

FREE

139-16 / January 11th - January 18th, 2007

Dalhousie Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

**DIRTY POETS:  
OUT OF THE STUDIO AND  
ONTO THE STAGE**  
PG. 10



**DSU CHANGES GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE PG. 4**  
**MEDIA DISPLAYS BIAS PG. 7**  
**TRACK AND FIELD SHOWS OFF PG. 14**



# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Tigerbooks.ca:

With a new term comes new classes and the biannual trip to the bookstore. Before you drop up to five hundred dollars on new textbooks check out the Dalhousie Student Union's online book exchange service at [www.tigerbooks.ca](http://www.tigerbooks.ca). With more than 11,000 listings, it's the easiest way to find and sell used textbooks on campus.

## Society Shopping:

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11am-3pm, students and members of the Dalhousie Community are encouraged to stop by the McInnes Room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building to "shop" for a society. The Society Shopping Gala (formerly known as the 'Society Fair') is a chance for societies to strut their stuff to prospective members; it's also an opportunity for students to 'shop' for societies they would like to get involved with. If you are looking for something fun, interesting or bizarre to do this term, be sure to stop by the McInnes room on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Stephen Lewis:

Days following the completion of his five-year term as United Nations special envoy for HIV-AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis will be speaking at the Dalhousie Student Union Building. On Tuesday, January 16 at 7PM Lewis will give a talk titled: "The Silent Struggle: Race and Gender Issues". Unfortunately, tickets to this event are sold out, but there will be a live video feed set up in the Grawood. Space in the Grawood is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis so be sure to get there early. This event is made possible through a partnership with SHOUT.

The next meeting of the DSU Council is January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Council meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

## Faith Fair

On Monday, January 15, 2007, the chaplains and religious societies at Dalhousie University will host Faith Fair III from 10 am until 4:00 pm in the Dalhousie Student Union Building. The Fair which is held the day after World Religion Day is meant to acknowledge the University's religious diversity and welcomes all who are curious about faith and the variety of faith communities and societies at Dalhousie. There will be representatives from the Dalhousie Chaplaincy Office (including various Christian denominations, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim traditions), religious societies on campus (Campus for Christ, Catholic Christian Outreach, Dalhousie Christian Fellowship and the Navigators) and information on Aboriginal and Black spirituality. A number of presentations will be held throughout the day: Yoga and Faith, Jewish Spirituality, a panel of professors exploring the interrelationship of Faith and Learning, and others. For details contact [chaplain@dal.ca](mailto:chaplain@dal.ca).

See you around campus. Stop by, or call anytime,  
Ezra Edelstein  
DSU President  
Room 222 SUB  
[dsupres@dal.ca](mailto:dsupres@dal.ca)  
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# Gazette



Drop off original poetry, short stories, essays or artwork in the *The Gazette* mailbox on the 3rd floor of the SUB or leave it at the Info Desk in the SUB care of *The Gazette* by 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, 2007.

Entries may also be submitted to [gazettearts@gmail.com](mailto:gazettearts@gmail.com).

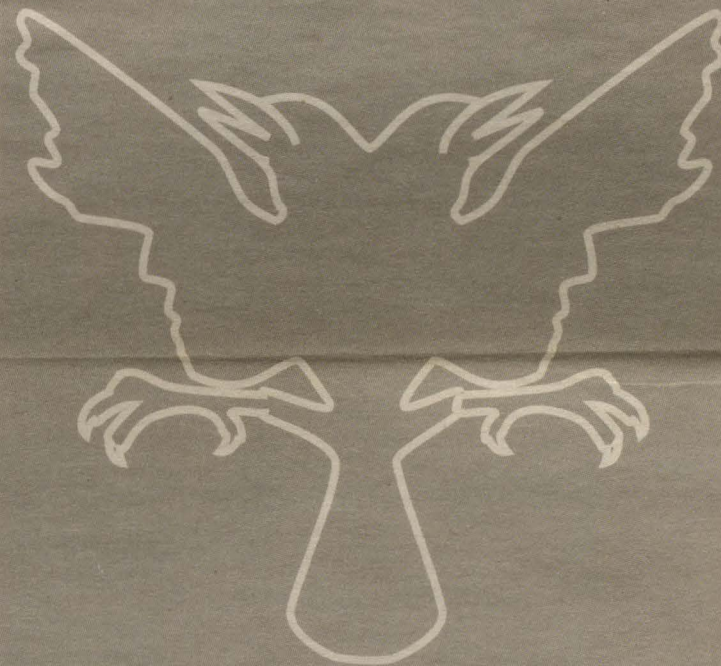
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Submissions will be edited to match *The Gazette's* spelling and punctuation style. *The Gazette* reserves the right to not publish entries deemed inappropriate.

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# 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.

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 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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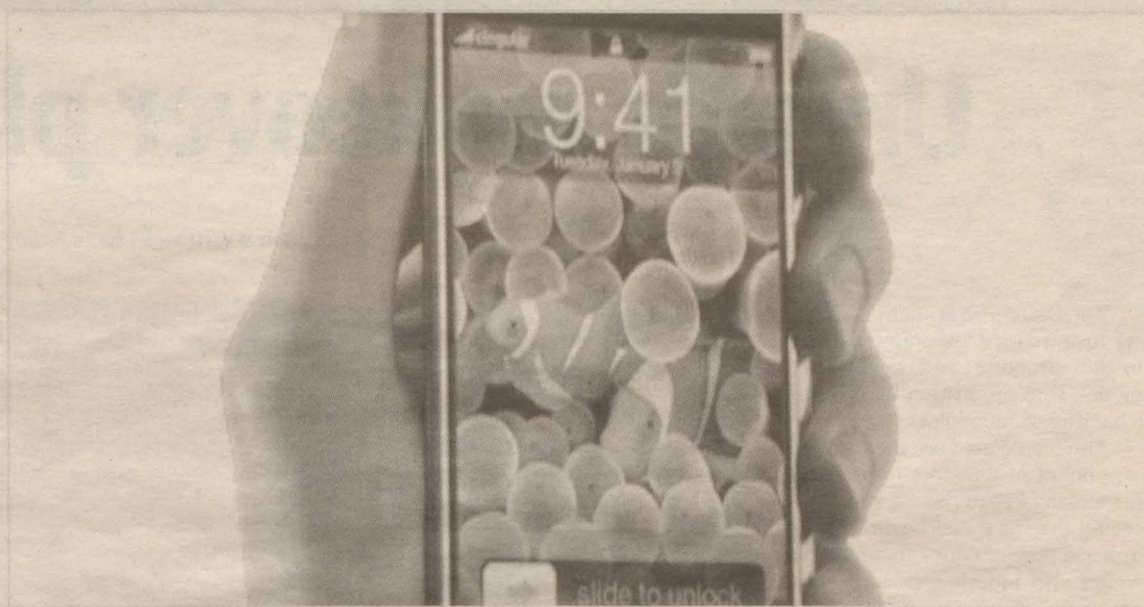
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All contributions in this issue of The Gazette were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Andrew Bernardo, Madeleine Carter, Catherine Holloway, Saman Jafarian, Hugh Wallace, Cameron McCue and Claire Esler.

The next contributor meeting will take place January 15th 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.



## Apples & Oranges

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI  
Editor-in-Chief

Ctrl-R.  
Ctrl-R.

Maybe F5 will have more success? I hit refresh for the umpteenth time. Disappointment, again, as Firefox loaded my page instantly. No new content yet. I keep on refreshing, hoping for an update to the live feed from the Macworld Expo.

The annual Macworld Expo and, more specifically, Steve Jobs' keynote speech have become major technological events in the 21st century. Not that long ago, (1984, actually, which is a long time ago, but not really) Apple introduced the world to stable, efficient computers. Despite a miniscule percentage of the personal computer market, Macs are still the major player in graphics, design and photography productions.

More recently, the computer manufacturer introduced the iPod, single-handedly revolutionizing portable digital audio. The sleek, stylish iPod ushered in a new era of lifestyle accessorizing, quickly becoming a "must-have" item.

(The iPod had over 85 per cent of the market share for the first few years. It has since dropped, at the end of 2006, hovering around 75 per cent of the US market share, accord-

ing to Apple.)

There were computers before the Mac came along, just as there were mp3 players before the iPod.

But they don't work half as well as the Apple products. Or look anywhere near as good.

And now Apple is at it again.

When the webpage finally refreshed and photos of the iPhone appeared, I was stunned. I skimmed over the features and spent a good 15 minutes staring in awe.

The iPhone, like the iPod before it, is a breakthrough in minimalist interface and design. All you need to operate the device is a finger or two. No buttons, no little keyboards, just a large touch-screen. Clean, simple lines combine with high-tech styling and materials for a truly beautiful piece of technology.

Like the iPod, this is not a device to be shoved into a pocket or purse, only to be taken out for use. It's a piece of modern art that happens to include some useful functions.

In the iPhone, these functions include, among other features, e-mail, voicemail, Google maps, a web-browser, a 2-megapixel camera, a built-in iPod for music, videos and photos, weather information and, of course, a phone.

Simply said, a cell phone, iPod and computer all rolled into one.

It's uplifting to see that there are

still companies out there willing to take some risks and design something different. Our lives are full of objects that largely look the same. Every PC laptop looks like a PC laptop. Every mp3 player looks like an mp3 player. Every smart phone looks like every other smart phone.

But take a look at the Macs, the iPods and, now, the iPhones. Each of these products can be picked out from afar because they are different and stand out.

Apple claims to have spent two and a half years developing the iPhone. The time appears well spent on a product that throws the company into the forefront of smart phone design and user interface friendliness, even if it doesn't offer any radical new features. The new product is certain to force other manufacturers to push their designs in an attempt to match Apple's offering.

Imagine how much better, more colourful and more fun the world would be if other manufacturers took some initiative and risks, and developed their own corporate ideology and image instead of waiting for someone else to come along so they can "borrow" their ideas.

We can all learn at least that from Apple.

Now if only they'd start designing household appliances. An iBlender, anyone?

# Gazette

**Volunteer Meetings**

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# Union's makeover plans on target

REID SOUTHWICK | News Editor

The Dalhousie Student Union is set to introduce sweeping changes to its structure and governance model, with opposition from a just a handful of councillors.

The plan would see the creation of a board of directors responsible for making key decisions and overseeing the "financial health" of the organization. Four committees would also inherit increased powers, a development officials said would increase the speed of union business and cut down on red tape.

DSU Vice President (Internal) Chris Ide, a chief architect of the proposal, said the union is in great need of organizational change.

"The DSU hasn't changed its governance structure in years," said Ide. "It says something when we've continued to grow as an organization but we haven't allowed our governance structure to grow along with it."

DSU council voted 11 to 1 in favour of the proposal last November, mandating the executive to draft changes to the union's constitution, which will go to a vote at the annual general meeting later this month.

