

GAZETTE

*S*unshine fades
And shadows fall
But sweet remembrance
Outlasts us all

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about Canadian identity
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Al-Qaida for apes:
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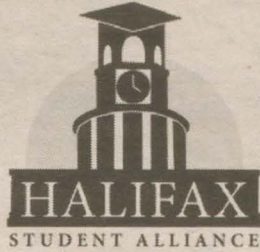
X-Men use powers to defeat Dal:
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WEEKLY DISPATCH

Survey on Crime and Violence

The Dalhousie Student Union has partnered with student organizations throughout the city through the Halifax Student Alliance to conduct a survey of student opinions on violence, crime and public safety in Halifax. They will be presenting the findings to the Halifax Regional Council and to the public.



Visit the DSU website at www.dsu.ca to participate.

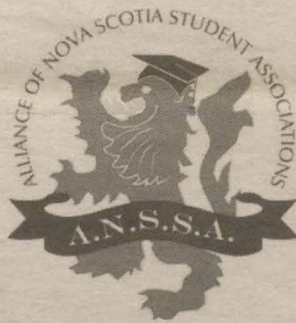
ANSSA Student Assembly

Last weekend marked the first-ever Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations Student Assembly. Student delegates from Dalhousie, St. Mary's, St. FX and Acadia Universities met in Wolfville to discuss provincial education policy and to make decisions about how best to advocate for students throughout Nova Scotia.

If you have any ideas or questions regarding these issues, or want to get involved, feel free to contact your VP Education, Tara Gault, at dsuvped@dal.ca.

2007-2008 ANSSA Delegates and Alternates:

Crystal Richard
Jordan Roberts
Yannick Tremblay
Shannon Zimmerman
Keith Torrie
Kaley Keeling



Forum on Student Debt

On Wednesday, November 14th ANSSA will be partnering with Halifax-Citadel MLA Leonard Preyra to host a student forum. Come let your elected representative know what you think about student aid.

When: 7:30-9:00pm Where: KTS Lecture Hall, Kings

Living with Landmines

On November 13-23, the Dalhousie Student Union Building lobby will host artist Tony Hauser's exhibition *Living with Landmines*, featuring 16 life-size portraits of Cambodian children who have suffered the effects of land mines.



Tony Hauser will also be presenting his work as a part of the DSU's speaker series.

DSU Executive Blog

Visit www.dsu.ca and click on the "executive blog" link to read the regular musings of the DSU executives. Comments are wide open. Let us know what you think.



Do you
Need
a place
to
Write?

...write
for the
GAZETTE

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
John Packman / editor@dalgazette.ca

COPY EDITOR
J. Mary Burnet / copy@dalgazette.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Katie May / news@dalgazette.ca

OPINIONS EDITOR
James Munson / opinions@dalgazette.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITORS
Aly Coy & Christie Conway
arts@dalgazette.ca

SPORTS EDITOR
Julie Sobowale / sports@dalgazette.ca

PHOTO EDITOR
Josh Boyter / photo@dalgazette.ca

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Susan Maroun / design@dalgazette.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

NEWS

Desirée MacNeil
Catherine Holloway
Ruth Mestechkin

OPINIONS

Catherine Holloway

ARTS & CULTURE

Patrick St. Amand
Scott Money
Natalia Roque-Cuandra
Katie Nation
Tom Howells
Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

SPORTS

Zac Resnick

CONTACT US

Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4J2
www.dalgazette.ca

GENERAL INQUIRIES
(902) 494-2507
editor@dalgazette.ca

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
(902) 494-6532
advertising@dalgazette.ca

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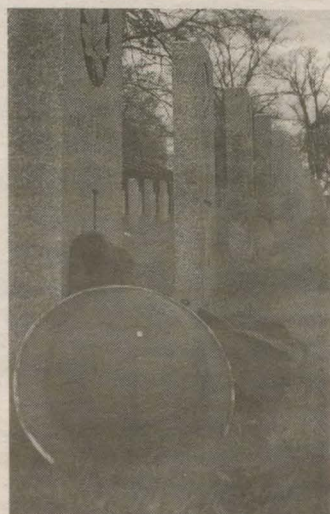
The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

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 Streater 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 Streater 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.

**COVER**

Our Photo Editor Josh Boyter shot this cover in Fort Massey Cemetery on South Street. The quote was taken from one of the gravestones pictured. Military equipment was provided by the Army Navy Store: HRM's firearms and ammunition specialist.

CORRECTION

In the Peter Duffy article in issue 140-08, we mistakenly printed that three of the panelists were transgendered, when in fact only two were.

George William Stairs: The first Dalhousian to fall for the Empire

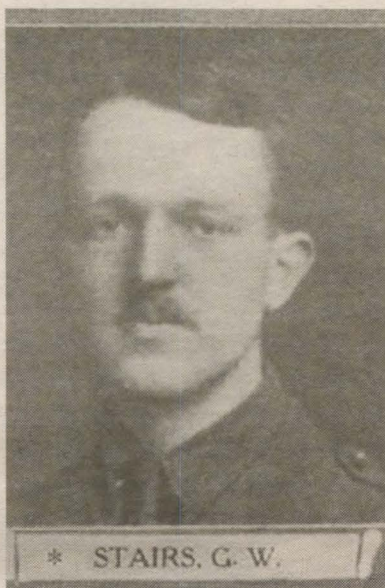
JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Stairs' former classmates might have been seeing the news for the first time when they read the above headline on the front page of *The Gazette* on Nov. 17, 1915. Even if they weren't his friends, they could still picture him sitting in class and realize he wouldn't be coming back.

A year later Stairs would appear again in *The Gazette*, but with a shorter biography and on a list of 25 other Dalhousie students who had died in the First World War.

By 1918, Stairs would be one of 67 Dalhousie students to die in the war. Those students make up a tiny fraction of the 60,661 Canadians who died and a smaller fraction of the millions around the world who were slaughtered in that conflict.

Students at Dal today can't remember George Stairs or those who fought and died in the First or Second World Wars in the same way their classmates did. Some of us have spoken to veterans or known relatives who fought in the Second World War, but they belong to a different generation. It's hard to realize that when they shipped out they were as old as university students.



George William Stairs and Rand Lugar were the first of Dalhousie students to die in each of the World Wars. 142 other Dalhousians would lose their lives in the wars. Lugar was the first fallen soldier to have his picture appear on the front page of *The Gazette*. It was released on Oct. 3, 1941. He was 21.

When my two grandfathers enlisted, they were only 18. I've never been to war but I know what it's like to be 18. I had just graduated high school, was living in residence and needed a fake ID to get into bars. I wasn't ready to kill anyone.

Our veterans give us an impor-

Killed in Action

"Killed in air operations while on active service overseas, on September 20."

tant connection to the past. As we lose the thousands of soldiers who fought and died, they are being replaced by symbols: rows of white crosses, thousands of identical poppies and the standard-issue green helmets.

Anyone can wear the identical

poppies. During the two World Wars, it could have been anybody who died in those identical green helmets and are now buried under the identical white crosses.

The symbols are especially relevant to students with little first hand knowledge of the war. It's important to realize that the people who fought in the First and Second World Wars weren't inherently different from the university students of today.

They were the same age, if not a little younger than us, and were doing the same things we are: going out, meeting friends, going to class, cramming for exams and graduating in order to get a good job.

But two and three generations ago, they were also expected to do army training, and every so often, one of their friends or classmates would show up on the front page of *The Gazette* under the words 'Killed in action.'

We shouldn't picture the soldiers as the actors in *Saving Private Ryan* or *A Bridge Too Far* but as the students you see on campus, the people in your classes. Sixty-five and 90 years ago, they were soldiers.


They were young, naïve and not ready to die.

GAZETTE

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

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Applications for the MSc (Clinic Vision Science) program beginning in September 2008 are now being accepted. Applicants must hold a four-year bachelor's degree with a minimum B average (GPA 3.0), with at least one undergraduate class in human anatomy and/or physiology, and a class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students may be accepted without these prerequisites on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field is considered an asset.

Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate the ability to participate in a graduate program conducted in English prior to acceptance into the program. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL test is 580 for the written test and 237 for the computer test.

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2008.

Further information is available from our website www.dal.ca/cvs or by contacting
Clinical Vision Science Program
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
PO Box 9700
Halifax, NS B3K 6R8

orthoptics@iwk.nshealth.ca
(902) 470-8959

Students buy back discarded paper

Dal, DSU jump on sustainability train

RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Two years ago, Kirsten MacLean was sitting in class when she spied a student who, unlike most, was not taking notes in a crisp, blue-lined notebook. The student was writing on recycled paper.

"I thought, 'it's probably a great idea to use all the paper on campus, and then sell it back to the student body,'" says the fourth-year environmental studies student.

She jumped on the idea, hoping to make students more aware of how much they print and how much paper gets wasted. Her project, Better Side Notebooks, is her way of making Dalhousie more sustainable and eco-friendly.

The notebooks are bound sheets of recycled paper from around campus that students can buy from MacLean to preserve the environment instead of producing more waste.

"I hope it will automatically set a culture for Dal to be more aware of what is actually being used [here on campus] and trying to get less items shipped into the campus," she says.

University printer rooms have boxes for students to drop their spent sheets in for MacLean to reuse. She's written on the boxes that sheets placed inside will go toward re-publishing and distribution.

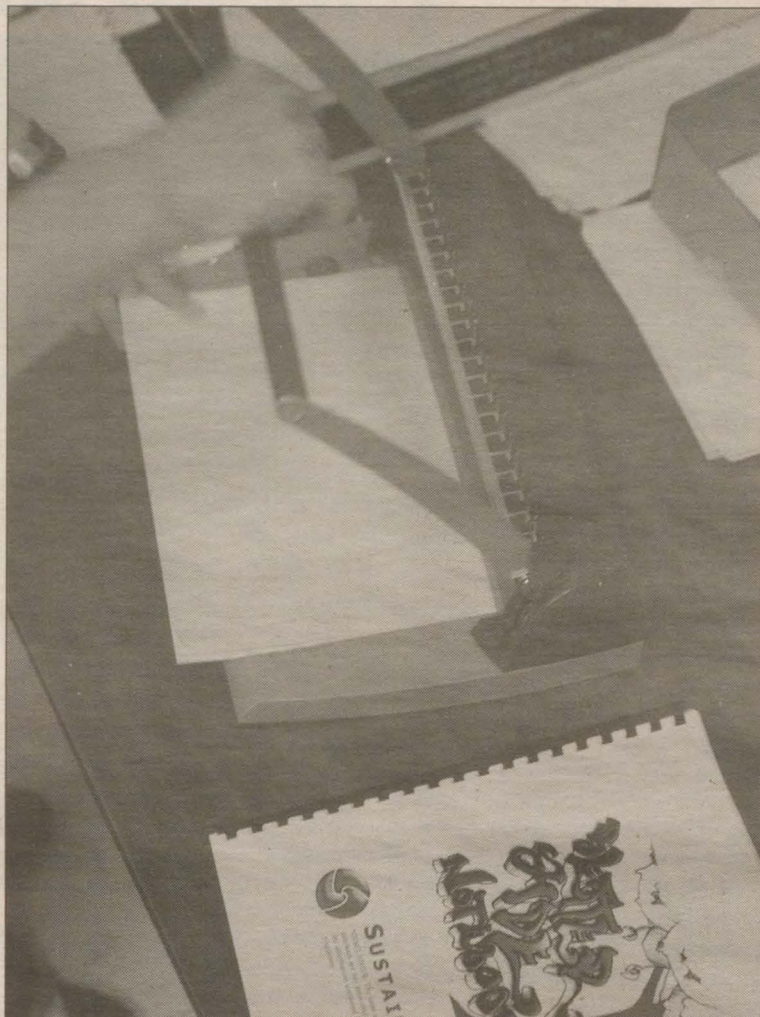
SustainDal, the Dal Student Union's new sustainability office, is helping organize the recycling effort. This is the first year the DSU is running a sustainability office. It hired Torill Gillespie as co-ordinator to follow through with sustainability ideas, such as putting drying racks in residences and reducing paper consumption. Each Dal student pays \$2 toward the office.

Gillespie hopes to be a useful resource for students and help to pull their efforts together.

"Campus sustainability is a huge issue," she says. "It's one thing for universities to be preaching that method and it's another for them to be following it themselves. There's increasing recognition that we need to be setting an example."

A functional structure is in the process of being set up so student projects such as MacLean's can move forward. Details about future ideas for the sustainability office are hazy as Gillespie is still meeting with union officials about office functions, but she says she's committed to making these projects a reality.

"There are so many students across campus who are working on amazing projects and have amazing ideas," she says. "We have to get peo-



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
The Student Union's SustainDal office is selling recycled paper notebooks.

ple talking, getting them connected, and from there addressing what barriers they're hitting that I can help with."

But campus sustainability doesn't stop with students. This year, university administration will create its own environmental office for the first time.

Ken Burt, Dal's vice-president of finance and administration, is hiring a director of sustainability within the next few weeks to improve the condition of the university's old buildings and encourage the community to look out for the environment.

"There's an enormous opportunity to improve our carbon footprint in terms of heating and lighting our buildings," he says.

Burt says the university has been informally organizing sustainability efforts for years. Starting this year, the school now budgets \$150,000 per year for eco-friendly projects. He hopes to have the office up and working in a month. The administration is currently checking candidate references for the position.

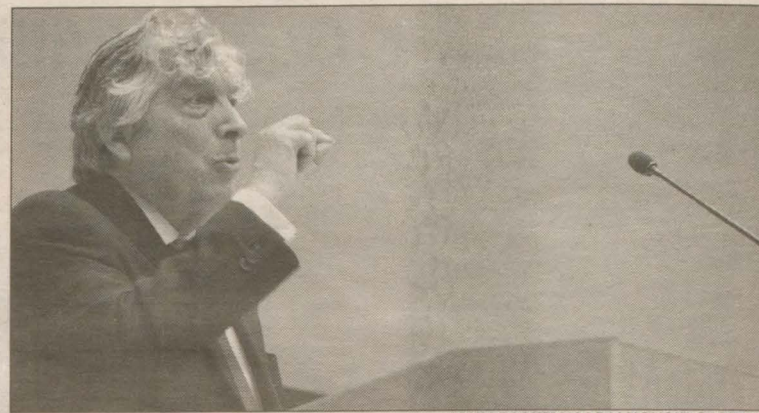
Dal has already begun changing light bulbs in the chemistry building and replacing some windows with more energy-efficient ones that block out wind and conserve more heat.

"The university will better inform its faculty, staff and students of the impact [of our actions on the environment] and raise a higher level of awareness in the community," says Burt. "It will be a much better lifestyle for all of us."

He says the university hopes to work with the DSU to support projects such as MacLean's.

MacLean is selling her notebooks in the SUB - \$3 for one book, \$5 for two. There's also a possibility that her environmentally-conscious crafts will be included in frosh packs next school year.

"I'm really excited. I'm really pumped about it," smiles MacLean. "Re-using what we already have - that's what sustainability is. You don't need to bring in more things. Just take what you have and use it to its fullest extent."



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Roch Carrier advocates for universal literacy at Dal

DESIRÉE MACNEIL
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The man whose words are printed on the back of the \$5 bill came to Halifax. But he didn't bring his hockey sweater.

On Nov. 1, famous Canadian author Roch Carrier spoke at Dalhousie University as the key speaker for the 2007 Governor General's Lecture.

Despite his thick Québécois accent and rough English, Carrier delivered an eloquent and humorous speech. Through his intriguing tales of childhood wonder, the 70-year-old transformed onstage at the Rowe Building's Potter Auditorium from an elderly man to a curious young boy.

