opine: "But if they did leave changed, was it for the better in the long run, or will those children spend the rest of their lives seeking a vague ideal—the Reebok sneakers, the

You mention in your piece that Oprah should have put some effort toward building something tangible, yet you fail to mention what "tangible" should be.

white bread sandwiches—that is actually meaningless and nothing to do with the realities of their lives?"

I can't believe you are serious! Look, sneakers mean a lot to any kid who has been walking on their bare feet for a long time. Bread, for someone who has gone hungry for a couple of days, also means a lot to a hungry kid. I think that you miss the symbolism behind this. The kids Oprah helped will forever chase the ideals of having a square meal and

being clothed at the same time. These are not "vague ideals," as you say. For many kids in the third world, the struggle to go to school to get skills that will result in well-paying jobs is very real. Maybe for you in the West, food isn't a big deal. Even if you don't work, you can still get free food. In the third world, this simply isn't the case. Food on the table and clothing to wear in the third world are not vague ideals, but noble ones.

You mention in your piece that Oprah should have put some effort toward building something tangible, yet you fail to mention what "tangible" should be. Suffice to say, you also failed to reveal to your readers that when Oprah was in South Africa, she helped pay the salaries of school-teachers (who taught on a voluntary basis) for something like a year. She helped pay for the renovation of run-down classrooms and provided textbooks, exercise books and other school utensils to students, not to mention school uniforms. Now isn't that "tangible"?

I don't normally watch *Oprah*, but I happened to have watched this particular episode and I just couldn't help but notice the glaring omissions and half-truths in

your editorial piece.

Brian Adeba

RE: The Phantom of the Oprah

Dear Mr. Adeba,

Thanks for your letter, but I don't really think that you understood my editorial. First of all, I prefaced my argument by saying that the issue that I was tackling "can lead to more questions than answers." I wasn't suggesting a solution, but rather exploring questions.

I did not say that nothing Oprah does in Africa is worthwhile. I questioned whether the resources put into the particular event that I was writing about might have been put to better use (I can think of lots of ways, but that wasn't what my editorial was about...it was only 700 words after all).

Also, I didn't say that she should have used those resources to build something more "tangible." I said that it might have been better to build something that would last. The tent parties were one-day events, and after watching that show I wondered what lasting effect they would have on the children in attendance.

As for my "vague ideal" comment, it related back to what I

said about children in developing countries learning that Western things are better simply because they are Western. I knew kids in Africa who had similarly vague ideas about what Westerners had, and connected the acquirement of those things—blue jeans, hamburgers, etc—with success. That was what I was getting at.

Catherine Cooper
Editor-In-Chief

Madness and Marginality

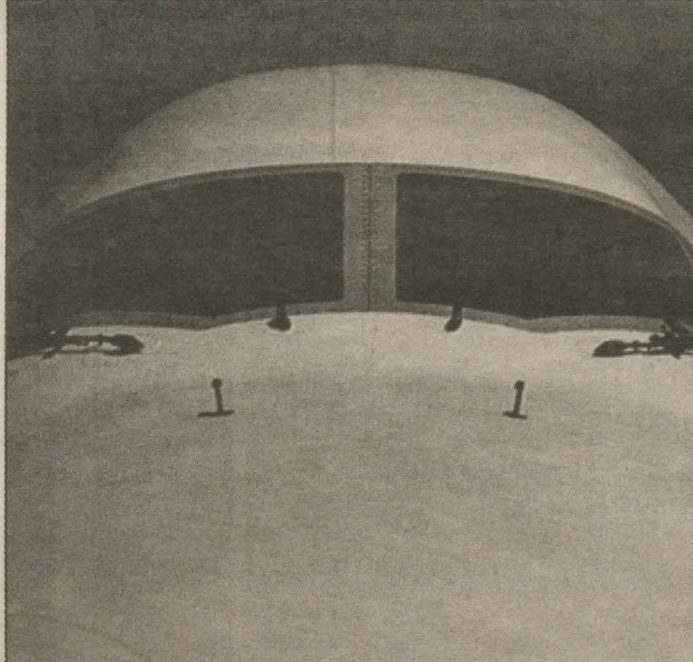
In response to Mr. Southwick's letter (*Gazette* 137:18) "The Media at Large(r)," Mr. Southwick charges me with presentation of a "disgusting" argument. He charges that expression of religion through art in a major media outlet marginalizes people of other religions. If my argument is "disgusting," then I would charge that his argument is revolting. Mr. Southwick, in a nutshell, is arguing that the majority religion should not be expressed in the popular media because it marginalizes minority opinion. I will grant Mr. Southwick that our constitution does in fact protect freedom of religion, however, it also protects freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Let us consider what freedom of religion truly means. It means that I have the protected right to practice any religion that I choose, free from any persecution from the state or any other party. It should also be noted that the rights of any individual cannot be extended to impinge upon the rights of any other person. That being said, we must think back to those other freedoms I mentioned earlier, specifically freedom of speech. Any media has the right to print or say whatever it wishes so long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. Upholding these rights is in the best interests of all Canadians, even those of minority opinion, because it guarantees them the right to express that opinion.

Expression of a religion in a national newspaper does not interfere with anyone's rights. Firstly, people can exercise their right to choose—and simply not read it. Secondly, contrary to what Mr. Southwick may think, it does no foul to minority religions. We have freedom of religion, yes, but not freedom from religion. Expression of majority religious sentiment only solidifies support for the expression of minority-held religious ideas.

Charles S. Wright

TAKE OFF, eh!



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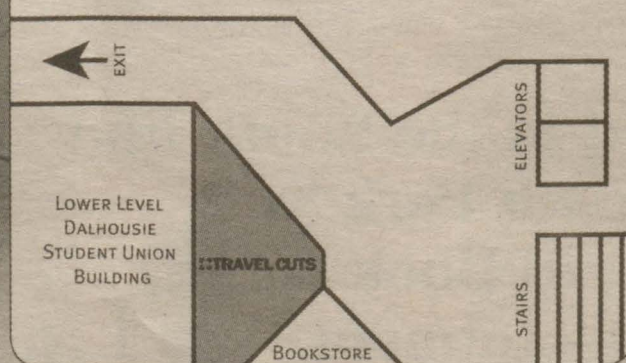
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Hot Spots

Rock Star Romance

Bridging the gap between groupie and girlfriend



John wrote "Woman," among others, for Yoko. But not every rock romance is as beautiful as theirs was.

Anneke Foster
 Arts Contributor

There is a song that even the most diehard Arcade Fire fans will probably never hear. "Cause I like cars more than telephones/ your voice in my head makes me feel so alone/ and when the sun goes down/ that's when the romance dies/ and I'm

lays the dark and dangerous side of rock star romance.

It is popular notion that girls tend to become infatuated with musicians. Something about a musician's charisma, charm, depth or talent seems to draw them in. I know this much is true from witnessing the above relationship, and its ultimate demise. There is always some pain

titles and word-of-mouth will all suddenly declare the status that this band now has gained. On a lesser scale, I even experienced this in moving to Canada; I really had no idea that anyone knew who Arcade Fire was outside of New Hampshire. In becoming more than just a band groupie, one faces considerable risk.

There is also the possibility of becoming a muse—a possibility that never ends well. Muses are short-lived, overused and often misconstrued. Rock stars give the appearance of candidness but tend to be purposefully non-inclusive. But what happens when you are the subject of that haziness, when your relationship inspires a song and your name becomes less important than the acquired fame?

If you allow your rock star love to write songs about your romance, the risk of exaggeration or inaccuracy runs deep. Furthermore, the inspiration you give the other can only last so long. Just as no one would ever have known that "Cars and Telephones" was written for my sister, no one knows whose heart most ballads were originally directed at, thus making it easy for a band to lure lonely hearts.

There is remarkable risk taken when involving yourself in rock star romance. It is easy to get caught up in the allure of being sung about. Yet when the lights go down and the bags are packed, and when the last love song he wrote for you doesn't even make it onto the first album, you have to wonder if it was really worth it. This isn't to say that music can't be genuine anymore, or that all rock stars are monsters. There is simply an added risk in moving from groupie to lover.

When the lights go down, and the bags are packed, and when the last love song he wrote for you doesn't even make it onto the first album, you have to wonder if it was really worth it?

tired of being alone/ and if I had a notion of how I could drive my car across the Atlantic Ocean/ I'd be set." In a summer before Arcade Fire was even based in Canada, this song was composed for my oldest sister by the band's lead vocalist, Win Butler, in some lonely home in Manchester, New Hampshire. Since that summer, Butler and my sister's lives have gone separate ways. But there is this lingering chord that will never completely fade, and in it

in moving on—especially when your ex-counterpart has moved on to something of a "famous" status. This makes it difficult to move on, but nearly impossible to forget. No one can anticipate the moment when fame hits a band. It could easily occur directly after your breakup. Should this stroke of bad luck hit you, it will not stop there—fate will run its course: Just as you are in the midst of recovering, full-ad pages in the newspaper, press ar-

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Goodbye closet, hello bathhouse.

