

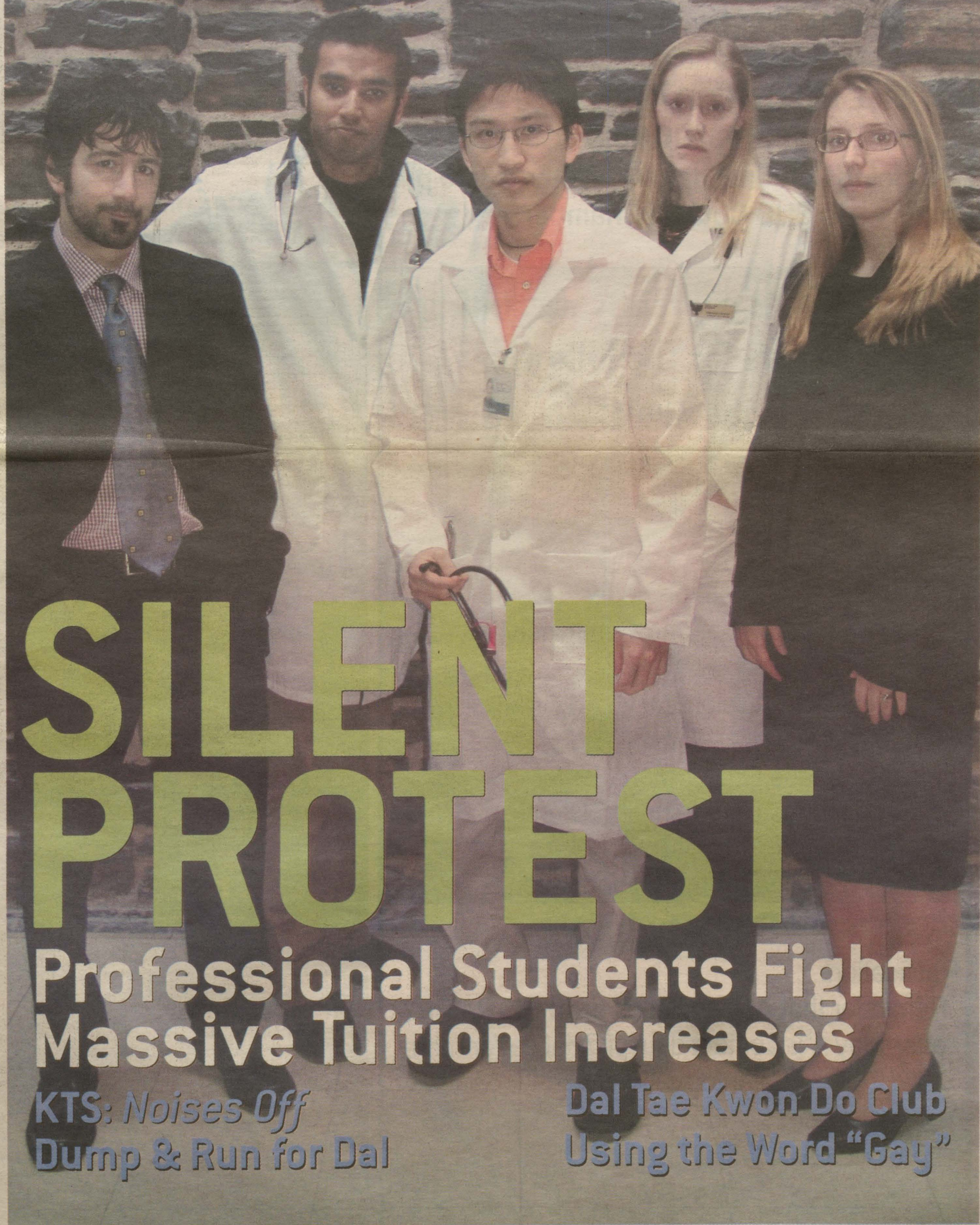
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Gazette

ISSUE 137-25 March 31th - April 7th 2005



SILENT PROTEST

Professional Students Fight
Massive Tuition Increases

KTS: Noises Off
Dump & Run for Dal

Dal Tae Kwon Do Club
Using the Word "Gay"

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



DSU Council Meeting

The upcoming DSU Council meetings will be:

Incoming – Monday, April 4th at 7:00pm in SUB Council Chambers

SEE BELOW FOR AVAILABLE DSU POSITIONS!!!

Outgoing - Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 pm in SUB Council Chambers

The DSU is currently recruiting students for the following positions:

Council:

Sexton Campus Director

Employment:

Communications Commissioner

Student Accessibility Fund Commissioner

Finance Commissioner

Education Commissioner

Student Life Commissioner

Sexton Campus Officer Manager

Sexton Campus Entertainment Director

*see www.dsu.ca for more information

Society Info

Ratification:

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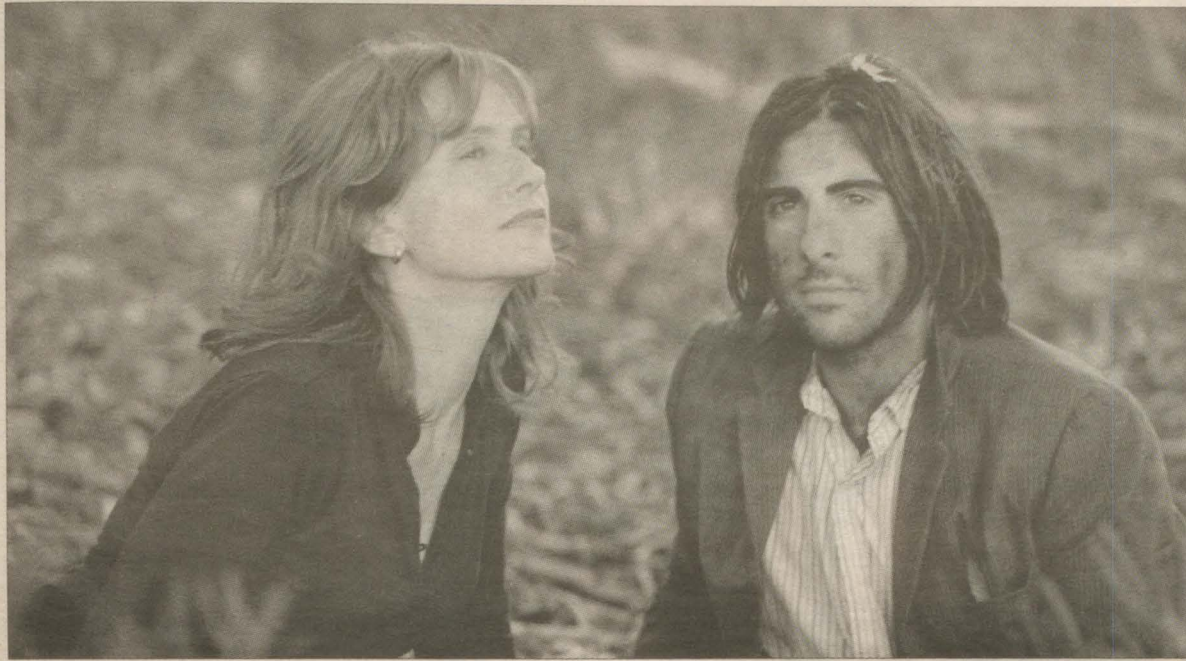
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"If this world is temporary and identity is an illusion, then everything is meaningless, and it doesn't matter what you do."

Editorial

Catherine Cooper
Editor-in-Chief

I recently found a list on the Internet called "Movies that Make you Feel Better about your Life." I imagine that everyone who watches movies can name at least one such film. I have a few. *Bridget Jones's Diary* makes me feel better about how much I suck at public speaking. *Absolutely Fabulous* makes me feel better about my lack of fashion sense. *Muriel's Wedding* makes me feel better about my career prospects.

Some movies make us feel better because they remind us of how lucky we are. Copy Editor Chris LaRoche says that the movie that makes him feel better about his life is *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, because "when you watch it it's like wow. Wow. Thank God I'm not in a gulag."

Other movies are comforting because they make our shortcomings seem like less of a big deal when compared to the exaggerated shortcomings of the people on the screen. Arts Editor Natalie Pendergast says that the movie that makes her feel better about her life is *Enter the Dollhouse*, because "in comparison to [the main character] I'm not such a nerd. She's like a complete dork."

I recently attended a class on screenwriting during which

the teacher, local writer Michael Melski, touched on the subject of comedy. He said that the plots of most comedies are actually tragic, but we laugh because the events are happening to someone else. When we see the things that seem so calamitous in our own lives happening to other people, we can laugh at ourselves and maybe, for just a second, remember to stop taking ourselves so seriously.

That's why, although it wasn't nominated for the Academy Award, I nominate *I Heart Huckabees* as the best movie to make you feel better about your life—especially at this time of year. If you give it a chance (even Roger Ebert agrees that you have to watch it at least twice to get your head around it), it is the ultimate feel-better-about-your-life movie, because it makes you laugh at something that doesn't seem quite so funny when it's happening to you—the existential crisis.

The main characters in the movie are preoccupied by a question that I'm sure every amateur philosopher has pondered at some point: do we live in an ordered universe where everything is connected and happens for a reason, or is life meaningless and chaotic and suffering inevitable? When things are going your way, you tend to think that the ordered universe theory is true, but when nothing is, the chaotic cesspool of suffering theory seems more realistic.

I'm sure that everyone read-

ing this editorial has both enjoyed successes and been disappointed by failures this year. These fluctuations in fortune can leave you feeling self-assured and confident one day and having an inner dialogue not unlike the one Albert has in the opening scene of *I Heart Huckabees* the next (excerpt: "What am I doing? I don't know what I'm doing. I'm doing the best that I can. I know that's all I can ask of myself. Is that good enough?... Maybe I should just quit. Don't quit. Maybe I should just @#\$\$ing quit. Don't @#\$\$ing quit!").

For university students, this type of crisis is especially likely to occur at this time of year. Right about now, you are likely to be studying for exams, panicking about finishing papers, trying to plan a move and get a summer job, and, most importantly, evaluating what you have accomplished this year and where your life is going.

Watching Albert embark on a long existential crisis and end up back where he started (but a little bit wiser) enables you to be more lighthearted about whatever you are currently catastrophizing. Along the way, you can laugh at other people's vanity, insecurity, loneliness, self-absorption, immaturity, social ineptitude, etc. As for the debate that the movie explores, the case is never closed—but spending some time in the weird and wonderful Huckabees world can help open your mind to the possibilities.

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Photo of professional degree students: Rafal Andronowski

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The *Gazette* is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312 in the Dal SUB. The *Gazette* reserves the right to edit all submissions and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in the *Gazette* are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of the *Gazette* staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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*Job Postings - March '05

 DALHOUSIE
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Can the Tuition Hikes Be Reversed?

Board of Governors postpones vote on controversial budget

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

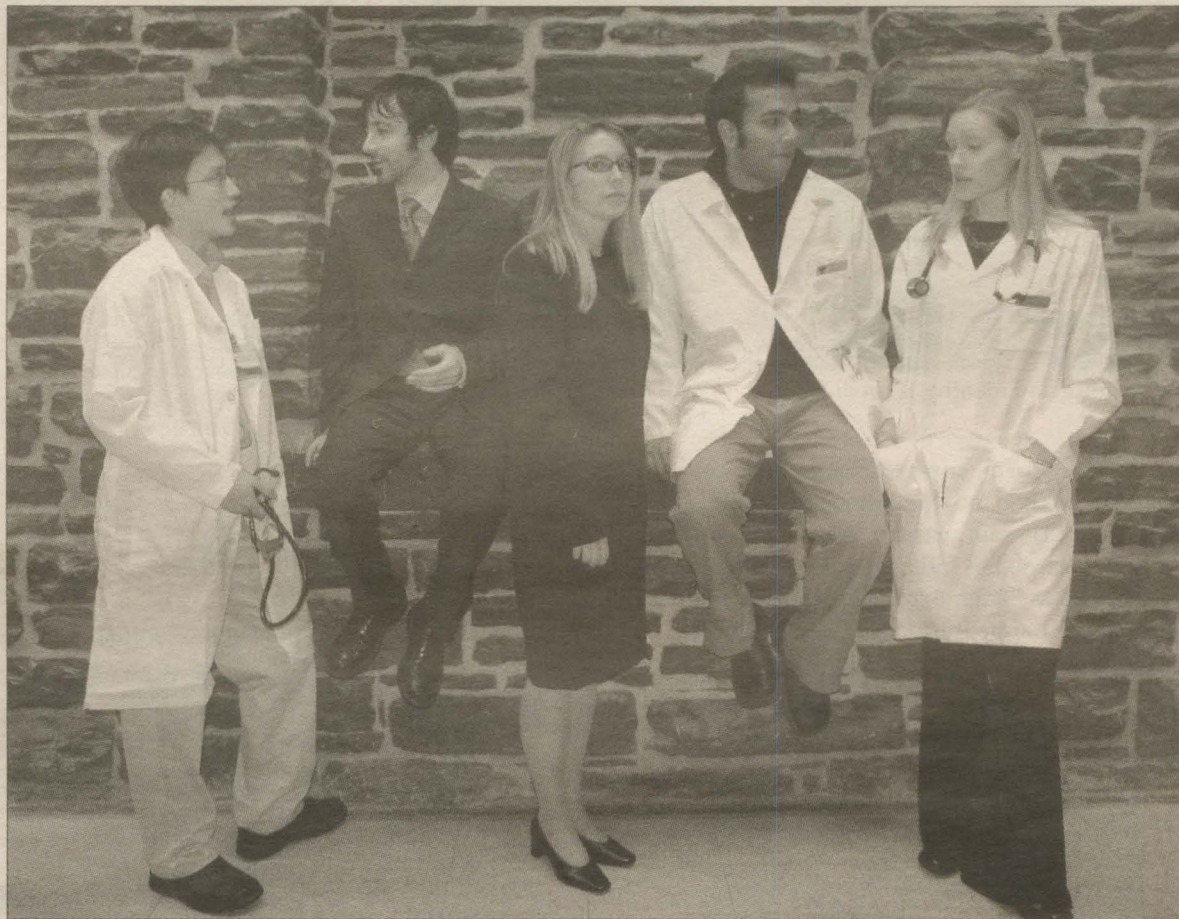
The days of Dalhousie's Board of Governors acting as a rubber stamp for the Budget Advisory Committee may be over. The practice of the board simply approving the BAC's budget as presented is no more: the scheduled March 22 vote on the 2005/2006 budget was postponed until April 19.

