

FREE

ISSUE 137-21 March 3rd - March 10th 2005

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

## END VOTER APATHY

GET INFORMED WITH OUR ELECTION COVERAGE

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ELECTION COVERAGE

04-09

ON-CAMPUS THEFT

10

DALHOUSIE CHALLENGE

11

FUTURE OF TUITION

16

SLEEPLESS RECORDINGS

17

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

22

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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



## DSU Council Meeting

The next DSU Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 pm in SUB Council Chambers

## Society Info

### Indemnity Form:

The Indemnity form has been replaced with the Acknowledgement Form. To access the form, go to [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) > Student Life > Info for Societies.

### Society Audits

It's Audit Time again. A reminder to all A and C level societies to get their books in to Jonathan Wilson, DSU VP (Finance and Operations).

## DSU General Elections

The DSU General Elections 2005 are here. Keep your eyes open for the candidates this week as they are out campaigning. Voting will be held March 8-10, 2005.

### Candidate Forums:

03-March-05 – Computer Science Building, Atrium, 11:30am-1:00pm. All candidates.

04-March-05 – Student Union Building, 12:00pm until 1:30pm. Vice President (Student Life), Vice President (Internal) and Presidential candidates, and Referenda questions.

07-March-05 – Sexton Campus, Alumni Lounge, 12pm until 2pm. All candidates.

For more information contact CRO, Ann Berringer at [election@dal.ca](mailto:election@dal.ca).

## Tiger Patrol

The DSU, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, provides students with a free shuttle service. Check out the schedule and routes online at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca).

On March 8, 9, & 10 Vote

# Ezra Edelstein



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Questions? Email: [Ezra.Edelstein@dal.ca](mailto:Ezra.Edelstein@dal.ca)



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MUSIC

ROUND 2 **EXPLOSION** WED. MARCH 9  
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# Editorial

Quentin Casey  
Editor-In-Chief

In 1877, the *Gazette* defied public opinion and conventional wisdom by championing the acceptance of women at Dal. The *Gazette* opposed the popular notion that a woman's education should consist of sewing, cleaning and cooking. The *Gazette's* position was clear: "to be a useful member of society a young lady should be given a proper academic education."

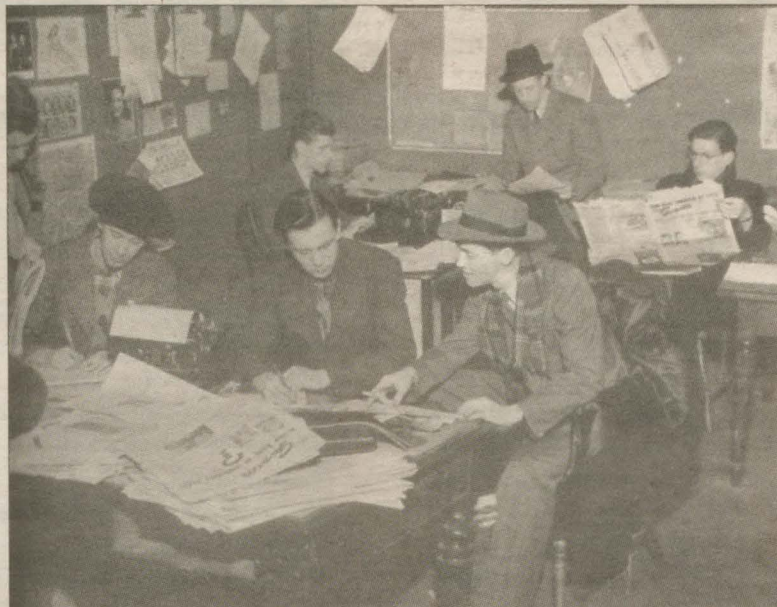
The latter years of the 19th century was a time when much debate swirled in society regarding the place and role of women. Many argued that a woman's place was in the home, relegated to the domestic sphere. One of the most significant advances made by women during this era involved gaining entrance into universities and colleges—institutions that were traditionally male-dominated.

Thanks in part to the efforts of those at the *Gazette*, women gained entrance to Dalhousie in 1881. In 1883, the *Gazette* concluded that the presence of female students had "raised the tone of college life."

Thus, the *Gazette* was at the centre of this debate and strongly encouraged the acceptance of women at Dalhousie. This may have been our crowning moment.

This is just one example of the *Gazette's* role at Dalhousie over the past 137 years. Above all, the *Gazette* serves as the only record of Dalhousie news, history, current events and public opinion.

We are the only unbiased, bipartisan, and independent source of what is happening at Dal. We are autonomous from both the DSU and the administration. The university has a number of tools it uses for communicating with the Dalhousie population, but these are generally biased, pro-administration outlets. They would never challenge the president on his travel budget as the *Gazette* did in 1966, or challenge the president on his salary as we did this year, or cover labour strife from both sides



The *Gazette* in 1947: Don't make us go back to the days of typewriters and a hot iron press.

as the paper did in the late 1970s and through the strikes in recent years. They can't, because they only represent the administration. We represent the students, because we *are* the students.

In his two-volume history of Dalhousie, P.B. Waite (professor emeritus) states that in terms of the history of this university, "the Dalhousie *Gazette*, started by students in 1869, is of fundamental importance..."

Yet this may not always be the case.

The *Gazette* receives an annual levy from every student on campus through fees paid to the DSU. Full-time students pay \$4, while part-time students pay \$2.50 (by contrast, CKDU, the campus radio station, gets \$9 per student). Our level of funding has remained unchanged for a decade. We are working with a financial model that is 10 years old. This simply cannot continue without the paper stumbling, perhaps fatally.

All of our costs have gone up with inflation over the past 10 years—in particular, newspaper print costs have risen sharply. Furthermore, we need significant upgrades to our equipment, which in the digital age is always changing.

This is my fourth and final year at the *Gazette*, and I can honestly say that without an infusion of cash, the *Gazette* may

not be around in years to come. The end may not come next year or the year after, but it will come eventually. This is not a scare tactic—it is the financial truth.

Asking students, who are already burdened with ever-rising post-secondary costs, to volun-

**The Dalhousie  
*Gazette*, started by  
students in 1869, is of  
fundamental  
importance.  
- P.B. Waite  
(professor emeritus)**

tarily increase their university fees is certainly not an enviable task. But we feel this is a case where the need is sincere.

With the financial situation of students in mind, we are asking for the bare minimum allowed—an increase of \$1 per year—in our referendum question in the upcoming DSU elections (March 8 to 10). This small but significant amount will enable us to make the necessary upgrades and get our finances into the 21st century.

We hope that even if you don't like the *Gazette* you will acknowledge its place within the Dalhousie community, and the role it serves for students, by supporting our efforts for a levy increase.

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Quentin Casey  
editor@dalgazette.ca  
Catherine Cooper  
editor@dalgazette.ca

## COPY EDITOR

Chris LaRoche  
copy@dalgazette.ca

## LAYOUT/DESIGN

Loukas Crowther  
design@dalgazette.ca

## NEWS EDITOR

Jennifer Morrison  
news@dalgazette.ca

## OPINIONS EDITOR

Li Dong  
opinions@dalgazette.ca

## ARTS EDITOR

Natalie Pendergast  
arts@dalgazette.ca

## ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Lindsay Dobbin  
arts@dalgazette.ca

## SPORTS EDITOR

Michael Gorman  
sports@dalgazette.ca

## PHOTO EDITOR

Rafal Andronowski  
photos@dalgazette.ca

## SEXTANT EDITOR

Billy Clyburn

## CONTRIBUTORS

Joey Ryba, Lina Hussain, Trevor Tynan, Laura Hynes, Katie Maskell, Reid Southwick, Neal Cody, Jess McDiarmid, Dave Morin -Wentworth, Lindsay Dobbin, Greg Hughes

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rafal Andronowski, Nick Pearce, Lindsay Dobbin, Rafal Andronowski, Quentin Casey

## COVER

Photographer:  
Rafal Andronowski  
Russian Socialist  
Propaganda  
Appropriationist: Loukas Crowther

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For advertising and classified rates call 494-6532 or e-mail advertising@dalgazette.ca

PHONE: 494-2507

EMAIL: gazette@dal.ca

WEB: www.dalgazette.ca

MAIL: The Dalhousie Gazette  
312-6136 University Av.  
Halifax, NS B3H 4J2

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## INTERACT WITH US

http://www.dalgazette.ca/forum

# Gazette

## Student Employment Centre

### Jobs Spotlight

#### Off-Campus

• Would you like to establish a progressive career with a world class sales team in a dynamic business? The **Pepsi Bottling Group** is currently recruiting applicants for their Sales Development Program. This is an excellent opportunity to work with a leader in the largest and most competitive category in the grocery business.

#### On-Campus

- **Summer Housing** positions - apply by March 8
- **Dalhousie Security** positions - apply by March 16
- **Dalhousie Tiger Patrol** positions - apply by March 24

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for complete details.

4th Floor • Student Union Building • 446-6136 University Avenue • Tel: (902) 494-3537  
To access job postings go to [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

### Upcoming Events

**AIM Trimark Investments**  
March 11, 11:30 - 1:30pm  
Council Chambers, SUB

### Coming Soon...

New SEC website!  
Launch on March 7/05  
[www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

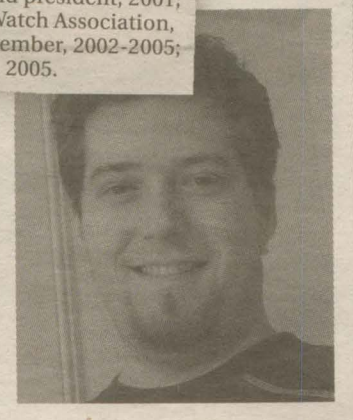
 **DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Inspiring Minds





**Kevin Wasko**  
Age: 22  
Hometown: Eastend, Sask.  
Major & year: Fourth-year political science  
Previous experience: DSU president, November 2003-April 2004; member of DSU's academic/external, community affairs, constitution committees, 2004/2005; board member of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission; Gazette staff contributor, 2004/2005; orientation week vice-chair, 2004; national Shinerama leader, 2004; DSU vice-president community affairs, May 2003-November 2003; vice-president of the Arts Society, 2002/2003; arts rep on DSU Council, 2002/2003; first-year arts society representative, 2001/2002.

**Ezra Edelstein**  
Age: 24  
Hometown: Kettleby, Ontario  
Major: Fourth-year chemistry major/math minor  
Previous experience: Board of Governors representative, 2003-2005; Student Residence and Relations Committee, 2003-2005; DSU councillor, 2003-2005; Chemistry Society president, 2004/2005; Runoff Whitewater Kayak Society founding member and president, 2001; University Neighbourhood Watch Association, 2004/2005; NSPIRG board member, 2002-2005; Envision Halifax participant, 2005.



## DSU Election Profiles: President

Jennifer Morrison  
News Editor  
Reid Southwick  
Staff Contributor

**Responsibilities:** The president is the chief executive officer of the DSU, acting as the official spokesperson for students. The president sits on the Board of Governors and the Senate, develops and formulates policy, reviews federal, provincial, municipal and university policies that affect the academic, financial and social interests of students, and recommends to council appropriate action. The president also represents the interests and policies of the student union and its membership during policy formulation by external organizations of which the union is a member.

**Honorarium:** \$21,000 (app.)

**Kevin Wasko**

**Goals if elected:** Concentrate on three main areas: external lobby efforts, DSU services, and the university. Under the umbrella of external lobby efforts, engage in meaningful consultation with professional and graduate students prior to lobbying externally. Play leadership role

in DSU's provincial lobby group ANSSA. Focus provincial lobby efforts on student debt and improving financial aid system. Maintain commitment to DSU's federal lobby group CASA. For DSU services, improve awareness of current services. Explore possibility of expanding services (i.e. bursary program, online car-pool registry, campus food bank, online tutor registry, online exam database). As for the university, advocate for continued talks between university and Metro Transit on the development of a U-Pass. Push the university to explore new off-campus locations that will accept DalCard.

Kevin Wasko wants his old job back. Wasko was DSU president from November 2003 until April 2004, and his plans show he wants to leave an even longer-lasting impression. "One of my main priorities is lobbying for a better student financial assistance program in Nova Scotia," he says. "Specifically, I will be lobbying for the implementation of an up-front grants program for low-income students." In addition to a new government grants program, he wants to see better debt reduction measures so students are not overwhelmed by debt after graduation. But he

does not think a tuition freeze would necessarily be the best solution. "I think that tuition freezes will only work if funding is assured to cover the real costs that universities face," he says. "In other provinces this hasn't been assured, and it's created problems. The alternative should be that tuition should increase at no more the rate of inflation, as was announced will be the case in B.C. for the next year." If elected, Wasko says he would confront the soaring education costs for international students. "One of my focuses is pushing the university not to increase international differential fees so much so that a Dal education is inaccessible for the majority of international students," he says. Wasko says he would stay with CASA as a federal lobby organization, a group he says is gaining respect in Ottawa. He also thinks ANSSA, the new provincial lobby group, has a lot of potential. Wasko believes his experience has prepared him well to take on the presidential task again. He says he has the necessary "organizational, time management and leadership skills," in addition to the ability to balance between the DSU's internal and external responsibilities. "It's important to be flexible," he says.

**Ezra Edelstein**

**Goals if elected:** Lobby the

Continued on Page 7...