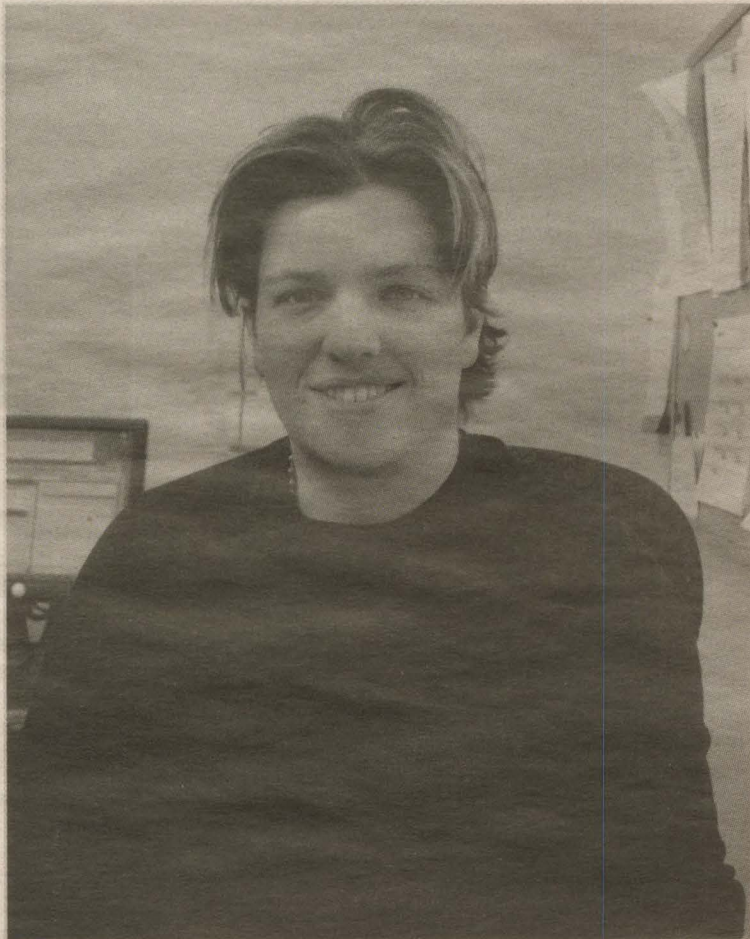
The November vote came just six months after DSU executives formed a special committee to revamp the union's structure and governance model.

That committee was responsible for identifying methods that would make the organization more accountable, effective, connected to the university community and able to make long-term decisions under the constraints of single-year membership terms.

The concept of the project emerged out of a public conference last January that aimed to provide students with the opportunity to help set the future direction of the union.

The proposal has come under fire from at least one staunch opponent.

Board of Governors representative Daniel Clark said the entire process was too narrowly defined. He said the plan's architects decided too early that the proposed board structure would achieve the union's goals.



DSU Vice President (Internal) Chris Ide, a chief architect of the proposal, said the union is in great need of organizational change. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski.

The DSU should have either considered a series of proposals and debated their merits or provided evidence that a board structure has achieved similar results in other student unions, he said.

"Where is the evidence that a board is the best idea?" he asked.

Ide, however, disagreed.

"We are adding a level of accountability that hasn't existed before," said DSU President Ezra Edelstein. "A lot of what the board will do involves making decisions the executive now unilaterally makes without anyone looking over our shoulder."

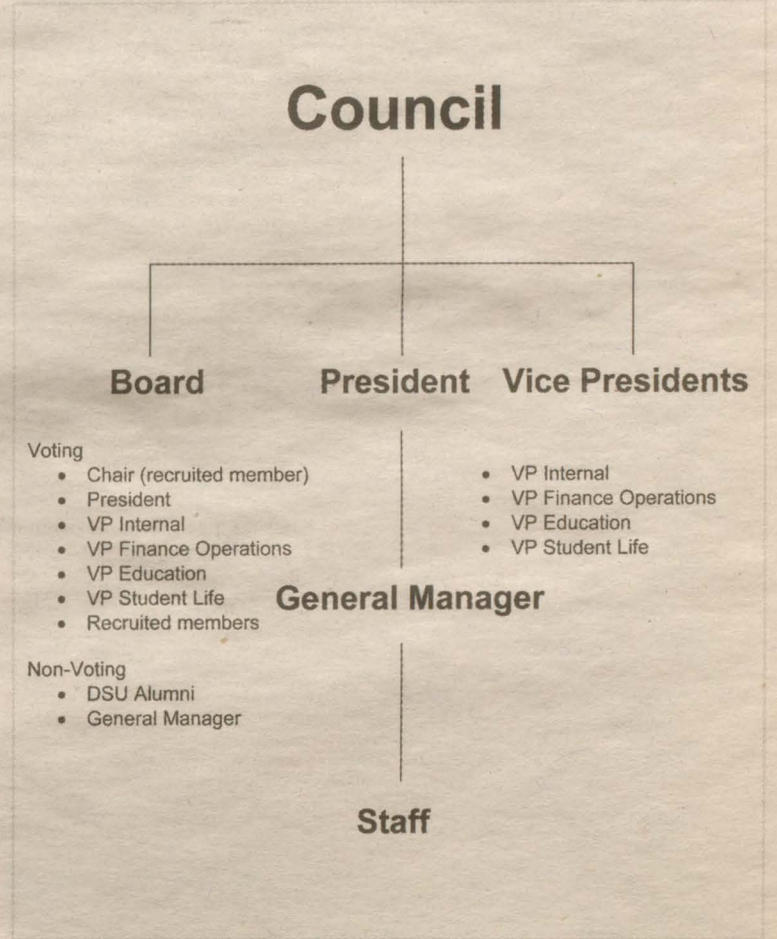
Under the DSU's plan, a new board of directors would be composed of all five union executives, its general manager, a union alumnus and six students. All but the GM and

alumnus would hold voting powers.

The board would vote on all budget decisions dealing with spending over \$10,000. Currently, union executives alone have this power and aren't accountable to council — the union's overarching governing body — when making major financial decisions.

Last year, for example, council approved \$70,000 in capital expenditures, and the DSU president, vice president (internal) and vice president (finance and operations) alone decided how that money was spent.

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Courtesy of the Dalhousie Student Union

do involves making decisions the executive now unilaterally makes without anyone looking over our shoulder."

The board would also oversee monthly financial reports and ensure the DSU is on track with its annual and long-term spending goals. And the board would keep close watch on the union's business services, including its food service in the lobby of the Student Union Building.

Board members would then report many of their decisions to DSU council, ensuring that body retains its authority over key areas of union business. But the board will assume sole responsibility of hiring and firing full-time staff members, setting short-term union goals, leases for

societies and all decisions dealing with the SUB.

Also under the DSU's plan, the grants, student accessibility fund, honour awards and society review committees would assume new powers, potentially taking pressure off council and the executive.

The grants committee, for example, could approve society grants without seeking council approval. This measure alone could shorten the grant application process by up to a month, ensuring society members get their funding in time for events, which currently isn't always possible, said Edelstein.

"This structure will enable the committees to act faster, and it will provide students with faster service."

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# Gazette

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# Proposed shuttle service receives mixed reaction at Dal

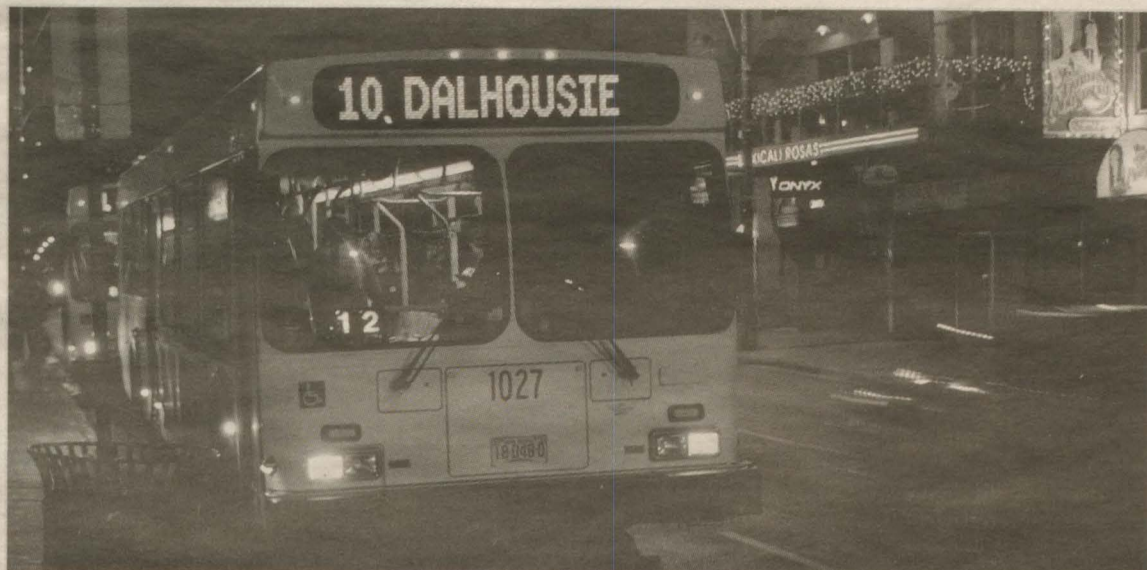
REID SOUTHWICK  
KATIE MAY  
News Editors

Halifax Regional Municipality has proposed a late-night shuttle service that would bring university residence students home after downtown bars close.

The Metro Transit service, a proposal that emerged out of the Halifax violence summit last November, would aim to stem the increasing levels of street violence that have rocked the downtown core in recent months.

Although violent crime in HRM dropped by 27 per cent between 2005 and 2006, police reported 800 assaults and made 3,000 arrests for public intoxication in the downtown area during the first 10 months of last year, according to a Canadian Press report.

Mayor Peter Kelly moved quickly to hold the violence summit after American sailor Damon Crooks was stabbed three times Nov. 4 outside the Rain nightclub on Argyle Street. Crooks died of his injuries.



The proposed shuttle service will go before city council later this month. / Photo: Josh Boyter.

Kelly said a Metro Transit report on the proposed shuttle service will go before city council later this month and councillors will decide whether they will go ahead with the plans.

Meanwhile, the proposal has received a mixed reaction at Dalhousie campus. Howe Hall resident Claire St.-Francois said a bus service largely won't have any effect on the

alarming level of street violence.

"If you're in the wrong place at the wrong time, things happen," she said. "I don't think the convenience of a shuttle service would diminish

the violence downtown."

The first-year theatre student said she's concerned with recent reports of street violence, and she ensures she travels with a group when she walks around at night.

"Nothing has ever happened to us," she said. "We don't go to the rough parts of town. We stay pretty close to the university."

Across campus, Shirreff Hall resident Clive Griffin didn't share the same degree of confidence. He said he hasn't yet been a victim of street violence. "But that doesn't mean it can't happen. And it doesn't mean it won't happen," he said.

"[A shuttle service] would be super convenient and would make students feel a lot safer."

Griffin said he's never used Dal's Tiger Patrol service, because it simply isn't convenient. He said he's also frustrated that Metro Transit's service ends at midnight.

"If they had a shuttle service that drove kids around after midnight, that would be great, because that's when all the trouble happens," he said.

