

FREE

140-05 October 4 - October 10, 2007

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

Triple Threat

Huck sisters join up at Dal
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Cover photos: Josh Boyter

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Student wins scholarship
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Giving Burma a voice:
Tradition and technology merge
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Wine for the masses:
Dal grads supply Nova Scotia
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WEEKLY DISPATCH

Honour Awards

Are you graduating this fall? Have you been involved in student life through the DSU or other extra-curricular activities? Apply now for a Golden D award. These awards recognize student effort outside the classroom and are presented during convocation. Applications are due October 9th at 4pm. For more information or to get an application, contact Courtney Larkin at dsuvpsl@dal.ca or visit www.dsu.ca.

Grants for Students

As mentioned before in this space, the DSU is working hard to preserve the federal Millennium Scholarship Foundation, a government initiative that provides needs-based financial assistance to students and is the leading factor in reducing student debt in the Maritimes. In 2009, the foundation's funding will end, resulting in a \$350-million-per-year cut to student aid if the government doesn't act to replace it.

If you receive or have received a Millennium grant, we'd like to hear from you. Contact VP Education Tara Gault at dsuvped@dal.ca.

Trivia

Trivia will continue this week at both the Grawood (Thursday at 8pm) and the T-Room (Friday). If you haven't yet experienced this important Dalhousie tradition, get some friends together, head on down to one of your campus bars, and compete against your fellow students to see who has the right mix of pop-culture and academic knowledge.

DSU on Facebook

There have always been a ton of DSU groups on Facebook, everything from the sexton campus advisory committee to Shinerama has been represented. Now, there's one that can act as a one-stop shop for all your DSU-on-Facebook needs. Contact your council representative, check out upcoming events, or post your thoughts on the "Dalhousie Student Union" group.

St. Mary's University High School

Several people have asked what the SMU mascot has been up to since he was liberated and brought to Dal. Mostly, he's been hanging out at the Grawood, and he seems to be enjoying himself.



GAZETTE ...STAFF

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THE FINE PRINT

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.

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.

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard 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 James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. 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.



Story meetings
are held every
Monday at
5:30 p.m. in
room 312
of the SUB.

Our first meeting
is September
10th.

Caffiends

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The lines at the Tim Hortons in the SUB, LSC, the Tupper Building and the Coburg Coffee House say it all: students want, if not need, to be caffeinated.

If the lines are too long or coffee's just not your thing, there are also over a dozen energy drinks designed to get you pumped up and to class. Head to the convenience store to get any one of these "natural health beverages" packed with caffeine, taurine, guarana or all of the above, all for about two to four bucks.

Not a fan of fluids? That's kind of strange, but don't worry. There's a natural health product for you. High energy chocolate bars can get you caffeine, taurine and guarana in convenient bar form.

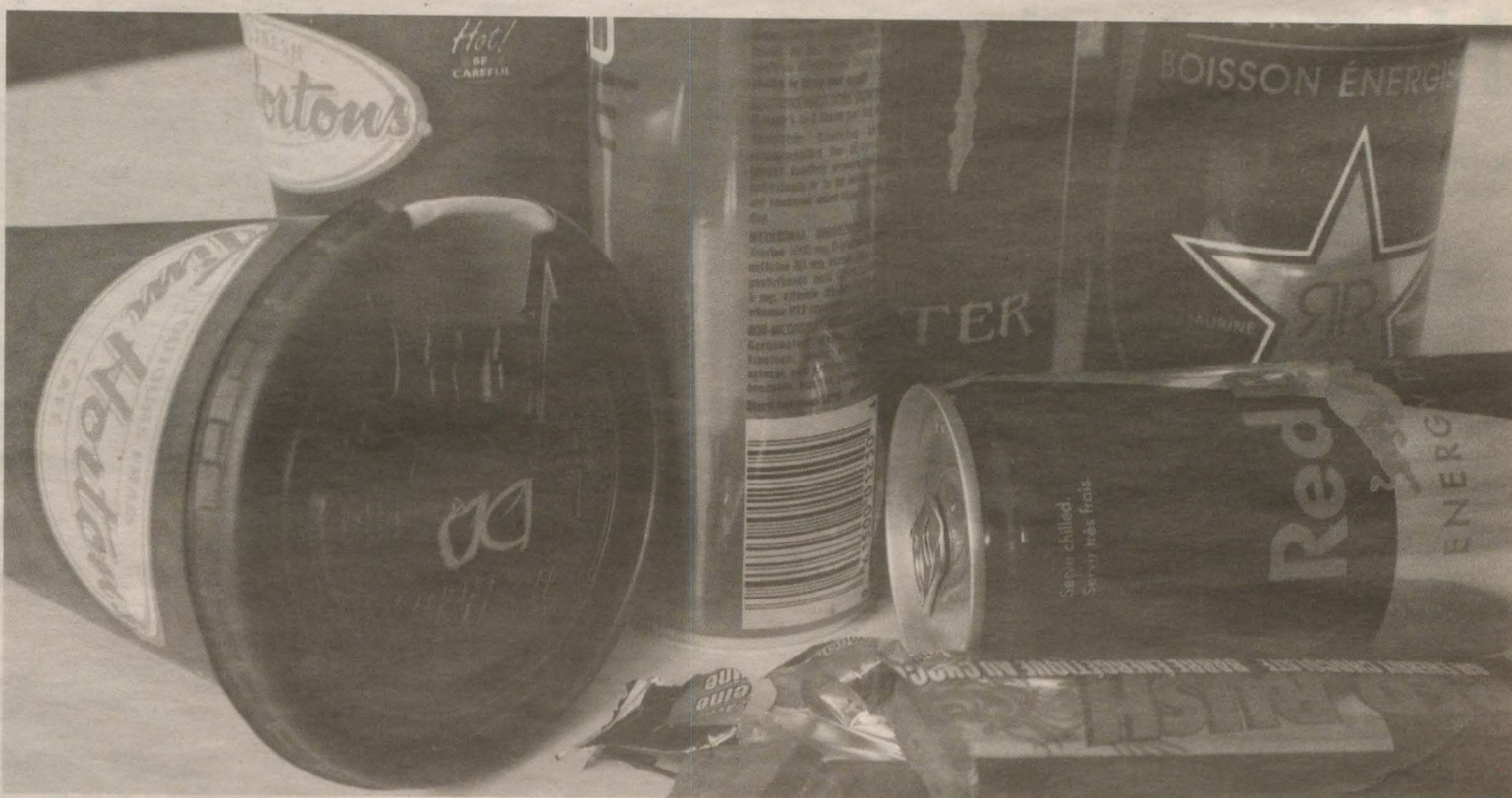
Not a fan of chocolate? Well, luckily there are, as seen on TV, energy balls: little red balls with about half a Red Bull's worth of caffeine.

Jokes about needing caffeine so much you're willing to put balls in your mouth aside, the amount of legal stimulants we consume is surprisingly high - probably higher than many of us would like to think.

I unashamedly drink one or two cups of coffee a day. I don't think I absolutely need it to get up in the morning, but it helps.

Over the past few months, I've had about two coffees a day (three if I'm working overtime) and spent about \$300. It doesn't seem like too much money for three months worth of a stimulant, but it's a little steep considering it's just water strained through inexpensive beans.

What I got out of it was a daily, very mild high that kept me up despite my boring or stressful jobs.



Caution: This editorial is not recommended for children or caffeine sensitive persons.

JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Though a caffeine high is a far cry from getting high in the normal sense, it's not so different from the cigarette smoking highs that people used to use to keep themselves up. People would smoke to keep themselves relaxed, but also awake and alert.

Less than a generation ago, people smoked in class, at work, at home and pretty much anywhere in between.

While cigarettes still do the trick for some, most people are turning exclusively to caffeine to perk up. Smoking is now recognized as unhealthy, and the government keeps

implementing new regulations and higher prices to discourage smokers. For those looking to keep awake and focused, there is something a little more comforting about "natural health beverages."

But when you're ploughing through tomorrow's readings, finishing an essay for the next day or trying to stay awake in class, it's easy to forget caffeine is a drug. Whether your caffeine comes from an energy bar, a Rockstar/Red Bull/Full Throttle/Monster can or a coffee mug, it's important to be aware it's a stimu-

lant and if you consume enough of it, you'll develop a dependence.

If you've put 'drink less caffeine' on your to-do list and have been drinking four cups a day plus a Red Bull in the meantime, be prepared to have withdrawal symptoms like headaches and difficulty concentrating.

Because it's a legal drug, there's nothing stopping you from becoming dependant on caffeine, and there shouldn't be. People should be able to drink as many energy drinks or as much coffee as they want.

But you've got to realize caffeine

is a drug. Nothing pisses me off more than when people who smoked 20 years ago say, 'Well, we didn't know it was bad for us.' The idea that people, even academics, could be breathing smoke into their lungs, coughing their guts out and somehow think that nothing was wrong with smoking amazes me.

And in 20 years time, I don't want to be telling kids, 'Well, it made me hyperactive, anxious, made my breath smell like crap and had me making constant trips to the bathroom, but no one told me it was bad for me.'

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Med school plans set N.B. students apart

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

A proposed expansion of Dalhousie's medical school could help solve a shortage of family doctors across the Maritimes.

Dalhousie is currently negotiating with the New Brunswick government and the University of New Brunswick (UNB) to offer a new medicine training program that would allow first- and second-year students from that province to work with physicians and receive most of their educational instruction at UNB's Saint John campus.

The Dal-New Brunswick Medical Education program would transfer the 20 seats currently reserved for N.B. medical students at Dal to that province.

The program would be part of Dal's faculty of medicine curriculum. Students would still pay their tuition to Dal, but would have access to UNB facilities.

The dean of Dal's faculty of medicine, Dr. Harold Cook, says the school could accept 30 more students, increasing its total available seats from 90 to 120, if all three parties agree on the program. The expansion is necessary, he says, because Dal's medical school enrollments are not as high as those of other Canadian schools.

"Most other medical schools have expanded enrollment more over the years than we have been able to," he says. "From the perspective of residents of New Brunswick, they'll have more opportunities. There'll be 10 more positions."

Cook says the program would address the school's responsibility to provide more family doctors in the Maritimes.

The N.B. government will hire 27 new doctors over the next four years to help teach on UNB's campus in support of the program, Cook wrote in a Sept. 19 internal faculty memo. He hopes to reach a full agreement on the plan by the end of December and start admitting students into the program in 2009.

"We have a shortage of family

physicians," he says. "There tends to be considerable emphasis on rural-practicing physicians, but that's not it by a long shot. There's a general shortage."

Some medical students say the university currently isn't doing enough to prepare them for work in rural communities after graduation.

The N.B. representative for the Dal Medical Student Society, John Paul Harmon, says he's heard many of his colleagues say the university should consider implementing a mandatory training session in small communities, not just in N.B., for undergraduate beginner medical students.

Memorial University, the only other medical school in the Atlantic provinces, sets aside a week for first- and second-year students to observe family medicine practices in rural areas.

"Dal can do a better job of exposing medical students to community-based family medicine. Currently there's no mandatory family medicine exposure at all (in first and second year)," the third-year medical student says.

Harmon adds that students should be aware early in their university careers of the "breadth of practices" small town family doctors have to perform.

"As a medical student, I want to know what community family medicine is like, because it's a big part of what medicine is," the 26-year-old says. "It's a bit of an injustice if I can get through medical school and not have exposure to such an important area of medical practice right now in the Maritimes."

Harmon, who is interested in becoming a surgeon, travels between Halifax and Saint John, N.B. for his training. He says there's a big difference in the way doctors practice medicine here in the capital versus in the rest of the Maritime provinces, because Halifax has larger medical centres.

Harmon says Dal's training should focus on rural practices throughout the Atlantic region rather than simply at N.B. facilities.

"Dal's interesting because (it's) training physicians for three provinces, not just (its) own, so they need to take into consideration the other provinces," says Harmon. "Even though Dal is currently above the national average for the number of students that graduate and go into family medicine, I think they could do even better."

The N.S. government has committed to adding 10 more medical school spots for students from N.S. when Dal's expansion comes into effect as early as two years from now.

Late this past summer, Health Minister Chris d'Entremont suggested that admission to those reserved seats could require students to sign "return-of-service" contracts, agreeing to practice medicine in the province for a certain number of years after graduation in exchange for government-funded tuition.

The province currently does not have any such contracts for undergraduate medical students, though the N.B. government offers \$6,000 bursaries to third- and fourth-year students who agree to work in that province for one year.

Harmon, who is from Digby, N.B., a small rural area west of Saint John, says students shouldn't be forced to make a long-term employment decision so early in their undergraduate years, nor should they feel obligated to practice in a rural area just because there's a family doctor shortage.

"I don't feel that way and I hope students don't ever feel that way either, that they have some sort of ethical obligation to go back to their community and work there."

Fourth-year student Beau Blois, who is completing rural family medicine training in Annapolis Valley, says return-of-service contracts might benefit some students and help the university attract more future doctors to rural communities, but they're not the answer for everyone.