## Election Issues

Neal Cody and Reid Southwick  
Staff Contributors

**President**

Student debt  
International student differential fees  
Balancing external and internal policies

**VP Internal**

Strengthening communication between the DSU and students  
Ensuring societies adhere to DSU policy  
Maintaining communication between all three campuses  
Maintaining strong relations with residences

**VP education**

International student differential fees  
Academic plagiarism  
Lobbying externally for issues other than tuition decreases

**VP (Student Life)**

**The Grawood** - Ever since the old pub-style Grawood was put to rest back in 2002, the campus bar hasn't had the same draw—and the numbers prove it. The DSU is expecting the Grawood to once again lose money this year. Critics say the new Grawood feels like a cafeteria and will never make money, but others feel it's only a matter of bringing the right bands and having the right drink specials before students will come flocking back. Students should ask what the candidates are going to do to turn the Grawood around.

**Frosh Week, Charity Ball, etc.** - A student's first week at university leaves a lasting impression, and there are always new ideas about how to make next year's orientation week the best that it can be. The VP of student life is responsible for organizing all of the other big DSU events and for motivating their fellow students.

**Campus Spirit/Atmosphere** - Bringing together 16,000 students from three different campuses isn't easy, but someone's got to do it. The successful VP student life will be responsible for trying to revive the thing that most candidates admit is flagging: school spirit.

**Senate**

**MOU** - The memorandum of understanding, the document capping N.S. tuition increases to 3.9 per cent for each of the next three years, isn't all good news. Excluded from the agreement are the faculties of medicine, dentistry and law, programs which are only offered in Nova Scotia by Dalhousie. International differential fees and full-cost recovery programs (i.e. executive programs like the MBA) are also excluded from the cap, as are any additional fees, such as "renovation" or "renewal" charges.

**Plagiarism** - The Senate plagiarism report, based on a student survey done last year, found that 30 per cent of undergraduates and 20 per cent of graduate students admitted to plagiarizing within the past three years. The report also found that over half of all faculty members don't report students they catch cheating. The report makes 55 recommendations; a Senate sub-committee is currently debating and voting on it.

**International Differential Fees** - A tuition revenue ceiling put in place by the province means Dal may no longer be in the black—and the university is looking to recoup its losses in other places such as international student differential fees. International students currently pay an average of \$3,600 in differential fees, but could see that hiked to as much as \$10,650.


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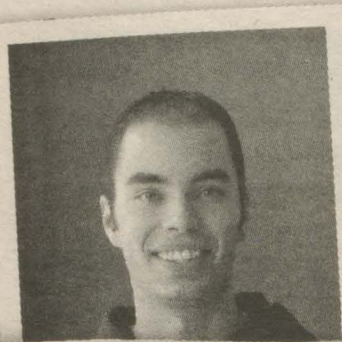
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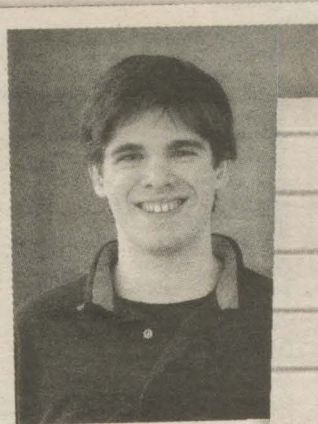
**Matt "Gov" Godwin**

**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** Sackville, N.S.  
**Major & year:** Fourth-year honours in English and political science  
**Previous experience:** Shinerama vice-chair; DSU communications commissioner; DSU committees (i.e. Society Review); frosh week committee member of the year



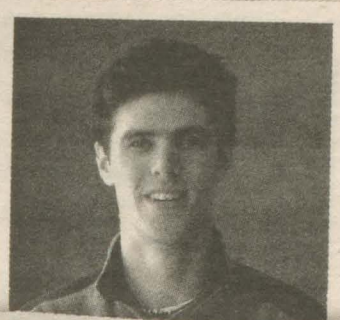
**Ashley O'Brien**

**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Bedford, N.S.  
**Major:** Third-year double major in political science and sociology  
**Previous Experience:** Senator, 2004/2005; executive chair of the Arts and Social Science Society, 2004/2005; member-at-large, Arts and Social Science Society, 2003/2004; first-year representative, DSU, 2003/2004; first-year representative, Arts and Social Science Society, 2002/2003



**Jerad Gallinger**

**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Bedford, N.S.  
**Major & year:** Third-year philosophy  
**Previous experience:** Current DSU councillor for DalOUT; serves on DalOUT executive; served on Constitution and Policy Committee, Grants Committee, Society Revenue Committee and Council for Promotion of Diversity on Campus.



**Philip Duguay**

**Age:** 22  
**Hometown:** Oakville, Ont.  
**Major and year:** Fourth-year history  
**Previous experience:** Ran cross-country for Dal; participated in student exchanges to Scotland and Senegal. Vice president of high school class, grades 9 through 11; President of high school class, grade 12.

## DSU Election Profiles: Vice President (Internal)

Reid Southwick  
 Staff Contributor

**Responsibilities:** The VP (Internal) is the DSU's chief communications officer, also serving as the DSU liaison for Carleton and Sexton campuses, societies and residences. The VP ensures communication between all individual members, societies and organizations of the DSU is clear and consistent. The VP also looks after the Student Accessibility Fund, Shinerama, the Student Handbook and the DSU website while chairing various DSU committees: the Council for the Promotion of Diversity on Campus, Grants Committee, Health Professions Council, Residence Council, Sexton Campus Advisory Committee and the Society Review Committee.

**Honorarium:** \$21,000 (app.)

**Matt "Gov" Godwin**

Matt "Gov" Godwin wants to bring to the Studley campus the sense of spirit he sees growing at Sexton which, he says, is evident in the great successes of the T-Room and the ice rink. He says he would hold regular meetings with the Sexton executive to both learn from their achievements and also to strengthen the Dalhousie community. Godwin says he also wants to dedicate a week next year to promoting cultural diversity on campus, working with societies to bring in speakers with distinctive backgrounds to educate students on the many cultures that are active

at Dalhousie. He says he wants to include residence councils and house presidents in planning events and programs to ensure their support. To inform students more about DSU activities, Godwin says he will emphasise regular distribution of a revamped electronic society newsletter that would detail the union's work, an improved website and an enhanced Student Handbook which would outline the union's responsibilities. And Godwin says he has a great respect for the societies that remained active in creative ways in the face of the challenges posed by the indemnity form and he wants to spread those ideas to all societies. "They are the ones who are taking the proactive and innovative approach," he says. "The VP internal has to stop being a parent and has to start being a partner with societies."

**Ashley O'Brien**

Ashley O'Brien says her main ambition is to address the low level of society activity that resulted from the confusion over the indemnity form. The Sociology and Social Anthropology Students' Society, for example, refused to sign the form and consequently stopped holding meetings and events for the entire year. If elected, O'Brien says she would work to revitalize society spirit and create a buzz to encourage the students involved to become more active on campus, while building stronger relations between them and the DSU. And

an ongoing dialogue between the DSU and societies is necessary, O'Brien says, to ensure societies know what their responsibilities are and what they are entitled to, so she would hold regular meetings with their executives. To avoid any confusion in the future, she says she would also meet with society executives prior to ratification of their constitution and clearly communicate the ins and outs of DSU policy. O'Brien also wants to improve relations with the Sexton campus by maintaining regular communication with its executive and by consistently promoting DSU activities there. On Studley campus, Ashley wants to focus on the lack of student awareness of DSU activities that she sees as evident in the low turnout for elections. "Increasing that awareness would benefit Dal as a whole," she says. She would hold regular classroom talks to turn students on to the beneficial programs offered by DSU organizations. Recognizing that residences are integral to university life for many students, O'Brien says she would take on her responsibility of chairing the Residence Council with enthusiasm and ensure the presidents and councils act in concert when planning such important events as orientation week.

**Jerad Gallinger**

If elected, Jerad Gallinger says he would be dedicated to creating a diversity centre and library on campus where students could read up on cultural groups, rang-


ing from queers to African Canadians, in a safe and protected environment. As the DalOUT executive has already expressed interest in loaning their existing queer-issues library resources to such a facility, Gallinger is confident he could gain the support of other communities on campus. To further reach out the student body, Gallinger says he would oversee a rigorous update of the DSU website, both in content and design. Giving the site a new appealing image would make the up-to-date information more accessible to students and confusion over such DSU policies as the indemnity form could be avoided, he says. Gallinger also wants to improve current advertising efforts for such key events as society forums so that more members can learn about policies and budget management. As well, Gallinger says he would improve communication with residences by promoting DSU activities on Rez TV, a valuable resource that he believes has not been tapped to its ultimate capacity. He is also concerned with recent complaints that the Sexton Campus Advisory Committee, which the VP internal chairs, has not been active enough. Gallinger says he would thus be committed to promoting DSU activities and holding regular office hours at the eastern campus to strengthen communications and ensure needs and concerns are articulated. Another one of Gallinger's plans? To open a campus food bank for students in need.


**Phil Duguay**

Phil Duguay says he is a different kind of candidate. He says his lack of experience with the DSU gives him a fresh perspective on what he sees as a dysfunctional student government that is disconnected with the people it represents. Low turnout for elections and the increasing unpopularity of the Grawood are evidence of a lack of student interest in the union and its activities, he says. Duguay wants to change the image of the DSU. If elected, he says he would have a link to the DSU website posted on the my.dal.ca web page and also hold a weekly call-in show on CKDU to give the union a greater presence on campus. He says he would also increase communication with the Carlton and Sexton campuses, where students currently feel underrepresented by the student union. And he wants to improve relations between the union and societies which, he says, the current executive severely damaged by imposing the restrictions detailed in the indemnity form. He would like to change the current ratification process for society constitutions to include the society members in all decision making and also get directly involved with publicizing society events through the website and advertisements on campus. "Societies are the ones who create our sense of community at Dalhousie. They help the university run and they do it for free and on their own time," he says. "They are going to get preferential treatment."

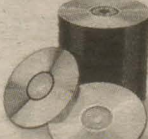
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**Tara Berthier**  
**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** St. Peter's, N.S.  
**Major & year:** Fourth-year history  
**Previous experience:** DSU course evaluation director; Dal Arts Society executive secretary; co-chair Entertainment Committee; first year advisor; Learning Connections Committee student consulter  
**Goals if elected:** Work to turn around the Grawood's revenue loss by better promotion and consistent programming. Tighten up frosh week schedule and concentrate on better events.



**Chris McCluskey**  
**Age:** 23  
**Hometown:** Quispamsis, N.B.  
**Major & year:** Fifth-year political science  
**Previous experience:** Frosh leader; residence government and intramurals in Gerard Hall; Henderson House RA; *Gazette* contributor (2002-present); current DSU commissioner of student life; current programming and promotions assistant  
**Goals if elected:** Re-establish Dal atmosphere by reintegrating the whole campus.



**Mark Szepes, a.k.a. "Ripsey"**  
**Age:** 23  
**Hometown:** Thornhill, Ont.  
**Major & year:** Fourth-year SOSA  
**Previous experience:** Current vice president of student life  
**Goals if re-elected:** Build on the changes made this year. Work to engage students in areas of student life such as sport, societies and clubs, as well as community initiatives. Continue to work on revitalizing DSU events. Overall, attack student apathy and increase the sense of pride in being a Dalhousie student.

## DSU Election Profiles: Vice-President of Student Life

Neal Cody  
 Staff Contributor

**Responsibilities:** The VP (Student life) is "responsible for the operation of activities aimed at the improvement of student life on campus," such as frosh week, charity ball, winter carnival and student appreciation night. The VP also chairs several committees and promotes DSU events and services.

**Honorarium:** \$18,000

**Tara Berthier**

"Something has to be done," says Tara Berthier, referring to the Grawood's large 2004/2005 deficit. "The programming was very inconsistent and promotion was terrible—nobody went." Berthier would like to see a Texas hold

'em night at the Grawood; thinks open mic night would be a great weekly event and wants to showcase local entertainment every Friday. Berthier says she sees a lot of potential for the Grawood. "The Marquee's closed, Stage Nine isn't doing too well," she says. "We've got a great opportunity here."

For frosh week, Berthier says she'd like to try bigger and better things. "Napoleon Dynamite is doing a tour of Canadian campuses," she says. Berthier is also keen to use the amphitheatre to host barbeques and local entertainment and would also like to see more communication between organizers and frosh. Seeking out sponsorship for campus events would also be a priority for Berthier—something she says wasn't done overly well this year.

**Chris McCluskey**

Increase spirit and participation in residences. Develop diverse programming so students won't feel like they have to go downtown. Promote campus events better.

Maintain excitement from frosh week in planning Oktoberfest, Winter Carnival, etc. Budget constructively and responsibly. Build on already strong promotion of athletics.

"Getting things done is my strength," says Chris McCluskey—and he's got the papers to prove it. McCluskey has written a 26-page plan outlining what he'll do if elected VP (Student Life). "I'm ready to go," he says, "and I'm hoping it won't be as much of a popularity contest as elections are stereotyped to be."

McCluskey would like to start planning events earlier next

year, informing people well in advance. He'd also like to bring back the atmosphere of the old Grawood: "I remember when the line would be 100 people long at 9:00 p.m. on a Friday," he says. McCluskey says programming money was needlessly squandered this year, saying students deserve better. "Student life is not an oxymoron," he says. "People should expect more for their student fees."