Underground Sex Dens: Time to Break the Stigma

Y. Alexander Hu
 Arts Contributor

The Bathhouse is one of the most notorious symbols in Gay culture, if not the most. Generally speaking, they are places where gay men go for sex. Lesbian baths are much more rare, although some facilities have a ladies night. Most baths have a similar layout: lockers, showers, saunas and small private rooms available for rent. Many of the larger establishments in North America also have whirlpools, swimming pools, gyms, bars, TV lounges and are sometimes themed around a specific genre. Often the themed baths are easy

to spot by their name: the Barracks in Toronto comes to mind. In fact, most major cities in Canada and the U.S. have at least one—Halifax has two.

To a first time reader, it is easy to simply stigmatise bathhouses as underground sex dens where society's sexual deviants go to play. Although some people may find such a stigma appealing, even flattering, it's not all true. Bathhouses are indeed a kind of social taboo, hence there is a certain air of mystery about them. Few heterosexuals have ever seen the inside of one, and patrons don't exactly bring up the

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The *Gazette* will be holding its annual staff elections for the 2005/06 academic year. The elections will take place on Friday, March 25 at 4.00 p.m. To run for one of the positions (Editor-in-Chief, Sports editor, News editor, Arts editor, Opinions editor, Photo editor) you must have contributed to three issues in the past academic year. If interested, drop off a cover letter, resume and three clippings to room 312, S.U.B. by March 18. For more information please email: editor@dalgazette.ca.

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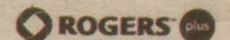
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Venus Envy

Proof that Halifax is Canada's sex shop niche market

Sarah Bridge
Staff Contributor

Strap-ons, cookbooks, travel guides and politics—sound totally unrelated? Well, for Shelley Taylor, president of Canada's Venus Envy, they're not.

In an effort to bring out the educated sexual being in all of us, Venus Envy sells products that encompass all these subjects, ranging from hot pink dildos to Noam Chomsky's latest book.

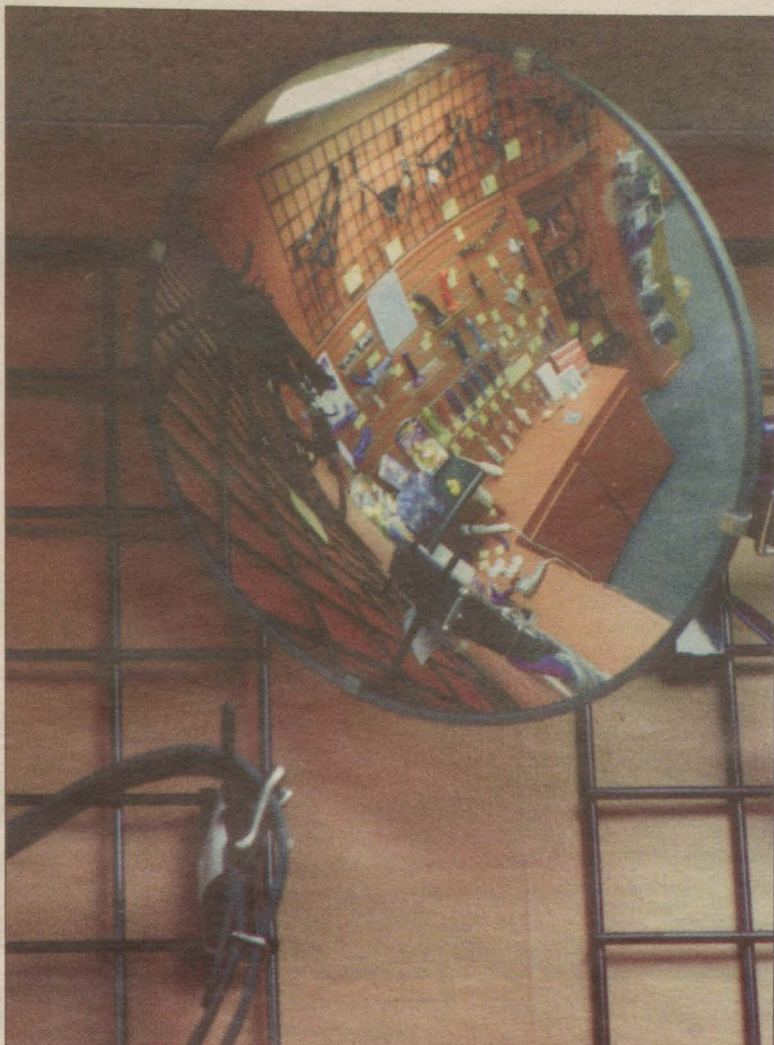
At noon hour on a Tuesday, the store has a constant shuffle of customers. Among them, an elderly lady in a fur coat who browses the *New York Times* best-sellers book section, contrasted with a tall young man who heads straight for the shelves of erotic sex toys.

One man on his lunch break laughs as he wonders how he can hide his racy new purchase from his coworkers at the office. "You might want to get rid of the bag," advises the cashier.

Venus Envy, which opened on Inglis St. in 1998 and is now located on Barrington St., has expanded with another location in Ottawa.

Named after a book by lesbian writer Rita Mae Brown, Venus Envy's owner describes the store as "an education-oriented sex and book store with an emphasis on woman's sexuality."

When making the decision to open her first store, Taylor recog-



Whether you like to be sexually stimulated in the drawers or in the brain, Venus Envy is here to serve you. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

nized that Halifax has what she felt to be a very "sex-positive culture" and a strong women's community. In other words, her store "would fit," she says.

Her premonition was correct. Since its opening, Venus Envy

has flourished in the community. Not only is the store itself an interesting addition to the downtown quarter of the city, it also offers popular workshops to educate the community about sex and health.

This month, the black chalkboard by the entrance of the store announces four workshops with seminar topics like "Going down" and "Healing our Shame."

To top it all off, Venus Envy offers a bursary fund to help women in need gain a post-secondary education.

"Statistics say that women need more education," says Taylor. "A man with a grade twelve education still makes more than a woman with a college degree."

"Some people see us as a book store while other people are like, 'You sell books? What?'"

—Maggie Haywood, Venus Envy Manager

Maggie Haywood, the store's cheerful young manager, says a smaller city like Halifax can't have a store that is too specific. She attributes Envy's success to its eclectic mix of products. "Some people see us as a book store while other people are like, 'You sell books? What?'"

"I love that we get to sell [everything from the] frivolous and fun to the health-oriented to the political," Taylor says. "There's something about buying a sexy set of handcuffs with an *Oprah's book club pick* novel that makes the former seem a lot less risqué."

BURN BABY BURN

Sexy Tunes

Sarah Bridge
Staff Contributor

Hawksley Workman

"Striptease"

Do it Again

"Stroke Nine"

The Beatles

"Why Don't We Do it in the Road"

Tenacious D

"Fuck her Gently"

Ben Harper

"Sexual Healing"

Dashboard Confessionals

"Hands Down"

The Roots

"The Seed"

Garbage

"I Would Die for You"

Fiona Apple

"Criminal"

D'Angelo

"Feel Like Making Love"

Marvin Gaye

"Let's Get it On"

Madonna

"Justify My Love"

Streeter

Who do you think is the sexiest person in the world?



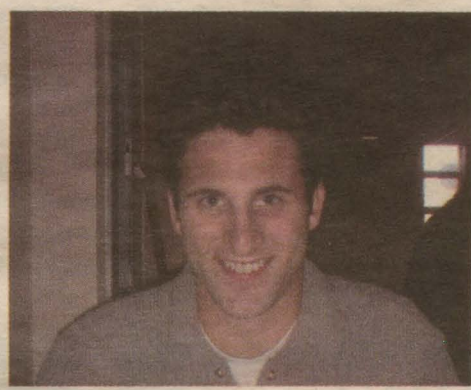
Jennifer Aniston, because she's finally single now.
- Dave Osmond, first-year arts



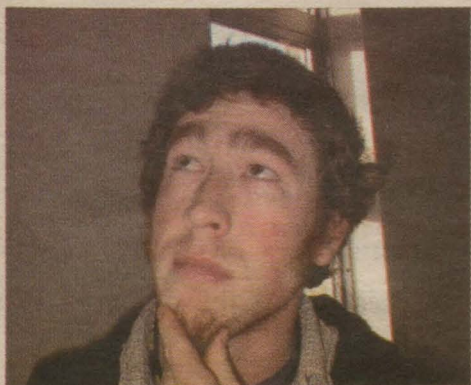
Brad Pitt. He just has a way about him. He's not stuck-up, and plus he's single now.
- Elizabeth Jarvie, third-year sociology



The Rock, he may not be the best actor, but I'd watch him in anything he does.
- Christine Bhola, third-year sociology



