Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1858

International students hoping for off-campus work brushed off again pg 5,8

WHO KILLED...

BREAKING THE SILENCE

part II pg 4,8

HOLY F#¢%! (the band) pg 12

GRAWOOD ELECTION PARTY

decadent and depraved? ng 5

This is a weekly communications about happenings around the DSU.

Check it out, right here every week.



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Ezra Edelstein
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Bad, mad, sad, and out of office... for the better?

By giving Paul Martin the boot, Sir Harper has given the Liberal party the opportunity it needs to rebuild

CHRIS LAROCHE Editor-in-Chief

rudging home through the snowy L odyssey that gripped Halifax after Monday night's federal election, I felt like I had just been to a stadium-capacity sports game. My ears rang with post-rock concert euphoria. And despite a belly full of pizza and beer, my knees shook from wave after wave of

I was pumped. And I was tired.

Of all the talk and chatter thrown about over the Grawood's tables on election night, one quote stuck in my mind: "there's nothing that gets men riled up like sports and politics."

This statement may be more apt than its purveyor thought.

Politics is, after all, no more than an elaborate game. It has teams, star players, clear outcomes and, most importantly, seems to be commentated by a never-ending army of white men in high-collared suits.

(And like any good hockey game, competitive sportsmanship often boils over into unadulterated rage).

The political realm is not the exclusive dominion of men, of course, but in this country it is still dominated by crusty old droves of them - a trend that has been slow to change.

But instead of throwing around pucks, balls or bats, players in the political game take aim at each other with money, authority and power. The grand prize of the championship — the Stanley Cup of every Canadian politician's dreams - is 24 Sussex Drive, the Prime Minister's office, and the control of this country that comes with it.

Hats off to that newcomer from the west for snatching it from Paul Martin's aging, shaking hands.

Sure, Harper didn't get his coveted majority, a political situation in which he'd be able to pass any legislature he wants because Conservative MPs would make up more than half of the House.

(Here's guessing that legislation

would repeal same-sex marriage, despite the illegality of such a move, and declare "global warming" prohibited words to be spoken only by Conservative-sanctioned environmental scientists who, perhaps being experts in oil extraction and lumber production, would be well-qualified to comment on the happy state of our atmosphere).

Nor did Harper's blues defeat the Liberals by any large margin. The Conservatives' 124 seats to the Liberals' 103 is hardly a resounding victory - an overtime win, if you will - especially given that 81 seats remain to

But for fans of Canada's progressive left and centre, these are good things. Because the Liberal party has been given a swift kick in the ass.

And sometimes Politicians need tough love, too.

Let's look at the results of Monday's brouhaha: the Conservative rodeo master, now shackled by minority status that will require it cooperate with opposition parties to pass legislation, has been thrown off its bull. Party backbenchers calling for a return to ideals based on "Christian family values" - you know, the condemnation of homosexuality, the return of the death penalty, the loosening of legal control over guns, that sort of thing - will find that there is no room for a right-wing agenda in the new government.

Instead, they will find only a bunch of lefties - mostly the NDP looking to change every letter and every word in Stephen Harper's

Could it happen? Can the country's two most diametrically opposed parties work together?

And if they did, would it create a 'rip" in Ottawa's time space continuum, consuming every MP and public servant on Parliament Hill, Mr. Layton's moustache and all?

(More, would that necessarily be

All-consuming black holes aside,

Canadians may be in for an especially stagnant political year. Legislation will take longer to pass; juvenile infighting, rather than cooperation, will be more prevalent on the Com-

But for those of us who are fans of the middle and the left - unhappy with the status quo, but definitely not ready or willing to support the right a deadlocked, powerless Conservative minority is a godsend.

Paul Martin came into office nearly two years ago spouting something about making Canada the nation by which all other are judged by. Canada gave him two years, and while the



results weren't bad - our economy is strong, our lives are mostly merry and someone seems to have finally done something about the nastiness of winter — they simply weren't stellar. And we expected Paul Martin, the checkbook wizard of Liberal dreams, to be stellar.

Instead, he made statements aplenty but realized none of them. He tried to be everything to everyone, spreading his interests too broadly, and failed to deliver. Canada has

never been more internationally irrelevant as it is now. Our nation is no longer a leader in development assistance or peacekeeping (or bacon production, even!).

At home, some things were out of Martin's control - the itchy wound of Adscam flaring up and getting infected, for example - but many were

Where was the open and honest debate on Ballistic Missile Defense? Where was the recommitment to Canada's ailing health care system?

Where was the commitment to the future of this country - addressing the east-west divide?

Indeed, Martin dithered, withered, and, running on empty, spouted something about a gel-haired Gilles Duceppe stealing his country away from him on national television. His party, high on 12 years of uninterrupted power, got fat, lazy, and ran an unsuccessful campaign in which western underdogs representing the furthest-right ideology in Canada soundly defeated the defending populist champ.

But not all is amiss. Had Martin & Co. won another minority on Monday, our government's commitment to rhetoric over reality would be secure for at least another year. The schoolyard divisions of the Chrétien era would linger on, and Adscam would continue to be used as a punching bag for opposition attacks.

Instead, Martin's tepid end has given the Liberal party an opportunity to clear out its cobwebs, get rid of its old red blood, and build itself anew. A Liberal success in the next election is not a matter of changing platforms or beliefs, but of regaining the trust of the Canadian people.

To be sure, certain aspects of Liberal "values" that make the party unique - conservative economics combined with progressive social policies - should remain.

(But lets get to work on the legalization of marijuana, gentlemen. Honestly.)

The Liberals must also take the awkward "worst of two evils" situation now filling parliament with Conservatives and re-craft its image as the lesser of the two, a tactic that has worked for more than a century but apparently failed goody-two-shoes

The Grits must think not only about Québec, where Bloc support is on the decline, but also about western Canada, where a new and perhaps more crucial political battleground has emerged. The party's promises must be realistic, not rhetorical, and reflect a real commitment to deliver on the broken promises of the last decade. Actually spending some money might help — and taking firm stances on economic and social issues that set the Liberals apart from Conservative agendas would be a plus, too.

Most importantly, the Liberal party must use this down season to redraft and redraw its roster. It needs new blood and new faces - inspiring leadership with no ties to Martin's old guard, leadership that can galvanize the Liberal caucus and inspire voters to grant it a majority government. It did it once in the coming of the first Trudeau era, and if the century-plus tenacity of the Liberal party is to indicate anything, it can do it again.

Just who will lead the Liberal party into the next election is, for now, a complete guessing game.

Ignatieff? Tobin? McKenna? (Do average Canadians even recognize these names? Should they?)

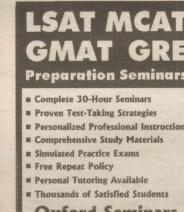
One thing is clear: the next leader must prove that a new generation of Liberals, having learned the lessons of old, can take the helm once more without stealing money, breaking promises, or being unbearably boring. (On an aside, it wouldn't hurt if he or she were good looking).

Martin's boot has given the party a change to do just that - lick its wounds, sit in a corner, and think about its future.

Hats off to Stephen Harper. It was quite a game.







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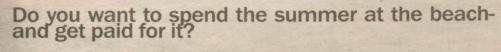
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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.



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Gazette: News

Discipline committee chairs step down, student calls for action

REID SOUTHWICK New Editors

Both Senate Discipline Committee co-chairs have resigned from their positions, citing fears that an apparent attitude in the university senate office could reverse positive changes made to the disciplinary process as their grounds for withdrawal.

In their letter of resignation, obtained by The Gazette from a confidential source, Phil Cox and Marlene Mercer outlined a series of incidents. which, they wrote, could threaten the more consistent, fair and efficient discipline process Dalhousie has developed in recent years.

The co-chairs expressed concern in their letter, dated Jan. 12, 2006, about a perceived potential for interference from the secretary and chair of senate in SDC processes, referencing a memo from Senate Chair Mo El-Hawary in December last year.

The memo aimed to clarify the process for resolving "issues" that could not be settled through usual methods, including "a complex discipline or appeals case." The chair or secretary of senate, according to the memo, would review issues brought to their attention with the other senate officers and determine the appropriate procedure to reach resolution.

El-Hawary, who declined comment on the co-chairs' concerns outlined in their resignation, said that, under the senate constitution, neither the secretary nor chair of senate could intervene in cases.

"We are servants of senate. We do what senate tells us," said El-Hawary. "And senate tells us that we have to follow the [constitution], and we're following that. It's as simple as that."

Cox and Mercer noted that a summary of academic discipline statistics, sent to them for comment on Jan. 5, was distributed in the Deans' Council before they were able to respond with feedback. The document, they wrote, contained inaccuracies and drew "weakly founded and uninformed inferences which could undermine the work of the SDC.

They also objected to being directed by El-Hawary and Secretary of Senate Bruce Dunphy to appoint an interim co-chair for a period that Cox would be on vacation, despite their having informed the senate officers that it wasn't necessary.

The co-chairs stated in their letter that they will remain on the Senate Discipline Committee until April 30, 2006 and continue to hear cases until then to prevent disruptions for students and faculty members awaiting hearings.

But when contacted by The Gazette, Cox and Mercer declined to comment.

Student senator Jen Bond said



Photo: Rafal Andronowski

"If the highest academic body in the university isn't going to talk about it, then I'm not quite sure who's going to."

- Jen Bond, VP (Education)

the resignations are indicative of a lack of communication between the SDC, the senate office, the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) and the senate body.

The lack of dialogue between the different parties has served as a hindrance to the improvement of SDC processes, said Bond, who's also DSU Vice President (Education), in an interview with The Gazette.

Bond, who sits on the SDC, called for an open and frank dialogue about disciplinary processes and academic integrity during a senate meeting

"If the highest academic body in the university isn't going to talk about it, then I'm not quite sure who's going to," she said. "The fact that two people who were so committed to achieving senate discipline and academic integrity have decided that they've had enough should be a red flag to this body that something isn't right."

El-Hawary said that a meeting aimed at discussing the underlying concerns has been arranged between senate officers and the co-chairs, and will be facilitated by university legal counsel.

"We are prepared to...understand the extent of the concerns," he said. If there were "missteps," he said they would collectively find a resolution within the confines of the senate constitution.

"And if we feel the [senate constitution] needs to be revisited, it shall be.

"Nothing is off-limits."

Since Cox is on vacation until the end of February, the meeting will be held after his return. El-Hawary told The Gazette that senate officers were taking the matter "very seriously," but he wouldn't comment on specifics until he meets with the parties involved and develops a better understanding of their concerns.

Bond told The Gazette that she hopes the resignations of the cochairs will spark a campus-wide dialogue about academic integrity. "Hopefully, this is going to signal that there's a problem, and we need to fix [it]," she said.

