

FREE

139-14 / December 7 (This is the last issue of the term, see you in January)

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

Winter is nature's way of saying

"Up Yours"

- Robert Byrne

Photo: John Packman





WEEKLY DISPATCH

Airporter Shuttle Bus Stop at Dal

Starting next week the Airporter shuttle bus will stop on the Seymour street side of the Student Union building during holiday weekends and the beginning and end of term. There is also a stop for Sexton Campus in the works, although the pick-up/drop-off site has not been finalized. For December 12th to 15th the Airporter is scheduled to leave at 5:30, 7:20, 9:40, 11:55, and 1:40 from the Seymour side of the SUB. The trip takes approximately 40 minutes and costs \$28 for a round trip. One-way fare is \$16. For return times and a pdf copy of the schedule check out www.dsu.ca.

Federal Liberal Convention

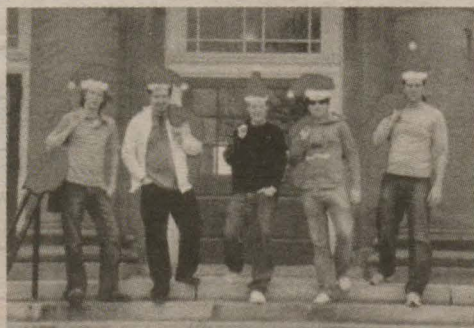
With a new liberal leader comes a new opportunity for us to lobby for post secondary education. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations had two head office staff at the convention as observers, not only to build on CASA's strong government relations, but also to build our relationships with national media. It was great to hear Stéphane Dion speak about education during his speech on Friday at the convention. He said:

"The sustainable economy is, above all, a knowledge economy. We need to invest in the skills and talents of all Canadians, in our colleges and universities, in our students. We need to better link the lab and the market. We need to get Canadian ideas into the marketplace more quickly."

What stands out in the above quote, is that Dion refers to education as an investment; an investment in people, infrastructure, and our country. This is a shift that we have been working on for over two years now and it is great to see it trickling into national politics. Dion's idea of a knowledge-based economy is further explained in a speech he gave in Vancouver last May.

Check out the DSU weblog to watch a video we uncovered of Dion discussing his stance on education. The video was hosted on Dion's website but was hidden from public view. As far as we know, it can now only be viewed at the DSU blog. In it, Dion says that he would like to see increased federal funding to help students afford education and for research. All of this bodes very well for our fight for post-secondary education. For links to both of Dion's speeches and the video check out Mike Tipping's post on the DSU blog at dalhousieStudentUnion.blogspot.com.

As this will be my last article of the term I want to wish you the best of luck on your exams and a happy holidays on behalf of all of us here at the DSU.



See you in January,
Ezra Edelstein
DSU President
Room 222 SUB
dsupres@dal.ca
my.dsu.ca / www.dsu.ca
Check out our blog at
dalhousieStudentUnion.blogspot.com



STAGE NINE

BAR & GRILL

THURSDAYS, 9:30PM, \$5

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, \$6
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Dec 12: The Blown Gasket Orchestra + Bare Bones Blues
to play ROCK CHURCH email stageninetuesday@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAYS, \$5 (\$3 before 11pm)
REGGAE NIGHT Special Guest Performers in December !!
presented by Appleton Rum BRAZILLIAN RYTHMS with ZUMBI
VERBAL WARNIN' RETURNS JAN 10

THURS, DEC 14, 7pm-9:30pm No Cover
ORPHANAGE CLOTHING SHOW & SALE
Men's and Women's re-cut vintage clothing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, \$6
TOM FUN ORCHESTRA + CARMEN TOWNSEND & THE SHAKEY DEALS + HORSES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, \$6
The 11th Annual USK Xmas Show
Urban Surf Kings + Jesse Dangerously + Music Inspired The Film + Jonathon Andrews + Brad Conrad

Blue Sunday SUNDAY, DEC 17, \$2
New Wave/ Alternative Pop/ 80's Classics + More

TUES, DEC 19, \$5
HEY ROSETTA + GUESTS

FRIDAY, DEC 22, \$5
GLORY HOUND & THE SKYHAWKS + guests

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Season's Greetings
from the

Gazette

Gazette

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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.

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The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

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, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba. 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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All contributions in this issue of The Gazette were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Catherine Holloway, Jimmy Kapche, Angelica Blenich, Hugh Wallace, Christina Stefanski, and Kate Robertson.

This is the last issue of the term. Thanks!

The next contributor meeting will take place January 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB. We need writers, photographers, illustrators, readers and ideas. If you can contribute any of these, please drop us a line or come by the office.

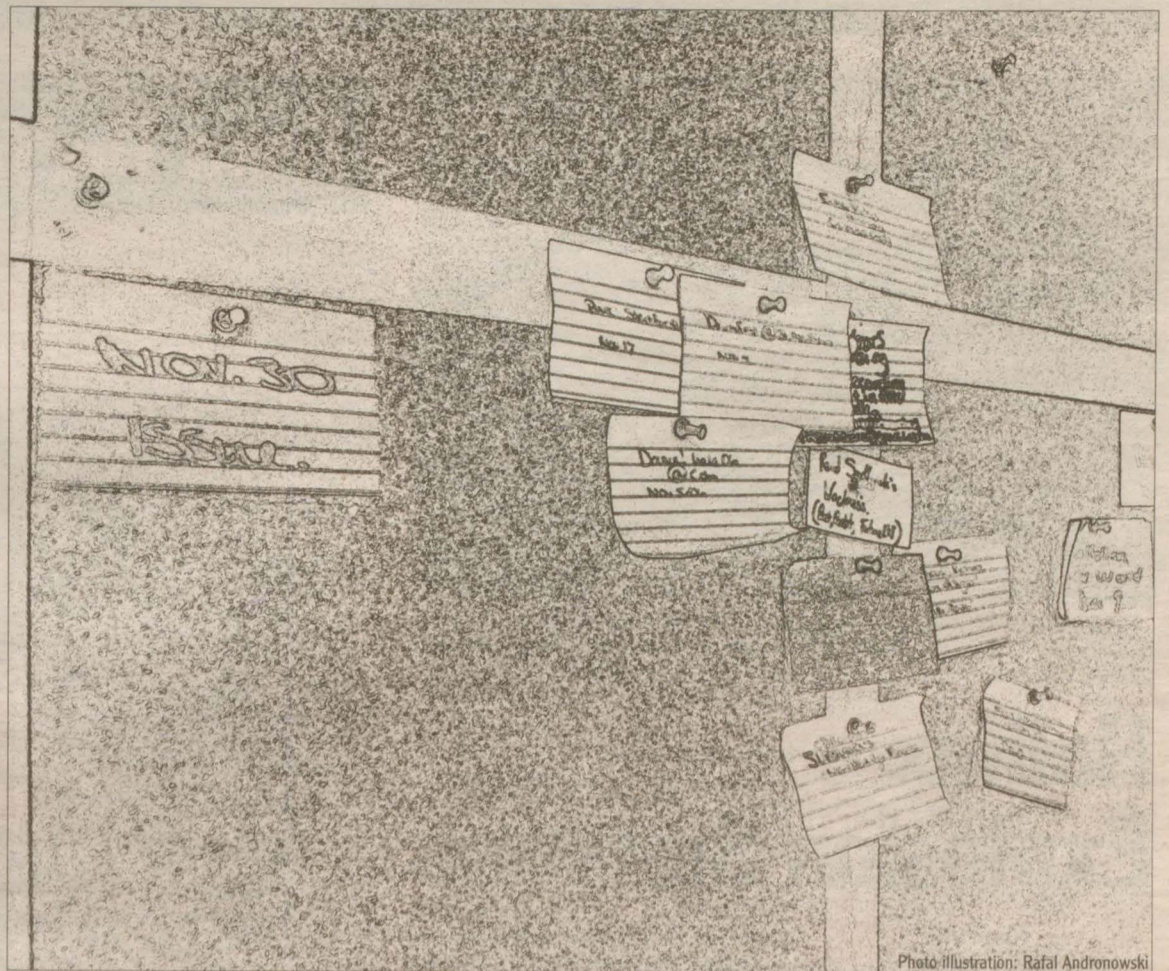


Photo illustration: Rafal Andronowski

Second time's the charm...

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

We all knew it was coming. Some marked it on the calendar, others scribbled it down in a notepad or stuck a post-it note someplace.

If you're like me, you did all three plus a few more.

And still the date creeps up. Then, all of a sudden, it's here. Despite being a long time coming, and fully expected, it is still somehow refreshingly abrupt.

The end of first term.

It's always a surprise how quickly the months go by. It feels as if the school year has just started and already it's time to head out for the holidays.

Thinking back, one week blurs into the next. The past few weeks

are particularly indistinguishable from each other.

And you know what?

When second term starts and we are back in the daily grind of school, work and life, the weeks will once again meld into one.

The only way I can tell them apart is by what issue of The Gazette is coming out when...

This week is number 14. Halfway through the year. And spanning halfway across one wall of our office are copies of each issue we have published so far.

Looking back over the covers, it is clear that our best stories and issues have come from you — be they your ideas or written by you. The Gazette is your publication. It's your stories, your opinions, your photos.

Without your help, this paper would not exist. There is only so

much a few editors can do while being students at the same time.