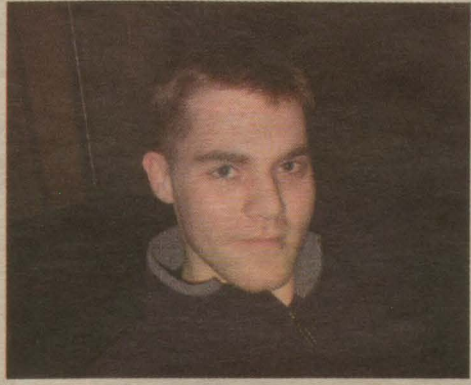
Sarah Jessica Parker from *Sex and the City*. Her honest confidence is very sexy.
- Steve Goldbloom, third-year psychology



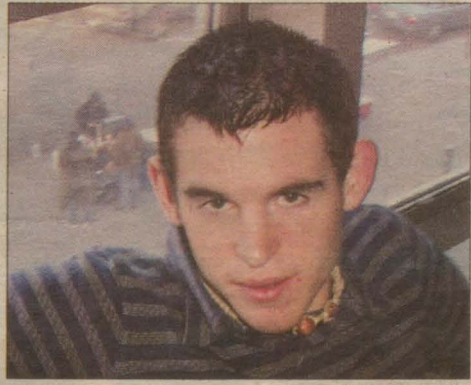
The guitar player for the band Nashville Pussy... she rocks my world! And she breathes fire!
- Red Oslanski, fourth-year commerce



Jude Law. It's just his charisma, he's got a good way of presenting himself. And he has nice eyes. And he's got an accent which is always nice.
- Kandace McDonah, third-year nutrition



Mel Gibson. He kicked ass in "Lethal Weapon."
- Adam Davis, first-year arts



I can't remember what his name is... that hottie Frenchman... Oh, that's right! C'est moi!
- Chris LaRoche, first-year poodle clipping

The Future of Sex

Only a matter of time before earthlings mate with aliens

Jennifer Patterson
Arts Contributor

Depending on which movies you've seen, humans will one day either be having sex with aliens, holograms, robots or sterile collection vessels. Although these scenarios may seem wacky, technology has already revolutionized sex and experts predict that it will continue to do so.

Rodney Brooks, the director of MIT's artificial intelligence lab, envisions a world of sophisticated remote-controlled humanoid robots. In a recent book, he speculates about various applications for these robots, but concedes that the "one element of the equation of which we can be sure... is sex."

Today, Brooks' vision doesn't seem all that futuristic. Cell phone-activated sex toys are already commercially available. According to one manufacturer, such devices provide "a way to send or receive unanticipated sensations, whenever and wherever you are." Shelley Taylor, the owner of Halifax sex store Venus Envy, predicts these gadgets will be big sellers once they arrive.

Remote control sex is one thing, but sex with an intelligent autonomous robot is still a far off equation.

In fact, scientists are nowhere near creating humanoid robots that could experiment with sex the way Data, the Star Trek android did. Today, scientists can't even create a computer that can have a realistic telephone conversation with a human. And while artificial intelligence is one problem, materials are a whole other problem. "The stuff that feels really real is also really hard to clean," says Taylor.

Although developments in robotics have lagged way behind science fiction, cybernetically-enhanced sex took a surprising leap forward in 2001. During a routine pain-relief treatment, Dr. Stuart Meloy of North Carolina found that electrodes implanted in a specific location in



In his paper, 'Do Extraterrestrials Have Sex (and Intelligence)?', Barkow suggests that sex can help intelligence evolve. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

a woman's spine could trigger an automatic orgasm. Although other pain specialists were aware of this effect, Meloy was the first to patent it. His device, often referred to as the "Orgasmatron," is now in clinical trials approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

With wires and a battery pack protruding from your spine, the current "Orgasmatron" would probably do more to harm your sex life than help it. But Meloy envisions future wireless versions that might be more "sexy." Curiously, Meloy told *New Scientist* magazine "I thought people would be beating my door down to become part of the trial... But so far I am struggling to find people."

While electronic technology has gotten bogged down in the sex market, biotechnology has flourished. Viagra was originally tested as a heart medication, but

when numerous men reported interesting side effects on their sex lives, the drug was re-marketed as a treatment for erectile dysfunction. Canadian pharmacists filled more than a million Viagra prescriptions in the year ending September 2003.

The multi-billion dollar worldwide market for Viagra has spurred many pharmaceutical companies to search for a similar drug for women. *The Toronto Star* reported that fifteen drugs are currently in a race to be the first approved treatment for female sexual dysfunction. (Some people have accused the drug companies of creating this dysfunction to help them sell drugs.)

In our apparent drive to have more and better sex, the irony is that we may actually be getting progressively worse at the biological goal of sex: reproduction. Dr. John Aitken has published several articles on the subject in

the scientific journal *Nature*. He notes that human ejaculates in 1990 contained only half as many sperm, on average, than they did in 1940. He acknowledges that this trend has been supported by many—but not all—subsequent studies. Aitken blames the decline on pesticides, herbicides and industrial pollution.

Aitken suggests that the increasing popularity of fertility treatments may be related to the decline in semen quality. He says that in developed countries, three to six percent of births result from "assisted conception techniques," like in vitro fertilization.

Aitken speculates that our increasing reliance on fertility treatments will eventually lift the evolutionary selection pressure on fertility. As the theory goes, fertility treatments will allow sub-fertile couples to have children that may inherit their poor

fertility. These children will then require ever more sophisticated aids to reproduction.

"Future generations are bound to experience a further decline in semen quality and ultimately, human fertility," warns Aitken. Science fiction writers have envisioned similar futures—a Hollywood version of this scenario is depicted in *Demolition Man*. In this movie, Sylvester Stallone is thawed out in a future world where human reproduction is entirely artificial.

Even if sex in the future is restricted to a recreational activity, this activity could be profoundly changed by space travel and the discovery of alien species. But really, despite the fact that it would make for a pretty desperate Captain Kirk, how likely is it that the universe is populated with attractive physiologically compatible aliens? How likely is it that aliens even have sex? Maybe the aliens just clone themselves.

According to Dalhousie Sociology and Social Anthropology professor Jerome Barkow, sex in the universe may be more likely than you might think. In his paper, 'Do Extraterrestrials Have Sex (and Intelligence)?', Barkow suggests that sex can help intelligence evolve. He says humans tend to think intelligence is sexy—so the more intelligent you are, the more sex you get, the more kids you have and voila, intelligence evolves. So if we were to meet intelligent aliens, it's also possible that their intelligence evolved through sexual selection and, therefore, that they have sex. "It does appear," says Barkow, "that if we are not quite in the Star Trek universe, where the differences among species seem mostly cosmetic and cultural, we are not too far away, either. Extraterrestrials are probably culture-bearing animals with two intelligent sexes."

"In science fiction, people fall in love with completely different species," Barkow says. "Ain't gonna happen—even if we are spiritually attuned."

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Aw. Isn't that cute.

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Sexpert

From the gooey heart-shaped boxes of chocolates to flowers by the dozen, Valentine's Day has done a lot to commercialize love. But there's no need to cave in to the pressures of modern consumerism. In fact, sometimes spending quality time together can provide a positive perk to any relationship.

Let's face it, the honeymoon phase only lasts so long—and then we get preoccupied with our routine life and often forget to pay attention to our partners. Even simple gestures like commenting on a new look or sending an electronic card can show somebody that you care, and you're likely to get a similar action of reciprocation in return.

It is nice to observe Valentine's Day by taking the effort to enjoy and embrace time spent with somebody special. Singles do not need to pull a Scrooge and

cite "not having somebody" as a reason to be glum. Valentine's is a perfect time to meet somebody new, or spend time with friends and enjoy somebody else's company. Of course, if romance is on the horizon there are a few cursory tips to make it a truly special evening.

One basic way to make the evening count is to make sure you have your look together. Style can always be elaborate, but sometimes all you need to do is be simple. For guys, remember that this isn't just hooking up for coffee or to watch videos, it is a date, and shaving your face to get rid of any unwanted stubble will make your mate want to get closer to you. For ladies, a tempting perfume will entice any callers, and will surely compliment a sizzling scent with a seductress look—smoky eyes and glossy lips shout out a "come hither" message.

Valentine's Day is also an opportunity to not only be attrac-

tive, but to act like foolish lovers as well. Laugh together, smile and enjoy the moment. Too often a busy agenda will take supremacy over the simple pleasures in life, like laying in bed and talking, or spooning together and just listening to your partner breathing.

Money can make us concerned that a gift is not good enough, or that our partner will upstage us with a more expensive offering. But the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and sometimes having a nice home-cooked meal is better than any elaborate, commercial product. Take the time to enjoy each other's company over a culinary delight, with a nice bottle of wine and candles. For the truly adventurous, you can continue your food play in a more explicit sense, turn your lover into a sundae with chocolate sauce, whipped cream and gooey maraschino cherries.

Whatever you want to do is strictly your prerogative; just remember to have fun. This is about flattering your partner, and enjoying spending time with the one you love.