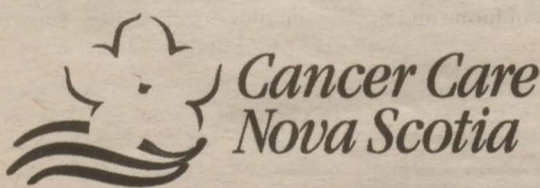


## STEPHEN LEWIS

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 | 7:00 pm  
Dalhousie Student Union Building, McInnes Room

Tickets available at Dalhousie Student Union Building, Rm. 222.  
Students Free with student I.D. Non-Students \$10.00

THE SILENT STRUGGLE:  
RACE AND GENDER ISSUES IN AFRICA



### Student Research Opportunities Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards

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

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

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

Interested candidates, with support from their supervisors, are invited to complete an application, outlining the project or practical experience directly related to the study of cancer, and submit it to CCNS with the required attachments on or before **Friday, February 2, 2007**.

Applications are available on our website at [www.cancercare.ns.ca](http://www.cancercare.ns.ca) or by contacting Pauline Hart at [pauline.hart@ccns.nshealth.ca](mailto:pauline.hart@ccns.nshealth.ca)

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## Uni-Briefs

### CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

#### Manitoba offers incentives to worldwide grads

Manitoba will offer post-secondary graduates who move to the province tuition tax credits worth up to \$25,000 beginning this spring. Under the plan, which aims to combat the brain drain to Alberta's booming economy, graduates would receive tax credits for up to 60 per cent of tuition payments, with a maximum of \$2,500 per year and \$25,000 over a life time. Most students would receive the credits at a rate of 10 per cent a year over a six-year period.

To be eligible, students must have graduated after Jan. 1, 2007, but they don't have to move to the province right away. A Nova Scotia student, for example, could graduate in 2008, go to Manitoba a year later and still receive tax credits.

"Every province in Canada is seeing a pulling effect from Alberta in some way," Manitoba Finance Minister Greg Selinger said in an interview with *The Globe and Mail*. "We felt that this program, designed in this way, would be quite attractive to young people when they're making decisions about where they want to live and work."

But the program has come under fire from at least one post-secondary education analyst. Ross Finnie, a professor of economics at Queen's University's school of policy studies, told *The Globe* there is little evidence that suggests this incentive would work.

"I think people generally go where the opportunities are most interesting, and that means getting a job, [with attractive] gross earnings, and it also means they can have interesting careers," he told *The Globe*. "All things being equal, I don't think [a tax credit] would be the dominant factor in most people's decisions, but if they're ready almost to flip a coin then it might be the thing that puts them over the top."

#### UBC awash in hugs

The University of British Columbia students hugged strangers for three hours in downtown Vancouver last month.

The embraces were part of a Free Hugs Campaign that involved students standing on the street holding "Free Hugs" posters and reaching out to willing passers-by. The students were inspired to organize the Dec. 3 event after watching a YouTube video that depicted the original campaign in Sydney, Australia.

The students wanted to send a peaceful message while brightening someone's day, and giving away hugs seemed like the best way to do so, organizer Matthew Corker told the *Ubyyssey*, UBC's student newspaper.

"At UBC they're always teaching us skills to go out into the world and make it a better place," said Corker. "This is finally putting some context into the buzz words that are thrown around."

#### Ryerson shuts down 'white minority' group

Ryerson University officials persuaded the student who created a controversial Facebook group to shut it down because of concerns that it encouraged racism. Quinton Coish told *The Eyeopener*, Ryerson's student paper, that he created the group, "I'm a White Minority Group @ Ryerson," to poke fun at white supremacists while recognizing the realities of racism, not promoting them.

"Anybody, any race can join. I remove anything that's posted that's racist or derogatory," he told *The Eyeopener*.

"They pinned me as a leader of a group similar to the [Ku Klux Klan] at Ryerson. It's unfortunate and untrue. They've made an ass of me and of others as well."

Before the site was taken down at the end of November 2006, the group had risen from 64 members to 137 members in less than a week.

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER

#### UofH students call for campus security reforms

A group of students from the University of Hawaii at Manoa organized an open forum to improve campus security after patrol officers allegedly beat two female students last month.

Eyewitness Chandra Vogt told the *Ka Leo O* student newspaper that she heard "aggravated cries" on the morning of Dec. 6 while at least two officers were "attempting to arrest and subdue" the 20-year-old women. A letter from university senator Steve Catt to school administration also said the "two female students were beaten up."

The incident was the most recent in a string of abuse accusations against campus security, including an officer allegedly choking a student last spring.

On Dec. 11, roughly 30 students gathered in the first of several upcoming rallies to push for proper training and stricter codes of conduct for campus security.

"Our voices are not heard. With this rally, we are forcing them to listen to us," organizer Marisol Montoya told *Ka Leo O*. "There will have to be change."

### ACROSS THE POND

#### Some Dublin students under close watch

Nursing students at Dublin City University, Republic of Ireland, were outraged earlier this year when the faculty began monitoring their class attendance with a mandatory swipe card system.

The Standards for Nursing Education Board now legally enforces the attendance system in an attempt to improve education. Under the new policy, students who attend less than the required amount of lectures, tutorials and seminars will not be allowed to write final exams and could automatically fail the course.

"Attendance capture treats us like children when, in fact, we are responsible adults," one student told *The College View*, the university's student newspaper.

Fortunately for some students, the school is disregarding all the attendance information collected last term after a technological error transmitted false data onto student records.

Sources: *The Globe and Mail*, *Ubyyssey*, *The Eyeopener*, *Ka Leo O*, *The College View*

## From The Gazette archives



## DYNA-CROWN SOUND

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

#### Grueling prof strike at Laval ends

A professors' strike at Laval University, which cancelled classes for 25,000 students for four months, finally ended.

After nearly 18 months of bargaining and 16 weeks of striking, 85 per cent of the faculty union's members approved a university contract offer on Dec. 23.

The deal included a grievance procedure, job security, a sabbatical leave system and a salary structure.

To make up for the lost time caused by the strike, Laval planned to hold two 13-week terms ending in July, rather than the traditional winter term that winds down in mid-April.

The strike was one of the longest and most bitter at any Canadian university. The union said Laval's administration was trying to remove academic freedom and faculty involvement in university decision-making, while the administration charged the union with illegal picketing and strong-arm tactics.

### 20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

#### Dal poised for activist raid

A rumoured Christmas holiday attack on Dalhousie's animal care unit by animal rights activists never happened, but the university said it

took the threat seriously.

"We assume it's real, and we take action," said Dal spokesperson Bob Fournier. "But it didn't happen and we're pleased."

As a precautionary measure, the administration sent a memo around the university, warning that a raid of either the Tupper building unit or the facilities in the psychology department was possible. The memo also warned that a few staff members in the animal care unit were "sympathetic to the cause" of the animal rights group.

Fournier said he was also sympathetic with the motivations of the group, though he added "the university can be threatened by people who take the law into their own hands."

#### NOVANET plans unaffected by debt

The future supplier of the NOVANET interactive computer system for five Halifax university libraries was in financial straits, but Dalhousie's librarian said the development wouldn't threaten the school's plans to introduce the program.

William Birdsall said if NOVANET vendor Geac closed its doors as a result of its \$20-million debt, another company would likely take over Geac's operations.

Birdsall said poor management and banking practices, rather than poor product development, caused the company's problems. Several libraries

worldwide were using Geac's library management system, giving Birdsall confidence that it wouldn't become obsolete if the company folded.

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

#### Student bankruptcies feds' fault — NDP

While the federal government cracked down on the rising number of students turning to bankruptcy as a last-ditch solution to their financial woes, at least one critic said the real issues behind the bankruptcies were being ignored.

Bill C-5, passed in the House of Commons on Oct. 23, 1997, changed federal laws so that students declaring bankruptcy within two years of completing or discontinuing their studies were no longer excused from paying back their debt unless they successfully proved to the courts that special circumstances applied in their case.

Svend Robinson, NDP post-secondary education critic, called the changes appalling and cited massive federal spending cuts as a major factor in the increase of student bankruptcies.

"It's [the government's] bankruptcies, their massive cuts in federal transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education, that have driven up tuition fees and increased the debt burden that students are facing," he said.

SERIOUSLY WRITE FOR THE  
**Gazette**

# Media, public biased toward victims

MADELEINE CARTER  
Opinions Contributor

The media's treatment of two recent Halifax crimes and the public's reaction to those crimes spurred a revelation about the way we gauge our response to victims of crime. It is worthy of a look back.

Early on the morning of Nov. 4, 2006, an American sailor named Damon Crooks was involved in a brawl outside a nightclub on Argyle Street and was fatally stabbed. It didn't take long for the details surrounding the incident to become clear, establishing the victim as a good samaritan who paid the ultimate price for defending his shipmate.

The story grew all the more tragic when the public learned that Crooks left behind a pregnant fiancée. Interest was piqued and repentance was provoked, setting into motion a pub-

lic outpouring of financial and emotional support to the man's family.

A trust fund that was put into place for his unborn child has raised \$62,000 to date. Public support to the Florida family remained at the forefront during the family's visit to Halifax, throughout which the premier, the police chief and municipal officials met with the bereaved family to express their sorrow. As recently as Jan. 4, 2007, Herald readers could learn the details of the birth of Crook's newborn.

Fast-forward five weeks from Crook's death to Dec. 10, when two East Preston men were killed following a shoot-out. The details are hazy and the blame is not so easily placed. The investigation grinds to a halt as witnesses keep their mouths shut. The story is demoted to the inner pages of the newspaper.

A few days later, my eye was

drawn to a man's picture in the Herald accompanying an obituary. The name, which I vaguely recognized, was that of victim Martaze Cortaze Provo. It's worth noting that by this time, Damon Crooks was a household name in Halifax.

What struck me about the 25-year-old man was that he left behind a daughter and a son, two details that failed to make news reports. In fact, to my shame, I realized the victim's family had never entered my mind.

And the media divulged hardly any information about the two victims. Perhaps this is because the families did not wish to speak about their lost relatives publicly or the police did not relay much information.

But the media has a role in forming the public's emotional response to the victims of crimes. Our emotions are essentially in their hands,

taking what they relay or don't relay to us as a barometer for the degree of feeling we should have toward the victim and their families.

But I'd suggest the media's lack of personal coverage in the double murder reflects a flaw on our part. After all, the media reports what they think we want to hear. Was it because the victims may not have been entirely blameless or the attack may have been provoked that the public craved no impression of the men and their families? Or had we already formed one?

There is much hypocrisy abound in the two cases. On the one hand, we're in disbelief and insist that the stabbing doesn't reflect on our community. On the other, we accept and absorb the double murder. Why is it that we open our hearts and wallets in the case of the American sailor's death, but when two men living in

our city are killed in a shoot-out, little effort is made? Is it because we expect this in communities like East Preston with a history of crime — in which case, one could reasonably expect it to inspire more concern than a one-off isolated event in downtown Halifax — or is our complacency overshadowing the fact that there is no Band-aid solution here?

Perhaps our lack of interest in the murders is a way of ignoring the evidence pointing to deep social problems here that need to be dealt with but are not easily solved. In that case, maybe it's time we challenge our own comfort levels, and answer some of these questions.

Preston, East Preston and Cherry Brook will march on Jan. 13 to support the families of Martaze Provo and Brandon Beals and condemn increasing violence in the neighbourhoods.

# Weird science: A year in review

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
Staff Contributor

For those like me who enjoy making another rotation around our sun, now, at the perihelion, is a good time to write about science developments that made the news in 2006.

