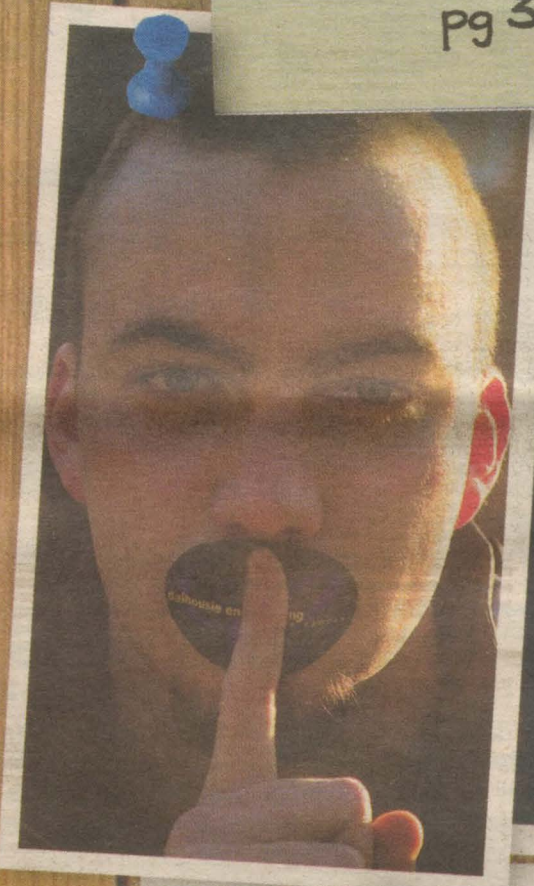


Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

2005/2006
 coming to
 an end
 pg 3 & 9



CANADIAN STUDENTS
 Dangerously passive? pg 8

HOMOPHOBIA IN HALIFAX
 A subtle undercurrent pg 5

MUSEUM PIECES
 Anything but dusty pg 11

HOTSHOTROBOT
 Dressed in drag pg 14



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Concerts:

The DSU is excited to announce two concerts that we will be hosting this week as a part of Juno Fest. The first is a Hedley Concert on Friday March 31st and the second is a Matisyahu Concert on April 1st (no it is not a joke). Tickets are \$20 and \$17.50 respectively and are available through the Rebecca Cohn Box Office at the Dal Arts Centre, 494 - 3820.

Council Positions Available:

The new DSU Council will be meeting on Sunday April 2nd to appoint committees. If you are interested in getting involved with the DSU next year this is your chance. All of the committees of the DSU as well as their composition are listed in our constitution available at www.dsu.ca. If you are interested in a committee and will not be able to make it to the meeting you can send an email to me at dsupres@dal.ca with which committee you would like to sit on and why you are the best person for the job.

Battle of the Bands:

The battle of the bands finished up on Wednesday March 22nd. The winner at Dal was the Chronicles, a band that opened for K-OS at our Big Ticket Concert during Orientation week. They will be heading to St. Francis Xavier University to compete against the winners from the other Atlantic Universities. If successful they could be heading to Edmonton to showcase at the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities Conference (COCA) this summer. Good luck in Antigonish!

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on Sunday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm in Council Chambers, on the second floor of the SUB. All are welcome.

Honour Awards:

Every year at graduation the DSU gives out Gold D's to honour those students that have contributed significantly to student life at Dalhousie. Applications for Gold D honour awards are available on our website, and the deadline for submission is April 17th at 4:30 pm.

Dal Rocks for Hunger:

Friday March 31st at the Grawood Meal Exchange will be hosting a concert to benefit local food banks. Drink specials, a live band and DJ will make this night hard to forget. If you've been involved with Trick or Eat, Society Challenge, OR if you've wished you had been come on out and dance it up with Meal Exchange and make plans for next year! There will be a prize for the society that has the most members present.

Last Call at the 'Wood:

With the last day of class comes Last Call at the Grawood. On April 7th the Mellotones, one of this years favourite bands will be playing. This is guaranteed to a great evening with all kinds of specials, so be sure to be at the Grawood after your last class of the term.

See you around campus, stop by, or call anytime,
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FRIDAY, APRIL 14
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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, \$6
THE GRASS with guests

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THE FINE PRINT

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

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.

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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Masters get to Myanmar?
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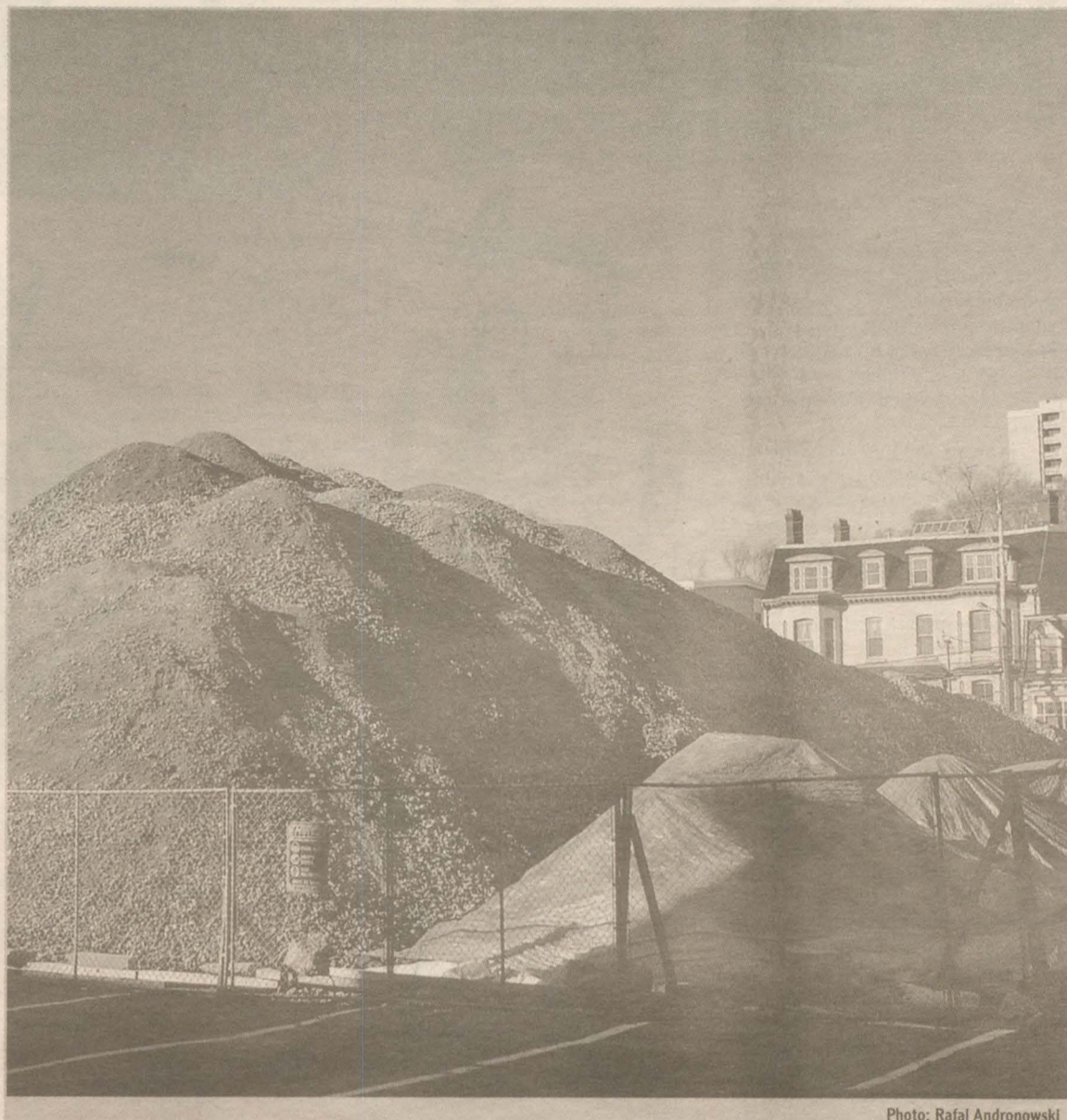


Photo: Rafal Andronowski

New development to shake up land next to Sexton

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie's engineering campus could be getting some new neighbours under a proposed redevelopment plan for a portion of downtown Halifax.

Urban Strategies Inc., the design group hired by the city and province to shake up 11 acres of land along Queen and Clyde streets, unveiled three planning proposals during an open house at Dalhousie's school of architecture on March 24.

The designs lay out plans for a new public library to replace the existing facility on Spring Garden Road. The current library, completed in 1949 with additions in the 1970s, would be converted for commercial use and a new 160,000-square-foot library would be built next to Sexton campus.

The designs feature a public park that would serve as an entryway to the engineering campus from the corner of Queen and Clyde streets. The proposals also provide enough space for a new campus building to be erected behind the park.

Two of the proposals would see the provincial courthouse moving to Queen Street, either where it intersects with Spring Garden Road or Morris Street, although the province is also considering locations on Lower Water and Cogswell streets.

Designer Mark Reid said the access to Dal's Sexton campus includ-

ed in all three proposals is a selling point for the university.

"I think we've tried to help Dal figure out how they can be part of a bigger, stronger public realm," Reid said when he presented the designs.

Dawn Sloane, HRM councillor for the downtown area, said she preferred the third proposal, a mixed residential and commercial development that doesn't involve a new courthouse. She said she shares her preference with many of her constituents.

"That's what the residents would like to see, and I am a representative of the people," Sloane said in an interview with *The Gazette*. "So that means if the people would like to see number three, I will work my hardest for number three."

All proposals are restricted to a maximum height of five to seven stories along Queen Street, and development on Clyde Street is limited to eight- to ten-story buildings.

"Although this is over on Spring Garden Road, there are viewplanes in this area, and we have to be cognizant of those," said Sloane.

The municipal planning act requires visibility of the harbour from citadel hill along a series of viewplanes, which regularly serves as a source of conflict between developers, city council and local residents. Viewplanes were notably debated over the past month, as council approved a construction proposal for twin 27-story towers on Hollis Street

The three proposals:

1. The new public library located at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street; provincial courthouse at the corner of Queen and Morris streets; mixed residential and commercial development on Clyde Street; a large public park at corner of Queen and Clyde streets, leading into Sexton Campus.

2. Provincial courthouse at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street; library at the corner of Queen and Clyde streets across from old infirmary site; mixed residential and commercial development on corner of Queen and Morris streets; a public park on corner of Queen and Clyde streets leading into Sexton Campus, smaller than the park anticipated in proposal 1.

3. Public library at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street, mixed residential and commercial development on Clyde Street and at corner of Morris and Queen streets; a large public park leading into Sexton Campus.

on March 22.

Redevelopment of the Spring Garden Road and Queen Street area will be a lengthy process, as regional council must debate the proposals and make its approval before construction can take place.

The province will also have to decide on the location of a new courthouse.

Science Co-op & Jobs!!!