Perceptions of Bathhouses, con't...

Continued from Page 11...

topic in casual conversation. But they're not underground, and the people that go to them are just like everyone else.

Physically there is actually very little differing a "gay bathhouse" from a spa or gym. This is probably why many are now called spas—more and more men go simply to relax. The only major difference between a gay bath and a conventional spa is the acceptance of sexual activity. This feature is often prevalent in the architecture of the building itself. Many baths contain erotic art, have adult movie lounges, various contraptions designed to enhance sensual stimulation and shops where one can purchase sex toys.

Over the years bathhouses have gotten a lot of flack. They've been cited as encouraging promiscuity, STDs and have even been blamed for the HIV/AIDS crisis. Yet baths have done much to actually promote safer sex, combat STDs and are credited for sparking the modern LGBTQ movement. Men do have sex in baths, but it would be naive to believe that they would stop if

the baths closed down. In Hali they already go to the Citadel; in the U.S. they have "private clubs" and charge for "day memberships" which are protected under their right of association. In Canada, baths are at the front lines of safer sex promotion. They decorate with STD educational posters, provide free condoms, lube, information and other protection upon request—some even have anonymous STD testing.

In many respects, gay-oriented baths are simply a combination of various types of facility: the privacy of a hotel, the features of a spa and a cruising atmosphere no different than the Dalplex showers around closing time—well, Dalplex may have a better scene. The difference is that the baths accept human sexuality, and the responsibility of maintaining a safe and fun atmosphere for people to play in.

If you're interested in learning more about gay baths, or if your curious to see what the inside of one looks like, DalOUT will host a private closed-hours tour of the Seadogs sauna and spa this Friday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. Meet at Seadogs or outside the SUB; suggested donation is \$2.

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Nadine LaRoche
Fantasy Fashionista

I'm lying with my back to the floor, I can hardly breathe and I've got the stiletto heel of a thigh-high leather boot jabbing into my chest. I try to shift my hips, but the rib-crushing black and red corset I was just strapped into limits my movement. I'm on the floor of Halifax's Night Magic Fashions with my friend standing over me, and there's a photographer to my right. You guessed it: this week's *SE* entrée is fantasy wear and role-play costumes.

When it comes to fun in the bedroom, most couples are concerned with taking it all off. For role-play, however, the excitement revolves around keeping your clothing on. Part of the appeal in acting out sexual fantasies is assuming a role, in both costume and action, and sticking to that role.

Unlike typical lingerie, "sexy" in regards to role-play costumes isn't always analogous to sheer and skimpy. Fantasy costumes are tempting not only because of how tight or how revealing they are, but also because of the stigma attached to certain roles. These costumes can be anything from innocent nurse to racy dominatrix, but are almost always about a difference in power. Sheila MacNeil, a counselor at Dalhousie University, says roles such as a nurse, flight attendant or maid denote differing levels of power and authority in society.

"There is something in the sexual fantasy realm that associates service roles as subservient," says MacNeil, though she is quick to add that she doesn't feel this is actually the case.

Fantasies that involve two

roles, such as schoolgirl and professor, nurse and patient, flight attendant and passenger (and so on) require both a subservient and a dominant character. Couples should decide in advance who takes on each role. MacNeil, who did graduate research and clinical training in sexual satisfaction and relationships at the University of New Brunswick, says good communication is key to safely engaging in fantasy. When a couple communicates, expectations become clear and a mutually satisfying sexual interaction can develop, she says.

The motives for engaging in sexual fantasies and dressing in role-play costumes vary between individuals. MacNeil says sexual fantasies can be helpful because they can enhance one's self-esteem or attractiveness.

"If you put on something that makes you look sexy," she says. "You're more likely to feel sexy."

Most sex therapists probably agree that the brain is the primary organ involved in satisfying sexual experiences.


Because people often have preset expectations and ideals about sex, role-playing can bridge the gap between fantasized sexual experiences and reality, MacNeil says. Role-playing lets sexual partners feel more comfortable behaving in ways they normally wouldn't.

But role-playing is not for everyone. Couples often turn to role-play to spice up their sexual relationship, says MacNeil, but acting out sexual fantasies is never as smooth as we see on the big screen.

"The bra hooks get stuck, or the edible underwear doesn't taste very good, or the nurse's stethoscope is quite cold," she



Photos:
Rafal Andronowski


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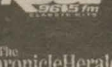
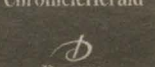





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Good communication is a must in order to negotiate a mutually pleasing interaction in the acting out of a fantasy. If "spice" is needed in a relationship because the couple is having difficulty communicating, MacNeil says role-playing may exaggerate these complications.

"If there are problems in the relationship," she says, "showing up one night in a maid's outfit and saying, 'Here I am. Can I dust your tail feathers?' may not achieve the spice that one is looking for"

Role-play does have the potential to increase the pleasure and sexual benefits experienced by both partners if good communication and a bit of humor already exist in the relationship.

On a search for fantasy wear in Halifax, my friend and I hit up Night Magic Fashions on Sackville Street. The store has a wide array of scandalous lingerie for ladies from feathers to animal print, as well as a room designated entirely for men. Night Magic has a good selection of racy role-play costumes, including a sheer black bra, thong and apron

French maid set. The all-leather room at the back of the store caught our eye, so we scooped up a corset and a black mini. Thigh-high stiletto boots that lace up the back and a massive whip are added to my friend's leather dominatrix costume. After a few minutes in the changing room, and a bit of dressing assistance from myself, she pushes open the door. She stands there with her legs wide and her hand up on the wall.

"I can't walk in these things," she says, "but I need to own these boots."

St. Valentino Died in the Name of Love



Valentine was the most romantic man in history, and he still couldn't get a date.

Jenny Cooper
Staff Contributor

I know that Valentine's Day is one day in the year when lovers ogle over each other, and some singletons become incredibly bitter. For that latter half of the demographic, I would like to shed a bit of light on the history

of this day and make it one of love for one and all, regardless of whether or not you are attached.

There are a few legends surrounding the exact origins of St. Valentine, but one was that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome.

There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius

II. Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers than those who were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions, he had him put to death.

Another legend accounts that, at a similar time in history, couples that were not from the same religious or ethnic background were forbidden to marry. Valentine thought this was a load of garbage, marrying couples in secret. When the Catholic Church found out what Valentine was up

For those of you who think Valentine's Day is just another Hallmark holiday, you have been ill informed... until now!

to, he was beheaded sometime in mid winter; he is now the Patron Saint of Love, with his feast day falling on the 14th of February on the Gregorian calendar. In celebration of St. Valentine's work and life, it has been a tradition for centuries for lovers to exchange cards or "Valentines," expressing their affection for one another.

So for those of you who think of Valentine's as just another Hallmark holiday, you have been ill informed... until now!

ARTS HOLE: The Art of Seduction

Bridgette Sullivan
Staff Contributor

Whether it's the tried and true technique of that infamous friend of yours (four shots of tequila and getting the DJ to play "Dirrty"), or the romantic, candle lit, diamond encrusted and rose-pedaled event, seduction is all around us. But is our modus operandi for landing love so sophisticated that we can tack the term "art" onto the whole affair? Is seduction really an art?

Just as society has influenced painters, sculptors, musicians and writers for hundreds of years, society has influenced seducers. Seducers are constantly revamping their craft in order to keep up with present day values, morals and trends—just as other artists have done so

to reflect social hierarchies, political turmoil and what is considered true beauty. The art of seduction can in this way be compared to any other type of art. In order to be effective, seducers

must reevaluate what features and characteristics one should possess to make them most attractive to the apple of their eye. The vixen or the coquette? The Casanova or the bad boy? At any one point in time, to any one person—just as in art—one image may be more acceptable than another. And sometimes, a strikingly different image may

Like artists, seducers all have different techniques. Some are more effective than others—like any artistic endeavor

be what causes a revolution in tastes.

Seduction is a performance. In seducing that special someone, you are attempting to create a specific representation of yourself as someone extraordinarily desirable. Like any dramatic production, seduction

requires preparation, rehearsal, costume, props and a receptive audience. A

successful seduction requires a certain manipulation of a situation to create a positive and satisfying outcome. Just as Michelangelo would have chiseled away at the marble block that would become David, a talented seducer must work conscientiously and meticulously towards the finished product.

Like artists, seducers all have different techniques. Some are more effective than others—like any artistic endeavor, there are certain things that catch our attention more often than others, certain works that are more pleasing to the eye. This is not to say that there is any right way to paint, or write, or dance or seduce. Nevertheless, we must keep in mind that artists represent themselves in their work. We too create an image of ourselves in the art of seduction, and it is often hard to be represented by failures.