The postponement follows several weeks of extensive pressure put on the board by students, the DSU and the Dalhousie Senate regarding the proposed 9.28 per cent increase in tuition for law, medical and dentistry students, and the proposed 16.8 rise in international students' differential fees.

A silent protest was staged in the Henry Hicks academic building on the afternoon of the planned vote. Over 200 students from affected programs lined the hallways dressed in the traditional attire of their future professions, but without the usual placards, yells or chants.

"In my entire five years being involved with the student movement I've never witnessed something quite so powerful, and something that was so well played [as the protest]," says DSU president Curtis McGrath. "The board members spoke about it, [during the meeting] board members referred to the students in the hallway."

The protest was the final act of weeks of pressure encouraging the board to toss out the proposed tuition increase. Law, medical, dentistry and international students engaged in a phone and e-mail campaign leading up to the meeting. McGrath supplied the students with the contact information for the members of the board—and says that his inbox has been flooded in the past week with CC'd e-mails sent to board members. "That, combined with the presence of students outside the board meeting was an exceptional level of student engage-



Medical and law students Nicholas Wong, Amir Ghahreman, Mandy Woodland, Shubha De, Amanda Crosby (L-R) protest proposed increases to professional degree tuition fees. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

ment," he says. "I think ... they had a very strong impact on the decision to defer the vote."

But Dalhousie spokesperson Charles Crosby says that the protest had no effect on the decision to postpone the vote on tuition increases. He says the decision was based on extensive feedback from members of the board, the Senate and students, who want more information about the process used to determine the fees. "The decision had already been made," says Crosby. "The plan was that [university president] Dr. Traves was going to announce the proposed delay at ... the meeting."

McGrath says the decision was not made ahead of time, but instead at the beginning of the meeting. During a recent Senate meeting, a motion was passed which stipulated that the DSU and the Senate present concerns about the Budget Advisory Committee report to the Board

of Governors. Catherine Young, Manager of Special Projects in the Department of Communications and Marketing, says that the issues brought forward during the meeting led to the decision to postpone. Concern was expressed by the Senate and the DSU about deficiencies of information in the BAC report and the adverse affects of raising tuition. The DSU issued a written re-

sponse calling for tuition not to increase more than 3.9 per cent per year for affected programs and a reassessment of financial assistance packages and student representation on the Budget

Advisory Committee. Crosby maintains that the protest's impact was minimal. "I mean, we really appreciate the feedback from students, but in terms of what impact it has, the members of the board will make a decision in the best interests of the university and... the students," he says. "And it will come down to that, regardless of protests or not."

"If I had advice for students between now and the April 19 board meeting, it would be that they continue to contact members of the Board to share their stories and that they attend the board meeting on April 19."

- DSU president Curtis McGrath

sponse calling for tuition not to increase more than 3.9 per cent per year for affected programs and a reassessment of financial assistance packages and student representation on the Budget

According to the BAC report, Dalhousie aims to increase tuition revenues by \$3,021,000 in 2005/2006. With a 3.9 per cent increase cap on undergraduate and graduate tuition, the university

would have \$1,988,470, or 65.8 per cent, of the increased tuition revenue come from only 13.5 per cent of the student population: law, medical, dentistry and international students.

The methods used by the BAC to procure these figures are under fire: the 9.28 per cent rate was determined by adding the average rate of increase from the past five years with the maximum allowed in an agreement between the province and its universities (3.9 per cent). "That's a peculiar way to go about your business," says McGrath. "If the president doesn't put forward a budget that has other alternatives, we will continue to challenge the wisdom of thought surrounding the 9.28 per cent increase and the \$810 in differential fees for international students." The differential fee increase for international students of \$810 is also part of the plan to secure additional funds in light of increasing costs and revenue constraints that are on the university, he says.

"If I had advice for students between now and the April 19 board meeting, it would be that they continue to contact members of the board to share their stories and that they attend the board meeting on April 19," says McGrath. "[Students should] do what they can to have discussions on campus, to engage their classmates in a discussion about the proposed tuition increases."

Crosby will not speculate on fees being reduced and says the extension is not to allow time for a budget change, but to give board members time to review the information.

But if enough pressure is applied, says McGrath, he thinks the BAC might come back April 19 with a lower figure. History would show that students "don't have a hope in hell," he says— "But on this topic, I'm going to be optimistic."

Go to page 6 of this issue for a complete list of the BoG's email addresses. Students are encouraged to voice their concerns.

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Questionable Budget Numbers Revealed

Reid Southwick
Staff Contributor

Key calculations driving the Budget Advisory Committee's (BAC) recommendation to increase tuition fees for professional students could be way off base, say sources.

Dal's Board of Governors has postponed a vote on the contentious budget, which contains massive tuition increases for professional and international students—increases that are misleading, inaccurate or offensive, says Dal senator Richard Evans, co-chair of Dal law's Student Finance Committee.

If this increase and the 16.8 per cent rise in international differential fees go through, professional and international students will be forced to pay nearly 66 per cent of the roughly \$3-million overall tuition fee increase for the next school year—although they only make up about 13 per cent of the student body. The Board of Governors will vote again at its next meeting on April 19.

The March 22 vote was postponed when board members decided they needed to further examine the proposed increases, especially given the concerns of the Dal Senate, DSU, various faculties and students, said senate chair Mohamed El-Hawary.

"In general, the governors present at the meeting recognized that the BAC report was flawed," said Frank Durnford, a second-year law student who observed the board proceedings and also helped organize a silent protest on the day of the planned vote.

Senator Evans, whose written response to the proposed budget was summarized and given to all board members before the

meeting, said his main concern relates to the lack of proper evidence that the BAC is supposed to provide to support its tuition increase recommendations.

The most glaring example of this is the committee's application of the assessment criteria called "demand for the program," in which Dal's law, dentistry and medicine tuition fees for 2004/2005 were compared to those of 15 other universities in Canada. The BAC, however, excludes roughly \$2,500 in auxiliary and incidental fees from Dal's law tuition fees to give it a middle ranking, says Evans—but in real-

"Members of the law faculty are deeply disturbed and troubled that our sincere efforts to inform the process are being overlooked or ignored in a seemingly callous manner."

— Richard Evans,
co-chair of Dal law's Student
Finance Committee

ity, the total amount is the third highest in the country.

"My perspective is that students, faculty and staff in the law school community consider this to be the most offensive aspect [of the report]," Evans wrote in his response.

The BAC recommends an increase of \$110,000 in bursaries for all three professional programs, but the bursaries would only cover about 11 per cent of the overall fee increase. Evans estimated, for example, that law students would receive an extra bursary amount of \$249, nearly \$500 less than the amount by which their fees are projected to rise.

Evans said the BAC's assessments, particularly those relating to the earning potential of graduating law students, could have

been more informed had the committee members considered the contents of a Feb. 1 report by the law school Student Finance Committee (SFC).

Evans and Sherifa Elkadem, co-authors of the report, analyzed the average debt loads of those who applied for a needs-based bursary program run by SFC. They found that 71 graduating students, representing a little less than half of the entire class, will leave Dal this year with an average debt of \$51,500.

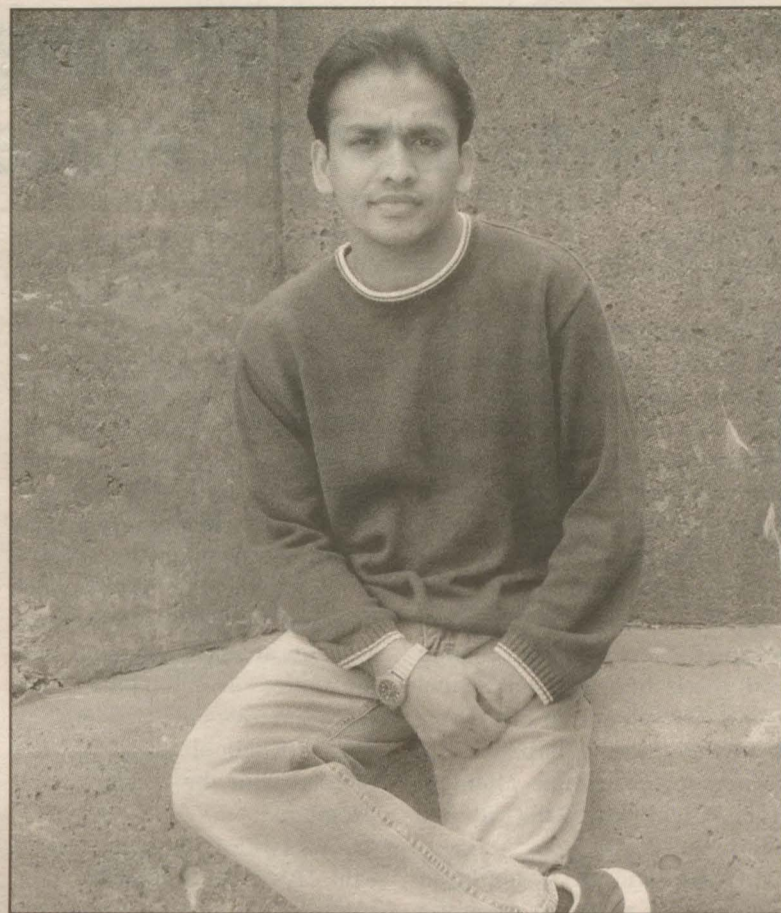
The two SFC members also compiled statistics from the law school's career development

office to determine the earning potential of these graduates. They found that in 2004, roughly 50 per cent stayed in the Atlantic Provinces—where articling salaries, in many cases, would not be enough to assist even long-term repayment of their loans.

But BAC did not cite these findings in its final report and, in fact, did not mention debt at all.

"Members of the law faculty are deeply disturbed and troubled that our sincere efforts to inform the process are being overlooked or ignored in a seemingly callous manner," Evans wrote.

"Certainly, from our perspective, no effort has been made to date in the BAC document to provide the decision making members of the Board of Governors with a fair picture."



Emram Mojumdar wants the government to take action against tuition increases. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Left Out: No shortage of immigration woes for Dal's international students

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

It seems that no one will give Dal's international students a break. In addition to the threat of huge tuition hikes next year, they have been virtually ignored by the provincial government's new immigration program—and they still can't work off campus.

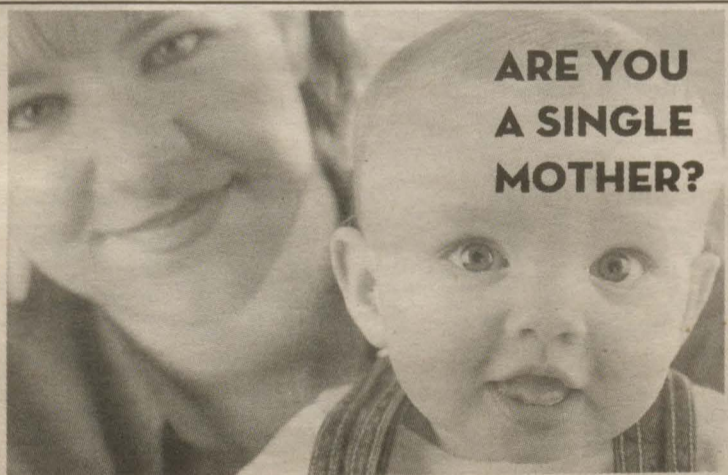
According to Melissa Ferguson, Dal's international student advisor, Nova Scotia's immigration strategy, presented in January, falls short of the mark when it comes to attracting and retaining international students.

