

FREE

139-25 / March 22nd - March 29th, 2007

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette



TEMPERATURE RISING

With a book on the way, Zoë Caron cranks the heat on global warming

pg. 4

Superfantastics pop up for good
pg. 8

Athlete brings home silver
pg. 17

Dal lacks spirit
pg. 7



WEEKLY DISPATCH

The Federal Budget

If you have read our advocacy report, gettingshitdone.ca you will know that we were expecting some big news for post secondary education (PSE) in the federal budget. Over the last year we have been lobbying for four key priorities with the support of our federal lobby group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA). The four priorities are: a dedicated transfer for PSE of at least \$4 billion annually, a Pan-Canadian Accord on PSE, a review of student financial aid in Canada, and the renewal of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Although we didn't get everything we were asking for, this budget was definitely a step in the right direction.

The Budget included:

An increase in PSE funding of \$800 million beginning in 2008-09, which the government claims will total \$3.2 billion. There is not a dedicated transfer, per se, but funding will be earmarked within the Canada Social Transfer for PSE, Social Programs, and childcare. Leading up to 2008-2009 the federal government will talk to the provinces about how to earmark funds. This is a good step forward for students. If the government designs it correctly, the earmarked funding could work as well as a dedicated transfer would. The increase in funding brings us about halfway towards our goal of a minimum of \$4 billion in funding annually. Of course, we are disappointed that students will have to wait another year before they will see this new dedicated funding. It should not have taken the government this long to live up to its election promise.

The commitment to review student financial aid and the Canada Student Loans Program with the aim of 'modernizing' it is good, but we are concerned that the government will only look at simplifying and streamlining the delivery of student financial assistance, rather than making significant changes to improve the targeting of funding. There was no mention of Millennium. If the government does not make a commitment to renew a program that delivers over \$350 million directly to students every year, then the \$800 million increase in funding will be far less effective.

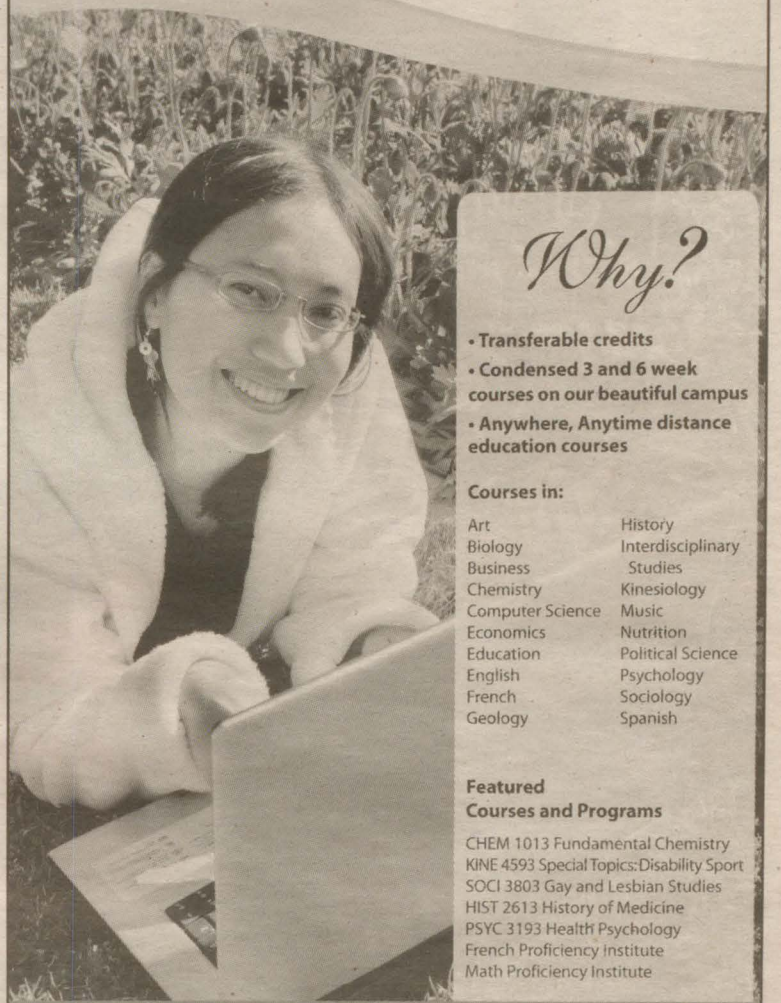
For graduate students the government announced an additional \$35 million over two years and \$27 million per year thereafter to support another 1,000 students through the Canada Graduate Scholarships. These scholarships would be administered through the existing granting councils, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR. There is also an increase in funding to the merit-based Canada Graduate Scholarships which will provide more opportunities for graduate student funding. Unfortunately, this change will not help those students in accessing the post-secondary system at the undergraduate level.

International students will benefit from \$34 million over two years to ensure that they can meet the health and security requirements to stay in Canada. Attracting and retaining skilled and experienced immigrants through improvements to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the creation of a new avenue of immigration for Canadian-educated foreign students is a great step towards increasing Canada's knowledge economy.

These are the highlights of the education related increases to the budget. If you would like to see all of the increases check out our blog at dalhousiestudentunion.blogspot.com.



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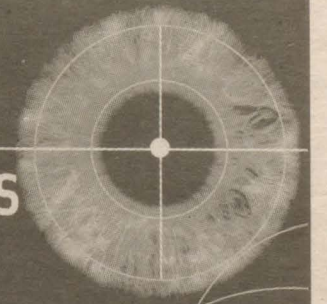


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A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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, The Word at Dal, 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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King's students should get choice of union

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

As soon as the DSU election polls opened last Tuesday afternoon, a "roving pollster" dropped by The Gazette office reminding everyone to vote.

Along with the usual e-mail reminders and laptops set up in strategic locations, the DSU elections committee employed roving pollsters this year. The pollsters roamed campus equipped with Palm Treos connected to the voting website to encourage students to cast ballots.

The pollster who visited our office is a friend of mine, who was certain when she asked if I'd voted that the answer would be yes.

But as much as I'd like to, I can't vote in the DSU election. I'm a King's student.

And like many King's students, I'm in a strange position. While I take classes at Dal and have done so for the last few years of my university career, I am not a Dal student.

This academic year, I have set foot on King's campus maybe four times, two of which were to attend to administrative fees and paperwork.

I spend most of my day around Dal. I don't even pass by the King's

quad.

And yet I was ineligible to vote in the recent referendum on student space. Even though the vote would influence the many King's students who use the space as much as Dal students, the roughly 1,100 students were excluded.

It's the same story with the current DSU elections. King's students can't cast a ballot, even though a large number of us take more courses at Dal than our "own" university. If you used the hours spent on each campus to determine what school you belong to, many King's students would be de facto Dal students.

It's a strange feeling.

I'm a King's student by virtue of being enrolled in a program there and by paying my tuition to that university. But I feel much more like a Dal student.

Back in the first week of the Foundation Year Programme, the vice president of King's tried to explain how King's and Dal are connected. All I remember are two overlapping circles on the board with a lot of gray in the middle.

I fall squarely into the gray area where the two institutions overlap. That's where many King's students are. And as far as I can tell, there's no

way out.

Being around Dal campus all the time, it's hard to say that Dal doesn't influence me. I'm much more in tune with what's going on at Dal and with DSU politics than King's and its student union.

I can and do participate in societies and groups at Dal just like any other student. But when it comes time to show you're an active member of the student population and cast your vote in student union elections, I feel left out.

King's students who take the majority of their classes at Dal should be able to join the DSU, if they so choose. The option already exists for students who want to opt out of paying fees for certain student societies or the health plan, for example.

By filing one simple form, King's students should be able to opt out of their union and transfer their fees to the DSU. Those students could then participate fully in student life at Dal, while remaining King's students.

Would this spell the death of the KSU?

Perhaps. But maybe it would motivate each union to do a better job. Giving people a choice is often the best way to improve and stimulate a stagnant system.

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE

All contributions in this issue of *The Gazette* were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Josh Boyter, Ingrid Gushurst, Catherine Holloway, Sarah Squires, Brittany Curran, Valerie DeGrandis, Hugh Wallace, Anna Fong, Anu Jindal, Magen Powell, Christina Stefanski.

The next contributor meeting will take place March 26th 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.

CORRECTIONS

• There are no corrections at this time. We apologize for wasting the time it took you to read this.

Contribute!

Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 p.m. every Monday.

Room 312, Dal SUB.

Contribute!

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DALIFAMOUS

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who help shape the identity of the university on and off campus.

'A force of nature'

Student to co-author book with Elizabeth May

KATIE MAY
Assistant News Editor

Zoë Caron had no idea a leisurely study session at the library would lead to an exclusive book deal and author partnership with Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

The fourth-year Dalhousie environmental science and international development student was casually researching books about climate change in January 2006 and wondered if there was one "For Dummies."

Discovering no such book existed, Caron began calling and e-mailing the company that owns the "For Dummies" logo, Wiley Publishing, Inc.

And when the publisher's plans to have David Suzuki pen the guide fell through, Caron, the Atlantic coordinator for the Sierra Youth Coalition of Canada, volunteered to write it.

Several months later, the company offered her a full contract.

"I don't know how it really happened," she laughs. "They called me, probably thinking I was a lot more important than I was."

Caron enlisted the help of May, former executive director of the Sierra Club, an environmental advocacy organization. The pair expects to finish the global warming information guide this summer.

Caron and May became close friends when the politician worked as a supervisor in Dal's health science department. They attended a United Nations conference in Montreal two years ago, when May got involved with Caron's sustainability projects on campus.

May says writing with Caron is a more collaborative process than some of her other co-author efforts have been.

"It's an excellent partnership," she says. "When the book is published, I don't think either of us will know who wrote what."

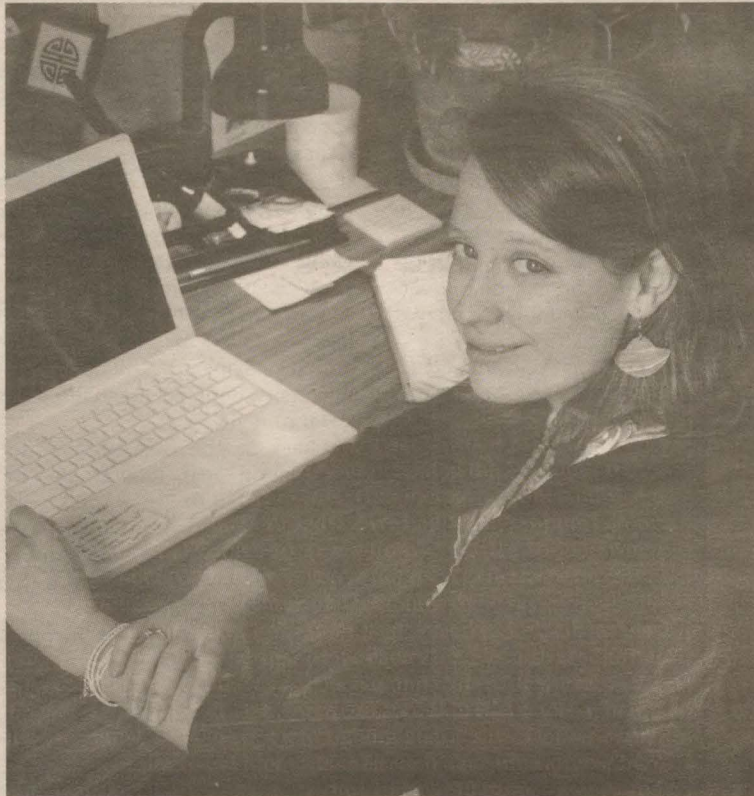
Caron brings creativity to the task and their different writing styles complement each other, says May.

"Her enthusiasm is contagious," she says. "It's fun working together."

Caron was born in Procter, B.C., a small town with a population of 400. She became interested in the environment in August 2005 when she attended a climate change conference and first met May.

From there, she participated in climate change presentations throughout Canada, all of which fuelled her passion for the environment.

"It's connected to absolutely everything," she says. "I think it's the grandiose nature of it that attracts me, the fact that everything we use



Zoë Caron travels to schools across the Atlantic provinces to teach students how to make their campuses more sustainable. / Photo: John Packman

and everything we do depends on the strength and the health of the natural environment."

Since then, Caron has been actively involved with environmental projects at Dal.

Two years ago, she co-founded the Dalhousie Integrated Sustainability Initiative, a student society that aims to make the campus more environmentally friendly by recommending green policies and infrastructure changes.

As part of her Sierra Youth position, Caron also travels to schools across the Atlantic provinces to teach students how to make their own campuses more sustainable.

Caron's environmental knowledge, coupled with her enthusiastic drive to change things, resonates with her colleagues.

David Wheeler, dean of management, met Caron last September when he became her thesis advisor. He says her final research project, which will investigate sustainable paper use at Dal, shows her innovation and foresight.

"[Caron's] a force of nature, really," says Wheeler. "She's clearly going to do amazing things. She's exactly the kind of student that signals where Dalhousie is headed as an institution."

Environmental science professor Tarah Wright is working with Caron

on her thesis and has served on the senate environmental committee with her for three years.

Wright says she was impressed with Caron's "collegial" leadership skills when, as one of the only students on the committee, she volunteered to direct a meeting full of professors and university officials.