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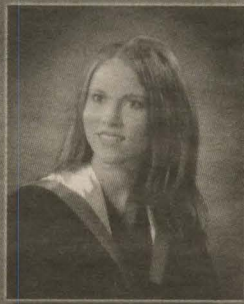
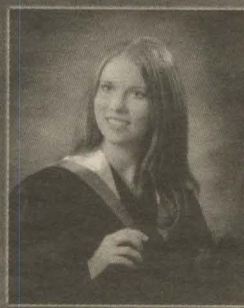
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Valentine's Shout Outs

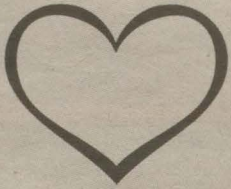
Here at the *Gazette*, we feel text messaging—even in all its glorious incarnations—just doesn't cut it when it comes to shouting out your love. With that in mind, we've dedicated this page to all those warm fuzzies you didn't get to say to your last Palace hook-up. Oh, and for those of you who just want to see your names in print.



April Scott: Cute beautiful girl that I have had a crush on since high school. We should do something.
Robert



Tonsac, can't be with you on this special day, but my heart is with you always. I love you.
Stubby.



DL: Although I dream of Africa, we both know my heart will be in Hali. I love you. xox **RP**



CLR: You are not just "The Creepy Streeter Guy." You are hot. You can edit my text anytime, if you know what I mean.



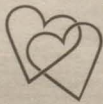
To my **Evichka**, Happy Valentines. Love you, **Beast.**



Mel, my love for you has never been stronger. Happy Valentines Day my fiancée!
Love always, **Steve.**



Steve... I love you too babe, even if you ruin surprises! Happy V-Day my fiancé! Love always, your **Melly.**



Roses are red
I love it when we dance
Itss almost as hot
when you deal with **Budget and Finance!**



Quincy Casem: You have exquisite hands. Thank you for being born, handsome man.



ALFP: Roses are red
you're the Queen of this prose
at last, a poem FOR you
you hot Polish Rose!
-JC



To Coady: I want sex with you. Be at the residence we can rendezvous @ 7 p.m. on Valentine's Day **-Admirer.**



Ms. Dobbin: I am envious of your creativity, your quiet confidence and the way people gravitate toward you.



Dear Michelle Murray, if I were a lesbian I would seduce you and make love to your supple, sweating corpus.



Megan, you make life amazing and exciting. You rule!
-Colin

SuperSex in the SuperCity

She's a Nymphomaniac!

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Sexpert

Once upon a time, there was a societal misconception that women were to be demure, pleasant and silent. Women liberation movements nullified these codes of conduct, and women now enjoy equal rights and freedoms in Canadian society. On top of it all, female celebrities like Paris Hilton, Madonna and Christina Aguilera continue to promote *carte blanche* female sexuality, an attitude that embraces and exhibits feminine prowess in an open and carefree manner.

It wasn't long ago that these women would have been branded with the social moniker of nymphomaniac, a word that still conjures up images of females with insatiable desire, incessantly on the prowl for sexual partners.

In today's culture, a healthy female libido is more commonly celebrated than frowned upon. Many modern women could easily be called nymphomaniacs according to Victorian medical guidelines. Common indicators to diagnose nymphomania included: eating lip-smacking foods such as chocolate, wearing perfume, reading novels, skin blush and my personal favourite, the legendary "overheated vagina".

Nymphomania may seem like historical nonsense. If women who read literature were to be considered shameless and licentious, then our university libraries would be unbridled whorehouses! Nevertheless, the talk show circuit has coined a new term for women who exhibit a little too much sexiness: "sexual addict." Popular shows like *Oprah Winfrey* and *Geraldo Rivera* affirm that today's modern nymphomaniacs are characterized by assuming a multitude of lovers, jumping from bed to bed and predictably dealing with some sort of sexually associated



Christina Aguilera: Dirty or Nympho? You decide

trauma from early adulthood. On average, this term is commonly used for heterosexual women and it certainly relapses back to the Victorian era; she enjoys sexual intercourse, ergo, she is a nymphomaniac.

Society's double standard dismisses overt female sexuality. After all, the familiar adage that a sex-obsessed woman is a nymphomaniac and a sex-obsessed man is normal still seems to get credit. Nymphomaniacal behaviour does occur in males; it's called satyriasis. This term is not well known, unlike the household equivalency for women, proving our society's double standard.

Although the famous sexologist Alfred Kinsey depicted a nymphomaniac as "someone who has more sex than you," the word itself is not a clinical term. This is largely because being a nymphomaniac is somewhat anecdotal—its qualifications come down to how we perceive our own sexuality. Nymphomaniacal behaviour is an artificial

phenomenon because of the wide range of sexual appetites amongst the population. Some of us like it a lot—whereas others prefer a lesser frequency.

In spite of the falseness of nymphomania, a question begs to be asked: can there ever be too much of a good thing? Ultimately, we must set our own limits and boundaries. One sign that sex is becoming a problem for you is if you let it rule your life. It is important to be sexually active for the right reasons, and engaging in various, sporadic, emotionless flings will only hurt you in the long run.

Meaghan MacSween
Arts Contributor

Do not read *Playing with Matches* if you are a book snob. Many of us are, after all, surrounded each day by impressive works deemed as "literature" that we subsequently, often taken very, very seriously. Do not take *Playing with Matches* seriously.

That's not to say you shouldn't read it. Do you ever watch TV? Have you ever been interested—even a little—in celebrity gossip? Or other people's interesting and exciting "problems"? It's all the same really: escapism... and there's nothing wrong with it.

Playing with Matches is a collection of real life dates and relationships gone horribly, embarrassingly wrong. Its audience is ideally female, young-ish and ultimately

bumped out about the "dating world." In other words, do not read *Playing with Matches* if you can't appreciate a good cliché. Or, at least, see past one. But if you can do either, the stories are actually pretty funny.

Some of the anecdotes include: men screaming lewd comments to prostitutes while on their first date, men asking their dates to help them create fake cocaine concoctions to make some

extra cash and men getting fangs permanently cemented in the place of their front teeth. These men are so terrible that you cannot help but identify with the pain and humiliation felt by their dates.

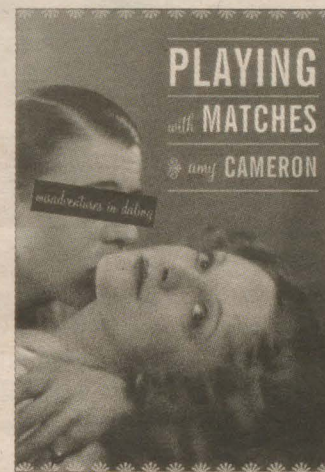
This is, of course, the whole point: women finding solidarity, together, in the ridiculousness of men. The goal is that our inevitable empathy will help us to realize that we are not alone in this crazy dating world. Not too bad.

Here's what is too bad: throughout the chapters, there are several supposedly useful interventions made by the author. The point, I'd say, is an attempt to blend the stories in a cohesive way.

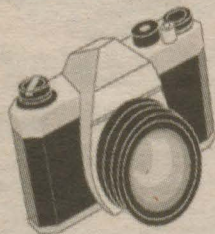
Unfortunately, the result is almost the opposite. Without the freedom to make the connections and associations myself, I felt a bit

like I was being talked down to. You can't mix fun, frivolous stories with a moralistic voice—especially when many of the stories include occurrences of sex. If I wanted some high-minded morality, I could go to one of Dal's several Lit classes—or to church.

But it's also important to accept a genre for what it is. That said, I enjoyed *Playing with Matches*. I really did. Don't be a snob, and you'll enjoy it too.



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Wanderlust

Japanese fertility festivals are sure to please

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Staff Contributor

If you've ever wanted to attend a one-stop "learn everything there is to know" celebration of penises, think about heading to Kawasaki, Japan for the city's annual fertility festival. This is a place for all admirers of that uniquely male piece of anatomy: children run around eating penis shaped candies and teenagers carve penises out of radishes, all while adults parade an extraordinarily sized penis down Kawasaki's main drag.

The festival is also serious business in Japan: preparation begins during the frigid winter months when scores of craftsman whittle a phallus from a single Japanese cedar.

The origins of the festival are two-fold: first and foremost, it is a celebration of spring and regeneration in the natural world. It is a time to impregnate the soil with seed, to celebrate warmth and to express humanity's own virility.

In addition to the changing of the seasons, Japanese folklore also tells the story of a demon that, hiding in a woman's vagina, would bite off the penis of any lover that dared enter. This story continued unabated until a local artisan created a steel dildo that symbolically broke the demon's sharp teeth, letting the woman to resume a regular sex life.

The festival ends with the distribution of mochi nage, small rice cakes that are (reportedly) bland and flavourless. Nevertheless, crowds go wild for the opportunity to catch these packaged snacks after they are



Fertility is serious business in Japan.

thrown from balconies and rooftops—such a brawl that, in order to prevent injury, women, children and elders are restricted from participating.

Another equally titillating event in Japan is the annual tagata-jinja festival in Komaki. One weekend in March is set aside for a penis festival, followed by a vagina festival the following weekend. In Komaki, a large penis is made and carried through the streets. This wooden phallus is eight feet long and weighs 1000 pounds. Spectators at the festival also eat penis shaped candies and will rub the massive, wooden penis for good luck.