Before the strategy was announced, Ferguson presented a survey of Dalhousie's interna-

tional student population at a planning meeting showing that over 80 per cent of international students would consider immigrating to Nova Scotia. "I was very confident, because it made sense to me that this would be looked at, and I was disappointed that the strategy didn't touch on it," says Ferguson. "I guess I'm just disappointed after all the meetings and research that they didn't put international students in the priority ... I wish they would explain it to me, because it just doesn't make sense."

"They [the government] are talking about attracting immigration," says Emram Mojumdar,

Continued on Page 7...



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Golden Key Tutoring Program Inspires Local Students

Laura Hynes
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society functions like most other student societies on campus, hosting charity events and pub nights. But what is less known about Golden Key is the work it has been doing in public schools in the HRM. In February, 2004, Golden Key implemented a comprehensive tutoring program with the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), and in just over a year, the tutoring initiative has garnered considerable attention from the university, the city and HRM media.

Created and run by Ian Joyce, the chapter's academic programs director, the tutoring initiative

consists of 80 Dalhousie students volunteering at 13 junior and senior high schools in and around Halifax.

"The tutoring initiative is absolutely unique," Joyce said. "While other chapters in Canada do offer tutoring and mentoring services, I am personally unaware of any initiative equal to ours in size or significance."

In junior high schools, the tutoring initiative works with students at risk of academic failure. Janice Silver, the junior high representative at the Halifax Regional School Board, is very pleased with the results of the program.

"Everyone wins in this," Silver said. "It's increasing confidence in the kids."

But Silver also mentioned

some obstacles the initiative has encountered and noted there are still barriers to overcome. A particular problem is the red tape each new tutor encounters. In

"Students have been exposed—many for the first time—to the possibility of higher education above and beyond the high school level."

— Ian Joyce, Dal's Golden Key academic programs director

order to work in the school system, university students must undergo a criminal background check and fill out substantial paperwork. Once that is completed, students must contact the schools and figure out transportation.

Although Silver said that some tutors have been frustrated with the administrative requirements, she is still enthusiastic about exposing students in junior and high school to university students.

"I think we're very fortunate to have this kind of relationship with a local university," Silver

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Continued on Page 8...

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Dal students will be riding high on Metro Transit next year. Photo: Quentin Casey

On Dal's Campus

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor
Jennifer Morrison
News Editor

U-Pass Vote Unanimous

Dal students will be riding high next year after the university's Board of Governors voted unanimously on March 22 to approve the controversial U-Pass.

According to a recent story in the *Gazette*, the likely start date for the U-Pass would be January 2006, not September 2005 as originally planned. The delay will supposedly let Metro Transit beef up its bus service to accommodate the extra riders. But the new passengers won't be getting a free ride—they'll have to pay a fee of \$115 per year, to be included in tuition. -JM

PM Appoints Dal Governor to Senate

Jim Cowan, the Chair of Dalhousie's Board of Governors, has been appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Paul Martin. 63-year-old Cowan, a Halifax-born lawyer, has been a Liberal party member for over 40 years. He was president of the provincial Liberals from 1984-85 and ran unsuccessfully for the party's leadership in 1986. Cowan has sat as chair of Dalhousie's Board of Governors, the highest decision-making body at the university, since 2000. Cowan also ran Paul Martin's leadership campaigns in N.S. in 1990 and in 2004.

Cowan isn't the only senior Dal administrator to be appointed by Martin to a federal post recently: Last spring, Martin chose

Dalhousie's VP external Dale Godsoe as a member of the federal government's advisory committee on cities and communities. Godsoe is also a longtime Liberal—she was a campaign worker and supporter in Nova Scotia for Martin's failed 1990 leadership bid. -NC

DSU Cashes In

The Dalhousie Student Union collapsed a \$634,000 investment account with TE Investments last week in order to save the union money in the long-term.

The money, invested last year as \$600,000 from accumulated surpluses and other funds, will be used to make a balloon payment on a loan the DSU owes to the university. The DSU's VP of finance and operations, Jonathan Wilson, says the DSU will save about \$300,000 in interest payments thanks to this cash-in. The \$3 million loan was taken out several years ago to pay for the SUB's renovations, including the creation of the new Greenwood, and was scheduled to be paid back by 2013. The balloon payment shortens that period to 2011, at which time the DSU will have the option of eliminating or continuing the \$25 per year renovation fee it currently charges full-time students. The DSU also has an investment fund portfolio with BMO/Nesbitt Burns, which has made roughly \$138,000 since its inception in 1998. Wilson says the money is available in case of an emergency, and makes more sense being in an investment fund than simply lying around on-hand. -NC

International student woes, continued

Continued from Page 5...

president of the Dalhousie International Students' Association. "Is this the way they're going to do it? They have a long way to go."

Ferguson and Mojumdar had hoped that changes would be made to allow more flexible work permits for international students, during their studies and after graduation.

Currently, international students are only allowed to work on campus. Following graduation, they have three months to find a job offer within their area of study to receive a two-year work permit. New Brunswick and

says Mills. "We haven't left it at a no, we are pursuing it."

Mills can't say how long it will take to get further decisions on the issue of work permits. "We have to negotiate with the federal government, and that can be a lengthy process," she says.

Being restricted to working on campus during studies has a negative impact on finding employment in Canada after graduation, says Mojumdar. Three months isn't a long time to find a job and it's made more difficult because international students can't get related work experience during their studies to put on their resumes. "I'm doing engineering," he says. "What

son. "And on the flip side, Nova Scotia is saying that we don't have enough people here from other countries."

The Office of Immigration will continue its work to grant international students permission to get off-campus jobs. The office is also pursuing a provincial nomination program, in which applications from international students would be fast-tracked, Mills says. Immigration Canada currently receives 800,000 applications each year, but accepts only 252,000, creating a huge backlog. Mills says fast-tracking the applications would help.

But Mojumdar says these plans are not enough. International student differential fees are set to increase by 9.28 per cent next year and he says this will cause internationals to look elsewhere for their education. He also says it is the province's responsibility, not the university's, to attract and retain students and immigrants.

"The province should move their ass. [Instead of] just talking and talking and talking, [they should] just do and do and do." He's been hearing about the off-campus work permit since 2002, he says. "I feel like the Nova Scotia government makes so many [empty] commitments and promises."

Mills says that the province should value international students, and vice versa. "We really need international people to want to be here, because that's the future of our province."

"When you meet the people, when you meet the students who are graduating, and you see what they could bring to Nova Scotia ... It just angers me. And on the flip side, Nova Scotia is saying that we don't have enough people here from other countries."

—Melissa Ferguson,
Dal's international student advisor

Manitoba have pilot programs whereby international students are allowed to work off campus during their schooling, and there was hope Nova Scotia could have a similar program.

Elizabeth Mills, executive director of Nova Scotia's Office of Immigration, says the province requested an off-campus work program but was turned down by the federal government. "We've been told no because they're having some processing issues,"

job is there on campus that I can do, and say, 'Look, I have experience?' Nothing."

Mojumdar will graduate this May. After studying in Canada for the past five years, he has until the end of August to get a job offer or he'll have to leave the country.

"When you meet the people, when you meet the students who are graduating, and you see what they could bring to Nova Scotia ... It just angers me," says Fergu-

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Dump and Run for a Good Cause

Hazel Walling
Staff Contributor

What do Cornell, Brown and Dalhousie Universities all have in common? Besides their excellent reputations, they are among an increasing number of schools taking part in a waste diversion program called Dump and Run.

Each April brings about the exodus of students from university residences and local apartments, so Dump and Run, started in 1999 by Syracuse University student Lisa Heller and organized at Dal by the Society for Corporate and Environmental Social Responsibility, takes care of all the junk they can't haul back home. Anything goes, CESR member Tamara Lorincz explains, from mirrors and lamps to couches, tables and chairs.

"[Students] just think 'What the heck am I going to do with it?' ... Something needs to be done about their waste, and we're doing something about it."

Instead of having university students' cherished knickknacks choke our landfills, CESR amasses and resells items donated from the residences and com-

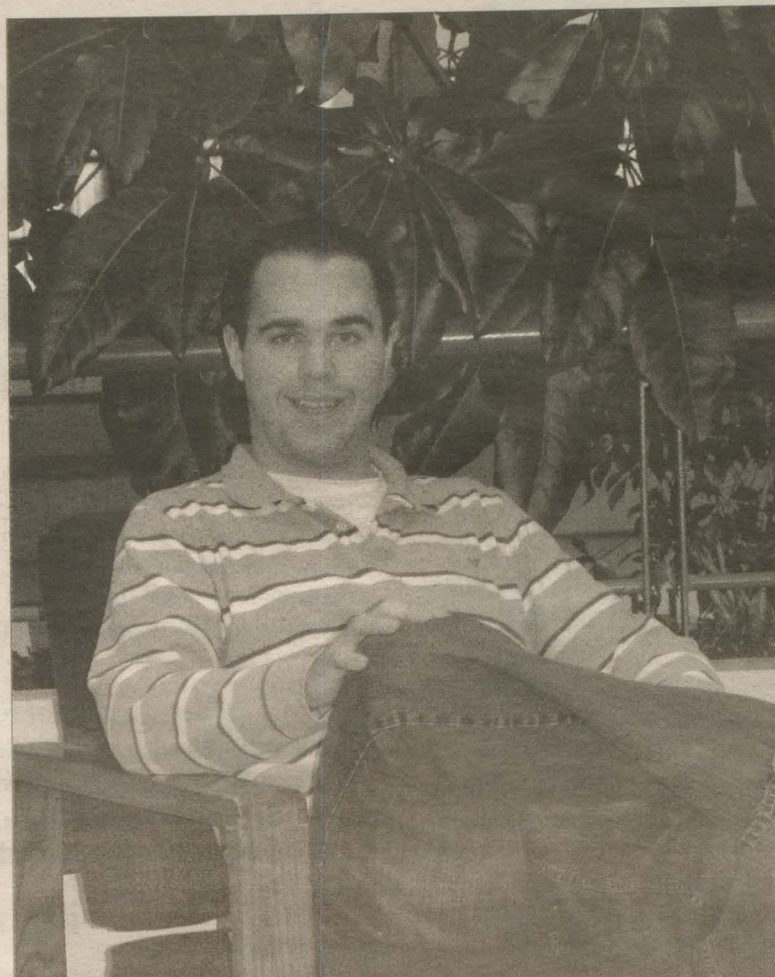
munity in a huge garage sale and environmental fair, featuring displays and fair trade coffee. This year, the event will be held Dal's Studley gymnasium on Saturday, April 30, beginning at 8 a.m. Michael Stricker, one of the event's main coordinators, is even hoping to get some live musicians to perform this year. "It's to hopefully get the feel of ... the Saturday morning market," he says.

This year will mark Dalhousie's third Dump and Run. Last year, the event made over \$4,000, donated to about 20 different organizations including the Ecology Action Center, Food Not Bombs, Community Gardens initiatives and the Halifax Peace Coalition.

"I can tell you that the Halifax Peace Coalition was so thrilled to get money," says Lorincz, who is also involved with that organization. The Dump and Run contribution helped the group bring Jeremy Henson, an American war resister, to speak in Nova Scotia.

To have someone transport your donation to Studley gym for you, call 489-2524. And remember, if you want to snatch something that someone else abandoned: the early bird catches the worm.

Golden Key tutors to hit Breakfast Television



Ian Joyce, the creator and administrator of Golden Key's tutoring program.
Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Continued from Page 6...

said. "It is a really wonderful opportunity for students in our system to have the benefit of some

very motivated and enthusiastic folks academically."

Joyce agrees. "Students have been exposed—many for the first time—to the possibility of higher

education above and beyond the high school level."

In the high school program, tutors work with students who are under-challenged by their current curriculum. Tutors provide "enrichment" work, some of which has even replaced regular school projects.

"Students at the high school level have been afforded the opportunity to participate in a variety of advanced research projects, ranging from the arts to engineering roller coasters," Joyce explained.

Their parents are enthusiastic too—Silver noted that some parents have been driving their kids into Dal from Eastern Shore regularly on the weekends to participate in mentoring and tutoring services.

The tutoring initiative has received considerable attention from Golden Key headquarters and the local media. Golden Key will appear on Breakfast Television on April 23 and will be featured in an upcoming article in *The Chronicle Herald*.

"It has been very rewarding," said Michelle Cameirao, the chapter's public relations director. "Enhancing the education and self-esteem of young students makes me feel like we are truly making a difference."