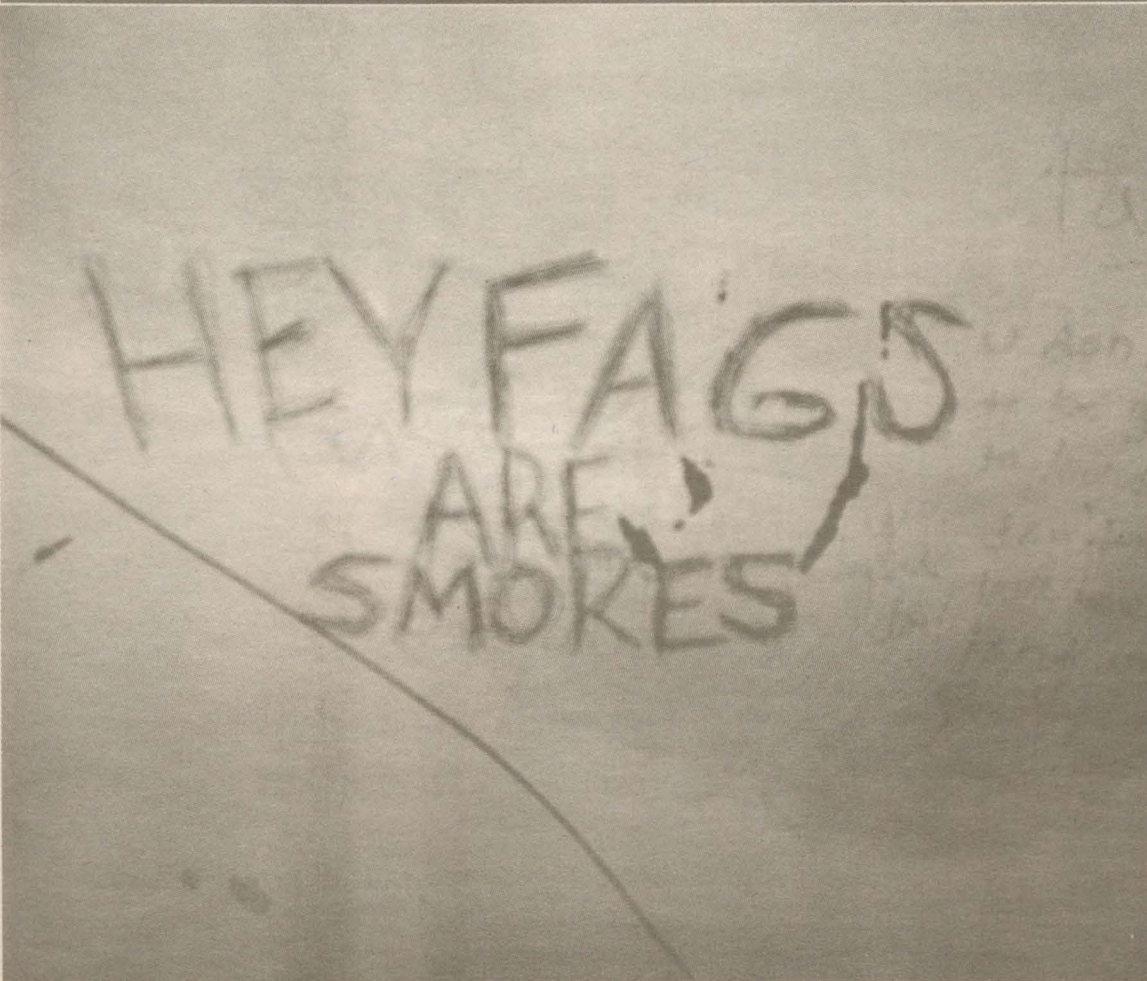
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Humans Against Homophobia photo exhibit



Students who walked into the SUB between March 27 and 29 may have seen graffiti that read: "Everyone in Halifax is gay or lesbian or at least they look like it," "You guys are fags," and "Brendyn likes boys."

Humans Against Homophobia, a newly ratified Dal society, displayed photos of homophobic graffiti on two black posters in the SUB lobby. The exhibit aimed to draw attention to the subtle ways homophobia manifests itself, such as in graffiti, so that it can be tackled, says HAH coordinator Jamie Blasina.

Canada is one of the most pro-

gressive countries in terms of LG-BTQ rights, says Blasina, which can make it hard to remember that homophobia is still an issue. He also says the pictures on display were "fairly mild" examples of homophobic graffiti.

"That in itself proves our point because it's not an in-your-face issue, it's a subtle undercurrent," says Blasina. "We want to show it and deal with it."

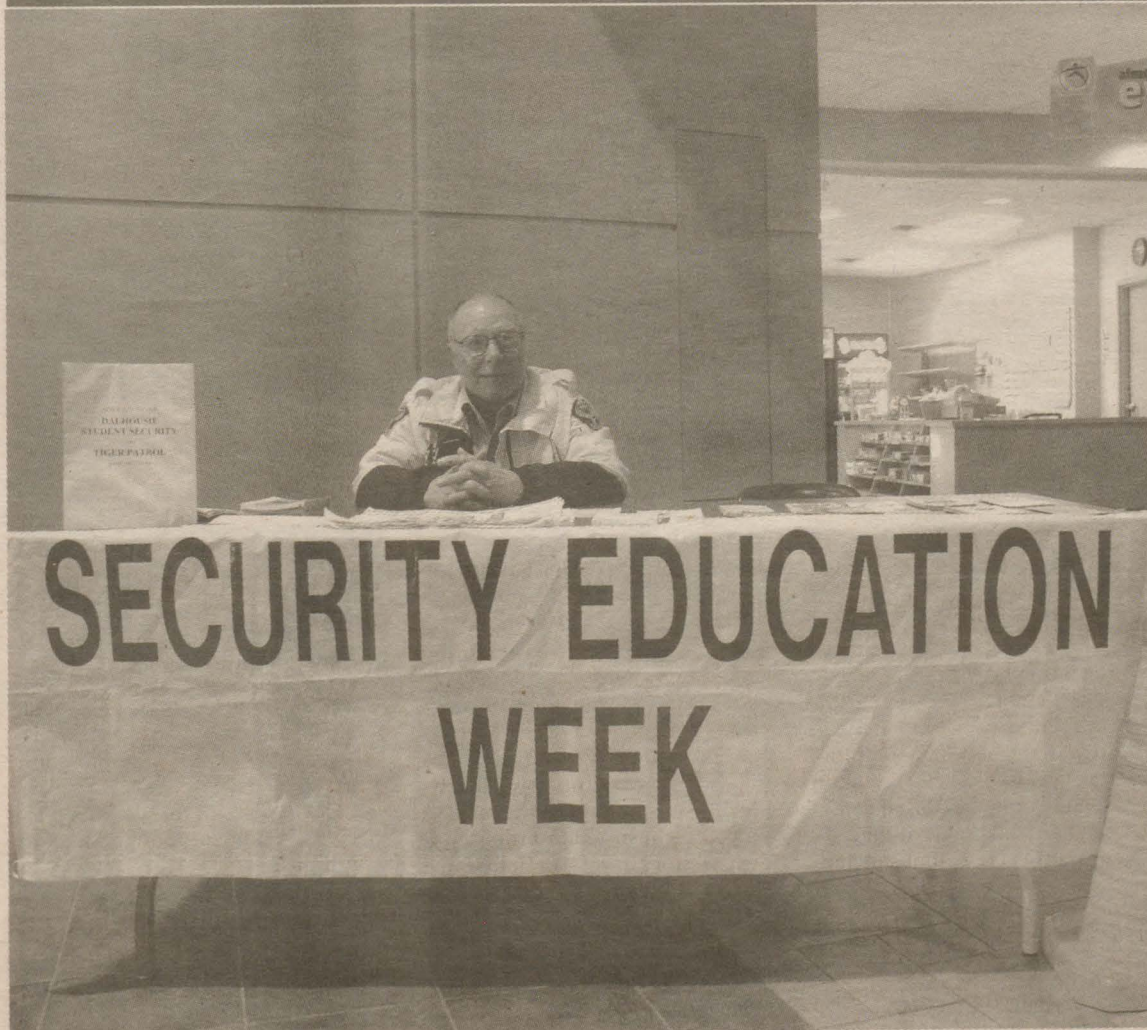
Blasina says he heard a lot of "interesting" feedback from people who viewed the display, which was the society's first undertaking. Some

people were very appreciative of the effort, he says, and others debated whether saying "that's so gay" as a figure of speech is offensive and/or homophobic.

The society solicited submissions from people all over the city for the display, which was sponsored by Venus Envy.

HAH aims to raise awareness of homophobia and heterosexism, and combat it through education. Society members plan to brainstorm during the summer, says Blasina, and continue their activities next year.

Security Education Week



Although some students may not know it, the number of resources available on campus regarding security is endless – and this week, Security Services hope to make this fact more widely known.

Rick Secord was manning the Security Education Week booth in

the SUB this week, and he explained that Security Services hopes "to inform the students of what we're doing and what security is all about, and the programs we offer."

Student security is currently accepting applications for security guards and Tiger Patrol. Both

of these services ensure security within buildings and throughout campus.

Security also provides self-defense courses, and publishes pamphlets regarding sexual harassment, nuisance problems, and abuse.



A TURNING POINT FOR WOMEN

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NEWS BRIEFS

DAL BRIEFS

Event to commemorate Rwandan genocide

The United Nations special coordinator for Africa will speak at Dalhousie on April 6 at an event marking the 12th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

Gerald Caplan is an expert on the genocide, which occurred 12 years ago when extremist militias in the small African country slaughtered an estimated 937,000 people in 100 days. He's the author of *Rwanda: The Preventable Genocide*, which he wrote for the Organization of African Unity.

Students from the University of King's College and Dalhousie organized the event, entitled "Witness to History," to highlight the importance of tolerance and coexistence.

Survivors of the Holocaust and the genocide in Darfur will attend the ceremony, which will begin with a march of solidarity for genocide survivors and culminate with speeches at the Dalhousie SUB.

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Racially motivated incidents rock UofT

A Muslim student at the University of Toronto filed a complaint with campus police following an assault that she says was racially motivated.

The student, who wasn't named, said the assailant followed her into a bathroom. Then, the attacker shoved a pamphlet advertising a support rally for the Muhammad cartoons at her and told her she needed to go because she was a Muslim.

The student says the assailant yelled at her and her friend to "go back to [their] fucking country and bomb it," and chanted, "Fucking Muslim terrorists."

The attack has been called the most serious in a recent string of incidents motivated by anti-Muslim sentiments.

Ontario can afford tuition freeze — student leader

The Ontario chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) says the provincial government could put more money into education to maintain the province's tuition freeze that's set to end next year.

The Ontario government released its budget on March 24. CFS chair Jesse

Greener says the budget shows the government has nearly \$1-billion in federal transfer payments earmarked for post-secondary education. Greener says that money should go toward maintaining the freeze, which runs up a \$50-million bill per year.

Prior to the last election, the Liberals committed to \$750 million over three years to go to PSE in Ontario. The Conservatives have kept the Liberal package as part of a larger transfer payment plan for Ontario.

Tuition in Ontario is expected to increase an average of five per cent next year when the two-year-old freeze expires.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Students walk out to protest immigration laws

More than 40,000 secondary school students in southern California walked out of class on March 27 to protest proposed immigration legislation currently before the U.S. Senate.

Thousands also turned out to protest in cities throughout California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada and other states.

The student protests followed a demonstration of half a million people in Los Angeles on March 25.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the protests seemed to be loosely organized, with information being passed by "mass e-mails, fliers, instant messages, cell phone calls and postings on myspace.com web pages."

The immigration bill, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in December, proposes building a 700-mile fence along the Mexican border. It would also grant police more power to enforce immigration law and make it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally. Violators could receive a jail sentence of more than a year.

The bill's aim is to crack down on illegal immigration, but many immigrants say that goal is un-American. They say illegal aliens are part of the country's population and play a role in its economy and culture.

There are currently an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants residing in the U.S.

Sources: *The Fulcrum*, *The Varsity* (University of Toronto) and *The Los Angeles Times*

FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES

25 years ago this week ...

The Dalhousie senate decided not to revoke the honorary degree it awarded to former Guyanese dictator Forbes Burnham. The motion to revoke was brought forward following publicity of numerous human rights violations and electoral and judicial misconduct in the South American country.