He shared witty anecdotes and personal reflections, describing his struggle to get published as an inexperienced writer, the task of translating his French texts into English and the action-packed writing process for his biography of hockey player Maurice Richard - all to the delighted uproar of a roughly 50-person audience.

The member of the Order of Canada and former National Librarian promoted literacy as the most accessible form of learning.

"Books bring you to ask questions of the world you live in," said Carrier. "No matter what background you come from, if you can develop the capacity to read, you have the key to all the treasures of humanity."

Growing up in the small, remote town of Sainte-Justine, Quebec in the 1940s, Carrier didn't have any books to read aside from a few school exercise books. The town relied on an oral tradition of storytelling.

To Carrier's early disappointment, his lumberjack father wanted the same career for his son. Carrier recalled his father saying, in a gruff voice, "You have no boss; it's healthy; that's a great life."

But, Carrier recounted, the pursuit of general knowledge still consumed his young life. One of his hap-

piest childhood memories involves his dad bringing home 13 books in one day.

As National Librarian for five years until 2004, he was responsible for roughly 20 million books at the National Library. His famous works include *The Hockey Sweater*, *Our Life with the Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story* and *La Guerre, Yes Sir!*, all of which have been translated into both official languages.

Some literary critics tout Carrier as an iconic symbol of the country's unity because of his ability to bridge the gap between French- and English-Canadian cultures through his writing.

He acknowledged that his widely available translations have helped shape Canada's culture, beginning as early as the 1960s. His novel, *La Guerre, Yes Sir!*, was adapted to become the first Canadian play performed at the Stratford Festival in 1970. But the author was a bit reluctant to accept all the compliments tossed his way.

"There are a lot of nice things being said about me...I don't deserve them," he remarked as his audience listened intently. "But of course I'll take them all."

Carrier, who ran as a Liberal candidate in Quebec's 1998 election, didn't address the current political relationship between that province and the federal government. Instead, he ensured his message was one of tolerance, saying fear was at the root of Quebec's Quiet Revolution more than 30 years ago.

"Our world must be connected," Carrier said of the separatist movement. "Nationalism brought pride to the Quebecois. We wanted to protect what we are because we were in an ocean of English."

For Dal students, Carrier offered some advice.

"It's O.K. to be bright, but you have to be a bit naïve...don't put the breaks on, let others do that," he boomed. "Reading is magical. Everything is possible!"

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Dalhousie launches new health research facility

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Lisa Cramm wants to help prevent obesity.

The second-year Dalhousie nursing student is one of the research assistants working with Dr. Sara Kirk, a Canada Research Chair in health services research, studying the effects of obesity in pregnant women.

Canada Research Chairs are positions paid for by the federal government to provide funding and promote leadership for research in Canadian universities. The team is trying to shape future health policies at Halifax's IWK Health Centre by conducting research in a new health facility at Dal.

The faculty of health sciences officially opened the Applied Research Collaborations for Health (ARCH) research centre on Oct. 17 with a reception celebrating the accomplishments of six health researchers at Dal.

Among the researchers recognized at the centre's launch was Dr. Brenda Beagan, the newly appointed Canada Research Chair for Women's Health who studied attitudes toward food and nutrition across many cultural groups in Canada.

Dr. David Westwood also presented his neuroscience and motor control research at the event. West-

wood was recently awarded \$300,000 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for his work, which he hopes will someday allow people to regain motor control using robotic limbs.

The centre, located in the recently renovated building at 1318 Robie Street, currently houses Kirk's offices and laboratory, where Cramm is learning about hospital protocols for dealing with morbidly obese patients in maternity wards.

Before they moved into the new building at the end of August, Cramm, Kirk and another research assistant were working in separate locations and communicated primarily through phone or e-mail.

Being able to bounce ideas off of...Kirk and getting feedback immediately has helped my research skills improve a lot faster," says Cramm.

Cramm says the research centre will have a positive impact at Dal and off campus. She hopes to focus more research on obesity that will change health care policies in the Maritime provinces.

"[Kirk] has big plans and hopes that it grows and gets to involve a lot of different researchers and different perspectives," Cramm says. "[She] has a lot of research experience and the advice she gives me is incredibly valuable. She started up this project

from the ground."

Kirk studies population health and health services delivery, specifically concerning childhood obesity. She hopes to conduct focus groups and interviews on location at the centre, which will expand its focus to other areas of research in the next few years.

According to Kirk, obesity in Nova Scotia has doubled over the past 15 years. She says a major factor in the obesity epidemic is the way people live. Our environments may encourage laziness and poor eating habits, she says.

"Applied research is research that has meaning in the real world. We want to make sure that what we are doing is actually looking at real world problems and trying to do something about it," says Kirk.

"When people gain weight, it's very hard to get them back again. If we can actually intervene earlier, then this is a healthy body weight and maybe we'll make a difference."

Her research team is trying to build a map of obesity in the province by tracking parks and trails, locating fast-food restaurants and analysing data on body mass index (BMI), a number that measures healthy body weight according to height. The research will take place over the next five years.

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

UofCalgary targets Torontonians

Yale wants smart, poor students

The University of Calgary is launching its first ever video recruitment campaign later this fall.

The television ads will only air in southern Ontario, where they could reach audiences of up to 2,617,000 students, The Gauntlet student newspaper reported.

The university spent \$22,000 producing the ad and will pay an extra \$26,807 to broadcast it on networks in two month-long slots in fall and spring.

UofC usually focuses recruitment in Alberta and British Columbia, but this is the first time the school has directed TV ads at one specific part of the country.

The school was roughly 40 students short of reaching its target enrolment of \$27,800 this year.

Beer taps shut down until Christmas break

Carleton University's campus pub won't serve alcohol until next semester after police officers saw staff serve drinks to customers who were already drunk.

The Carleton University Student Association (CUSA), which runs the bar, plead guilty to the allegations brought forth last month, so the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) suspended the liquor license from Oliver's Pub for 40 days beginning Nov. 1 and ending Dec. 10.

The association first pleaded guilty to liquor act violations in 2003, when the bar's license was suspended for two weeks for serving alcohol after hours.

AGCO spokesman Ab Campion told The Charlatan student newspaper the latest suspension length was appropriate.

"They don't seem to be all that much in control of their licensed premise."

McGill Muslims out in the cold

Muslim students at McGill University still don't have a permanent place to pray after school administration kicked its Muslim society out of a vacant room the group used last year as a prayer space five times a day.

The university now uses the room for lab and office space, and officials have encouraged the group to fundraise for its own spot off campus. But many students complained they don't have the money to pay for a permanent space and don't need a particularly large space anyway.

For now, the group is praying wherever it can - empty classrooms and vacant stairwells - since talks with administration broke down earlier this year.

"It seems as though, as a minority group, we're being told to integrate into Quebec and Canadian society on one hand, and on the other hand we're being pushed further and further away," said member of the Muslim Student Association Sana Saeed.

Sources: The Gauntlet; The Charlatan; The McGill Daily

Yale University is attracting more low-income students to its ranks this year.

Current students travel to high schools across the U.S. to look for new recruits as part of the school's student ambassador program, which began in fall 2005. University enrolment has increased since the beginning of the program, which visits high schools based on the income levels and test scores of their students.

Administration told the Yale Daily News the program has been a success because it involves going into the schools and speaking directly to students who may have the grades to get into Yale, but not the money.

This way, more students can learn about financial aid options rather than automatically deciding not to apply to Yale because the yearly tuition is too high.

"The \$48,000 sticker price just turns them away," said student ambassador Zach Marks. "People are unaware of the financial aid opportunities at Yale, and they don't know about need-blind admissions. They think they won't get in if they can't pay."

U.S. students want mandatory health insurance

Students at Utah State University will ask for mandatory health insurance for all post-secondary students enrolled in public colleges in the state.

The university's student government plans to approach the state's Board of Regents later this year and ask that all students be covered in case of injuries under the school health plan or provide some other proof of coverage.

University officials are worried about the well-being of uninsured students, the school's health and wellness co-ordinator, Jim Davis, told The Associated Press.