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Vent (Chris LaRoche)

DEAR: MARITIME WEATHER

I hate spring in the Maritimes. But not because it's slow in the coming, or takes too long to leave—nope, I hate spring here because, frankly, it doesn't exist. It's in *absentia*, permanently, and it doesn't seem to care about participation points.

Everywhere else in this country, Canadians have the meteorological

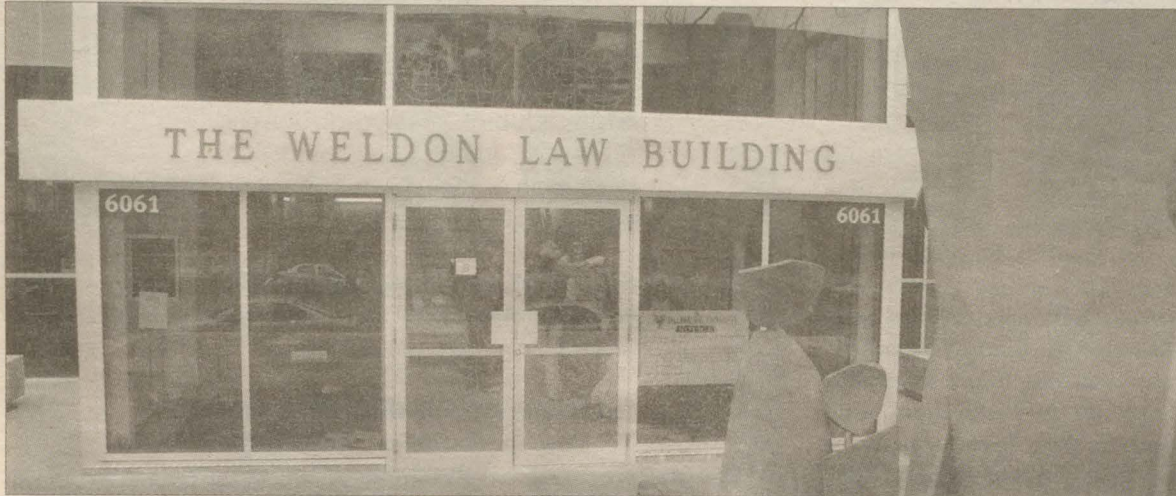
opportunity to wake up to nose-sniffing, sinus-swelling, eye-scratching flowery goodness. You know, "that Spring feeling!"

Spikes in Kleenex sales aside, however, spring's absence around here is downright unconstitutional. Winter seems to be the boss in N.S.—storming in, doing what it wants and then rolling over the next two

seasons, right through to August.

Enough is enough. I propose a *constitutional* amendment that requires the Weather Board of Canada grant the Maritime Provinces a yearly spring season with flowers and sunshine—none of this mud, brown grass and sleet business. Our right to sinus-pressure inducing seasonal

changes in air-pollen counts (it's somewhere in section 2 of the *Bill of Rights*, I'm sure of it) shouldn't be any different than the rights of other Canadians. So, with plenty of pollen spores and a strong sense of justice in hand, I'm going to the Supreme Court of Canada. You're welcome to join me, of course... just remember your Dristan.



As law school tuition increases, the diversity of our classrooms diminishes. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Law and Disorder

Tuition hikes for Dal law threatens its celebrated diversity

Frank Durnford
Tom Booth
Opinions Contributors

The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Office of the President are recommending a 9.28 per cent tuition increase for dentistry, law and medicine. The proposed hike is not only for the 2005/2006 academic year, but it is also forecasted for two additional years. For law students and the law school community, the passing of these proposals by the Dalhousie Board of Governors threatens much of what we value most about the Dalhousie Law School.

Law school is already an expensive enterprise: many students require lines of credit from private institutions, in addition to provincial and federal student loans. Yet the banks are not always forthcoming with their money. Law students receive only the minimum funding from private banks, and previous student loans are counted against lines of credit because the banks recognize that law students generally do not have a high earning potential upon graduation. After

graduating, the highest paid articling clerk in Atlantic Canada makes no more than \$40,000 a year—most of our graduates in Atlantic Canada make far less.

The law school community fears what these changes in tuition, if accepted, will mean for the law school. Dal law has a long-standing tradition of public service. While at Dal, law students are encouraged to explore and pursue alternative legal careers. We have a celebrated legal aid clinic, the largest pro bono program in Canada, and the best marine and environmental law program in Canada. Dal also has a well-established business law program and some students will graduate to become corporate lawyers. The beauty of Dal law is that, as a community, it fosters diversity. The proposed tuition hikes will impede the continued realisation of that mandate.

As law school tuition increases, the diversity of our classrooms diminishes. The Board of Governors must question what type of legal community they wish to produce and realize that they hold the key to the classroom. As the governing body of a public

institution, the board shares the responsibility of insuring accessibility for students. Racial and cultural minorities, students with families and students from generally low economic communities will be less able to attend law school and will be further marginalized by higher tuition. Higher tuition not only limits the accessibility of a legal education, but it limits the available choices for graduating students. Those who are able to meet the demands of higher tuition will be forced into careers where they can pay off debt, not into careers in which they are passionate about.

In the end, the decision will rest with the Board of Governors. If the board approves the 9.28 per cent tuition increase, they will make Dal law the third most expensive law school in the country, behind only the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall (also in Toronto). One hopes they will reject the tuition increase in order to preserve the diversity of the Dalhousie Law School class and the ability of our graduates to pursue careers in Atlantic Canada.

Letters

letters@dalgazette.ca

Tuition Toothache

My name is Colette Smith. I am the president of the Dalhousie Dental Students' Society at the Faculty of Dentistry. Our society serves all four years of students in the dentistry program at Dal, and we are very concerned about the proposed increases in tuition for our faculty, as well as for the medicine and law programs.

Our program has the highest fees of any professional program at Dal. The cost for the first year alone is now up to \$18,595. This fee includes tuition, plus all of our auxiliary and instrument costs. Because we require a large amount of instruments we understand that our fees will be high, however, it is becoming

Why should our program be subject to these large tuition increases when the students in our faculty never see any of the benefits?

very difficult to get access to the kind of money that is necessary to attend the program while paying for the cost of living. The fees are already approaching the point where prospective students may not be able to enter into our field. Obviously, an increase of 9.28 per cent next year would make the situation even worse.

The frustration surrounding the cost of dental school is compounded by the fact that our program receives absolutely no funds from upper campus for new instruments or clinic upgrades. The dental faculty relies solely on the generosity of our alumni for this. New technology is needed in the health profes-

sions not only to keep our students current, but more importantly, to ensure that our patients receive the highest standards of care. Why should our program be subject to these large tuition increases when the students in our faculty never see any of the benefits? Why would we stay after graduation to help out the underserved areas of Nova Scotia when we could pay off our incredible loans faster elsewhere?

Many people are misled into thinking that a dentist will make enough money in the first few years to pay off our debts from school. The reality is that dentistry is not only a health profession, but also a business. The cost to start up or buy into a dental practice, depending on location among many other factors, is anywhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000. This does not take into account that as a beginner, the practice will run slower.

Many of our students attended the silent protest last week to show support and speak out against the proposed hike in tuition. There was a solemn atmosphere as the members of the Board of Governors walked in, which I feel was a great way to get our point across. For the sake of our medicine, dentistry and law programs, I hope we made an impact.

Colette Smith

A Problematic Prescription

Ninety per cent of Dalhousie's med students come from the relatively poor Maritime provinces, yet by 2007 the school plans to have one of the highest tuitions in Canada. The BAC, who every

Continued on Next Page...

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Letters@dalgazette.ca, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

year proposes tuition fees to the Board of Governors, has set this year's increase at 9.28 per cent for med and other professional students. For med students this will mean a jump in tuition of \$1,088 to a \$12,806 total. Student concern prompted a silent protest at the Board meeting on March 22. Though the Board has now put off their decision on the BAC proposal until their next meeting, student concern about the issue is not waning.

The BAC proposed several reasons to justify the increase. The first, ability to pay, was the least problematic. Even though the maximum obtainable student loan available to med students in N.S. barely covers base tuition, it is true that med students can usually find a way to pay. Banks are happy to extend credit to med students. The fact that students need to pay large amounts of life and disability insurance and interest to maintain this credit is not considered by the BAC as problematic. What should be considered problematic is that financial institutions are very concerned about the sustainability of such a system as med student debt burdens expand. If banks are becoming concerned about the sustainability of their practices it makes sense

that Dal pause to do the same.

The second justification for the proposed increased addressed the cost of a med school education. While it is true that the average cost to educate a med student is higher than some other undergraduate programs, it is important to consider the benefits to undergrad programs for which the med school pays. Many top researchers chose Dal because of the med school. The fact that these names are used to attract students is not mentioned. Nor is the fact that med students already pay double what an undergrad tuition costs.

The final, and most dubious, reason that the BAC gave for increasing med tuition centered on demand for the program. Because many people want to become doctors, the BAC reasoned, we can charge as much as we want. The fact that the BAC displays such an attitude towards med education should worry every Canadian. Studies have demonstrated that as med tuition increases, accessibility decreases. Despite that students are able to access credit once in med school, the relationship between increasing tuition and decreasing representation from lower socioeconomic groups is well founded. Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to come from under-

serviced areas and are proven to be more likely to return to those areas. Assuring that people from these areas have access to med education is not only a moral imperative but also a logistical one because limited accessibility will in turn limit service.

Public concern should not be limited to accessibility issues, but should also focus on service. Students faced with increased debt-loads are inevitably attracted to areas that can offer debt relief. These bonuses are often financed by the communities themselves, and some areas often go under-serviced if they can't raise enough funds. The health-care available to a community should not be based upon availability to pay. It is our fear that increasing tuition fees will exacerbate this existing problem.

Training med students should be a high priority for a country that views universal healthcare as one of its most sacred values. Governments and universities have an important role to play in making sure this process takes place. We have seen the cooperation possible with the recent Memorandum of Understanding to limit undergraduate tuition increases. All we ask is that you don't use us to pay for it. All we want is 3.9 per cent.

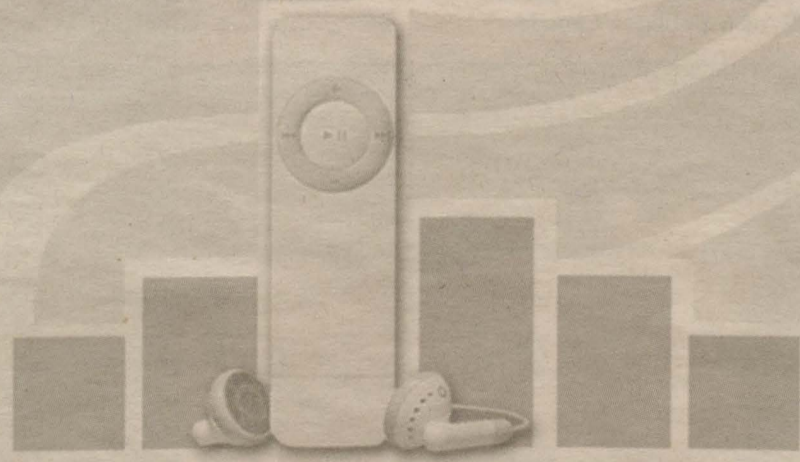
Ashley McCormick

LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	TOP 8	WEEKS ON CHART
7	1	PLEASE SMOKERS, IF YOU DO NOT PLEASE STOP SMOKING ON CAMPUS Dal will politely ask you to "please stop smoking" again... please.	2
9	2	PUNNING OFF THE WORD "POWER" FOR OUR "ADRIENNE POWER" COVER STORY HEADLINE Our next best choice was "Adrienne-nough Gold Medals For Ya?!"	7
2	3	A DALHOUSIE STAGE VERSION OF "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" It is a truth universally acknowledged that a King's student in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a Toronto girl.	14
1	4	HOW MANY DSU PRESIDENTS DOES IT TAKE TO EAT A BANANA? Only one, but he has to appeal it first.^	3
16	5	THE SHEER ANTICIPATION FOR "SIN CITY" Not since the day before "Miss Congeniality 2" opened have I shook this violently.	2
12	6	COMPLETELY BOMBING YOUR TERM PAPER Then trying to explain to your Prof that it was all an elaborate "April Fools" joke and that you'll have the real essay in soon.	6
7	7	MICHAEL JACKSON STILL DOMINATING THE HEADLINES Is it me, and R. Kelly and Jacko just playing a messed-up game of chicken?	18
5	8	A PROFESSOR STRIKE WOULD REALLY HIT THE SPOT RIGHT ABOUT NOW Too bad we used them all up, and damn, we spent all our allotted "natural disasters" too.	23

Legend: ^ = Biggest Gainer, * = Hot Shot Newcomer

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Streeter

What's a lesson that you've learned this year?