The problem isn't limited to the resignations of the co-chairs. Bond said that academic integrity isn't being properly addressed by the senate, and no one is taking responsibility for solving the problem.

"Everybody thinks that somebody else is going to take this on."

But everyone should discuss academic integrity, she said, including students, faculties and senior officials. And while positive changes have occurred in the discipline system, much more needs to be looked

"This is not something that is going to happen tomorrow, [or] this year," said Bond. "But it is something that has to start.'

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The crowd got drunker, the yelling and clapping got louder and the DSU election party got rowdy.

Drunken mayhem erupts at Grawood election party

CHELSEA MURRAY Staff Contributor

The DSU election party in the Grawood didn't start out like a drunken night watching a hockey game - it just ended up that way.

The bar was calm when I walked in at 9:30 p.m. There was only a quiet hum of political banter.

All the chairs were full, but the real party hadn't started yet.

I looked across the sober place, hoping to find intelligent, insightful people worthy of a conversation. Instead, I found that the most passionate comments would come later - after a few beers had been passed around.

By 10 p.m., Dalhousie student Kate English and her friends had only a few drinks in them but their comments were already colourful.

"I'm from Peter MacKay's riding and I think he's a grease ball," said English, who traditionally votes Liberal but feels the party needs to be revamped and is too scared of Stephen Harper to vote Conservative.

"I voted NDP this time," she said. "I like Alexa.

Spurred by her friend's comments against Harper, an animated Hillary Titley piped in with her thoughts on the Conservative leader.

"If Harper wins, I'm going to need somebody to hold me and then rock me a little bit because I'm going to throw up," she says.

The big screen TV at the front of the bar showed Titley might have to find someone to rock her sooner than she thought. The Conservatives closed in on the Liberals.

The excitement level in the room climbed and Peter Mansbridge's voice was no longer easy to hear above the political banter coming from the intoxicated Grawood

Different tables erupted in bouts of applause whenever their party took the lead or a favourite candidate appeared on screen.

Guided by these uproars, I followed my nose over to a group of Conservative supporters standing next to the bar.

Dressed in T-shirts and jeans, Will Demers and Rob Ferguson looked casual and composed but were serious about their politics.

"Do you want to know why we support Stephen Harper and the Conservative agenda?" asked Demers. "It's pretty simple. The Liberals have been extremely corrupt. They've lied to us," he said before going on a tirade about the flaws of the Liberal party and the merits of the private sector.

On a lighter note, Ferguson admitted to having two pitchers of beer and feeling great.

"There is the alcohol effect," said

Just then, someone hollered loudly in approval at the numbers on the giant TV screen and a trail of similar screams and cheers followed.

The Grawood was overcome with surprise, excitement and disappointment all at once as the Conservatives took the lead.

The crowd got drunker, the yelling and clapping got louder and the DSU election party got rowdy.

The young and passionate Conservatives, Ferguson and Demers, led a chant for Harper right before a group shouting for Jack Layton shook the room with their voices.

While interviewing a group near the centre of the bar, David Gentili, known as a "hardcore, card-holding Conservative" by his friends, wobbled over to the table, grabbed my recorder and started shouting into it.

"How about you tell me what you're quoting me on and then I'll give you my name," said Gentili with

After finally telling me how to spell his name, he gave a passionate political soliloguy.

"We need an elected senate," said Gentili. "Someone representing us should be voted by us. Do you like

As the night got late and it became obvious the deal was done - a Conservative minority was confirmed — the rowdy Grawood crowd started to file out.

Chris Davis left the bar with a long

face, disappointed in the night's results. "I'm sad because the numbers for the red aren't high enough," he

He admitted it wasn't all bad, though, and that the party was more exciting than the average political get-together.

"It was awesome," said Davis. "It almost felt like a hockey game in here. Especially when the first ridings were coming in, you had the Liberals on one side of the room cheering and then you had the Conservatives on the other side."

Davis' friend, Matthew Antolin, echoed his disappointment in the Conservative win.

'I'm upset that the Liberals didn't win," said Antolin. "But it might be 13, it might be 18 months, but I'm sure that we'll have another vote within the next four years."

And another vote can only mean another unruly election party.





International student work permits still on hold

LINDSEY HEPBURN News Contributor

International students were left I frustrated after a plan to provide them with off-campus work permits was shelved when federal opposition parties forced an election last

"Everything that was going to happen all fell to the wayside with the calling of the election," says Peter Brownlow, spokesperson for Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "It's back to square one."

Officials at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration predicted permits could be available as early as this month. Their funding proposal, however, was rejected by a federal government committee last fall, says Meaghan Edwards, senior policy analyst at the Office of Immigration.

Though the committee later reconsidered and approved the budget at the request of Immigration Minister Joe Volpe, it was too late to clear it in the House of Commons before the House was dissolved at the end of November.

Negotiations on the permits were put on hold until after the election. The fate of the permits under a new government is unknown.

"I've taken a number of calls from people, and I just have to tell them that we are waiting for election results," says Edwards. Once the new government is in place, the office will work to secure funding for the permits.

"Nova Scotia will have a role to play in letting a new government know that we are ready to make a move on this," she says.

International students can only work on campus - Canada is the only Commonwealth country that doesn't offer such students offcampus work permits. When Citizenship and Immigration Canada announced a plan to change regulations last spring, Nova Scotia was the first province to sign on.

In May 2005, Dal's International Student and Exchange Services (ISES) office sent an e-mail to international students indicating they'd be allowed to work off campus soon. International student advisor Margaret Wood says ISES is disappointed with the hold-up.

"Here we are almost a year later



and we are still being promised this," she says. "The fees that [international students] have to deal with, and the challenges they face, a lot of them need a supplementary income."

Liljana Lolija, Vice President (Administration) of the Dalhousie International Student Association (DISA) says because students can't work off campus in their field of study many people who could contribute to the community are prevented from do-

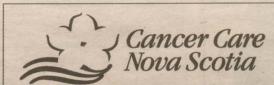
"A lot of people are very frustrated," says Lolija. "I know I'm not from here but I am paying taxes, and it is hard to pay such high international student tuition with just an on-campus job that pays minimum wage."

In one week before the Christmas holidays, DISA received more than 50 e-mails from international students wondering when they'd be able to apply for the off-campus work permits promised to them in May.

Teejed Chuang, a second-year commerce student from Malaysia, says not being able to work off campus has reduced the appeal of coming to Canada for many people he knows, who prefer to go to the U.S. or England where they can work.

Until a new government is in place, with a policy on work permits, international students must continue to wait and work on-campus

"I have worked so many on campus jobs - Dalplex, security, library," says Lolija, who studies radiology. "A lot of my classmates could get involved at the hospital, but I couldn't. It makes it hard if I wanted to stay in Canada and work in my field."



Student Research Opportunities Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards

Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) exists to foster excellence in cancer care and research. Encouraging Nova Scotia students to contribute to this excellence is the first step in ensuring the continued growth and quality of cancer treatment and care in this province.

The Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards are funded by Cancer Care Nova Scotia to foster an interest in the field of oncology (cancer), among undergraduate and graduate students in Nova Scotia.

A total of twelve awards will be granted each spring. Four awards will be dedicated to cancer-related research projects in basic sciences, and four will be dedicated to cancer-related research projects in other disciplines including, but not limited to, informatics, epidemiology, outcomes and/or sociobehavioural research. The remaining four awards will be dedicated to clinical training / experience projects. Each award, worth \$5000, covers stipend support for the student for a maximum of 14 weeks.

Interested candidates, with support from their supervisors, are invited to complete an application, outlining the project or practical experience directly related to the study of cancer, and submit it to CCNS with the required attachments on or before Friday, February 10, 2006.

Applications are available on our Web site at www.cancercare.ns.ca or by contacting Pauline Hart at pauline.bart@ccns.nsbealth.ca

Applications may be mailed to: Cancer Care Nova Scotia 1278 Tower Road, Room 543, Bethune Building Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9 Fax: 902-473-4631 Phone: 902-473-3851

Military spending will undermine autonomy – activists

News Contributor

anada's recent increase in de-Ufence spending indicates a dramatic shift in policy, said Tamara Lorincz, a member of the Halifax Peace Coalition, at a foreign policy discussion held at SMU on Jan. 21.

This shift, which has seen \$14 billion earmarked for national defence programs, could undermine the Canadian military's autonomy, Lorincz told a group of roughly 20 people seated in SMU's Sobey MBA build-

"We would like to see peacekeeping, peace management [and] emergency response to places in conflict," she said. "This is what we should be preparing for, instead of some huge build up of our military for some war.'

The Dalhousie law school graduate said this increase in spending is out of step with Canadian values. citing recent national surveys that found health care, education and the environment are among Canadians core priorities.

Brooks Kind, Dal graduate and member of the Halifax Peace Coalition, wrote in an email to The Gazette that the Canadian government's cooperation with Americans in matters of military policy isn't new.

"Because U.S. markets are important to elite interests in Canada, they [the Canadian Government] have more or less gone along with most post World War II U.S. illegal interventions," he said.

But many experts agree that no matter what ideology Canadians subscribe to, defence spending is inevi-

"There's just as strong a left-wing argument as a right-wing argument in favor of having a stronger military," said Dr. Stephen Clarkson, professor of political economy at the University of Toronto, after giving a lecture on foreign policy on Jan. 20 at Dalhou-

"If you think Canada ought to play a significant role in peace-keeping, if it's to do anything rather than just open it's mouth and say things about helping the third world, it has to have troops.

Clarkson said that while Canadian participation in developing weapons systems with the U.S. would reap large benefits for certain Canadian companies who specialize in that field, many citizens would find it ap-



Halifax Peace Coalition member Tamara Lorincz says the Canadian military can retain its autonomy because the U.S. other countries are reliant on the nation's resources.

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Fiscal Year	Military Expenditures (\$000s)
2004-2005	14,317,557
2003-2004	13,185,615
2002-2003	12,415,337
2001-2002	12,243,537
2000-2001	11,469,965
1999-2000	11,521,681
1998-1999	10,256,532
1997-1998	10,187,255
1996-1997	10,573,273
1995-1996	11,373,806

According the CBC website, the Canadian government promises to boost the military budget by \$12.8 billion over the next 5 years.

palling. But he does acknowledge the potential trade benefits for Canadian companies made possible by a loss of autonomy through military alliances.

"Signing onto an international agreement like the WTO or NORAD may reduce [Canada's] autonomy," he said. "But it may increase my capacity in other countries to defend the interests of the Canadian company that's trying to do business there."