The senate voted against revoking the degree after lawyers advised that retracting honorary degrees was beyond senate powers.

Professor Sankur of the school of business administration said the review of the degree had been given only a cursory examination and that a cover-up had been advised. He noted that no university in Canada had ever revoked an honorary degree and it could cause problems for the school.

"It may have political implications, and it may cause embarrassment to the university," said Sankur. Most schools had hidden behind legal technicalities when the issue was forced, he said.

The Gazette reviewed the recently released film *Raging Bull* by director Martin Scorsese.

"Scorsese has taken a third-rate book about the third-rate life of a third-rate boxer and transformed it into a gripping, compulsive cinematic effort," wrote reviewer Martin Cohn. "But *Raging Bull* remains, in spite of all, just a third-rate story."



10 years ago this week...

Memorial University of Newfoundland was about to be "on the cutting-edge of technology" by adopting a "supercard" — a combined student identification card, library card, and debit card with a "smart chip" to store information.

MUN had spent \$250,000 updating equipment and producing the card and was about to become one of only five universities in North America to use such technology.

A "furniture bank" on Parker Street closed its doors after a final effort to raise enough money to keep the service afloat failed. The bank had provided free furniture to low-income individuals and families, giving away over 1,000 beds, chairs, dressers and kitchen tables since it opened over a year before. When the

bank closed, it had more than 2,400 people on its waiting lists.

Students in B.C. were pleased to hear that their province was instituting a one-year tuition freeze at all post-secondary institutions in the province. Premier Glen Clark also promised to create 11,500 jobs for B.C. youth via a new job creation program.

Ashley MacIsaac opened for Melissa Etheridge at the Metro Centre this week in 1996. MacIsaac included "a great version of 'Stayin' Alive'" in his opener.

The Kids in the Hall released a feature film, *Brain Candy*, this week, a movie about "what happens when a pharmaceutical company develops the world's most effective anti-depressant." The five Kids actors play 34 different characters in the film directed by Lorne Michaels.

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Gazette

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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.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Attention Off-Campus University & College Students

Are you moving soon?

Please be environmentally responsible when disposing of your refuse by placing garbage at the curb for collection on the scheduled day and week for collection. Remember that for residential dwellings, there is a limit of **10 garbage bags/cans** on refuse collection week, plus **one** bulky item. For small apartment buildings up to six units, the limit is **5 garbage bags/cans** per unit and **two** bulky items on refuse collection week. Please place food and leaf and yard waste in your green cart; bottles, cans and milk containers - with caps off - in blue bag; newspapers, flyers and magazines in a plastic grocery bag; and flatten and tie cardboard boxes.



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April 17 - 21	Green Carts & Recyclables Only
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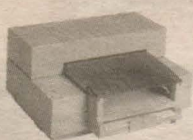
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VENT: FINDING RESOURCES FOR A HUGE TERM PAPER

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

As any arts student knows, the end of term is closely associated with writing agonizingly long essays in a short stretch of time.

Before this process can even begin, however, you must first track down enough research materials so that you can write about your chosen topic without sounding like a raving moron.

Usually, this process involves

nothing more than a quick browse through JSTOR and a few forays into the stacks at the Killam Library.

This year, however, I have a 5,000-word paper that's about a particularly obscure topic, and finding relevant materials for it has been a bigger headache than ever before.

I've had to spend hours scouring the Novanet catalogue, putting holds and placing recalls on numer-

ous books, and having to order other books from different libraries as far away as Ontario.

Of course, this isn't the library system's fault. On the contrary, it's because of the vast information resources at our disposal that finding material is such a complicated process.

I, for one, am feeling overwhelmed by information overload! And by my still unwritten 5,000-word paper.

How much does your democracy cost?

JIMMY KAPCHES
Staff Contributor

How much would you need to care about something in order to throw all caution to the wind and blockade your university?

It doesn't matter, because you wouldn't — you're a Canadian student. The number of causes that might incite radical action here in Canada has certainly not diminished, but our motivation definitely has. A grey-coloured malaise has overtaken us, and it may have an effect on our freedoms.

Somewhere in the grand scheme of political ideals lies the sleeping giant called revolution, and his calmer cousin, civil disobedience. In France, at this moment, while you sneak a peak at this paper during class, students are blockading faculties at two-thirds of the country's universities.

The French government is starting to listen to these students and their cries of "foul!" over a new employment law and its repercussions. In a country where youth unemployment is at 25 per cent — almost twice what it is among youth in the same, minority-populated neighbourhoods that rioted in November — you can understand why students would be worried.

Students don't want the government to treat them as disposable goods, and they are telling their prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, just that. No Canadian students, not even the moderately more radical Québécois, would dare to blockade their university to try and pressure the government.

Ever increasing tuition fees haven't made us take the McCain Building hostage. No American university has dared to forgo a couple months of school to try and make a deaf government sensible to a venerable institution that is looking increasingly like a business venture. Neither the Maher Arar fiasco nor Guantanamo Bay has riled us up enough to do more than give President George Bush the one-finger wave.

By contrast, instead of waiting another year before they can vote the current French president out of office, French students are taking matters into their own hands. They are voting with desks and chairs piled high against doorways — they are trying to make their government listen.

In Paris, debatably one of the Western world's most revolutionary cities, students regularly have protests consisting of 40,000 or more people. North American students,

particularly Canadians, can't seem to get their noses out of the books and push their consciousnesses into the streets. If the world changes without you while you're studying, how will you feel?

True, Canadian democracy has always been more of a "docileocracy." From our polite little letter to Her Majesty the Queen in 1867, asking if, pretty please, we could be our own country, to Bush's war in Iraq where we simply avoided his phone calls instead of screaming, "No," Canadians might be better people if we were a little louder.

While voting is crucial, the democratic process doesn't end there. No one should be afraid to miss a month of class to get their voices heard.

The government will keep raising tuition fees until we act, and the government will keep sending our soldiers off to die unless we remind them we are here.

Revolution may not be the answer, but it's clearly better than whining.

There must be confidence, commitment and solidarity among us, the students, or else all our causes will simply be whispered complaints. Perhaps blockading a university is a radical choice, but you can be sure that the powers that be are listening.

My quest for the perfect booklet title

JOHNNY ACTION
Opinions Contributor

While scanning through the Saragossa Sea of typo-infested messages that were in my e-mail inbox this morning, one particular title instantly caught my eye.

"No more pens enlarge rippoffs!"

Just as I was about to learn from my new friend "Himmelfarb" how exactly I could add inches to my todger, I noticed an even more interesting title underneath it: "ENTER OUR 'NAME THE BOOKLET CONTEST' AND WIN DINNER FOR FOUR."

I set Himmelfarb aside for the moment and looked at the second e-mail. Dal's communications and marketing department is holding a contest to re-title the guide for students living in the Halifax community that it publishes every year.

Apparently, the current title, "Living in the Halifax Community: A Guide for Students" didn't quite reflect the creative, dynamic spirit Dal is trying to foster. Go figure.

Now, I'm not usually one for showing my Tiger spirit, involving myself in the university community, or remembering the contents of those "Information for Student" e-mails for more time than it takes me

to go on my daily Wikipedia binge.

Dal has tried to lure me into participating in surveys before, by holding iPods before my nose like the proverbial hanging carrot.

But somehow, I can't get this contest off my mind. I think it must be because of the gift certificate.

And really, how hard can it be to come up with a name? I was an English whiz back in high school, I've churned out at least 100 pages worth of term papers this year alone, and hell, and I've already spent 270 words so far on this article alone. Surely, coming up with one simple line of text shouldn't require an Olympian effort by comparison.

Here is my suggestion for next year's booklet: "Living in the Halifax Community: The neighbours really wish you wouldn't."

The payoff shouldn't be half bad. Maybe \$100 restaurant gift certificate isn't much to most people, but I'm digging it.

After all, the fanciest restaurant I've ever taken my girlfriend to is Swiss Chalet, and the most I've spent there was about 24 bucks. And this was for our first year anniversary.

I don't even know where the hell this gift certificate is good for, but really, it doesn't matter. Even a \$100 certificate to the Dawgfather would be a step up for us.

"Staving off Starvation in Halifax: Better hope we don't shut down the Dawgfather, or it'll be four years of Mr. Noodles for you!"

Hmm. Nah.

Anyway, I'm going to go for it.

God only knows what cheesy line I'll settle with, because, as we all know, Dalhousie is about as edgy as one of those foam safety Frisbees. Currently, I'm staring out the window at one of the Mount's new advertisements:

"Seriously, don't come here."

Aside from the fact that I'll gladly accept this advice, I have to admit that it's a daring campaign. What brilliant line is Dal counting on to win the war for new students? "Inspiring Minds." Oh yeah.

Woo, I'm feeling cooler already just by saying it.

"A Student's Guide to Halifax: Seriously, don't come here."

Maybe what this naming contest needs is something honest. Something direct.

Something bold and visionary, that represents exactly the sort of cutting-edge, envelope-pushing spirit that drives this university to the frontiers of human knowledge.

"Living in the Halifax Community: An Inspiring Guide for Students."

I can taste the dinner already.

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Approaching the bitter end

The Gazette's opinions editor reflects on her time at Dal

SARAH VANDERWOLF
Opinions Editor

After just three years as a student at Dal, I find myself graduating and moving on to different pastures. As usual, when faced with what one of my friends calls a "life transition," one part of me looks forward to meeting new people and enjoying new experiences, while another part of me clings to what I am already familiar with.

If I could relive the last three years again, would I do anything differently?

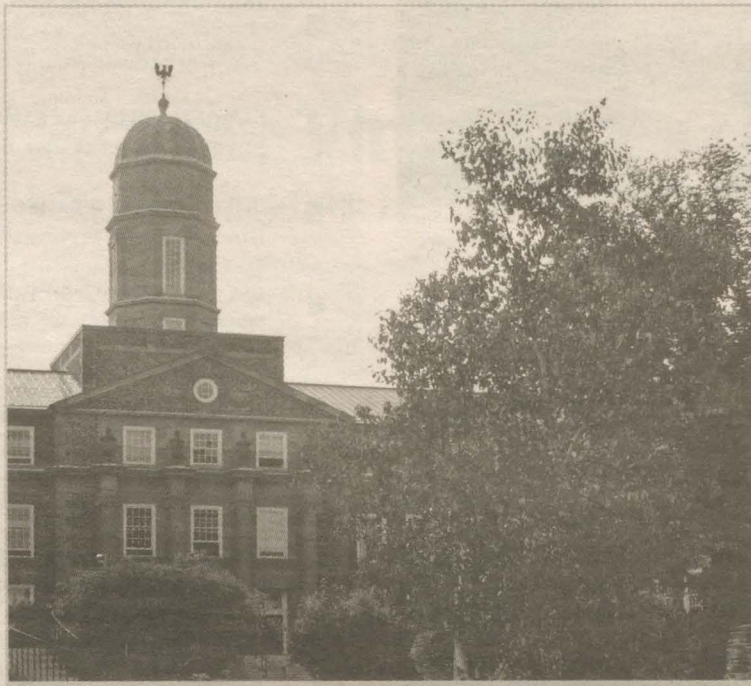
I think I would have spent more nights enjoying myself, instead of burying my head in books. And yet, deferring short-term goals in favour of long-term ones eventually pays off, as I find myself bound for graduate school at the University of Western Ontario.

It seems that, at our age especially, life is a succession of transitions. It wasn't so long ago that I made the transition from high school to university, and then the transition from living at home to living away. After becoming used to both those things, I find myself pulling up my roots and adjusting to a new routine.

