

FREE

February 2st to February 9th, 2006

ISSUE 138-18

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1968

Gazette

WHAT'S EATING

GILBERT SWITZER



LOCAL BAND RIDES THE PINK TIGER (PAGE 14)

PLUS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Both sides of the coin **PGS 12,13**

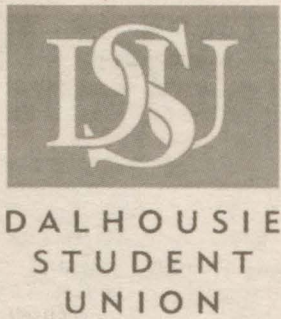
PC Candidates
Duke it out **PGS 6,7**

The Dalifamous roster begins

- Pat Nearing, super coach **PG 20**
- Charles Crosby, double agent **PG 15**
- Peter Butler, prof extraordinaire **PG 8**
- Keith Torie, student politician **PG 8**

Photo: Rosalie Hanlon

This is a weekly communications about happenings around the DSU.
Check it out, right here every week.



DSU Annual General Meeting and Elections

Annual General Meeting and Constitutional Amendments:

The DSU's Annual General Meeting is coming up on February 8th at 6:30 in the McInnes room. We will present the Unions audited financial statements, reports from each executive, and will also be discussing and voting on a number of constitutional amendments. Among the changes is a significant improvement to the DSU elections regulations. All the proposed changes to the constitution can be viewed on our website, or in the glass case behind the SUB Info Desk. If you are interested in what the DSU has been up to for the past year, and would like to have a say in how the DSU is run in the future be sure to come the AGM. If none of those reasons appeal to you, then come for the free food!

DSU Elections:

Although the elections regulations have not been finalized yet, the election process has been put into motion. Nominations for the elections open on Monday February 6th and close on Thursday February 16th. If you would like to run in the elections you must be nominated by at least 25 Dalhousie Students. Nomination forms will be available for pick up at the Info desk, in the DSU offices, or online at elections.dsu.dal.ca.

Campaigning begins on Monday February 27 and ends on Monday March 6th. Although not approved yet, the new elections regulations have made significant changes to the poster regulations so that all postering will be taken care of by the elections committee.

Voting for the elections runs from March 7th to 9th. Another feature of the proposed election regulations is that candidate's names will now be placed on the ballot in random order and will be re-randomized for each voter. This change was to address the concern that the ballots were unfair when candidate's names were placed in alphabetical order.

If you are looking to get involved in the DSU the elections are your opportunity. Besides the five executive positions, there will also be Board of Governors and Senate Representatives elected. If you want to know more about any of the positions, please talk to any of the current executive or council members.

Federal Election Pool Winners:

I would like to congratulate the winners in the DSU's Federal election pool held at the Election Party in the Grawood on January 23rd. The big prize winner (\$400 to Travel Cuts) was Ian Mallov, who guessed closest over all. He guessed, Grits: 100, Tories: 122, Bloc: 55, Dippers: 29, Greens: 0 and 2 independents. Aaron Wood won a Sony DVD player for guessing the Bloc right on. Nick Petropolis won an iPod Nano in a draw between all those that guessed correctly for the NDP. Mike Smit won a Keith's sports bag in a draw of all those that guessed 0 for the Greens. Mike Tipping won a Sony DVD player in a draw of all those that guessed closest for the Tories, and Keith Torrie won a Moby Blue MP3 player for guessing the Grits right on.

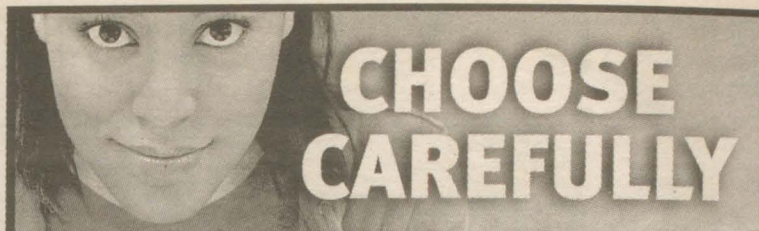
Winter Carnival:

The DSU has a number of events organized for the week of February 6th as a part of our Winter Carnival. On Tuesday the 7th there is a sleigh ride at Hatfield Farms. Tickets can be picked up at the SUB Info Desk. Wednesday the 8th, we will be kicking off Battle of the Bands in the Grawood. If you haven't entered your band yet, be sure to do so soon. Finally on Friday the 10th we have the DSU's annual Charity Ball. Tickets are \$25 and can be bought at the SUB Info desk. All proceeds from the event are going to the Canadian Cancer Society.

February 8th is the DSU's Annual General Meeting. It will take place at 6:30 in the McInnis Room. Pizza and pop provided.

I would like to remind everyone that the **Teaching Awards Nominations are due on the 8th of February**. Nomination forms can be found on our website. At the Grawood we have the **Super Bowl XL Party** - the non-Olympics sporting event of the year coming up on Feb. 5th, and **In Flight Safety with Adam Puddington & The Proof** coming up on Feb. 15th. More info on both of these events can be found on www.grawood.com.

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Hi, my name is Chris, and I have a (small) problem

Are Internet addictions society's next white elephant?

CHRIS LAROCHE
Editor-in-Chief

For all our inventions, discoveries, and decorative MSN buddy icons, we humans can still get our asses soundly kicked by mother nature.

I came to this conclusion while sitting on the couch of my friend's Cambridge Street rooming house — holed up there to avoid having to drive home to this city's underplowed suburbs — and while peering out at the white wash of snow that seemingly enveloped all of existence on Wednesday.

Snow days, the media often reports, bring out the child in everyone. A short walk through South End Halifax would have proved these reports true; kids played, neighbours laughed and everyone, it seemed, was out to help shovel.

Meanwhile, Dalhousie remained closed, my computer remained Internet-less, and my car remained a useless piece of scrap metal parked in an unfamiliar driveway (read: to get home, I've got to drive up a big, nasty hill that doesn't normally get plowed until at least 12 hours after it stops snowing).

Oh, how I was displaced and powerless, cut off from the outside world, feeling like a deaf mute, unable to check *BBC.com* world news or see the relieving blue of MSN Instant Messenger.

There could be all kinds of crazy events happening right now, and I would never know, I thought.

What these "crazy events" might be, I wasn't really sure. It was irrelevant. It was the fact *I couldn't know* that bothered me.

To distract myself from such nightmarish thoughts, I spent the majority of Wednesday morning talking to my friend's five roommates as they wandered in and out of the Cambridge Street house's kitchen — a good bunch, of course.

But I started to break down, and in the course of the day, I inevitably felt like I was part of some bizarre bubble world, the stranger-meets-stranger euphoria of washed-up celebrity shows like *The Surreal Life* gone awry, washed in snow, and transplanted to South End Halifax.

Worst of all — worse than BBC withdrawal or any number of MSN crashes — I was unable to communicate with anyone belonging to my normal world, at least short of calling *Gazette* editors on my cellphone so I could break the now-obvious news that production was cancelled for the day.

After asking, one of the Cambridge Street residents generously offered me a connection so I could

check my email. I accepted, and responded to what had arrived in my inbox over the last 12 hours.

Disconnecting, I felt content.

For about 10 minutes.

It wasn't enough.

I was — *gasp* — disconnected.

I have a few problems, so be it. I am a political junkie, I drink too much coffee, I am addicted to both *The Daily Show* and *Charlie Rose* (and I think that the fact they both air at the same time is one of late-night television's greatest tragedies).

And, I am often told, I am overly critical of others.

cough

But worse than all of this, I need the Internet to make any sense of my day-to-day life. Not the telephone, not a TV, but the Internet.

What happened? Where did the dreadful spiral into web-addiction begin? And is there any hope for me, or anyone else, who sometimes, maybe, but not all the time! uses MSN to organize a night on the town?

It's not like I haven't been disconnected before.

In fact, as bizarre as it is to think so, I went about my daily affairs without any form of Internet for almost 15 years of my life (!). I've only been an MSN user for a few years (ICQ, invariably, provided the gateway addiction) and, throughout the course of a week, most of my communication goes on person-person. I go on trips — sometimes to the boonies of rural Nova Scotia, carrying nothing but a kayak and a Coleman stove — with

relatively little access to the Internet.

But something has happened.

When others proclaim to me, "I hate MSN!" I find myself defending the not so perfect, often-bug-ridden program. "But you can be really clear about what you mean on it!" I'll say. "And you can have conversations with all sorts of people at the same time!"

I'll then go on about the virtues of *Wikipedia* over regular encyclopedia ("just don't rely on it for accurate information!") and explain that *The Gazette* would be in deep trouble without its computer network and email accounts (despite the fact that this paper existed for some 125 years before web access was widely available).

To be sure, both MSN Instant Messenger and the now-archaic-but-still-used email have their pros. You can talk to multiple persons simultaneously on MSN, or even use it in conjunction with email to quickly organize social events in a less bothersome manner than by phone or, *gasp*, in person.

Best of all, you can casually carry on conversations with friends all over the globe whom you probably wouldn't bother to call. As I once told a friend over email: with MSN, I can leave people messages and make "casual" comments without needing to be "serious" about communicating with someone.

This is especially relevant for our generation; the globalization of jobs means that "community" is no longer

a fixed idea. As we pursue our careers, and are forced to globetrot while we do it, we're going to end up with friends all over the world, whether we like it or not.

The Internet, in these cases, will have to be our Knight in Shining Armour — or we may find ourselves in a far away land, alone, and without a group of peers to connect with.

But defending the virtues of virtual communication over "real" ones, despite its logic, seems illogical, amoral, and downright geeky. As more and more people plug into the Internet to communicate, using MSN and email for daily banter invariably becomes easier and easier. Will people eventually stop venturing out of their homes, approaching each other only through the safe social barriers provided by keyboards, wireless networks, MSN emoticons and (for the adventurous) webcams?

And what would happen if we were forced outside?

When Alexander Bell invented the first telephone that carried voice recording, criticisms and skepticism were abundant. According to Herbert Casson's *History of the Telephone*, American news media didn't react well to the invention. *The New York Herald* called it "weird and almost supernatural," while *The Providence Press* wrote, "It is hard to resist the notion that the powers of darkness are somehow in league with it."

And although he died before the Internet became a *fait accompli*, Canadian public intellectual Marshall

Mcluhan would likely see the emergence of the Internet as a glorious but dangerous opportunity for the Global Village to better connect itself.

Mcluhan famously warned that the "medium is the message" and the "content is the audience." And while these words have certainly been misinterpreted as absurd or nonsensical by many *Part of our Heritage* commercial viewers, they hold greater weight now than they did in the days of black-and-white TV.

As the medium of human communication shifts to the virtual, the nature of that communication will, in time, change as a result. Many authors, pundits and columnists like myself have taken stabs at explaining how the Internet may be changing the way we communicate. But it may simply be too soon to tell whether the Internet is to become the primary re-shaper of human communication — with society going the way of William Gibson's novel *Neuromancer* (or, for you film buffs, *Tron* or *The Matrix*) — or whether it will simply be a medium for communication changes already occurring.

And thus I am left with no real answers.

Was my sudden and unexpected Internet withdrawal something that is intrinsically bad, or simply an indication of the changing nature of communication? After all, news reporters in the 1960s or 1970s might have reacted the same way if they were suddenly cut off from telephones, typewriters, faxes and TV.

But if I am just a news media junkie who likes the Internet, rather than an Internet junkie who checks *Wikipedia* to pass time, should I still sign up for Instant Messenger Anonymous, "just in case"?

(Or, perhaps, does such a service even exist, and if it doesn't, how long will it be before it does?)

As with all questions worth writing 1,300 words about, any answers here are probably neither yes nor no. And, as with all answers, vague or simple, extremes should be avoided.

A few months ago, a South Korean gamer dropped dead after playing Blizzard Entertainment's popular *StarCraft* strategy game for some 50 hours straight online.

Death, it would seem, is an extreme that should be avoided while using the 'net.

As for experiencing momentary displacement during a snow day, perhaps I'm safer than I thought. After all, I did have a column to write, a small newspaper to organize and a car to de-snow.

And the relieving blue glow of MSN at the end of the tunnel made it all the worthwhile.



Illustration: Aaron MacLeàn



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Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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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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CKDU-FM's plan to increase power still on track

KALEY KENNEDY
News Contributor

Dalhousie's campus radio station still plans to change its frequency and increase its output power in the coming months, despite a funding drive shortfall and unexpected costs that have left the station's coffers nearly empty.

"It's something we've been working towards for 20 years," says Michael Catano, CKDU-FM's station coordinator. "[The station] will really be able to fulfill its mandate of reaching all of the Halifax region and being a really strong alternative voice in the community."

CKDU-FM plans to increase its transmission power from 33 to 3,200 watts and consequently change its frequency from 97.5 to 88.1 FM, to sustain the increase.

The higher power will allow for better coverage in the HRM, says Stephen Kelly, the station's broadcast technician. He says the increase won't make a big difference to the broadcast range, but will significantly improve the service within that range.

The station announced it would make the change in November 2005, but it put the plans on hold following financial difficulties.

Two years ago, the DSU required that CKDU-FM install a security system in the SUB to monitor anyone who was entering or exiting the building after hours, says Ezra Edelstein, DSU President.

"[The security system] was an unexpected cost for them, and as a result, the timeline for going high-powered was set back," adds Edelstein.

After CKDU-FM purchased the security system, it asked the DSU for a loan to help offset cover the costs of the power increase.

Two years later, Edelstein says the terms of the loan have still not been set. Catano says the station will likely end up taking out a line of credit with the DSU, rather than a loan.

Currently, finance negotiations are on hold because the student union and the station are discussing changes to their agreement in light of CKDU-FM's plan to increase its output power. Edelstein says any agreement must be based on the condition that CKDU-FM gets insurance



CKDU-FM's plan to go high-powered was stalled by last year's funding shortfall.
Photo: Rafal Andronowski

and that it becomes legally separate from the DSU so the union wouldn't be liable if the station ever gets sued. Edelstein adds that the station was already required to get insurance in order to go high-powered.

"Those two conditions are conditions that both CKDU and us see as necessary, especially in today's environment," Edelstein says.

Catano says the station planned to go ahead with the project without the loan, but a shortfall in the station's annual fundraiser last fall prevented it from making its November launch date.

The fundraiser aimed to collect \$30,000 — roughly the same amount that was pledged — but the station has only collected about \$22,000 to date. Catano, however, says he's optimistic, adding that the station continues to collect pledges daily.

CKDU-FM bought and installed the necessary equipment to increase its output power on Jan. 23 Kelly says the station has purchased a FM transmitter for \$30,000 and an antenna for \$10,000, both of which are installed and ready to go. The costs of going high-powered are one-time, says Cat-

ano, and will not significantly change yearly operating costs.

Janet MacLeod, host of Eco Freako, CKDU-FM's ecology action show, says going high-powered can really only mean good things for the station.

"It means my show and everyone else's show will reach more people and more people listening means more people at funding drives," says MacLeod.

"I think it will also up the ante in terms of programming," she says. "I would hope that it would be a catalyst for better programming."

CKDU-FM is currently available globally through Internet radio and podcasts that can be downloaded from the station's website. But Catano says going high-powered is an important step in creating an inclusive and democratic community.