Lorincz, however, said that the U.S. and other countries are so reliant on Canada's resources such as oil, softwood lumber and, potentially, fresh water, that trade can't be affected if Canada's military retains its

Canadian university students should be conscious of the nation's military policies, such as increased

military spending that aims to mimic American spending that negatively impacts the funding for post-secondary education, said Lorincz.

Kind added that aside from the monetary reasons for Canadian students to view military policy as an important matter, they also have a social responsibility to be aware of Canada's military role in the global

"If [university students] choose not to exercise such privileges as academic freedom, leisure, access to information, analytical skills, etcetera, that come with being a student in a Canadian university, and not to fight the injustices that are being carried on in their name, they are more implicated in these injustices than most.

FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES

In this issue 25 years ago...

A uranium find in Hants County raised both hopes of economic opportunities and health concerns about the deposits. The Gazette investigated past uranium mining operations in Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, noting that a U.S. regulatory commission deemed uranium mining "the most significant source of radiation exposure to the public."

The Student Union of Nova Scotia claimed the provincial government was redirecting federal cash earmarked for higher education.

Of the \$108.5 million given to N.S. in 1980 for university funding, \$5 million was spent in other areas.

Joe Clark, federal opposition leader, and former Progressive Conservative Prime Minister, spoke at the Dalhousie law school on his proposal for the patriation of the constitution.

Clark suggested the Liberal constitution proposal be split into two parts, "separating the patriation portion, which must be agreed to by Great Britain, from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is a wholly Canadian issue.'

The Canadian University Press reported that Manitoba education minister Keith Cosens tried to coerce University of Winnipeg president Harry Duckworth into canceling a student protest march.

UofW student leaders said Cosens hinted that funding for a proposed athletic complex might not come through if the protest went

Duckworth left the decision to student leaders, and roughly 800 students marched to the provincial legislature the following day.

The Gazette reviewed Neptune Theatre's newest production, Tenessee Williams' The Night of the Iguana, and Peter Gabriel's recent release, I Don't Remember.

Margaret Little bravely reviewed the Fabulous Franco-Canadian Cuisine cookbook, which could be purchased from the French Department for \$3.50, despite her self-confessed failings in the culinary arts. "The mouth-watering 'verre de vin blanc sec' soon became Captain Morgan's Rum," wrote Little, "but nobody noticed the difference.



In this issue10 years ago...

The Grawood manager was fired after \$20,000 in liquor inventory and \$1,300 cash went missing; Halifax police were also called to investigate. This was the second time in four months a Grawood manager had been fired.

The Dalhousie senate voted to cut the length of frosh week, despite protests by student leaders. Senators said the change would bring Dal's orientation week in line with other metro universities and would give more days between the end of classes and the beginning of exams.

Leaders of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, Dal's federal lobby group, met with police to explore laying charges against a former director of the association. Ottawa police agreed to investigate a \$200 fraudulent cheque and the theft of \$2,000.

The former director was also being investigated in New Brunswick over money missing from a national conference account.

A memorial service for Dal student Shannon Bright was held at the King's College chapel on Jan. 22. Police suspected foul play after Bright's body was found behind a mini-mall in Dartmouth on Jan. 3. Two instructors from Bright's Transition Year program delivered the eulogy, recalling the student's persistence and courage.

Great Big Sea opened for Blue Rodeo at the Rebecca Cohn, playing their second sold-out Halifax show in a week. "The Road South" by local band Eric's Trip topped the CKDU charts, followed in second by Ashley MacIsaac's "Hi™ How Are You Today?"

Letters to the editor applauded Dalhousie's recent non-smoking policy in the SUB, and in Sports, the men's basketball team lost for the first time this season 106-100 to the UNB Varsity Reds.





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Shaken not Stirred event teaches local crème de le crème how to use a fork

DAWN MACPHEE News Contributor

Students, faculty and staff from three local universities gathered at Dalhousie's University Club on Jan. 18 for Shaken not Stirred, a training luncheon that aimed to teach the skills of proper dining and entertain-

"I am an absolutely atrocious eater," says commerce student John Perry. "I have food on my face all the time. But seriously, by the end of this meal, I hope to not have food on my

The event, which featured Karen Mallett of corporate training firm In Good Company, hosted roughly 130 students, faculty and staff from Dal, SMU and Mount Saint Vincent.

Many students in attendance were interested in learning how to convey a good image to potential clients and employers.

"We don't want to look like savages," says Denise Corey-Fancy, an information studies student. A graduate coordinator recommended the class attend, as librarian interviews can last up to two days, usually involving lunch or dinner.

"We want to impress people without disgracing ourselves," says law student Owen Bland. Other law students at the table laughed and claimed they may never need the dining skills, depending on how successful they become.

Over the four-course lunch, etiquette aficionada Mallett demonstrated a series of dining do's and

The strategically chosen menu consisted of mushroom consomme, garden salad, fettuccine alfredo, and English trifle. Mallett made the meal informative and interactive as she covered the finer details of dining - from how to place your napkin on your lap (fold with opening toward you for discreet hand wipe between folds), to the proper way to twirl pasta (preferably on the plate's edge, rather than in a spoon).

Mallett is the co-founder of In



Etiquette empress Karen Mallett teaches event attendees to impress with top-notch dining skills and good manners. / Photo: Dawn MacPhee

Good Company, which offers social and dining etiquette programs. She has spent several years working in the hospitality industry, at both the service and managerial levels.

"I think it's really about the learning of positive communication, which is a big part of the learning of manners," says Mallett.

She circles the room demonstrating the civilized way to eat each course, while answering compelling questions from the crowd.

"If your girlfriend is there, can I switch plates and finish what's on her plate?" asks MBA student Bruce Car-

"No," says Mallett. "Eat before you leave the house."

After a lot of schmoozing - without any boozing - most attendees agreed they learned a thing or two.

The event was organized by the Student Employment Centre and the Technical Co-operative Education Office. Communications and marketing officer Denise Williams says putting on Shaken not Stirred was a different approach for the centre, and they hope students will gain confidence and skills to go out and meet employers.

But Mallett says there's more to

- 1. Do not answer your cell phone or pager during meals. If you must take a call, leave the table. 2. Do not talk with your mouth
- full and always chew with your mouth closed.
- 3. Try not to cause a scene if you spill or burp or do something unsightly.
- 4. Do not put elbows, cigarettes, purses, sunglasses, clothing or cell phones on the table, ever! 5. Try not to touch your hair or
- face while you are eating. 6. Sit up straight with your knees
- together and feet flat. Try not to let utensils touch the table or linen after you have
- used them 8. Pace yourself so that everyone finishes at the same time.
- 9. Leave the table if you have to blow your nose, sneeze or pick vour teeth.
- 10. Be sure to keep the conversation on "appropriate topics."

becoming an etiquette envy than impeccable manners though.

"You can learn to dine perfectly, but if you don't learn how to speak to people it doesn't matter what fork

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Editorial

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the stu-dents 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 the Editorial Board are not the explicit views of Dalhou-

Senate must follow student example

The resignations of Senate Discipline Committee co-chairs Phil Cox and Marlene Mercer speak to a fundamental lack of communication between key players in the bodies that govern academic discipline in this university

Cox and Mercer indicated in their letter of resignation that they felt many important decisions that fell under their jurisdiction were made without their consent or consider-

Indeed, the SDC, the Senate Academic Appeals Committee, senate office and top senate officials operate in silos independent of one another. And the consequent breakdown in dialogue between them has much broader implications than the potential breach of decision-making authority.

In fact, this breakdown threatens to undermine the high level of academic integrity Dalhousie aims to

If the university is to retain its centralized front in combating academic dishonesty on campus, the respective committees and offices can't afford to simply appear to be united in their commitment. Given that the institution's reputation hinges on the strength - and success - of its efforts, these bodies must be united.

More importantly, the resignations of Cox and Mercer have exposed and torn down the façade that largely hid the current lack of unity, suggesting that any move to correct the problem must be made now.

DSU Vice President (Education) Jen Bond should be commended for her courage to confront Senate - the university's highest academic body during its Jan. 23 meeting and demand for an "open and frank dialogue" between its members to solve the problem.

Bond's bravery echoed that of Jeff Green, Vice President (Academic) of the Dal undergraduate engineering society, who put his name on the line in last week's issue of The Gazette when he blew the whistle on an alleged incident of academic dishonesty to draw attention to the systemic problem.

These students are champions of integrity at this university and their example should be followed not only by their fellow students, but also by Dal administrators and Senate offi-

Given that the secretary and chair of senate can't meet with the resigned SDC co-chairs to discuss the problems surrounding their decision to withdrawal until Cox returns from vacation on Feb. 24, the senate members must make every possible effort to prepare for that meeting.

And they must build up the guts to speak openly about those prob-

International student work permits must be a priority

ternational students seemed a done deal a couple of months ago, when the provincial office of immigration expressed hope that permits could be available as early as this month.

They were too optimistic.

Years of lobbying by students, universities and the province were swept away by the calling of an election last November.

The province's earlier proposal for funding from the feds to implement the off-campus work program was stalled last fall, when a committee rejected it, only to later accept it at the urging of Liberal then-Immigration Minister Ice Volne But hy then, it was too late - the House of Commons was dissolved before the budget could be cleared.

Now it's uncertain what position the new "pizza Parliament" will take on off-campus work permits for international students.

And it's up to the province, the universities of Nova Scotia and all their students to demand that offcampus work permits place high on the agenda of the new federal government.

Doing so is in the best interest of everyone.

International students need to be able to work off campus. They pay extremely high tuition fees, and most on-campus jobs offer little better than minimum wage.

And upon graduation, international students have just 90 days to find a job within their field of study

to be eligible for a work permit. Since during their education such students are limited to on-campus work, finding employment within their field of study is often out of the question. This makes finding a job after graduation even harder.

Dalhousie is currently trying to increase the number of international students at the university as part of its strategic enrolment plan.

Students from abroad not only increase the number of enrolments, but add to the creation of a vibrant and culturally diverse university en-

Canada is the only Commonalth country that doesn't currently allow international students to work off campus, which takes away from the attractiveness of the country to potential international students. If Nova Scotia, however, becomes the first province to offer permits, Dal will have a strategic advantage over its competitors both across Canada and around the world.

The province wants to boost immigration to Nova Scotia. Retaining international students who graduate from Nova Scotia's universities will help to accomplish that goal, and help to ensure the province has the trained and accredited population it

It's absolutely vital that all the stakeholders in the province - the government, universities, students and their organizations - don't let the new government forget work permits for international students.