I can't really remember when I first became a contributor at The Gazette. It was sometime in 2002, or maybe 2003, and I had been an eager reader all through first term. But I couldn't find the time and will to come to a meeting.

Second term brought about a change in schedule and attitude. I stepped through the office door and haven't looked back. Through The Gazette, I have been given opportunities to attend some amazing concerts, meet a great variety of people and do what I love — take thousands upon thousands of photos.

If you've been thinking about coming to a meeting to write, photograph or otherwise contribute, or if you want to send us ideas or suggestions, now's the time.

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from the

Gazette

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"I remember every bit of it, that damn explosion. I'll never forget that because everything in the house was on the floor and everything was covered in glass," says Edith Murphy-Hartnett, Halifax Explosion survivor.

Halifax Explosion Survivors

KATIE MAY
Staff Contributor

Edith Murphy-Hartnett still has nightmares. It's been 89 years since those two ships collided in Halifax harbour, but even so, the 96-year-old gets frightened every time she hears a foghorn in the distance.

The morning of December 6, 1917 dawned bright and cloudless over Halifax. By 9:05 a.m., clouds of smoke billowed into the air; the only light left came from a mass of bursting flames that ravaged through the city's North End.

It was rush hour at the docks when the Belgian vessel Imo scraped the side of Mont-Blanc, a container ship loaded with explosives. Sparks from the collision ignited the ship in a violent blast, becoming the biggest man-made explosion in pre-nuclear history. Within minutes, 2,000 people were dead; another 9,000 were injured and 12,000 were homeless.

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic hosted a survivor's reception on Dec. 3. Roughly 45 people gathered to listen to others' memories and share their own.

Murphy-Hartnett was only eight years old when the blast destroyed most of Halifax's North End. She's been telling her story here for the last few years and she says she'll keep telling it for as long as she is able.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," she says, wincing as if experiencing the pain of December 6 over again.

"I remember every bit of it, that damn explosion. I'll never forget that because everything in the house

was on the floor and everything was covered in glass. All the windows were out; there wasn't a key left in the piano."

"I get scared a lot when I hear the boats blow," she continues. "I'm always scared we might have something else happen."

David Sutherland, a retired Dalhousie history professor, says the disaster had major long-term effects on future generations. He says the public housing and health-care Halifax has today began as efforts to rebuild the city after the explosion.

Sutherland says people will never forget what happened because they have a "morbid curiosity" about horrific events.

"People remember this because, to be crass about it, it generates tourist revenues," he says. "This was the one time that the war came to our shores. It's still haunting us."

And it will continue to haunt those who were there to witness the desolate days that followed the explosion.

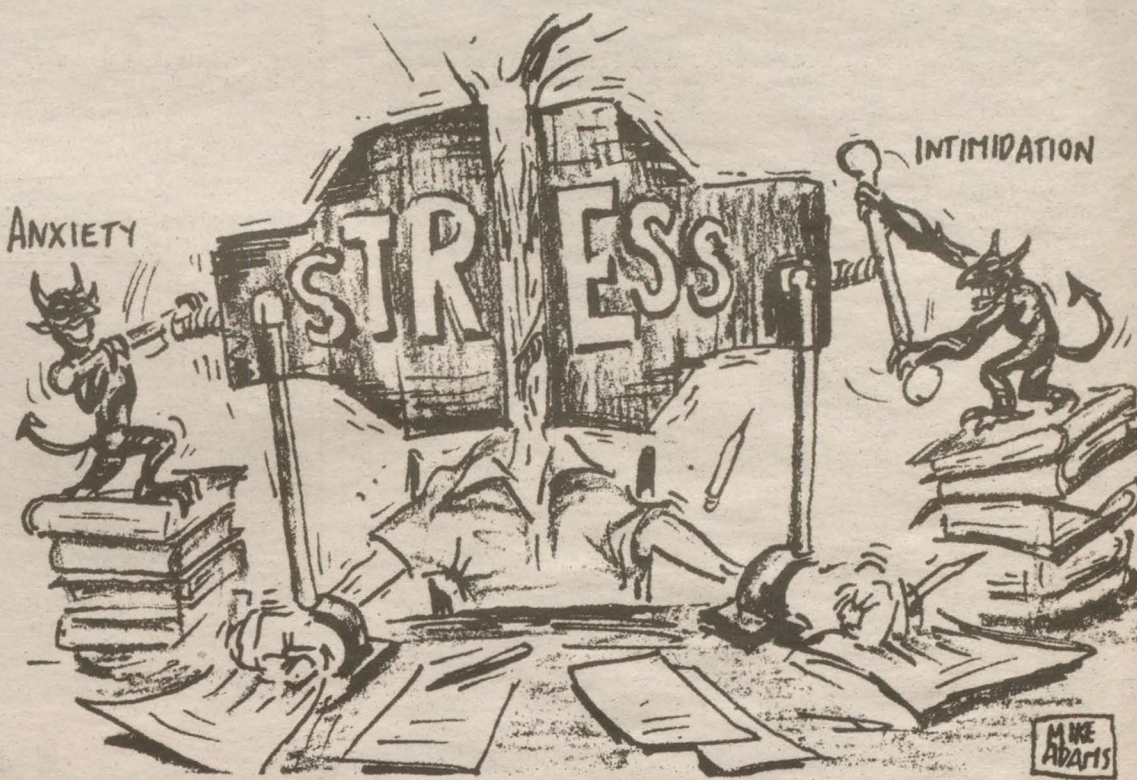
Wilfrid Creighton was a 13-year-old boy at home on LeMarchant St. when he felt the house shake. He lost six relatives in the explosion and can still recall the ruins that overwhelmed the city in its aftermath.

"I didn't know how serious it was then," the 102-year-old says. "When I got up and saw the destruction, saw dead bodies and smelled burning flesh — it was just so much."

Creighton went on to graduate from Dalhousie University and become a hockey star in Germany, but no matter where he went, images of the Explosion wouldn't leave him.

"I can't shut it out of my memory. It's too vivid."

From The Gazette archives



10 YEARS AGO

Tigers break winning streak

Dalhousie women's volleyball stayed in third place in the Atlantic University Athletics Association (AUAA) despite a weekend loss to Université de Moncton.

This was the first regular season loss for the Tigers, now boasting a 5-1 record.

Dal trounced Acadia in three straight sets during another recent match at the Dalplex. The women took the match 15-12, 15-6 and 15-5. Cara MacKenzie was named player of the game for contributing 2.3 out of three serve receives and eight digs. Kia Johanssen was also impressive, pounding out a 70 per cent kill efficiency.

Over the weekend, the Tigers visited New Brunswick where they faced off against Mount Allison. The Mounties put up a strong fight, but the Black and Gold were stronger and took the match in five sets: 15-12, 8-15, 13-15, 15-8 and 15-11.

With a five-game streak behind them, the Tigers faced off against the second-ranked Université de Moncton. Here, their luck finally ran out as Moncton dominated the court, taking the game in three sets: 15-13, 15-11 and 15-7.

The women were set to face first-ranked St. Mary's in 1997.

20 YEARS AGO

Student council meeting, in detail

The Dalhousie Student Council (DSU) ended its first term in office normally, despite recurring procedural problems throughout the year.

The last meeting ended abruptly when dentistry representative Martin Bourgeois called quorum. He apologized for his move, but maintained it was a matter of principle. The council was about to vote on funding for Operation Raleigh, a program that organizes adventure expeditions for youth around the world; without enough information to make an informed decision, Bourgeois said, the outcome of the vote looked negative.

Additionally, SAHER representative Marion von Possel was elected to a position on the presidential advising committee on athletics over law rep Ravi Vethamany—who, when pressed, said he would take a stance in favour of drug testing at the varsity level.

Vice president Sandra Bell said the administration had agreed to partially light up Studley Field at night after receiving a report that two men had followed a student on the field late at night.

Treasurer Sean Casey reported to council that the DSU's financial situation "doesn't look good... it looks as if we're going to lose a lot of money."

30 YEARS AGO

Council votes against emergency funding

On Sunday, Dec. 5, 1976, the Dalhousie Student Council (DSU) voted against a motion to give \$2,000 of emergency funding to the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS).

Many councilors at the meeting argued that without a detailed budget, it was questionable whether the AFS should receive the money from Dal.

AFS Secretary Don Soucy challenged this notion, saying that the DSU had assumed responsibility to produce a budget for the AFS.

The \$2,000 would have gone towards ensuring that the AFS would be able to function at full capacity during upcoming spring referenda. At an earlier meeting, delegates of the AFS had voted to seek \$7,500 in emergency funding by Dec. 15.

Soucy assumed that since Dal represented one-quarter of the student population of the AFS, it would be prepared to contribute an equivalent amount of funds.

"The main problem is the constant referral to AFS as 'they,'" Soucy said. "[It is] the failure to realize that it is not 'they' but an organization of the post-secondary students in the Atlantic provinces."

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Students sue UofO

Six students have filed small claims lawsuits against the University of Ottawa in an effort to reclaim a portion of the fees they paid for a "science in society" course.

After filing a group lawsuit on Nov. 23, the students have decided to re-file on an individual basis in hopes of improving the odds of winning.

The students say the course's two teaching assistants (TAs) couldn't adequately support the educational approach of the class. The course structure divides 113 students into working groups of 10 to 15 students for discussion of class material. Students say their learning experience could have been enhanced with more direction from additional TAs.