"Radio is a really accessible medium to people regardless of where you live or what your income is, chances are you have a radio in the house," he says, "Being able to provide those people with a voice and a sense of community through broadcasting is something we're really excited about doing."

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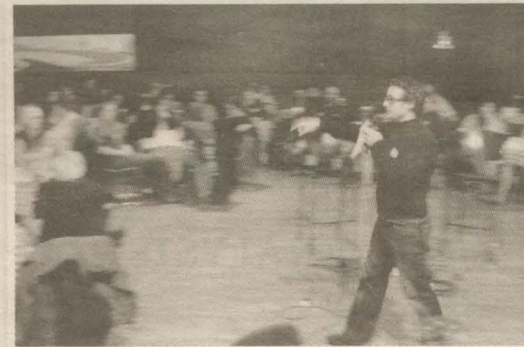
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Destination DSU

A photo essay

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI | Photo Editor



Roughly 200 members of the Dalhousie community attended an open forum held by the DSU that aimed to gather input from a variety of sources on the future direction they want the student union to take.

Distinguished speakers, such as former Nova Scotia Liberal leader Danny Graham, medical student society president Joey MacDonald, and senior Dal administrators, opened the Imagine DSU forum, all expressing a need for a student union that is more connected to students.

After participants discussed what they felt the DSU should become, several of them identified common themes they believed needed to be addressed.

Suggestions included creating a more comfortable, welcoming environment in the SUB and the Grawood, and increasing the diversity of food options in the building. Students also called for better communication between the DSU and the larger student body, as well as more school spirit and student involvement in the union.

The suggestions will be compiled in a newsletter and distributed around Feb. 3.

DSU president Ezra Edelstein says the union has already acknowledged many of the suggestions as problems and has begun to address them. But Edelstein says the hardest part of reforming the DSU will be to ensure the suggestions are acted upon.

The suggestions will be discussed with potential DSU executive candidates at the Feb. 17 Candidates' Café, says Edelstein.

"We're not looking to convince next year's executive that this is what they have to be doing," he says. But the suggestions from Imagine DSU come directly from students, he says, and that gives them additional weight.

The DSU will also be holding two retreats with next year's executive in an effort to make the transition between executives smoother, says Edelstein, something the union needs.

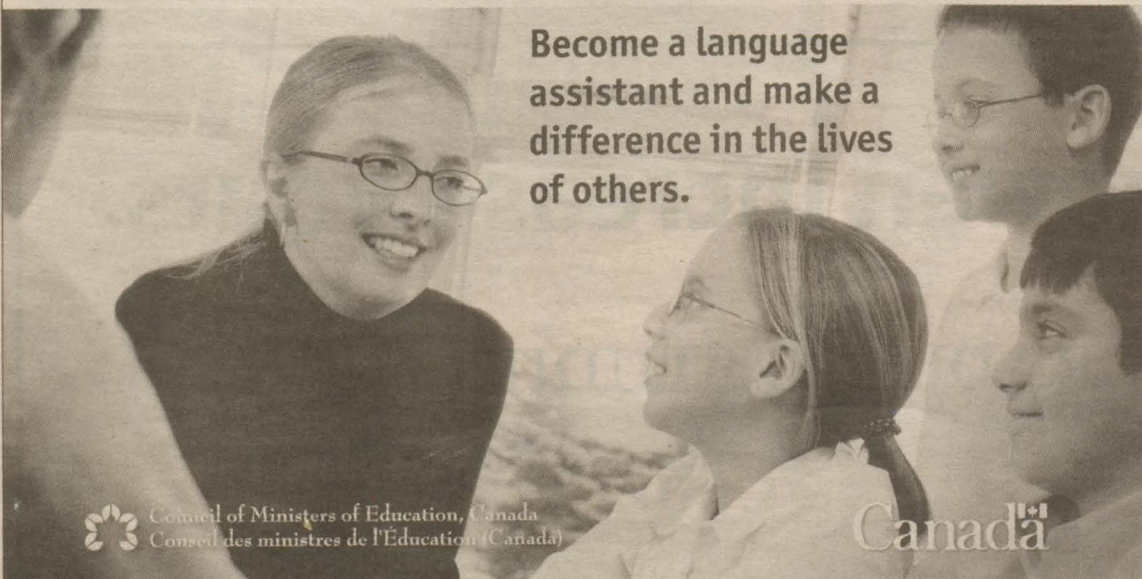
"By the end of this process, we'll have a pretty good idea of what benefits we can gain from the yearly turnover that does exist within student unions," he says.

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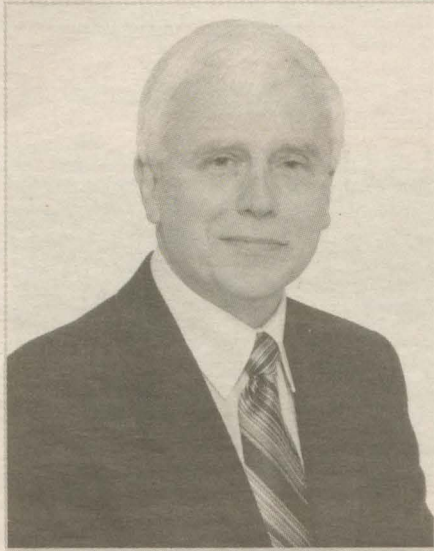
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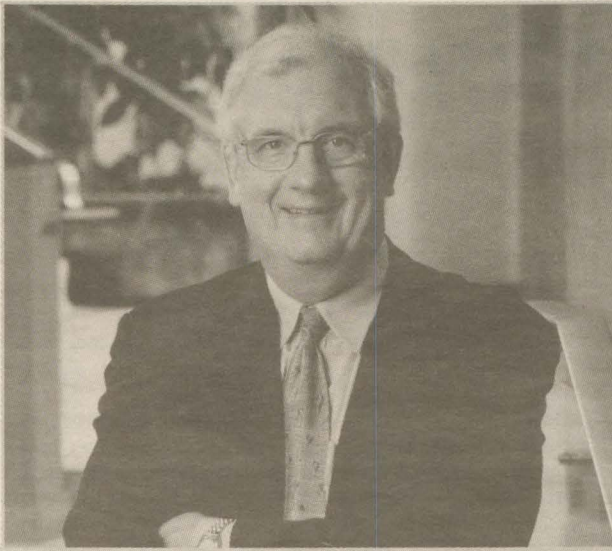
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PC leadership candidates take aim at province's top job

PSE FUNDING AGREEMENT WILL BE RENEWED IN '08 — AN ANALYSIS

AARON GILLIS | Staff Contributor

At the upcoming Feb. 11 leadership convention, delegates from the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia will select a new party leader to replace the retiring premier, Dr. John Hamm.

The PC Party has dominated Nova Scotia politics since the 1956 election of Robert Stanfield, who would later become federal leader of the official opposition against Pierre Trudeau.

In 36 of the 50 years since, the PC

party has formed the government, with the Liberals holding power only in 1970-78 under Gerald Reagan, and 1993-99 under John Savage and successor Russell MacLellan.

Hamm's successor will inherit a minority in the provincial legislature, as the PC Party holds 25 of the 52 seats, the Liberals, 10, and the NDP, 15. One independent, Russell MacKinnon, left the Liberal Party in April 2005.

A vacant seat in Halifax Citadel, formerly held by Liberal Danny Graham, will be the subject of a by-election by October 2006, unless a general election is held first.

Post-secondary education policy will be at the forefront for the winner of the PC leadership.

The current Memorandum of Understanding between the province and its universities will expire in April 2008. The MOU guarantees the

level of provincial transfers to post-secondary institutions and places a cap of 3.9 per cent on annual tuition fees.

The agreement doesn't cover international students or students in medicine, dentistry and law.

The new premier will also have to continue to lobby the federal government for equitable PSE funding.

Currently, federal grants to the provinces for post-secondary educa-

tion are made on the basis of a student's province of residence, not the province in which they study.

At an education forum held at King's in October 2005, Education Minister Jamie Muir speculated that the funding arrangement costs Nova Scotia \$20 to \$25 million per year, since approximately 4,500 additional students come to the province compared with the number leaving Nova Scotia to study elsewhere in Canada.

Neil LeBlanc

Occupation: CAO of the municipality of the district of Argyle; former cabinet minister

Hometown: Wedgeport, Yarmouth County

Education: BCom SMU

Age: 49

Political history: MLA 1984-93, 1998-2003. Minister of Finance 1999-2003

Neil LeBlanc has the most accumulated experience in the Nova Scotia legislature, compared with his competitors. Representing the riding of Argyle for 18 years, he has served in five different cabinet posts.

As the minister of finance, LeBlanc helped the Tory caucus eliminate a \$500-million deficit and deliver a balanced budget in 2002.

After leaving public life for two years to spend time with his family, LeBlanc says he's joined the PC leadership race to ensure the work the party has done in such areas as health care and education is continued.

He says his experience at the core of government and ability to represent both rural and urban Nova Scotia will give him an edge in the race.

LeBlanc says he wants to work

with the federal Conservative Party to change the formula for post-secondary education, which currently funnels money to the students' place of residence, rather than their place of study.

During the recent federal election, the Harper Conservatives promised in their policy book to work with the provinces to change the formula, although they didn't give the policy a high profile during the campaign. But LeBlanc says it will be a priority for the PCs under him.

He says he also wants to work with the universities and colleges in the province to renew the Memorandum of Understanding in 2008, to again set provincial grants and tuition fees to an agreed-upon level.

"A multi-year funding arrangement with universities is in the best interests of the province, but also of the students and universities themselves," he says, adding he has already spoken with the presidents of Dal, St. FX. and SMU, who, he says, agree with his plans.

LeBlanc says he's running on his record of helping the government bring fiscal accountability to the legislature, suggesting that any major investment in post-secondary education would be closely considered

on his watch.

On the health-care front, LeBlanc says the major problem facing the public sector is the lack of health-care professionals who can fill the increasing demand.

As the chief administrative officer of the municipality of the district of Argyle, LeBlanc says he worked with the college of physicians and surgeons to pre-accredit qualified immigrants who would then be mentored by a local physician.

He says a program such as this would help the government streamline the immigration process, while ensuring all immigration applicants meet the province's requirements regarding work and educational experience.

And the current demand on the health-care system can be reduced through a joint federal-provincial health promotion program, says LeBlanc, with the feds taking the lead.

He says inactivity and obesity are increasing problem across the country, not just in the province.

"[The feds] could play a larger role in the healthy living side of health and I think they are prepared to look at it."

Bill Black

Occupation: former president and CEO, Maritime Life Assurance Co.

Hometown: Halifax

Education: BSc in math and physics, BA in political science (Dal)

Age: 54

Political history: former chairman of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, board member of the IWK, Neptune Theatre and Dalhousie

A new contestant into provincial politics, Bill Black has set his sights on the province's top job.

Black was nominated as the PC candidate for the vacant seat of Halifax Citadel, held by former Liberal leader Danny Graham until he resigned from the legislature in October 2005. Under provincial law, a by-election must be held within one year of Graham's resignation. Black will run for the seat against the NDP's Leonard Preyra and Liberal Devin Maxwell.

Black says that to ensure Nova Scotia tuition fees stay competitive with the rest of Canada, the province must convince the federal government to fund universities on a per-student basis.

"The advent of a new government creates the new opportunity for discussion," he says. "Also, having that

new office of Nova Scotia Affairs in Ottawa should give us a little more energy in terms of having that discussion."

On Jan. 17, the Hamm government announced the opening of a provincial office in Ottawa to increase the visibility of the province in intergovernmental negotiations.

Black says the loans and grants programs offered by the provincial government need to be changed to allow more students to access them.

"I want to do two things," he says. "First of all, bring it up to date, because we are several years out of date as it is. And then, once we have brought it up to date, inflation index it after."

He also says the government must do more to make students aware of financial support for post-secondary education, particularly the province's loan forgiveness program.

"The problem with it is it's very poorly understood by students and prospective students. The consequence of that is that I think some people are discouraged from going to university by the tuition and other costs."

He says it might be more valuable to re-package the existing fund-

Continued on next page

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No defeating the Greens

Party candidates say they'll run again, raise money and awareness for party

DANA MASSEY
Staff Contributor

On the Jan. 23 election night, members of the Dartmouth-Cole Harbour Green Party, including candidate Elizabeth Perry, gathered at Neighbour's Pub in Dartmouth to watch the election results roll in.

There were no cameras, no political signs and no one was cheering. They already knew they wouldn't win.

"This time we're not going to get in," said Perry in an interview with *The Gazette* two days after the election. "But eventually."

Her goals in the election were to help lay the groundwork for future elections, she says, and to get more votes than previous Green candidate Michael Marshall did in the last election.

She didn't achieve the second goal, but remains undaunted. If she gets the chance, Perry says she will run again.

Perry runs an adult education and consulting company in Dartmouth and has lived in the city for 18 years. But before late December 2005, she'd never belonged to a political party and never considered a career in politics.

A glance at the Green Party platform changed her mind, she says, and she decided to run.

"[The platform] is 99 per cent my own personal values that I've been living for 25 years," said the Dal alumna.

Leah Lumsden, 28, of Dartmouth also used the 2006 election as an opportunity to get her feet wet in politics. She had never been a member of a political party before a friend turned her on to the Greens last year.

Like Perry, Lumsden says she agreed with the Green platform and wanted to help build something.

"[I] want them to become



Green candidate Elizabeth Perry says the party platform reflect 99 per cent of her personal values.

known," said Lumsden, who believes the problems the party faces, such as a shortage of volunteers, would be avoided if they got at least one person elected to Parliament.

Now that the election is over, Per-

ry and Lumsden say they intend to help the party establish an Electoral District Association in Dartmouth to build party awareness, funds and support before the next election.

Memorandum of understanding needs to be extended - Black, MacDonald

Continued from previous page

ing as an up-front additional support for students.

Black says the Memorandum of Understanding has provided the province's universities with predictable levels of provincial funding, and is a system the province should use in the future.

"Not more than a year before that expires, we should begin negotiating the next one," he says.

Black says growth in health care costs must be brought under control, as it comprises an ever-growing share of provincial expenditures.

"Health has gone from 33 to 47 per cent of the total spending, and it's crowded out everything, most particularly education."

He says one of the best ways to reduce costs within the health care system is to utilize the ideas of those working in the system.

The solutions he proposes "came from health care professionals who want to have the chance to try some of these ideas out," he says. "We have to create a context where they feel encouraged to do that."

Rodney MacDonald

Occupation: MLA for Inverness; former teacher and professional musician

Hometown: Inverness

Education: BSc in physical education (St.F.X.)

Age: 34

Political History: MLA 1999-present; minister of tourism, immigration and health promotion.

Rodney MacDonald was first elected to the provincial legislature in 1999, at the age of 27. He was re-elected in 2003, and is one of only two Conservative MLAs serving Cape Breton.

MacDonald is also an accomplished fiddler. He has released two albums and has received two East Coast Music Award nominations.

As a former teacher, MacDonald says he values the importance of education and what it can do for the province's youth.

"It's an investment, certainly, in the future," he says. "We have some of the best universities in the country, bar none."