"I'm not trying to be a hero (by practicing in a rural area)," Blois says. "It's important right now that Dal supports medical training for all Maritime students."

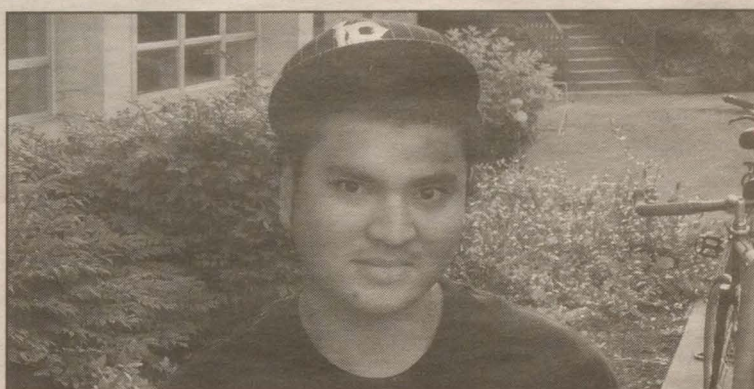
NEWS STREETER

Should Canadian Armed Forces officers be banned from recruiting on campus?



"Yeah, I think so. I would feel like that was a breach of our right to just be at an educational institution. We're here to learn; we're not here to be approached on the street."

Jo Merth, second-year political science



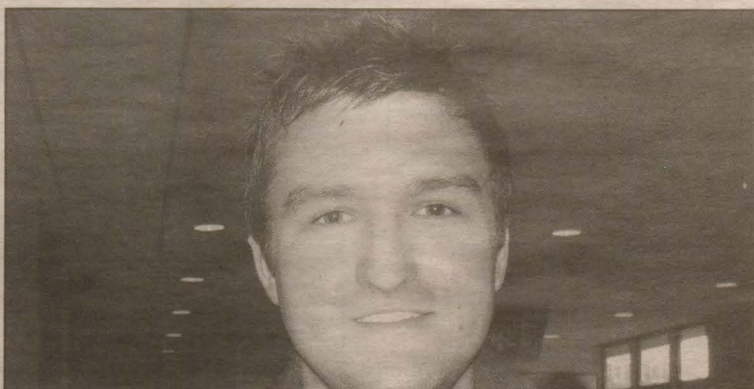
"I don't think they should be banned. People can make decisions for themselves."

Dave Cheng, third-year political science



"No. University students are old enough and mature enough to make a decision about whether or not they want to join the military."

Cheryl Slack, grad student library information science



"I personally would not want to see them here. Going to a population that is largely in debt and offering debt relief for joining the army is slightly unfair."

Patrick Hancock, fourth-year social anthropology

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Students to vote on military ban

University of Victoria's student union lifted its ban on campus army recruitment after the decision outraged many students.

At its Sept. 10 meeting, the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) voted seven to six in favour of banning Canadian Armed Forces recruitment officers from campus locations and from participating in the school's upcoming career fair.

Since then, students have hotly debated the issue, some supporting the decision and some speaking out against it. But backlash from the ban, including the creation of a Facebook group called "The Canadian Forces are not criminals...but the UVSS are idiots," prompted the union to open the subject to a student vote at its general meeting on Oct. 25.

Engineering students protest demolition

Students at the University of British Columbia are fighting the administration's plans to tear down a ship design facility and replace it with campus housing.

The school says the 30-year-old BC Ocean Engineering Centre, which houses several vessels for naval architecture projects, is a "wreck." Administration has already called off all research projects taking place in the building and wants to destroy it by the end of December.

Fourth-year mechanical engineering student Dan Schell launched a petition against the demolition plans Oct. 1, accusing the university of disregarding students' best interests.

"It tarnishes UBC's reputation to rip down one of two research facilities in Canada, and it's all for a quick buck," Schell told The Vancouver Sun. "Obviously, they're trying to make a profit but it shouldn't come at the cost of the students and the faculty."

University officials and some faculty members said the building is at the end of its life-span and has little academic use.

The only similar ship testing facility in Canada belongs to Newfoundland's Memorial University.

McGill TA union gears up for new contract

Teaching assistants at McGill University are negotiating with the school for more pay and better training, claiming the university's policies lag behind those of other Canadian institutions.

The union, which represents 2,000 TAs, prepared surveys for nearly two years before its contract with the university expired over the summer. The union will use the surveys while it bargains with administration for a new contract. The surveys showed that teaching assistants at McGill receive less vacation pay than at any other university in Canada and their hourly wage of \$22.40 is less than half the amount TAs earn at some Ontario schools.

The union's previous contract negotiation lasted more than two years and caused a strike in 2003.

Sources: The Martlet; The Vancouver Sun; The McGill Daily;

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

The Rock gives back to University of Miami

Actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and his wife Dany Garcia Johnson donated \$1 million to the University of Miami. The school is both the former wrestler's and his wife's alma mater. He is a 1995 graduate and played on the Hurricanes football team.

The money is earmarked for the school's football facilities renovation fund. It is the largest gift any former student has ever made to the university's athletic department.

Johnson's wife is also an alumni trustee at the school and a former member of the university's rowing team.

The couple separated in June but said they remain close.

"This very generous gesture by the Johnsons is just another example of their support of the University of Miami," football coach Randy Shannon told The Canadian Press.

Bush invited to speak at Iranian University

Ferdowsi University, located in the northeastern city of Mashhad, has asked President Bush to speak about issues such as the Holocaust, terrorism and human rights.

The offer comes a week after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke in New York at Columbia University.

His appearance caused a public outcry and he was introduced by Columbia's president Lee Bellinger as showing "all the signs of a cruel and petty dictator."

White House spokesperson Dana Perino told The Associated Press the president was not taking the invitation too seriously.

"If Iran was a free and democratic society that allowed its people freedom of expression, and wasn't pursuing nuclear weapons, and wasn't advocating to destroy the country of Israel, the president might consider that invitation," she said.

Students return to class after University of Memphis shooting

Students at the University of Memphis returned to class on Oct. 2 after a classmate was murdered there earlier that week.

Police did not know if the fatal shooting was directed at Taylor Bradford, a university football player, or if it was a random attack.

No suspects have been identified and police told The Associated Press they had not determined the motive for the shooting, which took place outside a university housing complex.

The university has more than 20,000 students and decided to cancel classes on Oct. 1, the day after the shooting.

The Memphis police director said there is no evidence that Bradford was involved in any criminal activity. The Nashville resident was supposed to play for the local football team, the Tigers, this season.

Sources: Canadian Press; Associated Press.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Nearly 120 people marched and chanted for gender equality during the Dal Women's Centre's annual rally on Sept. 28.

Women's equality still a concern: lobby groups

STEPHEN SABOURIN
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Halifax women have marched through city streets at night for nearly 30 years, and they're not going to stop now.

On Sept. 28, the Dalhousie Women's Centre held its Take Back the Night march, a year after the federal government cut \$5 million in funding for women's advocacy groups across the country.

The annual women's rights march brought together roughly 120 community members, 20 of them allies, to rally for gender equality. Local lobbyists said this is a goal they still struggle for today.

Participant Rebecca Toglin works for Silent Witness Nova Scotia, an organization that raises awareness about domestic violence.

Toglin said women's issues are very much alive despite the Conservatives' cutbacks, which she said convey that women's rights are not a political priority.

The government announced last

fall it would no longer fund women's advocacy groups and the government agency, the Status of Women Canada, dropped the word "equality" from its mandate.

Toglin said this year's march proved the community cares about women's lobby groups, despite the government's decision to shut down 12 of 16 regional Status of Women advocacy offices.

After an hour-long rally in Victoria Park, where participants chanted against patriarchy and for women's solidarity, the crowd began its march to Gottingen Street's Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre just before 8 p.m.

Two police cars, one in front and one behind, shepherded the throng of women, men and children through the streets while passing cars honked and onlookers cheered.

"There was good energy and the speakers were great," said Toglin.

Men and transgendered people walked in a separate 'allies' group.

The coordinator of the Sexual Safety Inclusive Coalition of Halifax and director of the Vagina Mono-

logues at Saint Mary's University said the purpose of the march was not to exclude men, but to make women feel safe on their own.

"A lot of these movements and a lot of the work that has been done to address sexual violence has been for women by women and that's wrong because you can't end sexual violence if you're only looking at sexual violence against women," said Suzanne Boudreau. "We're asking men to come end sexual violence."

Keith Stevens, a Dal political science student, attended the event for the first time.

"(I came) to show solidarity for this good cause so that women have the ability to go out at night," he said during the march.

Halifax Citadel's MLA agreed. "Women should have the freedom to go wherever they want at any time of night, the same freedom that other people in society have," said Leonard Preyra.

"They shouldn't be restricted from doing that for fear of being assaulted."

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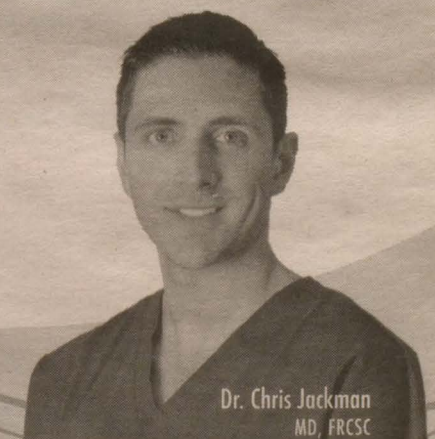
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Turning the tables:

Arthritis patient comes to Dal to be a doctor

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Each morning when he wakes up, Paul Morrison takes six pills. Four more before bed every night. Six extra once a week.

He walks from his Quinpool Road apartment towards Dalhousie's campus. Most days, the 15-minute journey takes him twice as long, his swollen knees bulging through his jeans.

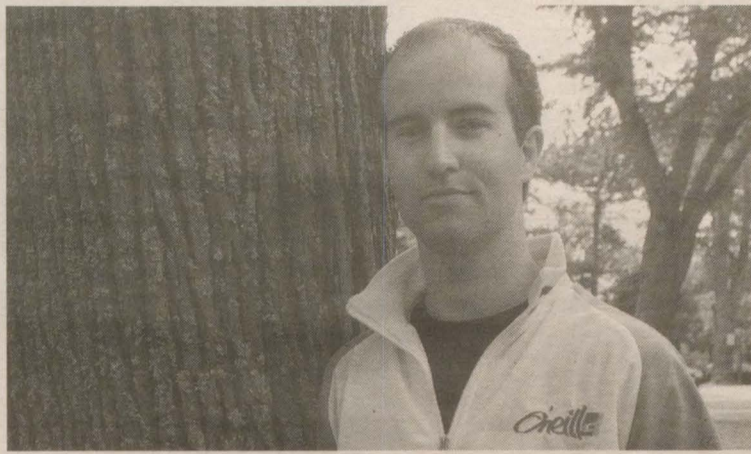
On bad days, his ankles spill over the tops of his shoes, his jaw muscles are stiff and bloated and it hurts to eat. On good days, the 28-year-old student barely notices anything's wrong.

Morrison, a former personal trainer, was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis two years ago. Two months ago, he received one of seven national scholarships for students adapting well to the condition. The \$5,000 UCBeyond award from the Pharma Canada drug company helped pay for part of his tuition as a first-year medical student at Dal this fall.

"This experience of having a disease like this, or a condition like this, kind of gives you a little bit more empathy and a little bit more understanding for the patient's side of the patient-doctor relationship," says the Baddeck, Cape Breton native. "As I get through, it'll make it a little bit easier to be aware of how the person on the other end of things is feeling or what they're going through."

Rheumatoid arthritis is a disease in which the immune system attacks the body, causing joint pain and swelling. It gets worse with age and usually affects one out of 100 Canadians between the ages of 25 and 50. Women are more likely than men to develop the condition.

After completing his undergraduate human kinetics degree at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish and his master's in exercise physiology at McGill, Morrison moved to England for two years, working as a personal trainer. While he was there, on his twenty-sixth birthday, he noticed his knee looked swollen. By the time he went to the emergency



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

First-year medical student Paul Morrison was one of seven Canadian students living with rheumatoid arthritis to win a \$5,000 scholarship toward his tuition.

room, the swelling was so severe he couldn't tell where his kneecap was.

Doctors there told him he'd likely torn some knee cartilage. They didn't expect to find arthritis in someone so young, he says, and neither did he. More than a year and several visits

to specialists later, he was properly diagnosed and prescribed a cocktail of anti-inflammatory medication. Now he takes more doses of stronger immune suppressant drugs. Some high-end types cost more than \$10,000 a year.

But his five-year career as an athletic coach and personal trainer is over.

"When your knees and ankles and hands are stiff and swollen and sore, it makes it pretty hard to demonstrate exercises to people. It's tough to exercise yourself," he says, adding he always thought of personal training as a short-term job. "You're not making a huge difference in people's lives."

It's been more than five years since Morrison was in school, but now he's back in the classroom studying to become a doctor, possibly an exercise science specialist, so he can help other people. He says he hopes he doesn't forget what it's like to be a patient once he becomes a doctor.