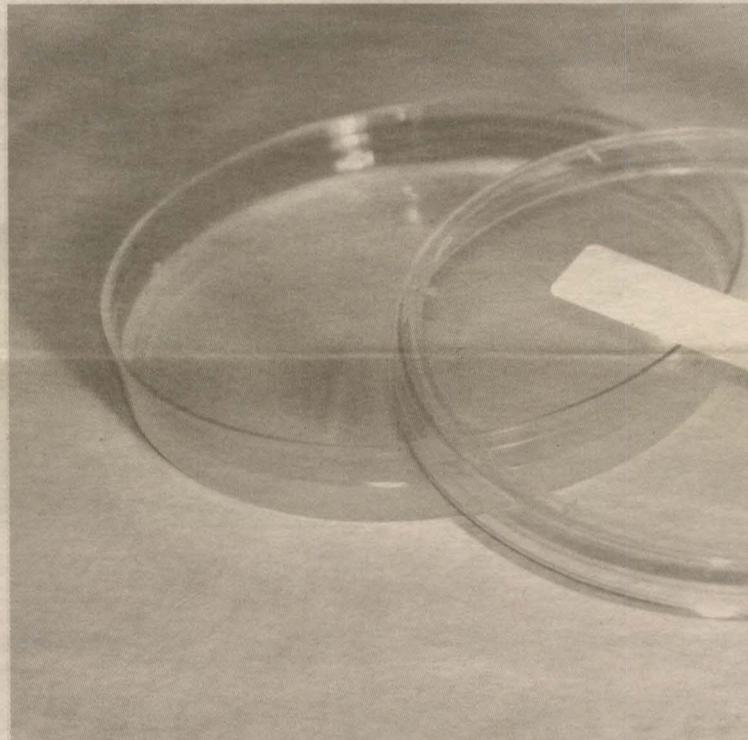
There were the big stories. Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* rekindled the fight against climate crisis and new promises of alternative fuel sources constantly peppered the news.

The battle over stem cell research was lost and then won, to some degree. Pluto was kicked out of the planet club. Biologists put another nail in the coffin of creationism with the discovery of yet another "missing link" fossil — the half-reptile, half-fish Tiktaalik found in Newfoundland.

But most of these stories are old news. They're only resurfacing in the spotlight because politicians and the media have discovered them. Scientists have talked about stem cells, biofuels and the status of Pluto for several years. They've known about global warming since the 1970s and they've known about evolution for over a century.

Perhaps the most amazing breakthroughs are those that are more obscure — and some that are downright weird. In mathematics, the Poincare conjecture appears to have been solved over the Internet by a 40-year-old unemployed recluse who lives with his mother.

While his discovery may have



Human bladders have been grown in the lab and blood vessels don't appear far off.

been overshadowed by the subsequent controversy over his rejection of his Fields medal, his solution may bring mathematicians and physicists toward a better understanding of the shape of the universe.

Modern physics, meanwhile, now borders in the realm of science fiction. Physicists working for a company called SensorMetrix created the

world's first partial invisibility cloak by bending microwaves around objects, thus hiding them from detection. In Germany, atoms are being turned into light and back into atoms, teleporting them half a yard away.

In another experiment that baffles most scientists in the field, light has been made to travel backward; a pulse of light through a fibre ap-

pears to leave before it enters. To do so, the pulse would have to be travelling at more than the speed of light. A new element, ununoctium, was also synthesized in October.

The life sciences are just as strange. A new family of the animal kingdom had to be defined after marine biologists discovered a six-inch, hairy, white, eyeless crab lurking in the depths of the Pacific Ocean.

In medicine, the first human face transplant, performed in November 2005, was declared a success. Human bladders have been grown in the lab and blood vessels don't appear far off.

A man paralyzed from the neck down was able to move a mouse around and check his e-mail with his mind after a neuroscientist implanted an electrode array in his primary motor cortex.

Unfortunately, not all of this year's science stories were quite so spectacular. Six people in Britain suffered from massive organ failure and will have damaged immune systems for the rest of their lives because of a clinical drug trial gone wrong.

The drug, intended to treat leukemia and arthritis, was safe when tested on monkeys and mice, but when given to humans, it had a very different effect. The variation in reactions to the drug can be blamed on interspecies differences in immune systems, which shows that curing mice does not always mean curing humans. For real cures, we'll have to wait a little longer yet.

## Letters@ dalgazette.ca

### Setting a precedent

Brendan Osberg's article (*Gazette* 139-15) strongly suggests that forcing a suspect to undergo surgery to recover a bullet will not set a legal precedent. In support of this, he gives two examples:

1. Suspects can be required to give a DNA sample, under warrant.
2. Paroled sex offenders can be required to undergo chemical castration.

However, neither of these can be thought of as comparable to an operation complicated enough to require general anesthesia. The procedure of taking a DNA sample is significantly less invasive than the surgery required to extract a bullet, and can be as simple as a cheek swab. Chemical castration is used on those convicted of crimes, not those suspected of them.

Whether or not forcing this man to undergo surgery is justified or not, Mr. Osberg gives us no reason to believe it is with precedent.

- Jonathan Doyle

### Submission Guidelines

The *Gazette* reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, *The Gazette* may invite the author to revise the submission.



## Student Employment Centre

### What's on the go for 2007?

#### SEC Roadtrip - We are coming to you

Do you have job search questions? Would you like a resume critique? Ask us. Come and drop by our booth at the following locations:

- Jan. 17 - Killiam Atrium, 10 - 2 pm
- Jan. 24 - Marion McCain Bldg. Lobby (FASS), 10 - 2 pm
- Jan. 31 - Sexton Campus, Student Lounge, Bldg. B, 10 - 2 pm

#### Summer Job Fair Week

Don't wait until summer to get the best job! From February 5 - 9th, SEC will be holding a series of events to help prepare and get you a job at the Summer Job Fair!

Complete details visit the SEC website [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

#### Dining Etiquette Event

A great opportunity for you to learn essential dining etiquette skills when networking with potential employers. Over a four course meal, you will learn the basics of dining etiquette and how to present yourself in any professional situation.

Jan. 30 - 11:30 - 2:00 pm  
Great Hall, University Club

Tickets (\$20) on sale NOW at the Student Employment Centre  
Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for details

# TOP 10

- 1 **PEARSON AIRPORT HAS SCORPIONS ON A PLANE!**  
Someone call Samuel L. Jackson...
- 2 **TWO LESBIANS WED EACH OTHER IN AN EDMONTON PENITENTIARY**  
Apparently being legally imprisoned once just isn't enough.
- 3 **SEXTUPLETS BORN IN VANCOUVER**  
We're bringin' sextuply back/Those other mothers don't know how to act.
- 4 **CANADIAN ACTORS TO GO ON STRIKE** Kind of hard to do when you're broke and unemployable already.
- 5 **THE "DICK IN A BOX" PHENOMENON** I wonder how many girls in the world would have gotten a *real* gift were it not for JT and SNL this year?
- 6 **CANADA LAUNCHES ITS OWN RADIO STATION IN AFGHANISTAN** Good to see the suck of CBC can now break through both language and cultural borders.
- 7 **THE BEAUTY OF CRUISING THROUGH CELEBRITY GOSSIP SITES** Is that you get brilliant headlines such as "Lindsay Lohan is still stacked."
- 8 **EX-STAR OF WHO'S THE BOSS POSTS NAKED PICTURES OF SELF ONLINE** It's not who you think it is. Nope, not her either. Not him. Definitely not her.
- 9 **THE SILVER SURFER MAKING HIS APPEARANCE ON THE SILVER SCREEN**  
And starring Ron Silver! (just kidding)
- 10 **"PLUTOED" WINS WORD OF THE YEAR** "Fed-Ex" was robbed.

# HOT / NOT

- HOT:** *Shrek the Third* / **NOT:** Semester the second
- HOT:** Seasonal pastiness / **NOT:** Fake winter tans
- HOT:** White Christmases / **NOT:** Not being able to afford a trip away
- HOT:** Slacking / **NOT:** Being lacking
- HOT:** Evil plans for world domination / **NOT:** Plans to go to the gym starting "now"
- HOT:** Britney Spears' comeback / **NOT:** Lindsay Lohan's existence
- HOT:** Harsh mixes / **NOT:** Weak performances
- HOT:** Snow days / **NOT:** Knowing they're not coming
- HOT:** Potlucks / **NOT:** Grinch-like thievery
- HOT:** Taking it too far / **NOT:** Being "that guy"

Suggestions? [hotornot@dalgazette.ca](mailto: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 are do not necessarily represent views held by Joey Ryba himself, *The Gazette* and/or its staff.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN FOR THE  
**Gazette**  
YET?

# STREETER

HAS THE RECENT WEATHER HAD ANY AFFECT ON YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING GLOBAL WARMING?



"It provides further evidence that despite already changing weather patterns, global warming has created more extreme climactic trends."

Dave Ron, fifth-year biology



"Yes, it's creepy that there's no snow, because it feels unnatural. The only reason I'm happy is for the homeless."

Caroline MacDonell, second-year history and Spanish



"Yeah, it's really frightening."

Nick Thompson, FYP Science



"No, it's just a freak but I'll wait and see."

Evan King, FYP Arts



"Not really. I can't even remember when we had snow on Christmas."

Emily Lighthall, first-year commerce



"No, I already had pretty dark views on global warming."

Mike Gillard, second-year English



"Yeah, I don't like it. I like polar bears."

Greg Sampson, fourth-year political science



"No, but I'm glad my personal greenhouse gases have made a difference."

Joey Ryba, twelfth-year environmentalist

Got a question you want to see answered by students? [streeter@dalgazette.ca](mailto:streeter@dalgazette.ca)



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Sat. from 9:30pm - 1am CLAM CHOWDER

Sun. from 8pm - 12am HIGH TIDE

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Tuesday, January 16, 2007 | 7:00 pm  
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**THE SILENT STRUGGLE:  
RACE AND GENDER ISSUES IN AFRICA**



# Gazette



Drop off original poetry, short stories, essays or artwork in the *The Gazette* mailbox on the 3rd floor of the SUB or leave it at the Info Desk in the SUB care of *The Gazette* by 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, 2007.

Entries may also be submitted to [gazettearts@gmail.com](mailto:gazettearts@gmail.com).

The winning entry will be published in *The Gazette* the following Thursday. Written entries must be no longer than 1,000 words and artwork no larger than 9"x12".

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

All entries must include the entrant's name or pseudonym and phone number or e-mail address. The winning entrant will be contacted no later than Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007.

Submissions will be edited to match *The Gazette's* spelling and punctuation style. *The Gazette* reserves the right to not publish entries deemed inappropriate.



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Thursday, Jan. 11 – 13 @ The Pit, King's College, 8 p.m., \$5  
*Krapp's Last Tape* by Samuel Beckett  
 LAURA TRETHEWEY, Arts Editor

Sunday, Jan. 14 @ The Blue Moon Bistro, 8 p.m., free  
 I Know You Got Soul – Dance Party  
 ASHLEIGH GAUL, Assistant Arts Editor

Editors' picks of the week

## Dirt on the Poets

Local band discusses in's and out's of recording.