Nova Scotia has set up a solid debt relief program, which offers up to 50 per cent debt relief, he says, but not enough students are taking advantage of these offerings.

"The bad news in that program is that not enough people know about it," he says. "We, as a government, have to do more to market that program of debt relief."

He also says the thresholds need to be modified so more students can be eligible for both loans debt relief.

MacDonald wants to extend the current Memorandum of Understanding with the universities to ensure tuition limits for the next several years. He says he has met with representatives of the universities, to ensure they're willing to review the current provincial funding arrangements.

He says he wants to ensure Nova Scotia has a long-term arrangement in place that is beneficial to students, universities and the province.

MacDonald is also interested in

the capital side of university funding. Many of the province's institutions face deteriorating infrastructure, so he wants to focus on "making sure they're up to the standards they need to be."

With respect to federal funding of post-secondary institutions, MacDonald wants to make a per-student funding formula a top item to be raised at the national level. He says the current per-capita formula costs the province millions in federal transfers.

"We're not looking for everything, but we are looking for a recognition of that in the formula," he says. "And that's going to mean extra dollars for our universities, it's going to mean extra dollars for our education system, and hopefully it will mean more reasonable tuition rates."

As the provincial minister of immigration, MacDonald says he is "very proud" to be involved in negotiations with the federal government to allow international students to obtain work off-campus. An agreement was made with the federal department of immigration last fall, but was not approved by federal parliament prior to the election.

MacDonald is optimistic the conclusion of the election will allow the agreement to pass through the federal government, thus granting new opportunities to the province's international students.

"I want them not only to have the opportunity to be educated here, but if they so choose, to perhaps even have the opportunity to stay here."

With a report from Reid Southwick,
News Editor.



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DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see pages 15 & 20.

A Torie goes Liberal

HARTLEY BUTLER GEORGE
News Contributor

Dalhousie student Keith Torie, who is the federal vice president of the Young Liberals in Halifax and is currently running for president of the organization, says he loves politics.

"What I love about politics is just the feeling that we are helping make our country a better place with the ideas we put forward and the work that we do," says Torie. "It's also very much like a sport, or game, as in that I love being competitive, trying to beat the competition."

Politics run through Torie's blood. His grandfather was president of the Liberal Party of Canada in Trudeau's last term and his father worked for Liberal Premier David Peterson.

"Politics was always being talked about since I can remember," says Torie, adding that when the 2003 election was called in Ontario, he worked for his MPP, Gerry Phillips.

"After he won, I was encouraged to start a young Liberal club in Scarborough, Agincourt. After that, the rest is history."

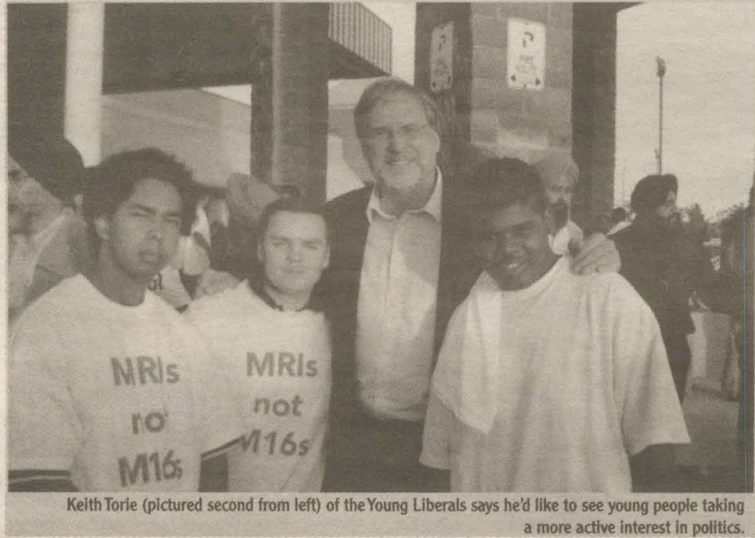
A year later, Torie came to Dal and continued his involvement with the Liberal party on the East Coast.

Torie is a second-year arts student majoring in political science. Last year, he was the only undergraduate holding the position of executive VP of recruitment for the Young Liberals.

In regards to his views on youth involvement in politics, Torie says he'd like to see more young people reading the news and hitting the polls on voting days.

"I think that if politicians knew youth cared, they would create more policies to make them happy, he says "so politics is a two-way street. If you want the politicians to care, you need to show you care."

In this year's election, the Young



Keith Torie (pictured second from left) of the Young Liberals says he'd like to see young people taking a more active interest in politics.

Liberals threw a number of activities to support the Liberals. Last March, they held a model parliament in the Nova Scotia government house.

The Young Liberals have also thrown several parties at bars with Liberal members of parliament. These parties give local youths the opportunity to get out and meet real politicians. They also held events at schools across the province, such as leaders forums, during the campaign.

"The most important activities are the ones which excite people about politics and the future of the country," says Torie. "This past campaign was very good for getting people out. The campaign itself was an activity to get people out."

Besides a notable resumé, Torie also has an impressive bank of knowledge about the history and policies of his supported party.

"I believe that the values that the Liberal party represents are very much in line with those of Canadians all across the country," he says. "The historic record for the party speaks for

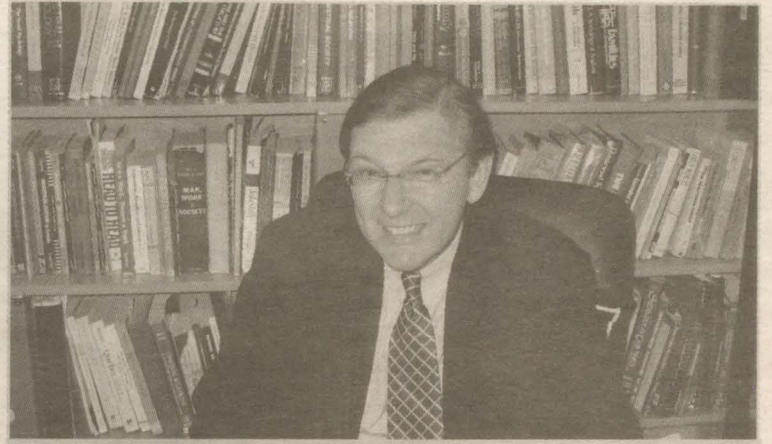
itself. We are the party that brought in our flag, Medicare, the charter of rights and freedoms and most recently, eight balanced budgets in a row."

Michele Wright, a second-year theatre student at Dal and close friend of Torie, spoke about his commitment to the party.

"The moment anyone mentions politics we know that we are in for quite the conversation... there's no shutting him up," says Wright. "It's nice to see someone so young be so passionate about something. There's no doubt in my mind that he will be successful."

Outside of politics, Torie involves himself in reading, sailing and playing sports. He insists, however, that his dedication to the Liberals is something that he will always pursue.

"I don't know where politics is going to take me," he says. "I would love to run for office in the future, but right now I just need to keep school first and then we'll see. One thing about politics is that when you start, you can never give it up. It's in you for life."



Peter Butler is an author, admired professor, former advisor to the minister for PSE, and pollster.

Prof adds one more trophy to his professional mantle

RACHEL HOWSE
News Contributor

Dalhousie sociology professor Peter Butler has recently been named to the Higher Education Commission, adding to a long list of accomplishments.

"I am honoured to have been appointed to the commission," says Butler. "It will provide me a chance to become more deeply involved in delivery of programs over a regional basis."

The term of Butler's new appointment will last until 2008 and he says he's looking forward to getting to work.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission aims to assist institutions and governments in enhancing post-secondary learning environments.

Appointed as a "Public at Large" member, this isn't Butler's first time in the field. Before MPHEC, Butler spent eight years with Nova Scotia's education department as senior advisor to the minister for provincial university education.

And, although he's not a politi-

cian, Butler once took a 12-year hiatus from university to live the political life.

During those years, Butler worked for Decima Research, an influential, nationwide polling firm. At Decima, Butler ran public and private polls on Canadian issues, ranging from politics to private company surveys.

Now, Butler teaches politics and public opinion at Dal.

He's also working on a book. After searching for texts to use for his classes on polls, Butler says he came up with nothing.

"I looked," he says. "Could I find any [texts] that have references to Canada, or Canadian issues, or Canadian public opinion? Nothing. So, I thought, 'OK, I'll forge ahead.'"

Polls and Public Opinion - A Canadian Perspective is currently under review for publication.

As a professor, Butler is widely admired by his students.

"He really has a vested interest in how his students are doing," says Taylor Sharper, a third-year sociology student. "He takes an active role in making sure his students do as best as they can in his course."

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

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Steve Staples says he's glad his views generate discussion and applauds Dal for inviting him to speak at the university.

Military spending lecture sparks controversy

LINDSEY HEPBURN
Staff Contributor

The director of an Ottawa research organization's project on the corporate security state delivered a lecture at Dalhousie on Jan. 26 that provoked a heated reaction among audience members.

Steve Staples of the Polaris Institute said Canada's role in international affairs is changing from peacekeeping with the UN to fighting alongside U.S. troops in war-torn areas. He also questioned public support for government plans to dramatically increase defense spending over the next five years.

The increase of \$12.8 billion in federal military spending is unacceptable when compared to the forecasted spending on childcare and education, said Staples.

But an audience member pointed out that childcare and education spending forecasts are a weak comparison, because they fall under provincial jurisdiction.

Staples also questioned the level of secrecy surrounding the integration of Canadian and American forces. He said information about deals between the Canadian and American militaries on arms purchasing, Afghanistan combat operations and missile defense were more easily obtained from the Pentagon than the Canadian government.

Retired navy officer Roger Chiasson, who was in audience for the lecture, said he wished Staples would have provided a more balanced representation of the facts.

"I really believe that people of his ilk need to be heard, but using the info he had, he would have been eaten alive if it had been in a debate," said Chiasson.

The discussion period following the lecture was filled with questions about Staples' sources. Much of the audience was critical that Staples had not presented a fair and balanced argument.

In an interview with *The Gazette* after his lecture, Staples said most people aren't used to hearing his left-wing perspective in a university setting. Many universities haven't invited him to speak, he said, despite having departments similar to the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, which hosted his lecture.

"I know my views are controversial," said Staples, adding that he didn't set out to be provocative but was happy his lecture generated a reaction. "We all agree that there needs to be more debate, and that is the ideal environment that universities are supposed to foster."

The Centre for Foreign Policy Studies announced Staples' lecture several weeks ago at the request of the Halifax Peace Coalition. Shortly after the title of Staples' lecture was announced — "The Americanization of Canada's Military," — the foreign policy department planned a counter-lecture — "The Necessary Americanization of Canada's Military."

Karen Orten, a fourth-year sociology student, said that although she thought the responses seemed a bit hostile, it was a good lecture to foster discussion.

"Canadians do need to know how much military spending is going on and where all the money's going," says Orten. "If this is going to contribute to that discussion, then great."

Dal's debate on Canada's military spending will continue with a counter-talk by professor Peter Hayden on March 8.

FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES

In this issue 25 years ago

- The National Union of Students said it was pleased by the federal government's recently announced student loan program reforms. NUNS said at least another 100,000 students would be eligible for aid, mostly students who were taking fewer than 26 weeks of study per year.

- The Gazette's* editorial page decried the recent revelations that the U.S. army tested Agent Orange, a toxic chemical defoliant, near CFB Gagetown in 1966. The information was only released after the Church of Scientology in the U.S. filed a Freedom of Information request and the NDP defense critic asked a question in parliament.

The Gazette found it disturbing that it took 15 years for the information to be disclosed, and proposed that Canada adopt its own type of FOI legislation.

- Letters to the Editor alternately criticized and praised an article in the previous week's issue entitled "Confessions of a punk," by Kim-Rilda VanFeggelen.

If KimRilda were a true punk she wouldn't be conforming to the system," wrote M. & T. MacLean. "She wouldn't be in university, dressing with the fads and most of all she wouldn't be wasting her time by writing B.S. in *The Gazette* for the future 'adults of society.'"

Kevin Ells wrote that VanFeggelen "showed that a punk need not be a guitar-smashing imbecile with a Romanoes-level of English expression and a Sex Pistols-level of musical taste."

- Student leaders across Canada met to plan the merger of two national lobby groups — the National Union of Students, and the Association of Student Councils — into one united group, the Canadian Federation of Students. Referenda were expected to be planned at roughly 90 schools within the following few years.

- John Cairns took a "Peek at the

past" by examining a letter written to *The Gazette* by a Dalhousie student soldier in 1917. Writing from Witley Camp in England, Pte. Pereley C. Lewis thanks his fellow classmates for sending him a copy of *The Gazette* and says he expects to be sent over to France within a week or two.

"There have been quite a number of Dalhousie boys here at Witley camp," wrote Lewis. "We were talking of having a Dalhousie reunion at Christmas time, but for several reasons it never materialized. The chief reason was that a number of the boys were taken away before Christmas. Had we known that, we might have had it early in December, but one never knows in the army what is going to happen..."

- The Gazette* reviewed Stevie Wonder's *Hotter Than July*, and interviewed warm-up band Teenage Head, who had played at Zapatas on Friday, Jan. 16, and talked about their 1977 release, *Frantic City*.

- The Tigers played host to the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic, where the women's team played to the division championship, beating the Scarborough Titans three sets to one.

In this issue 10 years ago

- A Red Cross blood clinic brought controversy to the McInnes Room in the SUB after questions were raised about whether one of the agency's questionnaires was homophobic.

Members of Dalhousie's Humans Against Homophobia (HAH) were objecting to a clause that excludes men who have had sex with men since 1977 from donating blood. HAH said it was concerned that the Red Cross was labeling homosexuals as a high-risk group, when they should instead be applying that label to the act of anal intercourse.

Red Cross nurse Barbara Cunningham defended the agency's policy, saying that because the HIV

incubation period was six months, and due to the limited shelf-life of red blood cells, it was necessary to eliminate people whose HIV couldn't be detected by tests.

- Howe Hall's Cameron House T-shirts reading "Never trust anything that can bleed for four to five days and not die" were destroyed after complaints were received about the sexist attitude of the slogan. The Dalhousie Women's Centre said they were busy dealing with calls about the shirts, but that administration and residence council had destroyed the shirts before the centre needed to become involved.

- Letters to the Editor covered a wide range of topics, from Frosh Week, homophobia, Jerusalem, financial mismanagement and vulgarity. The previous week's article about the Dalhousie Senate trimming Frosh Week generated several letters criticizing the decision.

- The Gazette* editorial warned against trusting the newly sworn-in premier of Québec, Lucien Bouchard. The editorial admits Bouchard has an appealing leadership style, but asks the question, "Where do non-francophones fit into this man's vision for Québec?"

- Topping the CKDU charts the week of Feb. 1, 1996 was Saturday Morning Cartoons... on MCA by Variou Artists, followed by *Furnace* by Download, on Cleopatra.

- Luke Merrimen reviewed *Leaving Las Vegas* for *The Gazette*, finding it "a good flick but damn depressing."

- Tigers basketball suffered a few setbacks during that week. The women's team lost for the first time in the season against UCCB. Meanwhile, the men lost their second road game in a week, also to UCCB.