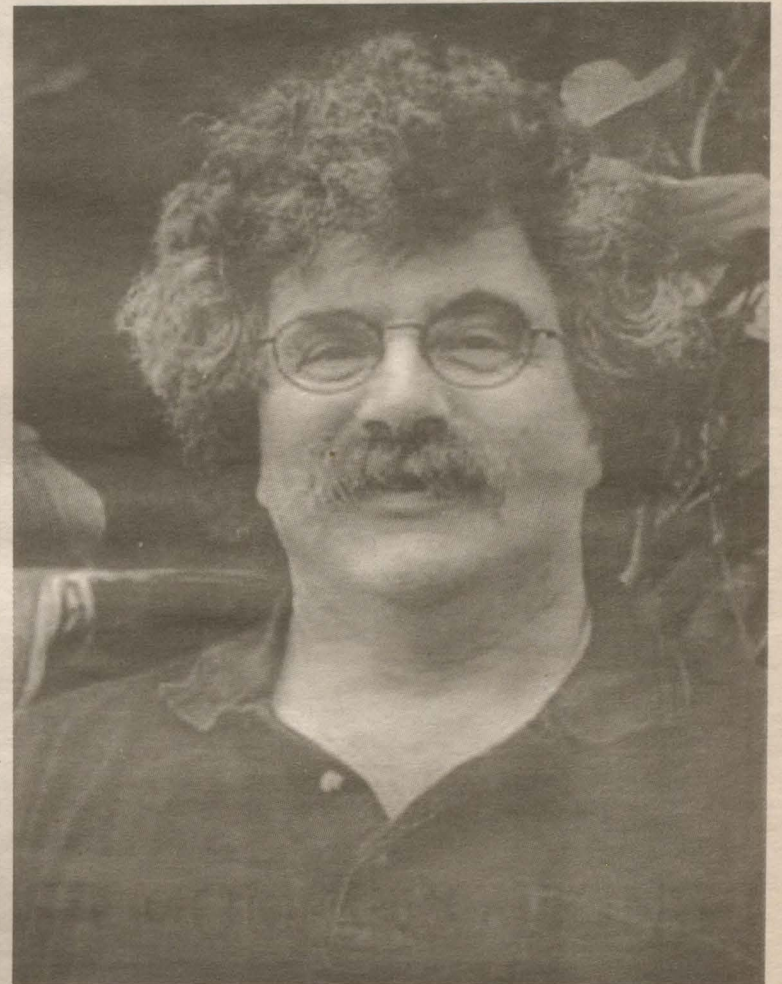
"People respect her and her opinion on all levels," Wright says. "It's rare that we get a student who is inspirational to students and faculty."

In spite of her many duties as a student, writer and environmentalist, Caron says she doesn't find the projects difficult to balance.

"Everything I do in my studies really helps the work that I do with other youth leaders. I try to direct my studies towards what I'm doing," she says. "I never feel like I'm doing schoolwork or working or writing. I feel like I'm just living life everyday."

After she graduates this year, Caron plans to work at environmental agencies in Canada and South America and gain experience at government organizations before returning to school for a master's degree.

"There's a lot of different avenues that I feel like I need to really have more experience in and understand myself a little bit more before I can move on with my studies," she says. "At this point, I feel like I could go in a number of different directions."



Bill Freedman is the national director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Ecology chief

Award-winning prof leaves positive footprint

JOSH BOYTER
Staff Contributor

After spending 15 years protecting the environment, Bill Freedman has been rewarded for his work.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada presented the Dalhousie ecology professor with the gold-level Canadian Environment Award for Conservation.

The conservancy is a national organization that acquires specific areas of land to protect diverse ecosystems.

Freedman started his work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada more than 15 years ago, after project organizers asked him to share his wealth of ecological knowledge. He started doing fieldwork for the group and eventually became the Atlantic board director.

Earlier this year, the organization appointed Freedman as its national director, a position he will assume in September 2007.

Though he wasn't particularly inspired to join the conservancy at first, Freedman says he couldn't ignore his attachment to the natural world.

"My research and personal interest have always been about the environment," he says. "I think about environmental damage all the time. It is the second or third thing that I think about in the morning."

Freedman says volunteering with the conservancy fits with his goals and qualifications as an ecologist.

Since his early days of volunteering, Freedman's energetic personality and strong work ethic have garnered him respect from his peers.

Working with Freedman for the past eight years, Linda Stephenson has seen the impact he's had on the environment and people around him.

"[Freedman] is a very special type of person with a deep profound knowledge," says Stephenson, incoming chair of the Atlantic board of directors for the conservancy.

Ian McLaren, a biology professor

at Dal, has worked with Freedman since he arrived at the university more than 30 years ago. He says his colleague understands the complexities of environmental issues and wants to help others understand them.

"He has never been particularly interested in being an advocate for the environment but figures if you tell it how it is, people will do what they need to do," says McLaren. "He is more interested in doing things that would cause changes than wait for changes."

Freedman says he wants his own actions to show an ordinary person can make a difference.

"People learn best how to do things not by reading about it or taking a lecture but watching other people doing things that we may come to do later on," he says. "That's a type of mentorship that helped me over time."

Freedman never had formal training to be a director or perform his job effectively. He says his personal connection to the environment enables him to do the job well.

He once accompanied a donor family on a visit to an ecologically important area, where he skipped stones on a pond with their son, teaching them about rocks and nature. He made such an impression on the child and the family that they invested money to protect the habitat.

"My personal engagement undoubtedly made that project happen," says Freedman. "I get enormous satisfaction with everything that I have been involved with."

His personal credibility makes Freedman popular with media and members of the conservancy. Stephenson says Freedman is practical and understands that not everything needs to be saved.

"He devotes a great deal of time to family work and to the Nature Conservancy of Canada while keeping a great sense of humour and innocence," she says.

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Failed 'yes' campaign budget exceeds \$11,000

INGRID GUSHURST
News Contributor

Dalhousie spent more than \$11,000 on its campaign to convince students to vote in favour of its construction proposal.

The university hired outside communications officials to do the work, which was designed to persuade students to support a campus re-design project funded by an increase in student fees.

The project was turned down by 57.3 per cent of voters in a referendum that saw the highest turnout for a campus-wide vote in at least five years.

The proposal called for 11 construction projects with an estimated \$25 million price tag. Students would have paid up to \$100 per year for several decades to fund the improvements.

An official in Dal's marketing department says the money for the university's 'yes' campaign was well spent.

"I make no apologies for spending any amount of money trying to communicate to students," says Jim Vibert, assistant vice president of communications and marketing.

Vibert was integral to the launch of yes.dal.ca, Dal's official pro-referendum website, and the online video it hosted. He says most of the campaign spending went to outside professionals. The combined costs of the online video posted on yes.dal.ca and hiring Mark Little, a Dal student

who fronted the campaign, was a little over \$8,000.

The website sucked another \$3,000 from the university's marketing budget, and posters that were spread across campus cost a few hundred dollars.

A third-year biology student says the campaign provoked him to vote 'no.'

"I was against the whole thing just because I felt like I was being bombarded with 'vote yes' all the time," says Adam Cyr. "The campaign was too aggressive and a lot of people, myself included, felt pressured."

At least one other student shares Cyr's concerns.

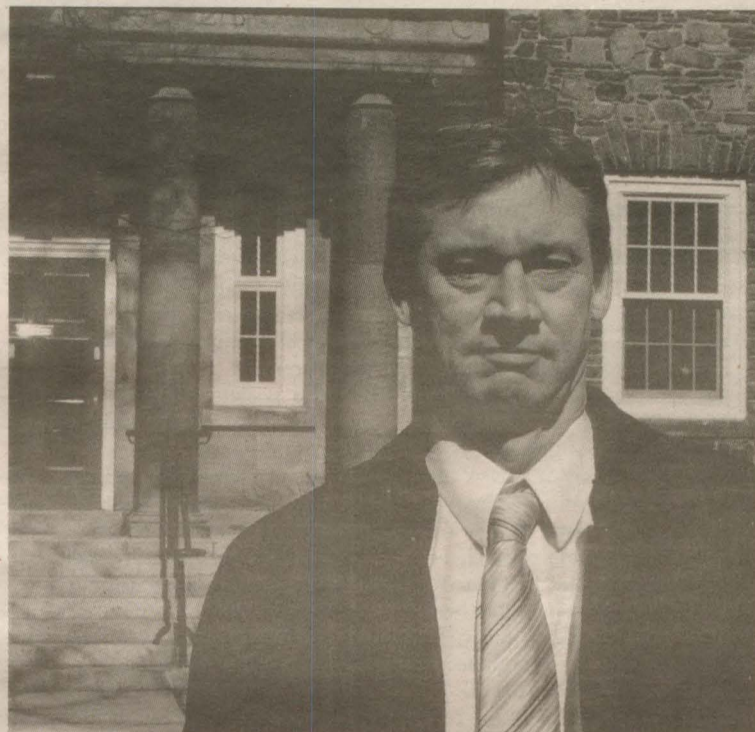
"The proposal was good," says Emily Turner, a first-year theatre and psychology student who voted in favour of the plan. "The campaign was bad."

Vibert dismisses the suggestion that the 'yes' campaign backfired because it was too aggressive.

"We wanted to know what [students] wanted, and we needed a way to find that out," says Vibert. "We really weren't trying to hide anything. Our position was yes. We made that clear."

The official costs for the 'yes' campaign didn't fund the printing and distribution of a paper edition of *Dalhousie News*, a publication that is largely a marketing tool for the university.

The issue, which was published just before the vote and cost \$850,



"I make no apologies for spending any amount of money trying to communicate to students," says Jim Vibert, assistant vice president of communications and marketing. / Photo: John Packman.

featured a three-page spread on the referendum and related issues.

In recent years, *Dalhousie News* has only been available online. No print editions were published during the 2006/2007 academic year before the referendum campaign.

Vibert says the release of the is-

sue prior to the vote was "fortunate timing," and was not part of the university's official effort or budget to convince students to vote 'yes.'

The communications and marketing department will publish more print editions of *Dalhousie News* later this semester, says Vibert.

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Controversy plagues student elections

The University of Saskatchewan's student newspaper received a leaked document that alleges a union executive running for re-election called staff members "bed shitters" and "cunts."

In the letter, leaked to *The Sheaf* from an unknown source, student union general manager Caroline Cottrell wrote to vice president (operations and finance) Cody Lang that he violated union policies with his behaviour.

Lang had called union staff members derogatory names and said they attended professional development conferences to get "blow and hookers," wrote Cottrell.

Cottrell's letter represents Lang's third warning. The union's executive policy requires that after two warnings, a letter of complaint must be read to union council at the next meeting and then published in *The Sheaf*.

But council hadn't held a meeting before the student newspaper received the letter.

Evidence suggested Brad Flavell, current vice president (academic) and presidential candidate, leaked the letter. Flavell denied the charges.

The allegations against Flavell and Lang have hindered their election campaigns.

Flavell's opponent told *The Sheaf* that the contents of the letter were likely "embellished."

"Is everything true? No," said Ryan Allen. "Are there things in there that never happened? Yes. Is there a grain of truth in some of it? Yes."

UofC condemns Iran

The University of Calgary is condemning Iran for its alleged refusal to enroll Bahá'í students in its universities.

UofC's faculties council sent letters last month to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the United Nations, speaking out against Iran's alleged practice of denying confirmed Bahá'í from registering at universities.

"Access to knowledge is a fundamental human right," the Feb. 5 letter stated. "There is evidence that persons of the Bahá'í faith are being denied access to higher education in Iran."

The Bahá'í faith was founded in 19th-century Persia with the mission of uniting the world in peace and justice.

Until recently, Bahá'í students were not considered for university registration in Iran if they didn't declare themselves part of the four recognized religions: Islam, Christianity, Judaism or Zoroastrianism.

Iran later bowed to international pressure and removed the mandatory declaration of religion from the application.

But a United States Department of State report found that while Bahá'í were allowed to enroll, a professor identified 14 of them and denied them access to classes.

Sources: *The Gauntlet* and *The Sheaf*

Gazette Archives

VOL. 139-25

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

NO. 70

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Dal launches new jobs program

A new student employment program at Dalhousie was heralded as the first of its kind in North America. Partnerships in the Labour Market aimed to give undergraduate students practical job experience.

The program was designed to provide career-related training to students who didn't have co-op or practicum terms. It would be partially funded by the university and the Economic Renewal Agency to subsidize employers who would provide summer jobs for students in their area of study.

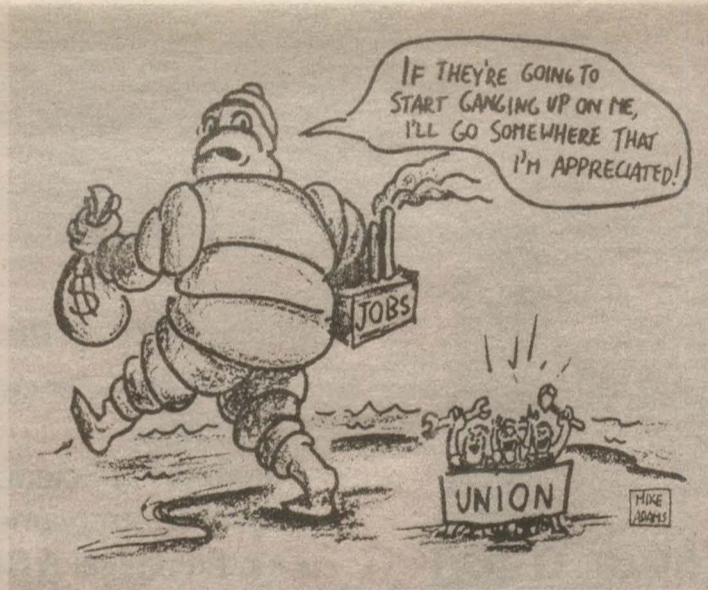
The pilot project would create about 20 jobs for the summer of 1997. If the pilot proved successful, the number of positions would increase the following academic year, and could be offered in other universities.