Gazette: Opinions

While I realize that the Internet has

become essential to effectively func-

tion in today's modern world. I can't

help feeling intensely frustrated and ir-

ritated every time I actually try to use the Internet off-campus.

atively painless after receiving a shiny

new laptop for Christmas - but, as

usual, my optimism did not correspond

I thought the process would be rel-

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

I thought I only had to plug my network cable into the phone jack, but - lo and behold! - it did not fit. I went to Staples where the clerks laughed at my ignorance (I was unaware of what a router was, and when they asked if I had a modem, they were met with a blank

After spending two hours with the computer help man at my house, I was finally connected to the Internet by

way of my roommate's old modem (I still fail to understand why I need this

Letters: letters@dalgazette.ca

modem when there is one built into my

Unfortunately, to my dismay, my roommate has demanded her modem back, leaving me Internet-less. Now my only option is to purchase a router for \$90 when I already own a \$2000 laptop!

Curse you, modern technology! You're never there when we need you.

Has modern technology replaced the radio?

RAY CORKUM Staff Contributor

They say that video killed the radio star, but the radio community has done a fine job of digging its own

Radio was once an institution of the music world, exposing the fruits of artistic labor to an unprecedented audience. Its value in society was unparalleled in the media world, as radio was the first form of technology to directly connect the masses as an audience. Unlike television and the Internet, radio relied on the imagination of both the artists and the audience to create a portrait of sound, sight from something beyond seeing.

It was a pure form of creative media, made great by its limitations and the abilities of writers, radio personalities and actors to supersede them.

Orson Welles used the radio to bring the world to the brink of destruction in 1938, only to pull the veil away revealing not Armageddon but the most infamous radio drama in history. Welles' War of the Worlds so utterly convinced its listeners of its reality that thousands fled their homes in Ohio in an effort to escape the "alien invasion" that was being transmitted through their radios.

Radio was once the proving ground of great music. DJs had control over the content of their play lists, a liberty that has become a mere fantasy today. Radio had its own heroes: the hosts were larger-than-life personalities, as much rock stars as the musicians whose tracks they played.

This is not to say that radio today is a void of uninteresting puppets and pitiful music, but honestly, have you listened to the personalities on our major local stations? C100 is unbearably clean cut and so deeply entrenched in the top 40 you can hear their "personalities" shudder as they drop the needle on Britney's newest

In the days predating the suffocating hand of government control, DIs could take chances, push limits and engrain for themselves a corner of music history. Case in point: Alan "The Moondog" Freed, a whiskey



shooting legend of radio. Credited with coining the term "rock 'n' roll," Freed was considered an "outlaw" DI. rejecting the manipulative influences of his superiors. An advocate of free speech and expression, he fought against attempts at censorship instituted by his administrative overseers. These were the days of independent stations and DJs - a turbulent time that produced some legendary enter-

In a time of enormous broadcasting conglomerates (Clear Channel Communications, etc) and government controls (through the Federal Communications Commission), the term "radio personality" has become a bit of an oxymoron. Whether this is due to the increased control seized by their higher-ups or a simple lack of creativity, radio's impact has been dulled.

I would be a fool to think that the advent of the media juggernauts known as television and the Internet had nothing to do with the decline of interest in radio. But the blatant neutering of a media form that was once creative and captivating is unacceptable. It has become more important to protect the interests of investors (in order to maintain funding) thanto produce quality radio and enter-

Censorship runs rampant as DJs and the music they play is filtered until all edge and expression has been dulled away. I'm not talking about Howard Stern's "edge" (comprised of dick and fart jokes), but about thought-provoking, original broadcasting that is both entertaining and progressive.

A longstanding blight on the face of radio has been the "payola" institution. Made illegal in 1959, payola is the practice of accepting money or sponsorship in exchange for airplay.

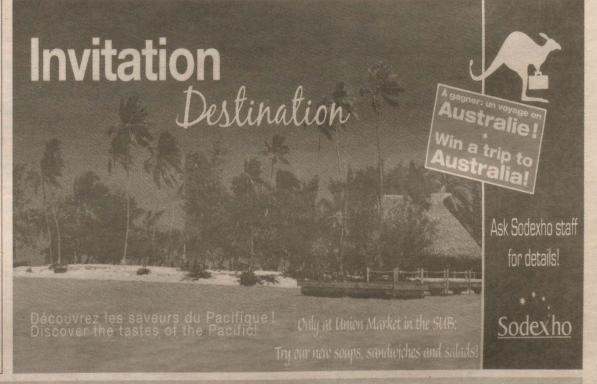
Take for example the recent changes levied upon 50 Cent and G Unit/ Sony records, accused of bribing two radio programmers working for New York's Power 105 to play their music in exchange for TVs, stereos and home-entertainment systems. The two programmers were promptly fired, but the plague remains as lawsuits are levied every day upon artists and stations for their "pay for play" shenanigans.

When the companies with the most clout can simply purchase fame for their artists what happens to the credibility of the music industry?

The advent of satellite and Internet radio are giving independent stations a shot at escaping the bureaucratic bounds that restrict radio's true potential.

Support local and independent radio; check out the wealth of stations found on the Internet and satellite. Don't forget CKDU-FM, which is gradually diversifying its content to incorporate talk radio, top 40 and underground artists.

Always scrutinize what you're hearing, be it soft-handed white bread stations or over-the-top shock jocks. Remain an intelligent audience and we may see the return of intelligent radio.



TOP 10

- A CONSERVATIVE MINORITY When's the last time you met a minority that was actually conservative?
- KOBE BRYANT'S AUDACIOUS 81 POINT GAME AGAINST THE RAPTORS Would've been cooler if it was against a real NBA team.
- IS AMERICAN IDOL HOMOPHOBIC? 3 It's just a defense mechanism, right Simon?
- CANNING "THE WEST WING" It has become painfully obvious that North America doesn't give a damn about politics.
- NASA OFFICIALLY NAMES 2005 AS THE HOTTEST YEAR OF THE 5 CENTURY Thus affirming the prophet Nelly's 2003 scripture, "It's gettin' hot in herrrrre."
- IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK UP GIRLS AT THE GRAWOOD ELECTION 6 PARTY I'm guessing it helps to be popular.
- CHEERING FOR BELINDA STRONACH Because we're drunk. And there's wasn't much else to cheer for at 11:30 p.m.
- THE MINIMALIST PROSE STYLE OF EARNEST HEMMINGWAY Makes for awesome hungover reading.
- GETTING PEER-PRESSURED INTO VOTING Okay people, this is pretty much how the Terminator won the election, remember?
- HAPPY YEAR OF THE DOG! It's from the Chinese Zodiac. Really.

HOT

Getting a boot-in-the-arse

Potential "Friends" Reunion

Bling Bling chains

Theory of Evolution

"Obliterating" something

The Bloc Quebecois

Giant overpriced musical instruments

Canadian politics

Getting a boutonniere

Signs that "Joey" sucks

Bling Bling cufflinks

Underworld: Evolution

"Kobe-ing" something

The Tour de Bloc

Dal's new Marimba!

Complaining about Canadian politics

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

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STREETER

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE ELECTION RESULTS?



I'm disappointed overall, but I'm happy the Green party got five per cent of the votes.

Drew Bartram, first-year science

Not too. I like Canada the way it is.

Nick Morris, fourth-year philosophy



66 Not surprised, not satisfied.

Devon Scott, fourth-year English



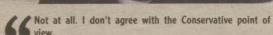
Not particularly, because the Green party didn't get a seat.

Andrew Hines, fourth-year English



Very satisfied. The Liberals screwed us over, so now we can see what the Conservatives will do about it.

Diane Mataija, M.Sc. chemistry



John Curtis, first-year arts



by. I'm happy it's a minority because it holds the government more accountable.

Angelica Blenich, third-year political science and IDS



Not really... with their stance on reducing noxious en sions I don't think my Requirements for Public Flatulence bill is going to have a voice in the House of Commons.

Joey Ryba, seventh-year coprophiliac

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Audiences must show respect during public debates

CHRISTOPHER LEO Opinions Contributor

On Jan. 18, I attended the all-candidates debate on Canadian Foreign Affairs and Defense Issues, held at Dal by the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies and the Graduate Society of Political Science. Since I attended the all-party forum on post-secondary education one evening prior, I was curious to see how the two would compare.

From the outset, it was apparent this debate would be very different. The liberal candidate for the Halifax riding, Martin MacKinnon, opted out of the forum at the last minute, and Tony Seed, the Marxist-Leninist party candidate, had not been invited. The tone of this debate was more official, and the subject matter contentious.

But my intention is not to analyze the debate. Rather, I am sitting here attempting to come to terms with the absolute disrespect with which these candidates were continually addressed by a vocal contingent of the audience. I understand that when such a debate takes place at a university, there are a plethora of individuals with differing political viewpoints and activist groups that take interest and certainly have a right to be heard. This is part of the wonderful democratic freedom we are able to exercise in a country such as Canada.

Nonetheless, a frequent complaint of citizens who watch public debates — such as the recent leaders' debates in Montréal — is that these candidates spend more time personally attacking each other than they do addressing the issues at hand. With that in mind, I had hoped this debate, held on university grounds, would be one of intelligent discourse among the candidates, and thought-provoking inquiries from my fellow students.

Instead, I found myself seated in a room where the effort of candidates to respond to the questions posed was frequently drowned out by shouts, boos, and snickering. Many times, the mediator had to stop the proceedings, address the interruption, and then have the clock restarted so a candidate had the chance to fully articulate.

In my view, this childish behaviour on the part of the audience quickly relegated what could have been a productive debate to the level of farce.

Particularly at the brunt of verbal abuse was Andrew House, the Conservative candidate for the Halifax riding. I'm certainly not an ultra rightwing conservative. I find Mr. House's views on the validity of the war in Iraq concerning, and Stephen Harper's reasons for increasing Canada's military strength dubious. But I will applaud Mr. House for his calm, diplomatic presence in this debate, in the face of ignorant mocking and derision.

There is a format for debates, and a question period to make one's views heard. Free speech is a democratic right; members of the audience in this case chose to abuse that.

As a fellow student, I must say to these perpetrators that you have lost my respect with the way you chose to make your particular political views known.

Foreign policy is a delicate matter. Some may disagree that Tony Seed was not invited to be a part of this forum. But as this was the case, the forum likely shouldn't have been referred to as an "all-candidates meeting." But a little respect for those who were invited and did show up is in order.

Political change is best achieved through the avenue of politics and government itself; angrily spouting rhetoric in an effort to drown out a candidate's answer does nothing more than frustrate those of us who actually attend these debates in an effort to hear the various party's viewpoints.

If you wish to silence those you oppose, please do it at the ballot box, not in a shouting match at a public debate.

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Nursing: not just for females

JOEL DURLING
Opinions Contributor

As the 21st century continues to roll at a steady pace, we are seeing signs that gender equality may become a reality — except, I will argue, in nursing.