"It makes you aware of what it's like to be on the other side of the table," he says. "One of the things they tell you all the time in med school is that you have to be able to take care of yourself before you can take care of anyone else."

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The Scientific Skeptic

Thinking your way to the top

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

This October, Halifax-based motivational speaker Eddie LeMoine will be bringing his Law of Attraction tour to the Halifax Westin. After two hours of his presentation, his guests will probably leave feeling a renewed enthusiasm for life.

It's unfortunate then, that the Law of Attraction is an unproven hypothesis.

Rhonda Byrne popularized the Law of Attraction in her documentary *The Secret*, which came out in 2006. With its *Da Vinci Code*-inspired graphics and promise of forbidden knowledge, *The Secret* became an overnight bestseller after Oprah endorsed it in February.

The Law of Attraction can be summed up by LeMoine's tagline for his tour: "Bring about what you think about!" According to LeMoine and *The Secret*, the universe brings things together, and your thoughts are energy fields that attract the material objects they represent.

Essentially, all you need to do to be wealthy and loved is think about what you want.

This apparently revolutionary insight into the physical laws of the universe seems to ignore the basic, established patterns of its behaviour. On a fundamental level, similar things do not attract each other. Matter seeks antimatter. Electrons avoid other electrons and are drawn to protons.

Thoughts can be considered energy fields, as neurons use changes in electrical charge to communicate. Differences in electrical charge can be measured within our head by external probes and then amplified, drawing 'brainwaves' that are a summation of all the neurons firing at a given time.

However, these 'energy fields' barely penetrate our skull. We do not broadcast our thoughts.

The Law of Attraction also has two built-in failsafes. First, it says

that the thing you're wishing for might not arrive immediately, so it's hard to point to a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

Let's say you wish for wealth. Over the next several months, many things will effect your financial situation. You could find a \$20 bill on the ground and you could lose \$20 in a poker game. If you believed in the Law of Attraction, you would attribute the find, but not the loss, to your wishing.

Second, the Law of Attraction says you must believe in it for it to work. You shouldn't question it if nothing happens. Just keep wishing until your wish comes true.

Believing in the Law of Attraction is dangerous from a psychological perspective. If a Law of Attraction follower gets cancer due to a random mutation in her cells, which could happen to anyone, she must accept that it was her own negative thoughts that brought the cancer into her life.

Following the Law of Attraction also forces believers to constantly think about what they want and don't have in their life, which is a recipe for unhappiness and disappointment.

Of course, the Law of Attraction and *The Secret* do offer some wisdom: be generous, appreciate what you have and don't worry too much.

But do we really need a documentary or motivational speech to be reminded of that?

The problem with all self-help fads is that, although they do a good job of inspiring their followers, there are no simple solutions for the problems we face in our lives.

LeMoine's guests may feel energized for a few days following his presentation. They'll try thinking about what they want or go out and buy copies of *The Secret* for everyone in their family.

But after a few days with no results, they'll go back to their ordinary lives, ready to jump on board the next self-help craze that comes along.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal News is trying to make Dal seem like the golden kingdom of post-secondary education.

The world according to Dal

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Beware, students. There's an imposter in town, and it may be hiding among copies of your beloved *Gazette*.

Dalhousie News is a printed version of www.dalnews.dal.ca, an administration-run website the Communications and Marketing Department posts to keep students and the general public aware of recent news at Dal.

You're not going to find an in-depth look at issues here, though. This cleverly disguised newspaper is nothing more than a promotional tool for Dal. There's nothing essentially wrong with this, but readers should be aware *Dalhousie News* isn't a good meal replacement for *The Gazette*.

This glorified press release might call itself a newspaper, but it's caught in the clutches of biased journalism. It's perfectly fine for an institution to promote its services to the general public, but *Dal News* is presented in such a format that it appears to be more than just public relations.

The problem with *Dal News* is that it's difficult to differentiate between what's news and what's an ad. An article on the mumps features the same ads you see in the SUB telling you to get your mumps shot. News on upcoming events read like invitations.

A quick glance also reveals the paper isn't interested in criticizing Dal's shortcomings.

A newspaper should scrape beneath the surface of a situation to find problems and clashes, in order to make readers more aware. Without the press, the world would be full of spokespersons and public relations people trying to convince you their organizations are doing no harm.

Let's look at a story in the last issue of *Dal News* to see what a happy-go-lucky, uncritical media scene would be like.

"Can Dal be Canada's best university?" is a story on Dal President Tom Traves. I can't imagine it being any more obvious that *Dal News* is trying to make Dal seem like the golden kingdom of post-secondary education.

The article opens as follows:

"Describing himself as buoyant and optimistic, Dalhousie President Tom Traves sees the university as teeming with creativity and new ideas..."

Way to put Traves in the hot seat, *Dal News*. Good to know everything is just fine and dandy at the highest level of our administration. I feel like I'm being given a propaganda leaflet in a communist state.

If *Dal News* was clearly just a newsletter telling readers about Dal's initiatives and what kind of research its professors are doing, I wouldn't have any qualms with it. But it runs the line a little too close for me to keep from saying something.

I visit the *Dal News* website to find out what the university is up to these days, but I would never take a story at face value.

The website can be effective and useful for students, so it might be better to focus on this medium of public relations, rather than spending money printing a paper version of it that could bite into the readership of the school's student paper.

People can read *Dal News*, but they should know where it's coming from.

P

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Tradition and technology give Burma a voice

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

When student protests broke out in Burma almost two decades ago, the world largely ignored their message until the repressive regime murdered over 3,000 protesters in August 1988.

The current protests in Burma, in response to an impoverishing overnight hike in oil prices late this summer, hit the world stage before the government clampdown got violent.

Burma has been under the leadership of military leaders and unstable regimes since 1948, when it gained independence from the British Empire. The current military junta came to power in 1988, calling itself the State Peace and Development Council.

Over the years, the Burmese army has been routinely accused of rape, ethnic cleansing, extra-judicial executions and torture and imprisonment without trial. Over one million people have been displaced and 3,000 villages have been destroyed by Burmese troops. Opposition parties and ethnic groups have been violently suppressed.

The regime often changes policies to suit its economic partners. Transparency International, a global coalition against corruption, ranked Burma and Somalia as the most corrupt countries in the world in its 2007 index.

The heads of the country squander the nation's riches while most of Burma's people live in poverty and without true representation.

Beginning this August, the Burmese Buddhist clergy decided to become the messengers of the impoverished and voiceless.

As the monks allow the frustrations of the people to resonate in and outside of Burma, their message is being relayed to the rest of the world thanks to new online media. Tradition and technology are communicating the plight of the silenced to those who are more fortunate.

Information technology, such as blogs and camera phones, have brought the world's attention to the small Southeast Asian nation. The government shut down all internet connections at the end of last week, but journalists with satellite phones have been sending photographs and messages from behind the scenes.

This is about more than just getting around a regime-enforced communications shutdown to receive the news. The many forms of media used during the Burma stand-off give the news more substance.

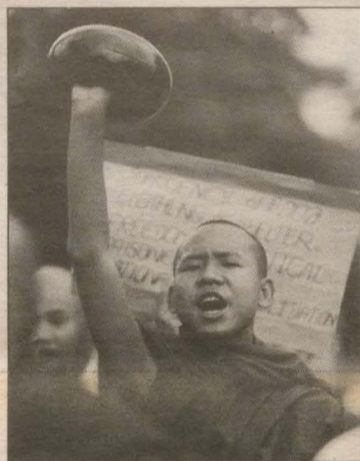
We can see what's going on in full sound and colour. We can read personal accounts of the event as if we were reading people's daily journals. With video, sound and print on hand, we can more rigorously penetrate the situation.

On YouTube, videos of the protests give us the look and feel of the event. We can read a litany of firsthand accounts on blogs to experi-



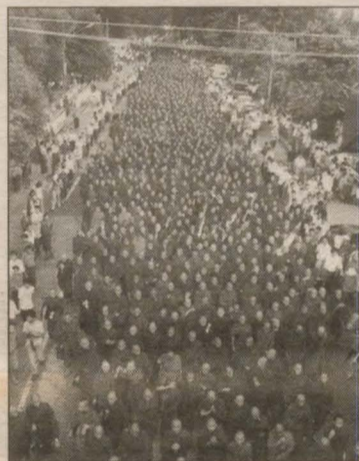
Burmese troops began a government crackdown last week.

REUTERS



Buddhist monks march to protest mistreatment of Burmese people.

REUTERS



ence what is transpiring on the other side of the world. Not only does the news come out much earlier through these media, but there's much more information.

Before democracy activist and Nobel peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was returned to prison last week, the few photographs of her under house arrest were posted on blogs. She was a prominent member in the 1988 demonstrations and had been under house arrest until 2002. In 2003, she was detained and put under house arrest once again.

The British daily, *The Independent*, lists a few blog messages from witnesses, one from Rangoon which anonymously reads, "I saw a truck full of police with guns, which looked like AK47. The military junta has been making us miserable for nearly two decades."

The picture we get of Burma is more tangible and harder to ignore for its distance from us.

This is a boon for students. The gap between the news and our real life shrinks when we can get closer to the event. Access to online coverage makes the situation harder to ignore on a human level.

Coupled with technological efficiency is the moral authority of Buddhist monks who began their marches in August.

The Buddhist monks of Burma have been touted as the 'conscience' of the nation. When the monks march, it means business. Only a tradition so old and revered could gain respect in a nation so devastatingly controlled by a corrupt government.

The staying power of the Buddhist clergy is remarkable when you realize the political turmoil the country has experienced since gaining independence. While the successive military juntas have purposely lowered the living standards of Burmese people and have focused on serving foreign interests, the strong Buddhist religious following has allowed those with the least power to be heard the loudest.

Together, technology and tradition have brought a totalitarian regime into the spotlight.

The actions of the monks and current technology have ensured Burma remains in headlines across the world. For the sake of the Burmese people, this incident will hopefully remain in our conscience as well.

Democratic double standards

BETHANY HORNE
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The right to free speech is featured prominently in the news these days. The military forces that govern Burma challenged students and citizens led by Buddhist monks, and the world has watched the conflict turn bloody.

Western governments have reacted with outrage. But perhaps our leaders should turn their gaze towards themselves and ensure the right to protest is honoured on their own soil as faithfully as they would see it respected elsewhere.

Halifax saw two protests last week. The reaction by police forces to each was notably different.

The Halifax Coalition Against Poverty (HCAP), an organization of poor people and their supporters, ran a protest on Sept. 26.

HCAP defends individuals who are mistreated because they are poor. The organization launches campaigns against government policy and institutions that perpetuate poverty.

The 'Raise the Rates' march was held to demand a higher minimum wage, higher social assistance rates and the creation of more affordable housing in the city. It also demanded the elimination of tuition fees.

About 100 people came together at St. Andrew's United Church on Coburg Road to join in the demonstration. The police were also there and met with organizers from the coalition to establish the confines of the march.

HCAP members and supporters were disappointed to hear the march was restricted to the sidewalk. Even more surprisingly, police warned that if one member of the demonstration disobeyed the restriction consistently, the entire group would be arrested.

Because the crowd included children, handicapped people, welfare recipients, students and other poor people, the threat of arrest was extremely adverse. HCAP member Amber Tapley encouraged the crowd to obey the sidewalk limitation.

When contacted for comment, a Police Department representative said the coalition had not acquired a permit to obstruct the roadway. Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Theresa Rath indicated, however, that arresting people who were not breaking the law would be illegal.

"Anyone obstructing traffic would be arrested, or if they didn't comply with police commands," Rath said. She denied that a warning about mass arrests was given.

The department does not divulge information on deployment. It was hard to tell exactly how many police officers were there. However, there were at least four motorcycles controlling traffic, a line of about 20 officers on the road and two unmarked vans filled with officers that cruised by the march early on and remained close throughout.

Police officers started packing their belts with pepper spray and batons in full view of the protesters as they left the church. Coalition members said they perceived this as a visual reminder to them of the earlier

threat about arrests.

HCAP considers the march a success. It went along Spring Garden Road and Young Avenue, stopping at the houses of President and CEO of Nova Scotia Power Ralph Tedesco, wealthy investor and developer George Armoyan and Colin Dodds, president of Saint Mary's University and board member of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies.

These targets were chosen because HCAP sees them as powerful supporters of the social structures that oppress poor people. There was a speech at each house that outlined the anti-poor actions of each individual.

At each doorstep the group of protesters chanted, "You are rich because we're poor."

The second demonstration occurred on Sept. 28. Take Back the Night was organized this year by the Dalhousie Women's Centre (DWC).

The march attracted roughly the same number of protesters as the HCAP march. About 100 women and 20 allies met up and walked from Victoria Park to the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre on Gottingen Street.

There was a difference, however, in the number of police. Five officers patrolled this march and the group marched on the street.

Rath said the police's priority at every march is to ensure that the democratic rights of the protesters are respected, as well as those of the people being protested against.

It appears there are different interpretations of who has the right to protest, and different ways of protecting this right. At one demonstration, the police saw fit to control the situation with threats and the display of power. At the other, their presence was nominal and was in fact requested by the DWC.