If larger-than-life penises are not really your thing, check out the naked festival instead. Held in Inazawa each February, the festival dates back over twelve

centuries. Contrary to what the name implies, the 10,000 participants are not fully naked, instead wearing simple, white loincloths that cover their genitals. As partakers run around trying to tag the central figurehead, copious amounts of sake, the local liquor, is consumed. In the end, some minor drunken injuries and hangovers finalize this annual celebration.

If an award could be given out to the nation with the greatest number of penis celebrations per capita, Japan would surely win. Going to the Far East to witness one of these unforgettable festivals will not only arm the would-be traveller with a battery of amusing stories, but also prove to be a valuable step in stimulating one's own sexual consciousness.

Movie Review

Ong Bak: Tony Jaa fights for Buddha

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

Ting lives in a tiny, primitive Thai village where but a weewell must quench the thirst of all one hundred villagers. His adoptive father Pra Kru watches him practice the ancient martial art of Muay Thai (which means "nine body weapons"), interrupting his graceful, perfect air-slicing movements only to offer bored criticism. Life for the villagers is peaceful: they work peacefully, play peacefully and have peaceful tree-climbing competitions—until someone messes with Ong Bak, the village Buddha idol.

Finding their beloved statue decapitated, the villagers decide the perpetrator must have been Don, a visiting Bangkok vandal. Life comes to a standstill for the rural bumpkins. Without Buddha, they've no one to believe in; without faith, nothing ever gets done.

So Ting, being brave and young, sets off to Bangkok with a handful of good luck charms, trinkets and coins from his neighbors. Almost immediately he runs into his long lost cousin, George, and his friend, Muaylek. George and Muaylek promise to help Ting find Don and organized crime boss Khom Tuan.

Through the polluted and cluttered city streets of Thailand's capital, Ting expertly zooms about the cars, three-wheeled go-karts, fried food stands, rings of fire and sheets of glass. But the chase scenes are amateur compared to the film's fights. Ting seems invincible as he takes on flying, armed goons with the swift, pivoting kick of a practiced

foot.

Although the film is as predictable as an episode of Full House, director Prachya Pinkaew deserves major kudos for an imbuing the film with an authenticity that is rarely found nowadays. The fight scenes are *f/x*-free; the sweat, blood and bruises of actor Tony Jaa (Ting) are all real. Jaa's unbelievable stealth and accuracy of natural movement is breathtaking. He makes the art of Muay Thai look like a beautiful, masculine dance; his exquisite physique should leave audience-members awe-struck. Chiseled and powerful, his is a body that is

Jaa's unbelievable stealth and accuracy of natural movement is breathtaking. He makes the art of Muay Thai look like a beautiful, masculine dance, and his exquisite physique leaves audience-members awe-struck.

part of what puts this young Thai action hero in the same league as Jet Li.

In addition to Tony Jaa, the film's beautiful scenes of rural Thailand make Ong Bak a picturesque film that sheds light on just how different the country is from the city. Besides the physical, visual differences, Pinkaew riddled his film with hints of an underlying message: the city, being full of drugs, gambling violence, is evil; the country, represented by Ting and worship, is wholesome.

Ong Bak premieres in at Park Lane and Bayers Lake Empire Theatres on Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.

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Breakthrough at the Tech Ball

Rosalie Hanlon
Sextant Contributor

Walking through the doors of the Tech Ball, I was overwhelmed with a daunting sense of Déjà vu relating back to the days of grade 7 sock hops... all the boys stood ominously near the wall while all the girls casually swayed on the dance floor.

It was still early by this time but my lovely date had been drinking since the afternoon—it should be noted that no matter how inebriated a gal might be, she will never fail to put on her make-up and do her hair, with care and precision. In the darkened gym there were Christmas lights draped across a wall like ivy, casting a romantic air over the drunken mess the ball would eventually become. The band members played on regardless, despite the somewhat empty dance floor; they knew that as soon as the icy beers and

cocktails found their way deep enough to crack the male sense of rationality... the engineers would begin to bust their moves.

As more and more guests showed up, the bar area began to get packed. The alcohol had not reached its desired effect just yet because the men and women were still physically separated—even though the exponential increase of people suggested an inevitable interaction between the two genders. The dark suits along the back wall began to multiply, all chatting with each other until the perimeter of the dance floor pulsed with testosterone. Meanwhile the sparkly and vibrant colors of the girls' dresses dominated the beat, center stage, like an estrogen-driven fertility dance. The overhead view probably looked much like a gumball machine enshrouded in a navy blue frame.

It was during one of my dance breaks when boys began

to sprout up on the dance floor. It was slow at first. A few of the men began to brave the heat among the packs of women. The band began to play with more vitality. Soon, the suits began to leak in like a refreshing inoculation. Everywhere there were civil, mining, electrical and architectural engineers casting away their "logic" and following the groove of the rhythm.

Dancing is the opposite of engineering. It relies on instinct, emotion, irrationality and a hint of madness. Why else do you think the arts students are so good at it? In any case, it was amazing to see everyone having such a loose and fun time. The Tech Ball achieved its goal of luring us engineers away from the formulaic world that we are so used to, throwing us headfirst into the sexually charged realm of the dance world.

Valentine's Day (The Day of Love)



Bryden Berkvens
Sextant Contributor

This coming Monday is Valentine's Day. This is the one day a year when guys get to express their love without being called a pansy. So what are you doing for Valentine's Day? A recent discussion with my friends in relationships yielded the following responses: nothing, watching a movie, homework and getting drunk and seeing if she will still want to do me. Not exactly the most romantic plans in the world, but then again, this is engineering.

Why do we get a reputation as caring more about engines and getting wasted than that special someone in our life? Because most of us do. Is this our fault? No fricken way. It's the fault of those professors that make assignments due on the day after

Valentine's Day. Who would do this to a student?

The professor who had the same thing done to him when he was a student. This may come as a shock to some of you non-engineers, but we do have hearts and we do care about more than making more money. If you conduct a survey among engineering students, you will find that the majority of us are currently in a relationship with someone, and no, they are not all gold-diggers. We are desirable people because we have careers, and we have a reputation for doing what it takes to get the job done (use your imagination on that one). So I am telling all of you lonely people who are looking for love this Valentine's Day to come down to Sexton campus, and see if you can get yourself an engineer. Trust me, we are always a sure thing.

Ladies, Look No More

Peter White
Sextant Contributor

Prior to the 1960s, the attribute women most looked for in a man was the ability to provide financial security. In the decades since then, women have made great progress in the professional world, resulting in the successful, independent females of the world today. And while I admire and respect what they have been able to do, I cannot help but feel that this has had a negative impact on my social life.

A typical male engineering student, I was born without the ability to function properly in the everyday social situations most young people take for granted. When conversing with members of the fairer sex, the interaction is inevitably doused in painstaking awkwardness and seemingly ineluctable silences that culminate in my continued loneliness... because of over-complicated, nerdy sentences like the previous one. Not to mention the fact that I, along with the majority of male engineers, was born ugly. In fact, ugliness is a quality the Dalhousie admissions office looks for in potential engineering students. This is by no means a new trend, but in the past our engineering brothers were able to overcome these shortcomings with the ability to offer a fi-

nancially stable life to potential mates. As this reliable income is no longer important, there is an unmistakable opinion among young females that engineering students have nothing to offer. Ladies, this couldn't be further from the truth.

Since the engineering prejudice held by women has left me with a lot of time on my hands, I decided to find out what women really want. After reading 17 issues of 'Cosmopolitan' magazine and watching 6 consecutive episodes of 'Sex and the City', I feel I have amassed a fairly accurate list of exactly what young females are looking for in a man, and I must say, engineers have got it all.

For example, you say you want a man you can trust. Date an engineer and he'll never cheat on you. It's simply not possible. I can barely find one girl who can tolerate me—I'll never be able to find two at the same time. Research has also led me to believe that women love a man who is honest. After spending four years quoting nothing but facts and having to prove everything, I have essentially lost all ability to lie. It's sad, it's pathetic, but it's the truth. Just don't ask me: "Do I look fat in this?"

And who can forget humor! Girls love a man who can make them laugh, and believe it or

not, some engineers are actually funny. For example, superstar comedic actor Rowan Atkinson is a certified electrical engineer. He may have the aesthetic appeal of a train wreck, but who can resist the charming wit of the loveable Mr. Bean?

But for those of you who need someone attractive to call your soul mate, don't count out every engineering student. Sure, if you pick an engineering student at random, he will probably be less attractive than dirt, but that isn't a pre-requisite for the program. Model-turned-actor Ashton Kutcher once graced the department of Biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa. I'm a practicing heterosexual, but even I know he's cute.