A Statistics Canada report found that one in five Canadians under the age of 25 had no work experience in 1996, a proportion that had doubled since 1989.

20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Quebec to fund affirmative action

The Quebec government launched a \$6.5-million af-



firmative action program for women.

Higher Education Minister Claude Ryan announced roughly \$2 million for the three-year package that would go to 130 CEGEP schools and 10 universities.

The program aimed to eliminate future discrimination against women, rectify effects of past discrimination, eliminate obstacles to improving the reputation of women and create new long-term role models.

Each education institution

would hire an employment equity officer with experience in research techniques.

An official with the higher education ministry said the equity officer would analyze any problem discrimination posed.

"She'll look at how people will react to the program, [and] what are people's problems and feelings about discrimination," said Suzanne Messier.

"She'll also gauge reactions after three months and recommend a plan of action."

30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Premier promises no cutbacks

University tuition in Nova Scotia wouldn't rise to \$900 for the 1976 fall semester as expected, the premier promised.

Gerald Regan told a forum organized by the Dalhousie Student Union there were "no grounds" to rationalize post-secondary education funding cutbacks.

The forum was part of the union's campaign to oppose slashes in government funding for the province's universities. Students planned to march to the legislature to protest funding cuts.

Regan said he wished free university was a viable option in the province.

"There is every bit as strong a case for free university education today as for free high school in the 1930s," said Regan.

The president of the student union said cutbacks on education funding was "the wrong approach."

"[If] tuition increases substantially, it is likely that the quality of education would go down," said Robert Sampson.

Annual General Meeting & Staff Elections

3 p.m. Friday, March 23
in Room 312
of the Student Union Building

Gazette

Opinions Editor: John Packman Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

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.

Articles

Submissions to The Gazette opinions section must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit a list of sources along with articles. This publication only prints submissions its editorial board deems to be void of libellous and/or defamatory material. Submissions are due at noon on the Saturday prior to publication.

letters@dalgazette.ca

IMAGINE RESPECT

My interest piqued when I first learned that students were to be the guiding force behind the "Imagine" project to improve campus community, and was immediately let down at the Jan. 31 presentation. It was too controlled.

When King's College became an issue, the response was not to fix the problem, but invent a notion that King's students were foreigners on Dalhousie soil. Such remarks showed that Dal administration and the DSU are out of touch with the student populace, where King's students are integrated in almost every discipline and at almost every level.

King's and Dal are different schools, each with their own independent thought, focus and identity. But they pool together many of their resources. Each benefits from the other's successes and they have been cooperating for over 80 years to produce amazing results. We deserve to respect that relationship.

The foundation of a great community and a great education is respect.

There is a wealth of great people on the both campuses now, and I'll bet that it will cost less than \$25 million to engage them. Are the administration and student governments up to the task to do so?

Scott Richey

DO YOUR RESEARCH

(Re: Ironic wake-up call, Gazette 139-24) Research is a valued skill at a university. Research might have served Paul McLeod well in his letter last week.

First, my name is spelled C-L-A-R-K. Wendel Clark, Joe Clark, Dick Clark and Clark Kent all spell it the same way.

Second, he suggests I kowtow to the administration. A little research here might have been useful. Last year, Tom Traves called me irresponsible before the board for fighting to reduce last year's tuition increase — not something I would associate with kowtowing.

I accept the results of the referendum. Students did not like the deal that was proposed. I talked to many people who supported the project, but didn't like paying for it. I understand that.

But every time I see six students crowded on a couch, uncomfortably reading on the floor or wandering around the Killam looking for a computer, I will think of this referendum.

As the university grows to 17,000 students as planned, these problems will only get worse. And it's tomorrow's students who will have to deal with it.

It may have been harsh for me to say the referendum was a victory of the "me mentality" over the "us mentality," but I still believe it to be true. As tuition fees are about to start dropping, giving a little bit of that money back would help provide a better university experience to the students of the future.

Dan Clark



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Opinions Columnist

The Scientific Skeptic Doubt in science

When I first heard of the *Trust in Science* lecture series, I was skeptical about the message it wanted to convey.

The posters promoting the five lectures held at the University of King's College were ominous. The silhouette of a family was submerged in a beaker full of neon liquid, and standing behind them were shadows of big authority figures and a city skyline.

The posters also bore the questions, "What and whom are we actually trusting? Do we even want to know?" as if intending to reveal some sinister secret of science that would threaten the family life we all value so dearly.

A number of Harvard University professors spoke at the series about science's vulnerability to corporate and personal interests. They also addressed the trust scientists place in each other and what happens when individual scientists go astray.

Other lecturers discussed flaws in Health Canada's drug testing and "blue sky science," which has no intended practical application. In the series' final lecture on March 15, Harvard sciences professor Sheila Jasanoff summarized the problems of the public's perception of science.

If the presenters' aim in these lecture series was to raise some doubt in our trust of science, did they succeed? Well, perhaps.

The two biggest examples of betrayal of trust, the Korean stem cell controversy and the Vioxx drug recall, weren't necessarily the fault of the scientific method.



Public concern that corporate funding threatens the integrity of science.

Korean scientist Hwang Woo-Suk's fabricated research into human stem cell cloning was published in the journal *Science*. But the journal retracted the false findings within seven months.

The desire for glory corrupted the Korean scientist and the scientific method took him down.

Merck & Co., Ltd recalled its arthritis drug Vioxx after reports confirmed the product increased risk for heart attack and stroke. But it's worthy to note the company, and not a government body, removed the drug from the market when the public revealed the risks.

Public concern that corporate funding threatens the integrity of science was another reoccurring concern of the King's lecture series. Corporations favour projects that

are more likely to make a profit, but that's probably the extent of their power.

According to panellist Aled Edwards, corporations pay for only 10 per cent of scientific funding in Canada. No amount of money can fundamentally change the results of an experiment, though scientists may be less likely to bite the hand that feeds them.

It is, however, in a company's best interest to know the truth about their product. It's bad business to kill customers or poison the environment. And in our world where investigative journalists and whistle blowers are seen as heroes, it's hard to keep anything a secret.

The real threat to science was apparent in Jasanoff's lecture. As recently as this March, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service told two of its employees not to talk about the effect of global warming on polar bears at an international conference.

Jasanoff said the American government has also halted funding to stem cell research and is only funding projects they believe will improve the economy.

Science still has an important role to play in our society. In the 1940s, distinguished American sociologist Robert Merton wrote that scientific ideas belong to everyone, that those ideas should be true for anyone, that scientists should seek truth and not glory and that no one should take these ideas as truth unless they are rigorously tested.

We should not be distrustful of science but rather of those who try to compromise science with censorship and unnecessary control.

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Gazette

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas,

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

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

Use technology to inform

The Dalhousie Student Union elections committee allowed candidates to run online campaigns this year. For the first time, Dal students could seek out election hopefuls' platforms and a wide array of discussion of those platforms.

In previous years, candidates relied on flyers, posters and classroom talks to win over the electorate. Information on what candidates sought to achieve was restricted to short posts, and students seeking more had to attend debates or contact DSU hopefuls in person.

This year, candidates laid out their ideas and communicated with students across campus using the Internet. The high number of comments on candidates' websites and sites such as Facebook demonstrated the success of the web to engage students — all without candidates spending a cent of their campaign budgets.

The elections committee decided against the use of the Internet in the past because it could work against students who lacked the technical know-how or resources to create impressive sites.

But with Blogger.com, anyone with an e-mail address and basic computer skills can have a website free of charge.

And the sites provide in-depth details about candidates' platforms, freeing candidates from restrictions

of more traditional forms of media. The DSU website allows for only 100 words and links to amateur — though sometimes hilarious — videos on YouTube.

The Gazette, meanwhile, can only report what candidates say in an interview, and due to space limitations, candidates have only about 150 words to explain their views and experience.

Internet campaigning offers candidates a larger audience and more space to convince voters. It also provides voters with easily accessible information on potential representatives.

Part of the puzzle is still lacking, though. Campaign websites, and the DSU's candidate profiles, don't provide voters with the responsibilities and requirements of elected positions. Without this information, voters don't have the tools to judge whether a candidate's experience is relevant or their platform pertains to the responsibilities of their potential post.

Candidates can now explain as much as they'd like on their websites. In future, they should seriously consider using some space to inform students of the job they are seeking to fill. This will not only serve to educate students, but will also demonstrate that candidates have done their research.

And if they haven't done that, they shouldn't be on the ballot.

Dal needs to focus on learning

SARA SQUIRES
Opinions Contributor

I chose Dalhousie for its reputation for academic excellence. I came here in 2003 and will be graduating with honours from the faculty of arts and social sciences in 2007.

I already bought my graduation ring. I'm damn proud of my degree, and I know I worked hard for it.

But I'm not so proud of Dal.

When friends ask me what I think of my university, I tell them it would make a great graduate school.

But if they're just looking for a bachelor degree in science, history or English and they really want to learn something, I tell them to go somewhere else.

It often seems like professors are hired more for their ability to bring revenue to the school than their ability to impart their vast knowledge upon students.

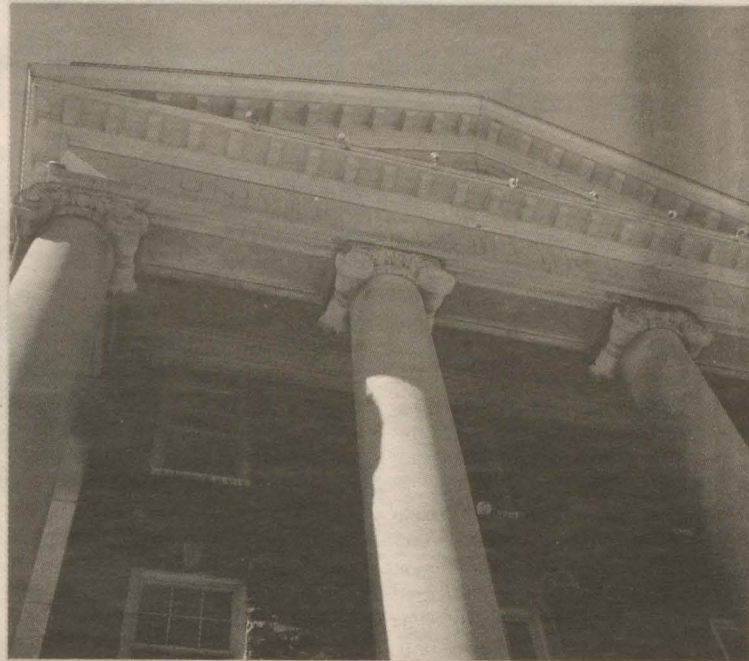
Without these bigwig research profs, Dal couldn't be the giant it is in Atlantic Canada. It certainly wouldn't have had the reputation that drew me in the first place.

Don't get me wrong, I'm pretty happy with my little French department. But I've come to joke that Dal is "the university with no soul." Sure, there are sports teams, societies and such. But do I feel like Dal really cares about its students as individuals? Not really.

Look at this whole referendum fiasco. Unbiased representation by the DSU, my ass. All students get a say, my ass. Not once did the union allow truly open discussion without some taste of censorship.

But then I discovered the University of King's College.

I say "discovered" as if no one had ever heard of the school before. And I guess few people really have. We all know it's there. We know it's focused on the arts and that it has a good journalism program. It also has this crazy thing called the King's



King's students show their appreciation of their school. / Photo: John Packman

Foundation Year Programme, and most of its students have to take at least half their classes at Dal.

The word "inferior" always comes to mind. King's is like the annoying little brother who wishes he were us, right?

But then I actually checked it out. I got to know some King's students, sat in on some FYP lectures and realized these people actually like learning. And their teachers are good at it. Students actually clap at the end of some lectures.

That might be a bit much for us soulless Dal students, but the point is our counterparts at King's show appreciation. And they get involved.

King's students know what's happening on their campus. They care, and they want to make a difference. Last year, student union elections at King's saw a 50 per cent higher voter turnout than those at Dal.

I came to Dal expecting and hop-

ing to learn things, to get involved, to leave with an education. And I am leaving with an education. But I've had to fight the attitudes of my peers the whole way.

In my first year, I was surrounded by grumblers. "This prof is terrible," students said. "This prof is so boring," said others. "That prof can't even speak English."

Oh, and a DSU election is coming up? Who wants to vote? Looks like another point for student apathy.

King's is not, like so many of us seem to think, the little university on the side that's mooching off its big brother Dal. If anything, it makes Dal better.


It's a little gem of enthusiasm, spirit and, yes, intelligence, and is quite intricately tied to Dal. I truly wish I'd found King's much sooner than in my fourth year. We could learn a lot from the school's approach to education.