The mandate of the police to protect protesters' rights is noble, if narrow. The right of protesters to not be intimidated, bullied or threatened should be respected. The police not only neglected this duty, but were the source of the intimidation at the HCAP march.

The discrepancy in police involvement on the two nights could be attributed to the fact that, while the Take Back the Night march was a general demonstration against patriarchy and people who victimize women, HCAP had a very specific target for their march: the three people who they deem perpetuate poverty. Their march was inherently confrontational and their message was therefore more dangerous.

But we need to pay attention when one message of dissent is being stifled more than another. A restriction on protesting uncomfortable subjects is what caused the military crackdown in Burma.

There was no violence at the HCAP protest, but violence was certainly expected and prepared for by both police and protesters.

Although the only confrontation that day was an ideological one, democracy in our country just narrowly escaped another beating.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on:
Monday, October 15 @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

University brings dialogue to citizens

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last week, Columbia University hosted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad amid a huge public outcry. The man whose army has been decreed a "terrorist organization" by the United States government said he wanted to let Americans hear the real story, because he said his message is filtered by a biased media and government.

Ahmadinejad wasn't allowed to visit Ground Zero nor was he planning any meetings with American officials.

It's not often a university gets to play mediator between two world powers in the middle of a war of words. When it does though, average citizens get to size up heads of state for themselves.

The event highlighted an extremely important role for a university when countries on the other side of the world can be so easily demonized. It also demonstrated how a university can be a forum for free discussion when other forums stifle debate.

The United Nations has the potential to let all voices be heard, but it is too often a pedestal for one-way dialogue.

Incidentally, Ahmadinejad once used a General Assembly speech to call President Bush the devil.

But Columbia's president, Lee Bellinger, ruined the chance of having a fair discussion by saying Ahmadinejad shows all the signs of being a "cruel and petty dictator" before the president had even begun to speak. This gave Ahmadinejad the chance



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited New York last week.

REUTERS

to play the part of debate club president when he said that in Iran, debates allow the audience to judge the speakers for themselves.

He forgot to say that in Iran, real debate doesn't happen much at all.

Columbia lost its chance to show Iranians and the world that the Unit-

ed States is a place for free expression. The central committee of Iran's strong Jewish community, numbering around 25,000, denounced Bellinger's words, saying, "Iranian Jews strongly condemn such impoliteness and wilfulness, as such behaviour has targeted Iran's president

who legally represents Iranians."

In the end, the lack of a clean introduction didn't much matter. Not only did Ahmadinejad spew out his usual dose of dangerous and inflammatory rhetoric on Israel and the Holocaust, he said Iran had no homosexuals and his country didn't

have any problems related to their fair treatment.

At least he's being creative with his vexed view on the world.

It could have been a much more profound discussion if it had been more focused on debate. As a letter to *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out, Bellinger could have set up a debate had he brought a representative from Israel to defend that nation in a discussion.

Whatever the result, universities remain one of the few places this kind of thing can happen. The event certainly gives some perspective to the uproar created earlier this year when self-titled "racial realist" Jared Taylor came to Halifax to debate race relations.

Taylor's debate with Saint Mary's professor Peter March was cancelled at the last minute, and later took place in a closed debate without any audience or media.

It's too bad that in Halifax, creating bad publicity is considered worse than allowing those with unpopular views to debate their points.

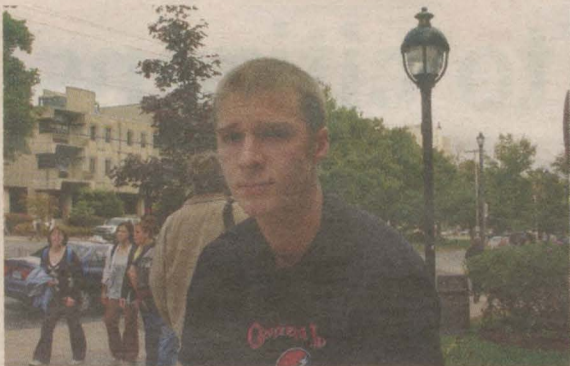
Free discussion allows citizens to see and hear people they may agree or disagree with and gives them the chance to come to conclusions about the issues being discussed. It allows people to make decisions for themselves without the filter of the mass media.

Ahmadinejad's speech allowed many people in the United States and Canada to get a better idea of who the man is and what he stands for. Whether they like what they see or not, at least they don't have to doubt what they're looking at.

Wash it down with 

STREETER

What are you thankful for?



“Probably thanksgiving dinner. And that I still got two arms and two legs.”

Gregor Kennedy, fourth-year history



“Family and their support.”

Chelsea Boaler, first-year science



“I will be thankful for my education.”

Ryan Hull, first-year FYP



“I will be thankful that I live on this continent.”

Rebecca Butler, master's planning



“Family and friends.”

Ryan Dewinter, fourth-year kinesiology



“A roof over my head and that I'm not homeless.”

Melanie Seaward, second-year social work



“Having cats to look after.”

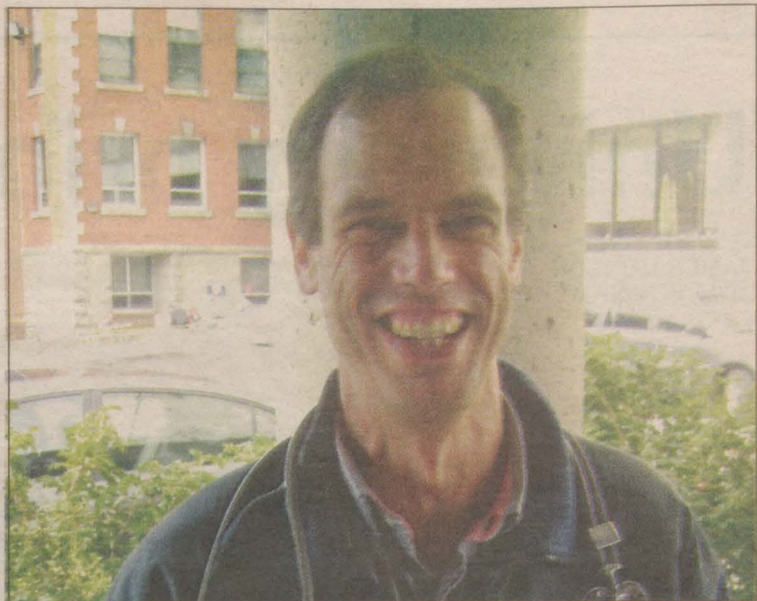
Julia Black, first-year FYP



“Chasing live turkeys covered in butter to bring home for Thanksgiving dinner.”

James Munson, third-year creative hunting

Dr. Stephen Workman is a Dal faculty member in the Division of General Internal Medicine and a practicing doctor at the Victoria General Hospital. Last year, he lent his voice to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia.



Prof Talk

Q When did you first realize you were going to become a professor?
A In residency I liked the academic environment. Patients, diseases and residents are all interesting on their own, but put them together and it's a particularly exciting mix.

Q What's your favourite Halifax bar?
A I really don't go to bars anymore. I've been to The Thirsty Duck a few times in the last five years.

Q What do you do when you aren't teaching?
A I like to read, hike, play squash, sing. I do a little bit of acting. And fathering, of course. There is no 'spare' time.

Q What are your pet peeves?
A 'Okay' and 'alright.' I'm talking about unconscious bedside speech by my residents. If they ask a patient how their hip has been and the patient says, 'It's feeling much better,' you can't just say something automatic. 'Good' or 'I understand' is much better. You should be aware of what's coming out of your mouth. It's your job.

Q Is there anything you wish every student knew?
A How to listen.

Q How can a student suck up to you?
A They shouldn't. But if they must, it'll be through hard work, a lot of reading and through knowing their patients.

Q What's your favourite cereal?
A Muslix.

Q If you found a genie in a lamp, what would you wish for?
A A civilized world.

Q Are there any myths about the medicinal career?
A There are three big misconceptions: that disease is curable, that death is avoidable and that intelligence is a substitute for knowledge.

Q What would a boyhood Stephen say if he met you now?
A 'I'm surprised you have so many kids.' Also, 'Don't you want to live in the country?'

Q Where's your favourite place to chill on campus?
A The squash court.

Want to hear what your prof has to say?
 Email proftalk@dalgazette.ca

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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

I have been involved in student government since my second year and have held executive positions at Dalhousie and in charitable and volunteer organizations within the community. But, I have never been so disgusted at a proceeding than with my first Dalhousie Student Union meeting on Sept. 26.

I was urged by a member of the council to run as a delegate to Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA). Three non-council members (myself included) and five voting members of council ran for the available positions.

We debated over whether or not non-council members had to leave the room, while councilors stayed during the candidate speeches, and we agreed through a vote that all

candidates had to leave the room, which seemed fair.

We delivered our brief speeches, but afterwards all guests and non-voting members of council had to leave the room for a closed session. Because of this, the five members of council who ran as ANSSA delegates could stay and comment. Those of us who were guests or did not have seats on council had to leave.

These members of council were not present during the speeches and obviously had a conflict of interest. After this vote, a fellow candidate and I both felt the deck was stacked against us and left the SUB embarrassed.

The whole process has me disheartened and it is difficult to see how an organization such as this can

efficiently and accurately represent Dalhousie's student body. It has become apparent through this experience why it is difficult to generate interest in the DSU. Simply put, the rules are stacked against people from outside of the council who want to get involved.

Phillip Homburg

President, Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society

.....

RE: "The Art of Bullshit," Letter from the Editor, 140-05

I read with some interest John Packman's lament on the use of es-

says in university education. Unfortunately, it seems to contain as much 'bullshit' as one would expect from an essay assignment, or at least what the Editor-in-Chief would have us believe.

Whether you plan on pursuing a career in pure sciences, social sciences or arts, persuasive writing is going to be integral to your success. As a TA who has corrected more than a few essays, the average level of writing for undergrads in my experience borders on less-than-acceptable.

Yes, writing an essay can be long and tedious, and usually it must adhere to strict guidelines. However, most writing you will do outside of university will also meet this criteria. Best get used to it now and learn to say what you need to say in a clear

and concise language. Not to mention in a proper format.

One of the major problems our society faces these days is not a lack of good ideas, but a lack of people that can properly express them to others. Writing persuasive essays is one of the best tools we have to communicate good ideas, but it only works if people can properly read and write them.

A university degree is indeed an expensive and difficult endeavour, but you'll be cheating yourself out of a complete education if you ignore the tremendous role that proper writing plays at school.

Mike McElroy

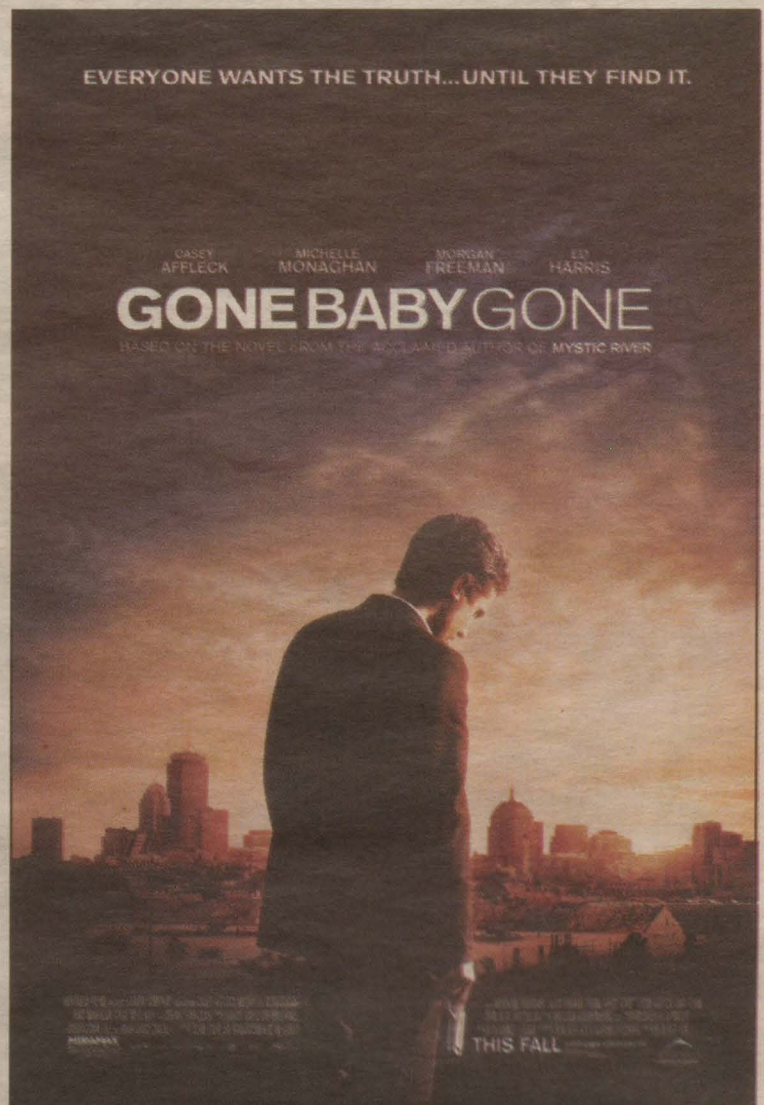


WIN ONE OF 25 DOUBLE PASSES AT THE GAZETTE!! Come to S.U.B. Room 312 and tell John two other movies that Jake Gyllenhaal has appeared in! Screening is Wednesday October 10 at the Park Lane Mall.