SAMAN JAFARIAN  
 Staff Contributor

It's Friday night in a popular north end café. A songwriting group is warming up in the background while guitarist Ross Chapman and bass player Corey Shortcliffe sip tea, twitching. As bongos are tapped and guitar strings tuned, two of the members of Dirty Poets explain the source of their frustration: recording an album. It was a long and seemingly painful process for the whole band, which is completed by vocalist Wes Landry, drummer Kyle Smith, and viola player Kinley Dowling.

"Songwriting and playing, good; recording *bad*," Chapman says. He later adds that recording was the catalyst for a previous band's disintegration.

"At first, it's fun," Shortcliffe says. "But it keeps going, and you hear all of your mistakes on tape, and have to do so many takes. It just kind of... sucks."

His frustration is understandable. The band's self-titled, debut album, set for release on Jan. 20, took more than a year to write and record. And the process has yet to be completed.

Since the band's inception in late 2005, Dirty Poets has produced about 15 songs, 12 of which will likely appear on the album. What songs will make the cut, however, is difficult to predict. During the recording process, even song titles can pose a problem. The band's vocalist and lyric-writer, Wes Landry, often changes song names between practices, though Chapman and Shortcliffe don't seem to mind.

As the two determine their favourite songs, Chapman mutters to his bandmate, strumming in the air. "The one in G, that goes 'chunk-da-chunk-da-chunk,'" he suggests.

Shortcliffe comes up with a solution to this problem.

"Wasn't it New Order that had song names with absolutely nothing to do with the song?" he asks Chapman. "We should just do that and rename all the songs before they get sent out."

In current incarnation, three songs that will likely appear on the album, "This Bottle," "Just What I've Been Thinkin'" and "So Appealing," are surprisingly folksy. Given the hard rock-influenced backgrounds of Chapman and Shortcliffe, these folksy, bluesy songs are unexpected.

Despite different backgrounds, the band's collaboration is solid, and the combined eight years of classical training amongst the members shines through. Dowling's viola weaves in and around Landry's vocal melodies and Chapman's occasional finger-picking gives way to a grittier style without seeming out of place.



The Poets hope to fill Ondaatje Hall on Jan. 20. / Photo: John Packman

It was partially Dowling's inclusion, Chapman and Shortcliffe say, that pushed Dirty Poets in its current aural direction. "It's pretty hard to really rock out on a viola," Chapman says. "Though Kinley comes pretty close," adds Shortcliffe. Chapman's current studies in classical guitar at Dalhousie has undoubtedly lent to the band's sound as well.

Chapman's studies also scored the group a CD launch at Ondaatje Hall in the FASS building as part of the 'Halifax' Guitar Concert series, organized by Michael Scott of the Dal's music department.

Chapman worries he might have to perform a solo piece before the launch party. But he and Shortcliffe share a larger worry: the sheer size

of Ondaatje Hall, which, despite a sizeable turnout, will probably still look empty.

"If you can really connect to even one person, through a section or a riff, it's worth it," Shortcliffe says. "That's what is really the best part of being in a band: just performing and having fun."

"We've actually got to practice, though" says Chapman. "We haven't played live or jammed in a while."

"We've just been recording."  
*Dirty Poets CD release at Ondaatje Hall in the Marion McCain Building is on Jan. 20 @ 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/\$15 with student ID.*

*A wet CD release party will happen at the Seahorse Tavern, Jan. 26, @ 10 p.m., with The Grass & Ryan McGrath.*

## Obituary: Stage Nine

June 3, 2004 – Jan. 1, 2007

LAURA TRETHEWEY  
 Arts Editor

On the dreary, first morning of 2007, Stage Nine closed its doors and pasted up a note:

"We are sorry to say that Stage Nine is now closed. We would like to thank everyone (especially the musicians) who supported us over the past two and a half years. Thanks. We'll see you soon."

Stage Nine's disappearance nearly eliminates the middle ground between monster venues such as the Cohn and Metro Convention Centre, and intimate, locally stocked venues like One World Café and Gus' Pub.

The Marquee — seemingly closed, yet still dallying over finishing completely — and Stage Nine offered a place for local musicians to showcase their talent with a decent sound system and for recognized names to put on cheap shows for a manageably sized and appreciative audience.

Location was key. Perched over the infamous Pizza Corner, Stage Nine quickly became my stalwart rendezvous point, second in popularity to the Halifax Public Library's lawn. With a good band in town, Stage Nine's outside appearance looked happening — by Halifax standards, that is — with drunkards shouting and hanging over the patio's railing, the music from inside dictating the whole intersection's soundscape.

When I first stumbled across Stage Nine in the summer of 2004, it wasn't love at first sight. I managed to get kicked out immediately for two offences: bringing pizza and trying to barge onto the patio without paying cover. Later, as I sat on the curb outside, I swore I would never go back to the double-cross-



Drunkards hanging over the edge of Stage Nine's patio will stay in our hearts forever. / Photo: John Packman

ing Nine. This proved impossible, however, as the venue continued to book stellar shows: Hidden Cameras, Akron/Family, Dog Day, Lighthouse Choir, controller, controller, the Sadies and many others.

In these first few weeks of 2007, it's hard not to feel as though Halifax's music scene has been bruised and battered. With music promoter Ben Pearlman's recent departure and Stage Nine's closure, what can we look forward to in the coming weeks? Matt Mays at the Cohn? Let's hope not.

Go south instead to the often-overlooked Reflections and its oddball bookings of great out-of-towners like the Junior Boys and Monday night's open mic, Rockin'4Dollars.

Once Stage Nine's billboard, which ironically announces upcoming events, is taken down and the last visual reminders of the venue disappear, Haligonians will still have a large array of musical memories to cherish.

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The Epicurious Student sips some counterculture with his wine.

## Straight from the cellar door

The Epicurious Student shops around at Cristall & Lockett Wine Merchants

ANDREW BERNARDO  
Culinary Connoisseur

Located in Bedford's Sunnyside Mall, Cristall & Lockett Wine Merchants is my favourite wine destination in the Maritimes. It's a private store that offers customers a welcome break in their trips to the NSLC.

The store's name derives from the two owners' names: Pete Lockett of Pete's Frootique and Todd Cristall, a 25-year veteran of the wine industry.

The store's approach combines

Lockett's pursuit of high-quality food and beverages with Cristall's steady leadership in a chaotic industry. The result is a wine store of immeasurable quality.

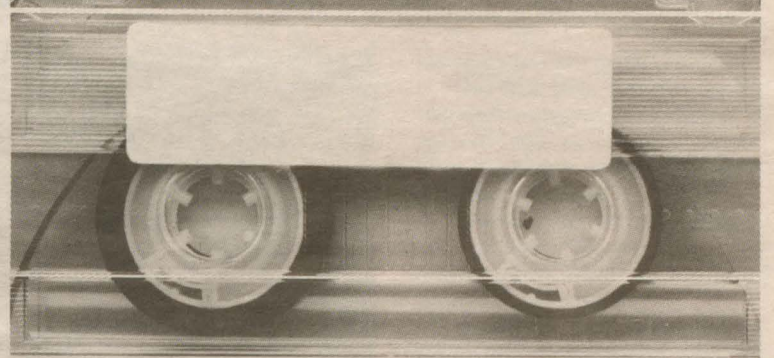
As a conscientious consumer, I dislike buying wines owned by conglomerates — the "middle men" of the industry — as it spawns a variety of problems. Too often, wines are tailored to satisfy the tastes of wine critics who have considerable influence in the market. And the wine-maker does not see the direct, financial

fruits of his or her labour. The result is streamlined flavour characteristics, which threaten to destroy the individuality so important to wine-making.

Cristall & Lockett Wine Merchants embody the "countercultural" wine movement. By buying wines directly from the cellar door, Cristall & Lockett provide wines of great individual character.

For more information on the history of the store, upcoming tastings and complete product lists, visit their website at [www.cristallandlockett.com](http://www.cristallandlockett.com).

## Burn Baby Burn



Second semester has begun and the sanest students are still riding their bikes to school. Smelly, wet parkas have yet to line the floors of lecture theatres and the only Uggs to be found at Dal are unnecessary.

But what is the real disaster: global warming, or the fact that a winter wardrobe no longer exists? What is more devastating: personal or natural disaster? Decide for yourself in this week's Burn Baby Burn.

SIDE A: PERSONAL DISASTERS:  
Laura Trethewey / Arts Editor

Whether these songs shout their sadness to the apocalyptic sky or bury their depression in sickeningly upbeat rhythms, it's clear that emotional disasters can reach monumental heights. Screaming your misery into a pillow sounds strikingly similar to a volcano erupting. At least I choose to believe it does until I hear the original.

1. Bright Eyes – "Lua"
2. Beulah – "A Good Man is Easy to Kill"
3. The Mountain Goats – "Get Lonely"
4. Q and Not U – "Black Plastic Bag"
5. Ryan Adams – "Why Do They Leave"
6. Elliot Smith – "The Ballad of Big Nothing"
7. Jeff Buckley – "Grace"
8. The Beach Boys – "God Only Knows"
9. Kimya Dawson – "Wandering Daughter"
10. Ani DiFranco – "How Have You Been"

Side B: NATURAL DISASTERS  
Ashleigh Gaul / Assistant Arts Editor

Books about books are more bookish than books. Movies about movies are more about movies than simple movies. Therefore, songs about disasters will be more disastrous when disasters strike. Why shout your sadness to an apocalyptic sky when you can scream the apocalypse to an apocalyptic sky?

1. Led Zeppelin – "When the Levee Breaks"
2. Bob Dylan – "A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall"
3. Nick Cave – "Avalanche"
4. Grandaddy – "Underneath the Weeping Willow"
5. The Tragically Hip – "Nautical Disaster"
6. The Decemberists – "The Mariner's Revenge Song"
7. Beck – "Earthquake Weather"
8. The Scorpions – "Rock You Like a Hurricane"
9. Propagandhi – "Natural Disasters"
10. Focus – "Hocus Pocus"

## Sex with Hugh

Forget the script: kissing, cuddling and the art of cunnilingus

HUGH WALLACE  
Sex Contributor

One of the scariest words in a person's sexual vocabulary is foreplay. Unfortunately, it's an important word to achieve an interesting and non-climax-oriented sexual relationship.