Tigers women's volleyball improved their record to 12-0 in AUAA play over St. E.X.

FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES is a "semi-regular" feature compiled by Neal Cody as he thumbs through archived issues in the *Gazette* library.

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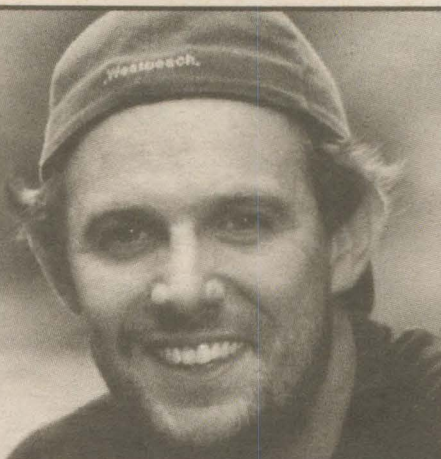
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UNI BRIEFS

DAL BRIEFS

Student disturbances still an issue

Noise and vandalism are still problems in the community surrounding Dalhousie, residents said at a neighbourhood meeting on Jan. 25.

Neighbours also said Dal's no-smoking policy drives students off-campus and into the community, which worsens noise and litter problems.

But residents also commended Dalhousie on its efforts to curb noise and other disturbances, which include measures like the designated police patrol, the U-Pass, and creating landlord guidelines for advertising on Dal's off-campus housing listings.

Tory education policies get a falling grade

Earlier this month, the Canadian Federation of Students gave the federal Conservative party a grade of F when it came to post-secondary funding. The CFS "Education Report Card" graded the Liberals, Conservatives and the NDP on how student-friendly their education policies were.

George Soule, the national chairperson of the CFS, said a Conservative government would lead to worse conditions in the post-secondary education system, with higher tuition fees and student debt loads.

On the Tuesday before the election, however, the Tories responded by removing from their platform a widely criticized policy on loan repayment schemes, which ties the rate of loan repayment to a graduate's income level. The Tory turnaround led the CFS to raise their mark to a C-.

In the same report, the Liberals received a grade of B-, up from a mark of C in 2004. The NDP fared the best, garnering an A-, down from an A before the previous election. The CFS did not grade any other party.

UofA hikes tuition, Ralph foots the bill

The University of Alberta's board of governors voted last month to increase tuition at that institution by 6.4 per cent, or \$307, per full-time student, but students won't be paying any extra next year.

Alberta's provincial government says it will honour a prior promise not to increase tuition and will foot the bill for next year's hike. Although this is the 25th consecutive year the UofA has raised tuition, students paid the same fees this year as they did in 2004/05, thanks to a provincial rebate.

The UofA student government is currently lobbying the provincial government with their "Roll it Back, Ralph" campaign, asking the province to reduce tuition by 50 per cent. Premier Ralph Klein has promised that a new tuition policy will be in place by springtime.

McGill boycotts provincial student conference

After leaving its federal lobby group in November, the student government at McGill University has boycotted a meeting with its provincial lobby group, FEUQ.

The McGill union insists it doesn't want to leave FEUQ, but is disappointed with the federation's performance of late on educational lobbying issues.

SSMU accused FEUQ of making decisions without sufficiently consulting its members, of being ill-prepared for meetings, and of manipulating standard rules of procedure in meetings. FEUQ says it hasn't heard some of these complaints directly from the SSMU before and encourages them to return to the table to voice its concerns.

SSMU's five-year membership in FEUQ expires next year.

B.C. students found dead in ravine

Searchers have found the bodies of two Simon Fraser University students in a ravine in Burnaby, B.C. Brendan Midgley, 20, and Joseph Stryjak, 23, went missing early in the morning of Jan. 13 after walking home from the Simon Fraser University pub.

Search and rescue crews combed the area on foot and by air until the bodies were spotted on the afternoon of Jan. 14 at the bottom of a 60-metre ravine.

A police spokesperson said its not yet known what led the men off the path and into the ravine, although police note the men were drinking the night they went missing. A coroner will be conducting an investigation into the exact cause of death.

Locals say the path the students were on is steep, with many cliffs, and very dangerous at night.

Liberal worker impersonates reporter

A Liberal campaign worker was found posing as a reporter at the student government offices of the University of Toronto before last month's election. David Chu introduced himself as a CBC reporter and showed press credentials to SAC president Paul Bretscher, who did interviews with Chu and let him film around his office.

Students became suspicious when they noticed Chu was wearing a Liberal party lanyard. Bretscher asked to photocopy his press credentials, but Chu refused and left soon afterward.

Before the election, the SAC and the local Liberal campaign had a disagreement over campus voting stations. Liberal campaign manager Tom Allison accused the SAC of making a "secret deal" with Elections Canada.

The SAC had planned special voting stations for its 4,000 students in residence. But Liberal candidate Tony Ianno, who ran for re-election in the Trinity-Spadina riding, questioned EC about the legality of the special polling booths.

On Jan. 14, Elections Canada removed the voting booths from campus, causing many UofT students to accuse EC of political bias.

NDP candidate Olivia Chow defeated Ianno by only six per cent of the vote.

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER
Sexual harassment affects two-thirds of students**

Almost two-thirds of U.S. college students are affected by some form of sexual harassment, reports the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

A survey of 2,036 undergrads at U.S. schools (margin of error: +/- 2 per cent) found that 62 per cent of college students experienced sexual harassment, 32 per cent had been victims of physical harassment, and 41 per cent had sexually harassed someone.

According to the AAUW, sexual harassment can range from offensive jokes and gestures to touching and grabbing. Men are more likely to be the instigators, but men and women are equally likely to become victims.

Fewer than 10 per cent of students reported sexual harassment to school officials, the report found. Most victims downplayed the incident, even though they felt "horrible" or "helpless."

Flashing, calling someone gay, and spreading sexual rumours about someone were also reported as sexual harassment in the report.

TOP 10

- 1 **WHAT'S BEEN INFLUENCING ALL THE CHEATING AT DALHOUSIE?**
Damn you, Kevin Federline!
- 2 **HILARY DUFF SELLS OUT . . .** the Halifax Metro Centre.
- 3 **THE BLOOD/ROMANCE RATIO IN TRISTAN AND ISOLDE**
Tolerable on both ends.
- 4 **ROOTING FOR A SNOW DAY**
Is like rooting for the NDP, it usually ends in disappointment.
- 5 **RHETORICAL QUESTIONS** Are they even really effective?
- 6 **THE UTTER CRAPPINESS OF "KING OF VEGAS"** We are not amused.
- 7 **THE NEW COMPUTER VIRUS KNOWN AS "KAMA SUTRA"**
Apparently flexible enough to breach the tightest of firewalls.
- 8 **CHINA CENSORING GOOGLE FOR OFFENSIVE CONTENT ON THE INTERNET** The Chinese version of the search engine will be renamed, "Dozen, or so."
- 9 **CINDY SHEEHAN CRASHING THE STATE OF THE UNION**
Ice Cube would be proud.
- 10 **CANADIAN FAMILY GETTING SUED FOR DOWNLOADING "SK8TER BOI"**
Why are you laughing? Don't be such a h8er.

HOT

Themed house parties
Strip aerobics
Razzies
Fearless bullshitting
4703
The Tech Ball
Duffman
Coldplay at the Juno Awards
Google's peace
Stephen Harper

NOT

Big Momma's House
Strip searches
Oscars
"I don't know the answer to that"
2006
Offensive boy:girl ratios
Hilary Duff
The actual Juno award
A Million Little Pieces
Ben Harper (this was a tough choice)

CORRECTION: Last week's hot or nots were accidentally switched. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, even though most people didn't notice. It's not like this column makes any sense anyway.

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not *The Gazette's* writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba in the Streeter feature of this paper are written by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba himself.

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STREETER

m



"I like Pogue Fado because I like the pub atmosphere."
Meghan Bernard, fourth-year history and Russian studies



"I loved Little Nashville because I love hicks."
Alison Theriault, fourth-year history



"Gus's Pub, because it's the only bar in Halifax."
Reid Rothschild, third-year economics



"The Grad House, because it's got good beer."
Jeffrey Dalmer, third-year psychology



"Pacifico, because it's a little classier than the other ones."
Laura Horner, second-year biology



"Stage Nine, because of reggae night."
Allie Cane, second-year environmental studies



"The Old Triangle, because I like the Celtic feel and the food is excellent."
Lisa Buchanan, fourth-year English and political science



"The Palace is the biggity-bomb! They pack that place so tiz-ight you can drop a mad ol' stinker in there and no one can tell it's you."
Joey Ryba, first-year gino

Got a question you want to see answered by students? streeter@dalgazette.ca

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Gazette

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 students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and

to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

The views of the Editorial Board are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

PSE must matter to new N.S. premier

The current political race for the leadership of Nova Scotia's progressive conservative party — and, ultimately, the race that will decide who becomes this province's premier — may not seem as important to students as last week's federal election.

It is, after all, the federal government that decides who gets what when it comes to the lump-sum transfers that pay for post-secondary education funding.

But provincial subsistence on federal funds for university bottom-lines doesn't mean that our provincial Conservative party race is irrelevant. Even though the provinces can only work with what Ottawa decides to subsidize, provincial leaders are essential to the ongoing fiscal balance negotiations that occur between the federal government and its provincial subsidiaries.

Take last year's Memorandum of Understanding, for example, an agreement signed between Premier John Hamm and the province's university presidents. The MOU guarantees annual funding increases to universities and limits tuition fee hikes to 3.9 per cent (not including professional programs).

As a result of the MOU, the welfare of Nova Scotia's universities rests squarely in provincial hands. If government funding meant to offset the loss of tuition revenue is cut short, the province's MOU will become a virtual tuition freeze — a policy that only temporarily delays tuition hikes, starving schools for money in the meantime.

And although an effective cap on tuition sounds good to most students, it only serves to mask the decay occurring beneath the surface. Starved for resources by the funding shortfall — as Québec's universities once were under a tuition freeze that lasted decades — N.S. universities would have nowhere to go for money as inflationary and deferred maintenance costs drove revenue losses higher each year.

Rather than focusing simply on maintaining stable tuition rates at the status quo, as the MOU has done, the Nova Scotia government must take measures to improve two key areas of PSE: it must increase university

accessibility by lowering tuition rates for undergraduate programs, and re-invest in and re-organize our research capital so that Nova Scotia's burgeoning universities are allowed to compete with better-funded research universities in Western Canada.

A new premier can only make improvements by re-investing in direct transfers to post-secondary institutions and by making a long-term commitment to limit the rate of tuition fee growth to that of inflation.

The new PC leader must pursue robust scholarship programs targeted at lower-income and economically disadvantaged students, to ensure equal access to education for Nova Scotians.

They should also take a fresh look at further consolidating Nova Scotia's university programs and curriculums to minimize overlap and financial waste.

With Nova Scotia's recent offshore gas royalties agreement, and Stephen Harper's pledge to improve our region's economy, the time for change is clear and present.

Most importantly, Nova Scotia's new leadership must double its efforts to lobby the federal government for changes to the unfair per-capita PSE funding scheme that now plagues Nova Scotia, the province with the highest student-per-capita ratio in the country.

If the new federal leadership wishes to help conquer this region's supposed "culture of defeat," a term that it itself coined, it must make dedicated transfers to the provinces that are based on the number of students in that province, not the number of residents.

This may be a difficult feat, given the new political strength in the West, where the PSE funding formula works to an advantage. Although Nova Scotia clearly benefits from equalization payments, PSE funding is an area of Canadian federalism where Nova Scotia is clearly and unfairly put at a disadvantage.

In the coming months, a responsible and innovative PSE portfolio will be needed. In his last year, John Hamm made some efforts to pursue one. Now, the next Premier of Nova Scotia needs to do the same.

Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

Letters: letters@dalgazette.ca

□ VENT: People who hate Stephen Harper

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

Lately, I have been subject to many of my friends' strong opinions regarding Stephen Harper — and not just what they think about his policies (they say he wants to take radical actions such as "illegalizing abortion" and "outlawing homosexuality"), but his looks too.

What about the people who complain about Stephen Harper's blue eyes?

Give me a break, people! Do you think I enjoy looking at Paul Martin's jowls? And how does this have anything to do with these men's political abilities?

Another friend of mine expressed his disappointment that "the Rednecks got in." Give me another break! How dare someone from this region criticize Westerners, who make a greater contri-

bution to the economy than the Atlantic provinces combined, and who provide jobs for people from across Canada?

I've had it with people who dismiss Harper, or any politician, as a "dink" based on his or her appearance.

As Scott Adams, creator of Dilbert, once said, "Ignorance is not a point of view!"



Give this man a chance.

So-called evil Harper doesn't stand up to the facts

MATTHEW MACLELLAN
Opinions Contributor

Having ousted the Liberals from their 13-year federal dynasty in January's election, it stands to reason that very little could take the wind out of Stephen Harper's sails. Recent polls and media coverage, however, have highlighted a weak point in Conservative popularity: the female demographic.

Understandably, with news like this, Harper must be having some pretty nasty flashbacks to those high school days when the chicks weren't quite digging his black hole personality and his eyes that make babies cry. But to what extent are Conservative policies not actually in keeping with women's interests?

Although the Conservatives are boasting a 36.25 per cent popular vote after the election, a recent Ipsos poll conducted between Jan. 10 and Jan. 12 found that only 31 per cent of women intended to vote Conservative, compared to 42 per cent of men. Conversely, the same poll found that 34 per cent of women intended to vote Liberal compared to 25 per cent of men.

Websites such as thinktwiccanada.com claim to know why there is a lack of female Conservative support. The site thinktwiccanada.com alleges that a Conservative government brings with it "new risks to Canadian women's rights to reproductive choice and access to abortion." Since this issue is a hot button with women voters, it's no wonder Harper's numbers are down.

But has Harper directly threat-

ened this right?

In a Jan. 18 Global interview, Kevin Newman asked Harper if there would ever be a free vote in parliament on the issue, to which Harper responded, "Never is a long time."

While some claim this ambiguous answer reveals Harper's personal stance on the issue, it by no means condemns him of attempting to institute legislation to ban abortions. And this was the most condemning piece of evidence I could find to prove that Harper is against a woman's right to choose.

I did find, however, plenty of evidence supporting the Conservatives' plans to leave the abortion issue alone, such as when they passed a motion at their 2005 party platform declaring that the Party "will not support any legislation to regulate abortion."

Since I feel I should compare the Liberals' and Conservatives' respective daycare policies at this point, it seems appropriate that I should interject by explaining the format of the platform documents. These campaign platforms are PDF files that are a couple hundred pages long, so when you are trying to find a particular policy, you need to search the index for the appropriate policy you want to look at.

Now, the Conservative platform chapters have titles such as, oh say: "A New Choice in Child Care Allowance," whereas the Liberal's platform has index titles like: "Weaving an Even Stronger Cultural Fabric."

Needless to say, I could not find the Liberal's official stance on daycare policy on their website. A free coke goes to the first person to find

that for me in their official platform. Commence disillusionment.

Another bone of contention that many have with the Conservative party is its under-representation of women. Many people have targeted the Conservatives on this issue because, of the three main parties, they have the fewest women MPs.