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Superfantastics won't disappear

Local band releases first full-length album

ASHLEIGH GAUL
Assistant Arts Editor

Fans of the Superfantastics might notice something not quite right about the band's newest release, *Pop-Up Book*.

Maybe it smells like Kraft Dinner. Maybe the track listing is slightly misaligned. In any case, it's dripping with the eyebrow sweat and elbow grease of drummer and singer Steph d'Entremont.

"There's a treat on the inside," says d'Entremont over the phone. She's cooking Kraft Dinner and getting ready to assemble the surprise pop-up liner notes for 500 copies of *Pop-Up Book*.

"The printer wouldn't prepare it for us, and so I offered to do the extra work. I can't back out now," she says, sighing. "What the fuck is wrong with me?"

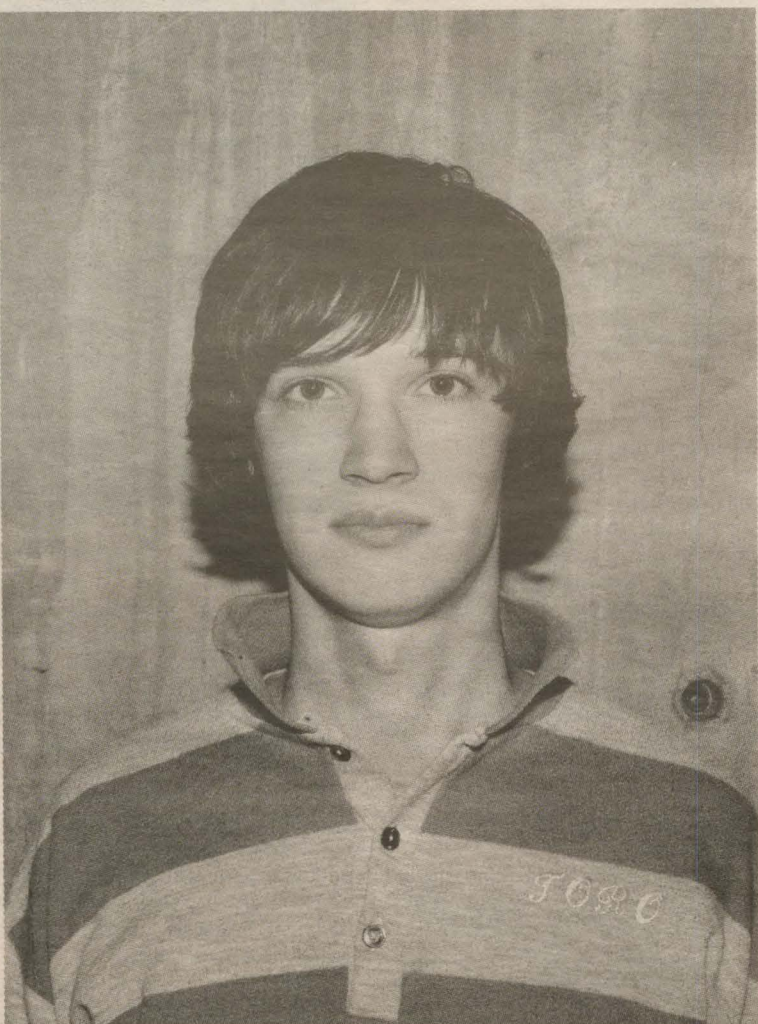
D'Entremont may not always know what she's gotten herself into, but she seems to know exactly what she's doing. Each CD is totally unique, she says.

Though *Pop-Up Book* is the band's first full-length album, d'Entremont followed a similar program for the release of last year's EP, *Like Letters*.

"I typed up the liner notes for the EP on my typewriter," she remembers. "There were spelling mistakes, capitals all over the place, text hanging off to the side... I remembered every CD by its little mistakes and differences."

In addition to her assembly-line work on *Pop-Up Book*, d'Entremont has employed her Nova Scotia Community College-honed talent as a videographer to broadcast music videos and regular video blog updates of the recording process. Muchmusic's *The Wedge*, *Going Coastal* and Bravo TV have broadcast her video for "What Will You Do Now."

"If you see us enough times, you have to give us a listen, eventually," says d'Entremont. "I heard somewhere that if you hear a band's name seven times, it'll stick in your head... If you see our name a lot, that's not an accident."



D'Entremont has bypassed the traditional do-it-yourself merchandise catalogue — stuff like buttons, pins and T-shirts — in favour of a slightly less conventional approach to trinketry.

"I made up slap bracelets last year," she says. "I do most of the merch by hand... I made a deal with Matt [MacDonald, singer]. I'll do the merch, you be the talent."

D'Entremont's other half in the band is certainly super-talented. MacDonald, the band's singer, guitarist and drum coach, splits his time between the Superfantastics and his other band, the Sleepless Nights.

Until last year, MacDonald

flaunted his multi-tasking abilities in three bands. Matt Charlton, a former band mate in Sunlit Torches who's now publicist for the Superfantastics, says MacDonald is "an annoyingly talented guy."

"You'd never know it though," says Charlton. "He's very modest and never rubs in the fact that he could nail the keyboard part you're struggling with one-handed while he sings and plays a simple drum part — while thinking about an RRSP plan."

MacDonald also taught d'Entremont to play drums.

"I wanted to learn to play the drums just because I was interested,

at first," says d'Entremont, remembering how she met MacDonald.

"Matt agreed to teach me... He'd come to our jam space with parts of songs, and I'd play along. Those turned into real songs, so we thought, 'Let's write some more and play Rockin' 4 Dollars.'"

The 20-minute set at Reflections' open mic night turned into regular shows at Gus' Pub, the Speakeasy and the One World Cafe. Those shows led to out-of-town connections and mini-tours across the Maritimes.

Two years later, the Superfantastics are preparing for a month-long trek as far west as Windsor, Ont., before returning to the One World on

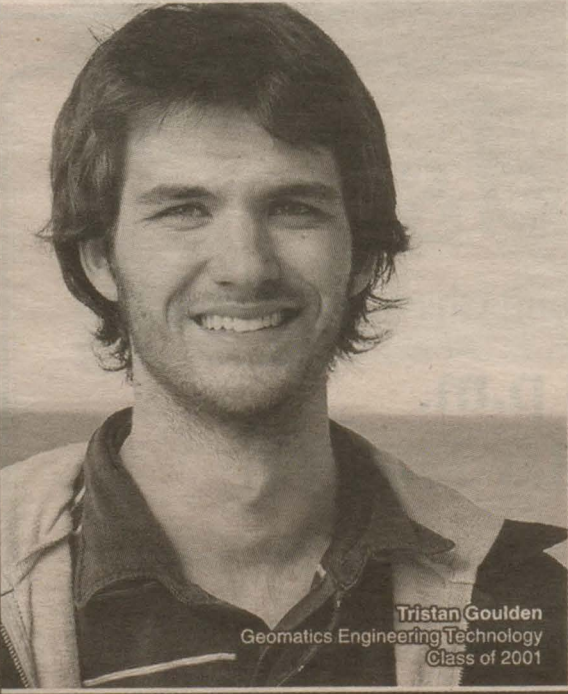
May 6.

Along with touring, drum-coaching, singing and playing guitar for the Superfantastics, MacDonald wrote the music and lyrics for *Pop-Up Book*. He also mixed the CD, with the help of d'Entremont and Charles Austin, at the Echo Chamber in Halifax.

Listening to *Pop-Up Book*, it's immediately clear there was a lot of mixing to do. In comparison to *Like Letters*, the duo has filled out its arrangements with some interesting experiments in multi-tracking.

In addition to the band's regular drums/vocals/guitar setup, MacDonald brought in tambourines, bass

"My NSCC diploma helped me get my Geomatics Engineering degree faster."



Tristan Goulden
Geomatics Engineering Technology
Class of 2001

Tristan completed his Geomatics Engineering Technology Diploma at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) at NSCC's Annapolis Valley Campus. Since NSCC credits are recognized at many colleges and universities across Canada, he was then able to complete his five year Geomatics Engineering degree in just four years at the University of New Brunswick.

Tristan's work has taken him to the Mediterranean, Texas, and Georgia. He currently works at the NSCC's Applied Geomatics Research Group.

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pedals and a guest appearance by the Sleepless Nights on "Vantastic."

According to d'Entremont, the unusual rhythm section on "Tonight Tonight" resulted from a particularly inspired flash of insight on MacDonald's part.

"We doubled up the drum tracks on a few songs," she says. "There were two takes when Matt was mixing them. They were pretty close, so instead of just mixing one of them, he put both in... [the synchronization's] not perfect, so it almost sounds like the drums are echoing."

Apparently, the "effect" has attracted the attention of "nerdy music types" already, though the album is not officially released until March

30. D'Entremont says the satisfying fullness of *Pop-Up Book* is due to the time the band allowed itself to work on it.

"We wrote the other songs [for Like Letters] really quickly," she says. "We recorded them in our jam spot on a four-track."

The songs on *Pop-Up Book* are much more developed, she says.

"We didn't want to be rushed."

D'Entremont says the Superfantastics have progressed at a leisurely pace, but two years is a short time to learn an instrument, write over an hour of record-quality music and tour.

"We planned ahead really well, but in the end, I think it's always a

rush," she says. "Some of the songs were written in the studio... We kind of learned them as we were writing."

When asked if she'd rather have drawn out the production for *Pop-Up Book* or even delayed the process entirely, d'Entremont says no.

"There are a lot of amazing local bands whose live show is amazing, and you're like, 'Fuck! When are they going to release a full length?' And then they just disappear," she says.

"We didn't want to just disappear."

The Superfantastics release Pop-Up Book on Friday, March 30 @ 10 p.m. at the Seahorse Tavern with the Maynards and the Memories Attack.



Matt MacDonald and Steph d'Entremont are the talent behind the Superfantastics. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski



The Superfantastics are preparing for a month-long trek as far west as Windsor, Ont., before returning to the One World on May 6. / Photo: Chris Smith

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THE WORD AT DAL

Overheard at Sobeys after St. Patrick's Day...

Girl on cell phone: So how was the rest of your night? Oh my god! You had to pull over to puke? [Laughs] You so shouldn't have been driving.

Walking to the Killam...

Guy1: Man, someone took my Dal ID.

Guy2: Really?

Guy1: Yeah. It doesn't even have my age on it though.

Guy2: Who would take it?

Guy1: I don't know, but I feel bad for the guy that looks like me.

In a Shirreff Hall bathroom...

Girl 1: (in the shower) This shower is really cold.

Girl 2: (also in shower) Yeah, so is my beer!

Girl 1: Oh my god, mine too!

On the #1 bus...

Guy1: Well she chemically straightened her hair so of course she has split ends.

Guy2: I am always tempted to peel mine.

Guy3: Peel them? Dude, don't do that!

Guy1: I am lucky because my hair is so thin I don't get split ends. Well I do, but you can't see them...

Shirreff Hall...

Girl1: Ugh, I wish I was taller so I didn't walk on my pants all the time. I hate walking on my pants.

Girl2: Or you could just hem your pants.

Girl1: Growing taller would be so much easier.

Somewhere...

Girl: I want to be a professional Wii bowler.

Guy: That would take a lot of weed....

STREETER

WHAT DO YOU DO TO CRAM?



“ I just sit in the back of the Killam where there's no people and cram my ass off.”

Alex Calvert, second-year English



“ Jolt Cola.”

Mirit Poznansky, third-year history and film



“ Frequent guitar breaks.”

Kyle Ereaux, first-year arts



“ I go and get a doctor's note.”

Dave Howe, fourth-year history



“ All-nighters in the computer science building.”

Alexandra Gundy, fourth-year IDS



“ I drink wine... it de-stresses me.”

Mary Smulders, fourth-year political science



“ I pull an all-nighter and drink lots of coffee.”

Joanne Sullivan, masters of public administration



“ I watch Blue Nuit so I can stay up all night.”

Joey Ryba, third-year stag film studies

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

HOT / NOT

- HOT:** \$11,000
- NOT:** The 'yes' campaign
- HOT:** No pants
- NOT:** Snow pants
- HOT:** Drunken expectations
- NOT:** Whisky dick
- HOT:** Rational fears
- NOT:** Pigeons
- HOT:** Irony
- NOT:** Sarcasm
- HOT:** Putting yourself out there
- NOT:** Free Ballin'
- HOT:** The first skirt of spring
- NOT:** Finally having to shave your legs
- HOT:** Scratch tickets
- NOT:** Grocery money
- HOT:** Violent Femmes
- NOT:** Violent feminists
- HOT:** Denial
- NOT:** That essay due tomorrow

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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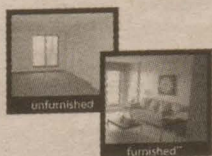
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Synthesizing styles

Disparate artists find each other at Khyber Komix Jam

Laura Trethewey
Arts Editor

"Artwork is so solitary," says Ed Beals, a freelance artist who has lived and worked in Halifax for more than 20 years.

Now, to remedy the isolation that can cling to an artist, he participates in Khyber Komix Jam once a month. This social drawing event has been popular in Montreal for over 25 years. Toronto also has its own offshoot.

Late last year, Kyle Bridgett started the comic jam for veteran artists and closet doodlers alike.

Khyber Komix Jam has a simple format that's very loose for the creative participants who attend. A panel is drawn, taped on the Khyber's blood-red walls, and then appropriated by another artist, who repeats the same process until the page is filled.