"The teaching assistants would have really made a difference, in the fact that in a work group you need to have a one-on-one contact with someone to maximize the learning experience, and that's something we weren't getting," Valérie Duchesneau, a student involved in the lawsuit said in an interview with *The Fulcrum*.

The students are seeking a refund of two-thirds of the tuition they paid for the course, which is equivalent to \$344 each.

Students stage food fight

Students at the University of Manitoba are taking part in town hall meetings aimed at awarding a new food services provider contract for the university.

The contract for current provider Aramark will soon expire, and the company is in competition with Sodhexo to win the new contract. A brawl broke out at the town hall meeting on Nov. 15 when Aramark presented its proposal. Michael Oschefski, vice president of Aramark, was attacked with an unripe banana.

Sodhexo made its presentation at a town hall meeting on Nov. 27. The proposal included a marketplace area for more variety in food selection and also a new late-night lounge.

One audience member said that although the two presentations were similar, Sodhexo's was more scaled down.

"Aramark's presentation was a lot longer and a lot more built up. There was a lot of stuff that was surrounded around esthetics. More so, I just care that I'll be getting better food," said Marlowe Brownlee, first-year student, told *The Manitoban*.

A committee will name the school's new food services provider by January 2007.

UofC to have nursing school in Middle East

The University of Calgary plans to set up a satellite nursing faculty in Qatar, a small country in the Persian Gulf, by August 2007.

The Qatari government will shoulder the roughly \$1 billion-project, which organizers say will enroll 100 students annually.

"The funding that we're providing is through the people who are going to go there," UofC President Harvey Weingarten told *The Gauntlet*.

"The important thing is that this doesn't distract from the nursing education we do here, or from the nursing graduates. In fact, quite to the contrary; it allows us to graduate more nurses who have a certain kind of experience that they can get in Qatar and bring back and enhance the nursing profession here."

Weingarten said Canadian education standards will apply to Qatar's so-called "University City," which is also home to satellite campuses from Carnegie Mellon, Texas A&M and Georgetown universities.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Georgetown faces increase in crime

Georgetown University reported a series of crimes hit its campus before and during the American Thanksgiving weekend, prompting public safety officials to increase warnings that students should take extra care during the upcoming winter break.

The Department of Public Safety said incidents of robbery and theft occurred on consecutive days, and that a person was taken into custody for suspicious behaviour.

In the early morning of Nov. 21, a student reported that two men jumped out of a black car and demanded the student's wallet and cell phone. The student complied and was not harmed. No arrests have been made.

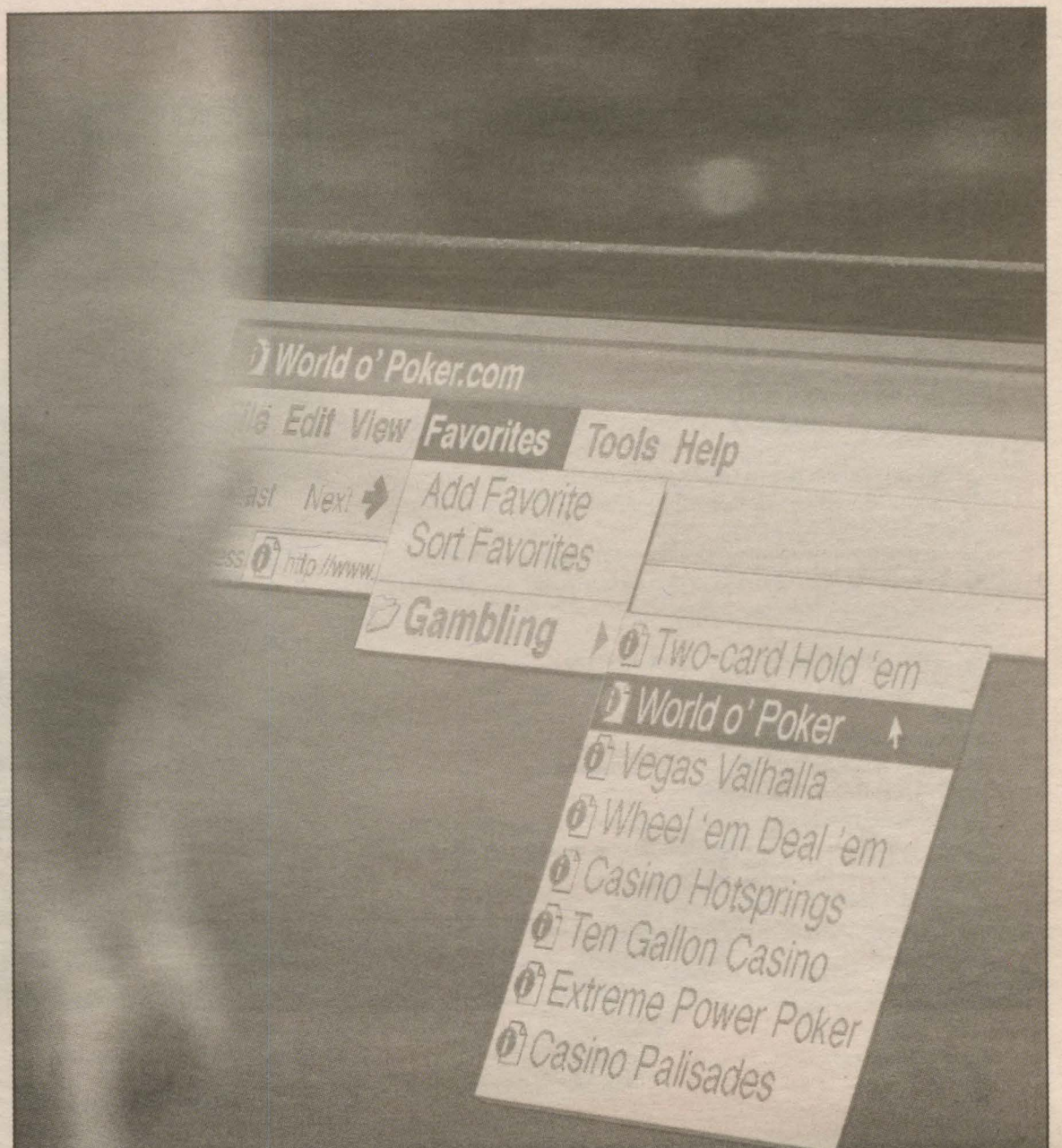
The next day, a suspect entered a dorm room and stole \$270-worth of valuables, including an iPod Nano, a camera and a pair of sneakers. A security official caught the suspect on the scene.

In a third incident on Nov. 25, a suspect was apprehended by security officials for "suspicious" behaviour, and was barred from university property.

Campus safety chief Darryl Harrison said the incidents represent a typical increase in crime that occurs during the holiday season.

"Incidents such as thefts and burglaries, as well as street robberies, unfortunately do have a tendency to increase during the holiday season," Harrison told *The Hoya*, Georgetown's student newspaper. "We encourage our community to keep that in mind."

Sources: *The Manitoban*, University of Manitoba, *The Fulcrum*, University of Ottawa, *The Gauntlet*, University of Calgary, *The Hoya*, Georgetown University



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- 1 **SMOKING BAN IS IN EFFECT... NOW!**
I want to punch people who reason that "we share the air."
- 2 **OUR NEW LIBERAL LEADER**
A white male from Quebec. Exciting!
- 3 **LINDSAY LOHAN IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
I'm sure the other members have no idea how famous this "Lindsay Lodan" person really is.
- 4 **NEW BRUNSWICK WANTS TO RAISE ITS MINIMUM WAGE**
Government officials went on to declare bankruptcy
- 5 **"ROCKY" CHARACTER ALLEGEDLY BASED ON JESUS CHRIST**
Not as bad as Mel Gibson basing himself on Jesus Christ.
- 6 **METEORITE IN EDMONTON MAY HAVE SEEDED EARTH WITH THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE**
How else do you explain the perfectly evolved hair of Stephen Harper?
- 7 **K-FED APPEARS ON THE GAME SHOW 1 VS. 100**
Previewing his legal representation at the divorce trial.
- 8 **SOFIA COPPOLA'S DAUGHTER**
Who's the godfather, and how big are his balls?
- 9 **STARSHIP TROOPERS 3**
Aims to answer the mysteries left behind from *Starship Troopers 2*, the central question being: "Why?"
- 10 **BEING EXCITED OVER SNOW**
Only affects people who don't have to deal with motor vehicles.

HOT / NOT

- HOT:** Heroes / **NOT:** Rocky
- HOT:** Dal law's million-dollar grant / **NOT:** The rewards of undergrad
- HOT:** Heavy petting / **NOT:** Coppin' a feel
- HOT:** Roommate drama / **NOT:** Reality Television
- HOT:** Listening to Tenacious D / **NOT:** Robbing the Big G
- HOT:** Using your indoor voice / **NOT:** Unintentional eavesdropping
- HOT:** The "Brit Pack" / **NOT:** Brit's bits
- HOT:** Smacking "that" / **NOT:** Smacking "her"
- HOT:** Gwen Stefani / **NOT:** Madonna
- HOT:** Dressing like a slutty Santa / **NOT:** The true meaning of Christmas

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes said by Joey Ryba in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and do not necessarily represent views held by Joey Ryba himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

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STREETER

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM SANTA THIS YEAR?