**Mark Szepes**

"I guess my biggest advantage is knowing what to expect," says incumbent Mark "Ripsey" Szepes. Szepes says there's a steep learning curve to the job of VP of student life and if he's re-elected he could get right down to business, building on his prior experience.

"I'd like to be innovative but understand the boundaries," he says of next year. "You can have all the ideas in the world, but things like insurance really restrict you."

Szepes would like to breathe new life into winter carnival, organize a charity hockey game between Toronto Maple Leafs alumni and a staff/student/faculty team and build an atmosphere in the Grawood through a series of sociable pub nights. Szepes says he is especially interested in "starting strong" during next year's orientation week, using the Grawood as much as possible for events in order to get frosh involved with their campus bar. "Whatever happens there are two other great candidates," he says, "and I know this office will be in great hands."

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**Jen Bond**  
 Age: 21  
 Hometown: St John's, Nfld.  
 Major and year: Third- and final-year political science  
 Previous Experience: Currently a Dal student senator; president of Eliza Ritchie Hall, 2003/2004; on council, Eliza Ritchie Hall, 2002/2003.

**Andrew Murray**  
 Age: 20  
 Hometown: Halifax, N.S.  
 Major and year: Third-year history  
 Previous Experience: Grade representative on Halifax West High School student government, 1999-2002; Intern in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Ottawa, summer 2003; involved with the Sodales Debating Society; journal coordinator for the 2004/2005 Undergraduate History Society Journal.



## DSU Election Profiles: Vice-President (Education)

Reid Southwick  
 Staff Contributor

**Responsibilities:** The VP (Education) must manage the DSU's Student Advocacy Service and the DSU's course evaluations, and develop and formulate policy on academic matters. The VP represents the DSU on Senate and on Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Senate Committee on Academic Administration and Senate Nominating Committee. The VP is also responsible for lobbying the government on education-related issues through the DSU's federal and provincial lobby organizations.

**Honorarium:** \$18,000

**Jen Bond**  
 Goals: To ensure students are aware of both DSU and government decisions that affect their academic lives. These include:  
 • Budget Advisory Committee recommendation that International Student Differential Fees be raised by 125 per cent.  
 • Ad hoc Committee on Plagiarism's Report that recommends many changes for the

Senate Discipline procedure.  
 • Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the N.S. government and Nova Scotia universities, signed on Dec. 7, 2004, and its effects on the budget.

Make academic services a top priority for the DSU. Address the facts that there are no ESL-specific services at Dal, putting students learning the English language at a disadvantage; that there are no computers at Dal that have voice recognition software for students with learning disabilities; and that the Writing Centre is unable to cater to high levels of student demand.

Jen Bond wants to improve the student loan program for middle-class students. She says that the level of parental income that disqualifies students from receiving loans is not high enough to fund a university education. "This is a huge flaw in the system," she says. If elected, Bond says she would work through the DSU's external lobby organizations to press the provincial and federal governments to adjust the income requirements so that higher education is more accessible. She says she would also lobby the

DSU Budget Advisory Committee to reconsider its recommendation to increase international student differential fees by 125 per cent. "We have to tell them that it is unacceptable to make up revenue losses on the backs of a few students," she says, adding that increases such as this will be a detriment to Dalhousie when international students will eventually be forced to look to other institutions for their studies.

Bond is also committed to moving forward on some of the ad hoc Committee on Plagiarism's recommendations filed in its report. Introducing a mediator between professors, students and the Senate Discipline Committee, for example, would ensure that all of the necessary steps are taken in the investigation of suspected cases, she says.

But she says much more work is needed to find ways to prevent students from plagiarizing and to ensure that all offenders are punished. And she is up for the challenge.

**Andrew Murray**  
 Goals: Work to provide stu-  
 Continued on Page 9...

## DSU Presidential Candidate: Ezra Edelstein, continued

Continued from Page 4...

federal and provincial governments through the DSU's external lobby organizations for alternative funding models, including universal deferred tuition.

Lobby for alternative strategies to increase student financial assistance, including upfront grants.

Lobby the university for increased needs-based bursaries. Ensure international student representation in the discussion of services and appropriate fee levels. Develop a model for meaningful grad student participation and appropriate representation on DSU Council.

Increase DSU support for the T-Room, including a bank machine and new furniture.

Review the society indemnity/acknowledgement form and work for a solution that is satisfactory to all parties. Implement a business plan to rejuvenate the Grawood and create a reinvigorated atmosphere. Develop a long-term plan for food services in the SUB, which would include a study to determine the feasibility of the DSU running its own food service, thereby providing jobs to students and increasing revenues. Directly consult students of all three campuses on DSU activities through public forums, classroom talks and handouts. Write a weekly column in the *Gazette* detailing DSU activities.

Ezra Edelstein is committed to reducing student debt and he believes the solution is within reach. If elected, he says he would entice the DSU's external lobby organizations to pressure the federal and provincial governments to adopt a model of the income-contingent loan repayment scheme that is already tak-

ing shape in Great Britain. Under the model, the government pays for university tuition upfront and students are not expected to repay the loan until they achieve a specified level of salary. But unlike a model to be implemented in Quebec, where interest begins to build after graduation, the model Edelstein favours would base the interest on the rate of inflation.

This system would not impose a dramatic financial burden on students and would thus encourage more young people to pursue a post-secondary education, says Edelstein, citing a report published by the University of Guelph that found the prospect of incurring debt is a leading cause preventing people of lower-income families from going to university. But Edelstein is not simply devoted to improving student welfare by external means—he has his eye on internal initiatives as well.

As he has learned first-hand from members of the International Students Association about their frustrations with being excluded from discussions concerning their tuition fee levels, Edelstein says he would ensure these groups are represented when he lobbies the Board of Governors and the Budget Advisory Committee to consider an alternative funding formula.

He says he would also build a stronger relationship between all students and the DSU by holding public forums, classroom talks and general meetings. And he says he has the leadership skills to do the job.

His experiences as a white-water raft guide and as the president of two societies have, he says, given him the poise and resolve with which he would address his responsibilities as DSU president.

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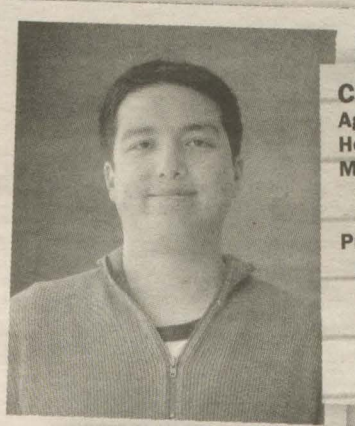
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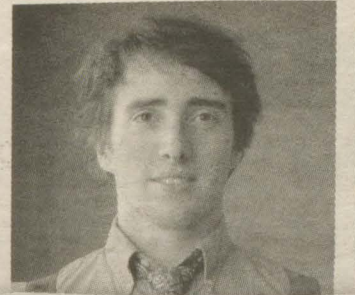




**Zoë Caron**  
**Age:** 19  
**Hometown:** Nelson, B.C.  
**Major & year:** Second-year environmental science/international development studies w/ minor in business  
**Previous Experience:** DSU first-year member at large; member of DSU residence council (Shirreff Hall president).



**Chris Jordan**  
**Age:** 25  
**Hometown:** Halifax  
**Major & year:** Second-year Master of computer science; computer science PhD candidate this summer.  
**Previous Experience:** Lead developer for Tigerbooks; founding member and secretary/treasurer of Dal-ACM (Association of Computing Machinists); member of the DSU External Affairs Committee.



**Jarod Bradley Meagher Farn-Guillette**  
**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** Eastport & Calais, Maine.  
**Major:** Chemistry & Classics  
**Previous Experience:** Gerard Hall Residence Council, 2001/2002; Municipality of Calais, Maine: elected City Warden by write-in.



**Candace Salmon**  
**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Woodstock, N.B.  
**Major & year:** Third-year political science  
**Previous Experience:** Service in various panels and multiple directorial positions.



**Yuriy Shelkovyy**  
**Age:** 25  
**Hometown:** Chernihiv, Ukraine  
**Major & year:** First-year public administration  
**Previous Experience:** Five years of active participation in NGOs and political activity in Ukraine. The youngest elected member of Chernihiv City Council. Participant in "Orange Revolution" and volunteer during the Presidential elections in Ukraine (November-December 2004). As head of the Chernihiv youth NGO "Youth-XXI Century," used to work as the director of 11 youth projects aimed at developing student self-governance, as well as lobby for student interests in Chernihiv region.

**J.S. Weir**  
**Age:** 23  
**Hometown:** Mississauga, Ont.  
**Major & year:** Third-year political science, fourth year at Dalhousie  
**Previous Experience:** Henderson Residence Council.



# DSU Election Profiles: Senator

Neal Cody  
 Staff Contributor

**Responsibilities:** Senators represent and advocate for students in the university senate, plan a lobby strategy, prepare a report on senate activities for every DSU council meeting.

**Honorarium:** None

*(Note: There are three undergraduate positions and one graduate position available.)*

**Zoë Caron**

**Goals:** To, ideally, be active on the Environmental, Physical Planning and Learning & Teaching Committees to the Senate. Advocate for higher sustainability priorities and work towards implementing a more practical sustainability policy that will not only benefit the environment, but save both the students on tuition and the university on campus management expenditures.

*Zoë Caron was not available for an interview.*

**Chris Jordan**

**Goals:** Form an interdisciplinary committee to get students and professors from each faculty talking to each other about the

research, projects and work they are doing and events and activities they are planning.

"I basically have one goal," says Chris Jordan, "and that's to get people in different faculties talking to one another." Jordan acknowledges that most undergraduates don't see this as a very important issue, but says that they can ultimately benefit from this kind of interaction.

"We can develop new programs, get new funding, and even generate lots of job opportunities," he explains. Jordan believes students spend far too much time within their individual faculties and that there are many things students can learn from each other. "Take two faculties that don't seem to have much to do with each other, like Arts and CS," he says. "There's an awesome potential." Jordan says a digital library would allow students to publish their work, though they probably wouldn't be as interested in the technology as he is. "I'm more of a worker than a politician," admits Jordan. "I want to see what really are the issues then use my abilities to actually help."

**Jarod Bradley Meagher Farn-Guillette**

**Goals:** As Dalhousie continues its extensive marketing cam-

paigned to attract highly-qualified students, offer a loud and dynamic voice for the students as their senate representative. Push for funding to be allocated towards improving the physical sciences' laboratories and the Dalhousie Arts Centre. By sitting on the Senate Academic Budgeting Committee, work to increase solvency in academic programs through partnerships with the federal and provincial governments and alumni. Clarify and solve the matter of academic offences by gaining a position on the Academic Disciplinary Committee...

As Dalhousie's enrolment increases, Jarod Bradley Meagher Farn-Guillette would like to see a lower student/faculty ratio. "I'm not the kind of person who backs down," he says: his campaign kicks off with the theme "Realistic Optimism and Fiscal Practicality."

Meagher Farn-Guillette is also eager to remove the ambiguity that he sees surrounding academic offences, but one thing you won't see him advocate for is a tuition decrease. "You can't expect a champagne taste on a beer budget," he declares, saying he won't fight for a decrease until he sees a strong activist base that will back it up.

**Candace Salmon**

**Goals:** To have the honour of representing the students in the senate, and to have the ability to be on the front lines of policy innovation and academic regulation.

"What's most important is to let students know what's happening," says Candace Salmon, listing off three of the major topics in the senate this year: the tuition cap, the plagiarism report and international differential fees.

Salmon believes students aren't informed enough about plagiarism, especially self-plagiarism, and she thinks it's due to miscommunications which she hopes to correct. She is also concerned with the tuition cap because it does not include fee controls for professional programs or international students. The senate is trying to raise international student fees, something Salmon thinks is "absolutely ridiculous."

"They're trying to attract immigrants and keep them here," she explains, "... but instead they're raising tuition disastrously high." Salmon says she loves Dal and would be proud to represent students' interests and concerns. "Whether or not I win," she says, "I encourage everyone to get out there and vote."

**Yuriy Shelkovyy**

**Goals:** To be a strong voice and advocate of Dalhousie graduate student community in the senate. Work towards the reduction of international student differential fees.

As both an international and graduate student, Yuriy Shelkovyy is looking to make some changes at Dal. "There is an increase in [international student differential] fees, but we can't work off campus, even to just get pocket money," he says. "They should make differential fees lower and make more on-campus jobs available to us." Shelkovyy knows that the provincial government is developing an immigration strategy, but he wonders how they intend to attract students when it's becoming more expensive to attend school in N.S.

Shelkovyy would also like to see close ties between graduate students, Dalhousie administration and the DSU. "I think the problems of graduates and undergraduates are different," he says, "but I'll try to help with any ideas that I have."

**J.S. Weir**

**Goals:** Work to bring Dal students, the DSU and Dalhousie administration closer together.

*J.S. Weir was not available for an interview.*

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## DSU Election Profiles: Board of Governors (BoG) Representative



**Jenny Cooper**

**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Toronto, Ont.  
**Major & year:** Second-year theatre (acting)  
**Previous Experience:** VP of the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society; member at large, DSU Council.  
**Goals if elected:** To bring a student's voice to the board meetings and to ensure that students are placed as first priority as far as the allocations of university funds, tuition, etc.