The stress of creating a perfect comic is put aside. Instead, drawing styles intermingle and oddball stories form from a multitude of scribbling pens and interjecting voices.

"The comics jam is about drawing with people and interacting with artists," says Bridgett. "It's just about fun. The end product isn't important. The event is important."

At the end of each session, Bridgett collects the pages, and photocopies and binds them to be distributed at the next meeting. For an outsider such as myself, the jumbled, incoherent brainchild is admittedly more fun to look at than to read seriously.

"With a traditional comic, it needs three things to be successful. It has to flow, the characters have to look the same in every panel and the overall look of the page," explains Bridgett.

"With comic jams, I think it's successful if we get one of those things. They're a little schizophrenic 'cause of the way they're created."

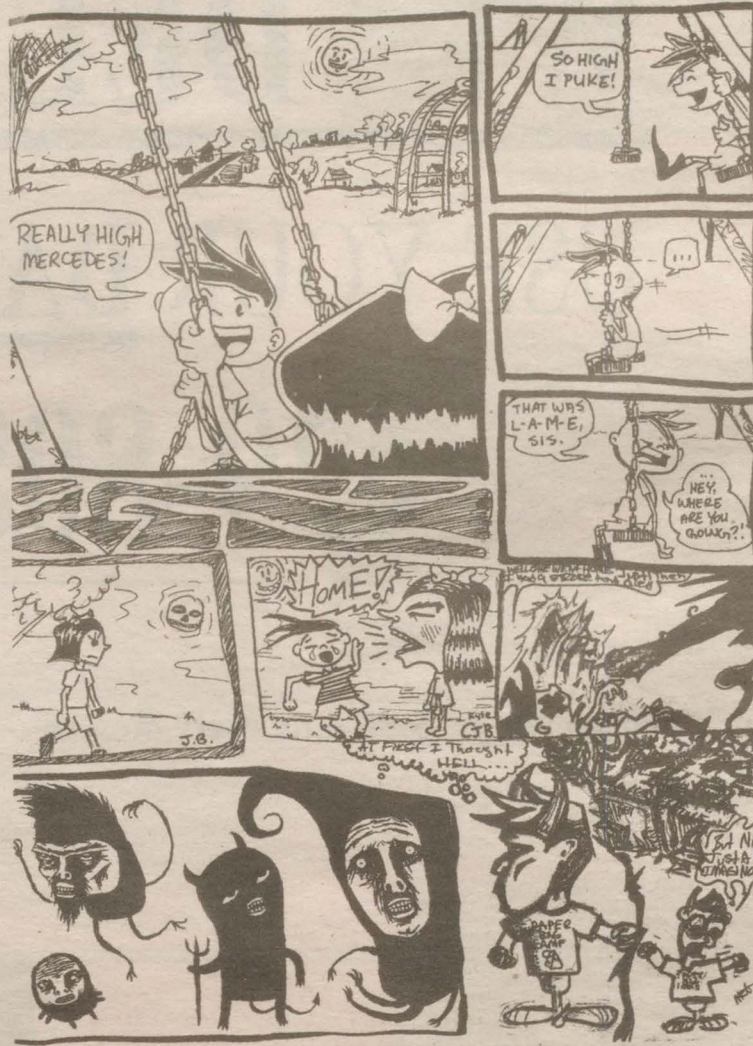
A wide cross-section of talent also contributes to the erratic output.

"We've got some graphic design people. Some jack-of-all-trades, some people who doodle and put it on the Internet, NSCAD students," Bridgett says.

Beals is one of the more seasoned jammers.

"I've never really worked in a design firm, I've always been independent," he says. "I was O.K. with that for a lot of years, but after a while, I started to feel I'd been in this city for 20 years and nobody here knew me."

Beals, who holds a similar event at his home with friends, initially was attracted to the opportunity to meet other artists. He explains how



The jam pages show the intermingling of styles that occurs each month. / Illustration scan courtesy of Khyber Komix Jam

the solitary drawer learns to let the styles of various artists co-exist on one page.

"You can't have any control over [your work] when you come to a comics jam. You do what you do and pass it on," he says. "You have no idea if the next person is going to draw stick people or totally make you look like an amateur because they're so good."

The event serves as a much-needed break for artists who draw contracted pictures or delve into their personal visions. Either way, the jam encourages drawers to lose control over the finished product and to enjoy that experience.

"You just go and have fun," says Beals. "I like that unpredictability, and the [controlling] person would avoid this event."

For novices like Nathalie Julien, the jam forces her to draw at least once a month.

"It's a good kick of pants," she says. "I'm here to draw and I'm not going to get distracted because other people are drawing, too."

Julien met Bridgett late last year.

After finding out she drew, Bridgett invited her to the first, upcoming Khyber Komix Jam.

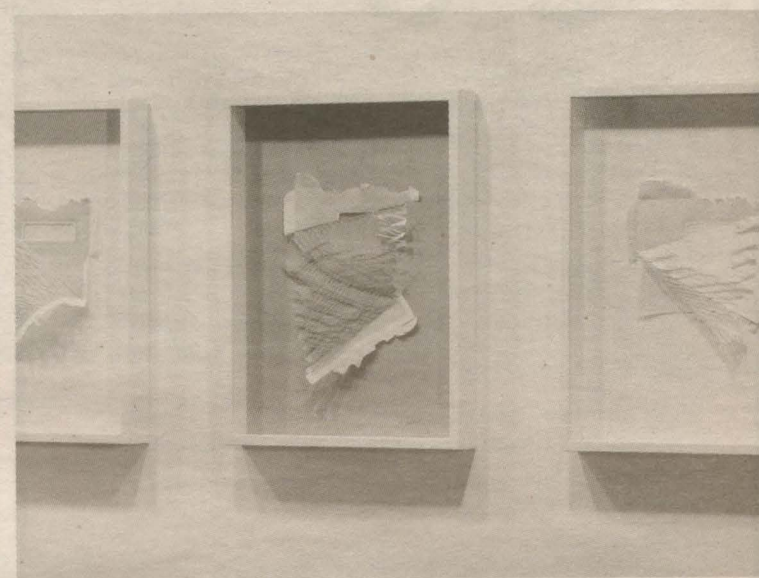
The word of the event has spread slowly from person to person and from a few Crumb-style posters in the front hallway of the Khyber.

"Generally we've been picking up steam, maybe about 20 people drawing and 12 people lurking," says Bridgett. "I've worn my feet to the bone trying to promote it and gotten small numbers. But if people are into drawing with people, then you'll find this venue."

There are no grand plans in store for the Komix jammers, but a niche for Halifax drawers has formed quietly and comfortably.

"I don't think it's going anywhere," says Bridgett. "But I imagine the jams will keep going — a lot of people [draw together] without even realizing it."

Khyber Komix Jam starts at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month and finishes at 1 p.m. the following day at the Khyber, 1588 Barrington St. For more information, e-mail Kyle Bridgett at goodbunny@gmail.com.



Artists from Vancouver to Beijing have taken everyday items and transformed them. / Photo courtesy of Dal Art Gallery

Artists make ordinary extraordinary

A review of the Dal Art Gallery's *Material Transfer*

Brittany Curran
Staff Contributor

'Innovative' perfectly describes the Dalhousie Art Gallery's current exhibit, *Material Transfer*.

Five artists, hailing from Beijing to Vancouver, have taken ordinary objects and transformed them into extraordinarily different creations.

Paul de Guzman's artistry is meticulous and intricate. He cuts out shapes from the centre of every page in thick books. The results are books with remarkable depth and interesting contours throughout the pages.

Newspapers often shy away from colour, but Laurie Ljubojevic's artwork openly defies this monochromatic bent. Using shimmering, jewel-toned acrylics, Ljubojevic paints dots over the images and text of publications such as *The New York Times* and *The Globe and Mail*.

Both Peter Schuyff and Kristiina Lahde take banal office supplies to an

unexpected level. Schuff carved pencils into spiral shapes while Lahde cut envelopes into assorted patterns.

Linh Ly's collages enhance the beauty of photographs. She folds pictures of people, places and signs into a colourful patchwork atop beige canvas. Some images are blurry and others vibrant, but there is still a sense of a unified design.

The art gallery's other exhibit by Claire Hodge and Melanie Lowe is an installation called *Affecting Presence*.

In a dark room, visitors put on a velvet hat and sit in chairs located in front of a large screen. The technologically-wired hat reads brainwaves and projects colours specific to each participant's mind onto the screen.

For example, blue means few thoughts and black means many. What initially felt somewhat *Clockwork Orange*-esque was quite stimulating and worth the visit.

Both exhibits run until April 29 at the Dalhousie Art Gallery.



Valerie DeGrandis
Staff Contributor

Stage presence: A
Audience reaction: A+
Sound: B
Cover: original ratio: A
Resurrecting crowd surfing: A-

The First Aid Kit's CD release performance at Gus' Pub on March 15 was a heart-stopper.

The Rhythm Method and the Darcys shared the stage for the First Aid Kit's big night. Upon entering Gus' Pub, patrons were greeted by a table full of free CDs, featuring the First Aid Kit's single "Rocket Summer" and the Rhythm Method's "Too Small." A sign next to the pile read, "Yes, they really are free."

The stage at Gus' occupies only a small corner of the bar, but enthusiastic fans pressed up against it, leaving the seating areas empty of everything but coats. The Darcys, which

announced this show would be their last performance before splitting up, got fans crowd-surfing to the song "Woah" and finished with a cover of Britney Spears' "Toxic."

A relatively new act on the scene, the First Aid Kit is made up of Matt Davidson, Amy BOLLIVAR, Conor Hancey, Robin Darryl Smith and Craig Kozziar.

The band saved its single "Rocket Summer" and the slower "Radio at Night" for the end of their 11-song set. Fans sang along to the catchy "Rocket Summer" before the First Aid Kit wrapped up with a cover of Bruce Springsteen's "I'm On Fire."

After the headliner's set, Rhythm Method rapper Sascha treated the lingering audience to a hilarious impromptu free style/beat box session.

The First Aid Kit's CD release party was the best live indie music \$5 could buy on a Thursday night in Halifax.



Khyber comic jams may soften the isolation of the solitary artist. / Photo: Jim Somers



Sex with Hugh

War on ignorant word use

HUGH WALLACE
Sex Columnist

"Oh man, that shit is so gay." I have heard this phrase at least a million times in the course of my short life. It is the epitome of classlessness.

The word 'gay' in that phrase is misplaced functionally, stylistically and morally.

According to the traditional definition of gay — happy or joyous — the sentence means something happy and joyous is shit.

It works grammatically, but there is clearly a better choice of noun, such as "that park," "that video" or the person, place or thing one is actually talking about. Unless, of course, you consider your shit mindful and able to express happiness, in which case, go nuts.

If you actually want to say that shit is inherently something, try a word shit can actually be, such as brown, hard or sloppy.

The meaning of 'gay' has changed in modern times. It now describes a group of people, most arguably homosexual men, though it is my understanding the term includes homosexual women.

This term has become acceptable to describe oneself or their sexuality, though not necessarily in the politically correct realm. But it should not be used randomly or as a derogatory adjective.

A side step on the subject of classlessness.

When someone is making an argument, often the first ammunition they reach for are attributes such as race, weight, height, vision and yes — sexuality. This can be called mud-slinging, smearing, trashing or just plain belittling.

Making a sound argument, or at least one that isn't emotionally charged, requires a person to form a position and gather facts or examples to support it. Arguments based on denigrating someone are not sound arguments.

And using a descriptor commonly associated with a group of people, whether or not the meaning is taken in context, is poor form. The sentence, "Oh man, that shit is retarded," is equally as offensive as the first one.

It is not appropriate to use words that label perceived minorities as words intended to hurt or be synonymous with "stupid."

I'm sure everyone has heard someone talk about a person that has been miserly or cheap. "That's so Jewish," or "Stop being such a Jew," they might have said.

How is that appropriate? That Judaism would automatically make someone cheap is ridiculous, just as the thought that we should return to having "coloured only" water fountains is ridiculous.

It is offensive language. It is uneducated language. It is misused language.

When using these words, people often don't realize they are not only offending others but also making themselves sound uneducated and rude.

In many cases, people are not aware of the connotations of the slang they use. Words such as gay, Jew and retarded have become common vocabulary among teenagers and young adults.

Is it right? No.

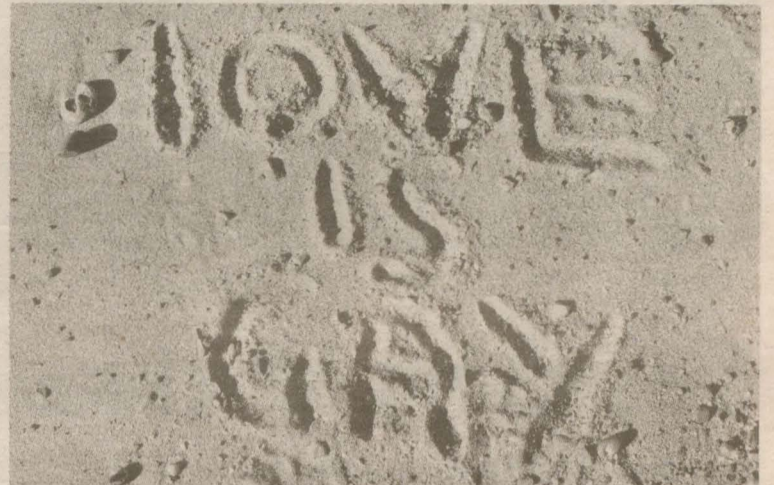
To fellow gay students, the anecdote I am about to relay is in no way intended to be offensive. It is simply constructed for social training purposes via the only media accessible to me — The Gazette.