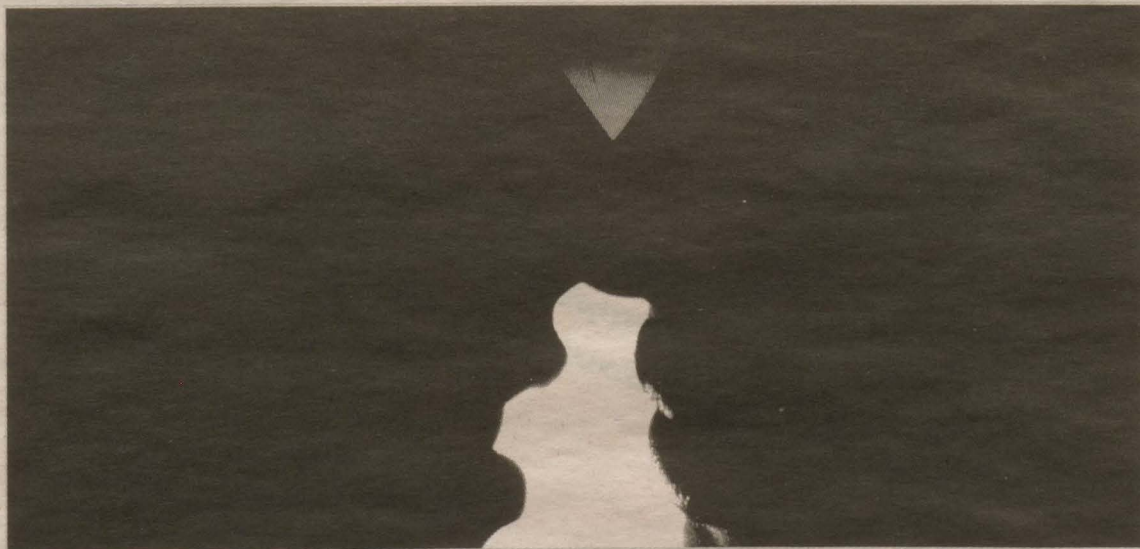
A non-climax-oriented relationship doesn't necessarily mean not having climaxes, but focuses on sexually stimulating your partner in ways that don't have orgasmic pressures associated with them. Although sex or sexual touching to climax is fantastic at times, it shouldn't always be the end goal of every sexual encounter.

There are many definitions of the word foreplay, and it constitutes many different activities such as kissing, touching, stripping and oral sex.

Kissing is something everyone knows about. Some see it as the base of a close relationship; others as an obligatory act that accompanies any sort of sexual interaction.

The key to using kissing as an effective method of foreplay, according to [sex101.com](http://sex101.com) — and a handful of other sex info sites — is to switch up your style to suit your mood or the intensity of arousal.

For a more conservative moment, try the peck or, as Drew Barrymore in the *Wedding Singer* so eloquently put it, "church tongue."



Foreplay: think stimulation, not penetration.

During a more intense sexual moment, a lot of people choose the hickey or inner thigh kissing, which often leads to some form of oral sex. Excluding oral sex, kissing is not normally used to bring someone to climax, although it does produce great feelings of sexual arousal.

Touching is another act I'm sure we're all very familiar with. Touching involves, well, any sort of sensual body, face or genital feeling with the hands or other appendages. This can involve anything from a conser-

vative hug in public to an extremely erotic mutual masturbation.

Touching is an important sexual expression tool because it involves little risk of spreading sexually transmitted infections. It has come a long way from simple masturbation or a "sensual massage" à la Austin Powers. Acts such as axillary intercourse, commonly called "bag-piping," are even more exciting.

Heterosexuals and male homosexuals can "bagpipe," which involves using the armpit as an orifice

for penile insertion — it's this under-arm action that resulted in the term "bagpiping." Using a good lube, this activity is definitely better than a normal "hand job." While these acts can produce orgasm, the prime goal is to produce sexual stimulation.

Stripping is a way to entice your partner with the unknown in an erotic and sexually stimulating way. Stripping has become so popular that many gyms offer "strip-hop" classes to teach people how to dance in the manner of a professional stripper.

I've taken one of these classes — it was my birthday present from a friend who works at a gym — and not only was it absolutely hilarious, it was also more than worthwhile. Learning to dance in a sexually arousing way does not just help you on club dance floors, but also in your bedroom. Stripping excites the partner, enhancing the sexual experience. It is a crucial device in the toolbox of bedroom secrets.

Oral sex... well, let's just say there are many organizations offering classes on both the art of cunnilingus and the art of fellatio.

In Halifax, we have Venus Envy, our very own education-oriented bookstore and sex shop that offers classes on these subjects. If you find yourself feeling inadequate or wanting to improve, give the folks at Venus Envy a call and see when their next tutorial is. It might be a valuable lesson.

Whether you're kissing and touching or undressing and licking, it is important to remember that climaxing is not the only aspect of a sexual experience. The most important part is the sexual arousal and fun you have with your partner. Although sex can be intimate, it can also be fun and relaxing if you forget about your regular sexual script.

E-mail your sex questions to [sex@dalgazette.ca](mailto:sex@dalgazette.ca)

# Double Take

PhotoShow! More! Put it in a Grid!  
An art show by Robert Bean's NSCADU students

ASHLEIGH GAUL | Assistant Arts Editor & CAMERON McCUE | Arts Contributor

From Dec. 27 until Jan. 5, students of NSCADU professor Robert Bean presented original photography at the One World Café. Gazette reporters Ashleigh Gaul and Cameron McCue share their thoughts.

It is hard to imagine collaboration between these artists outside the confines of a classroom. The four students represented in this exhibit planned their group show as a project for Robert Bean's class, "Photog-

raphy beyond the Frame."

They are a disparate group. Each collection of photographs represents a perspective so dissimilar from the rest of the show that their affiliation seems as random as their class list.

Marshall Byrd-Sterling's horizontally split portraits present a somewhat shallow, though neat and symmetrical, view of personal representation. Three of the four photographs frame tough and confi-

dent eyes cut out and pasted below pursed lips, while the face of a girl in the lower right-hand corner bites her lip in doubt. The perfect symmetry of the piece reveals its anomalies almost too clearly and sacrifices its appeal in the process.

Beside Byrd-Sterling's immaculate clarity is Josh Herbin's experiment with positive film on inkjet, trash and Polaroid. The colour collages look as though they've been crumpled up, thrown in the garbage and picked out again, along with the sticky notes and doodles of days and weeks past. Herbin's work seems to flounder between messages, forcing the observer to create his or her own.

Cherakee Stoddard's three-piece, progressive sequence entitled "This One is for You" focuses on a coiffed and courted pre-pubescent girl in the woods, eating a banana and melodramatically sneering at the camera. The unnatural angle of the tree behind her, however, contradicts the harmlessness of the child's scowl and lends a menacing tone to her seeming innocence.

While each group of photographs showcased in "Photoshow! More! Put it in a Grid!" merits praise, further collaboration between these artists after the end of the class is unlikely.

- Ashleigh Gaul

throws it into doubt.

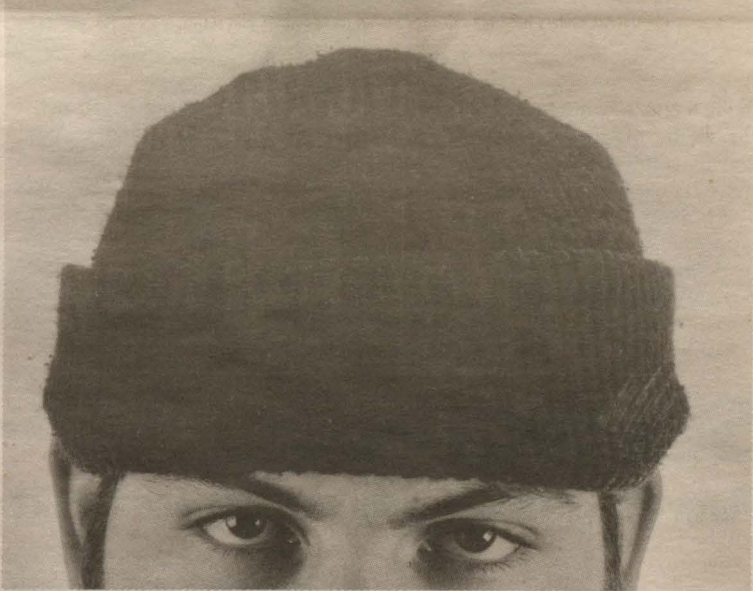
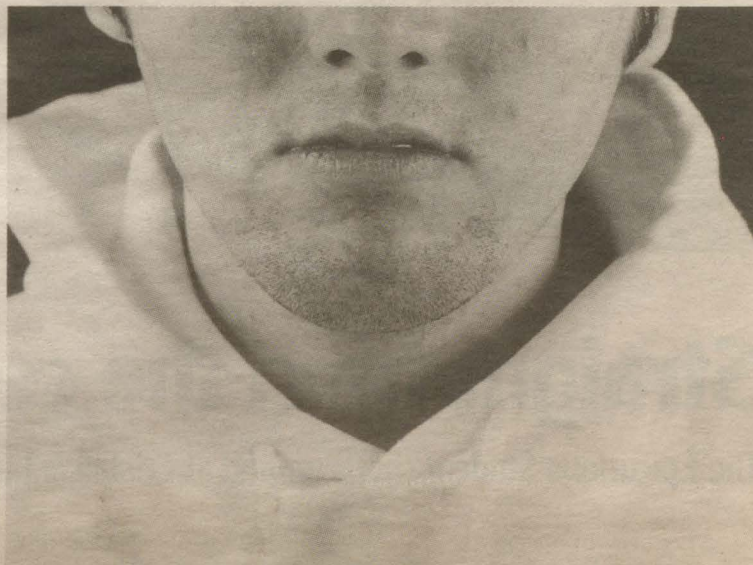
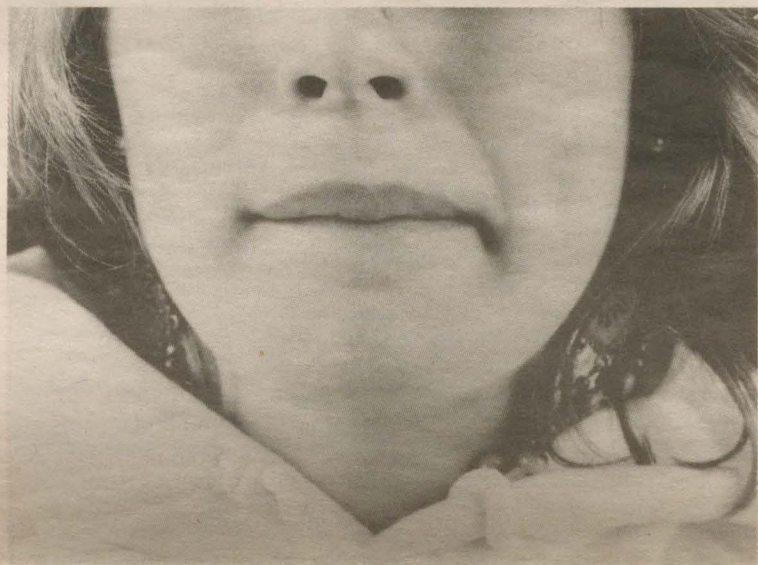
Likewise, Stoddard's intriguing compromise between the simple impudence of a 10-year-old girl and the dangers that surround her offer the observer a respite between oversimplification and total obscurity.

If the photographs of Bean's class seem unrelated, the fault lies not with the artists, but with the venue. Herbin's collages are unfortunately positioned over the public access computer at the One World,

making analysis of his vision awkward. It's also likely that the observer will over-simplify Byrd-Sterling's message, since it is dangling over a couch of chatting café hipsters.

The One World Café isn't a classroom or an art gallery. While the photographic works of Bean's students complement each other under close scrutiny, they aren't yet strong enough to overcome the bustle of a busy café.

- Cameron McCue



Unexpected wonders can occur as the result of a fall semester class project.