**Responsibilities:** Represent student issues and interests at BoG meetings, plan board's lobbying strategy, prepare a report on BoG activities for each DSU council meeting. (BoG rep. is a two-year appointment.)

**Honorarium:** None

"I'd make sure I have a voice," says Jenny Cooper, the sole candidate for Board of Governors (BoG) representative. "It's so easy to be a body in those meetings and not say anything," she explains, "but I'd like to keep the lines of communication open, and I'd like to learn as much from [the board] as I can."

The Board of Governors is Dalhousie's highest decision-making body, but the board meets infrequently—sometimes only eight times a year—and has been described by some DSU members as little more than a rubber-stamp committee.

"Due to the nature of these meetings, I don't have any exact issues right now," says Cooper, "but as they come up, I'll bring them forward." Cooper wants to increase awareness of the DSU among fine art students.

"I'm the first acting student to be involved in the DSU in about ten years," Cooper says, "and my goal is to get every single fine arts student to vote."

Despite the lack of competition, students will still vote "Yes" or "No" on whether they approve of Cooper's appointment.

## DSU VP (Education), candidates, continued

Continued from Page 7...

dents with better access to healthy and affordable food. Ensure TAs are available to meet students on an individual basis. Make students more aware of the dangers of plagiarism, the penalties and how many students are found guilty every year. Improve book exchange policies so students are reimbursed for more of their purchases. Encourage more students to use Tigerbooks.

If elected, Andrew Murray says he would take the plagiarism epidemic on Dal campus head-on.

The ad hoc Committee on Plagiarism found that perpetrating students feel there is a lack of resources available on campus; Murray would work to make students more aware of the Writing Centre, the resource centre that offers both group and individual instruction on writing papers. He would then hire more

staff to meet the demand he expects would result from such a campaign. Murray would also push the university to hire more Teaching Assistants for first-year students so that those who feel overwhelmed by the increased workload could be given better direction.

As well, Murray says he would use his seat on the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee to advocate for a check on tuition fee increases for international and professional students, since they were excluded from the Memorandum of Understanding between Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia universities. He would also work through the DSU's federal lobby organization, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, to try to persuade the federal government to change the current funding formula for post-secondary education that makes tuition in Nova Scotia the highest in the country.

### DSU Elections – Corrections

\*According to DSU Chief Returning Officer Ann Beringer, paper ballots will not be available at polling stations. Instead, all polling stations will be equipped with computers and paper ballots will only be available upon request in the Elections Office.

\*Candidates are only allowed to send one bulk e-mail to societies and one bulk e-mail to no more than 50 individuals—two mass e-mails in total.

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## Student Health and Reading Material

### Examining the levy questions

Reid Southwick  
Neal Cody  
Staff Contributors

How Dal students vote on levy questions in the upcoming DSU elections may affect their health. If students do not vote in the upcoming plebiscite to allow the DSU to continue increasing health plan fees according to inflation and prior claims experience, the level of coverage the plan currently offers may decrease dramatically, said DSU health plan administrator Tara MacAskill.

Coverage for each claim could drop from 80 per cent to as low as 65 per cent and extended benefits such as physiotherapy, massage therapy and eye exams may no longer be offered if the vote does not go through, she said. The plan does not include dental coverage—and it does not cover international students.

Medical costs are set to increase next year. The cost for medical equipment and supplies from September to January, for example, will rise by \$34 from \$114.48. But based on increases for the last three years, the total health plan cost for each student will probably rise only by roughly \$5. And there is always the option of opting out.

But some students opt out of the plan without knowing what it covers. Management student Robin Levy said the health plan office told her last summer that the plan would not cover massage therapy, a service she needs for her shoulders and neck. She then opted out and subscribed to Mount St. Vincent's health plan, which costs roughly \$100 more than Dal's \$150 plan.

She said she would, however, consider subscribing to a DSU dental plan, the topic of another levy question.

The proposed dental plan,

which would cover services like oral exams, cleaning and even some surgery, would cost students \$85 and would allow for yearly increases based on prior claims experience and the rate of inflation. Students would also be able to opt out.

Many students don't visit the dentist on a regular basis because they don't receive primary coverage through their family, said DSU president Curtis McGrath. "Dental coverage is a part of your overall health and well being," he said. Last term, the DSU surveyed 699 students on the prospect of implementing a dental plan and received an "overwhelmingly favourable" response, McGrath said.

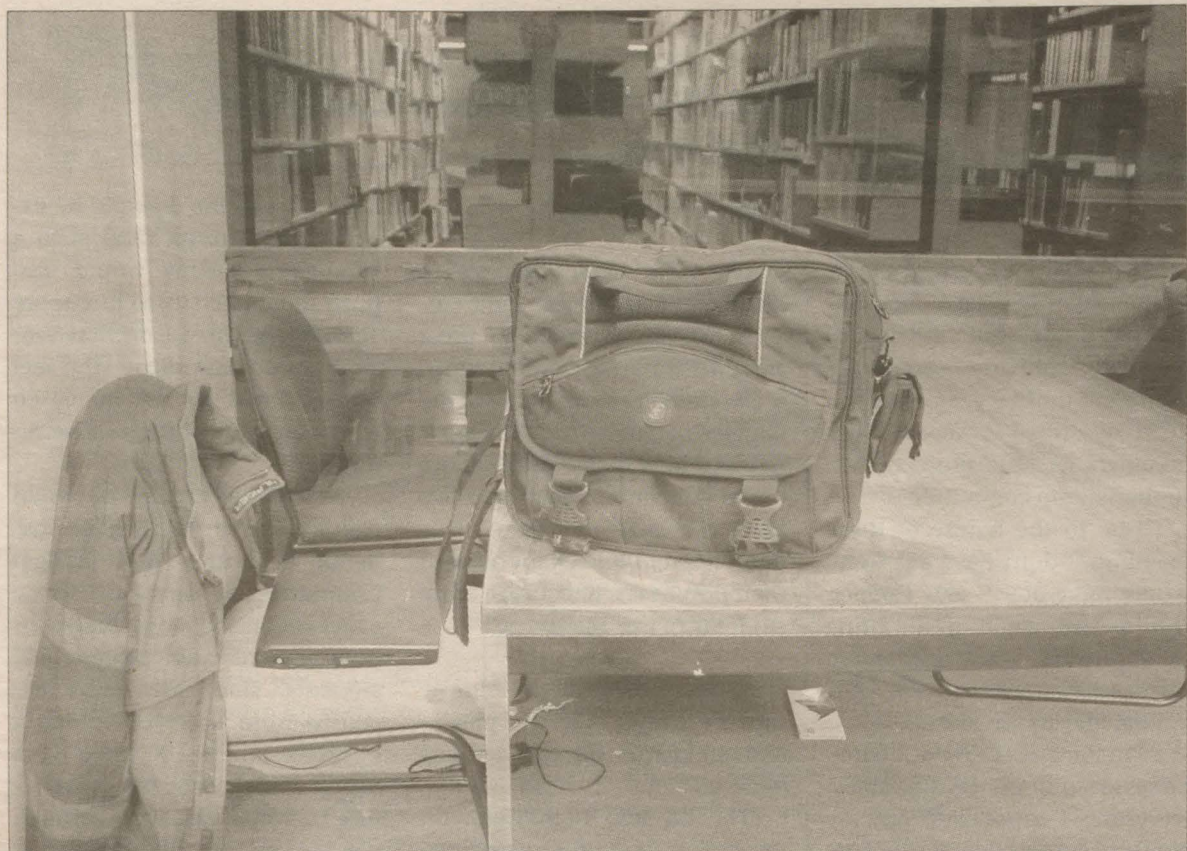
But if students vote against the question, they will continue to receive just accidental coverage.

The final levy question proposes a one dollar funding increase for the Dalhousie *Gazette*, adding to the four dollars that it currently receives from full-time students and \$2.50 that it currently receives from part-time students.

"The bottom line," said co-editor-in-chief Quentin Casey, "is that it's been 10 years since any increase in funding, yet costs have continued to rise with inflation."

Casey said the new money would be used to cover such necessities as computers, staff training, and printing costs—expenses which he said have grown exponentially in the past few years. Printing costs alone had a price tag of about \$60,000 this academic year.

To those who oppose the levy increase because they dislike the *Gazette's* content, Casey said this: "If you think the paper sucks, come in and change it. We've never turned a contributor away."



Leaving laptops unattended in the Killam may be dangerous. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Thieves Lurking at Dal?

Laura Hynes  
Katie Maskell  
Staff Contributors

Imagine you're studying in the library when nature calls, so you quickly run to the washroom. You return a few minutes later only to find that your backpack is gone. Whether taking place in the library, a biology lab or a classroom, theft has become a recurring event at Dal.

Rebecca Neu, a third-year chemistry student, has experienced theft at Dal firsthand. During last year's April exams, Neu's entire backpack was stolen—even though her friends were sitting nearby.

"There was a whole group of us studying," Neu says. "I stepped outside with a friend just to explain something... I was gone maybe 10 minutes, and where I was sitting I could see my stuff, so I was kind of keeping an eye on it. When I went back, my bag was gone. Somebody had just walked off with my entire backpack."

Neu lost the majority of her class notes and textbooks with only a week before exams. Neu estimated that approximately \$2,000 worth of items were stolen, none of which she ever got back.

Heather Donovan, a third-year biology student, has also been a victim of theft, this time

occurring in a classroom.

"My lab book suddenly 'vanished' one day when I sat it on my desk for five minutes," says Donovan. "There had been a lot of theft recently when I told my lab instructor."

Her book turned up the next day, but with some of the work missing. Donovan has a friend who was not as fortunate—her slides were stolen right out of the lab, forcing her to redo all of her work.

Dal Security Chief G. A. MacDonald and Operations Coordinator Peter Brown says that the number of thefts at Dalhousie

Continued on Next Page...

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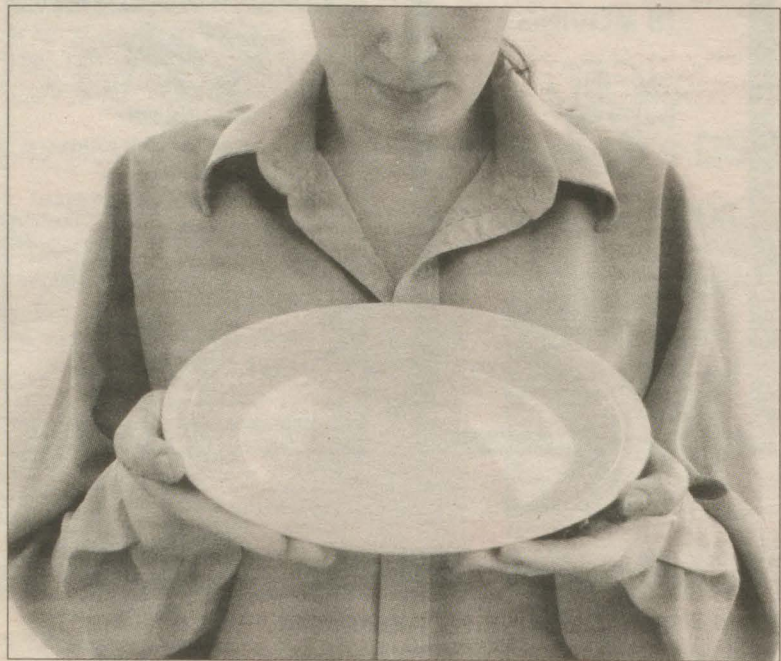
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## Sticky fingered students, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

—defined as situations in which something left unattended is stolen—has decreased over the last couple of years. While this may come as a surprise to theft victims like Neu and Donovan, MacDonald says the implementation of electronic security systems and the lock-up of university property have been important deterrents.

But as thefts have fallen, the number of robberies—defined as losses of personal property as a result of a confrontation—has increased.

In 2004, there were 56 break and enters, 125 incidents of theft of personal property, 37 incidents of theft of university property, and three significant robberies—the most Dalhousie has ever seen. In fact, the first robbery ever reported at Dalhousie was in 2001.

While robberies tend to be limited to smaller items, such as Discmans and petty cash, occurrences of theft are becoming increasingly expensive—victims are losing high-cost items like laptops and digital cameras.

The locations most often hit by thieves are libraries and recreational facilities, where people may not be paying sufficient attention to their belongings. Approximately 80 to 85 per cent of theft of personal property takes place in unlocked offices or areas where items are left unattended.

Librarian Bill Maes said that the library is posting new signs

to remind students not to leave their belongings unattended, but in the end it comes down to student responsibility.

“Typically, these things get ignored,” he says. “Students see them and forget—it’s very easy to forget.”

But even with signs, floor monitors, and security guards, preventing theft is challenging.

“It’s very simple for opportunistic people that hang around to just keep an eye out,” says Maes. “They’re very good at it and if

recovered. In 2004, Dalhousie reported \$191,000 worth of personal belongings had been stolen, up from \$156,000 the previous year. Of that amount, only \$32,000 was recovered. Stolen vehicles are the most likely good to be recovered and make up a large portion of the annual value of stolen goods.

MacDonald says there are nine buildings on campus with security guards—the Tupper, Computer Science, Dentistry, McCain, Law and Ira McNabb buildings, plus the Killam, Arts

**In 2004, there were 56 break and enters, 125 incidents of theft of personal property, 37 incidents of theft of university property and three significant robberies—the most Dalhousie has ever seen.**

there’s anything unattended, even for five seconds, it can disappear. It’s very, very difficult for us to control that.”