Watch as I deconstruct some terms my friends and I have been called.

Fairy: my first question is, do I have fucking wings? Do I look miniscule, cutesy or have any magical powers whatsoever? Didn't think so. Moving on.

Fudge packer: I don't even know where this term came from. I can only guess that it is in reference to anal sex. Last time I checked, the human body doesn't naturally excrete a milky sugar candy in block form. I could be wrong, but if I am, Tom Traves can personally take my four years of biology away from me.

Fruit cake: I wish I could snack on little bits of candied fruit stuck to my sticky white or dark brown (depending on the recipe) skin, but this is highly unlikely. Do I look nutty and



When some people say, "Oh, that's so gay," they aren't doing so to spite those who are actually gay. / Stock Photo

delicious? I wish.

I'm not your mother. I can't tell you how to think. I can tell you, however, that hating or disliking a person based on ridiculous criteria such as skin colour, sexuality or religious background is pathetic.

I realize when some people say, "Oh, that's so gay," they aren't doing so to spite those who are actually gay. The term has become common property.

But it doesn't matter — it is still offensive and distasteful.

I don't walk around saying, "Damn, that was so straight," or "Did you see that? He was being such a

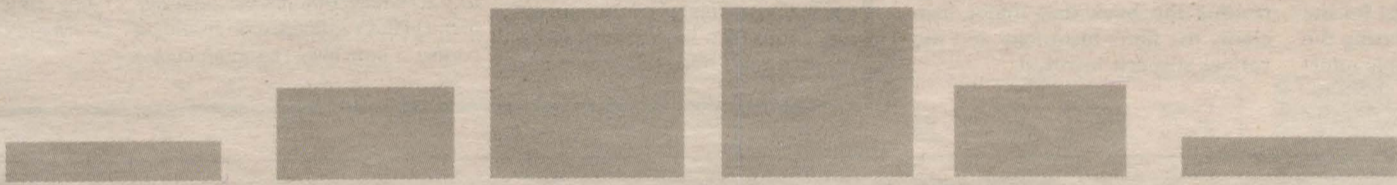
Christian."

As students of university (so-called higher learning), we should like to think of ourselves as open-minded.

When we use words like 'gay' in a derogatory manner, it simply reinforces stereotypes and social stigmas that keep homosexuality a perceived minority.

As older kids, we are role models for those younger than us. So let us, myself included, make an honest effort to change.

Lay off using the word 'gay' in a derogatory manner and scold your friends for doing so.



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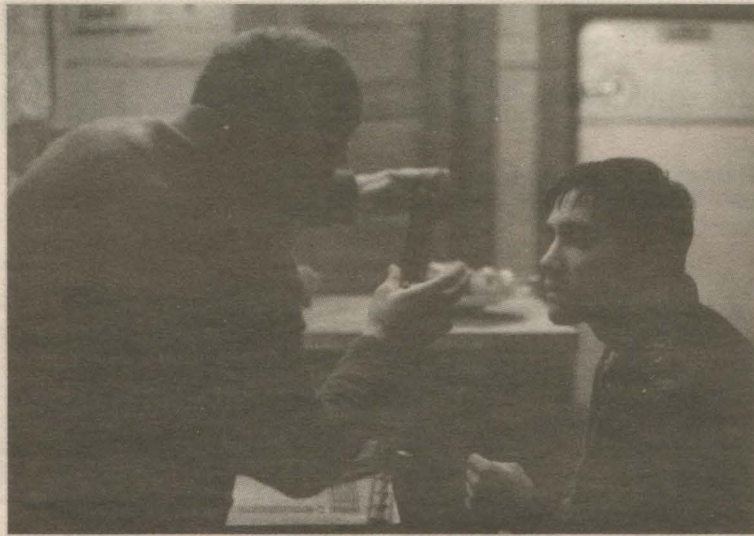
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Zodiac follows the story of one of America's most notorious serial killers, who remains at large.

Searching for clues

A review of perplexing *Zodiac*

ANNA FONG
Staff Contributor

Scary movies are not my favourite pastime and so I began to reconsider why I chose to attend *Zodiac's* premier half way through the film. But, to my surprise, I left satisfied and slept without any nightmares involving a real-life serial killer who still evades arrest today.

The movie depicts the lives of the police and reporters involved in the desperate search for the *Zodiac* killer who murdered residents of San Francisco, Vallejo and Napa Valley in the mid 1960s until the early 1970s.

Throughout the film, the killer taunts the media and police with code letters that, if solved, will reveal the murderer's identity and prevent future murders.

The film is loosely based on Robert Graysmith's popular book, *Zodiac*. Graysmith, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, was a cartoonist for the San Francisco Chronicle during the killings. He provided valuable infor-

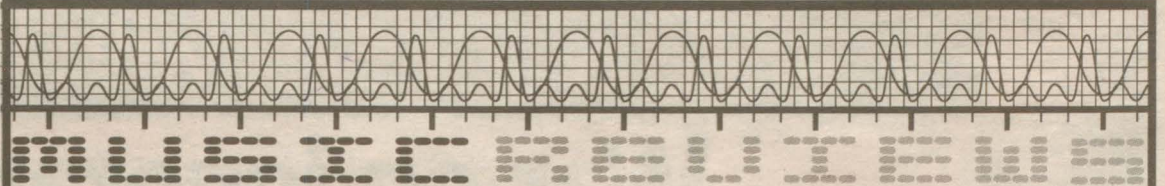
mation to help police narrow down potential suspects.

The film was presented as a high-intensity thriller, but some scenes dragged. At one point, the police search the trailer of a prime suspect who is depicted as a "crazy squirrel guy." While intended to emphasize the suspect's violent side, the scene just slowed the pace.

The meeting between Graysmith and a key link in the case, Bob Vaughn (Charles Fleischer), could have been left on the cutting room floor.

Graysmith follows Vaughn down some creaking stairs to a dark, spooky basement, but then only obtains a seemingly unrelated clue for another potential suspect named Rick Marshall. The scene had the audience murmuring "you shouldn't go down there," but led to a confusing anticlimax with another unknown suspect introduced.

Zodiac is worth watching, but reading the book first might help clarify the film's historicity and the various suspects involved.



International Produce : Amon Tobin / *Foley Room*



On *Foley Room*, Brazilian electronic artist Amon Tobin eschews the often singular focus of previous work for a messy mash-up of film genre-inspired found sounds.

While the rich, shadowy electronics of his last album, *Chaos Theory*, perfectly fit its espionage-thriller theme, on *Foley Room* the recording process becomes the theme.

Inspired by the techniques of Foley artists who create sounds for films using everyday objects, Tobin

abandoned his laptop for a microphone to record in the real world. Gone are the synthesized string washes of "Theme From Battery" on *Chaos*, replaced by real strings, a caged tiger, some motorcycles, a dripping tap and, according to the album's press release, the sound of a cat eating a rat.

This is not to say that *Foley Room* is without fun standouts. "Bloodstone" opens the disc with a dirge of sorts, or the aural equivalent of a haunted children's fairytale. Sliding, creeping, skittering violins, pianos and reeds gasp from every dark corner, at once swirling together and flapping against each other.

It sounds like music with which to enter a bat-infested cave, or a vaguely Eastern-European accompaniment to a pitchfork-wielding mob of Transylvanian villagers going to burn down Dracula's house.

What is lacking, however, is the

sense of cohesion and density present in much of his earlier work. As the track title "Kitchen Sink" suggests, the sound palette of *Foley Room* incorporates a bit of everything, but this makes the album seem unfocused rather than deep.

Many of the tracks become showcases for the sounds Tobin has discovered, often building simplistic structures around them.

While Tobin has always seemed more comfortable in the realm of pixels rather than real particles, it is worth considering *Foley Room* as an artist's effort to bring life into a creative process that often happens inside a box.

Once the novelty of recording the sound of a rat-eating cat diminishes, Tobin will undoubtedly find a comfortable niche somewhere between the Foley room and the computer room.

— ANU JINDAL, Staff Contributor

Local Crop: Jonny Stevens / *Jonny Stevens*



Jonny Stevens may have grown up, but he certainly hasn't mellowed out. The ex-New Breed frontman has released a self-titled solo album best

described as upbeat, East Coast pop rock with a blues edge.

The album first grabs your attention with a ska bass line. Stevens says his punk band, the New Breed, helped to define his new sound, along with prior influences such as the Ramones, DOA and the Clash.

Now he takes on a new rhythm with his backup band, the Racket, creating an unmatched wholesomeness with fists-in-the-air morals.

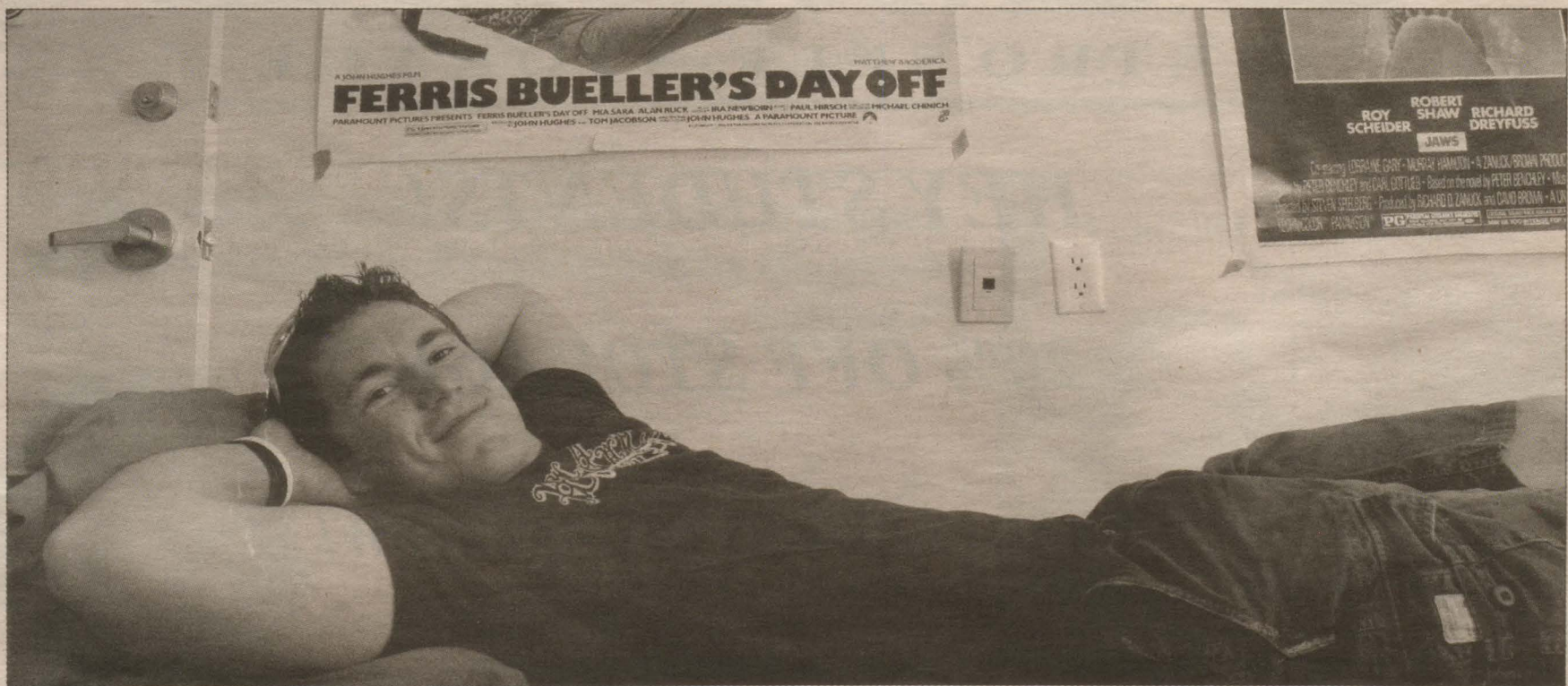
His truthful approach gives way to tracks reflecting his personal history, Halifax's influence on it and, of course, a little love. His soulful voice

is most suited to his themes in "Fire From the Sky" and "When You Wake." While "Shelters" is politically-driven, its lighthearted melody keeps you clapping.

The brilliant talent of Jonny Stevens leaves me anxious for a strictly acoustic album in the future. For now, this album is relaxing but fun-loving.

It can make you think or get up and dance. The only sad thing about Jonny Stevens is the wedding ring he wears. Sorry, ladies.

— MAGEN POWELL, Staff Contributor



What are you doing this summer?

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Never had I ever...

(Almost) talked to Mark Wahlberg

CHRISTINA STEFANSKI
Staff Contributor

Last week I had the opportunity to interview Mark Wahlberg. Being an avid fan of his role as Dirk Diggler in *Boogie Nights* and David McCall in *Fear*, I jumped at the opportunity to talk to the accomplished rapper, actor and producer.

After corresponding with Katie MacNeil, a Halifax marketing representative for Paramount, I received an identification number to take part in a conference call with the star.