“Clones of my boyfriend.”
Simone Bern, second-year law



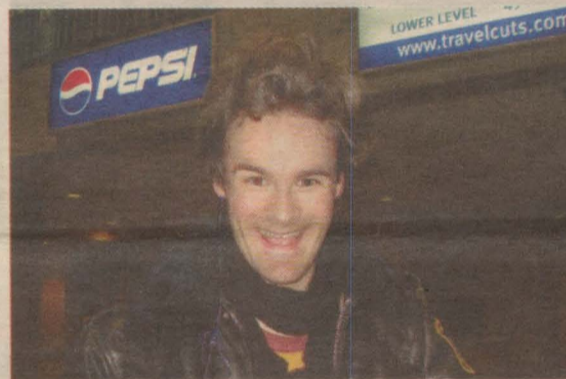
“Da Ali G Show complete series.”
Sarah Cooper, fourth-year English



“Her →”
Corey Yantha, second-year economics



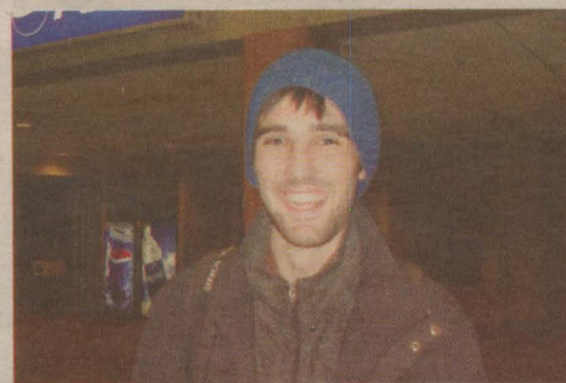
“← Him!”
Andi Sadowski, fourth-year sociology and IDS



“Peace of mind.”
Reese Bevan-John, second-year kinesiology



“I want a gas card for my car.”
Royan Doucette, fourth-year theatre



“Sex-slave hologram.”
Peter Smith, fourth-year biology



“A new fart machine... all my older ones aren't working anymore because I rectum.”
Joey Ryba, fourteenth-year bondage

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Flying too close to the sun

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Staff Contributor

Little over a year ago Hwang Woo-Suk's career started to fall apart. The South Korean scientist had been heralded as a pioneer in the field of stem cell research for being the first to clone human embryonic stem cells, and for creating the world's first cloned dog, Snuppy.

On Dec. 15, 2005, one of Hwang's colleagues revealed that the esteemed scientist had fabricated the stem cell colonies used in his landmark paper, which had been published in the journal *Science*. Later that month, the allegations were confirmed, though Snuppy was confirmed to be genuine.

The public outcry was tremendous: Hwang was a folk hero in South Korea, a rock star of science. In February, a South Korean truck driver coated himself in paint thinner and lit himself on fire in protest.

"The View from Within: Does science trust itself?" was the second lecture in the Trust in Science series, presented by a joint effort between University of King's College and the Atlantic School of Theology. The talk, held at Ondaatje Hall in the FASS on Thursday, November 30, was given by Dr. David Scadden, co-director of stem cell research at Harvard. Scadden spoke about stem cell research, scientific method and his own experiences working in this new and very controversial field.

Embryonic stem cell research is a bright sun burning in the sky of scientific research, Scadden said — and with such potential, scientists could be tempted, as Icarus was,



Hwang Woo-Suk lied about cloning research in the hopes that by the time anyone tried to repeat his experiments, the technology would be available to produce the results without the falsehoods.

to use his father's wings and fly too close. Scadden said he believes that Hwang was motivated to lie about his research because he wanted to be the first, and that Hwang thought that by the time anyone tried to repeat his experiments, the technology would be able to produce the results without the falsehoods.

When a scientist is caught lying, his or her fall from grace in the scientific community is long and permanent. Though rare, these events are just as painful for the community as they are for the individual. Opportunity is misused, and the integrity and trust that exists between

peers — upon which all scientists depend — becomes compromised.

Scientific knowledge is unique in that the truth is not set in stone, but is subject to change as new information is produced or discovered. Scientific theories are, for the most part, not contrived in single, brilliant moments of Eureka by individual scientists, but developed over a long period of time, built up by smaller observations and finally pieced together to form a conclusion. For that, scientists must trust their peers. In the end, said Scadden, all knowledge is a combination of both faith and reason.



We would assume our true independence, our country's adulthood and our democracy's true nature would be revealed. We're of a republic.

Off With Her Head (from our money)!

JIMMY KAPCHES
Staff Contributor

Her Majesty might be a pretty nice girl, but we don't need her as head of state any longer. My friends, our constitutional monarchy makes us appear less of a democracy and much more like a *democracy*. Look at it this way, fellow Canadians; we're a country governed by (sometimes) responsible adults. Why do we need a monarch at the top of the ceremonial power structure? Frankly we don't, and her head should be off our cash. And this is coming from United Empire Loyalist stock.

Let us start with the Governor General. Our head of state, at least on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, is ideally a cultural icon. The Governor General is chosen on the basis of merit, not lineage. Likewise, our prime minister is not chosen on the basis of lineage, either. If the P.M. spot was, we, the strong people of a world-class democracy, would have a royal freak out. To think that a son or daughter of John A. Macdonald would have been given rights to be the head of our country is as unfathomable today as it would have been then.

So why then are we bracing for Charles to take his place on our cash?

If Prime Minister Harper can pay for reconciliation with all the Chinese who worked so diligently on the great railroads, why can't he give them a bank note of their own? What about the glories of the many First Nations' People? That we retain the Queen as our regent is the same as saying that we as a country have little or nothing of our own to believe in. What about multiculturalism? What about our great heroes like Nellie McClung, Portia White, Agnes McPhail, Terry Fox, Tommy Douglas and Tecumseh? Do they not deserve to be on our money more than that cross-Atlantic queen who got the job by an accident of history?

To take the Queen off our cash would be a truly monumental act.

We would assume our true independence, and our country's adulthood and our democracy's true nature would be revealed; we're a republic. In the New Republic of Canada, our merits, the merits of our grandmothers and grandfathers and the many merits of our children would create sovereignty.

Quebec wouldn't need to worry about being a nation in the New Nation of Canada. "Les Québécois" would not be a cultural minority. Quebec would instead be a well-recognized organ in a well-functioning body. Would a right arm ever demand itself distinguished as separate from the body itself?

The First Nations people would not need to fear unjust and inequitable land seizures of the past; everyone could come to the table anew and build our very best version of Canada from scratch.

To Queen Bess' credit, she's never been in the way of Canada's business. Politically, the Queen has no sway or say, save for her habit of sending letters to the odd centenarian Canadian.

And it's not like England could get us into trouble against our will. Certainly, Canadians would have been involved in both world wars without being subjects of England; fighting for what we perceive to be a just cause is pretty Canadian.

But do we need an outdated monarchy to tell us this?

If treason (nay, High Treason if you believe this to be an offence against the Queen's authority) is what it takes to shake the dust off our Canada, let's do it. We are ready, fiscally and socially, to take ownership of our successes and our failures. We need no parent, no emissary from God, sitting far above us across the cold and desolate wastes of the ocean. This is our country, and unless we move away from archaic and insignificant historical accidents, we will always be stuck in a rut.

Besides, does anyone really want Charles and Camilla on the twenty-dollar bill?

Attention Students

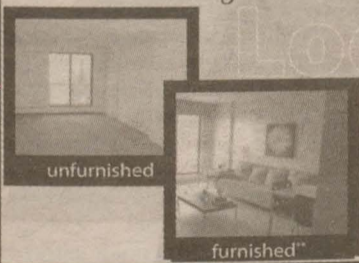
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Potato
Llama
Llama Llama
Mushroom
Llama
Llama Llama
Duck

I Was Once A Treehouse
I Lived In A Cake
But I Never Saw The Way
The Orange Slayed The
Rake
I Was Only Three Years
Dead
But It Told A Tale
And Now Listen, Little Child
To The Safety Rail

Letters@dalgazette.ca

Faulty Game Theory

I am writing in response to the article entitled "Poker skills can pay the bills" (*Gazette* 139-11). Although I recognize that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, I was compelled to write a response because of numerous claims made in the article that are both misleading and misinformed.

The unfortunate reality is that young adults are participating in gambling in record numbers. Contrary to Li Dong's suggestion in the article, some are losing more than they can afford. In the 2003 Nova Scotia Gambling Prevalence Study, young adults age 19 to 24 are identified as having the highest risk of developing a gambling problem. In addition, their participation in sports betting, Breakopen tickets, VLTs and casino table games is significantly higher than any other age group. Although the majority of Nova Scotians who gamble do so without a problem, the truth is that anyone can develop a gambling problem, regardless of their age, education level or gambling activity of choice.

Gambling, by definition, entails risking something of value on an activity with an uncertain outcome. This means that poker is gambling, regardless of whether you are playing at a casino, online, or at home with friends. It is not, as suggested by your writer, a "100 per cent a game of skill."

Although skill is most certainly a factor in being able to play the game well, the outcome is ultimately out of the players' control. Each player at the table does choose which cards to play or fold, and when to bet or check, but they do *not* have control over the decisions of the other players or over the cards that are dealt.

The myth that gambling outcomes can be influenced is a common one, but that does not make it true. Gambling is a form of entertainment and under no circumstances should it be viewed as a way of making money. Suggesting to your readership that "poker skills can pay the bills" is both irresponsible and misinformed. The risks associated with gambling should not be taken lightly.