This claim would be true if the top three parties were the NDP, the Liberals and the Conservatives. But that's not the case. The Bloc is currently in third place, seat-wise, and they only have 23 female candidates compared to the Conservative's 38. Granted, they have a higher percentage of female representation (30 per cent) than that of the Conservatives (12.4 per cent), but still, this may be attributed to women's lack of support for the Conservatives, rather than to the Conservatives refusing to nominate women candidates.

As we have seen, there are undercurrents condemning Harper for things that can't necessarily be proven objectively.

Since this is an "opinions" piece, what about my opinion? Here goes: as much as I tried to write an article ridiculing Harper's policies as barbarous, I was unable to find substantial facts to support it.

As much as I want to condemn Harper as a satirical figure of buffoonery, I am faced with the reality that there's somebody out there trying to do the same with my candidate.

So what's left? The solace that hopefully, there's no way 36 per cent of the Canadian population would elect a Saturday morning super-villain.

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Have a Harper reality check

HEIDI HARDING
Staff Contributor

The news has had time to soak in: our new prime minister is officially Stephen Harper.

Classically, he has been portrayed as a crazed right-winger with plans to legalize abortion, reopen the same-sex marriage debate, get on board Bush's missile defense plans, and destroy our environment by handing Canada to corporations on a silver platter.

Throughout his campaign, however, he downplayed this controversial side, leaving many Canadians confused about what his real intentions are.

Perhaps this explains his minority government. After all, how much damage can the Conservatives really do when they barely outnumber the Liberals? Not to mention the NDP has a much stronger showing this time around, and with his wife there to back him up, who knows what left-wing demands Layton might risk making?

Anyone has only to look around campus to witness the obvious hostilities many Canadians foster against Harper and his right-wing cronies. Many websites and online resources

are more than willing to direct you to statements Conservatives have made in the past that can cause even the most stalwart individual to worry about what the next few years might hold.

But let's have a reality check first. First off, once in power, isn't it every prime minister's mandate to stay in power? If Harper rushes off and signs up with the US missile defense plan, and then reopens the same-sex marriage debate the next day, he may face more than a little opposition. Come the next election, he may well find himself booted out if he misbehaves too badly.

From what I've read about Harper (and I've read a lot recently), he seems to be a very intelligent person. According to some people, this is what makes him so scary. Yet somehow I cannot see any intelligent person toppling the status quo overnight. Personally, I foresee a much more subtle approach.

Most analysts are predicting a private member's bill on same-sex marriage, which would indeed reopen the debate. Now I can't speak for all Canadians, but I am really bored of that topic. I thought we were all done arguing about that last summer, and could now move on to other issues,

such as the air pollution contributing to increases in childhood asthma, not unlike Harper's own asthma.

I like to think that such an intelligent man would perhaps target the more important issues before trying to negotiate an issue that affects a fraction of the population.

As for getting cozy with the Americans, Harper seems to be off to a rough start. Despite the joyous reception that American right-wingers granted the outcome of the election, Harper's first publicized statement to the U.S. was an assurance that they could be sure he would defend Canada's sovereignty. A well-planned bid to win the acceptance of the Canada's general population? Undoubtedly. A statement with truth to it? Well, yes. Harper always did say he wanted to step up Canada's military.

How better to enforce sovereignty and land claims than with a militarized army standing behind him?

In the end, only time will reveal what Harper has in store for Canada. As for us university students, I think we'll see no immediate changes to our own lives. Tuition will continue increasing, facilities will continue to be lacking, and people who didn't bother voting will still whine about it. Good luck, Canada.

King Arthur of radio ranting enters the H of C

BRENDAN MORRISON
Staff Contributor

The infamously raucous halls of the Canadian House of Commons are set to get even more obscene.

In slim minority parliaments, it's important to keep an eye on the few Independent MPs in the House of Commons, as they can often hold the fundamental weight in the shifting balance of power. This was the case last spring when Independent MP, Chuck Cadman, single-handedly saved the Liberal government from falling.

In the new House of Commons, there is only one elected Independent. Given the tight distribution of seats, he could very well hold this singular power. His name is Andre Arthur, and for those of you who think politics is a big fucking bore, get ready for him to turn up the heat.

Le Roi Arthur, as he's locally known, is the MP from Portneuf-

Jacques-Cartier, who has spent the past 35 years as Québec's most controversial radio personality. The anti-separatist 62-year-old has made his long, shock-jock career outlandishly attacking the establishment, while getting sued, fired and stripped of his license various times in the process.

As a result of his thoroughly outrageous rants, Arthur has been sued for defamation by former premiers Lucien Bouchard and Daniel Johnson, a group of Haitian taxi drivers, and even the Montréal police. Ex-premier René Lévesque once called Arthur a "live poison" and pleaded that Québécois not listen to the "social and political termite."

In November 2003, Arthur called Laval University "the biggest university in North Africa" and insinuated that African students there are all the sons of African dictators and cannibals. As the Globe and Mail reported, "Anyone interested in the gossip and rumours about political leaders and

venting their anger at the established order would tune in to his open-line radio show."

Now he's found a seat in the big House, and is poised to fire his political attacks from point blank range.

In the democratic style of Canadian politics, restraint on slanderous or even completely false statements is primarily enforced through party discipline.

The limitations or regulations on parliamentary language are loose at best, if existent at all. Many of the articles of slander and libel laws simply don't apply within the holy halls of the House of Commons.

Without any party to tame him, the Independent Arthur's assaults are expected to be wholly outrageous.

When asked if he planned to moderate his combative style, Arthur replied: "At 62, you don't change."

Marvelous. Now all that's left is for King Arthur to enter Cabinet — Minister of Keepin' It Real.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

Re: Has modern technology replaced the radio?

Dear Editor,

Ray Corkum's Jan 26 article, "Has modern technology replaced the radio?" was correct in its assessment of corporate radio. He declared it to be censored and bland in its content. I couldn't agree more.

His assertion that "CKDU is gradually diversifying its content to incorporate talk radio, top 40 and underground artists," however, is incorrect.

CKDU is, and always has been, mandated to maintain a diverse schedule which includes spoken word content and music that runs the gamut from electronic, outsider, local, and a variety of genres from across the world. We will never strive to make top 40 content a part of our programming, and we will always encourage our DJs to "take chances" and "push limits."

Thank you for your clear and poi-

gnant assessment of private radio, and of course for your request that students support local and independent radio.

A faithful reader,
Jessica Whyte
CKDU Music Director
jessica@ckdu.ca

Politicians have right to be heard
Dear Editor,

I am writing to commend you for the article "Audiences must show respect during public debates" by Christopher Leo.

If you weren't there, it was meant to be an all-candidates debate (though Marxist candidate Tony Seed was not invited, an unfortunate oversight) but nobody could hear Andrew House (the Conservative candidate) speak over the heckling in the room. I disagree with House's views, and I

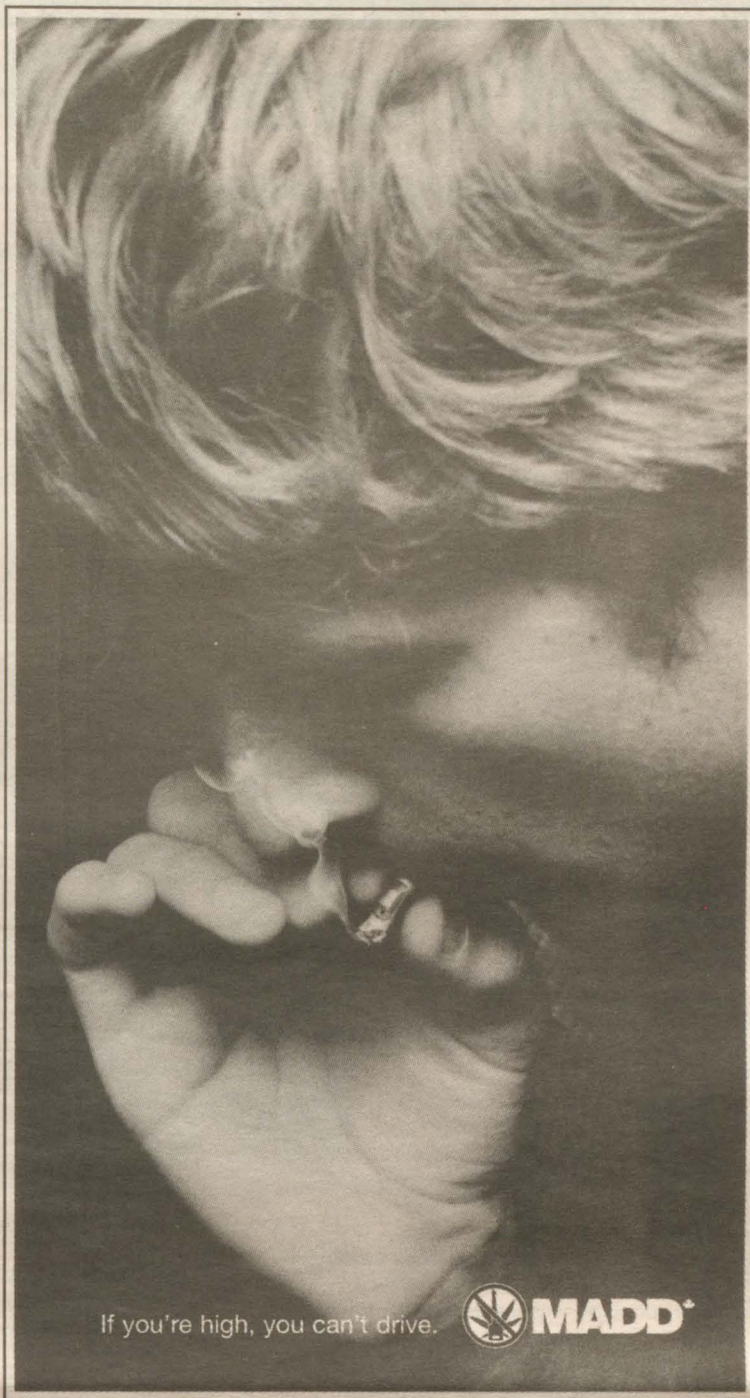
voted against him, but I recognize that he has the right to be heard.

All too often people on the left wing of the political spectrum tend to get the feeling that they're the only people who are trying to do good for the world, and that everyone on the right wing is just trying to exploit the poor and nuke the planet.

This is self-righteous thinking, and it's what leads to this sort of dysfunctional, recalcitrant bickering. I whole-heartedly agree with Leo's frustration; people need to learn to at least consider ideas from the other side of the fence, before they yell at them and reduce the level of dialogue to rhetoric and slander.

If you disagree with someone, vote against them, or campaign against them, or encourage your friends to vote against them — but you owe it to them to let them speak first.

Brendan Osberg



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What's eating Gilbert Switzer?

Local band challenges the hungry mainstream by filling its stomach with nothing but aggressive performances

LINDSAY DOBBIN
Arts Editor

During Gilbert Switzer's second performance as a band, drummer/guitarist Poison I was asked to take off her shirt by an older patron in the audience.

It was as ordinary as any late fall night in 2004 could have been; friends were present and enjoying the set. And, as the band members recall, they weren't musically tight at the time but still offered a high-energy performance.

The night, however, became increasingly awry as the older patron of the show's venue heckled the infant incarnation of the band throughout its set. The man was continuously voicing his dissatisfaction with the band's lack of a bass player and the two or three chord songs.

But that was fine, according to the band. It was his comment directed toward Poison I (Meghan Merrihan) that rubbed the members the wrong way.

"I don't care if someone heckles us because of our music sucking or whatever, but he crossed a line," says guitarist/drummer Ash F (Derrick Hiltz).

In response to the unmannerly comment, Poison I threw down her drum sticks after the song "Ride the Pink Tiger" and marched off the stage toward the man, who towered over the pint-sized musician. Reaching up, she grabbed his face, shoved both of her thumbs up his nose and told him his comment was disrespectful. The man was taken aback.

After the two were torn apart, Poison I returned to the stage and Gilbert Switzer carried on with its set, undeterred by the negativity. But following the band's set, the venue's owners told the members they were not allowed to play there again.

In June of 2005, the band played at the venue once again.

Another band on the bill, Oh God, told the owners of the establishment they wouldn't play if Gilbert Switzer couldn't. So, in pure schoolyard-drama fashion, Gilbert Switzer played. The audience was larger and more willing to participate in the performance — and no hecklers heckled.

But rather than feeling like they had proved a point or made a statement by performing at the once-forbidden venue, the band is quite modest about the situation in retrospect.

"We got a great crowd response, but the bar people still hated us," recounts vocalist Über D (Troy Ritcher). "They thought we were unprofessional, which I think is a compliment."

"We love what we do, but we don't feel that we need to have a professional attitude. It can be an obses-



Gilbert Switzer gives it 110% during a practice at the Rock Garden: Ash F, Über D, Poison I (L-R). / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

sion, but we don't want it to be a profession."

The band works within limitations, striving to do the most it can with as little as possible. Gilbert Switzer doesn't have a bass. Über D only performs vocals. Poison I and Ash F switch between guitar and drums and, when playing the drums (consisting of a cymbal, a snare, and a floor tom), they play them standing up.

It's within this unlikely setup that Gilbert Switzer is not only able to create a full and brash sound, but they are also able to emphasize performance. Throughout the band's constant growth, opportunities, and challenges over the past two years, performance has been the common thread.

Packing bags and saddling up

The story of how the three crazy-wavers came together is a beautiful one. It involves Ash F playing the role of chemist and creating a concoction of equal parts intention and spontaneity.

Ash F knew Poison I for many years. As a little girl, she was Ash F's biggest fan — she loved his band, Chitz, and his punk-rock radio show on CKDU-FM.

"He's basically Jesus to me," she

says. "He's a brother to me."

Years went by, both moved away from Halifax and came back, and Poison I grew up.

"She started bugging me to get a band with her and I said on one condition: only if you play drums," says Ash F. At the time, Poison I didn't know how to play drums but he told her that it didn't matter.

Ash F knew Über D through CKDU-FM. Both had back-to-back radio timeslots and constantly discussed music and similar interests. They decided they should form a band.

The pair considered a number of band ideas, including a power-pop band with Über D on guitar. Über D, however, wanted to be a frontman. These conversations, coupled with Poison I's interest in doing something musically with her childhood hero, inspired Ash F to introduce the two to each other.

Über D was reluctant about Poison I when they first met at a party on Hunter Street.

"I've never met anyone like Meghan before, she was kind of intimidating," says Über D. "She seemed like a very intense rock and roller."

Poison I was hesitant as well. She didn't think Über D would be able to take on the role of singer in a punk

rock band — he was so quiet.

But Ash F knew better. He knew that Über D would be a good frontman as soon as they started jamming together.

"Even in our little jams in his living room he put as much into his vocals and his performance as he ever does in any live show and I knew right then that this was the right lineup."

Riding the pink tiger

Local photographer David Cieplinski has been documenting rock shows in Halifax since 1993. Snapping photos for fun on top of his day job, he has compiled a large collection of images over the past 13 years. In 2005 alone, Cieplinski attended 365 shows.

The band he shot the most was Gilbert Switzer.