Sandy Dwyer, head of circulation at the Killam, says that students forgetting that the Killam is a public building is part of the problem. “It’s not just students who steal from other students: there are outside thieves that target the university,” she says. “They know when our exam times are, when students are likely to be the most distracted, and they make it a point of being here.”

Some stolen objects do get

Centre and LSC—in addition to three walking Tiger Patrol units and two Tiger Patrol vans. “We have nine code blue emergency telephones on campus, 165 pay telephones where you can just dial 4109 for security, and this year, all dorm rooms have direct access to 4109,” he says.

Despite these measures, Rebecca Neu says she has been more paranoid since the theft. “If I get up to go to the washroom, I pack all my stuff up and I go,” she says. “It’s not that I was really careless or anything... but you never really think it could happen to you.”

# Dal Students Challenged to Fight Hunger

Jennifer Morrison  
News Editor

This month’s Dalhousie Challenge food drive encourages every Dal student to donate one item for the Metro Food Bank. But does the Dal campus have a hunger problem of its own?

The Dalhousie Challenge, taking place March 1 to 15, is a joint project being put on by the Gazette and the Dal chapter of Meal Exchange. Rosalie Hanlon,

the Dal coordinator of Meal Exchange, has high hopes for the event, the first of its kind at Dal and perhaps in Canada. “There is a great need in Halifax and around the world for people with resources, monetary but more importantly intellectual, to reach out to those who are in need,” she says. “Students can look at the way things have been done for years and find a new, innova-

Continued on Page 14...

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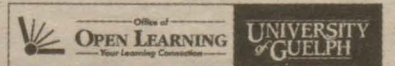
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# Streeter

Do you plan to vote in next week's DSU elections?



I didn't even know there was an election. I'm not sure if I'm coming back next year either, and plus I wouldn't want to make an uneducated vote.  
- Andrea Curoy, third-year music



I have no idea what it's about. These faces [on the posters] mean nothing to me. I would think that whatever differences they were making only affects a few people.  
- Shelaine Chapple, first-year arts



I don't plan on voting because I won't get a chance to hear them speak, so it will be a biased decision.  
- Phil MacKenzie, second-year engineering



Yes, I plan to vote. I think they can make a little bit of difference. Not voting would mean that I don't care. By voting it shows that I am concerned.  
- Ben Woodford, third-year history



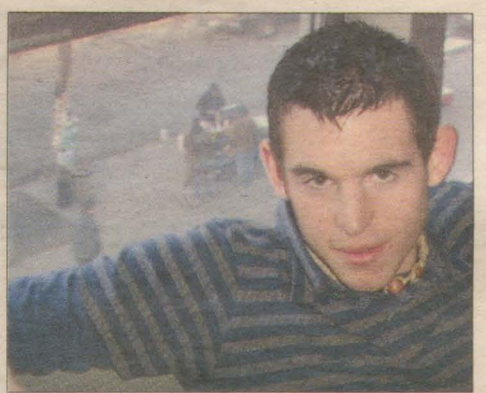
No, I love off campus and just haven't been paying attention this year. I don't want to make an uninformed vote.  
- Lindsay MacMillan



Yes, I plan on voting. I'd feel like a sell-out if I didn't.  
- Angela Bowie, second-year MBA



I haven't decided. I don't have the time to educate myself on everyone's mandates. And I don't want to give an uninformed vote.  
- Robin Rideout, fourth-year accounting



Yes, in fact I will be operating my own "polling station" in the back of my van. All it costs is a yes vote to the Gazette levy, and then it's party time.  
- Chris LaRoche, eighth-year taxidermy

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## On Another Campus

Jennifer Morrison  
News Editor

### UCCB Now Cape Breton University

After months of debating a name change for the University College of Cape Breton, the school's governing board has finally chosen "Cape Breton University" as the university's moniker. A September announcement that the new name would be "Breton University" caused public concern that UCCB wanted to move away from its Cape Breton roots. While N.S. legislation has yet to give a formal stamp of approval to the Cape Breton University title, the change will be en-

acted immediately in the hopes that the re-branding can raise more funds and attract more students to the university.

### X Profs Unionized

The second try was a charm for faculty unionization at St. FX. On Feb. 24, professors, lab instructors, librarians and other specialists and instructors became part of the new local of the Association of University Teachers after 60 per cent of staff voted last month to unionize. Robert van den Hoogen, the local's head, says that unionization will better equip the faculty to deal with contract negotiations.

## Students gotta eat too, continued

Continued from Page 11...

tive way to make it happen."

The Metro Food Bank certainly appreciates the efforts of student initiatives like the Dalhousie Challenge.

"Metro Food Bank Society-Nova Scotia is very pleased with the assistance it receives from Dalhousie University," says Dianne Swinemar, Executive Director for the food bank. Dal students have previously helped collect food and money with food drives at basketball games, Trick-or-Eat at Halloween, and Caroling for Cans at Christmas.

For the Dalhousie Challenge, drop-off locations will be located in the lobbies of the SUB, the Dunn, the Tupper, the Weldon Law building, the King's A&A building and the Alumni Lounge on the Sexton Campus.

When students raid their cupboards for items to donate, they should keep the specific needs of the Metro Food Bank in mind. "All foods are certainly welcome," Swinemar says, but adds there is a need for meat, meat alternatives, and dairy products, like canned milk and pudding.

Money is also needed. "[We have] experienced quite a growth spurt within the last two years and to distribute food to over

145 food banks, drop-in centers, shelters, and meal programs across this province involves a fleet of 11 vehicles, and expenses that go with them," says Swinemar. According to the food bank, the organization can distribute \$10 to \$12 of product for every dollar donated.

In addition to donating food and money, students can help spread the word about the Dalhousie Challenge around campus. Hanlon suggests that students encourage their professors to reward participants with bonus points.

Volunteering is another way students can help fight hunger. The Metro Food Bank has many volunteer opportunities, from data entry to reception to warehouse work and client services. Dal's Meal Exchange organization also wants more students involved. The society is holding a general meeting on March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in room 302 of Dal's Student Union building. It hopes the meeting will help recruit new members and gather new ideas.

But some Dal students may need the food bank themselves. According to the Campus HungerCount 2004 survey, conducted by the Canadian Association of Food Banks and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations,

there are 51 campus-based food banks in Canada. "Almost 90 per cent of respondents cited costs associated with pursuing post-secondary education as the reason a food bank opened on their campus," the survey found.

Dal doesn't have an on-campus food bank, but DSU president Curtis McGrath thinks this needs changing. "Dalhousie does indeed need a food bank," he says. "However, the planning and implementation of such a service would be an enormous undertaking." McGrath, who is not running for re-election, will recommend that his successor start looking into a campus food bank immediately.

Meal Exchange plans to host a public awareness campaign called "The Face of Hunger in Halifax," which will tell the stories of specific people who use food banks, Hanlon explains. "The intention of the campaign is to make students more aware of how people end up in the financial situation where they have no choice but to turn to places such as the Metro Food Bank."

For more information on the Dalhousie Challenge and Meal Exchange, e-mail Rosalie Hanlon at [rhanlon@dal.ca](mailto:rhanlon@dal.ca). Visit [www.metro-foodbank.org](http://www.metro-foodbank.org) to learn more about the organization.

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## THE MALE BAN ON GILMORE GIRLS

After years of hiding my secret I've finally decided to come out of the closet. I am a heterosexual man who loves watching *Gilmore Girls*. Initially, I had to hide this obsession: it would have been social suicide if people found out. The show has simply become too good to deny any longer, though, and so here I am confessing to you that *Gilmore Girls* is the best television show available on basic

cable. I know I am not alone either, as many other straight dudes have made similar confessions regarding Rory, Loralai and the Star's Hollow gang. Now that I'm out, though, I am actually rather perturbed by the fact that confessing such an obsession was seemingly "against the law" not too long ago. Why is it wrong for a heterosexual dude to watch shows aimed at teenage girls? OK,

it sounds pedophilic when phrased that way—but in all seriousness, we live in a time and place of great social liberty: it has never been cooler to be gay than it is right now. So, with this in mind, why is it so unacceptable for us straight, sports-obsessed, politically-incorrect guys to get in touch with our feminine side through a TV program? I'm still not going to *understand* women—but at least I'm

making an effort. I'm tired of having to explain myself on this issue and tired of the eye rolling that occurs when I voice my opinion on this matter. This truth is this: guys can watch girly shows and not be gay, or have to classify themselves as metrosexual. We're not very loud, we're not very proud, but we're starting to get used to it. And so should you.

Vent (Trevor Tynan)

## Gonzo's Grave

The Legacy of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson



Li Dong  
Opinions Editor

The day after Hunter S. Thompson (known by most for writing *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*) died, I awoke to a string of MSN names mourning the death of my favourite writer. Since Sunday, numerous intellectual icons from acclaimed creative non-fiction author Tom Wolfe to professional madman Christopher Hitchens have come out to praise the only true "Gonzo" journalist ever to have lived. Not many writers in history can say that they created their own genre. Even less can say that that genre died the same day they did. Fewer still can say that their genre was rooted in drugs, alcohol and lunacy.

Hunter S. Thompson could say all of these things.

Gonzo journalism can be loosely defined as a form of reporting in which the reporter "bends" the facts and incorporates themselves within the

story. The technical elements may include extreme sarcasm and editorializing, frequent use of obscenities and *italics*, and a complete disregard for what really happened. The broader elements may include the use of mind altering drugs, shrewd insightfulness and a complete disregard for what really happened.

I'm told that Thompson's salient theme throughout his works is that of the acid-counterculture and its relationship with the death of the American dream. However, I realized that it wasn't this insurgency against "The Man" that kept Thompson popular with the kids of today. More important than Thompson's message was his style of writing. His blunt sentences, weird syntax and unique descriptions earned him Tom Wolfe's respect as the greatest comedic writer of the English language, at least within our century.

No, of course it isn't the truth. It's *better* than the truth. Thompson's words reveal the primal governing forces that the truth is too afraid to show.

I began to realize that Gonzo journalism wasn't about writing down *exactly what happened*, but more about writing down what *might as well have happened*.

Pretend you are a journalist out to investigate the "truth" at the Palace. You come across guy A, asking for girl B's phone number and girl B not giving it to him. A regular journalist might write something like, "guy A asked girl B for her phone number so that they could go out for coffee later, but girl B politely declined." A Gonzo journalist, however, might write something like, "guy A went to grab girl B's ass and boobs at the same time, but girl B slapped him across the face and threw a drink on his shirt." Now, one of these descriptions illustrates the

**His blunt sentences, weird syntax and mind-bending descriptions earned him Tom Wolfe's respect as the greatest comedic writer of the English language, at least within our century.**

Still, a lot of controversy surrounding Thompson involves his blurring of the lines between fiction and non-fiction. Did he really mace a mob of people at the Kentucky Derby? Can people actually ingest the stuff secreted by adrenal glands? Is what Thompson claims to be a form of "journalism" actually telling the truth?

underlying essence of the situation better than the other (I'll let you decide which one). The truth comes in many forms, and I think Thompson preferred the deepest, funniest and darkest kind there was. I sincerely hope his influence on the written word lives on for as long as there are words worth writing.



Would it hurt so much to tell to him how you feel? / Photo: Lindsay Dobbin

## A Regrettable Silence

Go up to a guy and tell him he's gorgeous. What's the worst that could happen?

Lina Hussain  
Staff Contributor

They say that we regret the things we didn't do rather than the things we did do.

A very beautiful young man sits in one of my classes. On the days when he sits in front of me, I happily stare at him, sometimes even sketching him on a notebook. I am fascinated by his amazing jaw line, his super-white smile, striking blue eyes and his dark, unique features. I have practically studied him. Yet when I come to think of telling him what a beautiful person I think he is, I chicken out and run out to my next class.

Why is that? Why are we afraid of saying what we think?

Why won't I speak up? Am I afraid of what negative things

might happen? Let's think of all the things that could go wrong if I told this guy my opinion. He could take it the wrong way and assume I'm interested in him. Or he could say, "thank you" and suggest we go for a coffee. He could tell me he thinks the same of me... or it could develop into a friendship. But that's a long shot... or is it?

Are we too insecure to say what we think or how we feel? If we were super-confident, would we still have trouble telling a complete stranger "I think you're gorgeous?" Are we (God forbid!) afraid of boosting another human being's ego?

How would it come out if I went up to him out of the blue and said "hey there, I think you're

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# The Future of Tuition

## Is a rise in tuition an act of greed or just plain necessary?

Greg Hughes  
Staff Contributor

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae gets it. He understands exactly what's wrong with Ontario's university system. But his recently released Rae Review is not just a lesson for Ontario—it's a good reminder of what ails our entire country's university system.

Canada is stuck in a demographic fork-in-the-road, the likes of which will test our age group's fiscal resolve for decades to come. We need to make some tough choices about what we want in our post-secondary education system—a chronically underfunded collection of universities that are largely equal in quality and accessibility (both of which are mediocre at best), or a set of universities that all differentiate themselves through competition, flexibility and higher tuition fees?

My opinion on this won't be popular in a province that just set a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in stone for the next three years. But considering that I've been educated in both Ontario and Nova Scotia, the two provinces that have the highest tuition fees in Canada, I have a good feeling I can comment on the Rae Review's applicability to this province.