Contrary to Li Dong's concluding statement, there is more involved in gambling responsibly than expecting people will inherently know "where to draw the line." Among other things, gambling responsibly is about setting limits, balancing gambling with other social activities, only gambling with money you can afford to lose, and understanding that the odds of winning are always against you.

Laura Melanson
Project Manager,
Prevention Programs
Nova Scotia Gaming
Corporation

Sex-Discrimination

Victoria Jones begins her letter (*Gazette* 139-13) by asking if Josip Vaci is physiologically-capable of bearing a child, and proceeds to tell us that those who cannot should simply bow out of the abortion debate. She seems unaware that the personal characteristics of an individual have no bearing whatsoever on an argument's validity, unless used as part of that individual's argument.

Rather than respond to the points raised by Mr. Vaci, Jones chose to invalidate them based solely on the sex of their author — a poor decision made all the more amusing when one realizes Mr. Vaci's article was itself derived from a speech by a pro-life woman. I suspect Ms. Jones is already aware of the fallacy here; surely, she would not apply her argument to a woman who had passed through menopause, or undergone a hysterectomy, or was unable to bear children for any other reason.

Ms. Jones had ample opportunity to point out the flaws in Mr. Vaci's argument. Unfortunately, she decided that it was easier to tell him he was not allowed to speak than to respond to what he might have had to say.

Jonathan Doyle

Indie Issues

I would first like to admonish Rafal Adronowski (editor-in-chief at *The Gazette*) for not handing Sarah Mortimer's article "What is... Indie?" (*Gazette* 139-11) off to Li Dong (opinions editor), whose jurisdiction it clearly falls under. Rather, "What is... Indie?" found its way into the Arts & Culture section and appeared as a piece of reporting, instead of the bitter tirade that it clearly was.

The basic theses of Mortimer's article state that "indie as an idea supports notions of individuality and anti corporatism" (Mortimer, you are describing the punk aesthetic, not indie); and, "the tenants of indie culture often require sacrificing one's true appreciation of art in favour of more obscure media" (to suggest that you, Mortimer, know what people really think about art despite what they may say, is unbelievably arrogant). The venom also drips: "...indies tend to support art based on its relative obscurity instead of its overall quality" (so true, I only listen to the tapes my neighbour records on his boom box in his bedroom); and again she goes on: "in hopes of maintaining their 'originality,' indies increasingly censor their personal tastes in order to impress others" (yep, I really do worship at the altar of Nickelback. I hope none of my friends read this).

While the term "indie" is a derivative of "independent," its meaning has broadened, very much like every other pop culture idiom thrown around with abandon today. Similarly, the term "alternative" was used in the early 90s to describe a certain brand of music that was alternative to the mainstream. Said music was quickly adopted by the mainstream but the terminology remains, because it is useful, despite having lost most of its original meaning.

Indie culture is as diverse and relevant as any other identifiable culture. The persons that Mortimer describes (shallow, insecure and completely unoriginal in their vain attempt at originality) exist in all walks of life and in all types of social groupings. To suggest that such people populate the better parts of the indie scene (a scene that in my experience consists of the well educated and thoughtful, who care very much about art) is profoundly naive.

Yours,
Robin Lindsay

Arts & Culture Editor: **Saman Jafarian**

Assistant Editor: **Laura Trethewey**

Contact: arts@dalgazette.ca

<http://www.illwillpress.com/cds.html>

A cartoon squirrel ranting about CDs — what more could you want?
SAMAN JAFARIAN, Arts Editor

Friday, Dec. 15 @ Stage Nine

The Tom Fun Orchestra, Carmen Townsend and the Shakey Deals & Horses
LAURA TRETHERWEY, Assistant Arts Editor

Editors' picks of the week



All I want for Christmas is a higher GPA and a cute pair of shoes.

All I want for Christmas...

ANGELICA BLENICH
Staff Contributor

Dear Santa,

How good is good?

Another year has come and gone and I find myself sitting in the exact same position as last year, trying to come up with reasonable excuses as to why I really do deserve the things on my wish list.

Santa, I can explain. I've been writing my wish list to you since I was three years old, and no matter what offences I might have committed during the year, nothing will stop me from believing that you'll come through for me.

So my dear Santa, sit back and relax while I tell you what I *really* want for Christmas this year.

For starters, I would really like to

get my university degree this coming May. For the past three and a half years, I've been working really hard...ahem... I've been working hard... well, anyway, I've been in school for three and a half years and I really think I deserve it. I realize that I occasionally put off writing my essays and studying until the last minute, but coffee was invented for a reason, right?

Anyhow, it's time for me to get out into the real world, and having a degree associated with my name would really help. You could even throw in a strong GPA if you're feeling extra generous.

Second, I could use a little romance in my life. Nothing spectacular or reminiscent of a Julia Roberts movie — just something to get me through awkward Christmas din-

ners when I'm forced to avoid Aunt Christine who's only interested in asking about my love life.

And finally, my jolly old friend up in the north, what I really want this Christmas doesn't need gift wrapping and it definitely doesn't come with a receipt. What I want more than anything is quality time with my family and friends; a few Kodak moments of friends reminiscing over hot chocolate, and a Christmas morning filled with festive love and joy.

So Santa, I'm leaving the rest up to you. I'm sending this letter with complete faith that you won't let me down. And, just in case you're wondering, throwing in a cute pair of shoes never hurts.

Humbly yours,
Angelica Blenich

Sex with Hugh

The P's and Q's of 'friend sex'

HUGH WALLACE
Sex Contributor

As adults, we sometimes search for sex in some pretty risky places. One of the best alternatives for members of the lonely hearts club is to search for sex in a safe, no-strings attached and potentially fulfilling place — your friend pool.

Hear me out.

Friend sex is usually a pretty fantastic endeavour, especially if both parties are ready for a just-for-kicks kind of interaction. It's safe because you are doing it with someone you trust and know. Although some objections to this safety may exist, I believe that friend sex can be entirely safe and enjoyable for many reasons.

To begin with, friend sex means you are having sex with someone you trust and are, for the most part, comfortable with.

This is great because it brings an element of fun into the bedroom that is often difficult to attain with that guy or girl you brought home from the bar. Laughter is one of the best things you can experience while having sex — but that is a different story.

Sex with a friend can be no-strings-attached. It can leave all the emotion normally associated with relationships out of the picture, which is nice, particularly when you

want to simply experience pleasure.

Friend sex can also be more comfortable (and even hilarious) because there are often no expectations of perfect performance. There are no awkward moments from either partner's uncertainty of the affection of the other; you know you like each other, and in what way.

With friend sex, the walk of shame becomes a regular walk home.

Some of us already sleep over at our friends' houses, especially after a sloppy night of intoxication. But there's no suspicion regarding whether or not you slept together. For many, friend sex is not only the best sex, but often the least suspicious. Friend sex can be hidden and passed off as many other things. If you look around at your friends, can you tell which of them have been having co-ed sleepovers lately? And if you could tell, does it or should it even matter? Probably not.

I'm not suggesting that everyone should go out, grab a friend, jump into the haystack and have a hoe-down. There's also some difficulty associated with the realm of friend sex.

The trickiest part about friend sex is the fact that after it's done, you are still just two friends.

The perfect balance between friends and sexual playmates represents a fine line between bliss and the demise of a friendship.

It's important, as pleasure seekers, to keep a watchful eye on our emotions, especially if you are a habitual partaker of friend sex. I urge you to step with caution into the taking of friends as lovers — you may end up with neither a friend nor a lover.

Another difficulty involves keeping your sweet little friend tête-à-têtes a secret. It's not a particularly good feeling if you hear about how hot your trysts are from another friend in your group.

On top of that, it's just poor form to go around sharing intimate details about sexual encounters with heaps of people, and it has the potential to cause friend rivalries or group discomforts.

While friend sex is enjoyable for many reasons, understand the complications that may arise. It's important that both of you are willing, respectful participants. If you start to feel yourself getting emotionally involved, discuss this change with your friend. They are, after all, a shoulder to lean on.

(Then again, they can also be a shoulder to do something entirely different on.)

I received a question! I'm no longer a virgin. I would like to receive more. Comments are also appreciated and welcome. Reach me at sex@dalgazette.ca.



Q & A with TROBIZ

CHRISTINA STEFANSKI
 Staff Contributor

Tremayne Howe's musical interest began at an early age. He learned from his father, Coleman Howe, a bandleader and guitar player, and his mother, Muzz Marshall, a soul singer in Halifax. Using the name TROBIZ, Howe developed his career as a producer, emcee and composer.

TROBIZ has produced albums for many well-known Canadian artists, including Classified, Universal Soul, Shy Luv, Kalib Symonds and Tara Chase. He has also shared the stage with artists such as DJ Jazzy Jeff, Kardinal Offishall, Choclair, Saukrates, Thrust and Solitaire. His music is recognized all over the world and he has a significant fan base in the United States, Europe and Taiwan.

The production on his first solo album, *The Beginning*, is an eclectic blend of soul, rap and R&B. TROBIZ's video for his club banger song, "Do What You Do," is now featured on Much Music.

The Gazette sat down with TROBIZ to discuss where his love for music began and how he wants to share this love with artists in Halifax.

Gazette: What musicians have influenced you, other than your family?