To e-mail yourself your essay if your working on the library computers, because the G: drive and A: drive will f#@k you over.
- Sarah Rudd, third-year history



When you do the beer "Faxe" you have to "face the facts" later. I face the facts every Sunday morning.
- Brie Smith, third-year political science



When in doubt, go with the cowboy hat.
- J. P. Angelopoulos, third-year kinesiology



I've learned that menstruation attracts bears.
- Jeremiah Bell, third-year kinesiology



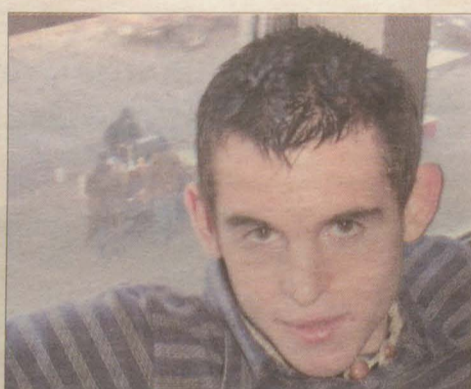
To buy a travel mug, because using all those paper cups is wasteful. Plus it keeps your coffee hotter!
- Sarahjane Macdonald, third-year women's studies and IDS



Group projects always lead to fun adventures (i.e.: new best friends!).
- Mary Katherine Charters, third-year women's studies and IDS



To take classes from teachers whom you *really* admire.
- Krysten MacMullin, fourth-year political science



That chicks love a cocky Frenchman with a tucked-in shirt.
- Chris LaRoche, third-year kissing-booth phenomenon

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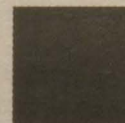
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Gay or gay? You be the judge.

The Word "Gay" (and how to use it)

Jimmy Kapches
Staff Contributor

In my capacity as a native speaker of the English language, I would like to clear up a misconception. There is a wholly wrong way and a wholly right way to use the word "gay." The correct meaning of "gay" is "merry" or "homosexual." The wrong way to use the word "gay" is when someone uses it to describe something as "bad." "Gay" when used as a pejorative adjective is wrong. It has never been acceptable to use any such word for the sake of disparaging something. We are too educated to fall back on derogatory terms in colloquial speech, no matter what the social occasion.

When the word "gay" is used in the pejorative, people regularly fail to realize that they are disparaging gays and lesbians. Some of the most upstanding and kind-hearted English speakers have been known to let slip the wrong word, and it does not make them bad people. It is unfortunate that their speech fails to identify them as the intelligent and compassionate human beings that they are, and only they can remedy that.

Christopher Dreher, in his March 26 *Globe and Mail* article, discusses Richard Florida and his work regarding what he calls "the creative class." The health

of the creative economy of a city, Dreher reports, is signalled by "concentrations of gay people and rock bands," meaning that cultured cities have more of both groups. This implies that tolerant, cultured and educated cities are economically sounder.

Being university students, education is something we take great pride in. We're paying big bucks to become the artists, academics and professionals that

When the word "gay" is used in the pejorative, people regularly fail to realize that they are disparaging gays and lesbians.

make up a tolerant, creative society. Words that are hollow and hurtful, such as the false form of "gay," are not proper emblems of this enlightened and exciting creative class. It is disappointing to think that educated and pro-gay people would still allow themselves to use a word that embodies all the hate that homosexuals have been fighting for years.

I would argue against anyone who would accuse someone who uses "gay" incorrectly and off-handedly, as being a homophobe

outright. Honestly, people just need to be reminded that this word hurts before they never let it touch their lips again. It is part and parcel of the hatred that intelligent people are trying to fight to simply level accusations at someone of being ignorant and wrong. Rather, everyone needs a chance to change and a chance to make good on past mistakes.

Any linguist will tell you that English is one of the most verbose languages on the planet, so why back away from the vocabulary that is the language's gift? In McCrum, Cran and MacNeils' *The Story of English*, they estimate the number of words in the *Oxford English Dictionary* at 500,000. With so many words in the English language, there's no excuse for using derogatory terms for any reason.

Wrong usage of the word "gay" has little to do with society—but everything to do with the individual. If the thought of using "gay" in a pejorative sense doesn't bother you, but you would not dare use it within earshot of someone who self-identifies as gay or lesbian, you may have to re-evaluate your linguistic and ethical priorities. Perhaps the time has come to retire the word "gay" in its false and bastardized form, because the chances you will hurt someone inadvertently will only grow greater as you become more educated and more cultured. Remember the maxim of that mysterious Greek, who I think may be Aristotle: "those words which pass the barriers of your teeth can never be retracted."

Nice Move!



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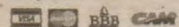


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ROOTS OF RACINE

This Thursday, March 31, to Saturday, April 2, the King's Theatrical Society will perform an original translation of Jean Racine's *Phedre*, translated from French by King's students Matt Hunt Gardner and Heather Keachie. All shows begin at 8 p.m. at the Pit Theatre, King's College. Admission is \$7, \$5 for students.

APRIL'S FOOL

Experience a meeting of the musical minds with two of Halifax's finest—with multiple instruments in tow. Chris Mitchell (saxophone) and Jamie Gatti (bass) play the Music Room (6181 Lady Hammond Rd.) this Friday, April 1, at 8 p.m. Admission \$18; to reserve a seat, call JazzEast at 492-2225.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Boobyjuice plays the Attic this Friday, April 1. The band's name promises a lot of fun, but only those who attend the show will know for sure. The booty action starts at 11 p.m.

SCOTTISH AMBITION

Bagpipes are in season for the Tannahill Weavers, who are set to play Halifax on Friday, April 8. These internationally renowned, traditional performers will play one night only in the Kenneth C. Rowe Hall at Pier 21. Tickets are on sale at the Cohn Box office and the Halifax Folklore Centre.

Hot Spots



Jonathan Andrews (L). / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

A Halifax Rock Affair

Jonathan Andrews on local unity

Bridgette Sullivan
 Staff Contributor

Halifax Indie Rock is an album that has materialized only after two years of hard work and some manipulation of busy artists' schedules. Not only is it St. John's-born Jonathan Andrews' first solo album, but it's also a showcase of the musical talent Halifax has to offer: the 14-track album features 24 of Andrews' favorite local musicians.

When thinking about who might assist him in creating his vision of *Halifax Indie Rock*, Andrews focused on the "needs of the songs" and whose influences would enhance them. "When I was approaching these songs and thinking of all the different sounds we could do," says Andrews, "I immediately thought of these people." Those people are the 24 musicians that collaborated with Andrews on the album's tracks. Joel Plaskett (guitar, bass and drums), Matt Murphy (gui-

tar) and Tyler Messick (vocals) are just a few of the local names who have contributed.

Andrews claims that the diversity on the CD—which features tracks varying in length from just under a minute to six-minutes—fits the needs of his songs. Some of the cuts are "short messages,"

“When I was approaching these songs and thinking of all the different sounds we could do, I immediately thought of these people.”

which Andrews feels are able to communicate meaning within a smaller time frame. Others, which often have a "daydream" feel to them, take longer to work themselves out.

The album's title, Andrews admits, is a bit "cheeky" in the way that it attempts to both encapsulate his endeavours and poke

fun at the ways in which music is often labeled. Andrews claims to never "naturally [refer] to [his] music as indie rock," but if pressured into defining his sound as part of one particular genre or another, he settles on "generally rock and roll"—with folk and funk influences.

Halifax Indie Rock is perhaps a testament to the camaraderie that exists among the musicians of Halifax, a community Andrews believes is very "transient" in the way artists constantly come and go. Although there is limited space for shows and competition for airtime, Andrews says that Halifax's artists "generally support one another" and notes that at a great deal of shows, much of the audience is made up of other musicians. Andrews' album is not only a display of solidarity, but is in many ways a tribute to the music community that Andrews calls home.

Jonathan Andrews plays Stage Nine on Saturday, April 2, for Halifax Indie Rock's CD release party. Andrews will be backed by The Middleclass Pushovers, and any other of the album's contributors that can make an appearance. The show starts at 9:30 p.m.



Sheila Heti makes her own rules.

Author Puts the Reader Back in Writing

Lindsay Dobbin
 Assistant Arts Editor

Awoman looks out her apartment window at a tree, speaking in a small yet exact voice through the other end of the telephone. "I think art should be like nature. It should have the same qualities as nature," she says. "When you look at a tree, it doesn't explain itself—it doesn't tell you why it's there, it doesn't tell you what it means, it simply exists. I think great art is also that way."

This is the voice of author Sheila Heti. It's a voice that sculpts the ordinary into clever, fairytale-like stories with no beginning and no end, such as her short story collection, *The Middle Stories*. It's also a voice that reso-

nates within the isolated mind of an awkward man, crippled by other people in her second and most recent work, *Ticknor*.

Above all, Heti's voice embodies a mysterious air. Not in the narrative sense, but in regards to feeling—far removed from linear storytelling. "I have always felt that it's important to express a very specific emotional state or to create a very specific feeling," Heti says. "I have never been interested in narrative for the sake of narrative."

Heti forms her own rules for each piece when she approaches writing. With *The Middle Stories*, Heti says she would often move away from the classically interesting parts of a story, such as

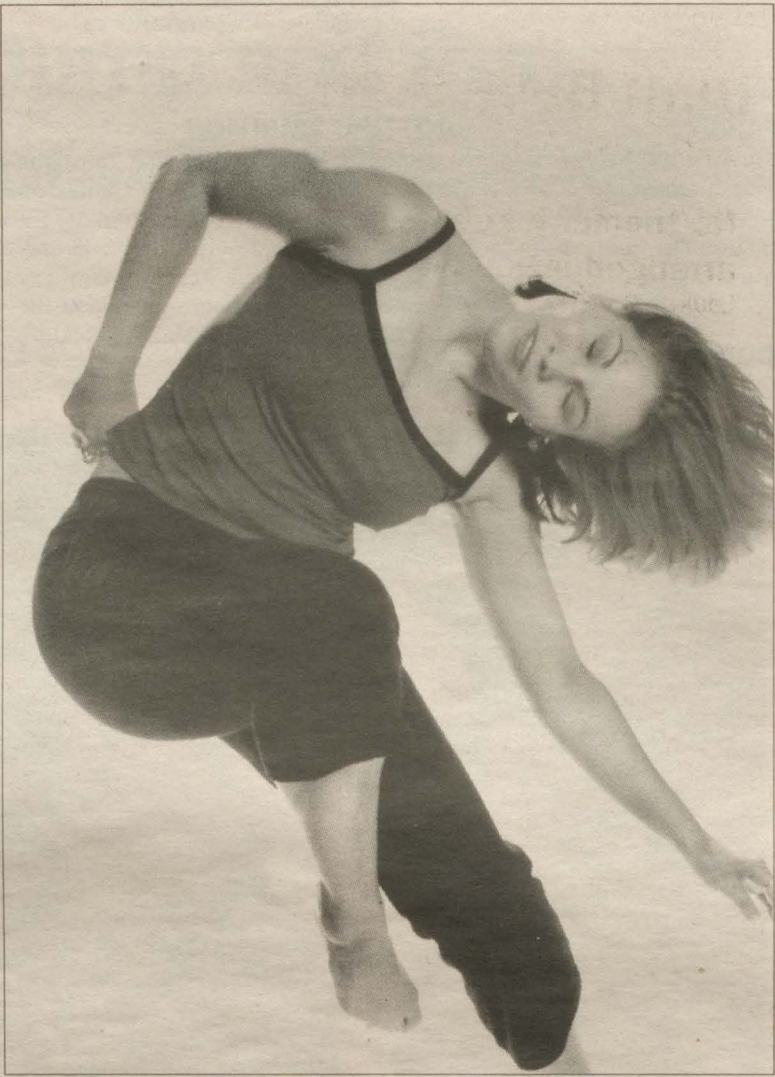
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Kelly Horne jumps to new heights in her production of "Fire Up," last Friday, March 19. / Photo: Kate Hayter-Ried

Kinetics Studio

Workshop performance brings interesting perspective to dance

Anneke Foster
Staff Contributor

There is an interactive element to appreciating contemporary dance; the audience's distinct curiosity for exploring certain themes while predicting their meanings comes to mind. This interaction is what choreographers like Susan Lee thrive on, made all the more evident in the her evocative works, displayed this March 19 at Grafton Street's Kinetics Studio. These pieces are not constructed purely to entertain, but also to enliven and challenge the dancers as well as the audience.

The performance was a combination of efforts of three choreographers: Susan Lee, Veronique Mackenzie and Kelly Horne, each experimenting with differing

approaches to modern dance. Mackenzie's pieces demonstrated a keen sense of style and a knack for artistic social commentary. Her truly unique work was

“Moment-born movement is such a charge, a bit of a high—it is so exciting.”