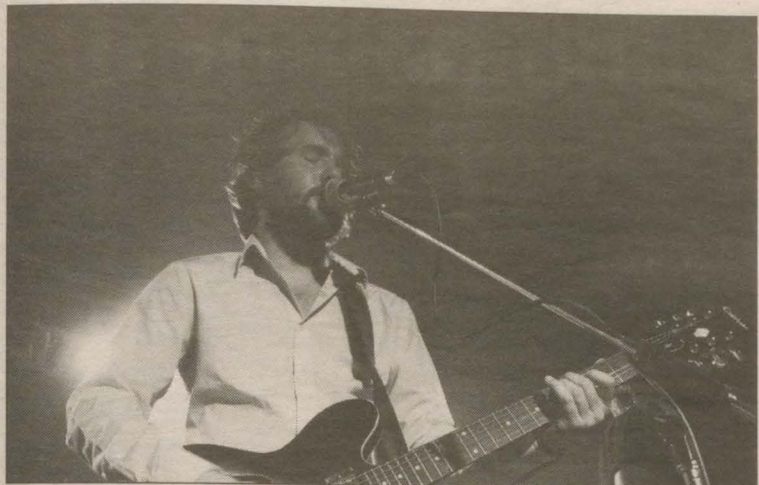
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WIN ONE OF 25 DOUBLE PASSES AT THE GAZETTE!! Come to S.U.B. Room 312 and tell John the name of another movie Morgan Freeman was in. Screening is Thursday October 11 at the Park Lane Mall.





JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kevin Drew kicked off his international tour at The Marquee last Saturday.

Wine Online: a taste of virtual class

PATRICK ST. AMAND
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

To some people, wine culture can be slightly overwhelming, if not completely intimidating.

The simple task of buying white or red wine is quickly complicated when you hear words like Merlot, Chardonnay and Cabernet.

But thanks to the wine expertise of business savvy, hell of a good web designer Josh Arndt, WineOnline.ca makes it possible to purchase your wine online.

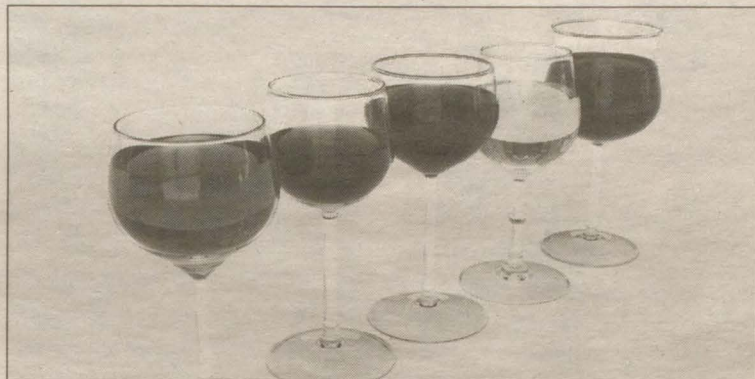
Before you assume this is another cheap 'dial-a-bottle' operation, check out the history of WineOnline.ca.

What started as a business in Toronto has spread out east to Nova Scotia. Dalhousie students Nolan Davies and Charlie Bick, cousin of Aaron Bick who co-founded the company, are currently running and expanding the Nova Scotia branch of WineOnline.ca.

Bick and Davies say their business entails more than just selling wine legally.

They meet the requirements and have the rights to distribute wine anywhere in the province, both to private and licensed consumers.

The company currently supplies to several private buyers within the



Being a wine connoisseur is made easy with WineOnline.ca.

province and to some Halifax restaurants.

"We go to the restaurants and introduce ourselves," says Bick. "It gives us opportunities to cultivate relationships with clients."

They are careful to abide by Nova Scotia's liquor laws. The website stipulates that two pieces of ID are required, regardless of personal or mail delivery.

If you're outside Halifax and can't make it to a liquor store, WineOnline.ca has an account with Canada Post.

Legalities aside, this company takes its wine quality seriously.

Representatives from WineOnline.ca have travelled all over the world, setting up ties and discovering new tastes to bring to Canada.

The website has various options for acquiring a wine that suits your tastes and price range.

For those with more sensitive palates, you can select what grape you would like. For those who are simply curious, you can choose from flavours of different wines in non-technical terms.

With prices ranging from \$10 a bottle to \$50, you can easily budget on a student's wage.

The boy inside the man

J. MARY BURNET
COPY EDITOR

It was a night of drunken karaoke with the musical hero of indie kids nationwide.

Kevin Drew screamed, laughed and sang until his voice cracked last Saturday night, onstage at The Marquee Club with Broken Social Scene.

The Halifax show was the first date of Drew's tour promoting his latest release, *Spirit If*. The tour will take the group to Paris, Vienna, Munich and Berlin over the next couple of weeks.

Drew sang hopeful songs like "Shout!" U2's "Where the Streets Have No Name" and, very fittingly, Tom Cochrane's "Boy Inside The Man."

The crowd, packed tight into The Marquee and pushed up against every wall, was more than happy to sing along, and repeat after Drew his cry for love and responsibility.

Local indie sweetheart Jill Barber

harmonized with Drew on *Spirit If*'s "Tbt" and the band played "Backed Out On The..." another track from Drew's new release.

Many songs were old BSS favourites like "It's All Gonna Break," "Superconnected," "Major Label Debut," "Guilty Cubicles" and a hard, electric version of "Lover's Spit."

Little dance circles twisted up knots in the throng across the club, and with all the pumping fists, there was a danger of being hit in the face with the full force of drunken indie passion.

It seemed like Drew lost track of how many encores he gave his fans.

As it usually goes with BSS live, the sound was overwhelming and multi-layered, with Drew's voice cutting strong through the reverb.

Drew delivered inspiring battle cries over the background of his iconic music.

"We're all fuckin' fucked," he shouted at his dancing disciples. "So fight the good fight."

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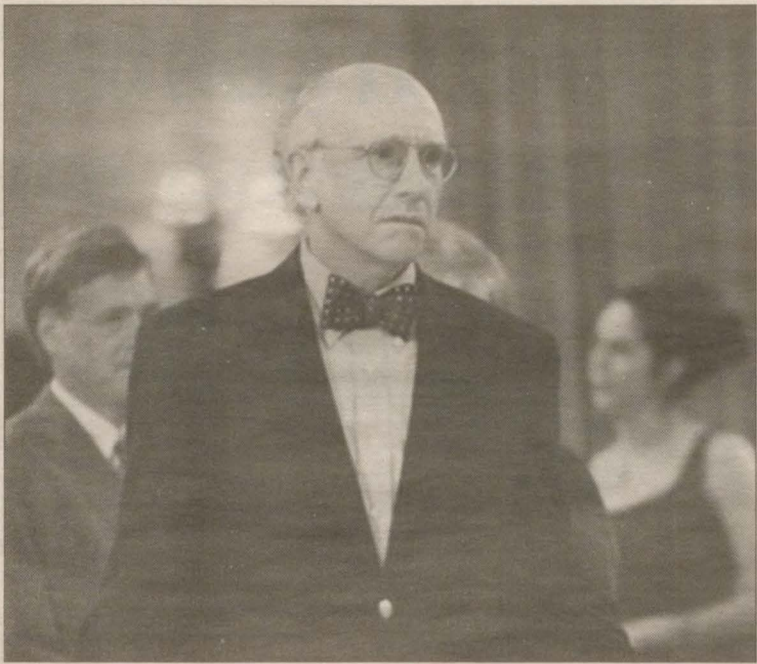
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This might be Larry David's best season of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* yet, but it could be his last.

Enthused by *Curb*

CHRIS METLER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Four episodes into a brilliant new season, HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* is leaving viewers pondering one thing: could this be its best year yet? For a program beginning its sixth season, this is an impressive feat.

Seinfeld started to lose steam around season seven. *The Office* could play itself out in four and *Arrested Development* didn't even make it past its third year. These are great comedies too, but against the odds, *Curb* keeps going strong.

A slick formula of just 10 episodes per season, a season only once every couple years, improvised dialogue and Larry David's complete creative control and willingness to top himself are many possible reasons for the show's success.

So far this season, David has adopted a displaced black family, aptly named "The Blacks," envied Ted Danson his anonymity, confronted two "sample abusers" and stolen flowers from the roadside memorial of a deceased friend's mother.

Some viewers complain David's act is growing stale and say you can see some jokes coming a mile away. But what they mistake for predictability is really reliability. Is there any other character on television that delivers so consistently?

David has deliberately shifted

the focus of the show away from why he gets into the situations he does (seasons one to three) to exploiting the patterns of just how he gets into them (seasons 4 to now). It's as reliable as comedy gets, like watching Charlie Chaplin or Buster Keaton.

Curb's dynamic has improved season by season. David knows what his audience wants and how to give it to them. By now, you can clearly see his favorite aspects of his character and the series' boundaries, and tell he is flat-out having fun.

Keep an ear out for the wall-to-wall music – all borrowed Italian opera – and watch for such striking images as a stained blanket and erotic cakes shaped like black penises, and recurring characters whose talents David plays off of like a tune.

David doesn't need *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Here is a man who walked away from *Seinfeld* at the peak of its success and is likely still counting the hundreds of millions in profit from it. He'd rather go out on a high note than a low one.

In all likelihood, this will be *Curb's* final season. David has wanted to end the show since season three, but something keeps bringing him back. And it probably isn't the money.

Could it be because he knows he's only getting better at his craft? David's comedy should be around for awhile, but *Curb* won't. Enjoy it while you can.

Gender schmender

KATHERINE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

Oh my gawd – I love that outfit! Seriously, I've never seen skinny jeans in that shade before. I wonder where she got them? And I really love that she's rocking the acid wash V-neck. And the cropped vest! I'm this close to asking her where she got them... Wait. Hold up. Is that... a guy?

Apparently, it is, and he's everywhere. Or, at least, his look is everywhere – on girls, on guys, on everything in between.

It seems we've all started dressing exactly alike, regardless of gender, and I'd be lying if I said I didn't expect it.

The boys of western society's image-conscious subcultures have been borrowing from the girls for decades. Makeup on emo kids, skinny jeans on punks, robes on goths, pretty scarves and long hair on hipsters, a fun colour pallet on the club kids and bling on the hip hop community.

But it appears there no longer needs to be a cultural classification looming over boys' heads for them to lean towards the feminine. Average Joes across campus are sporting a wide range of figure-flattering, colourful ensembles formerly reserved for the ladies.

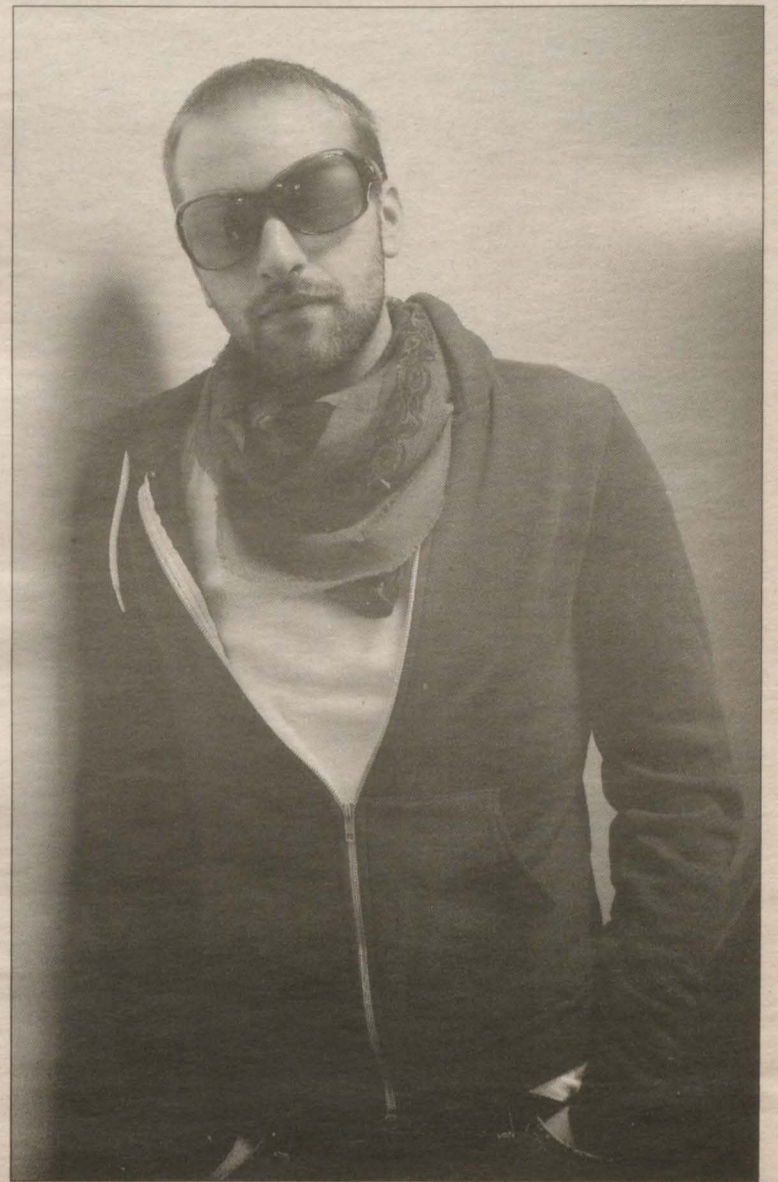
Is this a good thing? A bad thing? Well, the way I see it, a little bit of both.