First off, what is the Rae Review? Commissioned by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, the report examines the declining state of Ontario's university system and makes sweeping recommendations. Rae argues that class sizes are too big (check), operating grants for Ontario universities have declined considerably (check), universities are treated by the Ontario government as one homogenous mass without consideration for a university's

specific fiscal needs (check), and finally that there is little differentiation between universities in quality and access (check).

Rae's recommendations? The Ontario government should immediately invest \$1.5 billion into Ontario universities. The universities should be able to set their own tuition fees, based on competition, an idea that runs counter to the path of "romancing mediocrity" Ontario universities seem to be on.

I couldn't agree more with Rae: Ontario universities are being choked with chronic underfunding. The reason? Health care costs in Canada are soaring, stretching government revenues both in Ontario and Nova Scotia to the limit.

Herein lies the rub for Nova Scotian universities. When the MOU expires in 2008, we shouldn't renegotiate the agreement for a simple "status quo" situation that frustrates universities, hamstrings the government and barely pleases the students.

Instead, we should take the courageous move: advocate a partial or full program of deregulating university tuition in Nova Scotia—thus enhancing quality, accessibility and the value of our degrees upon graduation.

This argument isn't going to please the Dalhousie Student Union or the Canadian Federation of Students. But it's an argument that has merit, especially in a world that isn't going to eliminate tuition anytime soon.

Take the province of Ontario. By allowing universities to set their own fees, there is no doubt that universities like Queen's and Western will see their tuition fees go up. It will hurt those just entering school and cause financial hardship to those already in school. But the Rae Review clearly states that the conditions for

universities to set their own fees include much greater accountability in quality-assessment targets to the government (i.e. lower class sizes, better buildings, more professors) and earmarking a much more significant amount of funds for grants and loans for lower-income students.

These grants to lower-income students are just part of the solution. The reforming of the Canada Student Loans system is expected to reflect the new realities of tuition fees, which have increased by more than 120 per cent since 1990. More flexible loans, including higher allotment ceilings and broader definitions of the students that qualify for government loans, are part of this plan. Debt sucks, I know. But it comes down to priorities: do you want a degree that is valuable and worth your long-term investment?

Plus, it's in no university's best interest to set undergradu-

ate tuition fees past the point of market demand. If deregulation happens, it's not as though Dalhousie will decide, the next day, to jack up tuition to \$10,000 per year. A university has to obey the laws of supply and demand with painstaking precision.

Lastly, by having universities set their own fees, the quality of our degrees upon graduation will increase. The fact is our learning environments are suffering when 500-seat lectures and multiple-choice exams are served to us as examples of "higher education." Most academics and university administrators loathe having to take on an assembly-line approach to academia: the average student simply doesn't benefit from interacting with a professor who doesn't even know the student's name.

The argument against deregulation can be summed up in two words: student debt. I know

the burden will be great and the short-term sacrifice harsh. But let's be real here: universities are not high schools redux. You're paying for the privilege of being at school and getting educated largely on the taxpayer's dollar. Current undergraduate tuition barely covers 25 per cent of educating one student per academic year. I don't want higher tuition fees either, but as long as our parents and grandparents need health care funding to survive, it's a burden I'm willing to take.

A lot of people in Canada want—need—post-secondary education. Resources are thin and the burden is too great on our schools. Dalhousie president Tom Traves shouldn't settle for the status quo in 2008. Traves should help make Nova Scotian universities truly great by pushing for competition, competitiveness on the global stage and better quality.

## Would It Hurt To Do It?, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

gorgeous and I just wanted you to know that?"

How awful would it be if I did that? How embarrassing? Would I blush and stutter? How would he react? Would he say "thank you" and walk away thinking I was a freak? Would he even care? He probably has tons of girls at his feet. Is it even worth all the trouble?

This isn't the first time I've taken the safe way out. Last semester I found myself sitting next to an amazing-smelling guy. I imagined turning towards him and telling him how incredible he smelled. Now, most people know that a man's smell is one of the most attractive traits to a

woman, especially if it's a scent she likes. I loved his. Right then and there I decided that I was going to tell him that he smelled amazing. But did I? Nope. "Later," I thought. I ended up leaving class with everyone else.

Maybe I just need an inspira-

tion. Perhaps if my best friend was the kind to tell people what she thought of them I would have the inspiration to do the same. Sometimes I think that it's not

fair to the guy for me not to tell him what I think of him. I mean, he must have spent some time fixing himself up before he got to school. Maybe there was a girl he wanted to impress, or maybe he just felt really good about himself. Whatever the reason, he de-

How would it come out if I went up to him out of the blue and said "hey there, I think you're gorgeous and I just wanted you to know that"?

serves a compliment and praise on his looks (and smell). Maybe if I did say what was on my mind in the future I wouldn't be thinking about it weeks later.

Sometimes I think that it's not

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## Hot Spots

## OCCUPEZ VOS PENSÉES

Visit the NSCAD Galleries March 7 to 12 for the openings of students' pottery, sculpture, photography and art exhibits. The galleries are open Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 12 noon to 4 p.m. The gallery can be found at 5163 Duke St.

## L'ESPRIT DE LA MUSIQUE

If you missed round one, be sure to catch the second competition. Round two of Campus Music Explosion is taking place this Wednesday, March 9 at The Grawood. Karmakosi and Dale Boudreau will be performing, as well as many others. Show starts at 9 p.m.; admission is \$2.

## MAÎTRE DE LA RADIO

CBC Radio One is presenting a new show entitled *Canada Reads*. The program will consist of two dialing readings (2:30 p.m. and 10:40 p.m.) from lesser-known Canadian novels. Dedicated to promoting Canadian identity, the program's first week will include the Newfoundland novel, *Rockbound*.



Sleepless Recordings release roster the Sleepless Nights, Benn Ross, and thomas/richard, L-R.

## New Halifax-Based Label to Have Not-So-Sleepy Awakening

Lindsay Dobbin  
 Assistant Arts Editor

The Internet—many feel it's a necessary evil for communication purposes yet others swear by it, using it to download music and seek out information. It can be an excellent resource, especially for musicians.

"If it weren't for the Internet, I wouldn't have had the software to do the recordings I did when I was younger or the access to the information I used to learn how to play instruments," says Halifax-based musician Aaron Wallace. "I would be way behind where I am now as an artist."

Wallace is the creator of a new Halifax-based label Sleepless Recordings, and the front man of the Sleepless Nights, one of the label's bands. He initially created the label so he could release the Sleepless Nights' first record, but three other artists have been added in a short amount of time: thomas/richard, Benn Ross, and the Internet. The roster increase has happened so quickly, in fact, that Sleepless Recordings will be celebrating both their official

launch and triple CD release on Thursday, March 3 at the Khyber Club.

But you won't see one of the label's most important artists perform: the Internet.

"The Internet is an electronic project I've been doing for a while," Wallace says. "It doesn't really fit in with the rest of our stuff but I wanted it out there for free, somehow, and our website is a great vehicle for that."

**"We're anti-anti-establishment types. The establishment here being the 'rock' and 'indie' communities that value loud, fast, and fun," Sleepless Recordings creator Aaron Wallace.**

Websites, as we all know, are an excellent vehicle for music promotion; the Internet, in general, has aided Wallace in both having his music heard and made.

"Myself living in New Glasgow

and the rest of Sleepless being based in Halifax, without the Internet, things would be pretty unorganized between everyone involved," says thomas/richard (AKA Richard Lann). "For a few people, it's helped bridge the distance and avoid high cost phone bills."

The artists that comprise Sleepless Recordings share a very similar music aesthetic. Wallace attests that the unifying factor of the three artists' music is the downbeat and laid-back, bedroom atmosphere that the recordings possess. There is definitely a common ground—but no formula.

Wallace feels that there hasn't been a Halifax scene carved for this type of music, so the creation of Sleepless Recordings is a method of doing so. "We're anti-anti-establishment types. The establishment here being the 'rock' and 'indie' communities that value loud, fast, and fun," Wallace says. "We're the opposite of those things."

*Sleepless Recordings launches at the Khyber Club on Thursday, March 3. Admission is \$4.*



John and Yoko posed nude as a protest, but there are many reasons why people around the world have been baring all for centuries.

## SuperSex in the SuperCity Dare to Bare

Dave Moriné-Wentworth  
 Sexpert

As a clothing whore, I cannot imagine shedding my apparel in a public setting. Clothes do three things in society: they protect against the elements, uphold modesty and allow for self-expression. A nudist would argue that clothes restrict our bodies, that the only natural way to be is the way in which we entered the world: with nary a stitch of clothing on our backs.

Nudists, or naturalists (depending on your wording preference), have made their position loud and clear in Halifax. One of the three beaches at Crystal Crescent Beach in Sambro has long been treated as a nude beach. This is not a legislated nude beach, but has been tolerated for nudist use by the majority of the municipality's population.

There are moral advocates who challenge the beach's nude sunbathers, insisting that something must be done to "clean up" the beach area. In 2001, these protests became heated when five nudists were charged with committing lewd and indecent acts. These charges were dropped, as police officers started that being nude on a beach is not enough to be considered lewd and indecent. Indeed, there is a big difference between going au naturel on a secluded beach as compared to a more open area, like the Halifax Commons, for example.

Like any trend involving clothing, or lack thereof, nudism/naturalism began in Europe before making its way to North America. Original nudist undertakings were to promote a greater health by ridding the body of

Continued on Next Page...

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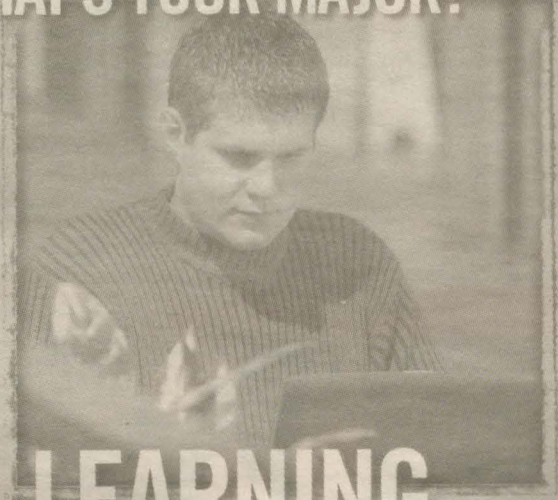
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N'Orleans: the Mardi Gras capital of the universe. / Photo: Jess McDiarmid

## Wanderlust: New Orleans

### A Tale of Drunks, Drugs and Debauchery (And a little fun, too)

Jess McDiarmid  
Staff Contributor

Before departing to America's Old South, I did some preparatory reading in a Lonely Planet guide to New Orleans. This is the advice I found: "It is self-explanatory: go with cash and spend it on whatever you want. Have a good time. Get drunk, yell, vomit, dance, slobber on your friend, stay up till dawn. It all goes here and it goes every night all night."

OK, I said to myself. I can do this.

I arrived in the hazy Mississippi heat on Saturday. The Mexican driving the taxi from the airport was drunk and kept nodding off with a Coke can full of whisky in his hand. We bee-lined for the infamous Bourbon St., where bars remain open 24 hours a day. This is where one can acquire beads in exchange for showing skin,

where strippers prance in front of nightclubs and music blares out into the streets. There are so many drunk tourists tottering around with Hurricanes and Daiquiris it takes an hour to walk a block. Right in the middle of this spectacle of irresponsible drinking, I found a man clutching a ten-foot white cross and handing out flyers about how to save your soul. I entered the jungle armed with a dictaphone and a gallon of rum and fruit juice.

I'm just listening to bits of the tape now:

There's a young girl's voice, with five competing jazz bands in the background and myriad talking, puking, yelling and revelling voices. "Look at all the animals," she's screaming.

A distraught young man from Michigan says: "I'm a N'Orleans virgin. They told me I needed all these beads. They made me drink

a lot of shots. The waitresses kept rubbing themselves at me and feeding me drinks from their boobs."

A guy called Patrick from Memphis, Tennessee comes up next: "This is my twelfth or thirteenth time here. But I never remember, so it's always great. I go home and people are like, how was it, and I'm like, great, and they're like, What ya do? And I'm like, I don't know! Every time's the first time!"

The tape ends with my own voice, sounding as though my throat has been scrubbed with a wire brush after a long night of interviews—plus 60 cigarettes, 6 or 7 hurricanes, countless \$1 draughts, a song or two, cheap shots of Jagermeister and a bit of tango. "G'mornin," I say. "New Orleans documentary here. It's,

Continued on Next Page...

### So take off all your clothes, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

restrictive, turn-of-the-century clothing, and detoxification of the body through vegetarianism and abstaining from alcohol. These nudist retreats cropped up throughout coastal and Alpine Europe and encouraged visits from singles, couples and families.

Nudism's introduction to Canada is largely due to soldiers who returned home from being deployed in Europe during World War II. These combatants were exposed to nudist movements and adopted this lifestyle upon returning home. Soon after, waves of European immigration along with the sexual revolution, heralded the concept of nudism.