- Veronique Mackenzie

displayed with "Cell Phones," in which two dancers speak with people on hand-held cell phones while dancing to conversation-evoked inspirations. The audi-

ence laughed—and participated thoroughly in the artistry.

Contrasted by Mackenzie's somewhat dark approach to certain thematic elements, choreographer Kelly Horne's work struck a lighter mood. Horne demonstrated her taste for numerous dance forms by incorporating elements of ballet, jazz and even cheerleading in her show. Bright colors with sometimes-eccentric flare accented Horne's contemporary style. The upbeat three pieces, "Anything Goes," "Fire Up" and "3 Channels," were all well received.

Susan Lee's improvisational piece, based on a seven-hour workshop held the day before, went unnamed and costumes were simply the dancers' practice apparel. The musical selection was Mark Duggan's "Evocation," very fitting with its ambient tones. The workshop the previous evening had the same mood: sometimes silent, sometimes highly emotional. Susan Lee crafted each dancer's natural talent into a sometimes supportive, sometimes lead role for her performance.

In an interview preceding the workshop, Lee spoke of her desire to demonstrate "how the brain interprets words and how it manifests itself in the movements—this is very beautiful and abstract to me." This was certainly on display for the group's nine-minute performance, built on exercises explored in the workshop. Each character danced individually while still participating as part of an ensemble, giving the piece stunning visual contrasts.

Susan Lee also performed a solo venture entitled "Salvador," self-choreographed and first performed in October 2004. The performance, a series of movements made at floor-level, was both aesthetically satisfying and theatrical.

Overall, the Kinetics Studio gave its audience a true pleasure. Many audiences believe that modern dance means to abandon all rules of organization and arrangement. Instead, as Susan Lee describes, modern dance only attempts to display a "moment-born movement" in a conceptual context; this can be a terrifying experience but, as Veronique Mackenzie suggests, it is can also be an exciting charge.



Hugo Kitching's effort helped save the play. / Photo: Sam Worthington

Noises Off too Difficult for KTS

King's gets an "A" for effort

Anneke Foster
Staff Contributor

Noises Off is one of the most difficult plays to perform. Despite the utter chaos the play allows, perfect timing is absolutely essential. The first time I saw *Noises Off* was at a professional theater in Maine. Knowing the amount of preparation that it took for those nine highly trained actors to get everything right, I did not attend the King's Theatre Society production with high hopes.

For the most part, my convictions weren't disproved—though the attempt was admirable.

The English satirical sex comedy by Michael Frayn was first performed in 1982. When done well, it can be one of the most entertaining shows in the business. When done poorly, however, it can be an utter catastrophe.

KTS's production sits some-

where in the middle.

Noises Off, in essence, is about a show inside a show. The first act of the play centres on the rehearsal for *Nothing On*, the show-inside-the-show. In it, the director moves in and out of the audience, giving stage cues to his hopeless actors who can't seem to get anything right, even the night before they open. The second act is, consequently, a behind-the-scenes look at the performance, and all the love triangles and bitterness between cast members are revealed. Chaos ensues, tensions thicken, and the actors begin fighting amongst themselves—all the while trying not to miss entrances on the other side of the stage. Finally, the third act follows the production from the audience's view while the pandemonium from act two continues—and it's because of this

Continued on Next Page...



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KTS: *Noises Off*: a challenging production

Continued from Pre...

difficult plot-structure that dramatists (and university students) rarely attempt *Noises Off*.

Thursday night, nine ambitious actors took the King's Pit Stage to take on this challenge. The show opened smoothly with Alice Shipton (Dotty) answering a telephone while the director (who, unbeknownst to the audience was lurking behind us) corrected her performance. The director, played by Ryan Gallo-way, spoke his first few lines with authority—his exasperation and nervous anxiety were portrayed well.

Garry and Brooke, played by Eric Benson and Madeleine Cohen, took to the stage with a bit more apprehension. Though Benson spoke clearly and carefully, there was sense of urgency in his tone—necessary tension, though, for a man "borrowing" the country house of the bosses at his law firm. Despite this minor quail, his representation of the character's indecisiveness was, both distinctive and humorous. Cohen, however, failed to portray real chemistry between Brooke and Garry, and despite her cunning lines, her timing was not perfect and therefore once again suspended the believability of the character.

All actors moved around the set well, even with the obstacle (of lack thereof) of no-curtains. As a result, there was no "back-stage," which made it difficult to focus on the foreground. While it proved beneficial for acts two and three, where it is necessary to see both sides of the stage, it was actually quite deterring to see various cast-members lurking behind the woodwork waiting for their entrances.

Distractions indeed played a major role in the performance: characters such as stage-manager Poppy (Tamara Mida-Broder),

while resilient and enthusiastic, seemingly failed to disassociate between character and reality. Key scenes that could have been extremely hilarious were minimized by lack of timing and too much improvisation. Kate Larue (Belinda) fell into the similar trap of too familiar-sounding language. Her approach to Belinda's character was indeed unique, and helped to highlight the motherly-type characteristic in the second act.

Another distraction was the

King's stage was stark and lifeless, and while the activity therein compensated somewhat, it was not enough to detour from the plainness of the set and the distractions behind-stage.

actors' constant shifting between British and Canadian accents. Though it helped the audience differentiate between the actors' two roles (*Noises Off* and *Nothing On*), it complicated the plot—the play was set in England, and therefore British accents should have been used throughout.

The highlights of the show were the performances by Hugo Kitching, who played a remarkable (though slightly deranged) Selsdon Mowbray, and Aidan Thompson (playing Freddy). Kitching acted the entirety of the play hobbling over a cane with exaggerated difficulty; the performance helped bring some much-needed consistency to the cast. His comedic flare and perfected sense of timing had the entire audience in uproarious laughter.

Thompson's work comple-

mented Kitching's nicely. He portrayed the perfectly neurotic Freddy with believability and ease. He captured the heart of the emotionally unstable character with his quick lines and brilliant facial reactions. His constant fluctuation between stable and instable was delivered with Thompson's extensive control and accuracy. Mitchell Cushman also delivered a credible performance as Tim, the company's handyman and sometimes-understudy, despite the small part.

Bottom line? *Noises Off* is not a production for the tight-budgeted. It is incredibly difficult to produce this show without an expensive set—something typically out of reach for a university. This is not a set that can be left to the audience's imagination. It must be just as good structurally as it is aesthetically—and the sets must have the ability to flip around entirely for the second act. The King's stage was stark and lifeless, and while the activity therein compensated, the plainness of the set and the distractions behind-stage remained evident. Courageous and comedic, the KTS production of *Noises Off* did not inspire the levels of entertainment it could have, failing to reach the satirical heights the play has the capability to de-

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Loukas Crowther / Layout/Design

The Caesars - "Jerk It Out"

Uncut - "Understanding the New Violence"

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Maximo Park - "Apply Some Pressure"

The Rapture - "Alabama Sunshine"

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Thunderbirds Are Now! - "Pink Motorcycle Helmet"

Buck 65 - "4-6-3"

Low - "Monkey"

The Knife - "Pass This On"

Out Hud - "Dad, There's A Little Phrase Called Too Much Information"

Fischerspooner - "Cloud"

LCD Soundsystem - "Tribulations"

The Stills - "Killer Bees"

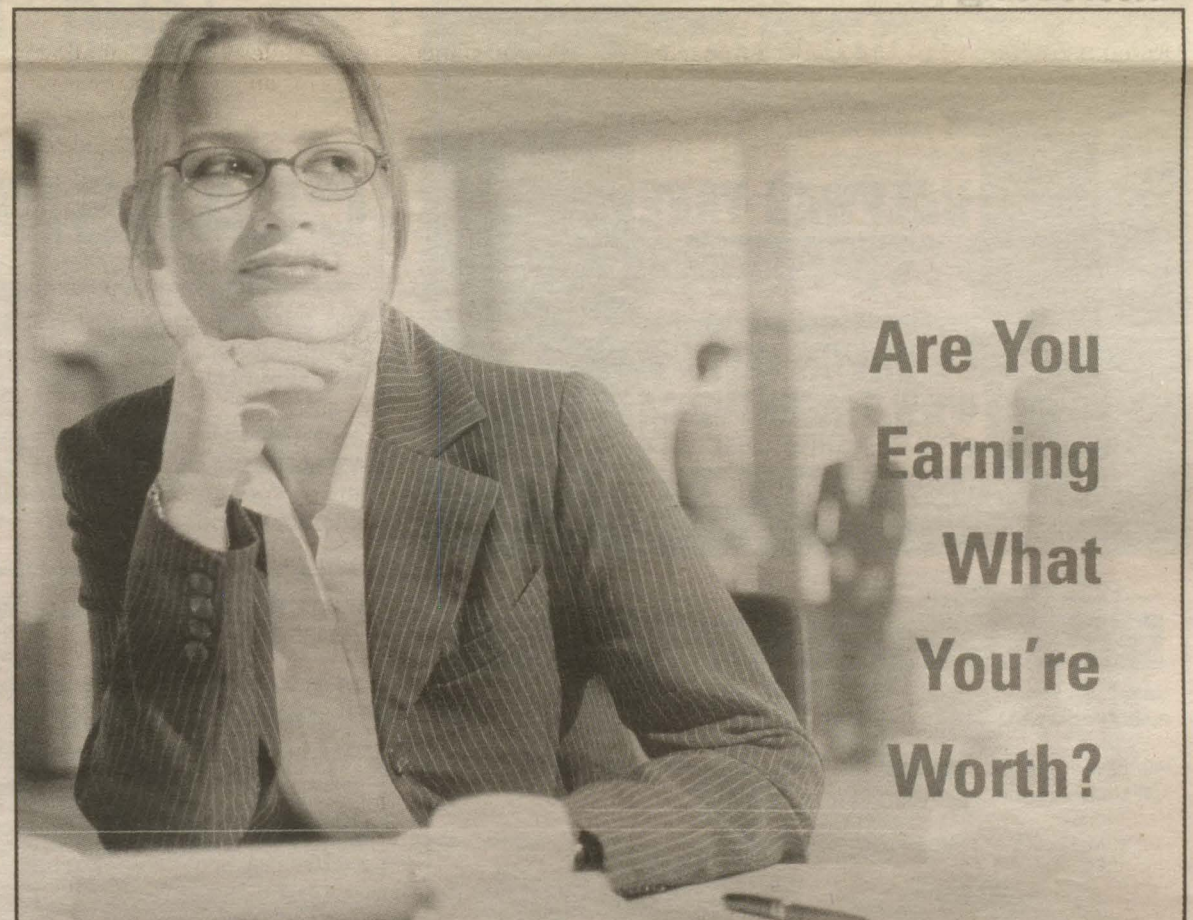
Broken Social Scene - "Cause = Time"

Talking Heads - "Once In a Lifetime"

Metric - "Wet Blanket"

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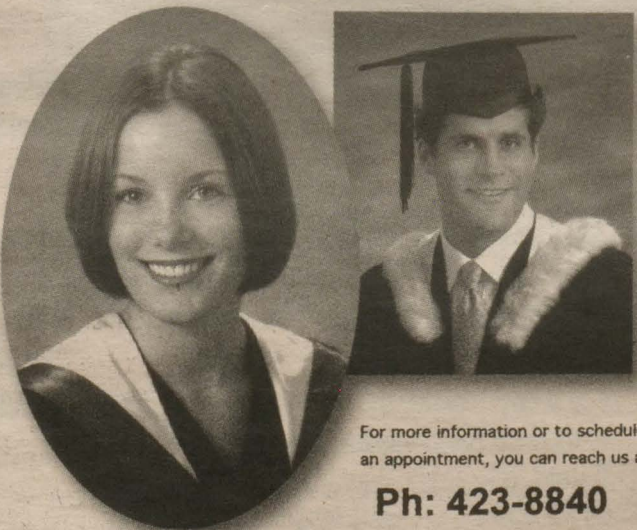
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Sex With a Disability

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Sexpert

Many of us take things for granted on a daily basis without realizing it—things such as good health, clean water to drink, and having a roof over our heads. Many of us take our bipedal mobility for granted and shudder to think about what it would be like to readapt to life with a disability. One of the most alien concepts to able-bodied individuals is how sexuality works for those with a physical impairment. For many of us it is easy to assume that a loss of physical sensation is indicative of a loss of sexual pleasure. Another widespread belief is that sex is logistically impossible for those in wheelchairs.

One common disability comes from a form of spinal cord injury. Paraplegia is the paralysis of the lower half of the body, and quadriplegia is the paralysis of the body from the neck down. Both paraplegia and quadriplegia are caused by damage to the spinal cord. This paralysis leaves the affected area devoid of physical sensation. It is difficult for many to imagine what it would be like to lose feelings in these areas of the body, especially the genitals, which are loaded with responsive sensors.