Women have been wearing 'men's' clothing for decades. We called it equality of the sexes and became so comfortable being fashionably equal that women now wear just about everything men do. Isn't it about time men had the chance to feel what it's like to be equal?

I hoped the pink shirt epidemic of 2004 would eliminate the ostracizing of gay men for wearing feminine clothing, but since that's still not cleared up, maybe a general move in a more feminine direction will encourage everyone to just get along.

Wearing your boyfriend's clothing no longer has to be figure-unflattering! The boyfriend sweater? The boyfriend jeans? Now those are actually your clothes! Sharing entire closets could be the new intimacy.

Hold it. Sharing closets? Really? Is that fun or just freaky? Waking up in the morning to find that your favourite paisley top is missing because your boyfriend borrowed it? Shopping at the same store together and tossing an item over the stall for him to try on after you? Breaking up and finding half your wardrobe in a



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sharing entire closets could be the new intimacy for couples.

cardboard box outside your door the next day? There's something vaguely strange about swapping clothes with your boyfriend the way you do with your girlfriends.

Complete gender ambiguity could also be a problem. Call me old-fashioned, but I do find it easier to talk to someone if I'm able to identify their gender, or at least which one they prefer to be associated with. Think of the pronouns.

And I've seen guys in racer shorts and I've seen guys in skinny jeans, but so help me God if guys start abusing leggings, too.

Now, obviously this unisex look hasn't hit the grand majority of guys on campus yet, but its popularity is

certainly spreading. For guys who are interested in the look but scared of sacrificing their masculinity, just keep in mind that an edgier look doesn't mean you have to dress like Boy George.

As long as there's at least one distinctly masculine element left to your look – some scruffy facial hair here, a little casual, thrown-together essence there – it can be rather fun to follow this funny little trend and see where it takes you.

If you have your own opinions about gendered fashion, write to us at arts@dalgazette.ca and we'll print your response!

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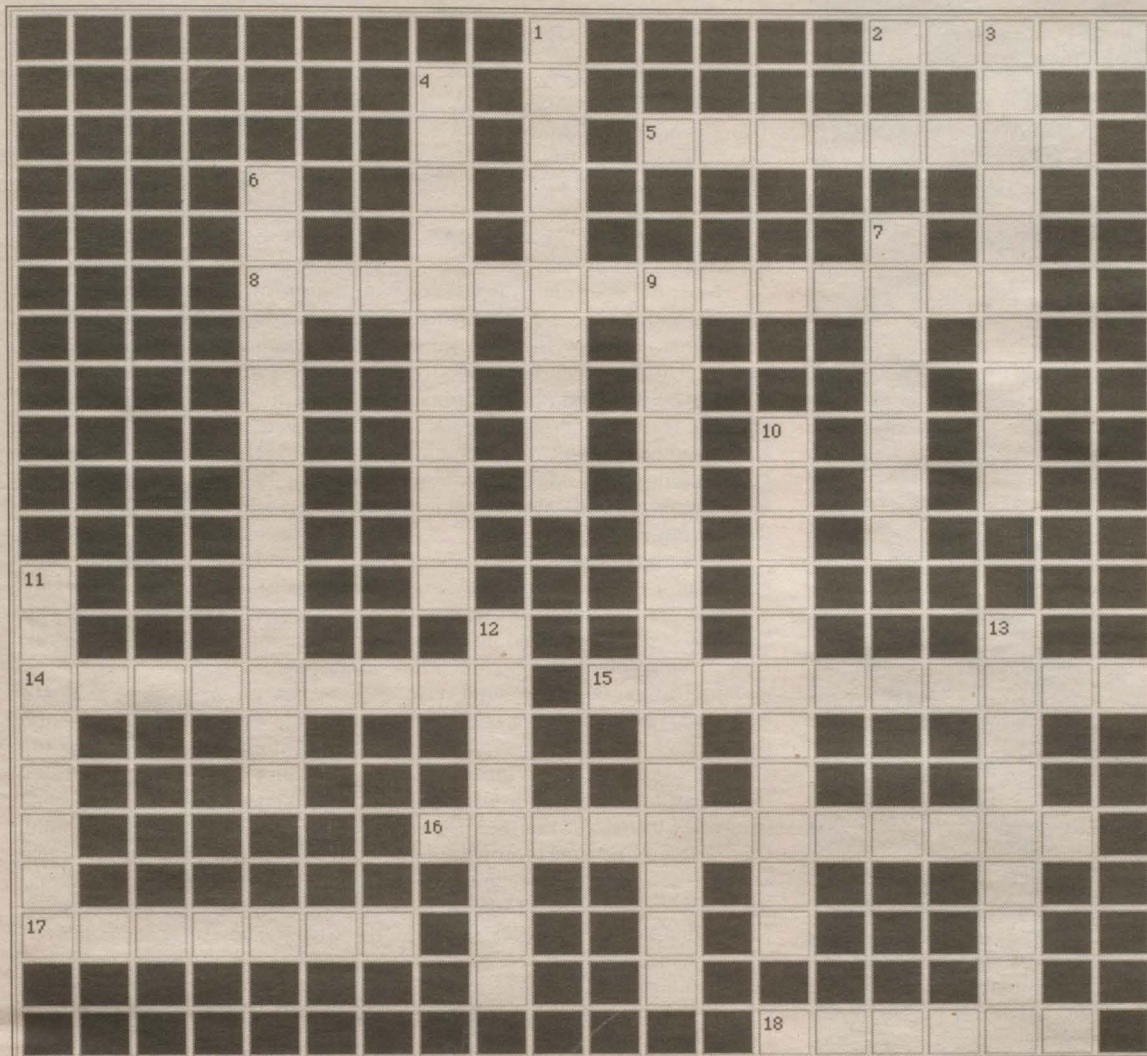
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CROSSWORD

Sociology mixology



Across

- 2. The division of individuals into groups based on their position within society.
- 5. A critical movement whose central object of analysis is gender.
- 8. Often defined as the everyday culture 'of the people.'
- 14. A cultural identity based on an individual's own identification.
- 15. Jean Baudrillard, theory about hyper-development of the media.
- 16. The action of given cultural beliefs in producing the ideological 'reality effect' known as a construct.
- 17. A theory of economy and culture first developed by Karl Marx.
- 18. Refers to attributes that are culturally ascribed to women and men.

Down

- 1. The 'first layer' of meaning attached to a given sign.
- 3. The judgement of the properties of an object that are perceived by a certain cultural value.
- 4. The economic activity of exchanging goods for money.
- 6. The act of taking up an object or practice and using it in ways different from its original use.
- 7. A whole way of life, complex network of values, beliefs and practices.
- 9. The process by which everything in a capitalist society tends to assume the form of commodity.
- 10. A term used in 19th century to draw a class-based distinction. (2wds)
- 11. A way of thinking that takes the abstract qualities of mind or spirit.
- 12. The inverse of utopia, an imagined hellish or intolerable place.
- 13. Term drawn from the work of Michel Foucault to designate a cluster of statements.

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

A new friend is just a stone's throw away. You have been ignoring the Jiffy Pop they've been leaving on your porch. Now's the time to cook that baby up and share it. You've been needy and greedy lately, but with the sun entering your birth sign, you're finally ready to combine efforts by bringing some avocado to the salad.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

A donair is lurking down the street, but resist the urge to eat it up. You will be the funniest person in the room this week, and it doesn't matter whether they are laughing with you or at you, as long as you're laughing with them.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The slinky you placed on the stairs is getting ready for the big finale, so put Vaseline on your teeth to make those chop-pers shine. New love is going to capture your flag this week, so be sure to roll out the red carpet upon its arrival.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

No more head banging for you, either metaphorically or literally. Your neck is strained and so is your brain. Nourish it with plenty of water and information. Rather than going for that next pint, how about reaching for that next page? Work is creeping up on you faster than you think, and if you don't do anything about it, someone will kick that umbrella you have been leaning on right out from under you.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Put a skip in your gallop this week, but make sure not to spray yourself with too much cologne or you might get in trouble. The scent police are out, and they're after you. It's time to get down to serious business and books. As much as it might seem like the pits, bliss awaits you at the library.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

The wave you've been riding is about to get bigger, so be prepared to get a little beaten up this week. It will be the kind of beating that teaches you a lesson, so make sure you take notes. There will be a pop quiz and the person sitting next to you is not going to know the answers.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

It's time to smash the piggy bank and let loose. You have been saving up for a while and now it's time to engage in recreation. All your hard work will pay off and in exchange, you will get a big ol' bucket of chocolate, the kind you only find in Switzerland or Poland. Be sure you have a big glass of milk waiting.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

You will get the celery you have been craving in your Caesar. If you think running into a bus shelter to steal the poster behind the glass is a good idea, it's not. Just stick to what you know this week and you will get by fine. Actually, you'll be better than fine when you come into money where you thought you were going to lose out.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The eggs you put in the pickle jar are just about ready to eat. As the leaves change, so will your spirit. You will have an awakening this week. But mind your Ps and Qs to make sure it's not the type of epiphany you wake up from with a piece of ham on your face from that slice of pizza you should not have eaten the night before.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You will be straight lamping this week, even though you know you should be doing different. That soccer ball you just bounced off your head left a mark, so make sure to ice it after the game. Your motto this week should be to cool it. You will be dancing wherever you go.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Love is in your sign, so make sure to spread it like butter. Participate. It is surprising how rewarding it is to be a part of something. Remember it's not whether you win or lose the game, it's the fact that you got a free keychain out of it.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

You are in a castle in the clouds this week. You seem to forget that it's harvest season and there is corn to be shucked and pumpkins to be carved. Luck is inevitable when you put your ear to the ground and listen to the rhythm of nature. Your personality will save lives this week, so be sure to hold onto your marbles.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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- 1) Denotation
- 3) Aesthetics
- 4) Consumption
- 6) Appropriation
- 7) Culture
- 9) Commodification
- 10) High Culture
- 11) Idealism
- 12) Dystopia
- 13) Discourse

- 2) Class
- 5) Feminism
- 8) Popular Culture
- 14) Ethnicity
- 15) Simulation
- 16) Construction
- 17) Marxism
- 18) Gender

Crossword Answers:
Down
Across

Three of a kind

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Huck sisters share more than genes and enrolment at Dalhousie. They also share a love of soccer. Tonya, Leanne and Jeanette are all members of the Dalhousie Tigers women's soccer team, an unusual feat in university sport.

The sisters are used to playing with and against each other. Over the years, these women have become some of the best soccer players in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league. Two of them, Leanne and Jeanette, have already been named Player of the Game at least once in this season alone.

Their love for the game began when they were five and six years old. Their parents, Dennis and Valley Huck, put their kids in pee wee soccer.

"We've always been a sport family," Dennis said. "When they reached high school, we realized they had the potential to go to an elite level with this."

Athleticism runs in the family. For the past seven years, Valley played in the Ladies 7-A-Side soccer league.

And the sisters didn't just play soccer. In junior high, Tonya and Leanne played touch football, badminton and basketball. At Halifax Grammar School, both Tonya and Leanne excelled in track and field. Leanne was the Nova Scotia Bantam Athlete of the Year in 1999 and Tonya was the Halifax Grammar School Athlete of the Year in 2000.

"The girls are very athletic," Valley said. "They swam a lot, they did everything. I was glad that they went to Dal because that meant they stayed close to home but more importantly, less travel time since they all play for the same team."

Because Tonya and Leanne are so close together in age (Tonya is almost two years older), both women have played on the same teams most of their lives.