Students unite to improve campus safety after brutal murder

More than 100 students at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, gathered Nov. 5 to decide how to cope with the death of a classmate.

Donald Farrell, a second-year business student at the school, was beaten to death during a campus robbery on Oct. 20.

The students discussed campus safety options such as more effective outdoor lighting, frequent campus patrol, more public transit stops near the school and the installation of security cameras on campus.

We need to start policing ourselves," 25-year-old student Talia Sykes told the Gloucester County Times. "If we could just conduct ourselves in way that we could hold others accountable."

Sources: The Yale Daily News; The Associated Press; Gloucester County Times.

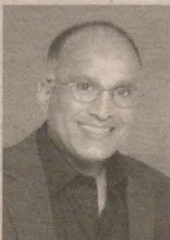
Forum on Student Loans and Student Debt

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Moderated by:

Leonard Preyra
MLA Halifax Citadel
Post-Secondary Education Critic



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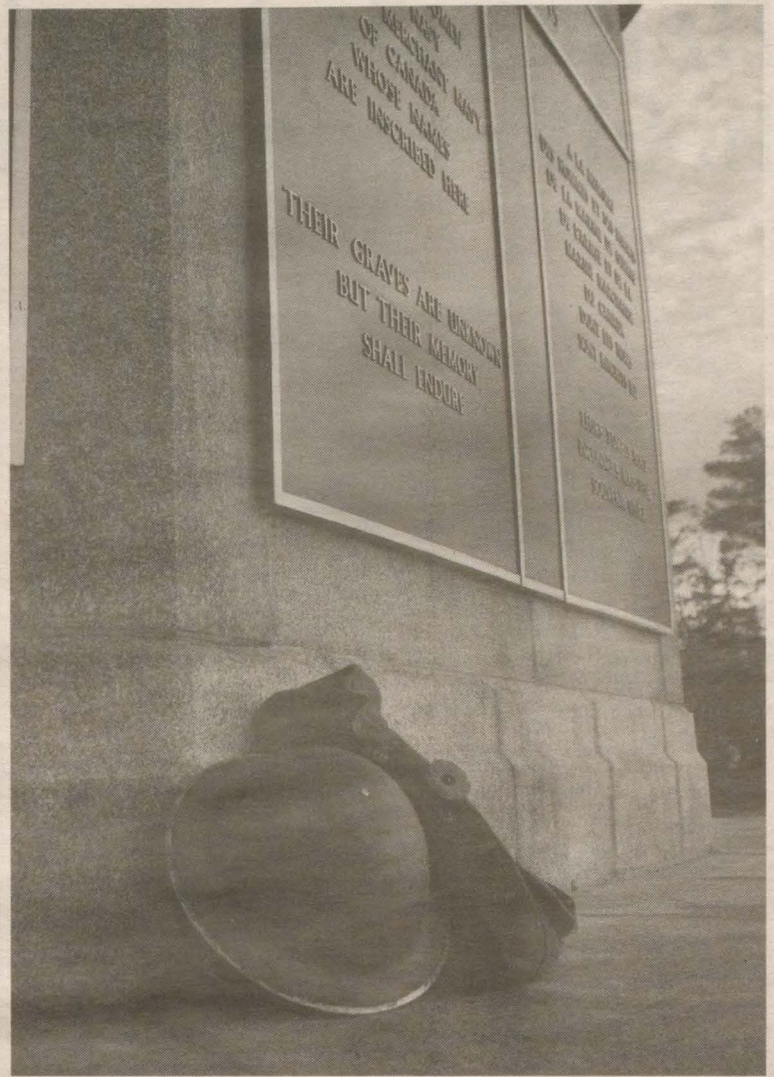
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JAMES NADELL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Sailors Memorial at Point Pleasant Park honours soldiers lost at sea.

Legions of memories

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

The closest connection students often have to the sacrifices Canadian veterans have made may only be the mementos relatives have left them — equipment and letters from abroad, preserved as family heirlooms through generations. But it takes more than preservation to bring history to life. In a legion, soldiers of yesterday and today come together to keep the past alive.

"These aren't lying in people's attics and basements," says Bernard Joyce, the vice-president and Master-at-Arms at Legion Branch 129 on Almon Street. "We're taking care of them so that we always remember."

Branch 129 is adorned with pictures of the corvettes and destroyers that once navigated the seas to defend Canada. The Peregrine Branch of the Royal Canadian Naval Association (RCNA) on Agricola Street has little space left on the walls of its two floors. Seals and flags from ships that once sailed from Canada's shores now hang on the walls of the small blue building, where Legion members come to grab a drink and talk.

The sheer volume of military paraphernalia contained in these two buildings is a tribute to Canada's rich wartime history.

On the upper floor of the RCNA, a wide altar stands out from the rest of the objects in the cluttered room, painted with images of ships that sank during the Battle of the Atlantic. In front of each ship is space for a few candles, which are lit during a service honouring those who fell during this naval battle.

Another ceremonial object is the rum bucket. Locked in a wooden case, it's brought out so soldiers and veterans can take swigs of rum from it to honour those who died in the Battle of the Atlantic. It's just regular rum in the bucket — not the volatile 151-proof liquor often associated with sailors.

"Don't drink that stuff," Joyce advises. "It's never good for ya. It does stuff to your legs."

On Nov. 11, many Canadians will wear reminders of the past. The poppy is a symbol near and dear to the

Legion and it doesn't take many words for Joyce to explain its meaning.

"At the setting of the sun, to the morning's dawn, lest we forget," he says.

The spirit of camaraderie is apparent the second you walk down the stairs into the "Dungeon Legion," as one patron calls it. The love the soldiers feel for the veterans who fought under the same flag in previous wars as they do now is what brings passion to their remembrance.

To some, the scene might look like men getting together to knock back a few cold ones. But beyond the usual barroom chatter, there is a deeper reason these men are gathered. As members of the military 'family,' they are connected to the vets who need care and attention in their old age.

"It's what the legion is all about," says Gerry Morpaw, a Chief Petty Officer in the navy. "In their infirmity, they need someone to take care of them, to make sure they're getting what they deserve. It's not like a nursing home where they're alone. We are their eyes and ears in their latter years."

On Nov. 11, Joyce will be driving a bus and picking up veterans to attend the various ceremonies held in Halifax. He brags about how many wheelchairs he can fit on the bus and swears nothing stops his yearly duty to the vets.

"If they can fight through anything, I can drive through anything," he says.

This is a place where members of the Legion can preserve what only veterans remember.

Legions, though dwindling in numbers, help vets connect with each other as well.

"They don't talk about their experiences much; they keep quiet on that," says Morpaw. "They'd rather talk about their buddies."

When people in Halifax gather at Grand Parade on Remembrance Day, they can look at the Cenotaph as a tribute that will stand for veterans' memories when they are no longer around to share them.

"The Cenotaph. It's their home, it's their final home," says Joyce.



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 necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

A groundless change of policy

It's hypocritical to condone legal practices in another country while demanding a more just criminal system at home.

It's lazy not to beef up diplomatic efforts in order to make sure Canadians are treated like Canadian citizens wherever they are in the world.

And it's undemocratic to change a 30-year-old policy without asking the electorate for their opinion on the issue.

But that's exactly what the Conservative government did last week when Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announced that Canada would no longer seek clemency for Canadians facing the death penalty in democratic countries. This means Canada will not come to the rescue of Canadians on death row south of the border.

The policy shift is a triumph of an ideological minority over national sentiment. Canadians have mixed views on the death penalty, which was abolished completely in Canada in 1998. Support for the contentious criminal punishment seems to be waning in the United States.

The *Toronto Star* reported this week that a poll conducted by the Tories on whether Canadians support the death penalty demonstrated only one out of five Canadians believe some criminals deserve to be

put to death. Support was lowest in Newfoundland, with only 17 per cent in support of capital punishment.

Even in the Conservative base of Alberta, barely a third of people polled backed the death penalty. Many other polls find that most Canadian support the death penalty but do not consider its reintroduction a pressing issue.