Despite our progress in this everevolving world, many professions and careers remain dominated by specific genders. Conventional bluecollar workers, such as plumbers, electricians, technicians, construction workers, and so on, remain predominantly men. Executive assistants, librarians, receptionists, flight attendants, and childcare workers, however, are predominantly women.

Despite equal opportunity hiring policy and recruitment initiatives, even professions such as policing, fire fighting and medicine are still dominated by a heavy number of Caucasian males.

On the other hand, females make up the majority of nurses; Statistics Canada indicates that only roughly one-tenth of Canada's registered nurses are male.

It would appear the main problem facing this profession is stereotypes. Some still believe that the nurse's role doesn't extend beyond the stainless steel bedpan, which is unfortunate.

The modern nurse has a great deal of autonomy and opportunity, in addition to the ability to work in a variety of settings. A nurse can work on Lifeflight, our provincial medical transport helicopter operated by EHS, can provide care for those in the intensive care unit, can assist during surgical procedures in the operating room, or can run a floor in a private, long-term care facility.

The nurse's role extends beyond the hospital and the bedside. A nurse can pack wounds, provide immunization, administer medications, provide personal care, perform a physical assessment, compile a detailed health history, remove sutures or stitches, or insert intravenous lines—the list goes on.

Nurses have a great deal of responsibility and develop closeness with patients that few other health professionals can achieve. Nurses can



be with patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's a fast-paced and challenging job, but very rewarding.

New nursing graduates are in high demand throughout Canada and the world.

In 2003, it was reported that by 2006 Atlantic Canada could lose 22 per cent of its nurses if they chose to opt for early retirement. That percentage was still not reduced significantly if members of the aging workforce opted to retire by the age of 65.

The problem, in a nutshell, is that post-secondary enrollment must increase — and fast.

The nursing profession requires more males and minorities to increase enrollment numbers and maintain diversity. Experienced nurses are also required to pass knowledge onto entry-level inexperienced nurses while they are still active within the profes-

Although nursing takes a special type of person, those people are out there and need to become informed of their available opportunities. Nurses can advance their practice through attaining a masters, doctorate or completing a nurse practitioner program, which allows a nurse to assume responsibilities comparable to those of a general practitioner. Nursing offers the prospect of research, community work, international development, administration, and teaching.

There is a void in our health-care system and it needs to be filled.

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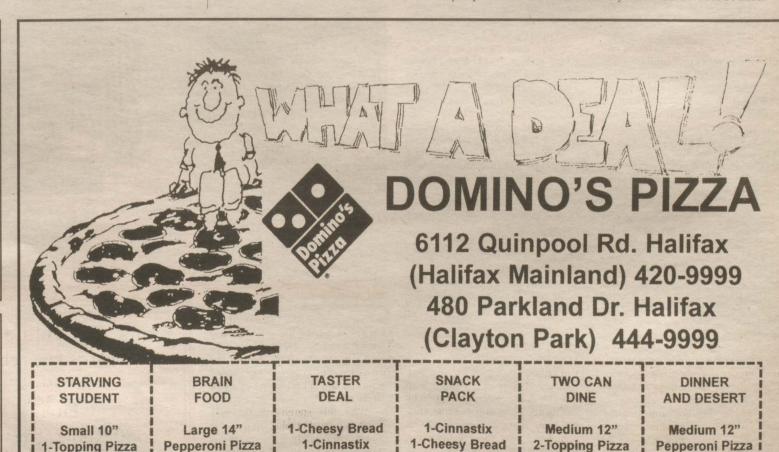
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My prime minister called me a defeatist

Meaghan MacSween Staff Contributor

Remember when Stephen Harper affronted you, your family, and all of your friends?

If you're drawing a bit of a blank, let me jog your memory. Our new prime minister once famously stated that our region, Atlantic Canada, represented a culture of defeat.

In the days and months that followed that comment – made in 2002 during a CTV interview — Harper was reprimanded again and again. And, he apologized.

He attributed the misunderstanding to a lack of clear context and other non-descript political justifications — justifications typical of any politician with an eye on the proverbial prize.

Of course, many of us Maritimers never forgave him.

Fast-forward to four years later. We use that same "defeatist comment" to remind ourselves of why this right-wing cowboy will absolutely ruin us as a region.

Paul Martin, in a lame, last-minute effort to gain momentum by playing the fear card, used it too. On Jan. 20, he attempted an appeal to Atlantic Canada by reminding us of that day in 2002, when our pride was crushed by Harper: "You, my hardworking friends, are anything but defeatists."

In a science experiment-like en-

deavor, I took a "random" sample of some of my Maritime-born friends regarding Harper's "defeatist comment"

Not only did every one of them remember the comment, but all reacted in a negative way. One said angrily, "It's so offensive, he might as well have called my sister a skank."

Okay. The comment was potentially offensive, possibly wrong, and very stupid. But I think we need to move on.

The more I mull it over, the more I'm starting to believe in the merit of Harper's criticism. For one thing, it's not as if Martin ever had any great vision for the Maritimes.

We have no evidence to prove he was ever any more concerned than Harper. He's merely better — in his blithering way — at not saying anything, at all, ever.

We are defeatist. That doesn't mean that you are a defeatist, or your mom is a defeatist. It means Atlantic Canada is a defeatist region. This region is poor, and it is dependent. These are not put-downs, they are facts. What it all amounts to is this: after decades of relying on the feds for economic support, it's become difficult for Atlantic Canada to operate any other way.

Maybe it's time to embrace a different plan, a different strategy and a different leader.

My sense is that Harper wants to challenge Atlantic Canada to find

its way economically. This is part of what the infamous comment was all about. Might social programs be cut with Harper as prime minister? Of course. Can we yet prove that these cuts would have crippling affects? I can't.

All I can think of are Martin's leftist mistakes.

Here's one example. As part of his campaign, Martin promised the Maritimes he would not cut funding to the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency; however, some social economists — even left-leaning ones — have argued that these kinds of development agencies don't work in practice.

After all, the power is obviously centralized. Can the economic state of Fishing Town, Newfoundland really be improved by some sub-group of bureaucratic suits in Ottawa?

Harper's decentralist template seems alarming, in contrast, but perhaps it's just what we need. Perhaps we should keep an open mind.

There's a fairly good chance that I'm completely mistaken. Still, if I am, perhaps it wouldn't hurt to take Harper's comment as a challenge, rather than an attack, so as not to perpetuate the stereotype by our reactions. Are we defeatist, or aren't we?

Let's hold our commentary, my left-leaning friends, and see what happens. After all, for once, something might actually happen.



Letters@dalgazette.ca

STRIP CLUBS CAUSE NO HARM Dear Editor.

This letter is in response to the article "Strip clubs morally repre-

hensible" by Joseph Vaci.

Joseph Vaci argued that strip clubs are immoral. I disagree with this and must humbly remind Mr. Vaci that this forum is not his personal pulpit and each person is entitled to his or her own opinion.

The argument that strippers are "used" as a means to an end is a valid one. What Mr. Vaci must remember, however, is that these women are performing of their own free will; no one is holding a gun to their head yelling, "Dance or die!"

One must also consider the fact that dancers are viewed as the definition of perfection. They are the goal that our modern, media-based society is driving us to pursue.

According to magazines such as *Flair* and *Seventeen*, they are the perfect women. And yet, a group of people who no doubt watch *Desperate Housewives* and read *Cosmo* religiously are condemning this establishment that only emphasizes the messages they are eating by the spoonful.

As for the protesting neighbours, their fears of their uptight, conservative-minded neighbourhood becoming a slum is not entirely unfounded.

It's clear they are projecting the thought that a strip club is going to attract a clientele of junkies and dealers who will set up shop in their neighbourhood — which is not necessarily the case. Look at Ralph's in Dartmouth. How long has it been located on Main Street? And it has not brought the entire area to ruins.

As the conventional definition of marriage becomes archaic and irrelevant, the claim that a strip club can morally harm people and demote monogamy so too must go the way of the dodo. Think about the hypoc-

risy of it all for just a moment. We live in a society that preaches social acceptance and tolerance: we have gay marriages, segregation is long gone, people are free to express (not enforce, Mr. Vaci) their own views without fear of reprisal and here we have a group of people still being persecuted for their beliefs.

Exotic dancers come from all races, creeds, walks of life and sexual orientations, and are accepted as those things, but if they are a stripper they are picketed against and jeered as desecrating the value of a person.

In a time when divorce rates are at an all time high worldwide, lawyers run half the planet and people have lost faith in religion, strip clubs offer a safe haven for those whose minds are burdened.

Instead of worrying about the election, and which federally funded wolverine will be raising tuition next, people can sit down and relax in a place where there are no politics or worries — just a good show.

Here's to freedom, Clayton Antle

DISCUSSIONS NOT THE SAME AS SERMONS

Dear Editor,

A criticism of my article "Strip Clubs Morally Reprehensible" by one "respectful" Sandy Fortune, stated among many things, that I was "preaching" and making fallacious statements in the process; statements I had no right to make in the first place.

I am aware of two negative connotations of the word "preaching": I was either talking condescendingly as if morally superior, or preaching in the sense of giving an answer to a question that was never asked. The second case is not possible, because no one was forced to read my article. Therefore, I will assume that Sandy

meant it in the first sense.

I will break the mystery here and now — I am not perfect. In the article I was saying how hurting girls is awful and morally reprehensible. Sadly, in the past I have hurt girls.

The point is, I'm not condemning people here from some high moral chair, (I can't even if I wanted to), but I am condemning an act. Look closely at the unhappiness that sexual immorality is causing, and you'll understand why I am so passionate about the topic.

I chose to aim the article straight at the point, and there was no real room to make the article personal and say the above.

Even the original article, which was 527 words, was cut to 428 words by the editor due to space issues. Some statements to back up absolute claims were chopped.

With that said, Sandy didn't really counter argue anything I said, but more or less muttered "that's wrong" to several of the statements. I am, however, interested in a further respectful dialogue on the topic, as long as people embracing the philosophy in question, and myself, are not called "idiots" again (big_josip@hotmail.com).

Lastly, Sandy states that it's not my place (nor anyone else's) to impose absolute morality on Dalhousie students.

With this statement, however, Sandy is imposing relativist morality on students. Sandy is saying it's not right to tell someone what you think is right, but by saying this, Sandy is telling me what's right.

In closing, I was not preaching in my article, "Strip Clubs Morally Reprehensible," and only intended to propose my philosophy. If there are false presumptions present, then the way to prove it is with a counter argument.

Josip Vaci

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1-800-446-5265 www.hollandcollege.com Arts & Culture Editor: Lindsay Dobbir

Assistant Editor: Bridgette Sullivan

Contact: arts@dalgazette.c

Can anyone remember when the Black Eyed Peas was a reputable band with politically-charged lyrics? Neither can I, though I know such a time existed.