The reason why he enjoys shooting Gilbert Switzer is a bit self-serving — the performances always make for interesting photographs. But Cieplinski's primary motivation for attending 25 Gilbert Switzer shows in 2005 is because he genuinely loves the band's music and performances.

"It's a very dynamic performance," says Cieplinski. "Sometimes you can't be sure what to expect."

In many of Cieplinski's Gilbert Switzer photographs, a consistent

composition is apparent: each band member is layered across the stage, writhing to their music and the audience reaction.

In the photographs, Über D's face fills the camera frame, or Über D is on top of an audience member during "Ride the Pink Tiger," or Über D is looking up Poison I's skirt, crotch facing the venue's ceiling, ankles tucked under his butt, screaming about a "Factory Farmer," "Fucking Golfers" and "American Idols."

Poison I with her black hair pulled back, her drum sticks creating a blur across the camera frame, sometimes smiles with her head tilted slightly down, and her legs spread far apart to steady herself when playing the guitar.

And Ash F — the anchor of the band — is in mid-sway or swagger, his shaved head reflecting the venue's lights.

These performance elements have become increasingly exaggerated since July 2004 when the band first formed, which is likely why the list of post-performance injuries has lengthened as of late, including a back injury caused when Über D leapt off of the stage a few weeks ago at Stage 9.

"If we're not sore and the audience isn't sore either, then it's like we didn't play at all," says Ash F.

How the band members present themselves on stage is completely different than how they act in person. After witnessing a performance, you would expect them to be hanging off the rafters and beating on the walls of wherever they are.

During the interview, however, Über D seems distracted and removed — a Jekyll and Hyde-like transformation. Poison I sits beside Über D on the couch, curled up in the corner. In her assertive and entertaining demeanour, she constantly interjects throughout the interview with somewhat random, semi-sarcastic comments.

And Ash F sits back in a chair with his ankles crossed, rubbing his beard thoughtfully, as though he uses it to draw the facts of Gilbert Switzer's early days to mind.

They laugh at each other's jokes and they know who to look to when certain questions are asked. They've grown into each other and they understand what each person offers to the mix.

Spreading the crazywave

Über D has been working on an experimental fiction project for the past six months. The chapters —

Continued next page

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Spreading the crazywave, continued

Continued from previous page

written in a stream-of-consciousness fashion with light-handed editing — aim to capture and embrace the various transformations of Gilbert Switzer.

"I like writing it as I grow and as the experience we're having in the band changes," says Über D. "Things have changed right now from where they were six months ago, so if I had written the [entire] story six months ago it would have been from a different perspective."

Things have certainly changed since the band's beginnings. The ideas surrounding the band, such as the crazywave, have become more coherent and powerful. The band members have become more confident and outlandish on stage. More people are attending Gilbert Switzer's shows, perhaps because the band offers an alternative to the removed and arms-crossed indie shows that comprise a lot of the Halifax music scene.

"I think that we're in the process of entering a new phase," says Poison I. "From the beginning it was spreading the gospel, spreading the crazywave as wide as your legs could possibly open."

With already three releases under the band's belt (*Don't Stop The Film* mini CD-R, *American Idols* cassette, and "Fucking Golfer" single on a 3.5-inch floppy disc), the next phase has Gilbert Switzer focusing on more performances and new musical projects, including a 7-inch split and 3.5-inch floppy split with its Divorce Records labelmates, The Hold and Be Bad, respectively.

"This band has a statement to make but it's not something we're going to try and hang on to as long as

A snapshot of Gilbert Switzer

Who Gilbert Switzer are guitarist/drummer Poison I (Meghan Merrigan), guitarist/drummer Ash F (Derrick Hiltz), and vocalist Über D (Troy Ritcher). The band members names, according to front man Über D, don't have a lot of thought and consideration behind them.

Über D: "They were supposed to be just playful, absurd names. We've never mulled over the details of our art in any way."

The same can be said for the band's name. Created by Ash F at the spur of the moment, the name had no meaning in the beginning but, over time, has taken on meaning to each of the band members.

Poison I: "I think the real Gilbert Switzer was some kind of engineer or possibly architect that designed some sort of memorial library."

Über D: "Gilbert Switzer is an intensely neurotic young man, probably a teenager. He's actually a reluctant prophet of sorts. He just wants to make his art alone in his room. He doesn't think of it as art, it's just him having fun, being playful, enjoying himself. But he later stumbles upon what he's doing has to take on this important meaning and he finds that really scary."

Sound Ash F: "Very minimalist punk-rock and take it to many different forms and places. All we have in the band is a guitar, a two-piece drum kit, a singer, and one cymbal and we do absolutely the most we can do with that and we're constantly pushing ourselves to do different things with it."

we can," says Über D. "I do see it as having a lot of intensity and it's not going to be possible to sustain that for a really long period of time."

"I don't really think I see the end in sight. I just see lots of new beginnings and opportunities. It's very organic, and like all things that are live,

Über D: "We just sing about popular culture and the media being absurd. We don't really sing about how it's hell being in Iraq because we don't know what it's like to be in Iraq but we know what it's like to get all these images and these voices describing what's going on in the world."

Crazywave When explaining the crazywave philosophy that surrounds Gilbert Switzer, the band members provide quite cryptic descriptions.

Poison I: "It's something for everyone but once they find out it's theirs then it's not theirs anymore."

Über D: "For one thing it's not another one of those waves like new-wave... it's not another genre of punk rock. Not even an art movement but more like an event. It's like a catalyst... something that washes away all the bad stuff, all the consumerism, all the hang-ups and starts something new because you always need to start something new."

Ash F: "It's kind of an ideology of no ideology. It's sort of anti-scene, anti-clique and, in a way, it kind of brings people together in that sense by not requiring people to be brought together."

Poison I: "It's a paradox."

Where do they fit in? Poison I: "Page four of US Weekly. YM's Say Anything."

Über D: "We're just trying to be autonomous, which is what any artist really should try and do. Just try to fight for our own voices. Try to challenge the mainstream, the big guy."

it will die a probably very beautiful and tragic death."

For more information on Gilbert Switzer, visit www.gilbertswitzer.com and www.divorcerecords.ca.

THIS WEEKS PICKS

Entertainment Pick by Kimberly Milne / Staff Contributor

2006 Winter Olympic Games

Is it just me, or are you also getting awfully bored of the same mundane, tiresome reality shows that are constantly bombarding the airwaves?

These shows are all alike in their pathetic attempt to display "reality" and "authentic" human emotions.

This February, however, we will thankfully be awarded a much-needed break from repetitive shows. We can lay back and take in an event that depicts true reality television: the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

What else is more entertaining than watching real people compete in real events in a real setting in an atmosphere that only occurs once every four years? For 16 days, we can enjoy true reality television through the Olympic world of

sports.

We can watch people fulfill lifetime goals and feel the exhilaration of victory, and we can watch people take ridiculous falls and spills and feel the heartbreak of defeat. What can possibly be more entertaining and suspenseful than watching athletes push themselves to be the very best, wondering if they are destined to succeed or fail?

The Olympic Games not only promote global camaraderie and the spirit of sportsmanship, but the Games also offer an arena in which the world's best athletes can come together and display their unbelievable talents.

Nothing can beat the true reality of the world of sports, and nothing can top the winter Olympics. So tune in, starting Feb. 10, and you're sure to experience an array of emotions — minus the boredom.

Local Crop by Bridgette Sullivan / Assistant Arts Editor

Children of Paradise

(formally the Kansas Nebraska Act)
s/t EP

In Kansas Nebraska Act's first self-titled EP the band sounds quite different from the images its name conjures.

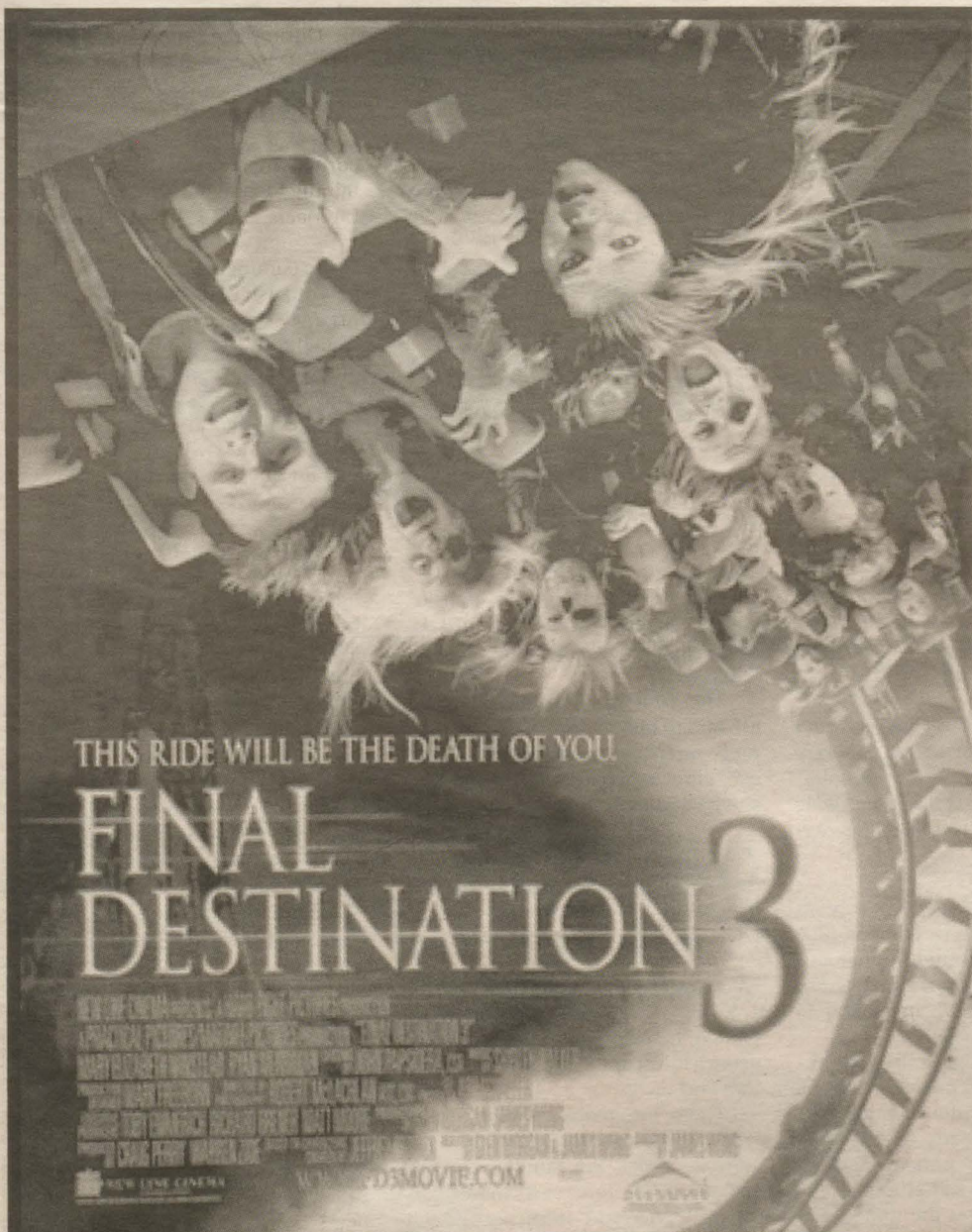
Influenced by The Smiths, Husker Dü and The Replacements, The appeal of KNA's music may lie in its familiarity.

The pace and style of the riffs and beats are directly derived from a musical floor plan everyone knows by heart. The satisfying simplicity of the songs give the listener the ability to predict when the music will rise and fall, when

the drums will kick in and when the guitar will begin to wail away after just a few plays.

After a recent reshuffling of band members, the KNA will soon be known as Children of Paradise. Although the original name is a testament to the political and social elements found in the band's song writing, it hardly reflects the catchy and aggressive guitar-led sound of the band.

Lyrical citing Maritimee alienation, the Canadian experience, self-delusion, and cults and conspiracies, the listener looks forward to becoming knee-deep in a full-length album.



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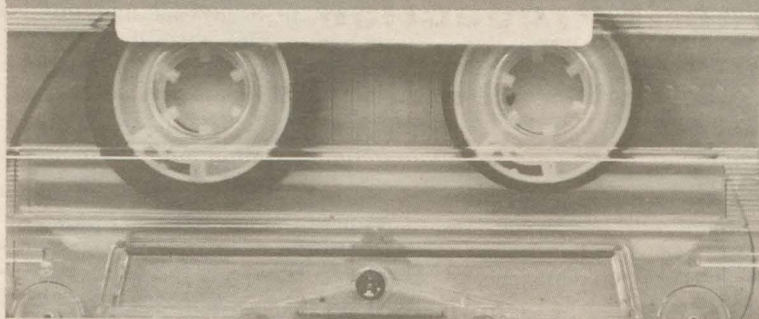
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Burn Baby Burn



Reviving the background music

SIDE A: Sarah Feldman / Staff Contributor

I can't think of the first time I heard the title song from Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*, but I'd bet anything it was during some movie, just at the moment when the tide is about to turn — after epic struggles — back in the protagonist's favour.

Thus, for as long as I can remember, the sound of that album has been inseparable from the trappings of a Hollywood denouement: thoughtful blondes going for lonely seaside walks or staring wonderingly out rain-streaked windows, sad-eyed bachelors talking to their dogs.

So I was suspicious of "Astral Weeks" ability to convey any genuine emotional depth. And, I figured the same judgment applied to the rest of the songs on the album, since they all sounded more or less the same: sweet, simple configurations of flute glissandos and acoustic pluckings, with Van Morrison's easy voice slurring over them.

Apparently I hadn't listened with any attention to, for instance, "Beside You," a freak-out song that rivals anything being made these days by brooding adolescents. Without any reduction in vocal warmth, Van Morrison draws out the ending into the musical equivalent of a person hyperventilating.

And "Beside You" is just one of many cracks in the new-age-y goodness of *Astral Weeks* — think of "Madame George", whose "love that loves the love that loves to love" goes on long past the point where the word loses all meaning.

It's no accident, then, that all those airy, crystalline sounds start to feel a little claustrophobic after a while. That's the point, I think — the limited, recurring set of musical and lyrical themes is an incantation whose divorce from reality becomes painfully apparent.

It's this that makes the album unfold in a world where hope has been reduced to a weightless, infinitely sweet abstraction — the wispiest lullaby sung ad nauseum over an abyss.

- "Astral Weeks"
- "Beside You"
- "Sweet Thing"
- "Cyprus Avenue"
- "The Way Young Lovers Do"
- "Madame George"
- "Ballerina"
- "Slim Slow Slider"

SIDE B: Colleen Cosgrove / Staff Contributor

Taking a different slant than Sarah, these tunes are some of the mere millions appearing in the little soundtrack of our existence. They can be found in the classic love scene, or the creepiest movie you've ever seen, ahem, *Devil's Rejects*...

Commercials, coffee houses, parents and the list goes on and on as to where these songs were introduced to you. Point being: they connect events and experiences in your life and help recall precious memories, making these songs — and countless others — everlasting.