A poll done in 2006 by ABC News found that most Americans still support the death penalty, but that enthusiasm for capital punishment is at its lowest in 20 years.

The Economist reported in October that state executions are on the downturn in the United States. Since 1999, judicial killings have fallen by 46 per cent. In a recent poll, two-thirds of Americans thought murderers should be put to death. In 1994, the number was four-fifths. When Americans were asked to choose between the death penalty and a life sentence without parole, the result was almost even.

This change of heart has a lot to do with the cost of executions, as well as research on whether capital punishment is an effective deterrent to crime.

These facts demonstrate that the Canadian government seems to be swimming against the tide.

Canada has had a lengthy debate

on capital punishment since the turn of the last century. The first private bill calling for its abolition came in 1914. At this time, only murder, rape and treason were punishable by death.

In 1961, murder (now classified as capital murder) had to either be premeditated, against a police officer or a prison guard or had to occur in conjunction with other violent crimes. In 1967, a moratorium was placed on the death penalty, except in cases involving the murder of police officers and prison guards.

Capital punishment was abolished in 1976 with the exception of certain crimes under the National Defense Act. It wasn't until 1998 that the death penalty was removed from all Canadian law.

According to the website of the federal Department of Justice, "the abolition of the death penalty is considered to be a principle of fundamental justice. Canada has played a key role in denouncing the use of capital punishment at the international level."

Last week the minority government threw that position out the window. The opposition parties should stand up for historical precedents, public opinion and international reputation, and demand the Tories renege their unprompted change of policy.



Corporal Leigh Widdowson with two Irish soldiers outside of Kabul.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEIGH WIDDOWSON

Memories born in wonder

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Traditional Afghan dress is the easiest costume to come by when you're celebrating Halloween in Kabul. Corporal Leigh Widdowson, a reservist and medic for the Counter-IED unit in Afghanistan's capital, says over the phone that most of her fellow soldiers are dressed up in local clothing.

"And there's one Austin Powers," she adds with a laugh. The troops are celebrating Halloween on a Friday morning while the city's inhabitants perform their day of prayers. It's an interesting combination of cultures that are usually worlds apart.

Widdowson, 25, arrived in Kabul on Oct. 4. She travels in a convoy of armoured vehicles, working to preserve the lives and health of soldiers wounded by IEDs (improvised explosive devices). IEDs have already killed 28 Canadian soldiers since the mission began.

However, Kabul is much safer than the southern region around Kandahar where most Canadian soldiers are stationed. Widdowson says her job focuses a lot more on training the Afghan National Army.

"It's hilarious when we do training. I kind of stand out with blond hair and blue eyes. For the Afghan men we're training, they just stare. They're usually so shocked it's just funny. They have a grin on their face and just smile," she says.

Central Asia might seem like an odd place for the Ottawa native and former gymnast. Widdowson earned a degree in health sciences and psychology from the University of Ottawa in 2003. She joined the reserves

in Ottawa in her second year there. It was something she always wanted to do, but she says she didn't join with any kind of mission in mind.

"Going to Afghanistan kind of scared me, actually. But the more I became part of the family – the military family – the more I wanted to go," she explains.

Widdowson doesn't focus much on the danger of the mission. She speaks again and again of the eye-opening experience of living in a country far from the one she has known her whole life. Afghanistan, with its troubles and its beauty, stimulates the young soldier and helps her find meaning in her arduous tour.

This Remembrance Day will honour 29 more soldiers who have died in the past year. It is impossible to say how the Afghanistan mission will be remembered when it's over. The experiences of soldiers like Widdowson help us paint a picture of what future veterans will recall.

The memories troops bring home with them could fill in the gaps of what Canadians have failed to perceive so far. If Canadians could recognize one thing, Widdowson would like them to see how the local people feel about the presence of the Canadian troops.

"It would be just how supported we are here," she says.

She recounts images of young children running along convoys, smiling, waving and giving them the thumbs up.

"To me, it really drove home why we're here – and I think that a lot of Canadians feel that we are here and that we shouldn't be here or that the locals don't want us here. However, the reac-

tions of both adults and children alike prove that they certainly do."

While the positive response from locals gives Widdowson some optimism, the landscape in and around Kabul makes the country's difficult history apparent.

"The remnants of past conflict are everywhere here," she says.

She describes fields just outside of Kabul where the rusted remains of the 1979-1989 Soviet invasion lie to waste.

"Just old tanks for kilometres and kilometres."

Recently, Widdowson and some fellow soldiers were visiting an area of the city that sees very little of the NATO troops. She says a father noticed the tanks and called out to his children, who pointed at what must be déjà-vu to some and a sign of hope to others. Widdowson says seeing the dire existence of many Afghans is more shocking than she could have imagined.

"You see it on TV, you see this kind of thing in movies, and then you see it for yourself. They have nothing," she stops bluntly.

Before leaving Ottawa, Widdowson read *The Kite Runner*, a novel by Afghan writer Khaled Hosseini, which begins in the Soviet era and ends with the fall of the Taliban.

"My impression from the book and with talking to our interpreters is that Afghanistan used to be a beautiful, rich country with fields and orchards," she says.

It's a far cry from the desolation she sees daily. For Widdowson, her mission is not about invading or controlling another country.

"We're in their country and we're working for them," she says.



The Scientific Skeptic

Terrorism in the name of monkeys

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

On Oct. 20, a member of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) stuck a hose through the window of Edythe London's house in California and flooded it, causing \$20,000 to \$40,000 in damage. The ALF member said they had intended to set it on fire, but were afraid of injuring animals if it were to accidentally become a forest fire.

London is a professor in UCLA's departments of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences. Her research, funded in part by Philip Morris, a U.S. cigarette manufacturer, investigates addiction to nicotine and methamphetamines. It includes experiments on vervet monkeys.

Several UCLA researchers have been targeted by the ALF. Their tactics include leaving bombs on porches and under cars, making threatening phone calls and e-mails, throwing rocks at windows and even harassing researchers' children.

The ALF may be standing on moral high ground in their crusade for the ethical treatment of animals, but their methods are despicable. Instead of acting as a watchdog for the research going on at UCLA, they jump to conclusions and react with violence and threats, putting themselves on the same level as terrorist groups.

They assume medical research conducted on animals has no value and that the scientists conducting the research get the same sick pleasure out of it that the neighbourhood bully does in killing birds with stones or setting cats on fire.

The ALF members responsible for vandalizing London's home were trying to bring her into what they called 'the spotlight of justice,' posting her home address online and encouraging more violence until UCLA stopped all research with primates.

The ALF's tactics do seem to work. In 2006, UCLA neurobiologist Dario Ringach gave up his research when he couldn't handle the harassment anymore.

But London isn't going to give in. On Nov. 1 she wrote an article for the *L.A. Times* defending her research. She says she places enormous value on the welfare of her research subjects, but that some amount of risk is required to acquire knowledge that will help people live longer, healthier lives.

The medical advances possible through animal research are endless. Smallpox and polio have been eradicated in countries all over the world. We have insulin, which keeps people with diabetes alive (this is especially important now that there is a diabetes epidemic in North America).

We have vaccines for tetanus, rubella, anthrax, rabies and all the diseases we don't see anymore. We've developed cures for malaria, tuberculosis and typhus. Almost every surgical technique or technology we now use was established with the help of animal research. If the ALF can look at all the lives saved through those cures and still find them unjustifiable, there is something wrong with their priorities.

In the U.K., students and scientists are fighting back against radical anti-animal research groups such as the ALF. Oxford-based Pro-Test holds demonstrations in support of their university's research department and campaigned for a referendum that showed 90 per cent of the student body supports medical animal testing.

The ALF has a right to voice their concerns about the way animal research is conducted at the UCLA. They can open up a public dialogue and ask to examine the practices in the primate research lab. But they do not have a right to get away with terrorism – behaviour that is downright animalistic.