Now, however, when I think of Black Eyed Peas, I can't get past "My Humps."

I have fairly forgiving musical tastes (as this week's Burn Baby Burn shows), but only to a certain point. The song "My Humps," however, shouldn't be forgiven, but rather discouraged.

And I refer to it as a song loosely. I refuse to believe this is music.

I have yet to identify a discernable melody, or any musical dynamics. Instead, Fergie talks while an annoying-at-best electronic riff repeats in the background.

The content of Fergie's speech is quite lacking in substance, as well. Firstly, "humps" is mentioned no less than 37 times.

The complete lack of thought put into the lyrics continues: "sexy" is rhymed with "sex me," and "drama" with "drama drama."

Not to mention the references to Dolce and Gabanna, Fendi, Donna Karen and Seven jeans, or the fact that the music video is nothing more than a blatant advertisement for Louis Vuitton.

In a market saturated with sex and subliminal messages, it would be nice to hear more songs by artists that don't embrace both outright and become more popular for doing so.

ARTS HOLE: My Hump

Saman Jafarian / Staff Contributor



Holy Fuck were "stone sober" when they recorded their self-titled album.

Holy Fuck!

Group breathes new life into electronic music through improvisation

SARAH FELDMAN Staff Contributor

The stage of the Attic — laid out for Holy Fuck's Jan. 15 show — looks like the Playskool version of a mad scientist's lab.

Two mixing tables, manned by a frenetic Brian Borcherdt (By Divine Right, Remains of Brian Borcherdt) and Graham Walsh (Flux A.D.), are strewn with keyboards, multi-coloured wires, and other instruments, making an array of beeps, screeches, hums and groans.

Into one particularly medieval looking bit of machinery (a 35-mm film-to-tape synchronizer, as it turns out) Borcherdt feeds endless strips of brown tape to produce scratching sounds similar to those of an old turntable. In the back, drummer Loel Campbell (Wintersleep, Contrived) and bassist Kevin Lynn (King Cobb Steelie) set up, against the general panic, a ferocious rhythmic core.

Holy Fuck, a Toronto-based group whose members include Halifax-area natives Borcherdt and Campbell, focuses on making electronica out of basic equipment and cheap, quirky gadgets.

"It's very important to us right now that we don't get too high-tech," says Borcherdt. "This project is all about using the limitations of the ratty old gear we find in the garbage and at yard sales."

Tonight's show even includes an interactive kid's toy called Blue's Clues, which the band picked up at Value Village earlier in the day. Blue's Clues says things like "Wow!" and "That's cool!" — Borcherdt and Walsh use delay pedals onstage to echo and distort the voices.

All of Holy Fuck's music, from club set to festival performance to their recent self-titled album (Dependent Music, 11/05), is improvised. The band played its very first performance, at 2004's North by Northeast, without a single rehearsal.

"I thought it was going to be the biggest disaster, but it was amazing," says Lynn. "We do have moments of complete and utter chaos, but we usually redeem ourselves around the ten-minute mark of any given track."

"We're 100 per cent free form," adds Borcherdt, explaining that, while the band tends to jam to certain favourite keyboard beats, the lack of any established parts or melodies, along with a constantly shifting set of instruments, ensures each performance is a completely new experience

"It's all about making electronica more human," says Borcherdt. "We all like music that's pretty bold, pretty real, and falls apart sometimes... I think the human brain likes compromise, it likes little angles and distortions and inflections."

In the absence of technical polish and sophisticated technological aids, the Holy Fuck album relies on sheer visceral power to get its point across. Songs like "Tonebank Computer" (possibly the strongest track on the album) build over and over to crashing climaxes like slow-motion replays of a building exploding. Other tracks are a brilliant mix of chaos and flashes of clarity, punctuated by the occa-

Holy Fuck's PLUG Picks

Next weekend (Feb. 2), Holy Fuck will be playing at the PLUG Awards, an annual independent music festival held this year in New York, N.Y. Nominees for 2005 include Canadian acts Broken Social Scene, Wolf Parade, Chad Van Gaalen and Arcade Fire.

The Gazette asked the members of Holy Fuck to choose a favourite album, nominated or not, from the 2005 lists. Here's what they picked:

Brian: The Beauty and the Beat, by Edan (Nominated for: Hip-Hop Album of the Year)

Graham: Belladonna, by Daniel Lanois (Nominated for: Best Americana Album of the Year)

Kevin: I am a Bird Now, by Antony and the Johnsons (Nominated for: Best Album of the Year, Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Male Artist of the Year)

Loel: *Tournament of Hearts*, by The Constantines (No nominations)

sional stoned laugh or group howl.

Were they able to create that kind of atmosphere without any, um, chemical aids?

"We were stone sober when we made that CD," Borcherdt says, and pauses. "Wait, don't tell them that, it'll ruin our rep. Tell them we were on LSD the whole time."



Behold, the grassy Kingdom of Ralph. / Photo: Amy Nelson

Wanderlust

Alberta's hidden treasures not just low taxes, steak and oil

AMY D. NELSON Staff Contributor

When most Maritimers think of Alberta, one of two things usually comes to mind: oil or mountains. It also has a reputation for being the "wild west" province.

As with most stereotypes, this is not the whole story.

My home province has much more to offer than low taxes and large steak. There is a vibrant theatre culture, numerous summer festivals and, yes, many rodeos. Since I was born and raised in "wild rose country," my opinion may be a little biased, but I feel it's my duty to make people aware that Alberta is not just cowboys and Conservatives — just as I learned by living here that Nova Scotia is not just fishermen and tourists.

The most improbable of the festivals I have attended was the North Country Fair. With everything from Mongolian throat singers to folk music to ska, this is, hands down, the most unique music festival I've ever seen

The festival takes place every year near the tiny hamlet of Joussard, about five hours north of Edmonton. Started in 1978 by a group of idealistic hippies, the fair occurs on the weekend nearest to the summer solstice — though the hardcore fair goers usually show up early and have a mini-celebration on the actual solstice night.

Due to the latitude, it's only dark for roughly four hours during the summer solstice. Bands have been

known to keep playing until the sun comes up at about 4:30 a.m. Alternatively, you could join the early risers for a morning drum circle.

The most memorable aspect of the fair is the ambience. If you were too young to remember the 60s, you only need to spend a weekend with these people to understand what it must have been like.

On the other end of the spectrum is the Citadel Theatre, located in the arts district of downtown Edmonton. My first experience with this place was on a high school field trip — we saw Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and I was instantly hooked.

The lobby area of the building is made entirely of glass and is filled with living greenery and flowing water. There are several stages of varying size and you're also within walking distance of the Winspear Centre concert hall, which hosts the largest concert organ in Canada.

The best time to check out the arts district is in late August, during the Edmonton Fringe Festival, an annual celebration of theatre and local talent. The Citadel serves as a focal point for the numerous shows and performances occurring throughout the city.

So while it's true that the majority of those who head to Alberta are looking for employment or to go celebrity spotting in Banff, just know that this province has a lot more to offer than one would think,

Alberta has a truly diverse landscape, both geographically and cul-

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Burn Baby Burn



GUILTY PLEASURES

The first concert I went to was embarrassingly for Savage Garden. It was soon followed up with concerts by 'NSync, the Backstreet Boys, and the Moffatts. Yes, the Moffatts.

I'm ashamed to say I used to be a hardcore teenybopper.

Though I swear I've changed my ways, you wouldn't be able to tell it from my list. Stop laughing. You love these songs, too — and you know it.

"You Give Love A Bad Name" - Bon Jovi

- "All These Things that I've Done" The Killers "Saints & Sailors" - Dashboard Confessional
- "Hungry Like The Wolf" Duran Duran
- "Take Your Mama Out" The Scissor Sisters
- "No Rain" Blind Melon
- "Toxic" Britney Spears "Dance, Dance" - Fall Out Boy
- "If You Leave" OMD
- "Knock-Down Drag-Out" Weezer

SIDE B: Colleen Cosgrove / Staff Contributor

We all have them and, to be honest, stopping at ten was one of the top ten hardest things to do. Don't kid yourself... try it, a mere ten would be virtually impossible.

These songs are second nature to most of us. We were in our prime when they were hits - or so we thought.

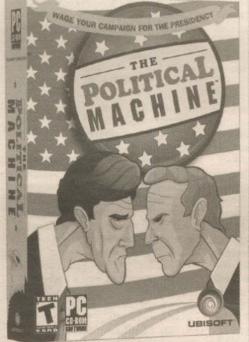
If it's 2006 or 2026, the words to each song in that oh so embarrassing CD collection, which was left at home, will never escape us. Face it, you smile and sing along each time a second-rate radio station decides it's "retro" day...

We are not there yet, are we?

- 'Everybody" Backstreet Boys
- "Boom Boom" Venga Boys
- "Viva Forever" Spice Girls
- "Gangsta's Paradise" Coolio
- "Joyride" Roxette "Whoomp There it is" - Tag Team
- "I Get Knocked Down" Chumbawumba
- "My Heart Will Go On" Celine Dion
- "Sex and Candy" Marcy Playground
- "I Know Where Its At" All Saints

GAMERS AWARE

DANA MASSEY / Staff Contributor



Genre: Strategy Publisher: Ubisoft

Available For: PC Players: One

Developer: Stardock

In the wake of the 2004 American federal elections, UBISoft put out The Political Machine. This game lets players take on the roll of a presidential candidate and run against modern and historical figures from either the Democrats or the Republicans in a bid to secure the White House

At first, The Political Machine is downright addicting. It features a hybrid of turn-based and real-time gameplay; each week both candidates have a limited number of action points to make speeches, run advertisements, seek endorsements and travel around the United States. You do this competitively with your opponent each turn. The game requires some agility, but leaves time to catch your breath. Once the novelty wears off, however, the shallowness of the game comes to the surface. At best, The Political Machine has the depth of your average web-based java game. It's an amusing time-killer, but once you figure out the basic formula, all you need to do is repeat it to be successful.

Politics are one of North America's favourite pastimes and as the average age of gamers climbs, more of a market is bound to develop. Yet, in The Political Machine, Stardock appears to have been scared that the game's subject may be too grown up for the average gamer. With this in mind, the game also features a service-able, if uninspiring comic-style. It's not that the art is not well done, simply that it seems out of place. Based solely on the art direction, I half expect the Hulk to be running against Superman.

The Political Machine is an interesting diversion and decently made for a bargain-bin title, but if you're seeking in-depth campaign simulation, this is not for you.

Why to buy: A decently entertaining American politics simulation. Why not to buy: No replayability.