The juxtaposition of the photographs of Herbin, Stoddard and Byrd-Sterling is unlikely, but it makes artistic sense. All the paintings focus on a type of portrait, whether it's split in half, in Byrd-Sterling's case, written out in sticky notes, as Herbin did, or staged and contextualized in the work of Stoddard.

Where the styles are in starkest contrast is where the art show is most successful. Just when the simplicity of Byrd-Sterling's split portraits begins to bore, Herbin's scattered pastiche complicates the observer's interpretation and

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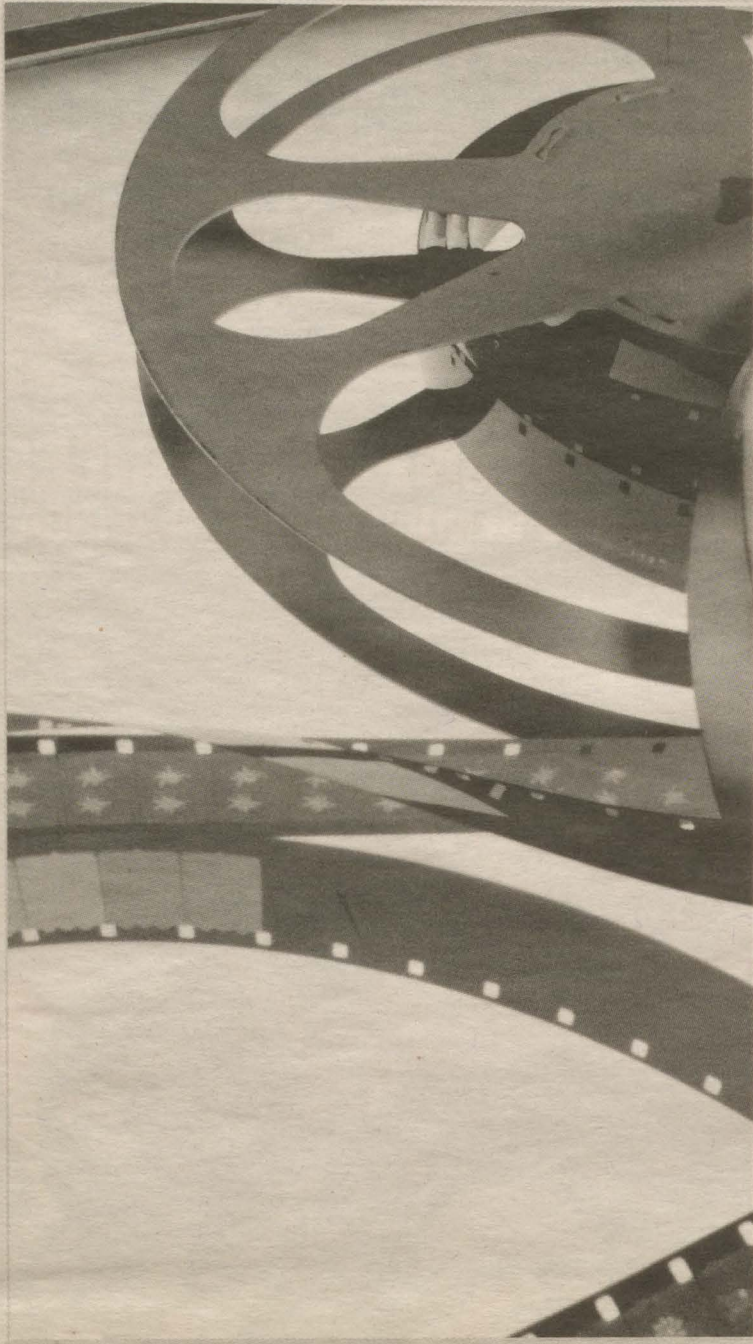
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# Gazette



The Dal Art Gallery has high expectations for its upcoming film series. / Photo: John Packman

## Winter Film Series opening at arts centre

CLARE ESLER  
Staff Contributor

Expect captivating and educational films at this year's Winter Film Series presented at the Dalhousie Arts Centre.

Event organizer Ron Foley MacDonald has divided the films into three categories. MacDonald expects *Rivers and Tides*, part of the environmental series, to generate the biggest buzz.

Filmed in 2001, *Rivers and Tides* takes the audience on a scenic journey across different landscapes throughout Europe and North America. The images of flowing rivers, the grassy highlands of Scotland and the winding rock walls are breathtaking. The film sheds light on nature's spiritual energy and connection to people.

"The documentary features the site-specific environmental sculptures of the Scottish artist Andy Goldsworthy, and was partly filmed in Nova Scotia," says MacDonald.

Goldsworthy places importance on moments of solitude and silence, in which surroundings control the mood. His passion for art and nature, and his inability to live without them, are awe-inspiring.

Susan Gibson Garvey, the director and curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, says the environmental series complements the gallery's upcoming photography exhibit, *Imagining a Shattering Earth: Photography and the Environmental Debate*.

"I think the film program builds on and enhances our exhibition program, inviting everyone to participate in a non-stressful way," says Garvey. "Because the films are actually screened in the gallery with the art all around, it sometimes in-

troduces people to art who wouldn't normally go to a gallery."

The environmental series also includes films by Pare Lorenz, and even the animated film, *When the Wind Blows*. Set in the 1980s, this drama tells the story of a conservative British couple who deal with the repercussions of a nuclear attack.

The following two series favour human performances over historical details. The second series, "Hollywood's Double Take: The First Three Black Directors," begins in February to coincide with Black History Month.

"These films address issues of race in an open and sometimes audacious manner," says MacDonald. For example, in the satirical film *The Watermelon Man*, a Caucasian character wakes up to discover that he has become black.

The final series, "Medieval to Renaissance: The mid-Millennial Avant-Garde," is stolen by Italian actress Monica Vitta in the film *The Red Desert*.

Each director brings a different message or theme to this year's Winter Film Series.

The environmental films take different stances on the importance of nature. "The series does reveal that the cinema has always taken a special view of realism and weight of landscape," says MacDonald.

In February, the films shed light on the point of view of African-American directors in mainstream Hollywood. The third series looks at the evolution of European thought and how art, literature and culture became an important aspect of Western society.

*The Winter Film Series at the Dal Art Centre runs from Jan. 17 to April 18. Check out the film series online at <http://artgallery.dal.ca/>.*

  
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## Rosemary Gill Award

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the Rosemary Gill Award in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. Up to four awards can be made each year. The selection of recipients is made by a committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President - Student Services, the Chair of the Student Experience Committee of the Board of Governors, and a student appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 2007. Nominations should be made in writing and include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support, preferably including at least one from a student or students.

The Rosemary Gill Award is a plaque presented to the recipient at a spring reception hosted by the President. In addition, a permanent plaque bearing the names of annual recipients is displayed in the Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Nominations should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President  
Student Services  
Room G28, Main Level  
Killam Memorial Library  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H8



The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 9, 2007.

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# Dal track and field top of league — Dal coach

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

The Dalhousie men's track and field team is the strongest the university has ever had, says head coach Dan Hennigar.

"I think it'll be a team that'll make an impact this season at the national level," says Hennigar, whose squad enjoyed a break out season last year. "The biggest impact will be a year or two down the road when some of these younger athletes really develop onto the national scene."

Sprinters Geoff Harris and Ueli Albert, gold medalists at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship in 2006, return to the Tigers this season. Hennigar says Harris and Albert will have their work cut out for them at nationals because some other teams have added runners from the Canadian national team, but Hennigar is confident the Tigers will be in the runnings.

John Corbit and Ross Jacobs are also competing at a very high level, says Hennigar. The veteran runners are ranked first and second in Canada in the 3000m. But it's early in the season, and Hennigar says they'll have to improve to maintain their rankings.

The Tigers also have some excellent throwers in Paul Bennett and Seth Taylor. Bennett, a shot-put thrower, has a history of improving each season, says Hennigar. Taylor is one of the top-ranked weight throwers in the country.

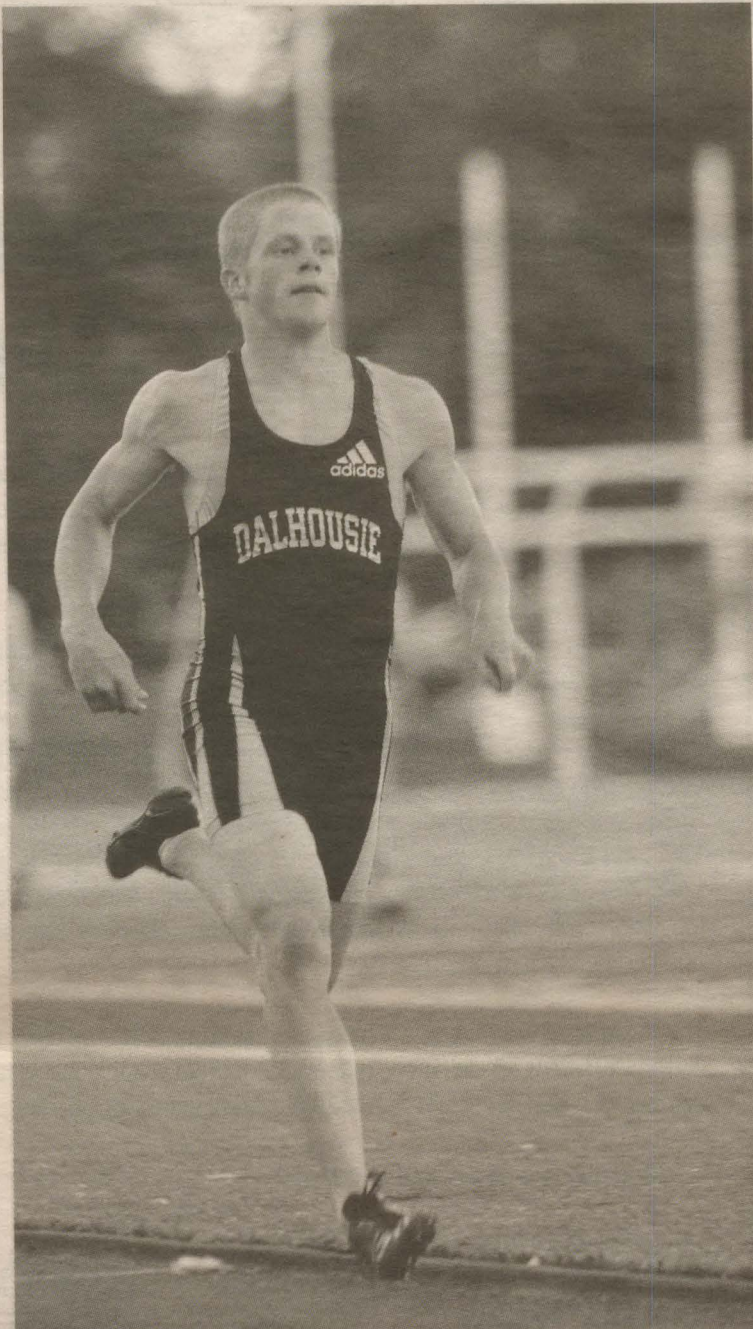
Rounding out the team is the jumps crew. Hennigar says the crew has a phenomenal amount of talent and he expects them to be nationally competitive in the next couple of years, if not by the end of this season.

The Tigers will compete at the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championship at Université de Moncton from Feb. 24 to 26.