DAL TIGERS

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MEN'S HOCKEY vs. UdeM, 7PM
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. UNB, 8PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. MUN, 1PM
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. UNB, 3PM
MEN'S HOCKEY vs. UNB, 7PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11
BASKETBALL vs. ACADIA, W 1PM, M 3PM

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STREETER

What's the most embarrassing thing you've ever seen in class?



“One time a guy who was supposed to be in class was outside the window streaking but he didn't really hide his identity.”

Rob Knockwood, first-year medicine



“I had a teacher who would make you sing a song in class if you got a question wrong. I sang ‘Bust A Move’ to my Spanish class.”

Chris Coleman, fourth-year philosophy



“In a class, one guy kept asking the same question and the teacher kept answering it, then someone yelled, ‘Nobody cares what you think!’”

Jonathan Underwood, third-year English



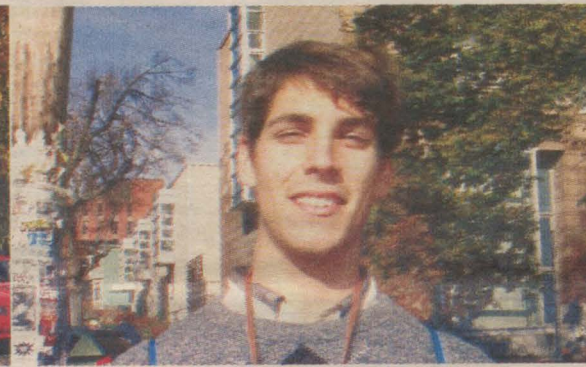
“On the first day of class, my friend Sally was walking up the aisle in a dress. She tripped and ended up mooning the teacher and the whole class.”

Cara Steele, fourth-year biology



“Really embarrassing cell phone rings.”

Mara Fontana, second-year biology



“A snot bubble the size of a testicle.”

Jamie Nadel, victory lap



“After a rough night at The Dome, my stomach goes crazy and gurgles so loud that it sounds like I'm breaking wind.”

Andrew Battison, fourth-year neuroscience



“A prof whispered ‘fuckin' meatheads’ under his breath into a microphone.”

James Munson, x-year swashbuckling

OVERHEARD AT DAL

After HOST lecture with Kyle Fraser:

Guy: That was a really good lecture today. I only fell asleep right at the end.

In the Tupper Building during class:

Girl: I kinda like my box.

In Shirreff Hall:

Girl: I hate that guy. I hope he gets syphilis and dies!

Guy: I hope he doesn't get any and dies...alone.

Getting out of car:

Older woman: Smells like little children!

At the SUB front desk:

Girl: Hi. Can I buy some tickets for the hypnotist?

Guy: Sure thing. They're \$6 each.

Girl: Will you give me 6 for \$40?

Guy: ...yes.

DSU information centre:

Guy: I lost my driver's licence a while back

Employee: In order for you to get into the bar, you will need to show a valid provincial photo ID.

Guy: How about my Wonderland Season Pass? Will that work?

PSYO 1011 class:

Prof: Hallucinogens are common among younger people...and hippies.

In bio lab:

Guy1: Oh man, you shave your chest?

Guy2: Yeah.

Guy1: Yeah. I'm not really a fan of the razor to the chest, cause then I have to loofah, and I'm not a loofah kind of guy.

HOT OR NOT

👍 HOT: Booster Juice / 👎 NOT: Seeds in your poop

👍 HOT: Britney's *Blackout* / 👎 NOT: Still not having power

👍 HOT: Juan / 👎 NOT: Being a tease

👍 HOT: *Dog the Bounty Hunter* / 👎 NOT: Being racist

👍 HOT: Long weekends / 👎 NOT: The crushing week before

👍 HOT: Poppies / 👎 NOT: Heroin

👍 HOT: Plagiarism / 👎 NOT: Research

👍 HOT: Being flabbergasted / 👎 NOT: Gas in your flabs

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Overheard at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and do not necessarily represent views held by James Munson himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.



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PROF TALK



Simon Gadbois did his PhD work at Dalhousie in 1992. He spent time teaching at Acadia University before coming back to Halifax to join the psychology department in 2003.

Q: What's changed in the years you've been at Dal?
A: The students. There seems to be a generational effect. Attitudes about university are changing and I think there's much more of a sense of entitlement. It isn't that the students are spoiled, just that they have a different perception about what university is about. It's as though paying tuition is enough to let you pass courses and get into Honours and that just isn't the case.

Q: What kind of university student were you?
A: I came out of the Quebec CEGEP system and that gave me an advantage over some of the other students. I didn't always plan as well as I tell my students to these days. I once came to my Research Methods in Psychology class with no idea that we had an exam that day. I wrote it and got 100 per cent. That's when I decided psychology was a good program for me.

Q: Is there anything you wish they taught here at Dal?
A: Environment psychology and evolutionary psychology. They're both new and influential paradigms and they both tie in well with the great biology and environmental sciences departments we have here at Dal.

Q: What do you do when you aren't working?
A: I used to do archery – on targets, not animals, classical guitar, hiking, canoeing, etc. Now I have an 18-month-old daughter, Solène, and my priorities have really changed.

Q: What did you do for Halloween?
A: I went trick-or-treating with Solène. She liked it, but I think it was a bit confusing for her.

Q: Describe the perfect class.
A: It could be any size. The key is to have a spirit of camaraderie in the group. Also, individual students can make or break a class.

Q: When did you realize you were going to be a prof?
A: At 11 or 12 years old. My father was a PhD student under Jean Piaget. I never doubted that academia was my path. Admittedly, though, I've occasionally considered ditching it all and running a goat farm.

Q: Do you have any favourite bands?
A: Oh jeez, this is where I show that I'm in my 40s. U2, Pink Floyd, pre-80s Genesis and Yes, the Talking Heads, the Cult, the Cure, etc. Also classical and jazz. More recently I've been into The Killers, Evanescence, Tea Party and Feist.

Q: Do you have any advice for students?
A: Though it can be hard to do, avoid being a last-minute student. It can be a death sentence for your grade in a class. Time management and knowing your limits can bring you great success.

Q: If you hadn't become of prof, what might you be doing right now?

A: Other than the goat farm thing? Well, I got involved with documentaries and the work really suited me. The communication element of teaching is the natural thing for me. And anything to do with animals, training dogs or something like that.

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

TOP 10

...FUN THINGS TO DO AT THE KILLAM

1. Bring a bedsheet to a group study table and build a fort.
2. Sit in the quiet study area staring intently at your watch and clear your throat every 40 seconds.
3. Read a textbook and every so often exclaim, "Fuck right off! That's a lie."
4. Yell "Oh shit!" and run for the stairwell.
5. Hold the button of your floor for the whole elevator ride.
6. Go into the stacks and build a stepstool inuk-suk..
7. Politely ask a silent studier to keep it down.
8. Climb the plastic tree in the atrium.
9. Wait in line at the circulation desk. When they ask "Can I help who's next?" say "No!" and start to cry.
10. Release white doves into the atrium. Take bets on which windows they'll run into first.

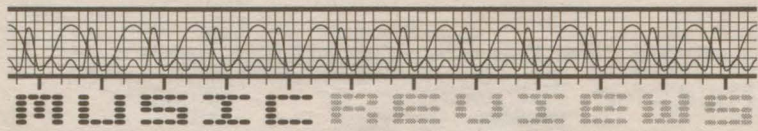
GAZETTE



Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB



Wash it down with 



MUSIC FEELINGS

A nice slice of indie music

PATRICK ST. AMAND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Shotgun Jimmie's first solo album, *The Onlys*, delivers a neat mosaic of music genres with a raw feel.

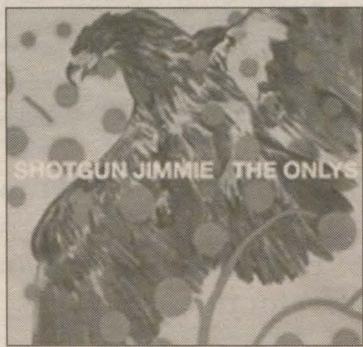
Jim Killpatrick, who once played in the band Shotgun and Jaybird, has taken the ambitious step of recording this album independently. Hailing from Ajax, Ontario, Killpatrick toured Canada in October to promote his new album.