- "Orange Sky" - Alexei Murdoch
- "Girl You'll Be a Woman Soon" - Urge Overkill
- "Like a Rolling Stone" - Bob Dylan
- "Listen to the Music" - The Doobie Brothers
- "People are Strange" - The Doors
- "Fooled Around and Fell in Love" - Elvin Bishop
- "Daydream Believer" - The Monkeys
- "Shambala" - Three Dog Night
- "Jungle Boogie" - Kool and the Gang
- "Free Bird" - Lynard Skynard

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DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see pages 8 & 20.

Dal spokesperson sexes it up

Author's stories paint the fringes of society

RAY CORKUM
Staff Contributor

In a school comprised of some 16,000 students and a massive body of staff, a certain sense of anonymity prevails. Walking through Dalhousie's grounds between classes is something akin to walking through Times Square, with seemingly endless masses of people shuffling, striding and stumbling their way through the day. Every person has a story, an insight, and a perspective that few sadly ever have the chance to hear.

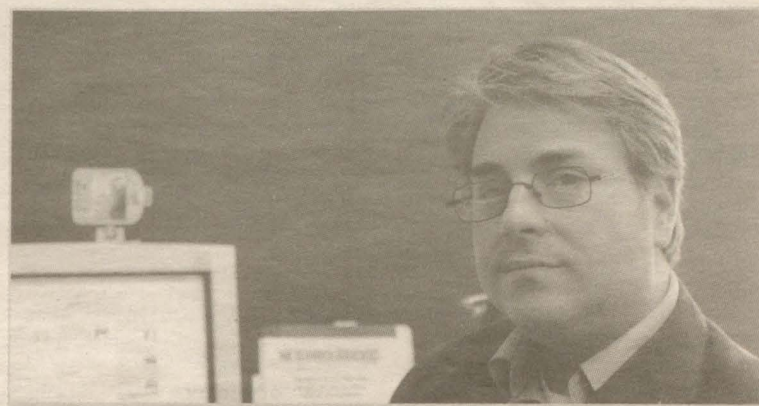
With people like author Charles Crosby among the throngs, you begin to realize that very rarely are things as cut and dry as they seem.

"I like to work in extremes. The fringes are where all the stories are — they breed conflict, oppositions," says Crosby. "It's fun to work both sides against one another and watch the effect they have on the middle. They make you take a side, or get spun in the push and pull."

The "fringes" is right — looking into Crosby's work you'll find a rough gallery that consists of some of the most wonderful freaks and weirdoes of society. Sadomasochistic legal clerks, posterior adorning tattoo artists, masturbation fixated cops and disgruntled vicars populate the mind of the playwright and novelist.

This may come as a surprise upon first encountering Crosby, Dal's public relations manager. The Halifax native's writing is divided into extremes — between the stringent, politically correct and message-driven work at Dal and the oftentimes surreal portraits of the underbelly of urban life found in his novels and plays.

His recently published novel,



Charles Crosby: more than meets the eye. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

italics, mine, paints a similar life picture. Protagonist Andrew Kieran, an acrimonious corporate copywriter and sufferer of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, turns to the seedy world of explicit, submissive sex to escape the overwhelming nature of his affliction.

"Nearly all of my work incorporates me in some way or another — a writer writes what he knows," says Crosby. "I understand dichotomies, and how they are often what drive the way we work. That's not to say that I am Andrew Kieran, I'm not. All it means is that the need for balance is something I can relate to."

As a native of Halifax, Crosby understands something of the urban existence. He describes Halifax as acting as "another character" in his debut novel.

"Setting, the where of a story, is crucial to the construction of the narrative in all my work. *Porn Shoppe* and *Tattoo You* are obvious; the characters are a product of the environment," says Crosby. "Urban Halifax is populated with complexities that

are oftentimes lost in our image [as a tourist city]. But this city is just as awake at 3 a.m. and 3 p.m. *italics, mine* is merely an illustration of that."

Fortunately, Crosby's vision of Halifax has found an audience — *italics, mine* has been nationally published. He's currently shopping his second novel *Backspin* to agents, seeking larger distribution. A third novel is also in the works, *Monster in Suburbia*, a skewed vision of a family moving into the suburbs (an experience Crosby recently shared) so the family patriarch can take a position at a university.

Does art imitate life?

"That's the scary thing, some people are starting to assume all of this stuff comes directly out of my life, and with the wife of the university's president reading *italics, mine*, it has me a bit worried," says Crosby with a laugh.

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

Jump-start your mojo

DAVE WENTWORTH
Sexpert

This week's questions deal with the topics of sexual aerobics. How can you make yourself tighter and toned? How can you help loosen up?

Q: I've heard of Kegel exercises from my girlfriends but I do not know exactly what they are? Can my girlfriend make herself tighter from doing them, and is there a version of this exercise for men?

A: Kegel exercises are a way to tone your pubococcygeus (PC) muscles, which is found in men and women. So, you too can benefit from what your girlfriends have known about for years.

Kegel exercises can help strengthen some of the key muscles that are used during sex, and because they can be done discreetly at any time, provide a way to enhance sexual arousal with subtle self-stimulation.

The PC muscle is the same muscle you tighten when you are trying to hold going to the washroom.

You can perform Kegels at your own pace; however, optimal results are achieved through faithful daily exercises. To perform the Kegel, contract your PC muscle and hold it until the count of ten. Then relax the muscle, and repeat.

The benefits of Kegels exercises are said to include: stronger erection, more intense orgasm, better control over climax, heightened vaginal sensitivity and tightness.

Q: I've always been very tight for guys, and I'm also really dry and penetrative sex hurts. Are there any exercises I can do to loosen my vagina?

A: You have two separate issues here, tightness and dryness. First, dryness is easy to deal with. Try using a lubricant to add a bit of moisture and slickness.

There are many garden-variety types of lubricant for sale at the drug store — check the family planning section. Adult stores carry more elaborate, higher-end lubricants. Each formula is different, so shop around and keep trying different brands until

you find the one you adore.

Tightness can be a number of things. Often, there is a misconception that if you have had any penetration that the hymen is no longer intact. This is not always the case. If you have only had a moderate amount of vaginal penetration, your hymen may not be fully broken and that's what's causing the discomfort.

Your tightness could also be because you're nervous the intercourse will hurt. If you have had a prior encounter that was painful, your vaginal muscles may be tightening out of a fear-based reaction. Try to relax, take your time, and not focus on past encounters.

If you have a limited background in vaginal stimulation, you can try riding your partner. Woman-on-top positions can often work out better for beginners, because it allows for control of penetration depth and thrust.

Of course, if you still encounter problematic symptoms, like painfulness, dryness, or irritability, the next logical step is to consult with your doctor.

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DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Canadian Beer

BRENNAN McVEIGH

Who drinks Canadian beer? Most people drink some form of Canadian beer. Keiths, Olands, Blue etc.. Right? Now how many people drink Molson Canadian? A lot less right? In fact I bet most people made a puke face when you read Molson Canadian right? Now for those of you who do drink and enjoy Canadian allow me to say thank you and to apologize for the things I'll say about your preferred brew.

Now this may seem hypocritical since I don't drink beer, but I've heard terrible things about Canadian. I've seen people refuse to drink free Canadian. Yes that right people they refused free beer. Then I saw the very same people try to trade several Canadian for one beer of another brand, To the point of three for one. Based on this information I'm forced to conclude that Molson Canadian is a sub-par beer, at least among 18-25 year olds I tend to be seen with.

Molson must know this correct? The 18-25 is the most sought after demographic of amongst beer companies. It's mind boggling. Yet still when I conducted a small survey of my peers I found no one that would choose to buy Canadian. Most would drink it if it was free, but really that could be true for most beers.

This shouldn't bother me. I don't drink beer. Why am I commenting on this? The name Canadian. I happen to be Canadian and I am very proud to be Canadian. Like it or not beer is part of Canada's national identity. "Canadian beer is like moonshire" you've all heard this right? Or how about "All they have up north in beer drinking hockey players" Regardless of the truth behind these statements,

it is a general perception of Canada as a whole and as such I find it offensive that the beer that shares my nationality is a beer so many of my friends find disgusting.

Yes other places are known for their beers. Germany, Belgium, even the United States are all very well known for their beer. Yet I could not find one brand of beer called, "German, Belgian or American." Why is this? Maybe they don't want their name associated with an inferior product. Canadian is the beer that bears my nationality to the international level, and most Canadians hate the stuff.

It could be that going to nerd school the emphasis has always been on not attaching my name to anything that doesn't meet my standards. Or maybe I'm overly patriotic but with that being said I hate that that I ask someone if they drink Canadian they make a face as if they can't control their facial muscles. I hate that my nationality is associated with a sub-par beer. I believe that to bear the name Canadian it should be the best beer we as a nation have to offer. We don't sent ok athletes to the Olympics we sent the best. We don't let just anyone play hockey with maple leaf on their jersey (usually) the best. So why not have the best beer be the one to be called Canadian. People should be proud to drink a Canadian but they aren't. It isn't good.

So to remedy this I propose a contest. Hold periodic testing, say every two to five years and let the people determine the beer they want to be called Canadian. Let the companies (or brands) compete for the right to be the official beer of Canada and Canadians. Let the best beer in Canada be the one to be called Canadian.

Cheating Yourself

MARC MURPHY

I read the article about cheating in the *Gazette*. If students want to cheat, that's their choice. It's not a moral choice, and they must live with the consequences. They'll live the rest of their lives knowing that they aren't the genuine article. At graduation they'll know deep down that they don't deserve the honors (this assumes they aren't ejected from their program).

Not long ago, I read a news article with a dying woman of 80-some years who said her main regret in life is that she cheated on her elementary school tests. That's a dire warning to anyone with the wisdom to understand its depth. And this paragraph probably means nothing to those who are cheating. Hmm...wait and

see.

For the honest, the main issue with cheating is the devaluing of the Dalhousie name. Cheaters also unfairly skew class grades, devaluing the hard work of their peers. This is the same as stealing: you lose time, (employment or scholarship) money, and prestige. No one should have any qualms about turning in cheaters, considering that they selfishly make life worse for all honest students.

I'll speculate that the main reason people cheat is a fundamental lack of self-confidence. Combine that with the pressure to achieve, and it's bad news. If cheaters do so because they can't master the material, everyone else will soon clue in that they aren't up to snuff; the marketplace is a brutal judge of talent. If you can't at least pass without cheating, you deserve

to fail. If you're not in that boat... it's hard for me to understand why anyone would risk completely screwing up their lives for a marginally better grade. Anyone who really doesn't enjoy their studies or have the ability to understand the material will be far better off in the long run if they seek their fortune via other pursuits.

With that in mind, I'll leave you with the quotes of wiser men. Enjoy.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." - Edmund Burke

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." - Albert Einstein

"He, who does not punish evil, commands it to be done." - Leonardo da Vinci

SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY!!!!

SEAN MACNEIL

Just when it seems the dreariest time of year for football fans, along comes the single largest sporting event in the universe, or at least planet earth... (or at least in the states).

Let's not even talk about that other "Futebol". We're talking about American Football, where we predominantly use our hands, pound ourselves mercilessly, and acquire life changing injuries in the pursuit of Grid Iron glory.

Well, it all makes total sense doesn't it? We're not allowed to go around beating each other up so we create sports where it's ok and to do so? So now you're thinking "OK, wait a second, where is this nut going with this?" Well I'm not going to

take you very far so don't worry about it! I'm not going to start making comparisons between Roman Gladiators and their blood sports, and today's athletes. I mean, it's totally different right? Just because they both wore helmets and beat each other with sticks, bats, fists and flying tackles, and are totally intent on pounding each other to within an inch of their lives doesn't mean they have anything in common right?

But here's the real deal: these things have been around for thousands of years, from when Og first pushed Ug to say "who's the man" to when Chad Johnson breaks out the Icky Shuffle. So why fight it? And what sport is not inherently violent? Anything with any kind of competi-

tion can get messy.

"Fighting" in sport is simply not going away, so let's at least try to enjoy it. I challenge you *not* to have fun watching the Superbowl with friends, even if you have no love for, or comprehension of, the sport.

(That just means you can make fun of the people there who do, because you can bet they'll be watching it like hawks).

Good times, good friends, cold drinks and fun, what else could you ask for?

For my part, I know this Sunday I'll be sitting right there in the T-Room, watching the Steelers beat the life out of the Seahawks, and thinking all the while about planting a flying tackle on someone.

And that's that.
Cheers.

Upcoming Events!!

Superbowl Sunday!!!

1 - 1 Sunday Feb 5th at the T-Room Watch the Game on the Big Screen and Win Great Prizes!!

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Sports Editor: **Joey Ryba**

Contact: sports@dalgazette.ca

Women's hockey

Dal 4 UNB 2
Dal 10 UdeM 1

Women's volleyball

Dal 3 UdeM 1
Dal 3 St. FX 1

Women's basketball

Dal 69 UPEI 40
Dal 83 UNB 56

Men's hockey

Friday, Feb. 3 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs UdeM
Saturday, Feb. 4 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs STU

Men's volleyball

Sunday, Feb. 5 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UNB

Men's hockey

Dal 2 UdeM 3
Dal 2 STU 3

Men's volleyball

Dal 3 MUN 0
Dal 3 MUN 0

Men's basketball

Dal 64 UPEI 78
Dal 77 UNB 66

Women's volleyball

Sunday, Feb. 5 @ 1 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs UNB

VARSITY RESULTS

VARSITY SCHEDULE



The men's volleyball team is ranked sixth overall in Canada. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Winning streak gives men's volleyball team a confidence boost

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Staff Contributor

When the Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team went undefeated in the interlock tournament held the weekend of Jan. 22 at Dalplex, the team walked away with more than a victory and asserted themselves among the best teams in Canada.

Dalhousie was host to university teams from both Ontario and Québec. The Tigers dominated the tournament, losing only one set to Laval. As a result of the team's strong play, the Tigers walked away with a newfound air of confidence, four important wins, and a rightful spot among the top-10 contenders in the CIS.

Dal is currently ranked sixth in the top-10 rankings submitted by coaches across the country. Standout players Jeff Weiler and Jesse Mighton expressed great pride about the Tiger's accomplishments. Although they expect the rankings to fluctuate, both remain confident and say slipping below seventh is out of the question.

"I expect to be ranked higher than the two teams from Québec and the two from Ontario," says Weiler.

Mighton echoed Weiler's opinion. "We are in good shape right now," says Mighton. "If we maintain we can for sure remain ahead of the rest in the east."

With the CIS still weeks away, Weiler says the team will carry the

positive experiences gained from the weekend into the rest of the season and the CIS competition.

"The success we had this weekend will definitely be something our team can draw back on when the competition gets tough," says Weiler. "We will be able to pull strategies out that worked for us in past experiences. We've shown that we can overcome adversity, and I think that brings the team a lot of confidence."

Mighton says the team's confidence can help push the men through the remainder of the season.

"We had convincing results versus nationally-ranked teams," says Mighton. "We know we belong there, deserve to be there and carry the potential to win. Last weekend was the last look the rest of the country will get and they know we're coming."

In the weeks leading up to the AUS playoffs, Mighton enforced the importance of training sessions.

"We need to keep focused in practice and keep pushing ourselves," Mighton says. "Another round of improvement is needed and we cannot be satisfied to see one week go by with no improvements."