TROBIZ: When I really got interested in making beats a lot of people were using the old samples, like James Brown. I became real interested in making that old Motown sound, like Pete Rock and CL Smooth and [J-Dilla]. I also love Common's music. I rock their music and combine my ideas with theirs.

Gazette: What instruments do you incorporate into your musical production?

TROBIZ: I make my beats right on the spot with live music. I play keyboard, bass, guitar, shakers and percussion. Whether we sample the song or play it, I try to find a pocket.

I started out sampling music. I got my first sampler from Sixtoo (Rob Squire) who showed me how to use it and from there I started to make my own beats. With [sampling] you have limitations; you have to hide your sample and chop it a certain way. I got tired of having restraints and I started noticing that guys aren't really sampling everything [they play on stage].

Gazette: How do you decide what kind of sounds you will incorporate into your beats when you produce different genres of music?

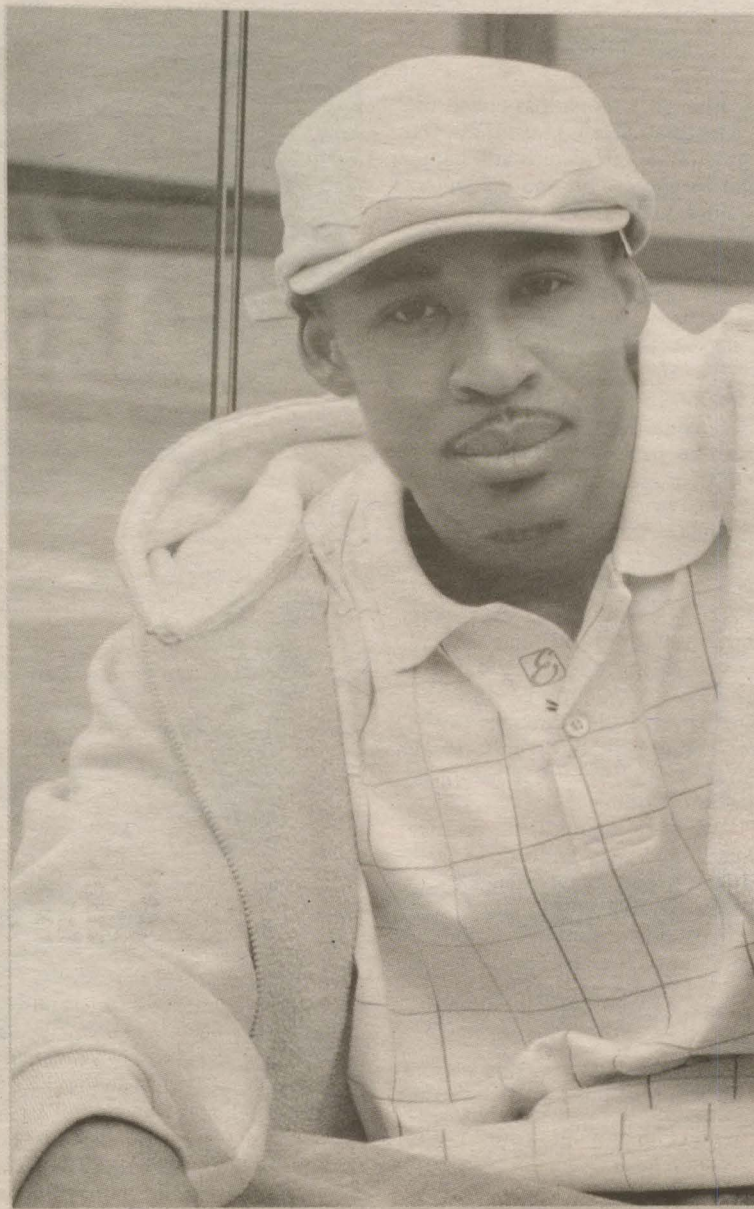
TROBIZ: I try to find something that I can develop on my own and then spin off from that. I do that for everything I hear. If I hear a jazz riff that sounds cool, I see if I can translate it into something I do. I play the same riff over on keyboard and when I get a feel for it, I can turn it around and do my own thing.

Gazette: How do you visualize your music when you are both producing and writing the same track?

TROBIZ: With the production of my own hip-hop beats, my father allows me to [hear my lyrics over the music]. We've written slow tracks and messed around with them and they sound like something that came from an old record because of the feel he has for it, considering he's from the 60s and 70s.

Gazette: What musical projects did you do before *The Beginning*?

TROBIZ: The first album I did was with Tackfishion [Tracey Williams from Universal Soul]. We pressed 50



Halifax's TROBIZ gets ready to release his first solo album. / Photo: Andrew Tench

copies and it was more of a demo. I never counted it as an official release of mine. The other one is Trobiz Unreleased. Some tracks ended up on snowboard videos, skateboard videos and people started asking me for music. These opportunities came up out of the blue.

With *The Beginning*, I took my time to record it and it's a solo project as far as the emceeing on it. I did most of the production, aside from some help I got from my family on guitar parts.

Gazette: How did living in Montreal affect your musical development?

TROBIZ: In 1991, I wasn't in the right spot so I went to Montreal to clear my head and get myself back on track. I wasn't really playing around with the music as much. I was doing a little emceeing but I wasn't trying to record and invest in music. I was more into the basketball thing and music was more of a hobby.

After that I ended up coming back to Halifax because I thought I was ready to set my mind on my goals, which was to open up a barbershop and have a place to focus on my music.

Gazette: Did this affect your music career?

TROBIZ: I gather a lot of contacts through people who come into the shop and spread the word or converse about what they want to do. I got my first video through a client at the barbershop. It's a good spot for me to advertise my music. The people that come in help get my word out and they help bring information back to me.

Music should be outside the box. It's a matter of where you're at and who you're working with.

Gazette: Have you encouraged your son to pursue music?

TROBIZ: I have a seven-year-old son who is a good keyboard man and can sing and rap; he has a couple rap

tracks. I can't wait until he releases his own. I have to give him a little bit of music and see what he wants to do with it.

You have to pass it on to the kids and that's what this whole thing is about more than selling albums. It's about trying to build a stepping-stone to make other people believe that they can actually succeed from the beginning of their first creation.

My focus is on getting Nova Scotian artists who have talent to feel a little more confident. It starts with a guy like me to encourage them by taking the producer role. I want to give them an avenue and an outlet to try for themselves and build up the province.

Gazette: How do you personally contribute to the progress of aspiring artists?

TROBIZ: I keep my studio affordable and I always carry my [recording equipment] with me. I try to keep my ears open for anything we should be recording.

The Beginning is based on the concept of starting clean and not using other people's music. It's about building your own music to show people that, if you have enough time and energy, you can recreate your own sound and put it out in Halifax. It's not a fluke if someone does well, it's because it's actually a good product.

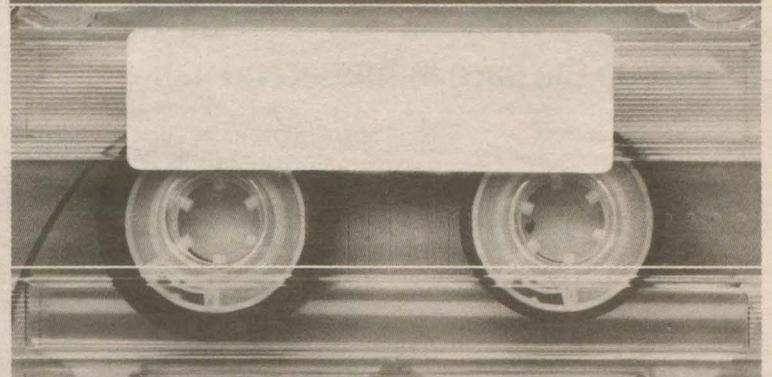
A lot of guys feel that there is limited chance in a small city. To make it more believable, we need more now. There are a lot of good artists, not just rappers, like Kalib Symonds and Jordan Croucher (JC).

Now here we are with a very eclectic hip-hop scene. If you work at it you can definitely bring attention to the province and to yourself through building projects.

The *Beginning* launch party will be held at Seahorse Tavern on Saturday, Dec. 9, @ 10 p.m. Cover is \$15, free if you already own the album.

For more information check out TROBIZ at www.myspace.com/trobiz

Burn Baby Burn



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...

SIDE A: Top 10 best untraditional Christmas songs / Angelica Blenich / Staff Contributor

Every year around Dec. 1, a wave of nostalgia washes over me as all the radio stations and shopping malls begin to play endless slews of Christmas songs.

Call me a sucker for cheesy bubblegum holiday tunes, but they never fail to put a smile on my face or an extra skip in my step.

This list of my favourite untraditional Christmas songs is sure to turn any party into a festive special occasion and any scrooge into a jolly holiday enthusiast.

So sip up that eggnog, warm up by the fire and be sure to stand under the mistletoe.

- Mariah Carey – "All I Want for Christmas is You"
- Marilyn Monroe – "Santa Baby"
- Joni Mitchell – "River"
- George Michael – "Last Christmas"
- Kelly Clarkson – "My Grown-Up Christmas List"
- Harry Connick Jr. – "When My Heart Finds Christmas"
- Dave Matthews Band – "The Christmas Song"
- Brenda Lee – "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"
- Jackson 5 – "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
- Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong – "Baby it's cold outside"

SIDE B: Top 10 best fake songs / Kate Robertson / Staff Contributor

I'm not anti-Christmas or anti-holidays, nor am I anti-commercialism. I love Christmas songs and choirs and carols. It's all community-building and I love togetherness and love and peace and love and songs and peace and love. I really do.