An old friend once told me that she used to bawl every time things changed. As the school year approaches the bittersweet end, I feel much the same way. I've spent three years creating a life here, and now I have to start all over again. How can my undergraduate years be over? What about all the friends I've made here, and the activities I've gotten involved in? Am I supposed to forget about it all?

Of course, it's important to have a positive attitude about the constantly changing nature of life, and — believe it or not — Will Smith once summed it up perfectly in an appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. He said that a long-term relationship with someone else changes and evolves continually, and that you must change and evolve with it.

I try to keep this perspective in mind as I leave the city I've lived in



Time flies when you are at Dal. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

for eight months of the year since 2003. Moreover, what can I take away from the experiences I've had here? Like all university students, I've changed a great deal. The throes of complete independence force everyone to adapt themselves, and the inevitable ups and downs of our relationships with others force us to mature emotionally.

I was forced to consider my university experience recently, as I was completing a Graduating Student Survey that Dal sent me.

I was asked several questions about my experiences with the academic resources at Dal, with students of different religious, ethnic, or cultural background, with clubs and other extracurricular activities, with on- and off-campus housing, and with social and cultural events on campus. These questions elicited a host of memories from months past, making me realize how rich and diverse life at a university is — particularly at an international community such as Dal.

It's this realization that makes me want to remain in school longer. Although many students I know are tired of school and feel confined, I

plan to defer the options of working and traveling until after I complete another degree.

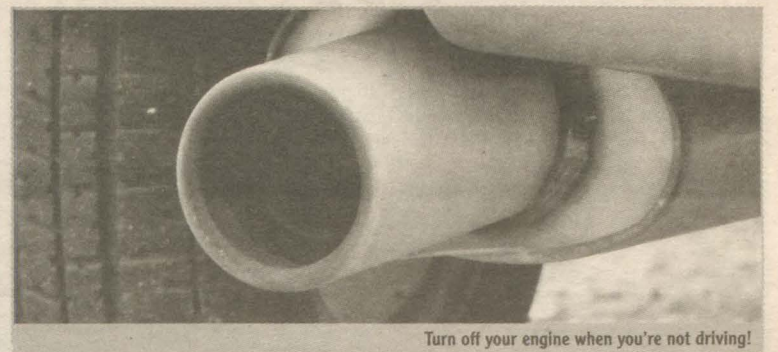
Upon hearing of my plans to go to graduate school, a friend of mine said incredulously, "What! More school? Why don't you get out and live?"

While my life experience will undoubtedly be enriched by travel — which is what I think my friend was referring to — I think university education has the same effect.

Even L.M. Montgomery was aware of this. In *Anne of the Island*, my favourite book in the Anne series, Anne and her friends observe, upon graduating from college, that four years as a college student teaches you more about life than 20 years of living.

So, to my doubting friend, all I have to say is that life as a university student is indeed living.

Living may not be easy, especially while on the cusp of one of those terrifying life transitions, but if you live according to the maxim "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," then you will never have to worry about succumbing to what fate throws your way.



Turn off your engine when you're not driving!

Steps must be taken to prevent engine idling

LAUREN DEMET
Opinions Contributor

In our world, it's difficult to do anything in an ecologically friendly manner. Driving, for example, is not good for the Earth. Specific driving behaviors, such as engine idling, can cause serious harm to the health of both the planet and its inhabitants.

Idling is a common problem because many people think their engine needs to be warmed up before they drive. This belief is a misconception, because the best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. Moreover, idling is not good for your engine.

Idling also has huge health and environmental effects. Vehicle emissions are a major source of air pollution, which, according to Health Canada, contributes to the premature deaths of 5,000 Canadians every year, and causes thousands more to become ill.

Vehicle exhaust is full of toxic chemicals such as benzene and carbon monoxide, which are linked to increased rates of leukemia, lymphoma, cardiovascular disease and various cancers.

Exhaust fumes also contribute to some of our planet's worst environmental problems. Hydrocarbons that are released in exhaust contribute to ground-level ozone, and sulfur dioxide, another exhaust component, is destroying our forests and waterways because of acid rain.

Most of the chemicals released in vehicle exhaust are "greenhouse gases," meaning that they accumulate in the atmosphere, thus destroying the atmospheric ozone layer and causing global warming.

So how does all of this relate to the average student? Students have to get to school somehow, and although some drive, many more take the bus.

As of early February, 8,700 Dalhousie students had obtained, and are presumably using, their Metro Transit U-Pass, which was a mandatory purchase for all full-time university students this year. Buses are a huge source of vehicle emissions, especially those from idling.

In response, a group of students working with the Ecology Action Center's TRAX committee has spent the semester trying to educate others about the dangers of idling as a project for their Nature Conservation course. They conducted an on-campus survey to gauge how much students know about idling, which yielded mixed results.

Although most people knew that idling is bad for the environment and human health, most also thought that it saved on gas money and was good for the engine. The group also created an hour-long presentation about the dangers of idling to be incorporated into Halifax bus drivers' training.

Although taking the bus is far better than driving a car, bus emissions are still a major concern, especially in an area like Dal campus, which has high pedestrian use.

Dalhousie should consider a campus-wide no-idling policy. Greater awareness is also needed to reduce the amount of idling. Air pollution is a huge concern, and anything that can be done to reduce the amount of vehicle emissions should be done. Refraining from idling is an easy way to start.

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STREETER

How do you cope with school-related stress at this time of year?



“Marijuana.
Aly Coy, second-year English



“I keep putting things off. I had an essay due four hours ago that I haven't started.
Nicco Collins, fourth-year history



“Going out to a bar every night.
Jane Fahnestock, third-year philosophy



“Growing a bad-ass beard.
Richard Lipscombe, third-year philosophy



“Coffee and cigarettes.
Maura March, second-year costume studies



“Watch movies and sleep.
Aldea Mulhern, fourth-year theatre



“My friend Jonah masturbates a lot.
Rhonda Miller, fourth-year theatre



“Try to hang out with guys named Jonah!
Joey Ryba, ninth-year voyeur

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

TOP 10

- 1 **PRESIDENT BUSH SAYING THAT HE BEARS NO "ILL WILL" TOWARD CANADA** Just keep the softwood and dead baby seals out of his face, a'ight?
- 2 **50 CENT'S NEW STARRING ROLE AS AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN IRAQ** Actually firing a gun? Fiddy you a window shopper! (Just a lil' bit.)
- 3 **THE LATENESS OF THE NEW SIMPSONS MOVIE** You know you're slow when the creators of "South Park" already beat you to the punch... twice.
- 4 **SCARLETT JOHANSSON NAMED "SEXIEST WOMAN ALIVE"** But that title — like a jar of mayonnaise — lasts only for a year.
- 5 **USING REHAB AS A DATING SERVICE** How else are we supposed to meet Kate Moss?
- 6 **ONE MALE MEMBER OF "FRIENDS" REFUSING TO BE ON THE REUNION SHOW** The TV audience of America now knows who their real "Friends" are.
- 7 **THE OVERRATEDNESS OF MODIFYING ADVERBS** Uh... *very* overrated.
- 8 **SAMUEL L. JACKSON'S NEW MOVIE ENTITLED SNAKES ON A PLANE** It's like *Flightplan* meets *Anaconda* meets what the fuck?
- 9 **THE DISCOVERY OF BEING ABLE TO CONNECT NEURONS TO COMPUTER CHIPS** A pivotal step to winning trivia at the Grawood.
- 10 **SKIMPY CHEERLEADING UNIFORMS BANNED IN BRITAIN BECAUSE IT MAKES GIRLS LOOK LIKE STRIPPERS** Plus it doesn't help that they're all grinding on the field-goal post.

HOT NOT

Dal's upcoming fashion show on the 30th	It won't be hot enough for bikinis by the 30th
Jodie Foster	Sharon Stone
"I love figure skating and curling!"	Loving whatever Canadians are good at
Cutting that poor-man's debt	Shaving Nat Portman's head
The "gun and wink" pose	The "Fonz" pose
Vin Diesel's new flick	Jack Bauer's same old schtick
Q	M
Spring flings	Summer bummers, Fall brawls and Winter splinters
Peer pressure	Peer editing of an essay
Pink vs. Hollywood bimbos	50 Cent vs. bullets

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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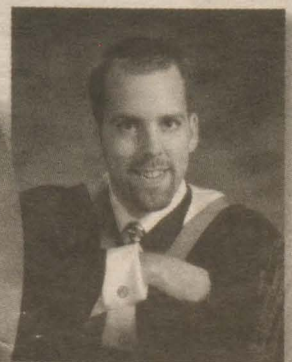
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Saturday Night Live officially killed my old joke horse — the legend of Chuck Norris — with its half-baked, hair-rock digital short "Tribute to a Young Chuck Norris."

Before, I was proud to recite fake facts about Master Chuck (like 'Chuck Norris does not shower, he

only takes bloodbaths'). Now, I feel, well, like I am kicking a dead horse.

Did anybody else receive an e-mail containing those fake Chuck Norris facts? They were so ludicrous while being on the cusp of believability — anyone who has watched *The Hitman* (1991) knows that while

Norris's preference is non-violence, he's capable of some pretty 'effed-up things.

The problem with *SNL's* short is that it takes the mystique out of Chuck Norris facts.

The charm of the Chuck Norris fact fad was that the possibilities

were amplified by what Norris accomplished in his movies. A guy who fought Bruce Lee would surely have the audacity to sue NBC for stealing his trademarked names for his left and right legs: law and order.

Watching Andy Samberg, in full ninja regalia, actually run around

Central Park and start fights with other *SNL* cast members deflates those possibilities.

One could argue, however, that the legend of Chuck Norris can be a legend forever — if only because the real Chuck Norris could decide how long forever could be.

ARTS HOLE: THE LEGEND OF CHUCK NORRIS (FALL 2005 TO SPRING 2006)

Hillary Titley / Staff Contributor

The Seahorse and the Virgin Mary

Museum Pieces begin a residency and find inspiration in the most unlikely places

SARAH FELDMAN
Staff Contributor

The audience at the Seahorse (read: a single tipsy guy in a windbreaker) is restless.

"You were supposed to be on at 8:30!" he shouts at Museum Pieces singer/guitarist, Tyler Messick as the latter sets up equipment in an empty house.

"Uh, sorry..." Messick mumbles, drifting off.

When Messick finally takes the stage (on time, at 10 p.m.) in a pink-and-grey striped sweater, high-top sneakers and a baseball cap with the words "Auto Tires" written across the front, the place is still pretty dead. It's a weeknight, after all, and the Museum Pieces are a regular Tuesday act here.

But as the band launches into songs from its 2004 release, *Philadelphia*, the bar starts to fill up, and by the end of the second set, all tables in view of the stage are occupied and stragglers have to take in the show from standing room at the back.

It's not clear whether or not Messick notes the burgeoning crowd — he plays the entire two-and-a-half-hour show with his back to the audience, eyes trained on fellow band members Andy March, Brent Randall and Benn Ross.

"I try to play like that," Messick says after. "I practice that way with the band, and I felt more like connecting with them tonight."

"Also," March drawls, "Tyler tends to turn his back on society generally."

"While at the same time suckling at its teat," Messick adds.

Since Messick and March just returned from their Arts Council-funded Bringin' It Home tour, the consensus is that the suckling has been pretty good lately.

"That was awesome," says Messick. "The Nova Scotia government paid us a fuckload of money to play these shows, drive around, stay in great hotels. We just explored the



Tyler Messick, singer/guitarist of the Museum Pieces, says he suckles at "society's teat."

landscape and didn't feel much pressure."