Before speaking to the man himself, the moderator ran down a list of students who seemed to come from every university in Canada and the United States.

The process, along with waiting for Wahlberg to connect to the conference call, took roughly 40 minutes.

I shifted into about 40 different sitting positions as I listened to Wahlberg's responses to students' ill-prepared questions.

Having over-prepared for what I expected would be a one-on-one interview with Wahlberg, I learned the rapper-turned-actor has accomplished much more than his achievements in the entertainment industry.

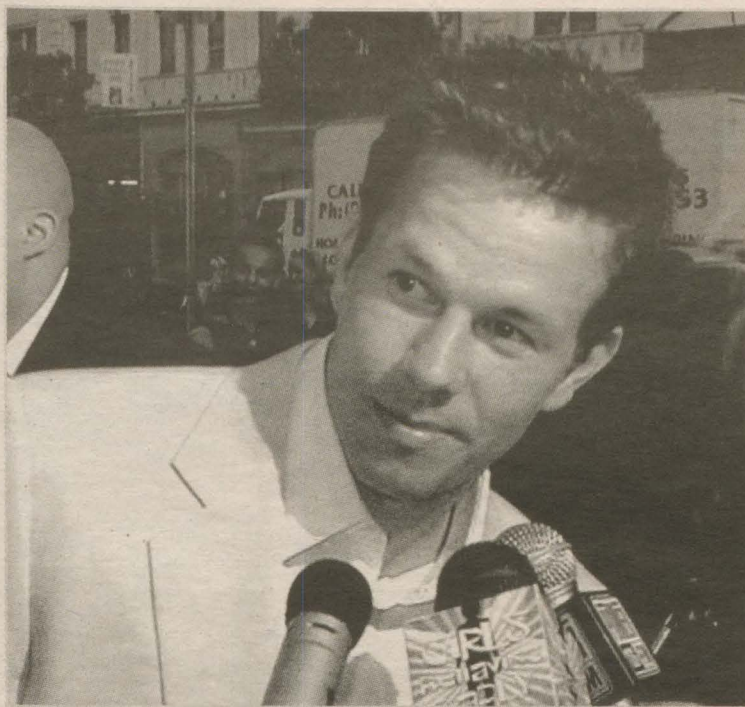
He is founder and president of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation.

This Massachusetts-based organization strives to improve life for inner-city youth by providing financial and community support.

During the short conference call, Wahlberg said his own teenage years were spent mostly in Boston police stations.

My burning question was how the actor's troubled youth relates to his present community-oriented goals. Along with the foundation, Wahlberg is executive producer of the MTV documentary series *Ju-vies*, which follows young offenders through juvenile hall and the justice system in the U.S.

But time ran out and I never got to ask my question.



Mark Wahlberg is founder and president of a foundation that provides support for inner-city youth.

Unfortunately, none of the students lucky enough to speak with Wahlberg brought up his community involvement or his commitments to youth. It might have been valuable to know how Wahlberg relates

his status as a leader for inner-city youth to the roles he chooses to play on screen.

Mark Wahlberg's new action film, *Shooter*, premieres nationwide on March 23.

Gazette

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Sports need support

Talk from the water cooler

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

On March 18, 5,500 screaming fans filled the Metro Centre to show their support for the teams competing in the Canadian Inter-university Sport's Final 8 Basketball Championship.

As the last seconds of the game ticked away, it marked the end of a sporting legacy in Halifax. Over the past 24 years, the tournament has become a part of Halifax and a tradition for the basketball community. But it's moving on to bigger and better things in Ottawa until 2011.

This, in the same month Nova Scotians felt the burn of Mayor Peter Kelly's decision to remove Halifax's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

What's the rush to leave the East Coast?

First, people started to leave in search of the Canadian dream in the oil fields. Now, little things such as the Final 8 tournament are vanishing, along with hopes of ever hosting an international event such as the Commonwealth Games.

Withdrawing the bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games was a wise decision that took a lot of courage. But the unfortunate timing and hype surrounding the bid was a bit much. The price tag was always high, and some Maritimers voiced dissent from the very beginning, so why the sudden pull out so close to the decision?

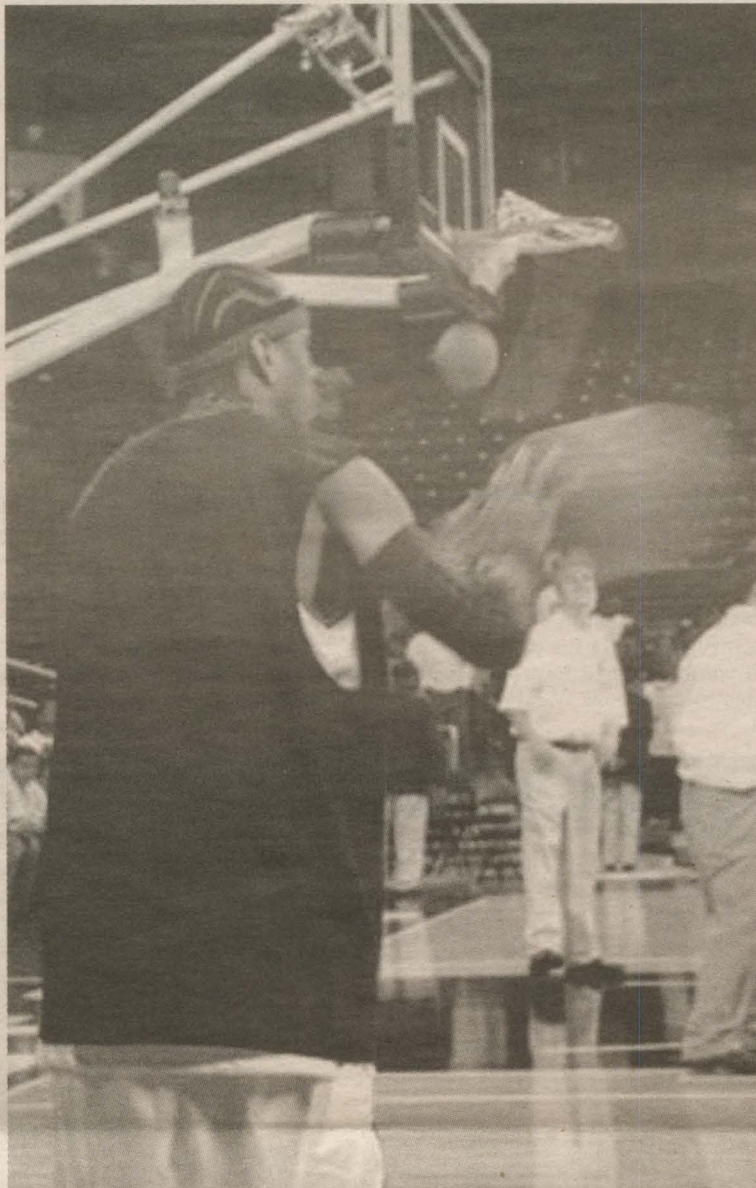
It came down to the astronomical \$1.7-billion price tag, and the municipality's lack of infrastructure.

Millions of dollars would have been spent on infrastructure projects such as new sporting facilities — all for a tournament that's relatively obscure. How many people can actually name the countries that are members of the Commonwealth? And how much money did they spend promoting the bid around the city?

Regardless of whether Halifax's withdrawal was a safe decision, we need to look at the long-term effects this will have on other sports and national tournaments.

The CIS Final 8 Basketball Championship is a case in point. It's leaving for Ottawa, where venues are new, money is readily available and the home team has won five years in a row. People in the Metro Centre cheered when the announcer said the tournament would return to Halifax in 2011, but will it be feasible by then?

The Commonwealth Games fias-



The CIS Final 8 Basketball Championship moves to Ottawa in 2008.

co used money that could have been spent on Halifax's bid to host the Final 8 tournament in its 25th year. Now we have neither.

And once the tournament moves to Ottawa, it could be taken to a level that Halifax won't be able to afford in 2011.

The city is far from doomed. Halifax was host to a stellar CIS swimming competition and still has the Moosheads and Saint Mary's football. The HSBC Stars on Ice are at the Metro Centre next weekend. Halifax is still on the map.

The \$1.7 billion budget for the Games was too rich for Halifax, but smaller events such as the Final 8 and the national varsity swimming championship help keep the city in the national sporting spotlight.

If funding to improve sports at every level doesn't increase, Halifax risks losing more mainstay events such as the Final 8. The city needs to put up the resources to hold onto these events, which contribute to the economy and culture of this region.

Halifax enjoys a reputation as a good host across Canada and its national and international events draw athletes that wouldn't otherwise make the trek to the Maritimes. If it abandons current facilities and events, it will lose what it already has.

Perhaps it's time to take a break, re-think our priorities and make a move to become a more stable, self-sustaining province. Halifax can offer more than the most bars per capita, ancient universities and lobster.

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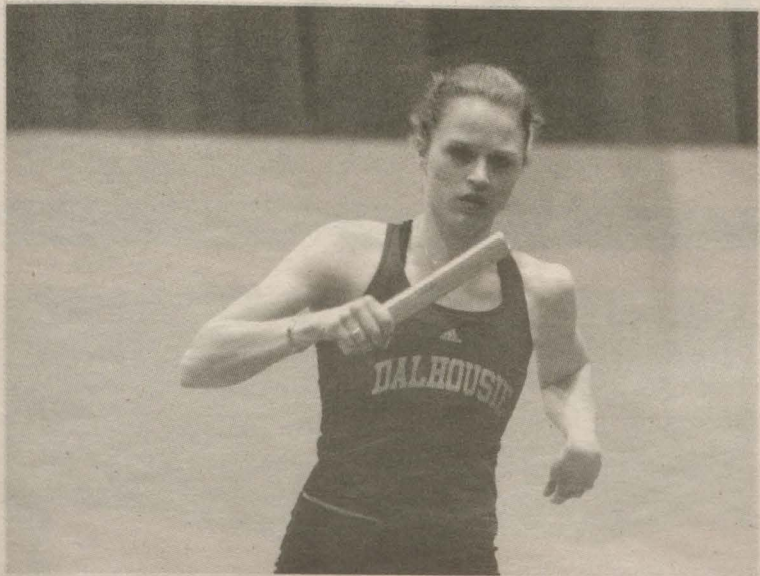
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"It felt like the years of training paid off and finally things came together," says Dobranowski on winning her silver medal. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Hard work pays off Dal athlete beats personal bests, wins silver

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

Alicia Dobranowski made her presence known at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) track and field championship at McGill University on March 9 and 10.

The fourth-year Dalhousie pentathlete won a silver medal and was selected as a second-team all-star. She recorded personal bests in shot put, hurdles, the 800-metre and the 4x400-metre relay.

"She comes up with the biggest performance at the biggest competition, and it couldn't get any bigger than this," says head coach Dan Hennigar. "She just came up event after event and delivered."

Before the CIs, Dobranowski made sure she did everything she could to prepare.

"This year was more about lifestyle, nutrition, training, and being there mentally was a big part of it," says Dobranowski.

"Going into [the nationals], I had a lot of support from coaches, athletes and friends. I just really wanted to have fun, but I wanted to do well."

Dobranowski says she was surprised and excited when she found out she won the silver medal.

"It felt like the years of training paid off and finally things came together," she says. "I knew I could do it all along. It was just the meet where it all came together."

The Stouffville, Ont., native says

the CIs were a good experience and she appreciated the fan support.

"The energy was amazing," she says. "We had a huge support group come from Dal... It's so nice when you're not used to that."

Dobranowski says learning from past mistakes helped her improve each year. She also credits her coaches and teammates.

"You couldn't ask for a better coaching staff," says Dobranowski. "It's just such a positive atmosphere to be in. I have amazing coaches and amazing people to train with and compete with."

Hennigar says Dobranowski's competitive personality and hard work enables her to perform well.

"She works very hard all year round, is very focused in her training sessions and becomes technically proficient," says Hennigar. "Obviously, she's got more than a little bit of natural talent. She has some natural quickness and some natural springs."

Dobranowski has improved steadily in all her events, says Hennigar, and even dropped three-tenths of a second off her 60-metre time.

Looking to next year, Dobranowski says she wants to have the same performance or better it at the CIs.

Hennigar expects Dobranowski to keep getting better.

"I wouldn't want to predict the colour of the medal," says Hennigar. "I think you'll see [Dobranowski] continue to improve at Dalhousie."

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The visit of the Anglican Primate of All Canada to Halifax

The University of King's College, Coburg Road, Thursday, 29 March
5.00 p.m. preaching at the King's College Chapel
6.30 p.m. Q & A with the Anglican Primate

The King's College Chapel is pleased to invite students and members of the Halifax community of all faiths and beliefs for a question and answer session with the national leader of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison. The Archbishop has just returned from an historic international meeting of the Anglican Communion in Tanzania. As many of you know, the 500-year old communion is struggling with a very divisive issue: the blessing or sanctioning of same sex unions. This is an unprecedented opportunity to speak with one of the leading Canadian religious figures about the relation between social values, church doctrine and politics. The Archbishop is particularly keen to hear from young people

Join us in the KTS Lecture Hall (2nd Floor New Academic Building, University of King's College, 6350 Coburg Road) for a lively discussion.





The SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

It's madness!