Europeans seem to be more willing to go nude in public, especially for the younger population. For many European students, the

idea of going to a nudist beach is not unfamiliar as family vacations to naturalist beaches in Croatia or the Balkans is a common trend. Having grown up with a free-attitude around pub-

to a nudist beach. First, don't build yourself up to see oodles of hot and sexy bodies. Nudism runs the gamut, so you can expect to see old and young, big and small, and tall and short. Seasoned

Original nudist undertakings were to promote a greater health by ridding the body of restrictive, turn-of-the-century clothing, and detoxification of the body through vegetarianism and abstaining from alcohol.

lic nudity, many European youth are continuing with a clothing optional attitude when it comes time for holiday, and may enjoy sunning, swimming, playing tennis, hiking or relaxing all in the buff.

For the inexperienced North American, there are a few points to remember before jaunting out

nudists know that being naked in public is not about creating a spectacle. So, my second piece of advice is not to point, stare and gawk at other people. Finally, don't forget to get sunscreen in those areas where the sun doesn't normally shine — there is nothing more uncomfortable than burns on your derriere.



## Debauchery in New Orleans, part II.

Continued from Previous Page...

uh, 7, no-holy shit, it's 9? in the morning. Strange place. Strange people here—what's your name again? Morning in New Orleans. They say it's gonna rain today."

Welcome to New Orleans: a wild, unholy place where 50-year-olds shed the professional airs they've had for years and behave worse than 14-year-olds on their first bottle of Potter's Vodka. It's a place where senior citizens can be heard shrieking expletives at the top of their lungs, and where the shackles of responsibility and accountability disintegrate, traded in for a Hurricane and some tacky Mardi Gras beads. It's the party city of the world, and its motto is "Let the good times roll."

\*\*\*

As the days of my visit passed by and I became acquainted with some of the people who call the Big Easy home, I realized that all that partying is not the soul of New Orleans. It is only her make-up. One has to stagger off the beaten track, into a small, dark watering hole—where the locals will invite you to sit with them and listen to the legends of their city over Southern Comfort and unfiltered Pall Malls—if one wants to learn what lies beneath.

New Orleans was colonized by convicts. No one wanted to move to the murky swamps around the Mississippi from Europe, so the French King put the populations of his prisons on ships and sent them to settle New Orleans. Locals proudly say that their city was founded by murderers, rapists, pirates and prostitutes.

They say the city is haunted. You can feel the magic on the streets, a feeling, a look in people's eyes that have been there for a while, a resonance in the stories they tell, the legends they weave on the bar stools of the

city. It's a city of barroom philosophers, weirdoes, outsiders, performers and hustlers, visited by a constant barrage of alco-tourists, where truth is nearly always weirder than fiction.

Mike is a French Quarter carpenter who sleeps in whatever building he's working on. He's from St. Louis; like many of the locals here, he's from somewhere else, and came here when somewhere else didn't work out.

"New Orleans is a woman," he says. "She's beautiful and mysterious and enticing, can break your heart. Treat her right, and she'll make your life heaven. Fuck with her, and she'll kill you."

A man at this year's Mardi Gras went back to a hotel with a girl he met, they say. He awoke a couple days later, naked, in a bathtub full of dry ice with his in-nards on the outside and a note stapled to his shoulder that read: If you want to survive, call 9-11 immediately. At the hospital he learned that a kidney had been stolen from him. That is what she'll do to you, says Mike.

\*\*\*

We're in a bar in Pirates Alley, drinking absinthe. The owners let me go behind the bar and pour the booze, light the sugar and add the water while they weave spells and legends in my worm-wooded brain.

Outside, in the shadows of the St. Louis Cathedral, a woman crouches down, leaning through a wrought iron fence while dumping Whiskas into dishes to feed the formidable population of homeless cats. The city is full of the Cat People, she says; they take turns coming down to feed the strays.

Outside of the touristy French Quarter, they say, the city runs on a Napoleonic Code, disregarding the past few centuries of law. "If you steal a little, they put you in jail; you steal a lot and they make

you a king here," Mike says. "I guess they're just saying that if you're gonna do something, do it right. People working in some of the shops wear bullet-proof vests to work. Those streets are the mean streets, home to one of the world's highest rates of violent crime, where streetlight poles are plastered in "Missing" posters of those Mardi Gras-ers who still haven't come home.

\*\*\*

The sun is coming up yet again, turning the fog that rolls off the Mississippi pink. Absinthe and tequila have been replaced by water, served by Captain Rick behind the bar, who swears he's a descendant of New Orleans' first pirates. I sit at the bar flipping through notebooks of anecdotes, stories, sights, lies I've been told, wondering what to say about this place. It's more than a place—it's a state of mind, weird and wonderful and wild. Anything can happen here. You can have cocktails for breakfast, dance naked on a garbage can and drink fluorescent shots out of a waitress' cleavage; you can watch for ghosts in alleys and on balconies, have your palm read at 3 a.m. in Jackson Square or see an old woman casting Voodoo spells.

You can brag if you last a month without being robbed. And you can wake up without a kidney.

But if you go and let yourself be washed away in the city's magic, you will see things you've never seen before, and collect tall tales by the dozen. Maybe, when the people you've met bid you farewell, you will even feel a strange tug from this city, like a woman, beautiful and dangerous. "You'll be back, I can tell," someone says to you, smiling—and, in the early morning fog, you'll know that there is no other place in the world like this one.

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## Report Card Bill Hicks Tribute

**Venue:** Ginger's Tavern  
**Date:** Sunday, Feb. 27  
**Reporter:** Natalie Pendergast  
**Photographer:** Natalie Pendergast  
**Stage Presence:** B (based on the average of the five performers' stage presences)  
**Audience Reaction:** A  
**Creativity:** B+  
**Effort:** A  
**Get-It-On-Ability:** C

The theme to Sunday's stand-up competition was Bill Hicks imitation en masse—but oddly enough, the winner at the end of the night had no idea that he was supposed to be emulating anyone. Halifax native Craig Horton explained that he was just "trying out some new material," and he asked the audience to bear with him. But the 30-something's natural charisma and quick thinking had the crowd in hysterics from the moment he stepped on the stage. A truly gifted comedian, Horton's hardened voice delivered each line with ease and confidence. Second place went to Bryant Thompson, who perfected the satirical act of a horny deadbeat character, and third place went to Hyuk Hyuks performer Mike MacQueen. The other two contestants, a mother from Dartmouth and food-loving Jason Ranger, suffered from audience apathy. But where Bev Moore was well prepared, Ranger was unanimated, unconfident and unprepared, reading script word-for-word from loose-leaf. Comedy Night was a great ending to reading week, and as hard as it is to say good things about the fumbling Ranger, it is tougher to actually get up on stage and know that critics like yours truly are just salivating at the chance to slam him.

Photo L-R: Jason Ranger, Craig Horton, Mike McQueen, Bev Moore and Bryant Thompson

# Arts Hole: Death of the Genre

Natalie Pendergast  
Arts Editor

Purity, these days, exists only as an idea.

Upon interviewing Halifax hip-hopsters the Chronicles a few weeks ago, I was alarmed at the band's response to a certain question. "What genre do you think best suits the group?"

The members' answers were something along the lines of: "Well you know, we are like an amalgamation of different genres.

"I'd say there's some rap, blues, death metal, country, reggae, funk, orchestral pop, soul, R&B, jazz, dance, trance, alternative, metal, neo-punk and garage rock in there for sure," said one.

Another said, "oh yeah, and don't forget roll soul, post emo, gospel, classical, pop, prog contemporary, opera, grindcore, Celtic, electronica, fusion, psychedelic, acid rock, Gregorian chant, experimental, new wave, easy listening, adult contemporary, jungle, goth, techno, speed rap, math rock, folk, polka and grunge."

My head was spinning.

The cross-genre motif has been the staple of the music industry's longevity. But all this merging has got to result in a collision at some point. For or a new artist to survive in show biz they have to be new (of course), different, and not too weird. Ev-

eryone is trying to conquer these three requisites and, well, what we have is a bunch of artists, all of whom have as unique a sound as they do a name, all of whom want to revolutionize the charts and none of whom fit into any particular genre. So how do the critics describe them? How do the CD vendors label them? How does the Warner Publicist commercialize them?

Well, they resort to the hyphen. And the compound word. Take, for example, Rolling Stone's review of Pavement's 2004 release, *Crooked Rain*. In the span of two short paragraphs, the critic classifies the band as "alternative rock," "pop rock," "imperfect classic rock," just plain old "rock," and "faux-metal."

The hyphen may seem like a simple, unimaginative way to deal with the genre marriage, but there is also a more calculated reason for the new title. Record distributors have a fear: The Cult Genre. If ever there were a band that is so unique—either in image, philosophy, or music—that it does not fit into the parentheses of any genre, sub-genre, half-genre or hybrid genre, then it will found a new genre. This is not an easy process.

The word "genre" is a borrowed abbreviation of the word "generalization," and its definition is a reflection of this for-bearer. A genre is only created, however, when a collection of

different artists produce music which all shares certain qualities and characteristics. If an artist defies all genres already in existence, then industry bigwigs are faced with a dilemma: create a new genre based on this artist, or try to worm him into a pre-existing category. The scary part about creating a new genre label is what happens afterwards: the unpredictable public response.

There are three ways the public may respond to a brand new, completely original record of music.

Firstly, they could love it, buy millions of records, and make the artist in question rich and famous.

Secondly, the general public may not like it off the bat. This would result in a large initial deficit for the record distribution company, followed by a slow, creeping increase in sales as word "gets out" to underground, high brow, counter-stream consumers. This cultish success is a surprising goal for many.

But the third possible public reaction is the most common: music enthusiasts hear the songs, hate them, and the artist is never heard from again.

Is the generalizing and categorizing of music just a marketing tool? Or is the genre part of the taxonomic jargon of the music critic? Suppose it is a matter of opinion... What genre of opinion do you have?

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## Easter Seals Igloo Promotion



Bryden Berkvens  
Sextant Contributor

On Feb. 17, a group of engineering students led by Jeremy Slaunwhite teamed up with Abilities Foundation to help with the Easter Seals promotion. This year, the students assisted in the building of an igloo for the Easter Seals 24-hour relay. This contest was set up by having a group of people who qualified by calling into Q104 enter the contest. Once the participants were chosen, they entered the igloo located at Sackville Landing. The person who survived the longest in the igloo won a trip to St. Petersburg, Florida to stay at the Pelican Pointe Resort. This event was a promotional event used to help publicize the upcoming 24-hour

relay that will be held in July.

The Engineering Society got involved in this promotion when the abilities foundation approached the society as a suitable partner who could undertake the construction of this igloo. The society was quick to jump on board for this cause and offered its support with many volunteers getting involved. Team captain Jeremy Slaunwhite came up with a design that met the requirements to facilitate the relay, as well as finding sponsors to help cover some of the costs of building the igloo. The list of sponsors who were involved with this project included Encana, Elco Electric and the dean of engineering. The organization and fabrication of the igloo took over 60 hours of work to complete.

## A Touch of Class

Peter White  
Sextant Contributor

There's no denying that engineering classes tend to be about as exciting as dirt. They deal only with facts, leaving no room for discussion or creativity. I realize that it's important for us to learn these things, but unlike a rectal exam, there are ways to make class more fun. So what I offer you today are a few suggestions that can make learning entertaining without sacrificing educational content.

When class starts, students talk amongst themselves and simply aren't focused and ready to learn. We need something that commands attention and will get people excited for the lesson. We all know there is only one way to do this. It involves spotlights, an announcer, the Chicago Bulls warm-up music and bikini clad girls holding signboards. I think I would learn a lot more from a lecture if it was preceded by Michael Buffer shouting "LLLLLLLLet's get RRRRRRReady for circuits!"

Secondly, the way students are graded is in desperate need of an overhaul. Failing people is very passé. The new hip thing is voting people off. If the new hit television show *The Biggest Loser* has taught me anything, it's that people will love absolutely anything that involves kicking people off. If classes were transformed into a *Survivor*-type game, and grades were won through crazy challenges, lectures would be worth

going to. Especially if they were moved to some beautiful south pacific island, and the professors were as charming as *Survivor* host Jeff Probst. Although, as I look around while sitting in class, I suppose the game would be more like *Average Joe* than *Survivor*.

The professors have a tough job. They have to get the information to us and it's hard to make that entertaining. But there are some things they can do to make class more interesting. For instance, every time I get bored in class, I picture the professor wearing a giant banana suit—and somehow everything in the world is alright again. I'm not suggesting the profs should wear degrading costumes every day, but dressing up every once in a while wouldn't hurt. Also, Profs should dance more.

Some people have suggested to me that making the engineering classes sexier might be the way to go. We all know that sex sells anything. However, it has been proven by the *Naked News* that boring topics and stripping

do not go well together. It's impossible to retain the information brought forward during this type of interaction due to the stripping, and you can't enjoy nudity while listening to a topic like thermodynamics. Trust me. Also, after reviewing the engineering faculty, few profs are ready for the leap into nude modeling.

These are just a few ideas on how we can make classes at Daltech entertaining and informative. There are many others, such as celebrity cameos, freshly baked cookies and the tender love of a good woman, but I'll save those for another day. In the meantime, we need to throw off the chains of oppression and push forward with the ideas I have mentioned above. And for all you non-believers out there who think that something can't be both entertaining and educational, all I ask is that you watch an old copy of *Beakman's World* or *Bill Nye: The Science Guy*, and prepare to eat your words.