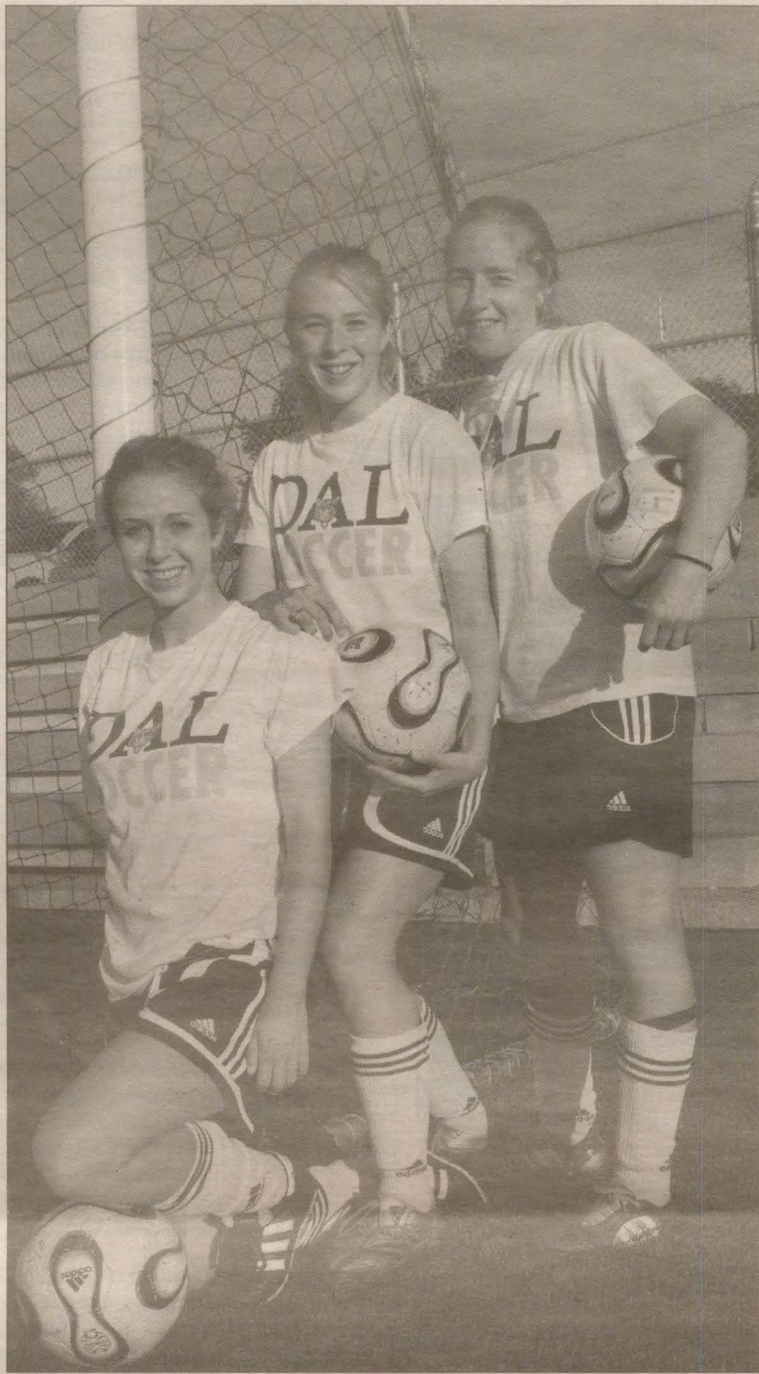
"Every two years I could expect to play on the same team with my sister," Tonya said. "But never did all three of us play together until we came to Dal."

Leanne was the first sister enrolled at Dal. Tonya transferred from Mount Allison University two years later and Jeanette came two years ago.

Tonya, the oldest, is in her first year of studying physiotherapy. Leanne graduated last year from the kinesiology program and is working with the physiotherapy department at Dalhousie Athletics and Recreational Services. Jeanette, the youngest, is a second-year commerce student.

"It was much easier for me to come to Dal knowing Leanne was here," Jeanette said. "I felt like I knew everyone already and my sisters were so welcoming."

"I recruited these two so I should take the credit," Leanne said. "At first it was weird to have all three of us



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"Never did all three of us play together until we came to Dal," says Tonya Huck.

play together, but I think it's great."

Before they were with the Tigers, Tonya and Leanne were on opposite ends of the field. Tonya played for the Mount Allison University Mounties before transferring to Dal.

"I used to hate having to play against Leanne," Tonya said. "During one game, Leanne was giving my team a hard time. During halftime, my coach said that if someone on defence didn't hit her, we would have to run the whole field after the game. I didn't want our team punished but I remember thinking, 'Please don't hurt my sister too much.'"

All three women have made great contributions to the Tigers team. They have all scored at least one goal so far this season. Jeanette was named the

2006-07 AUS Rookie of the Year and a Second-Team All-Star. Leanne was named the 2007 Dalhousie University Athlete of the Year and the 2006 AUS MVP in women's soccer.

"Tonya is the hard worker, Jeanette is feisty and competitive and I guess I'm the fast one," Leanne said. "Jeanette's also a bit of the bossy one but that's okay. We have a lot of fun together."

There is one drawback to being on the same team: their parents confuse their names.

"My dad gets us mixed up all the time," Leanne said. "He'll either call us the wrong name or he'll make sure to shout out all three of our names so that he doesn't forget any of us. It's pretty funny."

A little interleague play goes a long way

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Dalhousie women's volleyball team is preparing for the upcoming season with some preseason play. The Tigers played their first home match Sept. 28 against the University of Windsor Lancers in a short two-day preseason series. The Lancers are the 2006 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) champions.

This is the first time in five years the two teams have played against each other. It's also the first time in five years an Atlantic University Sport (AUS) team has played against an OUA team outside of nationals. Dal's head coach, Kirk Yanofsky, has been looking for outside competition to come play against AUS teams for the past few years.

"We've been trying to get a tour out here for the last five or six years and this year it finally worked out," Yanofsky said. "We started last year with playing games in Québec, but it's hard with scheduling. We did very well. It's an excellent way to start off the season."

The unconventional format of the series had teams playing five-set games instead of the traditional best-of-five games. According to the Lancers' head coach, Marilyn Douglas, this format allowed the players to experience playing a long match.

"Kirk and I committed to five sets in each match because we just wanted them to play and play and play," Douglas said. "This was good for us because there are no performance expectations. We came out here to use this as a training opportunity, no matter what the outcome."

The Lancers defeated the Tigers 3-2 in both matches. In the Sept. 27 match, the Lancers won every other set as the Tigers tried to catch up. Play was tight as both teams worked to overcome their jitters. The final score was 20-25, 25-20, 18-25, 26-24,

12-15.

The Sept. 28 match was two-sided, with the Lancers dominating the first three sets (16-25, 20-25, 27-29), followed by the Tigers taking the last two (28-26, 15-9).

"[The Sept. 27 game] was excellent, top to bottom," Yanofsky said. "[In the Sept. 29 game] we faced some adversity. We were a bit nervous with this being our first home game with a young team. We had an injury with Heather Owens, who pulled her hamstring in the first set. We responded okay to that, but we had flatter execution. However, we continue to find new ways to scrap through games."

The Tigers will be in Montreal from Oct. 12-14 for the McGill Invitational, where they may play against the Lancers again. The Tigers will also play another exhibition game, this time against Acadia University on Oct. 18. All of this preseason play is preparation for the regular season, which begins Oct. 27.

"Preseason for us is to evaluate against our opposition our systems, player combinations on the floor, individual players and how they react in certain situations," Yanofsky said. "We take this information to build our best line-up and figure out which players to use in certain situations. We definitely fulfilled the goals for these two matches 100 per cent."

Last season, the Tigers struggled with a 2-19 season record and finished last in the AUS standings. But third-year veteran player Maggie Morrison believes this could be a turnaround year.

"It's just a complete 180 from last year," Morrison said. "There's so much heart and so much drive that it's fun to play again. I have high hopes this year in terms of improving as a team. I'm not really concerned about the standings or anything like that, because everything is going so well."

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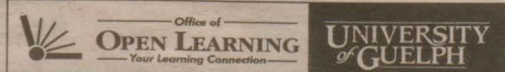
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Athletes of this week

FEMALE ATHLETE



KATIE HOLLINSHEAD
SOCCER

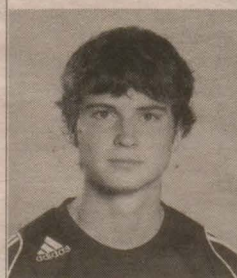
Katie Hollinshead helped lead the Tigers to two road victories over the weekend, scoring two out of the Tigers' three goals. The Tigers defeated UPEI on Saturday 1-0, and Mount

Allison on Sunday 2-0, to secure a tie for second place in this week's AUS standings.

Hollinshead, a fifth-year science student from Calgary, is a striker for the Tigers.



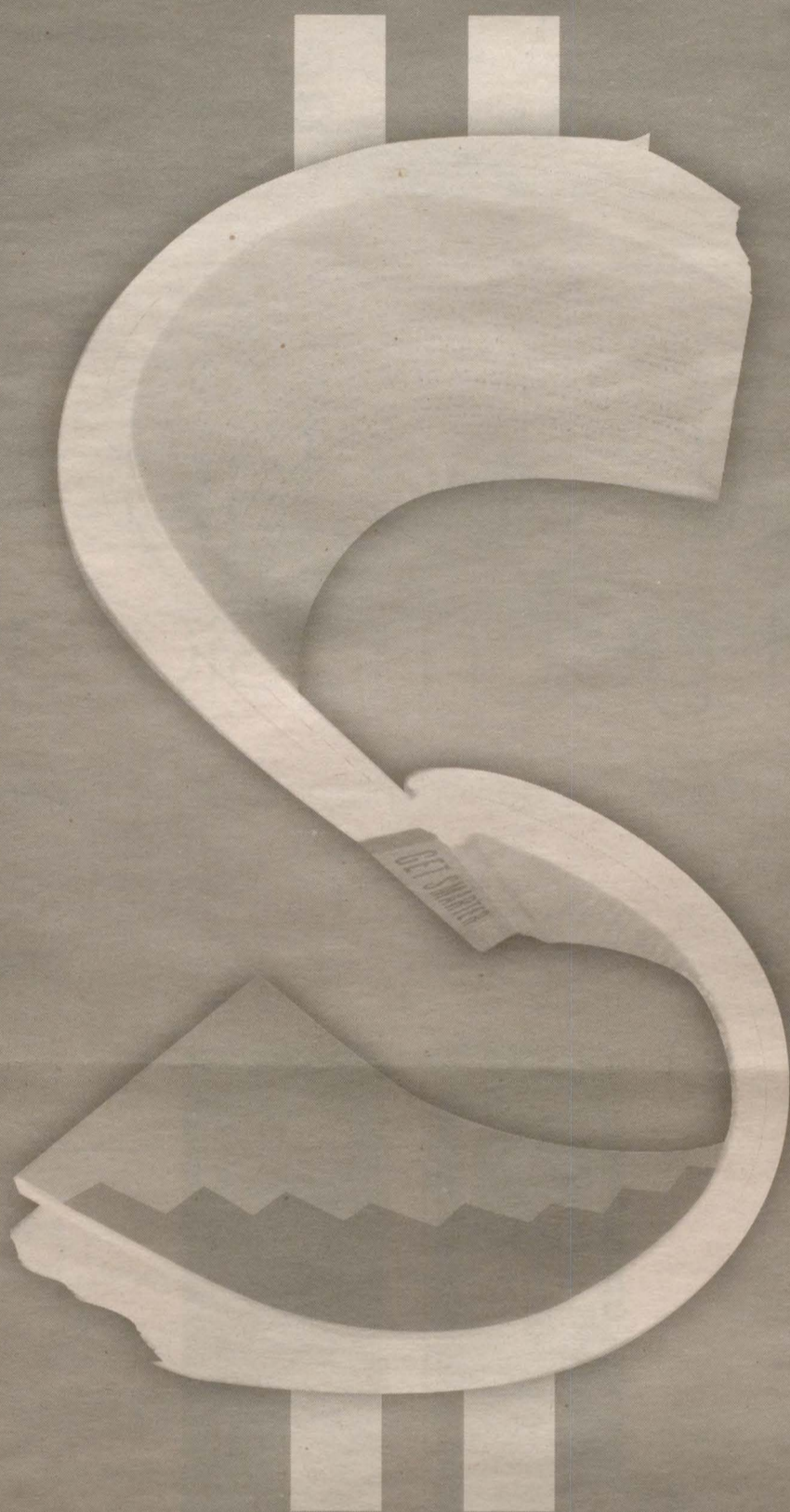
MALE ATHLETE



ROSS HAGEN
SOCCER

Ross Hagen scored on a free kick in Saturday's game against UPEI to secure the Tigers' 2-2 tie. Despite a strong effort on Sunday against Mount Allison, the Tigers could not get on the scoreboard, losing 0-2. Hagen, a second-year commerce student from Calgary, plays midfield for the Tigers.