A lot of the tracks on Side A are about cashing in on the holidays. The artists listed there are trying to produce some semblance of a "wholesome" image to make up for last year's sex scandal. Or they're trying to sell a track by making Christmas about sex, which is even weirder.

So here's a reworked list of Side A's songs that is a bit more honest; either about the people who perform them, or the people who have to listen to them.

It's a gentle reminder that the holidays aren't always smooth sailing, that Santa isn't a hottie, and that some pop fans don't forget this easily.

- Mariah Carey – "All I Want is People to Forget About Glitter"
- Marilyn Monroe – "Santa's Not A Sex Symbol"
- Joni Mitchell – "This Isn't Really a Christmas Song, It's Just Really Good"
- George Michael – "Last Christmas I Fell Asleep at the Wheel and Got Arrested"
- Kelly Clarkson – "Gimme a Stylist for Christmas"
- Harry Connick Jr. – "When My Heart Finds a Career (Not Just a Cameo)"
- Dave Matthews Band – "I Can't Find My Sense of Humour Song"
- Brenda Lee – "Fighting Around the Christmas Dinner Table"
- Jackson 5 – "I Saw My Drunk Uncle Kissing Santa Claus"
- Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong – "Baby, CLIMATE CHANGE IS UPON US"

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Tiger Report

Some teams enjoy success while others aim to pick up the pace in the second half

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The first half of the 2006/2007 Atlantic University Sport (AUS) season has ended.

Here's a breakdown of the Tiger teams:

Women's soccer:

The women's soccer team finished third overall in AUS regular season play, one point behind UPEI — narrowly missing the first-round playoff bye. The squad was eliminated in the quarter-final by St. FX. 2-1 in penalty kicks at the AUS championship tournament, hosted by Cape Breton in early November.

Despite the tough loss against St. FX., a number of Tigers were recognized individually for their performance. Leanne Huck received the AUS MVP award and was selected as a first-team all-star. Her younger sister Jeannette Huck was named AUS rookie of the year and was selected as a second-team all-star. Veterans Rebecca Doyle and Katie Hollinshead were named to the first and second all-star teams respectively.

Men's soccer:

The men's soccer team finished fourth overall in the AUS conference and, like the women's team, the men's team just missed getting a first-round playoff bye. The team was eliminated by St. Mary's in penalty kicks at the AUS playoff tournament hosted by UNB. The team enjoyed success in the first half of the season, but was plagued by injuries throughout the second half, which led to its slide down the standings and early playoff exit.

Individually, two Tigers received awards. Captain Ryan Haughn was selected as an AUS first-team all-star and a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) first-team all-star as well. Veteran John Ballantyne was named to the second all-star team.

Women's cross-country:

The women's cross-country team finished second overall at the AUS championship at St. FX., one point behind the host team, and finished third overall at the CIS championship on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City at Laval University.

Janice Ashworth, Caroline McInnes and Rebecca Walker were the top three runners for the Tigers. McInnes, Ashworth and Walker finished first, second and fifth at the AUS championship. Ashworth was the top Dal runner at the national championship finishing sixth.

Men's cross-country:

The men's team also finished second overall at the AUS championship, one point behind St. FX.; the team also finished eighth overall at

the CIS championship.

Russell Christie, Rob Jewer and John Corbit were the top trio of runners and finished first, second and fifth individually at the Atlantic Championship. Jewer was Dal's top runner at the nationals finishing seventh overall.

Women's hockey:

The women's hockey team is in fourth place in the AUS, five points out of third. Veterans Leah Merkley and Kim Carcary are sixth and seventh in conference scoring with 15 and 13 points in 10 games respectively.

The Tigers are a young squad with 13 rookies and only three fourth-year players; they aim to keep pace in the second half of the season.

Men's hockey:

It's been a tough year for the men's hockey team. The Tigers are last overall and seven points out of a playoff spot. The team lost star recruit Mathieu Melanson, and goaltender Josh Disher missed most of the first half with a groin injury.

Third-year forward Jimmy Cuddihy is having a solid season and is seventh in conference scoring with 18 points. Sophomore forward Tom Zanoski has been named to the AUS all-stars and will represent Canada at the World University Games this January in Italy.

Women's basketball:

The women's basketball team is in first place overall and are undefeated at home. Veteran Kate McNeil is the Tiger's top scorer averaging 14 points per game. Rookie Alex Legge is having a solid season averaging 11.3 points per game.

Men's basketball:

The men's basketball team is sixth overall, four points out of third. Veteran Monte Francois leads the team in scoring averaging 14.1 points per game.

Women's volleyball:

It's been an uphill battle for the women's volleyball team. The squad finished the first half of the season with a 0-8 record. The team has definitely been hurt by the loss of Stacey Power, Jill Goulet, Leslie Marriot and Leah MacInnis.

Men's volleyball:

The men's volleyball team is undefeated in AUS play this season. The team also posted outstanding results in a number of interlock tournaments. The Tigers are impressive across the board with returning all-stars Jesse Mighton, Jeff Weiler and Nick Rademacher. The team aims to win a medal at nationals and have its strongest team in recent years.

Young team keeps pace in AUS

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

Although a tough loss ended the first half of the season, the Dal women's hockey team is still happy with its success on and off the ice — and is looking to its veteran players to lead the rookie squad through 2007.

Dal faced off against the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) leaders St. F. X. two weeks ago for the final game of 2006. The Tigers were defeated 4-1, but fourth-year starter and natural team leader Leah Merkley says the Tigers are happy with the results.

"They are a very skilled team," says Merkley. "Just for us to show up and play as well as we did, I mean it was 4-1 but it didn't feel like that at all, it felt a lot closer than the score says and I feel we finally stepped up and played to our potential."

The Tigers go into the mid-season break placed fourth in the AUS. Head coach Lesley Jordan says she was happy with the team's match versus St. F. X. and the fourth place position... for now.

"We are a young team and we have played well, and not so well, and have some inconsistency," says Jordan. "We finished very well, and we had a great game against Mt. Allison and an excellent game versus St. F. X. I think if we continue to play like that we will have success next semester."

The Tigers' success this season is no surprise. But Jordan says the team's lineup has provided a few surprises for opposing teams that aren't used to all the new faces. The Tigers added 13 rookies to the team this year. After the addition of 10 rookies in Merkley's first year in 2003/2004, she says she thought that was a lot... until she walked into the dressing room in September.

"It's interesting, but it's a good dynamic," says Merkley. "There are tons of them; they are taking over the world, but they are all on the same page and they work hard and they want to be there. They take on a lot of leadership from us, and our vets are showing them the way so that's good."

At the start of the season, Jordan said she was hesitant about every-one learning new systems.

But now things have fallen into place.

"We've had to take a few steps back just to sort of get things and



Offensive forward Leah Merkley plays an intense in your face brand of hockey. / Photo: Nick Pearce.

everybody up to speed," says Jordan. "But again I think that's just something we need to do and [the girls] are starting to see some success with it and buying into it all a little more. We have taken a couple of huge strides in the last couple of weeks, especially in our own zone, and I think that really helped us especially in the last weekend where we finished up so well."

Merkley says she has also seen some improvements from her teammates in the last few weeks.

"We have to work for everything we get, but we sort of have to put in the time and see how it goes," says Merkley. "Sometimes we're scared to see how good we actually are, but we're finally letting people know

what we're made of. It was fun [playing against St. F. X.]."

After their personal triumph versus St. F. X. and Mt. Allison, the Tigers will take a three-week hiatus and return to the ice on Dec. 27, facing off against Nova Scotia's under-18 Canada Games team. Although the break will be short, Jordan sees this as a great opportunity to practice.

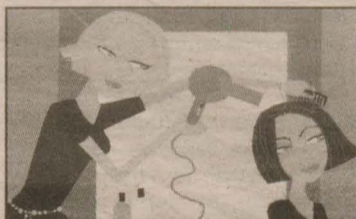
"It will be a great experience for our younger girls to get a little more time on the ice before we get into the second half of the season," says Jordan. "If anything, it's good for recruiting and good competition for us. I can tell; there are a lot of good things that are going to come out of it."

Athlete of the week



JIMMY CUDDIHY
HOCKEY

Jimmy Cuddihy's poise and leadership on the ice has been the contributing factor to the Tigers' recent success. The veteran forward was the first Tiger to score against the St. FX. X-Men on Nov. 29, helping rally the Tigers' from an early two-goal deficit by assisting on one more goal to tie the game. Despite dropping three overtime games, Cuddihy has been a major catalyst for the Tigers, keeping the team in the hunt through his three goals and three assists in just three games. Cuddihy is a third-year physics student from Aylmer, Que.