Despite a lack of physical awareness of stimulation, it is possible for many individuals in wheelchairs to realize some form of sexual satisfaction. In earlier decades, institutionalization of those with disabilities did not allow for exploration of their unique sexualities. Now, through online support groups and increased societal appreciation of diversity, sex researchers have become interested in understanding how those with physical impairments can still maintain a healthy and pleasurable sex life, not only for themselves, but for their partners too.

It is very hard to make broad generalizations about how paralysed adults engage in sexual conduct. This is because every person is different, and the capacity for sexual intercourse will largely relate to the extent of the individual's handicap. For example, some men with disabilities are able to achieve and maintain an erection, while others cannot. Ejaculation is also something that can vary, and technological innovations are allowing men without the ability to ejaculate to have their sperm harvested for in-vitro fertilization of their

We are all sexual beings, with or without disabilities

partner's ova (eggs).

Women with disabilities can also enjoy a rewarding reproductive sex life. Although amenorrhoea (an absence of menstruation) is common after spinal injury, regular ovulation does resume about six months after paralysis. Many disabled women are able to bring pregnancies to full term, although a higher risk of birth complications does exist. One benefit that paralysed women have is that vaginal delivery is possible without anaesthesia because of lack of responsive nerve tissue below the waist.

Modern sexual culture has become orgasm-centred, meaning that we look at the physical aspects of our sexuality and not at psychological arousal and satisfaction. This has caused the majority of the population to incorrectly assume that those with disabilities are asexual. All the same, the last 20 years have allowed the disabled to break down walls of prejudice and show the world that they are also capable of sexual expression.

Highway to Hell's Bells

Halifax gets Thunderstruck



Hells Bells: Not exactly as pictured.

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

How many AC/DC tribute bands does it take to change a light bulb? None—anyone who covers the legendary rock band would start a fire instead.

But the trend of imitating the Aussie five has flooded the globe in the past decade. There are over 100 legitimate cover bands dedicated to the high voltage sound of AC/DC. They range from successful, all female groups like Hells Belles and AC/DShe, to European faves like Germany's Big Balls, Sweden's AB/DC and Italy's Dogbone. There are also bands, such as Chicago's Bonfire, who pay tribute only to the pre-1980 fame of lead singer Bon Scott.

Terry Baker, who plays lead guitar in Toronto's Hells Bells, says that forming his cover band seemed like a natural step to take in his musical career. "I grew up on the straight-up rock and roll of AC/DC," he says. "Young is so good on guitar, and it was like

People wanted to see AC/DC. When you don't live at home and you have to pay the bills, this was a fun way to do it.

second nature for me to follow in his footsteps."

The Canadian version of Brian, Angus, Malcom, Cliff and Phil have been together for 10 years,

and has had as many line-up turnovers as the original group has had lead singer changes. Throughout the past decade of touring and balls to the walls explosive performing, Hells Bells have seen many of their AC/DC tribute contemporaries crumble under the pressure and competition of mimicking such a prolific ensemble. But when they began their rock and roll hobby, their never imagined they would achieve the success and longevity that they have had.

"People wanted to see AC/DC. When you don't live at home and you have to pay the bills, this was a fun way to do it," says Baker.

The band's popularity is partly due to its members' dedication and relaxed attitude. Some rivals—like Canada's 2001 formation, Thunderstruck—have even taken the tribute motif to the next level and modeled themselves after Hells Bell. "We've got people tributing a tribute band," Baker laughs.

What started as a way to pay the bills has turned into a full mime of AC/DC—and has become the band's day job. Plus, Baker says his (Angus Young style) schoolboy uniform fits better with every passing year.

Hells Bells plays in Halifax four times a year; the band most recently graced us with its presence this past Saturday, March 26, at the Attic.

Spin Spin Sugar

The Summerlad
Themes: International
Saved By Radio

The second release from Calgary's The Summerlad is background music well suited for making out or telling stories on the couch, at dusk, in the fall. If you actually want to pay attention to the music, though, it's good for that, too. While not exactly original—*Themes: International* may well allude to the diversity of the bands The Summerlad alternately rip off, from Ireland's Super Furry Animals on "Hey There Aubade" to Canada's Broken Social Scene on "Vallee of Cobras"—they are forgiven, because the imitations are good. The odd twist in old conventions helps to reinforce the band as being

capable of more than mere regurgitation. —Ashleigh Gaul



Halifax
A Writer's Reference
No Milk Records

This album is already popular enough that a short review in the *Dalhousie Gazette* probably won't have devastating effects on its sales, and so I don't mind letting the cat out of the bag—the members of Halifax listen to George Michael. Sure, Halifax, you may have blatantly stolen the lyrics for "Broken Glass Syndrome" from Saves the Day's "Rocks Tonics Juice

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Spin Spin Sugar, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

Magic" and the rest from every other emo band in existence, but 20 years of rehearsed lament can't erase that one night you spent on your bed, in your underwear, sweating and screaming, "Cuz you gotta have faith-uh faith-uh FAITH." -Ashleigh Gaul



The Nein
Wrath of Circuits
Sonic Unyon

The Nein—or as I like to call them, The No—have improved leaps and bounds since releasing their self titled debut album a year or so ago. That first effort (which the *Gazette* gave a rather unfavorable review) was a clashing, unpolished mish mash of chaotic rock. But *Circuits* is worthy of overwhelming praise. With classic rock flavor resembling the Monkeys and an incredible mix of electronics, bass and guitar, these Hamilton boys show they have gone through every song with a fine-toothed comb—recording, re-recording and editing with

the utmost effort. The kind of diligent and patient effort it takes to create a remarkable and unique rock album. The spooky vocals work well with the hypnotic xylophone. -Natalie Pendergast



Cadeaux
Physical City
Sound Document

Vancouver's Cadeaux—or, as I like to call them, Gifts—follow in the giant Canadian footsteps of bands like The Arcade Fire and The Unicorns. By adding hyperactive background vocals and ephedrine harmonies to their songs, Cadeaux have transformed the traditional power-pop example to a Gogos-meets-Blondie orgasmic machine. Kati Lapi and Dani Vachon put energetic female vocalists like Gwen Stefani to shame, infusing their music with elegance and confidence. Now if only we could start a Halifax campaign to get these five crazies to play here... -Natalie Pendergast

The reader in the writing, continued

Continued from Page 13...

conflict, in an attempt to surprise herself. She says the same pleasure of surprise was found when she was writing in *Ticknor's* voice.

The reader is an integral part of Heti's writing. As a reader of her work, one is required to engage with one's own thoughts rather than on the voice of the story for guidance. Take, for instance, two paintings: one is able to retrieve a clear idea from the first; after viewing the second, however, one walks away filled with incoherent but powerful thoughts. It is the second painting that makes one engage with one's own ideas.

According to Heti, writing is more powerful if it's like the second painting. "I think that there's

mystery in the world and mystery in other people and there should be mystery in art," she says. "If there's no mystery, then what is it for—why have a reader?... When I'm writing, I am really aware that there's going to be another human being interacting with it," she continues. "What I like to interact with are things that beguile me to some degree, because then it asks something of me."

Sheila Heti will be reading from her most recent novel, *Ticknor*, at St. Matthew's United Church (Barrington Street) on Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Heti will be one of the many authors presenting works at the Halifax International Writers Festival (April 6-10). Visit www.sheilaheti.net for more information.

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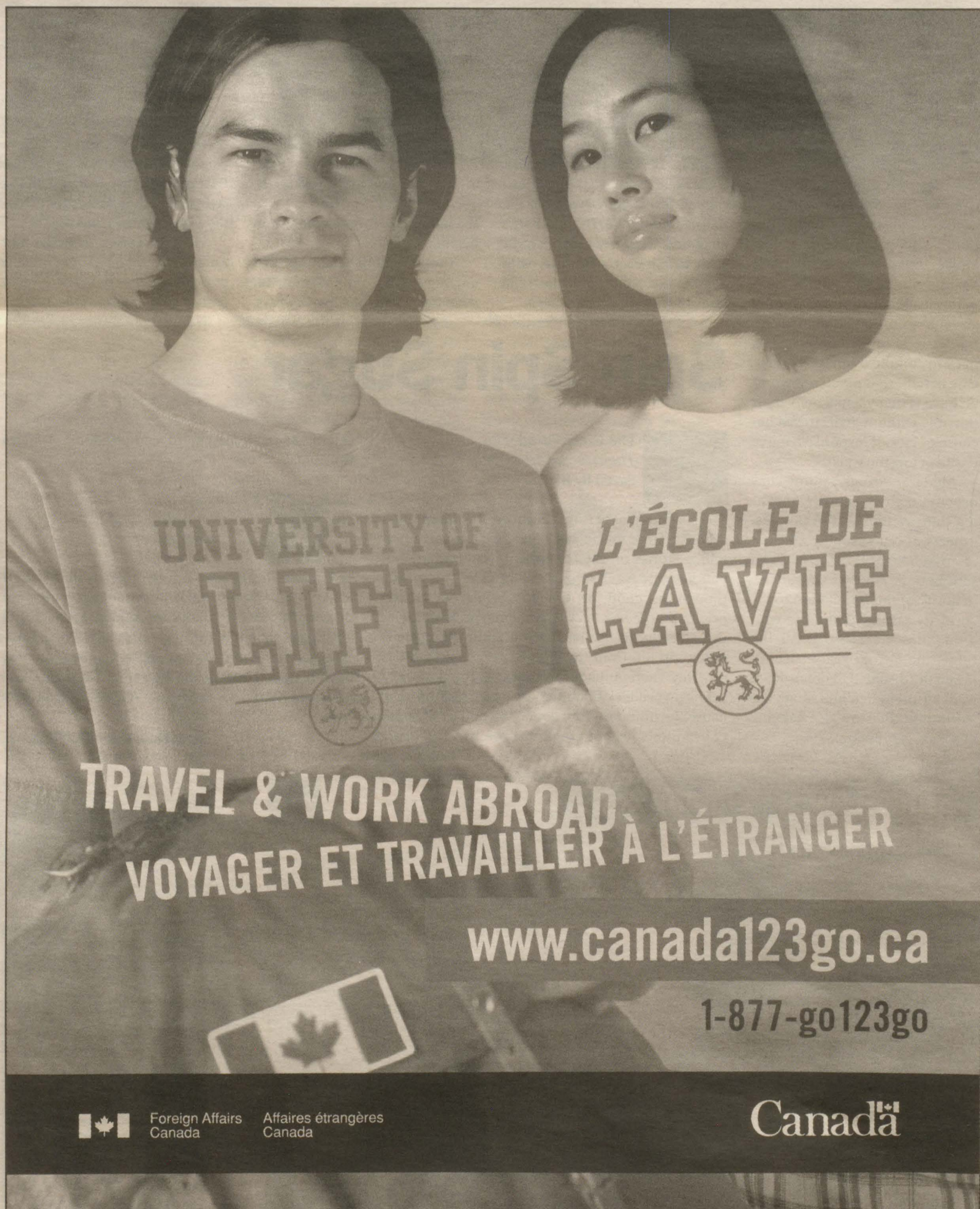
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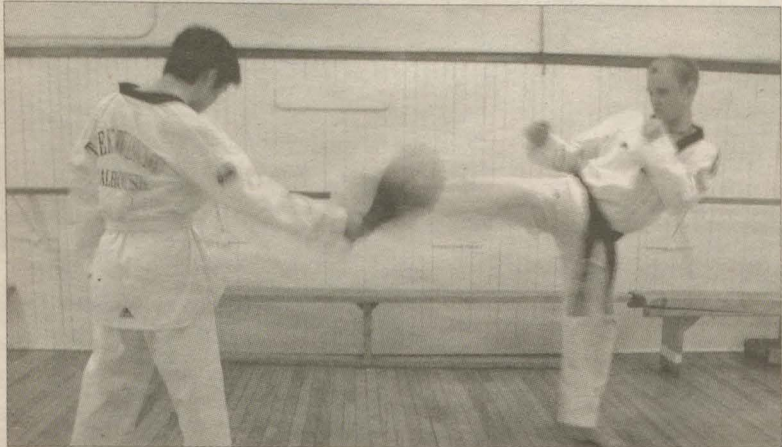
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Tae Kwon Do master Ilhan Kim says he learns as much from his students as they do from him. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Tae Kwon Do Unites Body and Spirit

Joe Ryba
Staff Contributor

“Tae Kwon Do is one of the most systematic and scientific Korean martial arts that teaches one more than physical fighting skills,” says Master Ilhan Kim. Kim, a native of Seoul, South Korea, came to Canada five years ago. He is a fourth-degree black belt and has been teaching the art of Tae Kwon Do for three years.

Kim trained in his home country under his father, Grand Master Kim, who is himself a ninth-degree black belt. The distinction of Grand Master comes when a person earns his seventh-degree black belt.