The Tigers are solid competitors and a legitimate threat in the eyes of CIS coaches. Confidence and athleticism will carry the squad onto the court and help the Tigers to defeat the teams from Canada West and bring back the long overdue CIS banner to Dalhousie.

Shooting guard develops into top-player

DANIEL REED
Sports Contributor

Monte Francois's career at Dalhousie didn't begin with the comforts and assurance that newly-recruited basketball players hope to receive upon arrival. He wasn't touted as a future top-tier player of the AUS, nor was his game refined for the university-style competition he was about to face.

Before taking the court, Francois was a high school standout basketball player in Scarborough, Ont. The shooting guard decided to come out East after a friend told him that in order to play in a league with U.S.-caliber intensity, the Atlantic provinces were the place to go.

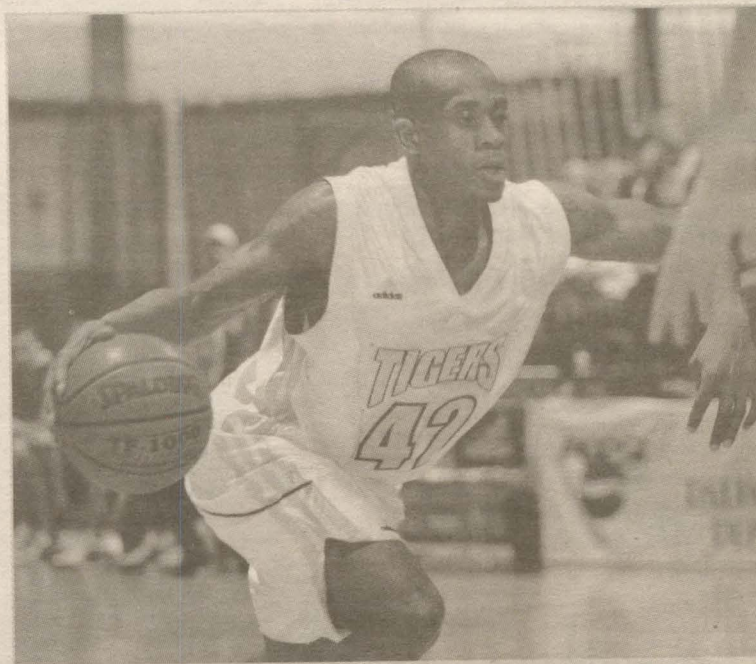
John Campbell, the men's basketball coach, added the street-ball veteran to his team on short notice at the beginning of the 2002/2003 school year. After joining the ranks with the other men on the team, the past three seasons have been anything but easy for Francois.

"It took me a while to get adjusted out here," says Francois. "There was at least a year before John and I were able to see eye to eye, and really feel comfortable talking openly to each other."

Over three and a half years in a rebuilding program, Francois has had to adapt to a new life and role on the Dalhousie basketball team, grinding his way to his now known duty as one of the best collegiate players in the AUS.

Evolution has become a common theme for the fourth-year shooting guard. Francois, a management student, came into his first year as an accomplished high-school athlete, who learned how to play a hard-nosed, intensified game on the blacktop.

Throughout his time and membership at Dalhousie University and in the Tiger's basketball program, Francois has been forced to evolve and learn how to play at a high level. He also has had to adjust to life as a



Monte Francois is best known for his lock-down defense. / Photo: Nick Pearce

university student.

"The mornings are pretty tough," he says. "Getting up for early classes isn't always the easiest. There's a lot of commitment that I need to have for this team, and it's a lot of work."

Today, after three plus years of playing university ball, Francois would define his game as well-rounded, balanced, and hard-working.

"I'm a guy that can drive and initiate contact at the hoop, but I can also now hit my shots," he says. "If I was defending myself, I'd play to make me shoot, because of how I can get to the basket."

Defence is a different story. His teammates say Francois plays a tenacious lock-down on his defensive assignments and his presence on the perimeter can stop slashing opponents from penetrating the paint and scoring easy buckets down low.

"When I first came here I was known for my defense and it was my shot that I really needed to work on," he says.

Yet, while Francois might contend that, judging by his game today, it's his smooth stroke from mid-range and downtown that stand out as some of his brightest qualities as a basketball player.

While his game has matured throughout his tenure at Dalhousie, so has the program that he's a crucial part of.

"Mine and John's first year here was pretty tough to deal with," he says. "There were still players left who played for the coach [before John Campbell], and still carried negative attitudes towards the game."

Evidently, that negativity has been flushed out of the team's atmosphere, and much of the team's focus is in developing a tough work ethic, and becoming a consistent contender.

"Playing in an intense environment is a great feeling," he says. "I remember going to the playoffs a few years back, and it was a lot of fun. I just hope we can keep winning, so the rest of the guys can get a taste."

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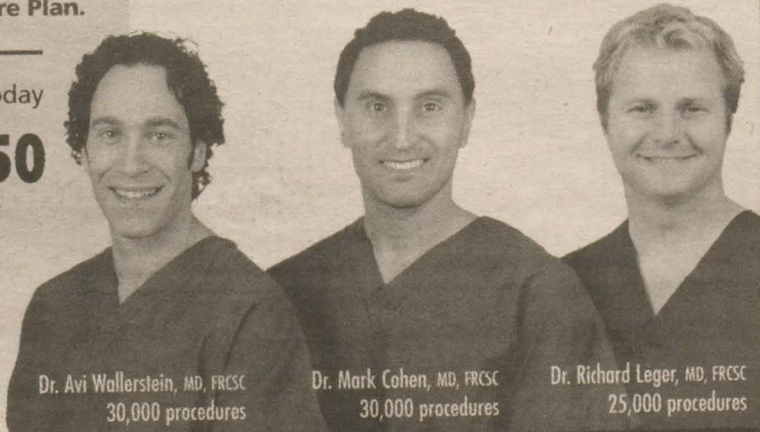
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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

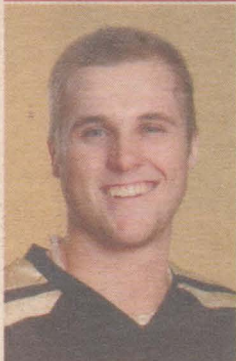
FEMALE ATHLETE



JILLIANE GOULET
VOLLEYBALL

Jilliane Goulet contributed nine kills, one ace, one stuff block and 13 digs, while passing 2.34/3 as the Tigers defeated UdeM 3-1 on home court. The Tigers travelled to St. FX. on Sunday where Goulet had another strong performance collecting 18 kills, three stuff blocks, one ace, 18 digs, while passing 2.24 and was named player of the match. Goulet is a fifth-year management student from Arnprior, Ont.

MALE ATHLETE



SCOTT TOWNSEND
VOLLEYBALL

Scott Townsend was named player of the match in Saturday's 3-0 win over Memorial and was a key part in both wins over the Sea-Hawks this past weekend. On Sunday, Townsend led the Tigers to another 3-0 victory over MUN. Townsend is a fourth-year management student from Halifax, N.S.

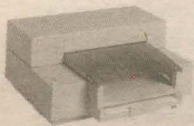
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MEN'S HOCKEY

Friday, February 3, UdeM @ DAL, 7pm

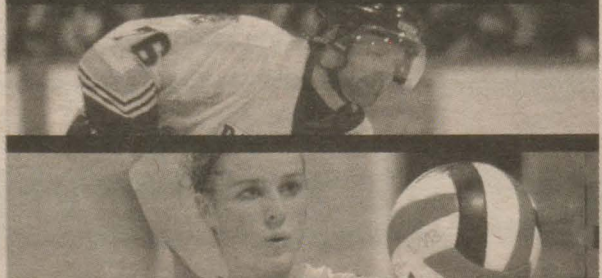
Saturday, February 4, STU @ DAL, 7pm

VOLLEYBALL

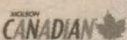
Saturday, February 4, MUN @ DAL, Women at 7pm

Sunday, February 5, UNB @ DAL, Women at 1pm, Men at 3pm

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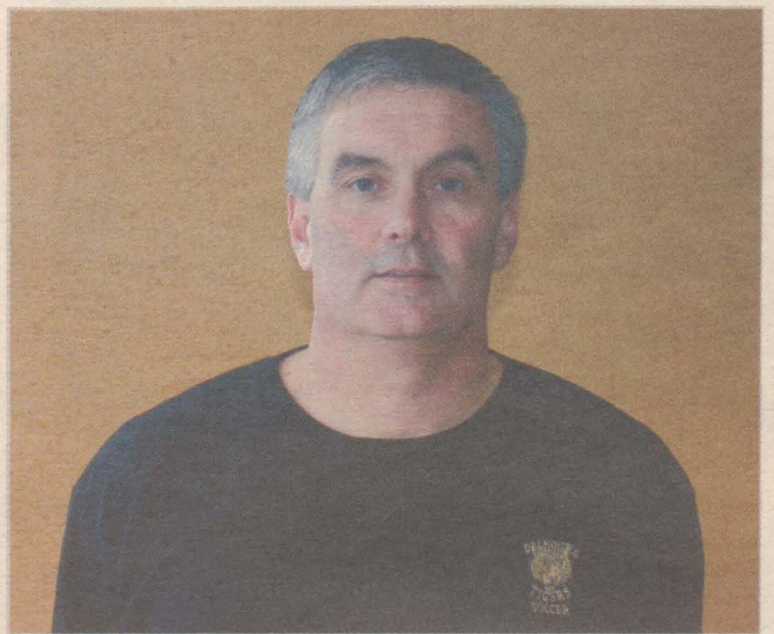
DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see pages 8 & 15.

Experience and dedication lead to success

A profile of Dalhousie men's soccer head coach Pat Nearing

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor



"Working with highly motivated individuals is a real gratification," said head coach Pat Nearing. Photo: Rafal Andronowski

The Dalhousie Tigers men's soccer team had a successful season and playoff tournament, but came up a bit short in the championship game against SMU. The man who guided the team through this impressive run is head coach Pat Nearing.

Nearing, a Halifax native, began his soccer career in high school. After he graduated in 1976, he played for Dalhousie while he studied physical education. In his second year, he was selected to attend the Carnegie School of Physical Education in Leeds, U.K. for a one-year exchange. He says he was immersed in soccer culture at that time.

"To have the opportunity to go to England and go to school there and play soccer really peaked my interest in terms of soccer," says Nearing. "All my friends who were at university at that point were playing high-level soccer."

After university, Nearing played division one senior men's soccer for the Halifax Olands and taught physical education at schools in Halifax Country. A serious knee injury put an end to his playing career and he then moved into the coaching ranks.

Nearing coached senior men's soccer and was an assistant coach with Technical University of Nova Scotia from 1980 to 1999. In 1999, Nearing was hired as the interim coach of the Dalhousie Tigers men's soccer team for one year. He led the Tigers to the CIS Championship and was offered a permanent contract.

Nearing says coaching AUS men's soccer was a lot different from coaching senior men's soccer.

"The league is fast and furious," he says referring to the AUS. "It was a real learning experience and the learning curve was quite steep at that point."

Ryan Haughn, the Dalhousie Tigers captain for 2006, says Nearing is a fair coach who treats his players with respect. He says Nearing makes his players put academics first and allows them to miss practice to study if needed.

He says Nearing is good at communicating with his players and doesn't lose touch with them in the off-season. Haughn also says his coach puts a lot of faith in the team's captain and wants his players to follow the captain's leadership.

Haughn says Nearing and his players get along and work well together.

"He trusts all of us and we have a good relationship," he says.

Besides running practices and coaching during the games, there are several other aspects, which make Nearing's job a yearlong task.

One component is fundraising for program enhancements. A large amount of funds is needed for equipment, scholarships for players and for recruiting players.

Another part of Nearing's job is off-season training. Currently, the Tigers practice three times a week indoors. Each player has an individualized strength and conditioning program. The team also plays some outdoor matches in April.

Besides soccer, the team does other activities such as playing in a

three-on-three basketball tournament, which Nearing says will build team chemistry.

In addition to fundraising and off-season training, recruiting is also a huge component of Nearing's job. Presently, Nearing is trying to bring the best student/athletes to Dal for next year. He's trying to recruit provincial players from across the country and also trying to attract top players from Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. Nearing has the unenviable task of finding replacements for graduated superstars Simon Richardson, Matt Hudson and Jarreau Hayward.

Nearing says a university coach wears many hats. He says sometimes he's a coach and other times he's a pseudo-parent or academic advisor. In any capacity, Nearing finds his job rewarding.

"Coaching at any level is all about working with players," he says. "Working with highly motivated individuals is a real gratification."

Pick up the next issue of *The Gazette* to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

Pick up the next issue of *The Gazette* to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

Dal residences square-off in charity hockey game

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

As part of the Dalhousie Student Union's winter carnival, the Howe Hall Trojans will battle the Risley Hall Big Horns in a charity hockey game on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8:30 p.m. at the Dal Arena.

Rob Ferguson, the head coach of Howe Hall, says the reason for having the game is to increase involvement and competition between the residences on campus.

Ferguson and Risley's head coach Greg Sampson came up with the idea near the end of the 2004/2005 school year. They mentioned their idea to the residence councils and residence hockey players this year, and all parties agreed the game was a fantastic idea.

"We just want [the game] to be an annual competition," says Ferguson. "We just want pride in the individual residences... especially with the creation of a new residence on campus, we want to get them involved in the old rivalry as much as possible."

Ferguson, Sampson and a dedicated support staff of residence students worked extremely hard in hopes of making this event a cutting-edge experience. The game will consist of three 20-minute stop-clock periods — just like the NHL.

Ferguson has also secured a high-caliber on-ice officiating crew for the game from Hockey Nova Scotia. As far as the attendance is concerned, organizers anticipate a sell-out crowd of over 1,500 charged-up fans, who should create an electric atmosphere in the building.

To add to the hype even more, there will be cheerleaders in attendance and a live band will play at center ice during the warm-up. The game will also be advertised on Q104 and the other Metro Radio Group stations.

The proceeds from this game will go to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Ferguson says the game organizers had a meeting to decide on the charity and they unanimously agreed on the Heart and Stroke Foundation because it's well known and February is Heart and Stroke month.

"We anticipate a rather large sum of money for the charity," says Ferguson.

Even though the game is for charity, both teams want to win and have prepared quite intensely for the contest.

Ferguson says Howe Hall held tryouts in November and has practiced on a regular basis ever since.

The team has taken its training very seriously, so much in fact, the boys have gone to the Centennial Arena in Fairview for on-ice workouts because the Dal Arena was booked.

He says the Trojans are a fast and physical team.

"We're going to be very much bump and grind in the corners," he says. "We're tough. Our goaltending is spectacular and our defence is very solid."

Ferguson expects the Trojans' to be the first winner of the new tradition.

"We haven't thought about losing," he says. "It hasn't crossed our minds."

Sampson says that his team began preparation in October. He says the Big Horns haven't gone across town for practices, but won't rule that out. He says Risley is fast and can score.

"We're pretty good at wheeling and dealing," says Sampson. "It's going to be a snipe show."

Sampson expects Risley to win and says the victory will help establish the residence because it's only two years old.

"We're looking to start off on the right foot as far as tradition goes," he says. "I'm pretty sure we're going to take it."