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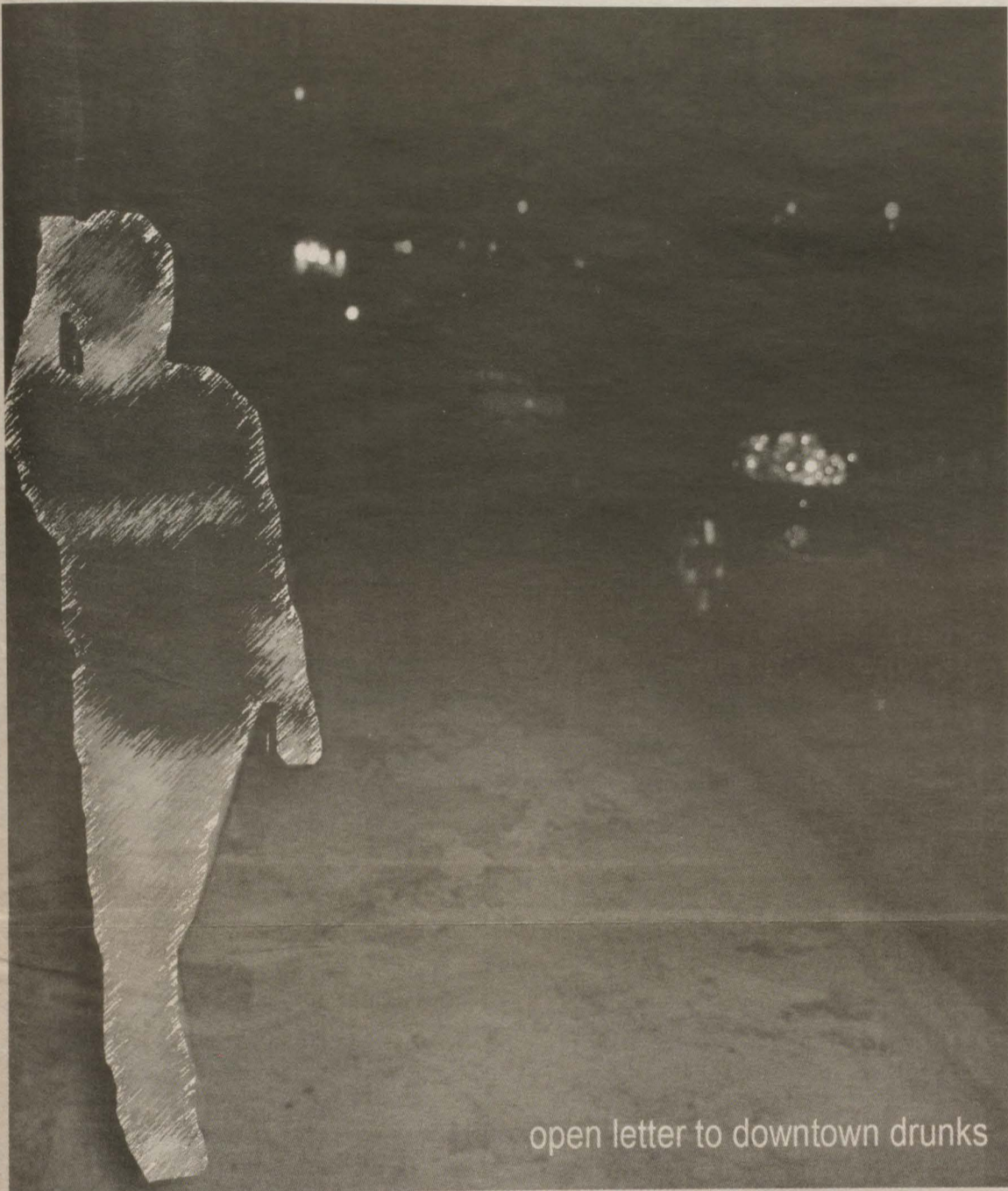
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open letter to downtown drunks

Open letter to downtown drunks

We are all guilty of it at some point. That time downtown when you are so drunk that the brain stops running yet the body just keeps on going. You convince yourself that walking home from the bar will be a great time and cure all your problems. You begin the trek by talking with what seems to be longtime friends you just met that night. You tell them stories that you know you are going to regret in the morning, but you still go ahead and belt them at full volume to the world.

The point of this letter is not to rain on your drunken parade but stress the importance of leaving downtown the way it was when you

were sober. What are you accomplishing by knocking over that mailbox on the way home? Sure, it makes a great sound when it falls over but what about the mailmen and women. Just stop for once and have some compassion for the people that have to clean up your drunken mess. This is your downtown and you don't know how many people you are affecting when you decide to vandalize it.

I happen to have a perfect example of this. Last Saturday, a group of downtown drunks decided that it would be absolutely hilarious to break into an event tent on Spring Garden road. They tore down lighting, smashed it to pieces and stole a

fire extinguisher. This escapade was topped off by knocking over a 100 lb propane tank, opening the valve and filling the 40ft by 40ft tent with propane. Now this is a horrific safety hazard that thankfully did not kill anyone but did steal money for innocent children in the HRM. These downtown drunks had vandalized the tent for a charity event that was to happen the next day. This group of downtown drunks have prevented underprivileged kids in the HRM from having a gift under the tree this year and almost killed someone.

So, next time you have one of those nights downtown, just walk your hammered ass home...

Vietnam Joins the WTO Hootenanny!: Turns out it's not that fun

On Tuesday, November 7, 2006 Vietnam was admitted into the World Trade Organization. Immediately the free market hyenas started barking.

The International Monetary Fund forecasted 8% GDP growth for 2006 and praised new opportunities for foreign direct investment in the country. Our own Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with Vietnamese PM Nguyen Tan Dung to express hopes that Vietnam will create cozy conditions for Canadian businesses to expand. British Trade and Industry Minister Nigel Griffiths warned Hanoi that their acceptance into the WTO "will count for nothing" unless foreign business is free from pesky market divergences like import/export taxes and labour regulations. And on November 19, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe brought 100 elite Japanese entrepreneurs on a two-day visit to evaluate trade and investment opportunities.

Sounds about right. "The solution to your backwardness," we say, "is to have more of us and less of you."

So with all this potential influx of new money into the Vietnamese economy, why do you get the sense that I'm complaining? Probably because you're used to articles in student newspapers badmouthing capitalism, badmouthing the WTO, and badmouthing Stephen Harper. Probably also because I referred to the IMF and Northern governments as "free market hyenas" earlier. And probably because I am complaining. Worry not; I have my reasons. Assuming the end goal of industrialization is a good one (an article in its own right), there are still convincing reasons to believe that goal unachievable under the current order.

There is no longer room in the increasingly homogenous global economy for divergences that attempt to ensure Vietnamese ownership of its economic fate - divergences like restrictions on incoming and outgoing FDI, land redistribution to the poor, or government subsidies sustaining "uncompetitive" industries. The fear of communism, it would seem, has given way to consumerism as the great ideological basis of Northern foreign affairs. Without relinquishing its sovereignty to foreign capital, Vietnam would have remained isolated economically and politically. So it joined the WTO on the promise of market openings in the industrial capitalist countries, but at the price of drastically and constitutionally reducing protection of domestic industries. This means there can be no enforcement of Vietnamese ownership, which means those in charge of Vietnamese industrialization are, in fact, necessarily self-interested foreigners who absorb the wealth generated by industry with no reassurance that any of it will be reinvested in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, without the "artificial" protection of government, even free-market advocates warn that a third of Vietnamese farmers - who are about 60% of the Vietnamese workforce - may lose their jobs as a result of the country's ad-

mission into the WTO, with particular difficulty for livestock producers. "Why livestock?" you ask. "What a convenient segue into Northern free trade hypocrisy," I reply.

Livestock is notoriously subsidized in the North (2003 figures were \$2,000USD/head in the EU), leaving Vietnamese farmers both unprotected and at a major competitive disadvantage. Significantly, livestock industries in the North, thanks to their enormous subsidies, routinely dump their products into Southern countries at prices below the domestic cost of production. An influx of dairy products means a collapse in prices and, most significantly, lost livelihoods for Vietnamese livestock farmers.

To highlight again the North's unwillingness to share the burden of the open markets it speaks so fondly of, earlier this year the European Union accused Vietnam and China of dumping shoes on European markets, much as they have been doing to Southern markets with dairy and other products. The EU reacted with an import duty on Vietnamese and Chinese shoes of almost 20%.

So it would appear that the restrictions that come with WTO admission are being applied to Vietnam, but not the EU. It makes sense: the WTO makes decisions by member vote, meaning that the more politically powerful a country is the more influence it has in decisions. These decisions, meanwhile, impact people who did not elect these representatives and to whom they are unaccountable. Furthermore, punishment for non-compliance consists of restricting international trade. Therefore, the EU, in its non-compliance, might face lost trade with tiny Vietnam. Vietnam, if it were to disobey the WTO, would almost certainly lose trade with the mega-bucks, mega-technology, and mega-meds of the EU.

Vietnamese rice farmers, unlike their cattle-herding neighbours, are predicted to benefit from new export opportunities. But without the growth of other agricultural options, this will lead to reduced economic diversity as financial viability becomes limited to export crops like rice and palm oil. The result is a Vietnam increasingly dependent on fluctuating (and frequently protectionist) foreign markets. Oh, and foreign food imports since most domestic food crops are economically unfeasible.

So even if Vietnam achieves 8% growth for 2006, and experiences an enormous increase in foreign investment, economists must ask who will guide that growth and who will benefit from it? The answer to both, it would appear, is the global investor rather than the local producer. Development practitioners must then ask, is this really development?

With the WTO in charge, that sounds about right.

Adam Linnard is a student in International Development Studies and Editor-in-Chief for Dalhousie's Engineers Without Borders.

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