"We have a huge amount of depth in all of our events right now," says gold-medal runner Geoff Harris. "At the AUS level, we should dominate all of the events potentially going one, two and three in a lot of stuff."

Hennigar says he expects Dal to do quite well at the AUs. There isn't any team that can match Dal's depth across all event groups.

"We're going to be competitive for gold in every single event," says Hennigar. "We're not going to win them all, but we're going to be right in there... We're going to get the points and we're not going to have any holes."



"At the AUS level, we should dominate all of the events potentially going one, two and three in a lot of stuff," says Geoff Harris. / Photo: Nick Pearce.

The 2007 national championship is Mar. 8 to 10 at McGill University, but before nationals, the Tigers will compete in an interlock event also at McGill. Dal is going to take a large team to the event and Hennigar says it's an important event because a lot of the Tigers qualified for the CIs at the McGill event in 2006.

Looking toward the CIs, Hennigar says he expects the Tigers to finish in the top 10.

"We certainly moved into a spot where we'll be competitive in that middle group of teams from third

or fourth through 10th," he says. "I think that's where we'll be this year, hopefully moving closer to getting in that top 3 down the road."

Harris says he thinks the team will have its strongest showing at the CIS championship. He says Tigers should be able to accumulate more points than last year and expects the team to keep improving.

"Every year now for the next couple of years we're going to keep growing and growing and this year... will be the first big step of growing from our success from last year."

## STEPHEN LEWIS

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 | 7:00 pm  
Dalhousie Student Union Building, McInnes Room

Tickets available at Dalhousie Student Union Building, Rm. 222.  
Students Free with student I.D. Non-Students \$10.00

### THE SILENT STRUGGLE: RACE AND GENDER ISSUES IN AFRICA



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## Athletes of the week

### FEMALE ATHLETE

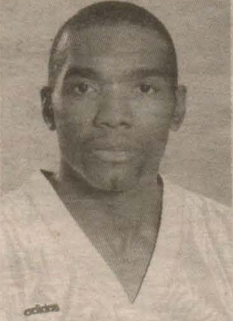


KATE MCNEIL  
BASKETBALL

Kate McNeil poured 20 points into the Tigers' victory over the Memorial Sea Hawks on Jan. 6 at Dalplex. The veteran forward was a major factor in breaking the Memorial press, offering a gritty performance despite suffering from an Achilles tendon strain. McNeil is a third-year biology student from Halifax, N.S.



### MALE ATHLETE



GERMAIN BENDEGUE  
BASKETBALL

Germain Bendegue was a dominant force in the Tigers overtime victory against the Memorial Sea Hawks on Jan. 6. The veteran scored 19 points on 7-15 shooting and also hauled in a massive 14 rebounds. The Sea Hawks were focused on slowing Germain down and he did a great job of finding open teammates when they sent double-teams at him. Bendegue is a third-year arts student from Yaounde, Cameroon.



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# SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## Conscious Christmas: Considering a Buy Nothing Christmas

When my parents were dating, my mom brought my dad home to rural Saskatchewan for their first shared Christmas. Although my dad was raised in a very Christian home in Toronto, he was entirely unprepared for the progressively Mennonite Christmas my mom was accustomed to. Apart from making the near-fatal mistake of kissing my grandmother on the cheek in greeting, my dad kept his behaviour more or less appropriate. Until the annual Christmas sacrifice.

After a traditional Christmas dinner of farmhouse staples, my grandmother went to retrieve dessert. She returned carrying a cheap chocolate Santa. Probably the same one your aunt bought you last year, except my grandmother bought hers the previous boxing day when chocolate Santa's were as cheap as they'd ever be. My grandmother removed stale, freezer-burnt Santa from his plastic-mould packaging and placed him on the table. Heads lowered, eyes closed, and a prayer was said that the food before them would nourish body and soul, and that all would remember Jesus this Christmas. Then, just as my dad was

opening his eyes, he faced a flash of machete held between the worn hands of my grandmother, and WHAP! The table shook, chocolate shrapnel burst through the air, and my dad damn near cried; the ceremonial decapitation of Santa was complete.

I tell you this story because it is funny. I also tell it because, although dramatic, frightening, and ironically merciless, my grandparents weren't entirely off-base with their ritualistic and symbolic execution of commercial Christmas.

It was probably about a month ago now that this paper ran an editorial about the commercialization of Christmas and the idea of Buy Nothing Christmas. Rafal Andronowski made the case that shopping does not necessarily negate from the social and familial nature of the Christmas season.

Although I don't personally find much value in family time spent in the mall, I have no argument with Andronowski's premise. I do, however, want to use his prompting to provide a fuller view of Buy Nothing Christmas, and how it relates to a happier Christmas for families out-

side our own.

The Buy Nothing Christmas movement is a diffuse one, garnering support from various organizations, magazines, and political groups. Ad-busters is perhaps the most notorious because of its well-known Buy Nothing Day campaigns each November, but Christians, social activists, individualists, environmentalists, and others have joined in for their various reasons.

Buy Nothing Christmas, then, is more than a return to emphasis on the family; it's a call to remember the holiday's religious origins, to consider the value of true generosity, to resist conformity, and to consider the environmental and social impacts of overconsumption. These calls, while diverse, are not unrelated. Each is a call for a more conscious, considerate, and compassionate society, specifically the expression of such at a time of year when these ideals are professed, though seldom seen, to be foremost in our minds and actions.

The truth is, just like every other year, most of us gave and received a pile of gifts we don't need this Christmas. We filled our homes with more things because the exchange

of things is an easy way for us to express and understand appreciation. We gave them and received them because it's a social standard, even between people whose gifts aren't backed by the feelings they pretend to carry. We do this all the time, but because we consume so much more around Christmas, the yuletide is a particularly good time to slow down and ask, why am I doing this and what is the impact?

Slowing down is most important. When we slow down, giving ourselves time to be critical about the things we buy and the reasons we have for buying them, it becomes increasingly clear that our consumer society has some pretty major problems that are perpetuated by the daily practices many of us repeat simply out of habit.

We can all connect the dots between child- and non-union labour and the clothes we wear. We understand that there are publicly-owned old-growth trees and carcinogenic chemical dyes in our wrapping paper. We are able to see that the dollar-store picture frame is so cheap because of unequal exchange and foreign ownership that perpetuate

poverty. And we are free to link this thoughtless gift-giving to the ideology of individualism and the lonely state of modernity.

When we slow down, we understand that these problems are ingrained in our society. They are not aberrations. They are necessitated by the way we live and consume, a lifestyle which is magnified at Christmas. The Buy Nothing Christmas movement, no matter the topical focus of its backers, is tackling Christmas for this very reason. If we can change the way our society behaves at its most self-interested time of year, we can not only make an immediate impact on the problems created by our overconsumption, we can also make a huge move towards a consistently more conscious, considerate, and compassionate world.

You don't have to decapitate Santa Clause or buy absolutely nothing for Christmas to make this happen, but it is worth considering.

*Adam Linnard is an International Development student, Editor-in-Chief for Dalhousie's Engineers Without Borders, and a Lover of Christmas.*

## GOVERNORS' AWARDS

In 1992, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University, the Board of Governors established a set of awards to be known as Governors' Awards.

Up to four awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - undergraduate, graduate or professional faculty student, full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President, Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, are presented annually in the spring by the Chair of the Board or designate.

Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support. Nominations should be forwarded on or before Friday, February 9, 2007, to:

The Office of the Vice-President  
Student Services  
Room G28, Main Level  
Killam Memorial Library  
Dalhousie University  
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**This Year, Don't Stand Alone...** Beginning January 12, 2007, usher in a new era with the Dalhousie Tigers! It starts at 5pm inside the Grawood Lounge for food and fun. Then the food, fun, and prize give-a-ways continue inside Dalhousie's Memorial Arena at 7pm as our Tigers take on the Huskies in a classic cross-town battle for Halifax!

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### TIGERS ACTION THIS WEEK!

THURSDAY, JAN. 11 Women's Volleyball vs. SMU, 6:00pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 12 Men's Volleyball vs. UNB, 7:00pm  
Men's Hockey vs. SMU, 7:00pm

SATURDAY, JAN. 13 Men's Volleyball vs. UNB, 6:00pm

SUNDAY, JAN. 14 Women's Volleyball vs. CBU, 1:00pm  
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# Dalendar & Classifieds

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## Dalendar

Send your Dalhousie related events to:  
[dalendar@dalgazette.ca](mailto:dalendar@dalgazette.ca) (FREE)

### Monday, Jan. 15

#### Faith Fair III

10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. @ Student Union Building.

The chaplains and religious societies at Dalhousie University will host a Faith Fair from The Fair, which is held the day after World Religion Day, is meant to acknowledge the University's diversity and welcomes all who are curious about faith and the variety of faith communities and societies at Dalhousie.

For more info email:  
[chaplain@dal.ca](mailto:chaplain@dal.ca)

### Thursday, Jan. 11

#### A screening of the film "The Road to Guantanamo"

7p.m. @ 6061 University Avenue, Weldon Law School, room 105.

There will be a discussion following the screening. Part of the International day of Action to shut down Guantanamo. Screening organized by the Halifax Peace Coalition and Amnesty International.

For more info email [hfxpeace@chebucto.ca](mailto:hfxpeace@chebucto.ca)

*Free, donations appreciated*

### Saturday, Jan. 13

#### Shut Down Guantanamo! Demonstration

1 p.m. @ Spring Garden Library  
Part of the International Day of Action to shut down Guantanamo and National Day of Action to free the security certificate five and stop secret trials in Canada. Please join us! Organized by the Halifax Peace Coalition, no one is illegal, NSPIRG, Student Coalition Against War, and Amnesty International.

For more info email:  
[hfxpeace@chebucto.ca](mailto:hfxpeace@chebucto.ca)

*Free*

### Thursday, Jan. 18

#### Religion in the Political Sphere: War and Peace

11:30 a.m. @ McCain Building Room 1198  
Dalhousie Institute on Society and Culture Presents Crosscurrents Series.

*Free*

### Thursday, Jan. 18

#### Red Cross/Red Crescent Club Recruiting Session

6:30 p.m. @ Killam Atrium

For more info email:

[dabbot@dal.ca](mailto:dabbot@dal.ca)

### Wednesday, Jan. 31

#### A Place Between the Tides: A Naturalist's Reflections on the Salt Marshes

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. @ McCain School Auditorium, room 256

A public lecture by Harry Thurston, winner of the 2005 Sigurd Olson Writing Award. The lecture is part of a larger event the EAC is hosting on salt marsh restoration. This event is cosponsored by the Gulf of Maine Council and Environmental Programmes, Dalhousie University.

For more info email:

[saltmarsh@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:saltmarsh@ecologyaction.ca)

*Free*

## Classifieds

Send to [classifieds@dalgazette.ca](mailto:classifieds@dalgazette.ca)

### ROOMMATE WANTED:

3 BDR apartment with 1 room available for January 1st. Apartment located in South End. Female, mid-twenties preferred, \$450/mo. For more information, please call 506-440-6616 or email [julielizr@hotmail.com](mailto:julielizr@hotmail.com). Please call 425-9094 after 6pm on weekdays to view.

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