So ladies, I implore you, give us a chance. Come down to Sexton campus and see what we have to offer. It'll be like going to a second hand clothing store. Sure, most of its junk, but if you look hard enough you might just find something special. Just make sure you wash whatever you get before you use it.

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Sports Briefs

Power tunes-up at Promotional Meet



Adrienne Power sprints down the line at last weekend's meet. Photo: Nick Pearce

Mike Tweedale
Staff Contributor

On Sunday evening, Adrienne Power and her Dalhousie teammates showcased their sport during an indoor exhibition track & field meet at Dalplex.

"Tonight is a sort of promotional event aimed at giving people an occasion to see an athletic event and provide an opportunity for younger athletes to get some competitive experience," said the reigning CIS 60-metre and 300m sprint champion.

Select participants from secondary schools, the Canadian national team and athletes from other local AUS universities including St. Mary's and St. EX. were invited to compete against Dalhousie team members at the event, promoted as the Nova Scotia Indoor Track and Field Championship.

"We're promoting athletics and trying to demonstrate the rewards of an active lifestyle," added Power, whose five-metre heave in the shot-put competition demonstrated to on-lookers why she concentrates on the speed events.

Event organizers rearranged the equipment on the racquet-sport area of Dalplex's main floor and uncovered five 60-metre sprinting lanes. Other running events such as the 300m and 1000m distances were staged on the indoor track.

The strength of the women's 60m sprint team focused spectator attention towards the main floor where other varsity athletes were on-hand to give their recognition to this talented group of sprinters.

Earlier in the week, Dal's track team received a boost when Power was named the 2005 recipient

of the James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award. This prestigious prize is presented annually to an AUS student showing excellence in athletics, academics and community service.

"It's like a dream that couldn't come true," says a smiling Power. "In my first year, I wasn't too inclined academically and things weren't exactly working out for me on the track either." The current team leader arrived at Dalhousie five years ago with her eyes on success in the long-jump, and admits that "I couldn't have imagined back then what's going on now."

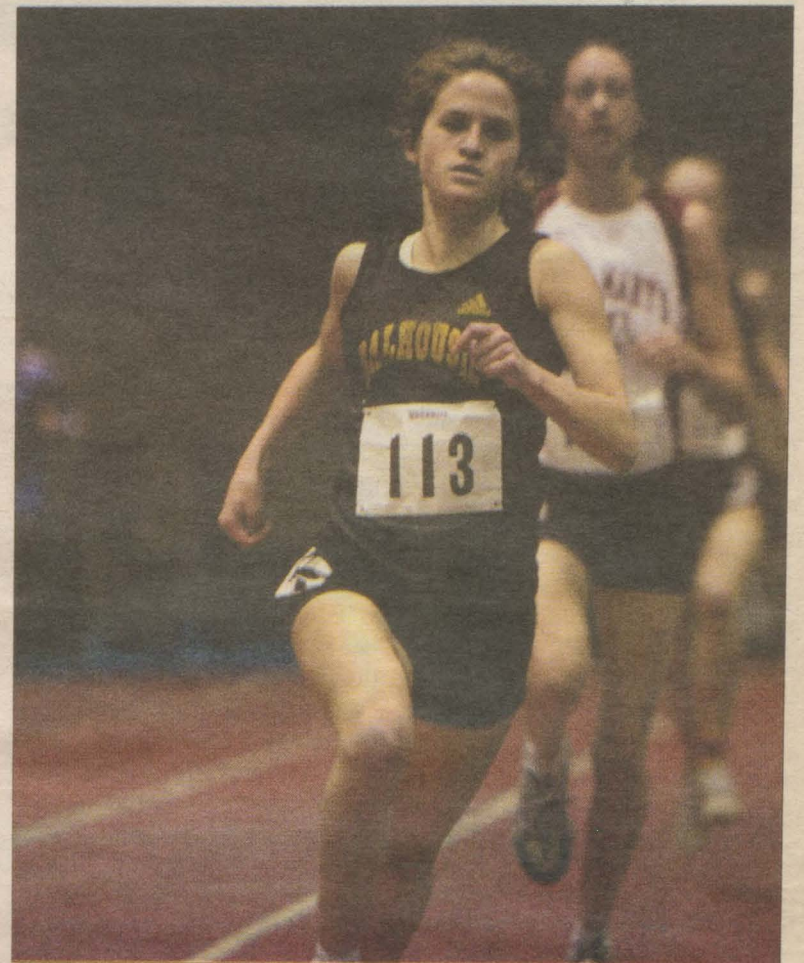
"In my rookie year, I fouled out on my three preliminary jumps at the CIS meet and was disqualified," she says. "I was so mad about it that my frustration probably helped me in the 60... it was the last chance, I didn't want to end the year without some kind of result."

Power found herself on the podium with a bronze medal, and has been focused on sprint events ever since. Her indomitable will and talent did not go unnoticed by sprint training coach Peter Lord, with whom she has been working closely for the past four years.

"He is simply the best," asserts Power.

Even in a promotional event the competition that drives this team is easily found. Set for the marquee final, the sprinters test their nerves in the blocks and await the gun. At its signal, Power launches from the block—at only 15 metres, she has established what seems to be an insurmountable lead. But an accelerating charge from teammate and 2004 AUS soccer MVP Leanne Huck puts the race another step up—and the entertainment draws applause from all those on hand.

Track action continues this weekend at Dalplex with the Dalhousie classic meet, and the Dalhousie Relays on February 19th.



MacLean has been untouchable this year. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Running to the End of the Line

Track stand-out MacLean enjoying success in final year

Theresa Anne Salah
Staff Contributor

Entering Canada's biggest university track and field pre championship event at McGill two weeks ago, Dal's Leanna MacLean was the only athlete in the country to be at the top of two running events.

She reinforced her dominance on the Montreal track as she snapped the meet record in the 1500m by two seconds, posting a time of 4:26.93. The mark

put her four seconds ahead of the next ranked CIS athlete.

Only partially aware of her ability to break the record, MacLean said that it wasn't her main focus going into the race. "You kind of thought about it because you heard of people dropping records," she said, "but I wasn't really going for the record. I was going to get a good time."

That's what motivates the 22-year-old to reach the finish

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Athletes of the Week



Chris Goulet
Track and Field

Chris Goulet is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Goulet moved into the CIS top 10 on the weekend, shaving just under a full second off his previous best in the 600-metre event. At Sunday's Tiger Classic meet, Goulet recorded a time of 1:23.1 in his signature event. Also deemed a relay specialist, he regularly competes in the 4x200m, 4x400m, 4x800m as well as the 300m and triple jump events. Goulet is a third-year psychology student from Moose Factory, Ont.



Jen Smith
Hockey

Jen Smith is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Smith stopped 41 of 43 shots on the weekend to help lead the women's hockey team to two key victories. On Saturday, she was stellar between the pipes as the Tigers pulled out a 2-1 overtime victory over the UNB Varsity Reds; after scoring the equalizer with only three minutes remaining in regulation time. Smith was especially sharp in the third period and carried the momentum into overtime play; stopping a breakaway against UNB sniper Chelsea Gilbert. On Sunday, she stepped up again for the game against UdeM. After a quiet first two periods, the Anges Bleu fired nine third-period shots as they desperately tried to rally back from a 3-1 deficit. Smith stood her ground and recorded her second win for the weekend. Smith is a third-year kinesiology student from Annapolis Royal, N.S.

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Geoff Daniels Steps Up

Joey Ryba
Staff Contributor

To say that the Dal men's volleyball team is dominating the AUS would be an understatement. With players like reigning AUS MVP Jeff Weiler and 6'10" Niklas Radermacher, why wouldn't the Tigers be leading their conference by 20 points?

To be a powerhouse, a team needs its star players to perform. To complement that, a team needs players to step off the bench and put in a solid performance, which is exactly what happened in the 2004 AUS playoffs. Things weren't going well for one of the starters—and that's when Geoff Daniels stepped in and stepped up.