The 13 songs written by Killpatrick clearly have a lot of time and effort behind them. This album introduces Killpatrick as a solo musician. He no longer has a band to play with or look to for creative help, but seems confident about his move to go solo.

"You know how when you go to a high school dance and all the girls are standing on one side of the gymnasium and all the guys are standing on the other side? Whether or not you're the first person to step across the midfield, I think everyone wants to be that person."

Killpatrick's ambitious step is revealed through the hard work he did in recording this album.

The Onlys is refreshing. This album should not be listened to simply as background music at a party.



It deserves one-on-one attention to be fully enjoyed.

All of the songs are well-crafted and tend to shift from a folk sound to a softer tempo, Death-Cab-for-Cutie-esque sound.

This album is unique in its combination of sounds, musical instruments, interesting (if not eccentric) lyrics and wonderfully raw recording that you can't get from a high and mighty recording studio.

Shotgun Jimmie's *The Onlys* is a promising start to Killpatrick's solo career.

Shotgun Jimmie's CD release party will be at The Seahorse on Nov. 17. There will be performances by The Superfantastics, Construction Destruction and Dan Griffin.

Vampires and Varma

SCOTT MONEY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Dozens of corpses sat stiff and attentive in their Grawood seats, listening to the dark tales being heaved upon them like the waves of a crimson ocean.

That's my attempt to recreate the eerie gothic creations read by several gifted members of the English department at this year's Varma Prize readings.

The Varma Prize in Gothic Literature is a contest put on by the Dalhousie English department in honour of the late Devendra Varma. The participants are students from the English department who enter their work in hope of capturing the \$500 top prize.

Dal's Associate Professor of English David McNeil says Varma was a professor with great presence who was able to capture students' attention like no other. Varma was a consultant to Hollywood, supervised the publication of over 100 Gothic novels and wrote his own books, including *The Evergreen Tree of Diabolical Knowledge* in 1972. Varma taught at Dal for 31 years and died in 1994.

This contest is a way of preserving his name and helps to build a sort of legend around the late member of the Dal English department. Varma's book *The Gothic Flame* is considered by some to be the first serious study in Gothic fiction to garner considerable success.

This year's contest appropriately took place on Halloween. The vast majority of the presenters told tales of death, misery, suicide and the occasional vampire.

Even though most of the pieces were focused on depressing themes, it did not take away from the outstanding ability of all the participants. Each work was unique and extremely well-written.

There was a good turnout, lots of great costumes and, of course, free pizza.

Michael Johnstone's short story, "The Embalming Girl," earned him the top prize. After his reading, Johnstone said he had not expected to win and would have been happy with an honourable mention.

Second place was given to Laura Hochman for her story "The Prayer." The piece was an especially excellent gloomy bit of gothic literature.

Finally, the third prize was given to Alyson Coy. Her sinister account of a back-alley meeting between a



SCOTT MONEY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dan Bray and Sarah Warren dressed up for Varma.

man and a vampire called "Vampire Since Birth" was very engaging.

There were several honourable mentions who shared their gothic tales as well, some of which were quite humorous.

English Society President Sarah Warren thinks the Varma Prize contest is an excellent way to get students to share their creative work and get involved in the department.

Warren said the only downside was the lack of anticipation and shorter length as compared to last year's contest.

Hopefully, the Varma Prize contest will remain an annual affair, and Devendra Varma's name will be carried on through spooky gothic tales read on Halloween forever more.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:

Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB

I stand out.

Mitch Martel

Full-time laboratory technician and part-time Bachelor of Science student at Athabasca University.



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ALY COY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Squid pulled out impressive tricks and dances while performing at Drumfest 2007 at St. Matthew's Church.

Drumfest 2007:

The beat of St. Matthew's

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

It all started with a heartbeat. Co-producer and host of this year's Drumfest Mark Adam got the audience at St. Matthew's Church to lightly pat their chests to mimic the sound of a beating heart. It was a dramatic start to the show.

The few brave souls who fought through the winds of Hurricane Noel on Nov. 3 got to enjoy the fantastic, rhythmic sounds of Drumfest 2007.

The concert opened with a recording of the late Matthieu Keijser, the founder of Drumfest, who died in October of this year.

A traditional Mi'kmaq sound then carried through the church, as opening act Brian Knockwood played. Knockwood told the crowd the origin of drumming was "the heartbeat of mother nature." There was a trance-like quality to the traditional native sound, and the audience listened enthusiastically.

Squid came on next with an uplifting, lively routine. Ian MacMillan, Daniel St. Pierre, Mark Jamieson, Brian Bourne and Jay Andrews were all on portable drums. They were like

a modern day, ultra-cool, six-member marching band. Bagpiper Ryan Fraser impressed the crowd with his energy and modern renditions, straying away from stereotypical, traditional sounds.

Squid's sound was well-developed and the group projected a lot of energy by dancing with their drum set, doing tricks with their drumsticks and beatboxing.

Mark Currie's group brought in a bodhran, didgeridoo, tin whistle, Irish bagpipe and guitar. They played more traditional folksongs, with Irish jigs and a more conventional-sounding bagpipe.

The Maria Osende Flamenco Group opened their set with violin, played by Lee Park – a frantic, high sound that invited dancer Maria Osende onto the stage.

A musical duel followed between dancer and violinist. Osende stomped out a strong staccato beat, leading the group's song with her experienced footwork. Osende used her shoes as instruments and her long, black skirt as a powerful visual.

Osende's stage presence was intimidating. It seemed as though she was about to go into a bullfight and

win. Her passion was accentuated by the stark sounds of the violin, guitar, cajón and clapping that accompanied her dancing.

Ben Ross and Jason Burns created eerie sounds with their drums, playing the most experimental set in the show. It seemed as though the audience was sitting in on a jam session between the two drummers.

Chris Kennedy and Bruce Armstrong came on stage dressed in traditional West African attire and played tribal music from that region. Their intense music transformed into a more fun, lighthearted sound, using a djembe and dun duns.

Adam, the host, used his drum kit, a xylophone, looping technology and breathing patterns to create a multi-dimensional, uplifting performance.

Canadian Idol finalist Kaleb Simmonds of Dartmouth also performed, simultaneously beatboxing and singing his way through classics such as "Love's in Need of Love Today" by Stevie Wonder. Shane Codrington break danced to Simmonds' sound.

These and other performers made Drumfest 2007 a huge success, representing the diverse heartbeat of Nova Scotia.

Playing in the backseat

NATALIA ROQUE-CUADRA
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Sam Fisher's thought-provoking play *In the Backseat* is a compelling, witty and sometimes heartbreaking story of an immigrant cab driver who overhears the conversations of his passengers.

The list of what he overhears ranges from climate change to consumerism in North America and the setup of our society.

Sanjay Talwar, who has acted in the Stratford Festival, plays Hiram, a cabbie with problems of his own. Hiram comes from a low caste in India and falls in love with Sabra (Pragna Desai), a member of a higher caste.

Hiram conceals his caste from Sabra at the beginning of their relationship. Despite his situation, Hiram has a desire to change the world.

Even though some of the characters take on different roles within the same showing, their performances are outstanding from beginning to end.

Set designer Denyse Karn created an original set with screens that

show streets where the cab is supposed to be driving. It's a smart and innovative design, and the audience took notice and continued to comment on it after the play.

In the program, Fisher explains that the idea for this play came about at a New Year's Eve party he attended.

He says that at the party, he went from one room to the next listening to conversations and realized people were all talking about the same things. The play deals with the concept of the global village, how we fit into it as individuals and where we're all going.

On a global scale, the message of the play seems to be that there will not be any drastic changes in the near future to make our world a better place. We are going to have to put up with the mess we are in until we reach a definitive moment in time, which hopefully won't come too late.