### DUSCES News & Events

Now that some of you are the proud owners of shiny new iron rings, it is time to go out and show them off! What better way than to go around town pie-ing people? Our major charity event starts on March 14. We need volunteers to go out and pie people and take orders for people to get pied. All proceeds go to Phoenix Youth Programs. If you are interested in getting involved, sign up in the Alumni Lounge in B building, contact Bob Dumeah, Pi-throw coordinator, at [rdumeah@dal.ca](mailto:rdumeah@dal.ca), or visit the website at [www.pithrow.com](http://www.pithrow.com).

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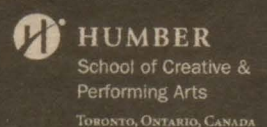
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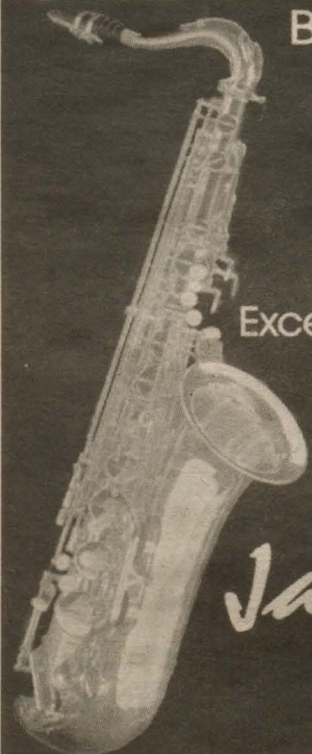
Applications are currently being accepted for May 2005. Applicants must be university or college graduates.

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## AUS Track & Field Championships

### Results

#### Women - Team Rankings

- 1) Dalhousie University 163
- 2) Memorial University 59
- 3) Université de Moncton 51

#### Men - Team Rankings

- 1) Dalhousie University 148
- 2) St. Mary's University 87
- 3) Memorial University 47

#### Major Awards Winners

Women

Athlete of the Year – Adrienne Powe  
Championship MVP – Alicia Dobranowski

#### Men

Athlete of the Year – Paul Chafe  
Championship MVP – Joshua Davidson

Rookie of the Year – John Corbit

#### CIS Swimming Championships Results

Dal's Kiera Aitken won a silver medal in the 50-metre backstroke and bronze in the 100m backstroke.

## Sports Briefs

# Women's B-ball Key to Success – One Game at a Time

Mike Tweedale  
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Women's Basketball team is travelling to UNB tomorrow to compete in the AUS Finals, a tournament the Tigers haven't won since 2001.

Although pleased with the regular season campaign, which earned the Tigers a third seed playoff ranking, head coach Carol Savoy says that considering the competitiveness of the league in evaluating the overall standings is necessary.

"We split four games with Memorial and lost two, two-game series with UCCB and UNB, so we were there and I'm pleased with the performance," he says.

The Tigers finished with a 14-6 record and 34 points, 8 behind the Capers and 6 back from the Sea-Hawks. Both teams earned a quarterfinal bye. The host Varsity Reds will enter the competition as the sixth and final seed.

While praising the team's fitness, the veteran head coach also says that individual commitment and effort are important for maintaining physical condition and avoiding injury through a grueling 30-game season. 10 games are played out-of-conference.

"The strength and conditioning program is a benefit, but our success can also be measured by the players' attention to detail during their preparation and training," says Savoy. "I'm impressed with the team's dedica-



Leslie Duncan goes up strong. / Photo: Nick Pearce

tion and work ethic."

On the court, Dalhousie's strategy is to win control at both ends of the court. But it doesn't go unnoticed that the Tigers, who are traditionally stingy on their end of the floor, conceded a league low in points against, establishing one of the top defenses in the country. Savoy says that

a nasty D is the key to consistent success.

"Defense, rebounds and foul shots win games. Our strategy demands that we keep the opposition shooting from the outside and minimize their scoring."

The Tigers' leading tandem of Ryan McKay and Leslie Duncan are performing according to

plan. While leading the team in scoring with a 15.0 point average, McKay, a third-year guard and kinesiology student from Fredericton, N.B., also grabs a team high 4.1 defensive boards per game. At the post position, the 6'0" Duncan, a fourth-year management student from Blockhouse N.S., averages a tidy 14.9 points while pulling down 5.7 boards per game.

Savoy praises the duo's commitment and leadership. The current roster includes eight rookies.

"Ryan and Leslie are experienced players who are now demonstrating to their younger team-mates how to take pride in doing the job, on both ends of the floor," he says.

Among the first year players under this current tutelage is Kathleen McNeil. The 6'1" 18-year-old from Halifax has done everything but surprise her new coach.

"We anticipated that Kathleen would be making a big contribution this year," Savoy says. "She is excellent with rebounds, a talented shot-blocker and a focused player who understands the game well."

In preparation for the AUS championship, Savoy isn't buying any predictions.

"At the moment we're focusing on Friday and the quarterfinal game against the Huskies," she says. "Depending on its outcome, we could be playing Memorial in a semi-final. Success will arrive by staying in the present and being prepared to play... We have a good rotation, the players know their roles and we'll take it a game at a time."



Inside the locker room with...

...Martin Gascon. Martin is a member of the men's hockey team.

Theresa-Anne Salah  
Staff Contributor

What did you forget to do today?

Eat... I'm getting too fat and I'm on the Cancun diet.

What's the one thing you'll never stop doing?

WHAT? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU? OH... SCREAMING IN PEOPLE'S EARS WHEN I'M DRUNK!!!

What song best describes your life and why?

"Like a Bird" by Nelly Furtado. Why? Ask my friend the Mexican rat J-F Perras. Pipipiippiipi pipipiippiiiiiipi !!!

What did you dream about last night?

That I got a Royal Flush to win the last hand of a poker tournament. Yeah... keep dreaming! I also saw a guy turn green!

When was the last time you cried, and why did you cry?

That would be when Jen died in the last episode of Dawson's Creek. Other than that, it would be when my junior hockey career ended on a sad note.

## HISTORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2005, a Review Committee is examining History. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, between 1:45 – 3:00. Please contact Ms. Tina Jones (494-3347). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

**Professor David Cameron,**

David.Cameron@dal.ca, Chair (History Unit Review Committee)  
Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H6

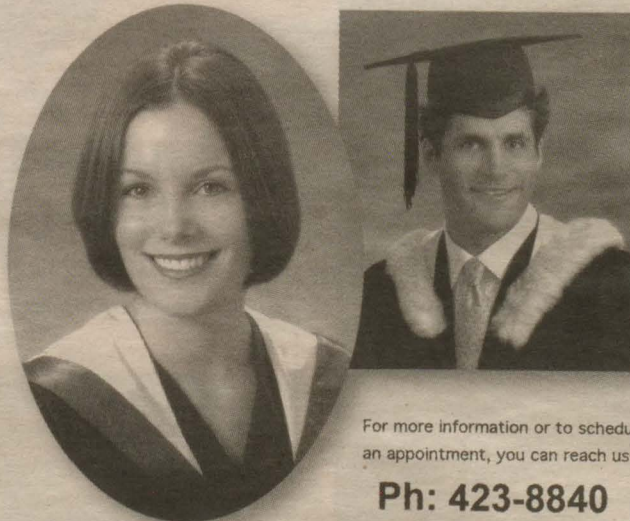
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# Volleyball Tigers Ready for CIs

Joe Ryba  
Staff Contributor

The Dal men's and women's volleyball squads spiked and smashed the opposition in the regular season, en route to first place. Their impressive regular season performances were echoed by an equally dominant performance at the AUS championship. Now, after hitting the courts in early September, the volleyballers are charged up and ready to face their ultimate test: the CIS championships.

The men's team is headed to Laval University in Quebec City.

Volleyball sensation Jeff Weiler likes the way the Tigers are playing. "We're playing at a fairly high level," he says. "We're comparable with any team in the country. Obviously we could be playing better, but that's true for any team."

Weiler adds that even though the Tigers are a powerhouse team, they still improved over the course of the year.

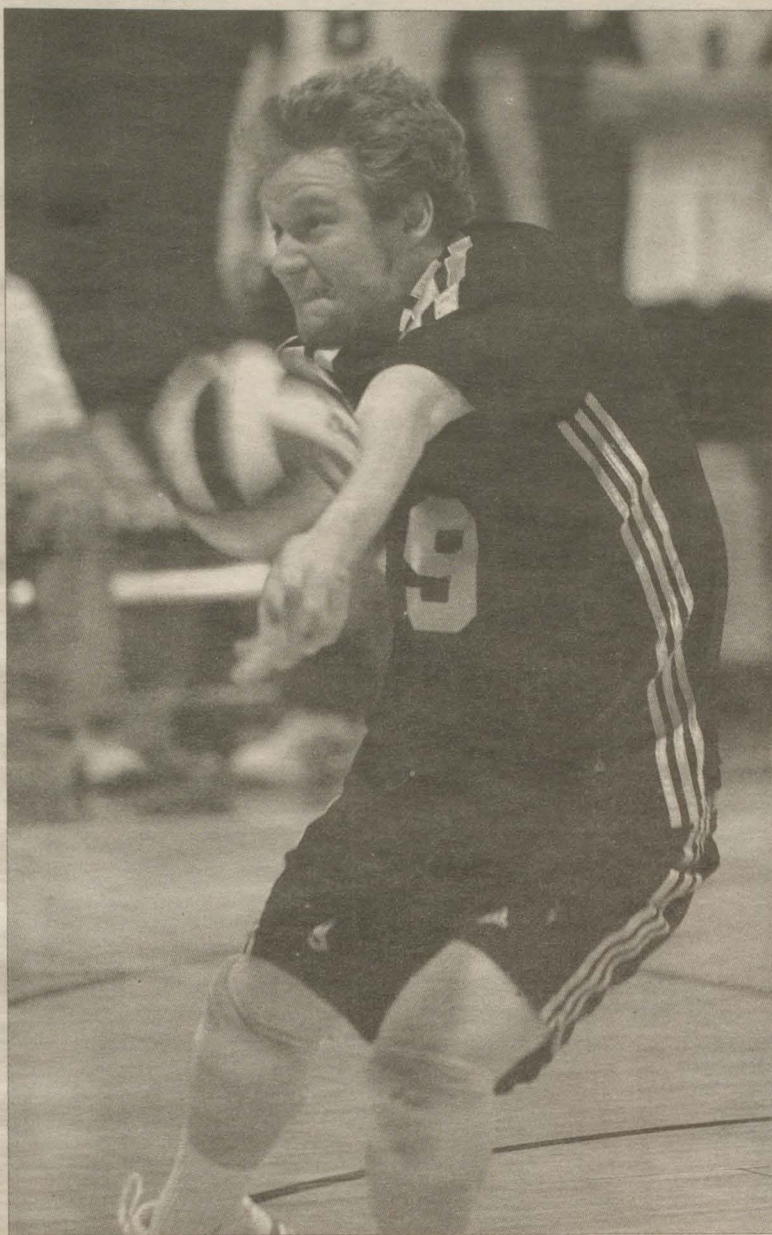
"We've been practicing since the first day of classes, so it's hard not to improve," he says. "We've all worked hard and put in a lot of hours. The dedication is evident now and we have to show it at the nationals."

As the men do battle in Quebec City, the women are off to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Women's star Jill Goulet is content with the way things are going for her team.

"We're probably playing the best we've played all season," says Goulet. "We had really good AUs and our defence has really improved."

She says that confidence is the key to success at the CIs.

"We have to believe in ourselves because no one gives us credit. We have to know that we deserve this and we have to push ourselves," she says. "The teams at the CIs are great offensively and they hit higher and harder than anyone else. We're going to have to work for points and play



Jeff Weiler hopes to lead the men's volleyball to CI gold.  
Photo: Nick Pearce

great defensively."

Women's coach Kirk Yanofsky says a lack of out of conference competition hurts the Atlantic conference at the nationals, but he still likes his team's chances.

"Since we don't play that many out of conference matches, we end up with a low seeding at the CIs," he says. "We end up having to play either the number one or two seeds, which makes it harder to get past the first round."

Men's coach Dan Ota agrees with Yanofsky's assessment that the low seeding hindered the Tigers' success.

"The last four years we

haven't been able to get past the first round," says Ota. "We usually end up being seeded seventh or eighth and the low seeding makes it an uphill battle."

This year, a good regular season and the AUs have enabled Dal to get a better seeding.

"Our goal was to try to get seeded fourth or fifth," Ota says. "This year we're seeded fourth and playing the University of Manitoba. They beat us in October, but we're pretty confident right now. We have a great team and just have to perform the way we can."



Kiera Aitken  
Swimming

Kiera Aitken is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Aitken led the women's swimming Tigers to a ninth-place finish at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships this past weekend. She captured a silver medal in the 50-metre backstroke and took home bronze in the 100m backstroke. Narrowly missing a third podium finish, Aitken had to settle for fourth place in the 200m backstroke. She also finished third in the "B" final in the 50m freestyle. Aitken is a fourth-year computer science student from Devonshire, Bermuda.

## Athletes of the Week



Joshua Davidson  
Trak & Field

Joshua Davidson is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Davidson was the championship meet's top point-scorer and MVP at the 2005 Atlantic University Sport track and field championships held this past weekend. His points came from an individual win in the indoor pentathlon (3134 points) and a victory in the 4x200-metre relay. Davidson competed in several other events and had point-scoring performances in the 300m, the high jump, and the 4x400m relay, leading the men's Tigers to overall victory and the AUS banner. Davidson is a third-year kinesiology student from Halifax, N.S.

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