JF NOWLAN

Yes, my friends, it's time for you to paint yourselves in your favourite two-tone paint colour. It's March, and as Dick Vitale would say, "It's time baby!"

March Madness - 65 teams playing over three weeks will determine the best collegiate basketball team in the United States.

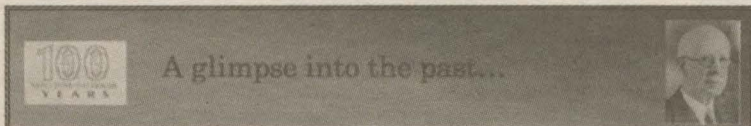
The NCAA Division I Final Four tournament is one of the most well-organized events in sports history. A tournament that defines players and coaches, they are measured by how many tournaments they've made, how many Final Fours they've been a part of and how many championships they've won.

Before the Madness starts, it is typical to select your unique tournament bracket. This is where you tempt fate and predict the future by choosing which teams will win specific games throughout the tournament.

This (it's sad, I know) is the first time I have ever chosen a bracket and taken part in this time-honoured tradition, by way of the pleasantly entertaining Yahoo fantasy groups. My Final Four teams are Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas and Ohio St., with Ohio St. taking the title.

And if you've been following the tournament at all, you will no doubt know that I have no chance of winning. Texas and Wisconsin have been already been eliminated - precisely why we opted out of our idea to publish a "How to Choose Your Bracket" article.

Simply a tournament unlike any other - a single knockout elimination where true fans will no doubt agree that there is more desire, more sweat and more tears on these courts than anywhere else. Players play with purpose, commitment and heart - the way sports should be.



Engineering in Nova Scotia

The beginning

LEIGH BEAUCHAMP DAY

Planning is underway for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the faculty of engineering.

In 1907, Frederick H. Sexton (MIT), then a young professor of mining engineering at Dalhousie University, was asked to establish two institutions: the Nova Scotia Technical College (NSTC) and a system for General Technical Education in Nova Scotia. He was appointed principal of the first and director of the second, and was given a small committee and some paper.

By Sexton's retirement in 1947, NSTC had a national reputation for excellence, with alumni working as industry leaders throughout the world.

The General Technical Education system is now the Nova Scotia Community College system. Sexton held both positions for 40 years.

The Nova Scotia Technical College was authorized by an act of the provincial legislature in April, 1907 (N.S. Laws, 1907, Chapter 1, Act Relating to Technical Education):

"There shall be established in Halifax an institution for the purpose of affording facilities for scientific research and instruction and professional training in civil, mining, mechanical, chemical, metallurgical and electrical engineering, or any other departments which may from time to time be added."

Prior to 1907, engineering students took their last three years either at McGill or other universities across Canada. In 1907, Dal added the senior years to its two-year program, until such time as NSTC was in operation in September of 1909.

Sexton worked with what would become the 'associated universities' to develop the curriculum and other administrative aspects of the college. Being a well-rounded engineer, he also oversaw the detailed planning and construction of the main NSTC building on Spring Garden Road, now the Ralph M. Medjuck Building, home to the School of Architecture and Planning.

The building was "completed and occupied on September 25th, 1909," according to Sexton's 1909 Annual Report. For the first two years, graduates received a Dalhousie parchment. The first formal Nova Scotia Tech graduation was in 1910.

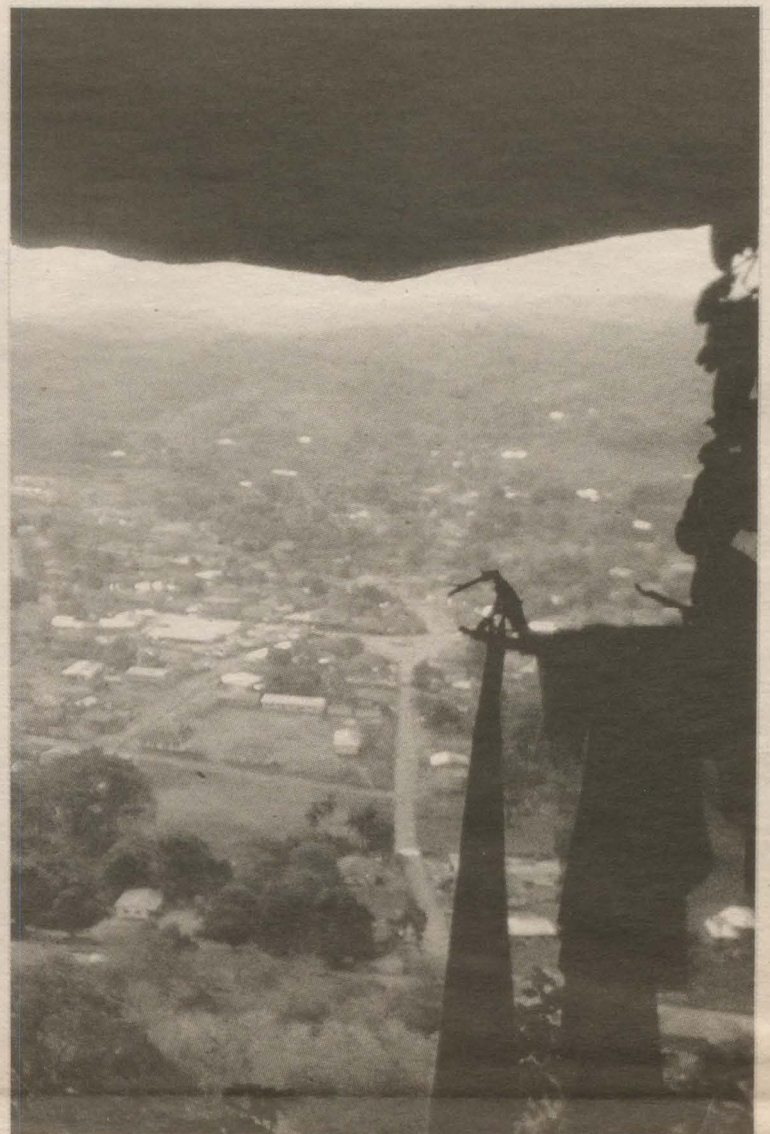
Yesterday and Today:
From the 1920 Annual Report of E.H. Sexton:

"The Alumni of the Technical College have actively assisted in making the institution favourably known in other ways than by the individual members achieving honour in their chosen professions.

They held a reception and dinner for the students at the opening of the college in the autumn of 1919 and a similar function for the graduating class in May 1920."

Today: The Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS), whose members include our alumni as well as engineers from other institutions, sponsors a fall barbecue to introduce students to the association and welcome them as student members.

During National Engineering Week, APENS sponsors a networking pizza lunch reception, where students have the opportunity to meet practicing engineers.



Culture and development: secret society in Sierra Leone

ADAM LINNARD

Late one afternoon, when I was in the village of Kabala in the north of Sierra Leone, a friend of mine came to where I was staying. Faneh visited me every day to talk, to show off his rap and dance skills or to show me around town, using me like a puppy to hit on girls (it never worked).

I was used to him coming around, but I was surprised when he told me not to turn on the generator and to make sure there were no lights coming from the house that night.

"If they see you," he told me, "you may be hurt."

I had no idea what or who Faneh was talking about, but I knew I was in no position to act in anyway other than what he told me. So, after sunset I found myself in silent, confused darkness awaiting some kind of explanation.

After a couple hours, I heard the sound of faint drumming. The drumming got louder as it got closer, and soon I could hear people on the road just outside. Being a terrible mixture of bored, curious and nervous, I crouched ridiculously on the floor and peeped through the bottom corner of the window.

Through the dark I could see a mass of people dancing in the street, many wearing large wooden masks and waving sticks decorated with colourful strands of cloth. The group was chanting and drumming while they passed my house. After a while they were gone, continuing through the village, but I heard their drums until morning.

It was not rare for drumming to go on all night in Kabala. It happened for funerals, for births, for circumcision rituals and for visiting dignitaries. But I had never seen the

masks before, and had never been told to make myself invisible.

Since none of my local friends would tell me any details - "secret society" was all I could get out of them - I asked other NGO workers who had been around longer than I had. Eventually I found someone who knew more.

It was explained to me that the masks represent the spirits of revered ancestors, and it is understood that the individual wearing the mask represents the wishes of the depicted ancestor rather than the wearer.

All of the masks are worn by women whose thoughts are seldom valued publicly, so the secret society meetings allow marginalized individuals to share their wishes and opinions publicly. Since secret societies are a fundamental means of community decision-making, they serve as the primary forum for women to affect macro-level decisions in their village.

It's a beautiful thing how one culture can appear to be a certain way (in this case, entirely patriarchal) when judged according to a different culture's standards (liberal-democratic), when in reality every culture has simply dealt with so many of the same problems (women's marginalization) in remarkably different ways (secret society decision-making).

It doesn't mean all the problems are solved - women remain publicly marginalized when acting as themselves - but nor does it mean the culture is inferior to any other.

Just like our culture, theirs is seeking appropriate, creative and conclusive ways to deal with the social, political, environmental and economic inconsistencies of their society. And that process is what development, indeed all social progress, should be all about.

Dalhousie engineering

Making rocks float since 2005

JOHANNA HOYT

Recently, while talking to someone who wasn't aware of what the Dalhousie concrete canoe team was, they exclaimed, "So you guys actually build a concrete canoe? I just thought you were a canoe team from Dal that was making fun of yourselves because you were so slow."

But no, we are actually not a group of self-deprecating canoers. We build and race a concrete canoe.

The national Concrete Canoe Competition is a Canada-wide engineering competition for students. This is not even a uniquely Canadian competition, as it has been an annual event in the United States for over 30 years. Building and racing concrete canoes is something that has challenged inquisitive minds all over the world.

So how do we make a rock float? Some might think that it's not such a hard thing. Look at all the big boats and tankers that come into Halifax harbour. Most of them are made of steel.

Boats are built on the concept that in order for something to float it must displace its weight in water. Therefore, a ship with a hollow metal hull can float because the weight of

the water it displaces is heavier than the weight of the ship. When making a concrete canoe, you can use the same principle, no problem.

Well, there is one problem. One of the big challenges in designing the canoe is that it must be neutrally buoyant. This means the boat must not only float, it must float when filled with water.

A crucial test at the competition is the 'sink test.' You must be able to push the boat entirely underwater and have it bounce back up with both the stern and the bow piercing the surface of the water. Doesn't seem so easy now, does it?

This is just one of the many challenges of the competition, one of many that we have overcome, and will again. This year will be our third year of concrete canoeing at Dal and we have our sights aimed high for the team.

So, have I piqued your interest? Maybe just a little? I hope so. If you are an engineering student at Dal and would like to get involved, or if you are just interested in finding out a little more about what we do, please visit dalcanoe.com or e-mail us at canoe@dal.ca. We are still looking for more members, so it's not too late to join!

Chemical Engineering Banquet 2007

VENUE:

Casino Nova Scotia, Compass Room

DATE:

Friday, March 30, 2007

TIME:

7 p.m.

PRICE:

\$25

Includes meal, entertainment, free cover to Pacifico!

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Chemical engineering students: see your class rep for tickets!

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Dalendar & Classifieds

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Dalendar

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

Friday, March 23

Seminar: "Controlled Syntheses of Au/TiO₂ Core-shell Nanoplates: Towards Construction of a Nano-scale Dye-sensitized Solar Cell"

12:30 p.m. @ Chemistry Room 226, Chemistry Building
Presented by Professor Jeffrey Banks, Department of Chemistry, University of New Brunswick.
Free

Dalhousie Law Students Association of Technology Tech/IP Conference

12 - 6 p.m. @ Weldon Law Building
There will be three panels on: Day to Day IT Law in a Business Setting, Protecting Creators' Rights and Security, Privacy & Liability. For more information, visit www.dalsalt.com or e-mail dal.salt@gmail.com.
Free

Save the Aspotogan

8 p.m. @ The Gradhouse
Fund raising event for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. We need your help to turn Blanford Game Sanctuary into a protected

nature reserve. Live Music, cheap drinks, all for a good cause.
Gradhouse cover

Sundays

Vegan potluck
6pm @ the Dal SUB, Room 224

Sunday, April 22

InstallFest 2007.2
1:00 p.m. @ atrium, Computer Science Building
Hosted by Dal-ACM, InstallFest is an event to which anyone within the Greater Halifax area can bring their computers and get help installing or troubleshooting alternative operating systems such as Linux, FreeBSD, BeOS and a host of others. There will be free snacks and various forms of entertainment, so come out and join us! At around 3 pm, we will be opening a pay-bar with cheap beer and pizza, a la GeekBeer.
If you are planning to come out, whether it is to spectate or to work

on a system, please send us an RSVP at events@dal-acm.ca. If you are bringing a system, please include the system specs and what you want to do so our InstallFest volunteers can be ready.

Wednesday, March 28

Film screening of "Rhyme and Reason"
7:00 p.m. @ Scotia Bank Auditorium, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Building
This award-winning and critically acclaimed documentary explores the roots, emergence, and rise of hip-hop. Three years in the making, "Rhyme & Reason" is a moving snapshot of hip-hop, from its early beginnings on the streets of the Bronx, to a multi-million dollar mega industry. It also takes a brave look at the state of contemporary hip-hop and the state of contemporary urban life for many African American young people, the role of gender and violence and implications as a social movement. Presented in partnership by the Black Student Advising Centre and the Dalhousie Women's Centre.
Free

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