Ilhan, 26, has studied Tae Kwon Do and its philosophy since he was four years old. “Tae Kwon Do is a discipline that shows ways of enhancing our spirit and life through training our body and mind,” he says.

It's these ideas that Kim is trying to pass on to people here on Dal campus. The Dalhousie Tae Kwon Do club meets every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the Studley Gym, and the training session lasts an hour and a half. At the start of the session, the students bow to the Korean and Canadian flags to show respect. Next the students mediate for two or three minutes.

Kim says that one cannot forget about meditation. “It teaches us discipline, mind control and breathing control,” he says. “Meditation is also used for imagery training, which helps with concentration.”

The students stretch and warm-up following meditation before they focus on six elements, which include basic skills, punching, blocking, stance, forms and kicking. The session ends with stretching and more meditation.

In addition to improving his own personal training, Kim also enjoys the benefits he gets from teaching at the club. “I learn a great deal from the students,” he says. “It's important to learn from others. One can learn more from studying the art and philosophy of martial arts than traditional sports.”

One of Kim's students is first degree black-belt Chris Bray. Bray, a recent Dal graduate in psychology, has been training for four consecutive years. “I really like the speed of Tae Kwon Do,” says Bray. “There's a little bit of everything in it. It's a well balanced sport that strengthens the relationship between body and spirit.”

Throughout his four years of training, Bray says that the two hardest things in Tae Kwon Do are flexibility and learning the techniques, because the body is not used to them.

“It's difficult at first,” he says. “It's easy to get out of shape. You can train for weeks then go on Christmas vacation and you lose your tone.”

Despite the flexibility demand, Bray has really enjoyed Tae Kwon Do and plans to continue training for years to come. “Tae Kwon Do is a way of life for me,” he says. “I've gained a great deal from it and plan to continue training for a long time.”

Hope Springs Eternal... Or Does It? Denial, acceptance and the plight of the Toronto Blue Jays

Joshua D. Smith
Sports Contributor

With each passing year, the arrival of spring brings hope, optimism and boundless potential. The same holds true in Major League Baseball, where spring training represents a clean slate.

Every team is equal until opening day, and the promise of success finds itself in all 30 clubhouses. New faces and healthy bodies give even the most inept franchises visions of October. Currently, the Toronto Blue Jays hold one of spring's most impressive records, boasting a talented, young roster. However, barring sudden bankruptcy and widespread injury in Boston and New York, they Jays will be on the outside looking in when the leaves descend this fall.

After a forgettable season in which Toronto pitchers were handed L's in 94 of 162 games, it would appear that there is nowhere to go for the Jays but up in 2005. By letting slugger Carlos Delgado depart in the off-season, Toronto's management was able to liberate a large portion of their payroll and spend it on free agents such as Canadian Corey Koskie and the gifted but undervalued Shea Hillenbrand. Rogers Communications, the team's current owners, bought the rights to the SkyDome, renamed it the Rogers Centre and announced the installation of a new playing surface that more closely resembles grass. The owners also pledged to spend \$210-million over the next three seasons on player salaries. The core of the

roster has remained largely intact, and includes a terrific outfield of Vernon Wells, Alex Rios and either Frank Catalanotto or Gabe Gross. Sources for optimism appear to be endless, but will they be enough to overcome two gargantuan baseball empires?

Everyone was delighted to see the Boston Red Sox erase 86 years of frustration by finally winning the World Series in 2004. Lost in the shuffle, however, was the fact that they had the second-highest payroll in all of baseball, at \$125-million. After a few subtle changes to the pitching staff and infield, Boston is primed to defend their title and should be just as competitive this time around. In New York, it will be business as usual. This means another ballooned payroll figure (last season, they were the league's biggest spenders at \$183-million; this year, the number will be over \$200-million) and another chilly playoff run in the Bronx.

Now, granted, money does not always buy a winner. The Mets and Dodgers have proven this for years. Money does make it easier to add depth in case of injury, though. If spent intelligently, as Boston and New York have recently, an increase in finances offers the recipients a competitive edge not seen by the smaller, less fortunate franchises.

With that in mind, Toronto is clearly aiming for the success enjoyed by Oakland, Seattle and Texas in recent years. After letting human price-tags Jason Giambi, Miguel Tejada, Ken Griffey Jr., Alex Rodriguez, Randy Johnson, and yes, Alex Rodriguez (again)

leave for free agency, the clubs have thrived in the years following their departures, improving in every case. The avid baseball observer will be quick to point out that despite this successful plan, all three of these teams play in the American League West Division and do not have to deal with the conglomerates on the East Coast in order to earn a playoff position.

The Minnesota Twins are another fine example of a team finding success year after year despite pocketbook deficiencies. Again, the Twins are situated in a weaker division, the American League Central, where they stand on top of a less-than-impressive heap. Toronto plays in the American League East, and they are not realigning any time soon—despite geographical evidence suggesting that the Central would be more accurate.

The Blue Jays are looking to the proven star-discarding formula as a recipe for improvement and, ideally, the franchise's transformation into a contender. But as not one, but two Goliaths stand in opposition to the obvious David, even a marked improvement on last season's record may not be enough to compete for a post-season berth. Toronto's pockets have been opened, but it's time for a reality check. There are, at most, two playoff spots in the division. You don't need to be Sir Isaac Newton to pass East Division Math 1000. The irony is that, despite the many reasons to hope for Toronto, the Blue Jays' chances have never looked so grim.

Gazette Picks & Predictions

Dalhousie Year-End Awards

By the time you're reading this, Thursday's Black and Gold banquet—a celebration of Dal varsity accomplishments—will be well underway. There are lots of awards to be handed out, but here's where the *Gazette* sees the big three going:

Coach of the Year—No surprises here, Dan Hennigar should be the runaway favourite. He led the women's cross-country team to a national championship, and his track and field team returned from CIs with four gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze.

Female Athlete of the Year—No surprises here either. Once again, Adrienne Power dominated the track scene, and because of her three gold medals at CIs—not to mention being named female track athlete of the year for Ca-

nadian universities—Power will pick up her third straight Dal AOTY.

Male Athlete of the Year—This award is a little more difficult to call. There are several athletes who could get the award, but we're going with Jeff Weiler of the men's volleyball team. Weiler is the consummate leader on the floor, and while his team fell short at CIs, he was named national libero of the year for the second year in a row. To date he is the only player to win the award.

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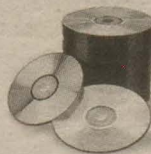
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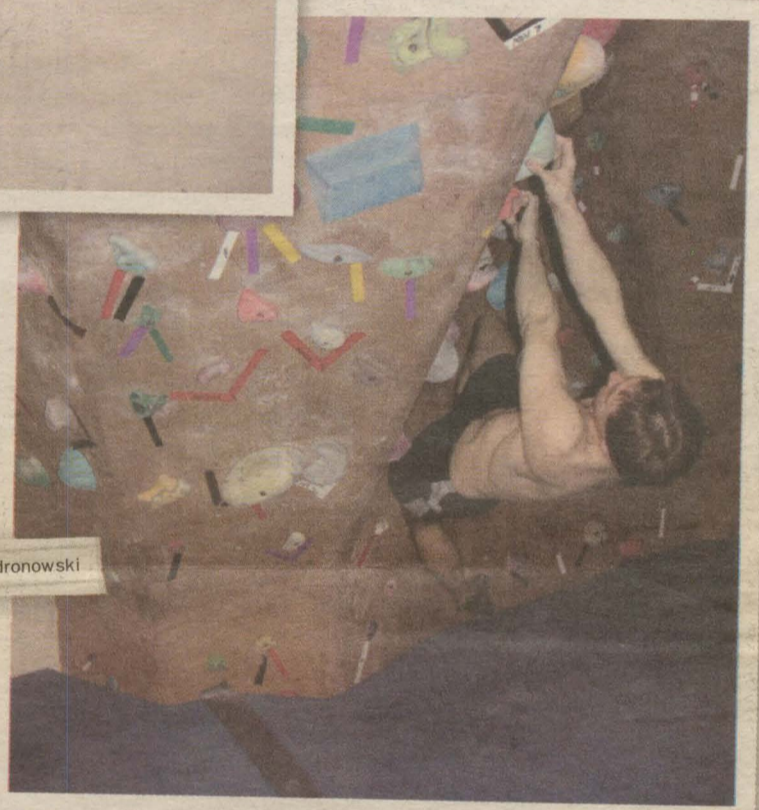
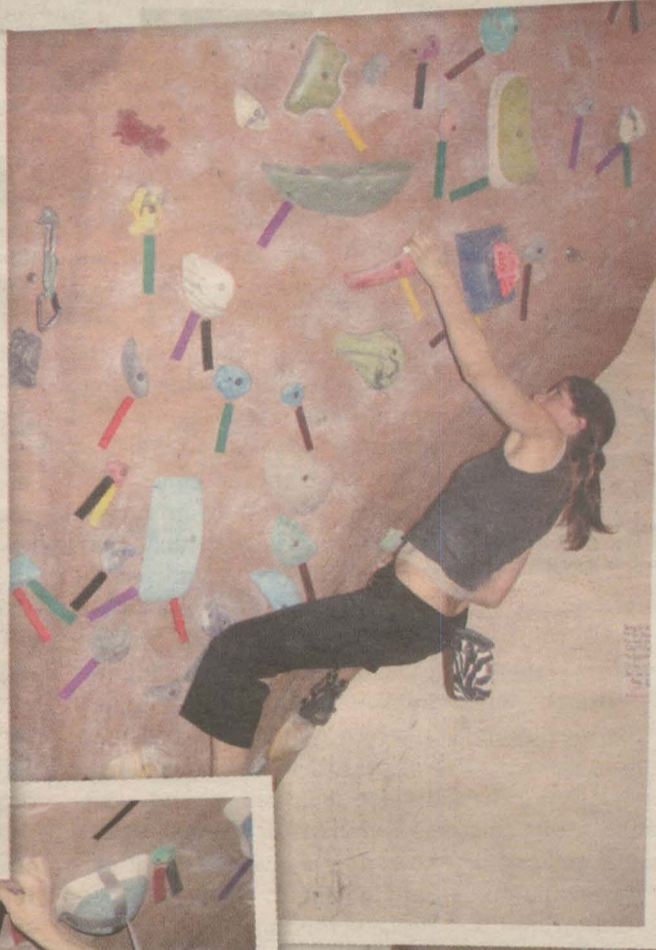
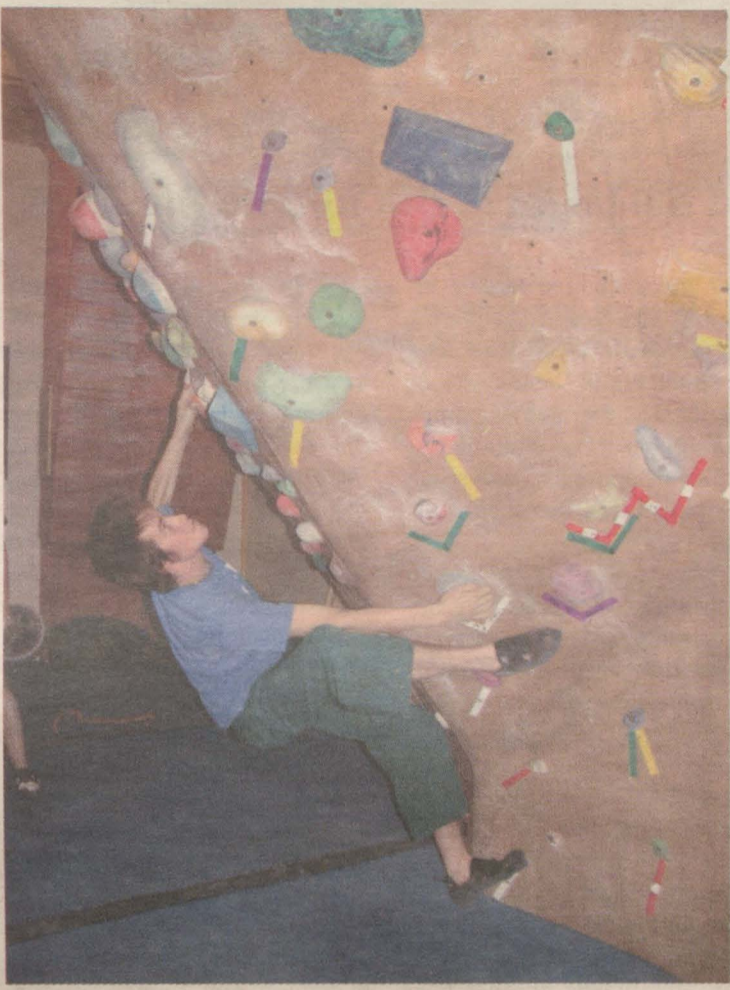
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