ENTERTAINMENT PICK

KAREN ORTON / Staff Contributor

Lunar Park

by Bret Easton Ellis

Bret Easton Ellis once again shocks readers, lifts eyebrows and defies genres in his most recent novel, Lunar Park.

Alternating between autobiography, horror and ghost story, Lunar Park introduces us to its main character, famous writer Bret Easton Ellis, and takes us through his life as it begins to unravel, culminating in a series of bizarre events.

Delivered with his characteristic deadpan humor and minimalist style, this faux memoir shows us what happened to the lost generation of disaffected and privileged youth of the 1980s, portrayed in Ellis's first groundbreaking novel, Less Than Zero.

In this case, the cool kids have grown up and now inhabit a wealthy suburban community, planning their children's heavily medicated, overachieving lives, and carefully orchestrating dinner parties. Ellis's youth of celebrity, partying and drug use have given way to staid middle age, and the

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novel describes the fictionalized account of the author's marriage to a well-known film actress with whom he has a family.

In this seemingly respectable life, Ellis teaches creative writing at a small liberal arts university, yet he starts to resume his old ways, hitting on his male and female students alike, throwing wild parties, heavily drinking, inhaling copious amounts of cocaine and popping prescription drugs by the handfuls. When Ellis starts encountering characters from his past novels — Clay from Less than Zero and Patrick Bateman from American Psycho - as well as the ghost of his dead father, things take a decidedly eerie

Ellis struggles to discover who or what is haunting him, while protecting his family, as those around him dismiss his concerns, attributing them to drug use and self-delusion.

Lunar Park is a chaotic and engaging read. Ellis has made his mark through his succinct, ironic observations delivered with a flat, offhand matter of factness that captures an unaffected generation.

In Lunar Park, Ellis continues to prove that he's a talented writer, yet somehow his novel fails to deliver the emotional impact of his earlier work. Ellis's work is often profoundly disturbing yet somehow simultaneously enticing, although this reviewer was left feeling empty after finishing his latest novel.

The characters in the book, including Ellis himself, exhibit the same nihilistic attitude as they did in their 20s. But how many times do we need to see this portrait of privilege laid out before it just becomes somewhat pathetic, much like Ellis's own washed-up character in the book.

This is a generation that may have aged, but has not matured. Ellis's novel is successful in showing that the hedonism this generation so openly embraced in their youth is now carefully concealed within their mundane, self-absorbed lives.

Lunar Park is a must-read for any fans of Bret Easton Ellis, yet for those new to his writing, earlier work such as Less Than Zero, The Rules of Attraction and Glamorama are a better place to start.



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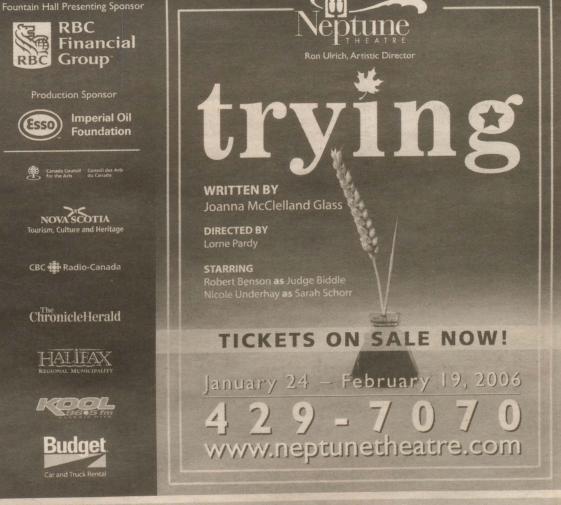
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Need a date?

BRENNAN McVeigh

Who doesn't really? I guess there are some people out there who don't need a date, but the typical Sextant reader might need a little help in this department.

(If this doesn't apply to you please forgive me and allow your eyes to just glaze over this).

How do you get a date? Well, if there was an easy answer to this, I would have something better to do than write this - I'd be occupied with someone else. Not that I don't love the sextant, just sometimes I need more

How about random hookups? Let me know how that goes. Blind dates? No thanks, I use my eyes everyday. Family connections? Not even going to touch this suggestion.

So what to do? Let me try to think of a few other situations in which you are weighed and measured as a person.

Yearly physical: for those of you who are unaware, this means going to a doctor (licensed people) and him or her giving you a good once over. The Doc will poke, prod, and delve into your inner reaches.

Sounds nice right? Now add in all the uncomfortable question he'll be asking such as "How long has this rash been there?", "How did your toenail fall off?" and of course "You know it's not supposed to do that right?"

Trust me, it is a shaming ordeal. At the end of it, depending on how well you measure up, you'll be told to come back. This is the one time where you want the second date to be as far away as possible. There is a good reason none of this sounds pleasant, it's because it's not.

How about running into an old friend? You know what I'm talking about. You're walking to pizza corner after a late night and you randomly run into an old friend from high

Now, you haven't seen this person in at least three years, but for some reason you still feel compelled to stop and chat. It's always the same: "Where are you now?, what are you doing? Have you seen (insert mutual friend name)?" After these questions have been asked there's an awkward silence where you both think about how you don't really know this person anymore. You'll both say, "we should meet up again sometime".

Yes, it's great to catch up with old friends, but we both know you know be calling each other. It's probably because you're a different person than you were before, and so is your friend from long ago. You won't call each other because it'll be awkward and you'll probably like the memory you have of the person than the person they've become. So this idea isn't that good a system either. Getting closer, the awkwardness is there, with less touching than with the doctor (for better or for worse) but still don't quite compare

Oh, whatever shall I do now? Is

there a solution for those of us who aren't hot and charming? How about an interview?

(That's like a date. The interview basically decides if the interviewer ever wants to see your sorry self again. Maybe not to the extreme of seeing them 8 hours a day 5 days a week forever that's enough to drive most people off. Most sensible people anyway, no offense. Well if this is the perfect comparison how does one get an interview?)

Here's an alternative: PlacePro! For those of you who don't know, PlacePro is the method by which coop students apply to jobs. Typically, a job gets posted by the employer they briefly mention what they're looking for in an applicant and what that applicant would be required to do. If you feel you can meet both of these requirements you can apply. This is done by submitting your resume, transcripts, and a cover letter so they can get to know you. This allows them to decide if you're worthy of an interview.

My friend Amy Schnapps mentioned that she would like to be on PlacePro, and eligible people could apply to date her. Of course she would require a resume, cover letter photograph and probably a letter of reference or two. Sounds a little extreme, but based on who she has dated in the past, I believe she's earned the right to be picky.

Yeah, sure, it sounds like online dating, and I guess to a point it is. It's the co-op way though, the absolute model of efficiency, and less creepy than saying "I met him on the inter-

DSEUS WHA?

Upcoming Events

Tech Ball: Tech Ball this year is coming up on February 2 in the Sexton Gym. Tickets are 12\$ and include one free beverage. Music will be provided by Big Fish. Tickets are on sale at the student info desk and at the DSEUS office (for info on where that is, see last week's Sextant). For the less informed, Tech Ball is a chance for everyone to get dressed up interview style ('cept girls in dresses)...and get drunk or not.....date or no date it's an awesome fun time and I highly encourage everyone to go. PS, has anyone seen my shoes I lost at last year's tech ball? PPS, if you want a date.. see Brennan's article.

AEC: OK, so it's past the registration deadline for AEC... but since you didn't register after I wrote this section last time.. I'm writing it again.. go to AEC... it's fun and you can win big money... if money is not incentive then I don't really know why you're in engineering...oh riiight... the challenge...myweb.dal.ca/greenjs more info... because the registration is late you might not get a room in the hotel but that's what you deserve

for being slack...consider it like 20 per cent off for a late assignment.

T-Room Stuff: there is the usual Friday night trivia... but for those who don't leave their house because they play video games all day, now you can play video games in the T-Room. There will be a Halo tournament this Friday so you can play teams on the big screen.. also watch for upcoming Texas hold-em Tourney.

Blood.. It's in you to give?? Or is it in you to live? Yup that's right, tThere will be a blood donor clinic on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 in the alumni lounge sexton campus. You will need id with full name and signature or full name and photograph. New donors welcome! (Doesn't it seem like you should need more details before you give away your blood?)

For more information on any events or for ideas complaints or presents, stop by the DSEUS office, or read the lengthy emails I send you

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Underworld: Evolutio Doug Demaro On Sunday evening I decided I was long overdue to see a good

action flick. Now, let me state now that I might be a little biased, being obsessed with both vampires and Kate Beckinsale. (So let it be known if there is something you disagree

Underworld is an action movie, a vampire versus werewolf versus vampire-werewolf action movie.

Needless to say I didn't go for the story. That being said, how was the action? Well, in my mind, it wasn't that great. Yes, there were some cool fights, cooler deaths, and a Beckinsale sex scene. But this film still didn't compare to the first one.

You know that feeling you get after a really good action movie? You know the feeling that makes you want to run fast, drive fast, shoot things up and have a serious male bonding moment?

Well, I just didn't get that feeling after this film. In fact, after I left the theatre I went back to my apartment and did homework. (Does that make any sense? I don't think so).

Normally I rate these action movies based on a kill-o-dex: how much the movie makes me want to fight. Yes, movies and video games are the cause of all violence.

Well, this film scored pretty low. I'd give it a 4 on the kill-o-dex. For those of you who are unaware, I'll give some examples of the kill-o-dex scale.

Four Brothers The Matrix Lord of the Rings Free Willy 10 (but for other reasons) Platoon

Get the idea? Big action movies usually score pretty high. This wasn't the case. Basically, if I never saw the movie, I'd probably be better off.

If you want to see a good action flick, don't go see this one, If you want to see a lot of jaws get ripped off and some really bloody deaths, in a way that tries to be cool but isn't, give Underworld a try.



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Women's hockey Dal 4 Mt. A. 0 Dal 3 Concordia 2 Dal 1 McGill 2

Men's hockey Dal 3 St. F.X. 8 Dal 2 Acadia 5

Women's basketball Dal 65 CBU 69 Dal 60 CBU 63

Men's basketball Dal 56 CBU 71 Dal 54 CBU 68

Women's volleyball interlock Dal 0 Sherbrooke 3

Dal 0 McGill 3 Dal 2 UQM 3 Dal 0 Laval 3

Men's volleyball interlock Dal 3 Laval 1 Dal 3 McGill 0 Dal 3 Montreal 0 Dal 3 Sherbrooke 1

Friday, Jan. 27 @ 6 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UPEI Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 6 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UNB

Men's basketball

Friday, Jan. 27 @ 8 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UPEI Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 8 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UNB Women's volleyball

Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UdeM

Duncan eyes a final shot at AUS championship

MIKE TWEEDALE Staff Contributor

eslie Duncan is in her fifth and Lifinal year with the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team. The Lunenburg-born Duncan grew up in Blockhouse, N.S., and attended high school in Bridgewater.