Though the tour wasn't a success in promotional terms — word didn't get out and few people came to the shows — Messick says the experience was inspiring to them as songwriters.

"We got a lot of images out of it," he says. "We found this Virgin Mary statue that was underwater and frozen. That stirred up a lot of ideas. There'll be songs galore for me, personally."

Right now, though, Messick and March have little time to write new music as they're busy recording the follow-up to *Philadelphia*. They say it'll be a substantial departure from the folksy, nostalgic rock of their earlier work.

Built around drum and guitar, the new album will showcase

a starker, heavier sound with influences running from freak-folk to hardcore. March says that the change to a simpler, more intense sound was inspired in part by local duo Special Noise.

"They made us cry," says March. "The first time I saw them, I went home and told my girlfriend that I was wasting my life. Then me and Tyler—"

"Tyler and I," Messick interrupts.

"Me and Tyler took a week and we feverishly wrote this set. We came up with a style that we liked, and we stuck with it."

Check out www.museumpieces.ca for more information on the band and its upcoming shows. Also, be sure to head down to the Seahorse every Tuesday to see the Museum Pieces live.

THE SHOWDOWN

Christina Stefanski / Staff Contributor

J-LIVE / The Attic / March 25, 2006



If hyping a crowd can be considered an art, hip-hop artists have definitely mastered it.

Seanone and Monark started the show with DJ STV. They initiated the energy in the room, which kept rising as the show progressed.

GhettoSocks from Alpha Flight brought the audience onto their toes in anticipation for beats played by three DJs: Y-Rush, Jabba tha Cuff and Josh.

By the time the set was finished, there was hardly any space left on the dance floor.

J-Live's set turned out to be what would feel like a marathon for

most people, but not for loyal hip-hop heads who bounced throughout his whole performance.

J-Live controlled the moving hands of spectators as his stylistic rap flow rode over an assortment of beats played by DJ Flow Fader.

The most striking part of their set was when J-Live gave his DJ a "break" and took over the turntables, simultaneously rapping and DJ-ing.

Although this was J-Live's third show in Halifax within the past year or so, he still brought his bag of tricks with him and impressed hip-hop go-ers once again.

SPIN SPIN SUGAR

Margaret Craig / Staff Contributor

Arctic Monkeys

Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not



News flash: the Brits are still invading.

In five words or less, the Arctic Monkeys' first album, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, is gritty, Brit-y, lyric-driven, pop/rock.

"Anticipation has a habit to set you up for disappointment," is an ironic first line for the year's most anticipated indie-rock album that does anything but disappoint.

Save on airfare as the Arctic Monkeys, Alex Turner (guitar/lead vocals), Jamie Cook (guitar), Andy Nicholson (bass) and Matt Helders (drums), take you on a 41-minute pub-crawl through the rough streets and dirty dance floors of Northern England.

Whatever People Say inhabits the world of post-bar confessions, "totalitarian" bouncers, "banging

tunes", and "dreams of naughtiness."

Other reviewers, have suggested that *Whatever People Say* is "sophomoric," but isn't most pop/rock?

With lyrics that are clever quips, rather than merely morose drivel, the Arctic Monkeys come out at the top of the sophomore class.

Though many elitist indie-rockers may shy away from this album with its catchy hooks and pop-rhythms, the Arctic Monkeys' first album is a definite must-have.

And don't worry, Alex Turner hates manufactured music as much as the rest of us. "Fake Tales From San Francisco" and "Perhaps Vampires is a Bit Strong But..." are both rants against the (American) music biz.

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Matisyahu (www.matisyahu.ca) is playing Saturday, April 1, at the McInnis Room in the SUB. Tickets are \$17.50 in advance or \$20 at the door. Doors will open at 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Dalhousie Arts Centre Box Office (494-3820).

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Triple Take

Dal Theatre's final production of the year requires not two, but three looks

JOHN PACKMAN
HILLARY TITLEY
TROY RITCHER
Staff Contributors

With a mix of Broadway musical and gross-out humour, the Dal Theatre production of *Urinetown* is hugely funny and entertaining. Performed in the Sir James Dunn theatre, the musical wraps up the 2005/2006 Dal theatre season and is the final performance this year's fourth-year acting students will do together.

The show is about a futuristic dystopia where all the water has run out, the government is corrupt and the public toilets are controlled by a heartless monopoly.

Despite its depressing premise, *Urinetown* is greatly funny in its lyrics, over-the-top characters and ironically cliché plot.

Following the classic story of the stereotypical poor — but oh-so-handsome — idealistic young man, Bobby Strong falls in love with Hope Cladwell, the rich and beautiful daughter of the evil head of the public-toilet monopoly.

The story eventually leads to a predictable conflict of the two having to decide where their loyalties lie.

The show is also entertaining as it makes fun of classic conventions of musical theatre, while still pulling off these very same conventions thorough well choreographed dancing, singing and music.



Dal Theatre production *Urinetown* is about a futuristic dystopia where the public toilets are controlled by a heartless monopoly. / Photo: John Packman

With brilliantly conceived sets and strong production value, it's easy to forget that the performers in this production of *Urinetown* are just students.

-JP

Limitations were apparent toward the end of "Get the Party Started," a second-act number, when cast members were visibly out of breath, struggling to keep the volume of their voices up.

Some clichés of small-budget yet ambitious musicals were apparent. After the overture, the cast assembled itself on stage by way of the audience aisles. This is a relatively standard way of introducing your cast when you have no curtain to

dramatically raise.

The cast handled the comedy well. Stand-outs were Jonah Hundert and Tom Smith — especially Smith — as Officers Lockstock and Barrell, who stole every scene they were in. Smith put a doe-eyed spin on his role that was always funny and, admittedly, I have a weakness for a goofy man in uniform.

After the riotous gospel send-up, "Freedom Run," the show got muddled and the message lost. This is more a knock against the lousy book by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis than the cast and crew.

Urinetown was fun, but I could have left after "Freedom Run," though, as Lockstock and Barrell or the story didn't have much to say

after that.

-HT

I went to *Urinetown* not really sure if I would enjoy the play. I don't have a lot of experience with musicals, and I seemed to have developed the idea that they are hokey and uninteresting.

For the time being, at least, *Urinetown* changed that opinion.

It was a treat to find myself tapping my feet along to the play's infectious songs. There was also a lot to enjoy visually: the costumes and the set were a pleasure to look at, as they usually are with Dal Theatre productions.

The play's plot involves the trials and tribulations that a group of reb-

els go through in a very bizarre, but not entirely implausible dystopia.

Penelope Pennywise, who was played endearingly by Ann Doyle, is a very unglamorous sort of entrepreneur: she manages a public toilet much like someone would manage a McDonalds. She expresses the philosophy of her business in song: "It's a privilege to pee!" Peeing your pants in public, unfortunately, is not a privilege — it's an offense that those who can't afford to use Pennywise' toilet are jailed for.

Seeing this as a grave injustice, Bobby Strong, played by the very talented Thomas Gibson, organizes a rather awkward but amusing rebellion against Ms. Pennywise' corporate bosses. When Strong asks the question, "What if the law is wrong?" it's both incendiary and profound — it's also absurdly obvious that, yes, something is very wrong.

The play was filled with a lot of self-reflexive jokes and meta-humor. Lines like, "Of course he gets the girl, he's the hero of the show," were funny, but they served a higher purpose. The self-reflexive nature of the play drew myself, as an audience member, into the world of the characters; it made me feel more sympathetic to their plight.

A line in one of the cheer songs of the play proclaimed that, "Urinetown is your town." Indeed, this was a very absurd play, but no more absurd than the actual world I would return to after the final applause.

-TR

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JUNO SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Feldman / Staff Contributor



Martha Wainwright

Bob Dylan has said in interviews that he always starts his songwriting sessions with a traditional folk song. Over the course of an extended meditation, the song morphs into something more contemporary and individual, while retaining its ground in whatever elusive, archetypal emotion he found in the original.

We might question whether Dylan's making such a claim gives any insight into his actual work. Personally, I'm of the opinion that whenever he says anything even remotely coherent, it's probably a lie. But I'm pretty sure that some such mindset — if perhaps not quite so consciously cultivated — must underlie the processes of Montreal-native singer-songwriter Martha Wainwright.

Wainwright was born into a family of folk-singers. As the daughter of Kate McGarrigle and Loudon

Wainwright, she grew up singing the classics, eventually performing back-up for her brother Rufus' chamber music.

So, it's hardly surprising that in her 2005 self-titled debut, lush arrangements, pop-structures and a rich, jazz-inflected voice do little to undermine a sensibility steeped in tradition.

Wainwright is arguably at her best when she draws inspiration from the past without attempting to reproduce it: tracks like "Who Was I Kidding?" and "Don't Forget" take hooks from a familiar song (Danny Boy — a song, incidentally, covered on her brother's 1998 debut), and use it to add textures of nostalgia to her own bright jazz-pop.

Wainwright's unadulterated invocations of tradition may leave more room for ambivalence — this album contains a beautiful, "straight" version of Vaughn Williams' "Whither Must I Wander", for instance, which is perhaps marred by Wainwright's decision to cop a mid-Atlantic accent throughout.

In any case, fans of the Feist-ian brand of sexy-sophisticate-plus-gorgeous-voice will do well to pay note: Wainwright plays with Ron Sexsmith at the Rebecca Cohn auditorium (Sunday, April 2 at 1 p.m.) as part of this weekend's JunoFest.

THIS WEEK'S PICKS

ENTERTAINMENT PICK / Margaret Craig / Staff Contributor



Mitch Hedberg *Mitch All Together*

Don't Mitch Hedberg's jokes sound eerily familiar? That's because he stole them from you.

Well, not really. In actuality, the familiar aspect of his comedy is what catapulted him to disproportionate heights of comedic genius. Sure, he had excellent delivery and overwhelming originality, but his ability to vocalize all the silly observations, which everyone filters out of normal discourse, was truly hilarious.

Sometimes regular people might hit a vein of similar brilliance — for instance, after a few drinks someone might drop a tiny,

Hedbergian gem into conversation. Or, late at night, in a vegetative, marijuana-induced state, someone might stumble upon a Hedbergian epiphany but forget it by the next morning.

But then there was Mitch Hedberg; the man who was able to say what we're all thinking even if we don't know we've thought it.

A classic Hedberg one-liner goes, "When I was a boy, I laid in my twin-sized bed wondering where my brother was."

This joke points out the arbitrary naming of bed sizes — twin, queen, king etc. — that everyone knows is odd but has already accepted into their day-to-day routine.

Hedberg, however, loved being incredibly literal. And by doing so, he also reminded us to wake up and stop filtering out all those zany, supposedly incoherent thoughts because actually, they're little nuggets of comedic gold.

Mitch Hedberg passed away last year.

LOCAL CROP / Margaret Craig / Staff Contributor



Turnstiles *13 Telephone Towers*

Judge this CD by its cover.

The cover art for *13 Telephone Towers*, designed by guitarist Jesse Griffith's younger brother, is the perfect complement to the artsy contemplation of modern life found inside.