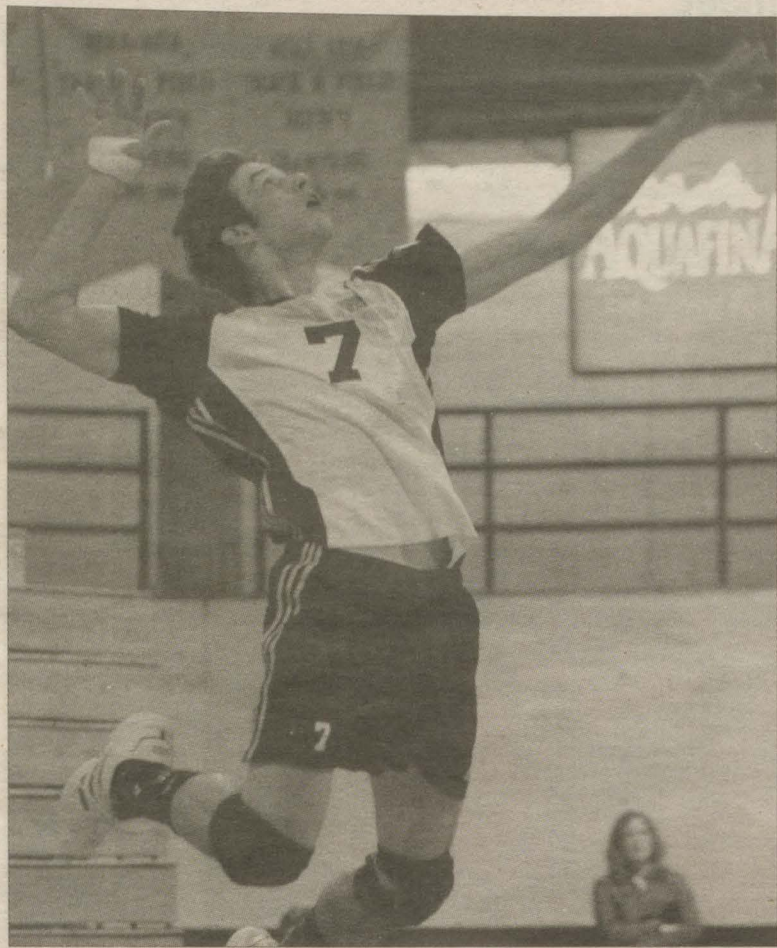
"I was put in to change the dynamic of the game and generate some energy," says Daniels. "I just played hard, which is what you're supposed to do. I had a good game followed by two more." Daniels's solid play earned him 2004 AUS playoff MVP honours.

Volleyball was a part of the fourth-year kinesiology student's life well before 2004. The native of Lunenburg, N.S. started volleyball when he was 14 years old.

"I played sports in school growing up which is what most of my friends did. I really liked playing sports and in particular volleyball. It wasn't long after I began playing that I made the provincial team. After that, I made the Nova Scotia Canada Games team."

Now Dal's right-side starter, Daniels speaks highly of his 2001 Canada Games experience in London, Ont.

"The Canada Games were pretty special," he says. "It was definitely pretty cool and I liked being a part of the team. It was really interesting to be there with many different athletes and so



Daniels has jumped to the front for the men at Dal. / Photo: Nick Pearce

many people my own age."

From there it was off to Dal.

"I always wanted to go to Dal. It's the one school that has a good volleyball program. Dal's coach, Dan Ota was also my Canada Games coach so he talked to me about the program and it was an easy decision."

Besides being an AUS playoff MVP and a member of the 2001 Nova Scotia Canada Games team, Daniels was an outstanding player in high school and was named the Dal Tigers' most improved player in 2001/2002 and 2003/2004. He's also found time to help others by coaching as an assistant with Nova Scotia Provincial Midget team.

Growing up, Daniels' favourite athlete was Michael Jordan. In the AUS, he maintains that Rusty LeChat is the top competi-

tor in men's volleyball.

"I thought Michael Jordan played with a lot of intensity. I admire his intensity and I try to model it," says Daniels. "Rusty is also a tremendous athlete and all the guys respect him. He sets a good example and he's definitely an influential player."

After four years of accomplishment, Daniels is finally hanging up his jersey. He graduates in the spring.

"I'm hoping to do something with my degree... I'm going to take at least a year off from the studies and work," he says. "In the future, there might be more school and volleyball is always going to be a part of my life. I'm going to continue playing for fun and I'm definitely going to continue coaching."

Leanna MacLean to race next year, con't...

Continued from Page 21...

line every time. "Your training is all about achieving your own personal goals," said MacLean. "It's probably more that than just winning races."

And yet, having already achieved goals, which include her new record this year in the 1500m, breaking another record in the same event last year at AU's and winning Female Athlete of the year her final year at St. EX., MacLean was quick to point out that personal achievements could still never compare to the joy of a team victory.

"This year our team won the [national title] for cross country and that would have been way more exciting than if you had won it yourself," said MacLean who runs for both Dalhousie's cross country and track and field teams. "It's just more exciting if you do well as a team because there's more people to share it with. It's fun to do well on your own, but it's not the same."

It's the reason MacLean finds cross country a more compelling sport compared to track and field. "I really just like it because of the team aspect," she said. "You can set goals as a team and it's just more fun."

Having a good time is the moto her teammates have engraved in MacLean's mind since she transferred to Dal last year to study mechanical engineering.

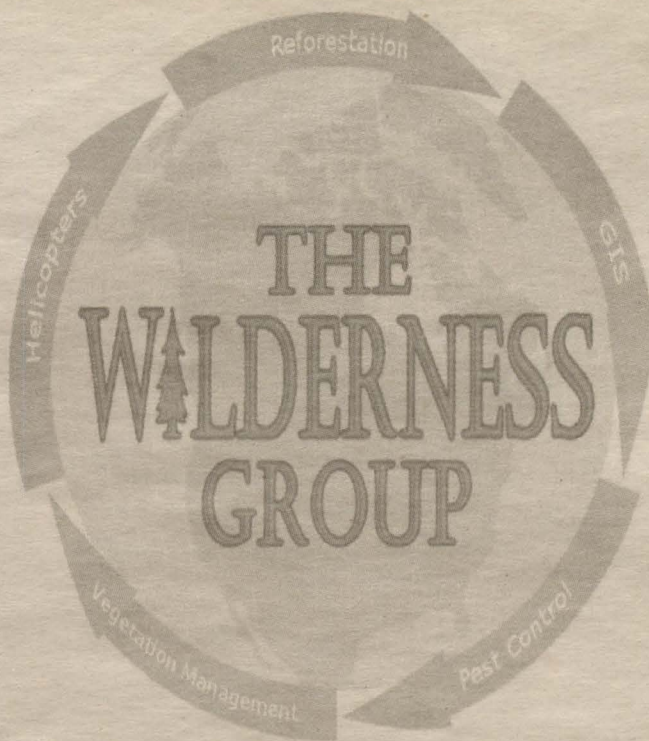
"We're a really good group at Dal, so everyone's just really excited for everyone when they do well," she said. "They push you along, especially in cross country because it's such a team event."

However, when MacLean heads to the starting line, there's no one else around. "Once the gun goes, you just kind of forget about everything," she said. "You don't think about anything, you don't hear anything. But I always hear my coach no matter what."

With only a few more months left in this year's track and field season, MacLean's time with her Dalhousie teammates will soon come to an end. Having already spent her first three years of varsity eligibility at X and her final two remaining seasons with Dalhousie, MacLean's five-year varsity eligibility has run out.

But she says that although she'll spend her final year at Dal cheering from the sidelines, she won't stop competing. "I enjoy running, and I enjoy being with the team, but I'm still going to train next year. I'm going to keep on racing."

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The Last Lap

Swimming seniors prepare for final home meet

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

When Mike Smith and Alex Middleton dive into the Dalplex pool at this weekend's AUS Championships, they'll be doing so for the last time as Dal Tigers.

Both Smith and Middleton are in their fifth and final year here at Dal and will be hanging up the suit and goggles at the end of the year.

But while both say retiring has been on their mind at times, neither has worried too much about it.

"It wasn't until the last trip right before my last event that I thought, 'wow, this is the last time I'm at UNB,' says Smith. "For me it's been more of a last kick at the can."

Middleton agrees.

"I don't try to make a big deal out of it because I know I've had a good time at it throughout my time at Dal. Whatever happens at AU's, I know I've had success in the past and it's been good."

Both swimmers are coming off years in which they faced adversity. Middleton missed the first semester of training because of a work term and Smith battled injuries and motivation problems. As a result, both failed



Mike Smith and Alex Middleton. / Photo: Michael Gorman

to qualify for the CIS Championships, something they each did the previous year.

Even with that in mind, neither is letting the pressure their last chance to qualify get to them.

"If it doesn't happen this time

around then whatever," says Middleton. "But I definitely think I've prepared myself to go best times."

Smith prefers to look at this season as redemption after his injury plagued previous season.

"I don't really feel the pres-

sure because I know I've put the work in."

During their five years at Dal, the two have witnessed the transformation of the swim team from relative unknown to national powerhouse. Middleton says the difference between the team now

and when he first joined is night and day.

"There's 20 times the amount of commitment now," he says. "There is a lot more desire to compete at a higher national level now than there was [in my rookie year]."

Smith credits the team's head coach, David Fry, for the big change in attitude.

"He sees [things like] racing and lots of meets as a stepping stone to the ultimate goal of doing well," says Smith.

While both swimmers see UNB as their biggest challenge this weekend, they are confident that if everyone swims well, a seventh consecutive title will happen.

Swimming at home is a big advantage and Middleton hopes hosting the meet will encourage people to come out and watch.

"It makes a huge difference knowing the school actually supports you in what you're doing and representing the school at competitions," he says. "I'll still enjoy coming to the meet even without anyone there and I'm still going to go hard, but it's satisfying to know that people actually care."

The AUS Championships from Feb. 11-13 at Dalplex pool. Start time is 5 p.m. each night.

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