In her first season with the Tigers, 2001/2002, Duncan earned a starting position, but a knee injury kept her out of the line-up for most of the

During the AUS final, Duncan watched from the bench as Memorial University hit a buzzer beater to win the game and end the Tigers' season. This sticks out in Duncan's memory the most because the Tigers haven't been to the AUS final since. Duncan played for Nova Scotia at the 2001 Canada Games. Dr. Carolyn Savoy, who is the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball coach, also coached the Canada Games squad that year. Duncan says her experience with Savoy was positive and it factored in her decision to come to Dal.

"I chose Dalhousie because I wanted to stay close to home," says Duncan. "[Savoy] said she would like me to play at Dal, and knowing already what to expect from her, I figured it would be a smooth transition going straight from that team into playing with the Tigers."

As a player/coach tandem for the past six years, Duncan and Savoy have built a strong relationship and each acknowledges the benefits of having worked together for such a length of time.

'I've really enjoyed playing for her," says Duncan. "I can go to her office and we can talk for two hours and I really respect the way she coaches."



Leslie Duncan will help the Tigers get to the AUS finals. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Dr. Savoy says Duncan is very

"I think Leslie and I have a very good coach/player relationship,' she says. "Whenever I ask her to do something, or work on something, she is dedicated to it."

Duncan is currently pursuing a recreation management degree, and despite the busy schedule, the allstar forward is able to balance her studies, practices and road trips.

After graduation, Duncan doesn't have a specific plan and says she isn't worried about not knowing exactly how her university experience will help her in the future.

"I don't think one has to know exactly what they're going to do after graduating," she says. "There are lots of things going through my mind. Right now, I might go to Europe, and if I can play there I will. If not, I'll go somewhere and try to find a job and go from there."

Duncan says she would like sports to be a part of her future.

"I would like to get involved in youth sports. I'm just looking for a job to keep me active and working with other people."

Currently, Duncan and her teammates are fighting for a first-round playoff bye.

"As a team, we're starting to come together," she says.

"Judging from the past few years, this is one of the most talented and best teams I've played for. As a group, we get along really well, and as team we play well, and I think if we can keep progressing the way we are, we can do really well.

With the Tigers in the hunt for top spot in the AUS, Duncan would like nothing more than one more shot at a championship.

'I remember that game and watching how devastated the fifthyear players were," she says referring to the 2002 buzzer-beater. "I'm in fifth year now, and so I want our team to stay healthy and get that bye and pull out the wins."



Dalhousie women's hockey team is taking the final strides to AUS

COLLEEN COSGROVE Staff Contributor

onsistency, solid leadership, Udynamic goaltending and the immense help of a versatile crop of rookies have carried Dalhousie Tigers women's hockey team through the first-half of the season. The team is in second-place in the AUS, one point behind its provincial rivals the St. F.X. X-Women.

In October, head coach Lesley Jordan spoke of her team's potential and the future she saw for the Tigers this season. Her expectations have come to life on the ice thus far and she holds no doubts or apprehension with regard to the team's performance in the latter half of the season.

'We are in a great spot right now," says Jordan. "Things are falling into place. Number one before going into AUS is of course the ideal position, and it will take two wins over SMU and one over St. F.X. to put us there."

This past weekend, the Tigers put all thoughts of St. F.X. and SMU aside and battled the nationally ranked Concordia Stingers and McGill Martlets. The Tigers lost to the Stingers and Martlets in November in Montreal but faired better on the weekend

at Dal. The team defeated Concordia 3-2 on Saturday, Jan. 21, and lost 2-1 on Sunday, Jan. 22.

The games were a learning experience for Dal and will give the Tigers a better idea of what the team is up against when the squad battles St. F.X. and SMU for first-place later this

"It's good to play teams like this," says Jordan. "They're always a challenge.

The versatility and leadership found on the women's hockey team is what keeps Jordan confident in her team's abilities.

"Our vets are all great leaders," says Jordan. "They have all done a good job on and off the ice. They keep me informed and have been key players on the ice this season."

The team is composed of only one fifth-year player, Leah Kutcher, four girls in their third year, and a large group of ten rookie players. Even though the Tigers are a young club, the team has been very successful this season, and Jordan looks forward to the years to come with this solid roster.

"This is hopefully the core of our team," she says, "We are top contenders now, so the future definitely looks

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The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is committed to excellence in teaching. It has established a teaching award that honors, each year, a faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution to teaching and serving the students of the Faculty. This award is intended above all to underline the fundamental importance of first-rate and innovative pedagogy.

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Nominations should be signed by at least three students or staff members, and should include evidence of teaching excellence. This will vary, but might include letters from sponsors summarizing the evidence justifying the nomination, results of student evaluation questionnaires, pedagogical publications of the candidate, confidential letters of support from colleagues and/or former students, evidence of innovative pedagogy and of service to the Faculty or the outside community. Nomination forms are available at the office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. Please contact 494-1439 for more information.

The recipient will be recognized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Nominations and documents supporting them should be sent to the Selection Committee for the Excellence in Teaching Award, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

FEMALE ATHLETE



LEAH MERKLEY HOCKEY

Leah Merkley had a six-point weekend with four goals and two assists in the Tigers' three games on home ice. Friday, Dalhousie took on AUS counterparts Mt. A. and skated to a 4-0 victory where Merkley counted two power play goals and two assists. Saturday, the Tigers welcomed the CIS fifth-ranked Concordia Stingers to Memorial Arena. Merkley added another power-play goal and a shorthanded goal that contributed to the 3-2 win. Exhibition play continued on Sunday as the Tigers hosted the McGill Martlets and conceded a 2-1 loss. Merkley is a third-year history student from Bracebridge, Ont.

MALE ATHLETE



JEFF WEILER VOLLEYBALL

Jeff Weiler led the volleyball Tigers to an outstanding weekend as Dalhousie hosted all AUS and QSSF men's volleyball teams for the second of two interlock tournaments. The Tigers went undefeated under the leadership and outstanding play from Weiler at the libero position. Dalhousie recorded wins over Laval (3-1), McGill (3-0), Montréal (3-0) and Sherbrooke (3-0). Weiler is a fourthyear kinesiology student from Scarborough, Ont.

Contribute!

Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 p.m. every Monday.
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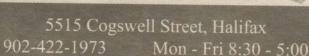
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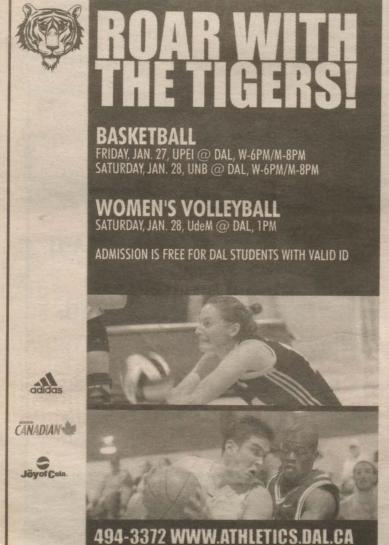
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Track and Field is in high gear

JOEY RYBA Sports Editor

The 2006 Dalhousie Tigers men's and women's track and field season is in full swing.

The teams have already competed at UdeM and have several other events scheduled, which include meets at McGill University, Boston University, Dalhousie, the AUS Championship and the CIS Championship.

Head coach Dan Hennigar says the women's team is going to be strong in the sprints this year. The women have three runners ranked in the top-eight in the country: Leanne Huck, Lauren Grant and Susan Sobey.

Huck and Grant, who also play on the women's soccer team, lead the squad.

"They're really starting to develop," says Hennigar. "I think we're further ahead at this time of year than we've ever been with those two."

Huck and Grant are joined by third-year Alicia Dobranowski and rookie Sobey.

Dobranowski qualified for the CIS last year in the hurdles and the pentathlon. Hennigar says that she'll be a strong athlete for the Tigers at the AUS and CIS levels.

Susan Sobey is the most impressive women's recruit. Hennigar says the first-year is leading the country, but keeps in mind that the top runners from Ontario and Canada West haven't posted their best times.

"She's very promising for a young rookie," Hennigar says. "She's only a couple hundredths off what Adrienne Power was doing in her first year."

Hennigar says the men's long middle-distance runners will be strong and the backbone of the team is fifth-years Matt Sheffield, Paul Chafe and Nick McBride.

"They'll be looking to do something special this year," Hennigar says.

Matt Sheffield is ranked second in the country in the 3000-m and Hennigar says the veteran runner is in phenomenal shape.

"He's doing some workouts he's never done before," says Hennigar. "I think we'll see some pretty impres-



Geoff Harris hopes to make his mark in 600-m this season. / Photo: Nick Pearce

sive stuff from him."

The veteran core will be joined by a group of new recruits that includes Geoff Harris and Ueli Albert, and Hennigar says these rookies will dominate.

"I think they're going to be some of the top runners in the country in the short middle-distance events," he says

Harris is fresh out of high school and hopes to make his mark in the 600-m.

Albert competed for the Swiss National team last year and Hennigar expects him to make quite an impact with the Tigers.

John Corbit is another runner of note on the men's side. Corbit was a CIS runner last year and should mesh well with the fifth-years and rookies.

Both the men's and women's teams will compete in the Valentines Classic hosted by Boston University. Over 1,200 athletes will take part in the event. Hennigar says his team's main reason for attending the event is to face some top-notch competition.

"We'll have very few athletes who will go down there and dominate at that level," he says. "Athletes who are dominating locally will have the opportunity to see what it's like to compete in the middle of a tight pack and they'll be ready for that when they

face the same thing at the CIS Championship."

Both teams will compete in the AUS Championship hosted by UdeM and the CIS Championship hosted by the University of Saskatchewan.

The women's team has been the AUS champion since 1990. Hennigar says he doesn't expect the women's team to dominate to the same level as last year because the conference is getting stronger, but says he thinks his team is the favourite.

At the CIS level, Hennigar says his team has a lot of depth, but the younger athletes haven't made the jump to the top of the heap in terms of CIS competition. He says a top-10 finish would be a solid performance.

Hennigar says the AUS Championship on the men's side is a bit of a strange story. SMU has a quality team across event groups and the Huskies might be the favourite to win. He says the Tigers will face stiff competition for the first time in five years and might not win the championship — it all depends on how his team prepares.

At the CIS level, this squad may be the strongest team that Dal has ever had at CIS Hennigar says. He says that the Tigers are a lot stronger at the top this year and this could be the best-ever men's showing at the CIS championships.