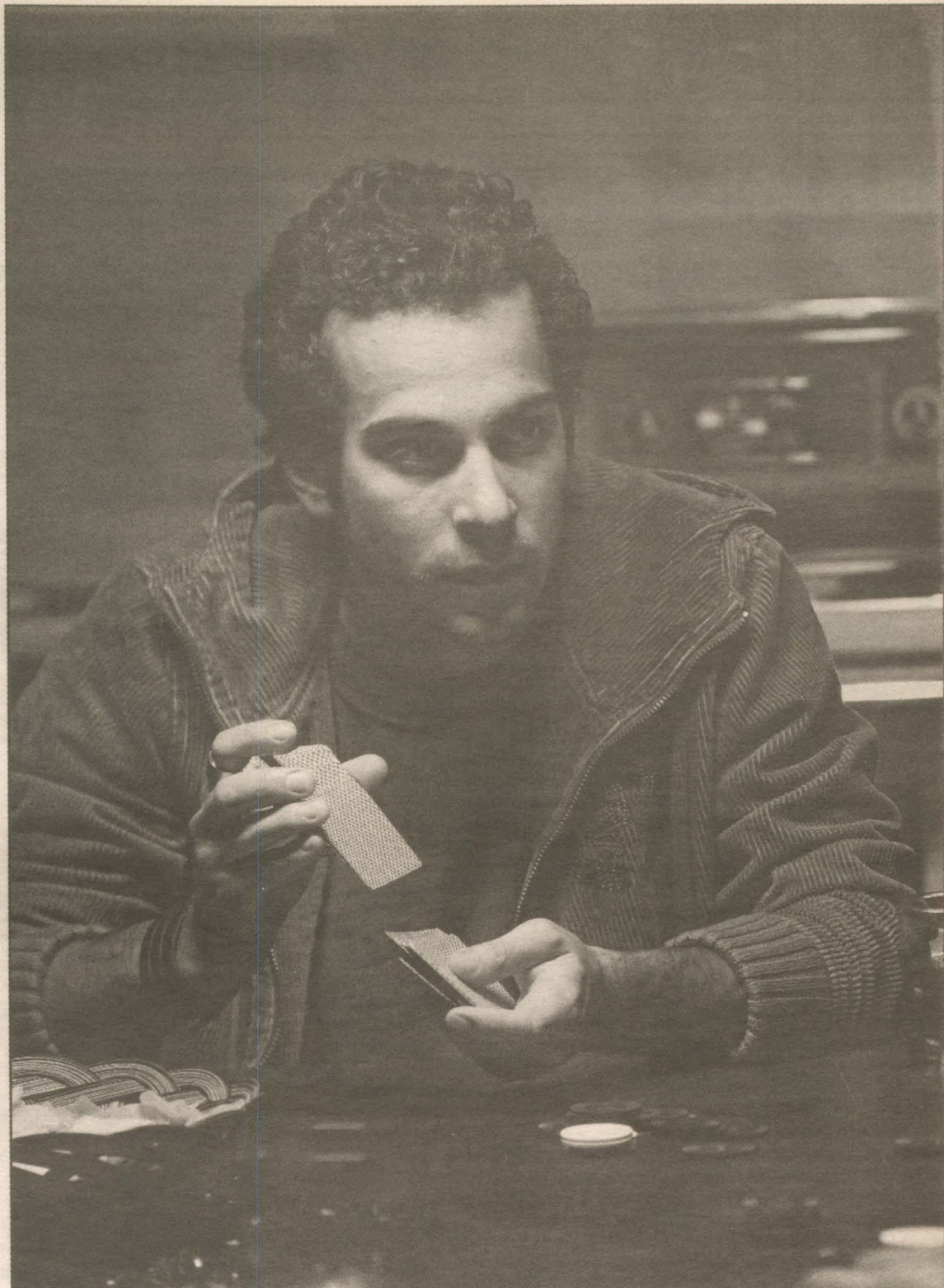
In the Halifax music scene, where indie-rock has become synonymous with the lead vocalist screaming into a microphone over drum-happy guitar noise, the melodic sensibility and poetic lyrics of the Turnstiles demands a new

label.

The genius of *13 Telephone Towers* lies in its congruent mixture of classic and current Canadian rock influences. The band's name is an homage to Canadian Rock legend Neil Young, whose influence is audible in "Get Out" and "Ride On." But these Moncton boys keep it current with the Arcade Fire-esque tracks, "Better Off Lost" and "My Town is On Fire."

13 Telephone Towers emphatically refutes the argument that lyrics are just incidental to the music. "Honeymoon Over" is a lesson in the associative thinking that defines Canadian post-modern poetry. Thus, the unfortunate thing about the album is its surprising lack of liner notes.

13 Telephone Towers is available at CD Plus, Sam's and Random Play, and through the band's website www.turnstiles.ca.



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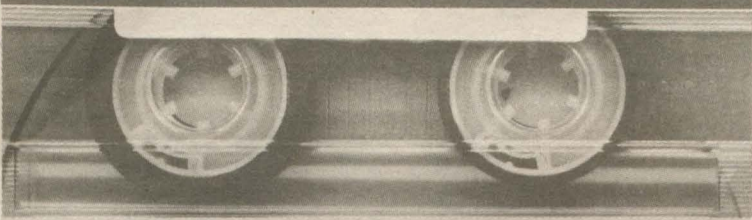
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Inanimate Objects

SIDE A : Lindsay Dobbin / Arts Editor

There are some artists who would like to pursue their art full-time and not work a day job. There are other artists, however, who like having a day job. Mainly because they draw inspiration from the mundane — their art is a reaction to it — and require the anchor in order to be creatively productive.

Enter the video camera Celine Dion uses to monitor her child when it's sleeping.

Immediately, one would think that this type of inanimate object — a video camera — would have poor musical taste. Why? Well, firstly, it's making videos. The latter word comprises one-half of a term usually applied to mainstream, overindulgent, visual freak-outs (ie. music videos). Note: if film footage is coupled with an indie band's music, they're called art films or artistic interpretations of musical genius. The concept of music videos then leads one to MuchMusic or MTV, then to Kanye West and then, if it's the 1990s, one somehow ends up where they began, with Celine Dion.

Secondly, turning a lens on others, allowing them to determine where you focus, and never turning that lens back on yourself would usually mean that you get swept up in the outside world and are easily seduced by what others are doing. And, namely, what they are listening to. I don't think Celine is a fan of Devendra Banhart.

But this video camera breaks all these notions. Similar to the second artist-type described above, this camera likes having the mundane anchor. Perhaps because it's Las Vegas. And also because it's resisting the constant Celine sing-washing that occurs inside the desert mansion walls.

During the day, when he doesn't have to watch the child, Celine is not watching his watching, and her husband is not telling her to sing again and remind him of the good ol' days, he listens to good songs. Really good songs, actually.

How does he do it? Well, because Celine can afford it, she bought the most expensive camera and had no idea — or use — about its ability to connect to the Internet and download MP3s from those really cool music blogs.

Oh, and how do I know the video camera is a he? He e-mailed me.

- "Half a Million Miles from Home" - Diane Cluck
- "I'll Be On the Water" - Akron/Family
- "We Multiply" - AIDS Wolf
- "Everything Lay Still" - Colleen
- "A True Story" - Hey Hey My My
- "Summer Left Your Heart Behind" - His Name Is Alive
- "Stones Throw From Heaven" - Josephine Foster
- "Taste In My Mouth" - Shapes and Sizes
- "Manitoba" - Tapes 'n Tapes
- "That Dragon Is My Husband" - Jana Hunter

SIDE B: Bridgette Sullivan / Assistant Arts Editor

I love my new pink fly swatter. These are the favourites he whispered in my ear.

- "Spank" - Jimmy Bo Horne
- "Lead Me On" - Teena Marie
- "Small Town Boy" - Bronski Beat
- "Straight Outta Compton" - N.W.A
- "No Letting Go (Diwali Riddim)" - Wayne Wonder
- "I'm Henry The Eighth, I Am" - Herman's Hermits
- "Making Plans For Nigel" - Nouvelle Vague
- "Psychotic Reaction" - Count Five
- "Bunnies" - HORSE the Band
- "Disco Blood" - Shitdisco

I, robot

Local bands chip away at new wave and indie rocks

MAGEN POWELL
Staff Contributor

HOTSHOTROBOT has proven that it's a well-oiled machine. With an album due in the spring and a full schedule of upcoming shows, the band is quickly becoming a new wave rock icon in Halifax by adding flair to the basics of indie rock.

As time has progressed, the four band members have become more "verbally loose, crass, [and] abrasive," says singer and synth-er Jen Clarke. "But it's always in good fun."

Speaking of fun, the boys enjoy playing pranks on Jen, AKA Ron, in their spare time, but watching the band perform is more than a practical joke.

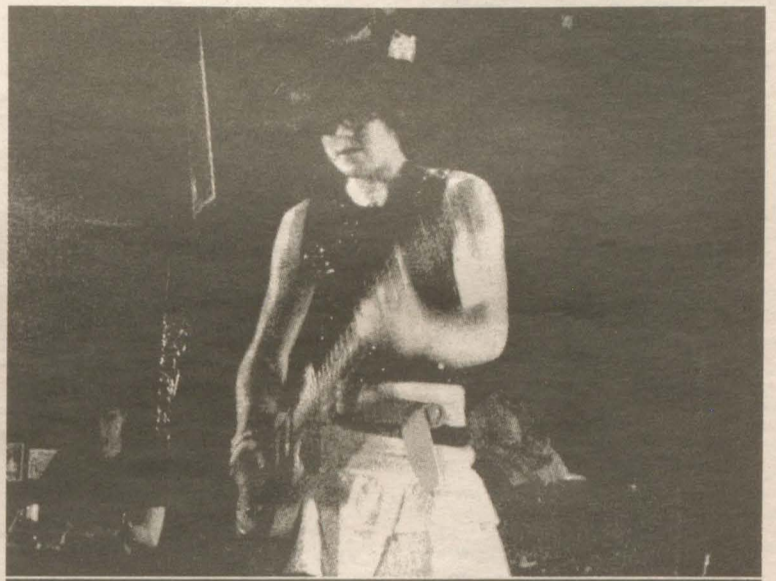
Andrew "Gorminator" Gormley annihilates bass lines with ease, and Brad Luknowsky wails away grunge melodies on guitar with a classic Weezer feel. Sean MacGillivray on drums is a new edition since the first recorded demo, and definitely a noble one (the band also employs the aid of Jon Epworth's percussion expertise from time to time).

The four have extensive yet different backgrounds musically, giving a unique edge to composition. As the band has evolved, the members have been adding more complexities, while keeping the tunes short and catchy.

The post Blondie-esque sound can be described as omniscient, or even "floccinaucinihilipilification." Taking cues from MegaMan soundtracks and flaunting indie rock meets emo punk fashion, the sound is full-bodied and vintage, but the garage-punk edge declares it's better drank from a paper bag than a prissy glass.

"[We are] influenced by Brainiac, Enon, and XTC, essentially — they are quirky and energetic," says Clarke. "We are very silly too, so I suppose there is an element of Ween in us."

Clarke's bashful yet prominent voice is easy to fall in love with — encompassing yet not overpowering, and her extensive piano experience is obvious. The synthesizer,



HOTSHOTROBOT / Reflections Cabaret / March 22, 2006

Reporter: Magen Powell

Photographer: John Packman

There is a weird eroticism involved in watching a male have his chest stuffed on the dance floor.

Skinny, fuzzy legs protruding from frumpy, ill-fitting skirts and tousled locks were all the rage at Reflections Cabaret, all part of the Hissy Fit "rock bands in drag" mentality. Seven local bands and host April Showers set the stage for a hilarious evening of great music, candid photos and ridiculous outfits.

Ms. Showers was not the only man mistaken for a woman that night.

"Brad [Luknowsky of HOTSHOTROBOT] has the sexiest midriff in Halifax," Ryan Frizzel of The Hemmingways loosely admitted. The guitar player of both HOTSHOTROBOT and Montgomery Moth definitely had the drag look in lock-down.

Many males arrived decked out in women's attire, haggard wigs, and mismatched makeup, taking over the stage while adjusting their skirts. And, as the night progressed, the crowd got rowdier, and the music got harder, louder and more savage.