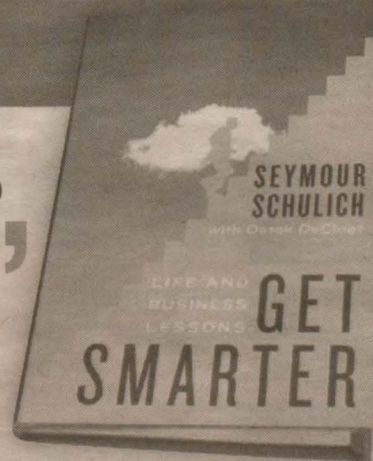


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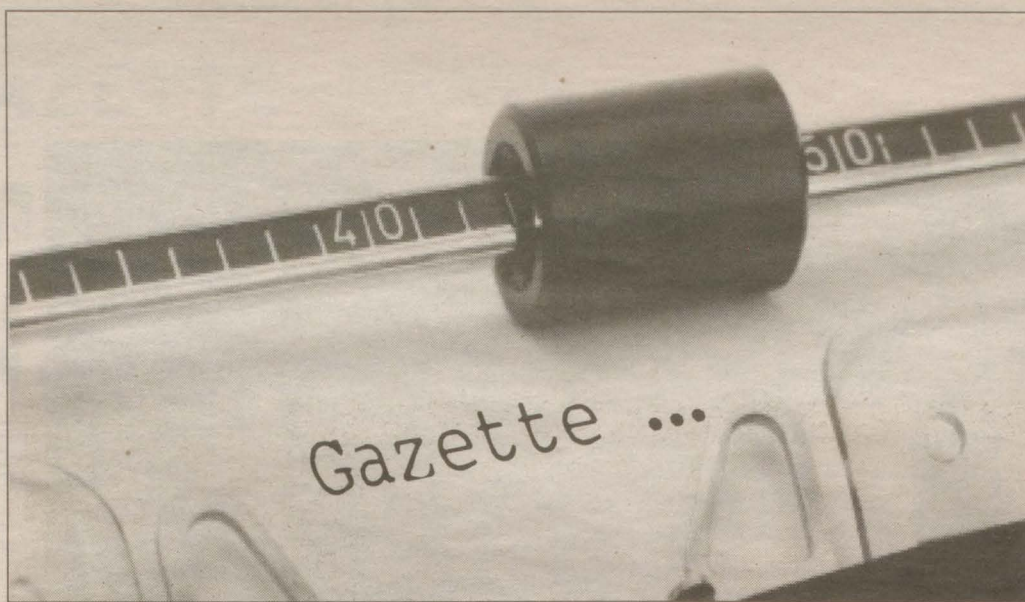
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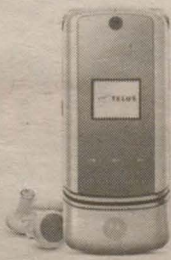
- is the official student newspaper of Dalhousie students.
- has the primary goal of reporting fairly and objectively on issues affecting the university.
- started printing in 1868 and is the oldest student newspaper in Canada.
- has a weekly circulation of 10,000 issues on Dalhousie's three campuses and throughout Halifax.
- acts as a voice for Dal's students through its coverage, letters to the editors and opinion pieces.
- is a student-run, volunteer-driven organization.
- is always looking for talented writers, photographers, cartoonists and interested readers.
- holds contributor meetings every Monday at 5:30 in Room 312 of the SUB.

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The

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

SEXTANT

Cause of T-Room Motorboats Discovered

J.F. NOWLAN

If I told you that the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society (DUES) and the Dalhousie Sexton Undergraduate Engineering Society (DSEUS) were offering you a beer for two dollars - yes two dollars - what would you think? You'd think it might be some really good play by the evil councils to fund their plans for world domination (thank you Pinky and the Brain). Or you may think it's a fundraiser for a good cause or to raise awareness about key social and environmental issues. But all of that is hogwash: it is simply a sweet deal on beer.

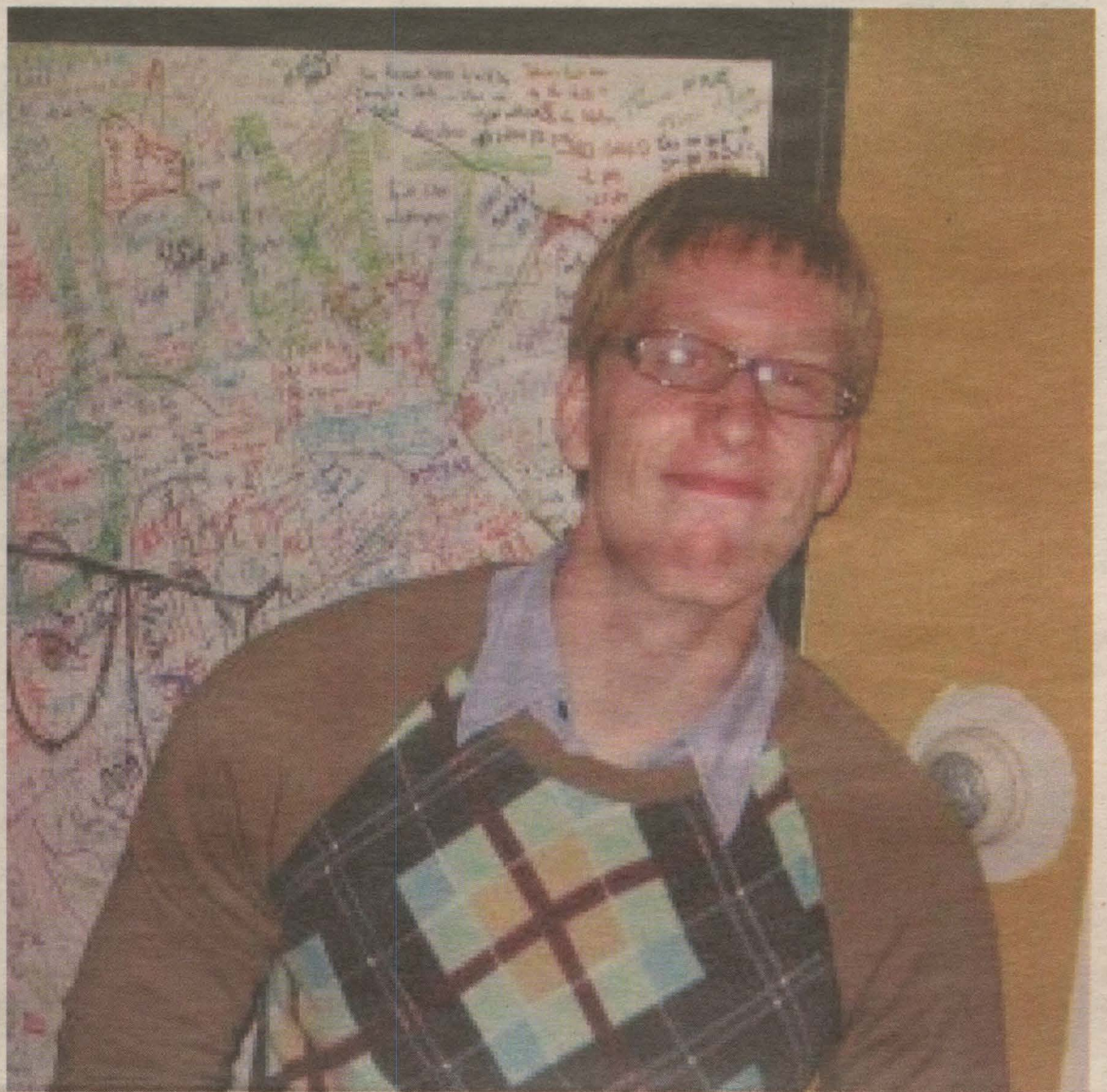
Engbeering is back for its third consecutive year. There's no better way to kick off your Friday night than with some friends and a cold beer, especially after hearing a professor lecture about the importance of erosion prevention design. After that snooze-fest, it's time to take action and say, "I need a beer with the

gang!"

As for entertainment, there's a ping-pong table, a foosball table and a plain old table for dance parties with drunken engineers. Engbeering takes care of any table-related desires you may have, all while enjoying a nice, fun atmosphere. The organizers also encourage other activities such as board games, video games, and magic trick tutorials.

Come down on a Friday afternoon to have a good time and a cold beer. Rumour has it your T-Room Trivia skills are directly proportional to the amount of beer consumed at Engbeering. Rumour also has it beer consumed is directly linked to the likelihood of receiving or giving motorboats. Please see The Sextant, Issue 3, for ways to lose your dignity at the T-Room.

Engbeering is offered at Studley Campus - 3rd floor, Sir James Dunn building and in the common room of Sexton Campus, every Friday afternoons from 1 - 5.



Guide to Smiling

JUSTIN ROLLS

Ever been stressed out for absolutely no reason whatsoever? Or, at least given the appearance you were? In two years at Sexton campus, I've been stressed for many different reasons: mid-terms, finals, and assignments to name a few.

I'm sure I'm not the only one on Sexton who can list off ten things that irritate me and cause me pain and misery. However, sometimes I believe that we create a lot of the stress in our lives for no reason at all.

For me, stress has become a habit. Even during the less challenging periods of school or work, I often feel and have the appearance of a person that is having a terrible day.

For example, a few weeks ago I was walking home after dropping off a birthday card. It was a beautiful, sunny day out. I cut through the Public Gardens to shorten my trip and enjoy the sights and the sounds.

The park that day was a collage of smiles; babies were smiling, teenagers were smiling, 70-year old men were smiling. The flowers and bushes were well manicured and many were in full bloom. It should have been a very calming place.

However, I found myself motor-ing through the gardens faster than a bat out of hell. When I realized this, I stopped briefly to consider why.

Before I had even come to a complete stop, I also realized how rushed I felt and that I was scowling. I asked myself why. I had nowhere to be.

I had no reason to be angry or cranky. In fact, I had been having a good day up to that point. Why was I walking around like I had a stick up my ass?

I've been thinking about this

question since that moment and I've come up with a theory. The 'stress' I felt was the result of my surroundings. It wasn't influenced by a dislike of sun or friendly people (which I assure you I enjoy thoroughly).

It was influenced by my previous walks through the park. Generally, a trip through Public Gardens occurs during my hectic school schedule, so I'm in a rush and probably stressed from any number of things on my mind. Despite the fact that I was free and clear for the rest of the day, I walked and scowled as if I were a person with a lot more on my mind.

Since this revelation, I've noticed examples of similar situations. Past experiences have a profound effect on the way I act and feel.

Certain classrooms at Sexton campus can make me drowsy in seconds and just the mention of the Lower Deck can be enough to ruin my night when I'm out. (You may love the Lower Deck, but at six feet six inches the ceiling is way too low for my comfort.) From my experience, I have found that stress is more habitual than happiness or sadness.

Maybe that's because I have endured a lot of stress in my time at Dalhousie, or maybe I just feel the stress more than others. Whatever the reason, I've found there are ways to reduce this "habitual stress."

Slow down your walking speed. What's the rush? Take it easy. Be the person that everyone passes on the sidewalk. This policy especially applies for being late for class. Late is late, so whether you are 5 minutes or 50 minutes, take your time getting there. You'll feel much better for it.

This next one is important, so take it to heart. Whenever you start to feel misunderstood or underesti-

mated, just take a breath and change the subject.

When a fellow student starts telling you how much work they have, just shrug it off. I know it is a universally held belief at Sexton that those in the engineering faculty have gotten the shaft in the university experience.

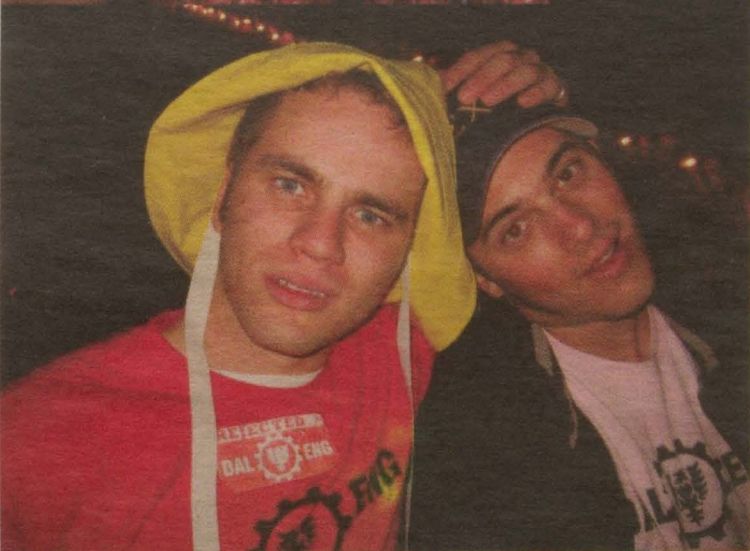
Whether or not this is true, keeping score doesn't make you any happier in life (but your post-graduate job market, handsome salary, and signing bonuses sure will). If someone tries to capture your sympathy, give it to them. Everyone has different thresholds for stress. What might be a cakewalk for some is a disaster to others.

Smile. Smile when you are happy. Smile when you are sad. Smile early and smile often. Smile for everything. I know it sounds corny and can be a tall order, but smiles are contagious and I promise the effort is worthwhile. If you find yourself grimacing for no reason, the universe at large will surely find you a reason to be miserable.

Try thinking of something you are looking forward to or something that made you laugh recently. For me, forcing a smile has sometimes turned around my day. It's harder to be stressed when your body language indicates otherwise.

And if all else fails, there's always golf. (Golf may not be a stress reliever if you're as bad as I am.)

If like me, you find yourself frustrated and cranky for no reason whatsoever, try out some of my strategies. They have been working for me. Since I started focusing on these few changes, I have found myself not sweating the little things as much and feeling all around much happier.





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