Scribbler's slightly awkward sound welcomed the arrival of a slowly form-

ing crowd. The awful, off-key screams must have stemmed from the wardrobe. Although abrasive, Scribbler is an acquired taste, with a dedicated following.

Montgomery Moth has a smooth and appealing resonance, unlike the legs brooding beneath uncomfortable frocks. The classic grunge feel had heads bobbing and beers flowing — an excellent way to get the night moving.

The Establishment also deserves honorable mention, but not for its member's fashion sense. The calculated and ratifying rock begged for political visions and the levels were appropriately loud. The band's rendition of a Mars Volta song was excellently executed and impressed even the harshest of critics (namely, me).

HOTSHOTROBOT, complete with Jen Clarke sporting a prosthetic member, was definitely the highlight of the evening. The sound was powerful, and Clarke, having had a few too many, was a riot. There was no stopping this robot in motion.

The Grass and The Bad Motels were both received to the highest degree. The two bands possess great Halifax talent and were dressed to the nines for this event.

adding an element of the 80s, combined with funky, raspy distortion allows for moshing or dancing to suit anyone's fancy.

HOTSHOTROBOT brings new hope to the scene: there are still bands out there with some sort of

individuality and distinct flavor.

Visit **HOTSHOTROBOT** online at www.myspace.com/hotshotrobottheband and see the band live on March 31 at the Pavilion as part of the JUNO nocases.

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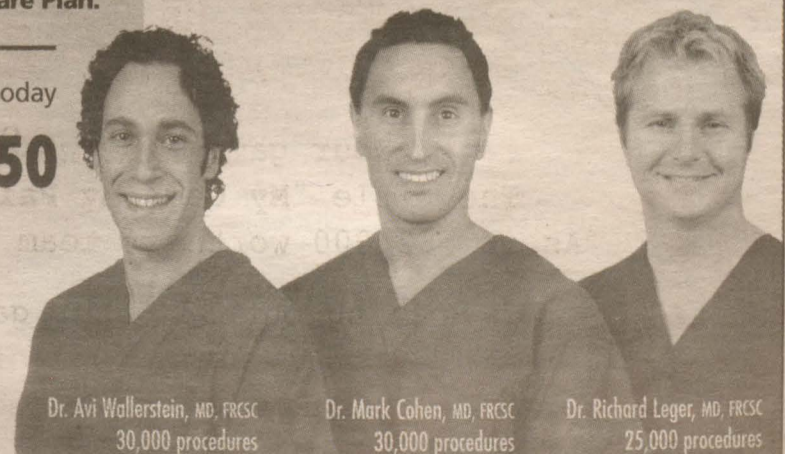
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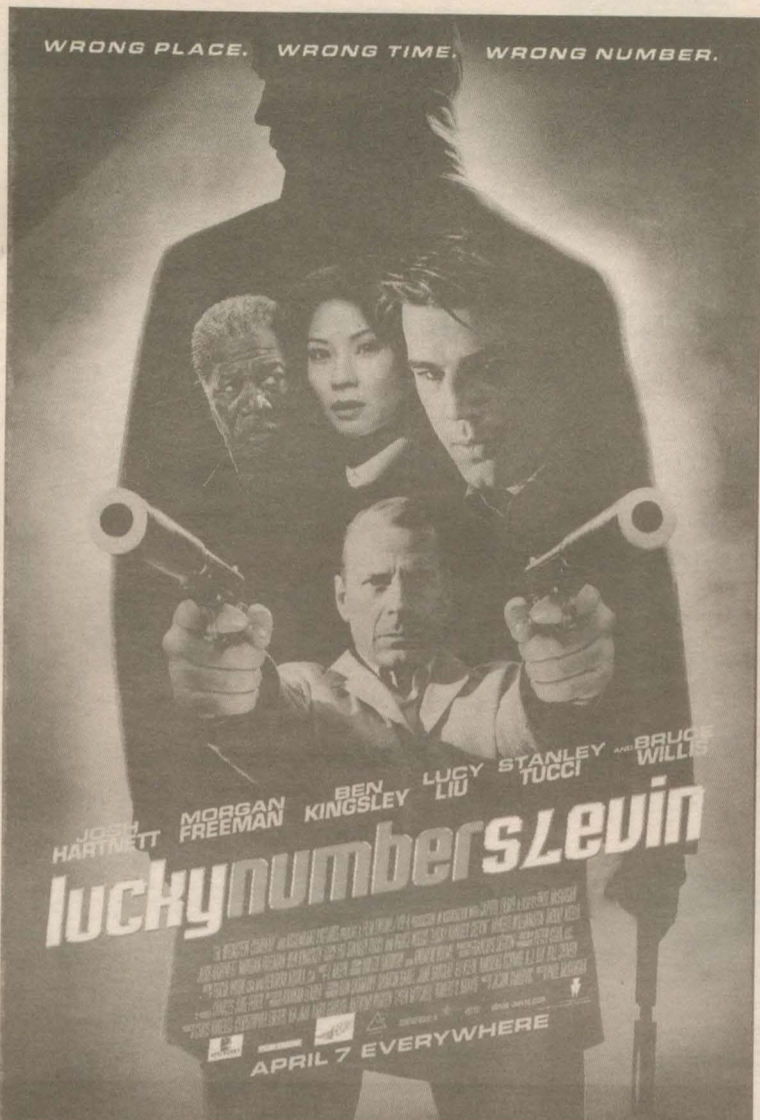
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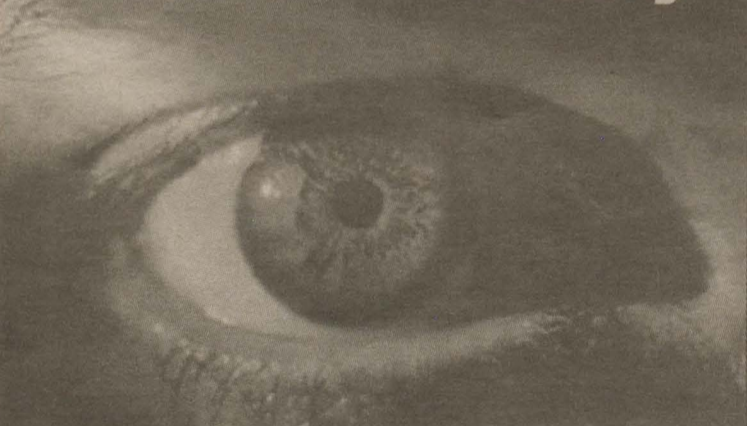
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Wanderlust

Panama City lives up to its hot reputation

LI DONG
Staff Contributor

I had never been to a white-sand beach before. Frankly, I had never been to even what can be considered a "nice" beach before.

The only other "nice" beach I had been to is the infamous Parlee Beach outside of Moncton, N.B., where the seaweed grows fierce and the jellyfish are relentlessly aggressive. In spite of all this, I never gave up the hope that somewhere out there (perhaps in America) there would be a beach with no rocks and water as clear as the wind.

And, upon arriving in Panama City, that hope was partially realized.

The city itself is a quiet, little place with one main road and plenty of tourist traps. You can't walk into a telephone booth without someone trying to sell Panama City Beach paraphernalia to you.

One of my failed goals in the city was to hang out with the locals. Unfortunately, I had taken a packaged tour deal that was marketed heavily to the students of southern Ontario. This, combined with the earliness of our spring break relative to that of the Americans', left me on the gulf of Florida hanging out with roughly 1,000 Torontonians.

It was pretty much like Dalhou-



Panama City: to our disappointment, not actually in Panama.

sie on the beach.

The locals — identified by their southern accents — that I did meet had some kind words to say about us Canadians. The bouncers at the bar admitted that Canadian girls are decisively better looking than American girls, Canadian men started up less fights than the locals, and finally, man, can we ever drink.

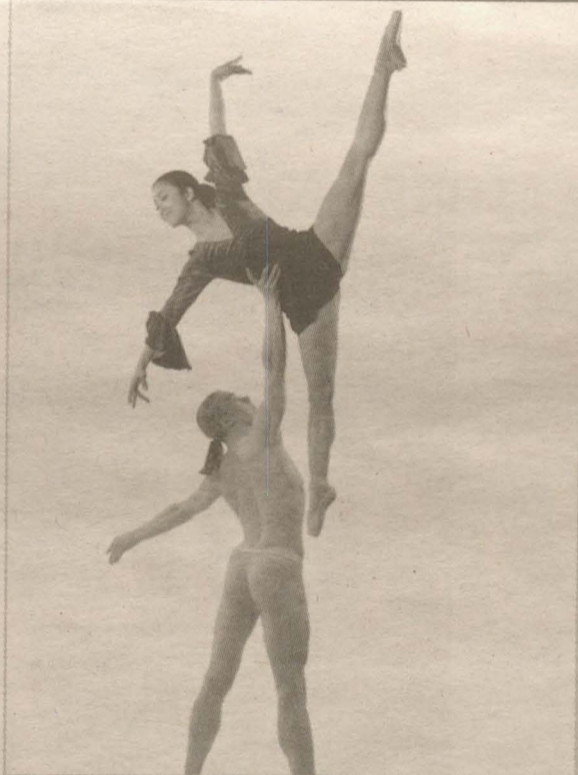
The guys that I spoke with said they spent most of their time running around trying to desperately stop 19- and 20-year-old girls from washing the stamp signifying "not 21" off their hands.

The worst thing that could happen to you on vacation in Panama is grey weather. This happened for a few days during my trip and it even rained a little. Aside from occasional poor weather, when the beach was well lit, you could do everything from play volleyball to just sit on the beach and be a creeper.

On the sunniest day, even Leah from Much Music emerged to do a story on the vacation. Although I was watching her from quite a distance, I can tell you two things for sure: she's much taller in person, and she's got a really, really big head.

BALLET AND MOZART

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor



Amadeus

As an ardent fan of the film version of Amadeus, I looked forward to the Atlantic Ballet Theatre's ballet production of the same story. Sure enough, the production didn't disappoint: the talented dancers and riveting musical score created an engaging two-hour performance.


The ballet began with Mozart's birth, when, according to the program synopsis, "a silent being [is] delivered to the world with nothing but his destiny." The stage soon filled with other dancers, representing Salieri, Mozart's wife Costanza, and various members of 18th century high society.

While the music and dancing were enjoyable, it was difficult (if not impossible) to follow the story being played out — even though I was already familiar with Mozart's life. Of course, since ballet is devoid of speech, this makes it difficult to tell a complex tale.

But since dancing is the most important aspect of a ballet, the difficulty of the story line was not a major detractor from the quality of the ballet. Kosta Voynov did an excellent job as the title character, and the long-legged Muse (played by Evelina Shushko) was also superb.

The most intense scenes were the Requiem, followed by Mozart's untimely death.

Despite the tragic end to Mozart's short life, his music remains immortal. And, as the program synopsis concludes, "Mozart is immortal. This was his destiny."



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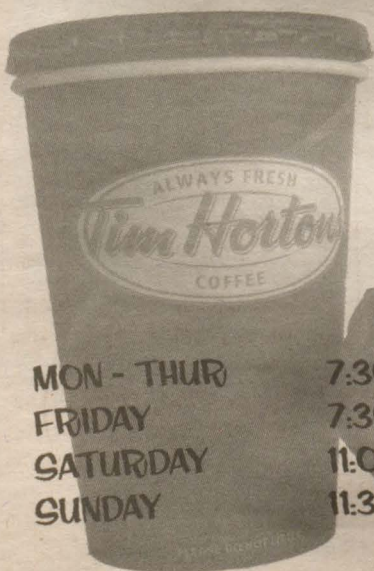
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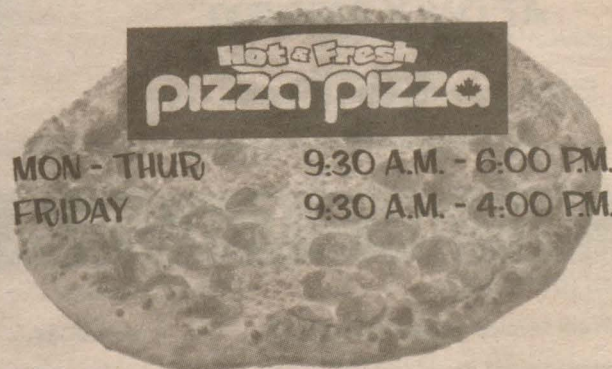
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Open Letter to Dalhousie

Dear Dalhousie,

I'm sorry to have to contact you in such an awkward fashion, but I feel that the time has come for us to have a discussion sibling to sibling. In short I've gotten tired of sitting by and watching the ongoing parade of debacles that you have subjected our already strained relationship to. In short I've had enough, and I'm not going to take it anymore.

I'll admit at least part of this is my fault, things were rough back in '97 and we thought you could help us out. We figured that you knew what you were doing, and we needed a little break to get things together, but it's been almost a decade now, and it's become clear that you had as little of an idea as to how to help us out as we did.

It started out small there were things that were supposed to help us both out. We were supposed to encourage more students to enter engineering, yet it seems like that never really panned out now did it? And we were supposed to have access to better facilities, but all we've really gotten was a pair of portables to house the very noteworthy IDLab, and the biological building rebuilt to the original design. But surprisingly it's not the big things like this that really irk me. It's always the little things that start to grate on a relationship after a while isn't it? And

it always seems to come back to the playground, and lets face it you've always been more than little bit of a bully in that respect. You took away my volleyball teams, on the grounds that it cost too much. You hamstringing my other sports teams, because there couldn't be two teams from Dalhousie who were eligible for the playoffs. Despite the agreement in the amalgamation that my teams would be kept intact you took them away altogether. You said you needed to save \$60,000 so our teams, which haven't had a facility improvement, new uniforms, or new equipment for years had to go. We don't know why King's got to keep their teams, but hey you always liked them best. And seriously don't give us that crap about them being a separate group, just because they were taken in after their home burnt down doesn't make them any less a part of the family, just like we were put together by the Province. I suppose choosing to adopt a child does make them closer than one being forced upon you.

We'll admit we aren't the flashiest, and we don't get out much, but we did hope that we could honour your word. It would appear that we might need to add Naiveté to our list of short comings. But when your own budgeting allots an increase of \$7,000 for intramurals,

Varsity, and clubs do we really need an extra \$60,000 to fund programs at the Dalplex? Couldn't at least some of that money stay here with me? Well I suppose I'll just have to look to my students if they want to improve my facilities, or have a team to feel proud of, because you and I both know that your newspaper has never given them the proper respect. They've even had to start collecting money from their own students to buy new equipment for their departments; I suppose adding the cost of a sports team is something that they might have to bear as well.

I understand you've been big on "Inspiring Minds" lately; perhaps the \$139,000 funding increase you've allotted for your external communications might help with that. Well, you have inspired my mind to think this; that you care more about providing a rounded university experience for some students as opposed to others, that the promise of an institution isn't worth the paper it's written on, and that finally, it's rarely the better off that are asked to bear the burden when times are tough.

Yours truly,

TUNS

Open Letter to Engineering Students

Dear Engineering students,

I am a lonely blonde arts girl. Try as I may, I can't seem to find myself an engineer. You can be sure it's not from lack of me expressing my feelings towards all of you. I'm going to put it all out there, if you are in engineering, regardless of whether or not I've met you, I have a huge crush on you. Some may go so far as to call this love towards engineers an obsession; I'm not about to argue that.

With all of that said I do realize that although I do know quite a few engineers (likely more than the average non-engineering student knows), there are still a hefty number of engineering students out there I have yet to meet. For that reason I have decided to make this letter more of a self-advertisement if you will. This is with high hopes that one of the seven people that actually reads the *Sextant* will find something about me intriguing, even possibly alluring (here's hoping they are in engineering).

So where do I start? With the help of some of my friends I have compiled a list of a number of interesting facts about myself, which I hope you find entertaining at the very least (chances are you won't find it entertaining at all, but what did you expect, you are reading the *Sextant* here).

For starters, I am sexually attracted to a cartoon... lion. No, not Brave Heart Lion from the Care Bears; who on another note wouldn't be good to eat because he's a cat, I know that's always been something I wondered about when I was younger watching Care Bears, but I digress. The lion is loveable Simba from The Lion King. I'm not talking JTT Simba here, but the Matthew Broderick Simba. He'd be so hot if he weren't a cartoon... and not a lion.

Moving on. I am commonly mistaken for Scandinavian. "Laura, is your friend Scandinavian?", "no, I don't think so Grampa", "really? She looks Scandinavian to me." After many years I have decided to attribute this "Scandinavian" look to my allergy to the sun. That's right folks, I have to wear prescription sunscreen.

After some thought, I have come

to the conclusion that maybe I'm just not socially awkward enough for engineers. I assure you I am working on that. I am so committed to this that I am switching from arts into sciences, hopefully to do a physics major. If physics students aren't socially awkward and inept enough for you engineers then I don't know what I can do.

I fall asleep to the face of an astronaut. I went to the Dalhousie Annual Engineering Banquet, where the keynote speaker was astronaut, Chris Hadfield (affectionately called "the astronaut" by myself). In my opinion most people would want to go see an astronaut, but I should point out at this point in time that I agreed to pay \$25 to go to this banquet before I even knew an astronaut was going to be there; I agreed to go because I wanted to be in a room filled with engineers wearing ties (I also would've agreed to go even if they weren't going to be wearing ties; maybe if I just knew they were going to shower that day. I'm easily impressed if you haven't been able to figure that out yet). Anyways, I took one of the photos that the astronaut had so I can look at him always. Interesting side note: the astronaut has his undergrad in mechanical engineering... so to all of you mechanical engineering students out there, I strongly suggest the career choice of astronaut.

There are many more things I could tell you about, like my *Star Wars* marathon that I had... with myself, or like how I know pi up to 15 digits. I feel however that at the moment I have given you all more than enough to base your crushes towards me on. If it turns out none of you have crushes on me after this I think it can be concluded that I will end up a lonely old cat lady (by cat lady I mean a lady that is apparently sexually attracted to cats in cartoon form).

Yours eternally,
Christina

PS. I know the Shakira dance as well, if that makes you more inclined to have a crush on me/helps you develop your crush on me a little bit.

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Women's basketball coach says sports are more than just a game

MIKE TWEEDALE
Staff contributor

Dr. Carolyn Savoy, the head coach of the Dalhousie Tiger's women's basketball team, is more than just a coach. Aside from guiding her team from the side of the court, Savoy is also a professor and author. The veteran coach wrote *The Art of Coaching: A Practical Guide to Building Successful Teams*, which was published in 2005.

As an undergraduate student, Savoy learned there is far more involved in a game than just playing it. As a former member of the University of New Brunswick's women's basketball, field hockey and volleyball teams, Savoy is well acquainted with sports as an athlete, but says an interest in coaching developed from her academic experience as a physical education student.

"I became interested in coaching while doing a physical education degree at the University of New Brunswick," says Savoy. "I learned that there is far more to the game than just going out and playing it, including the planning, the administration, the progressions of teaching."

Savoy says a physical education degree, as it used to be structured, gave its graduates skills in a variety of fields.

"Physical education involves teaching," Savoy says. "As a coach, you are a teacher because you have to teach the necessary progressions, and in terms of the skill activity, I took coaching courses in basketball, volleyball and field hockey and so I learned coaching techniques within the program."

The structure of physical education programs has changed since Savoy's graduation from UNB in 1969. Academic disciplines like kinesiology and health and human performance, and institutions like the National Coaching Institute, have developed since Savoy took her first coaching job at St. FX University.

If someone wanted to gain an education with the same outcomes as the education that Savoy pursued at UNB, it would require additional commitments beyond fulfilling the Bachelor degree requirements.

"Most areas have kinesiology," she says. "Then one could do a Master's in coaching, or go to the Na-



tional Coaching Institute and take the levels in coaching."

Levels in coaching include level one technical, which is the basic level for a specific sport, level one theory, which is physiology and biomechanics, and level one practical.

Once these three components are completed, a person is considered to be a level-one coach.

The same components are included at levels two and three, and if one wants to pursue level-four certification, one must complete sport-specific modules at the National Coaching Institute in Vancouver, Calgary or Halifax.

"If you want to go into coaching, it really helps to have a degree in kinesiology," says Savoy.

At 22 years old, Savoy started coaching basketball and field hockey at St. FX. Within two years, she turned what had been struggling programs into winning programs.

"I used all the things that I learned at university when I started

out," says Savoy.

In 1977, Savoy was recruited by Dalhousie to coach the women's basketball team and has remained with the Tigers ever since.

In 1990, she took a sabbatical to attend the University of Tennessee, where she completed a PhD and helped coach the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers. The Lady Vols won the 1990 NCAA title.

Currently, Savoy is one of the few people with a cross-appointment in university academics and athletics.

"I'm a dinosaur now," she says. "I'm probably the only coach in Canada who has a cross appointment between academics and athletics."

In addition to her coaching responsibilities, Savoy is an associate professor with the school of health and human performance and teaches the sports psychology and physical activity. Savoy is also a member of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, which gives opportunities for sabbatical leaves to do a research.



Women's volleyball all-star completes university career

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Staff Contributor

Dedicated, hard working, and easy-going are only a few words to describe Leslie Marriott of Dalhousie Tigers women's volleyball. The fifth-year setter and second-team all-star from Oakville, Ont., has been an influential element of the Tiger's program since joining in 2001 and will graduate this year leaving a legacy behind.

Marriott, who will finish an honours degree in kinesiology, plans to further her education closer to home in Ontario and will pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy.

The Tiger standout is an active volunteer in the community and, despite her demanding schedule, is able to contribute five hours of her time a week to children with disabilities. Marriott has become a pro at maintaining a balanced life between school, volleyball, and volunteering for the past five years.

"I think people have a lot more time than they think," says Marriott. "You have hours in the day that you just don't think about, like that hour of TV every evening or the movies — they add up."

Marriott isn't only a focused student and community leader; she's also an extremely focused athlete who made the most of her years at Dal.

"Playing for Dal has taught me commitment, how to stay focused,

and great time-management," she says. "I had an unbelievable time this season, especially since there were four of us in our core group that all started five years ago. It was great to be able to finish together."

After half a decade of playing volleyball for Dal, Marriott says lasting friendships and a love of competition were strong motivational forces.

"These girls turn into some of your best friends, and competing just seems natural," she says.

Over the years, and after many ups and downs, Marriott says her most memorable moment as a Tiger was winning the AUS championship banner over the SMU Huskies in 2005.

"That was unreal, especially being on the court with most of the girls I started out with, she says. "That moment doesn't compare."

Marriott plans to stay active in recreational volleyball and would like to start out coaching younger children and gradually move up the coaching ranks.

"I also plan on having sextuplets so I can harbor my own team. They will all start volleyball at the same time, and will light-up the co-ed league," she says, laughing.

Until then, Marriott has aspirations of owning her own private occupational therapy practice, and will wait to see if being mother and coach to her own star volleyball team is in the cards.

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