In the Backseat is showing at the Eastern Front Theatre at Alderney Landing until Nov. 11. For tickets call 1-888-311-9090 or purchase online at www.easternfront.ns.ca.



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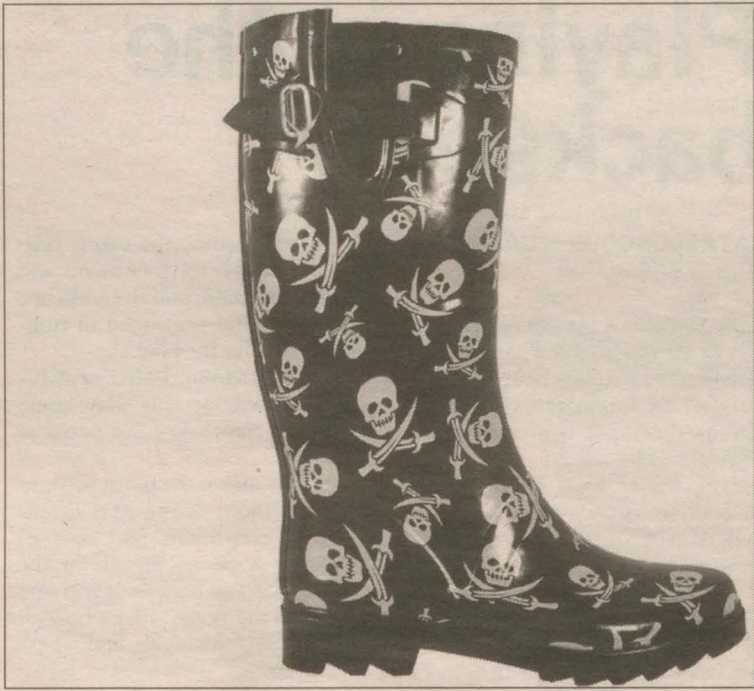
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Bring out your gumboots and bright colours for grim days.

Wearing the weather

KATIE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

"I was wearing something else," responded Jessica Brus, when asked where she got the inspiration for her outfit, "but I threw this on instead because it's cold. Is Halifax always like this? It's like a torrential downpour out there!"

Unfortunately for Brus and others new to Halifax, the weather is not going to get any prettier from here on out. For myself and other students a little preoccupied with fashion, that means a drastic increase in the number of classmates letting their style hibernate.

There's a noticeable trend on campus these days of students matching their outfits to the weather. Clearly, practicality comes into play as cold weather requires ample coverage and sunnier days have considerably more leeway, but beyond the number of layers, students are reacting to Halifax's inevitable rainy days by looking, well, gloomy.

During these November weeks when it's often sunny one day and miserable the next, it's easy to spot the difference in general apparel. On these dreaded rainy days, students who are usually expressive and original feel inclined to bundle up and wear the same old, same old. Gloomy weather can be draining, and who has the energy to think about their outfit?

Well, for those fashionistas out

there who are dreading said style hibernation, it's important to keep in mind that winter isn't antonymous to fashion. It may be tempting to wear grey on grey days, but for those who enjoy the attention that comes from a really good outfit, a rainy day should be seen as a great opportunity to rock campus. When everyone else is giving in to the weather, what better time is there to stand out?

It's important to keep in mind rain in Halifax often means a warm temperature – just because it's dreary doesn't mean it's cold. As long as you're keeping your head sheltered and feet covered, there's no real reason to dress like the Michelin Man. In fact, one of my favourite things to wear on a rainy day is a mini skirt – my legs may get a little wet, but it's far more comfortable than dragging around sweatpants with the bottoms soaked, and I'm almost guaranteed to be the only one on campus daring to bare a little skin.

For those who can't quite break away from matching grey to a grey day, you'll be happy to hear that grey is actually one of the top trends this season, and it'll be easy to blend into the city while maintaining a sense of fashion.

But don't let the rain drag down your style. Stay practical, but be daring. Bare those legs. Throw on your cutest rain boots, or even a rain hat – how cute would that be? – and head out the door. Who says a torrential downpour can't be chic?

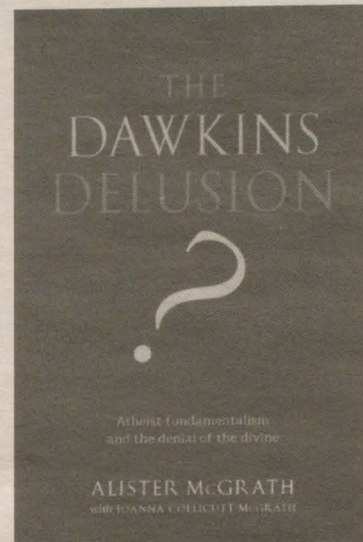
The Dawkins Delusion?: Book Review

TOM HOWELLS
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

In his bestseller *The God Delusion*, evolutionary biologist and popular science writer Richard Dawkins calls God "a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully." Strong words, Mr. Dawkins, by any account.

The hard-nosed atheist's tirade against theism has caused quite a buzz, and it's no wonder that a number of books have popped up to counter it. One of these is *The Dawkins Delusion?: Atheist fundamentalism and the denial of the divine* by Alister McGrath, an atheist turned theist and fellow Oxford academic.

In contrast to the bumbling, reactionary drivel of Dawkins, the pages of this book hold sound arguments, balanced science and valuable insight into what can be particularly



murky intellectual territory.

A core criticism of Dawkins lies in the fact that he doesn't consider any elements of one's worldview to lie outside of the jurisdiction of science. The material universe is all there is,

he purports, and any assertions not based in science are just superstition. McGrath counters this, supporting his contrasting view with arguments from innumerable eminent scientists – theists and atheists alike.

McGrath is careful to keep to the secular in his argument, referencing the Bible only briefly to correct Dawkins' misquotations and interpretations. Largely it is Dawkins' poor science that McGrath points out. McGrath was a proponent of Dawkins' earlier, less inflammatory work, and McGrath laments the respected scientist's slide into narrow-mindedness, shaky argumentation and downright pseudoscientific proofs.

The Dawkins Delusion? clears the air after the explosion of Dawkins' rhetoric. It is a balanced, thought-provoking piece that exemplifies the free thought and scientific fairness so unfortunately lacking in the book it rebuts. Short but sweet, this new arrival to the Killam makes for a thought-provoking afternoon read, whatever side of the God debate you're on.

Don't Make Me Blush: Car trouble

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

I was in the back seat of my best friend's car with my four other best girlfriends. We were dancing and having a great time like we usually do, cruisin' down the highway in Toronto, jamming to loud music.

Another car pulled up beside us with two guys in the front seat. They were motioning for us to roll down the window. We laughed it off,

pumping our arms in a mocking way and joking around in the car in response.

They continued to drive beside us, trying to get our attention. Thinking these guys were real pieces of work, we started racing them, getting ahead, looking behind, pointing and laughing at these pathetic losers trying to get our attention.

They wouldn't stop pulling up beside us, mouthing, "Roll down your window!" and doing the hand

gestures. We responded with laughing, pointing, and possibly giving them the finger.

They attempted one more time to get us to roll down the window.

Laughing extremely hard now at their desperate attempt to talk to us, we finally rolled down our windows to hear the lame pick up line these guys were desperately trying to communicate to us.

"Your lights are off!" they yelled, and drove away.

Do it yourself: Record bowl

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

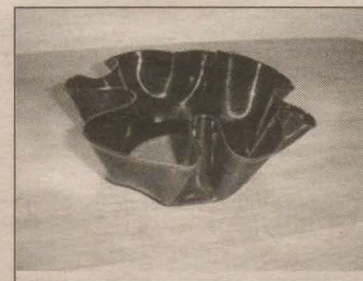
Materials:

1. Record you no longer care about
2. Oven-safe bowl (approx. 9 inches across the top)
3. Cookie sheet

Directions:

Step 1: Preheat the oven to 200°F. Place an oven-safe bowl upside-down on the cookie sheet and place the record on top of the bowl.

Step 2: Place in the oven for eight to 10 minutes.

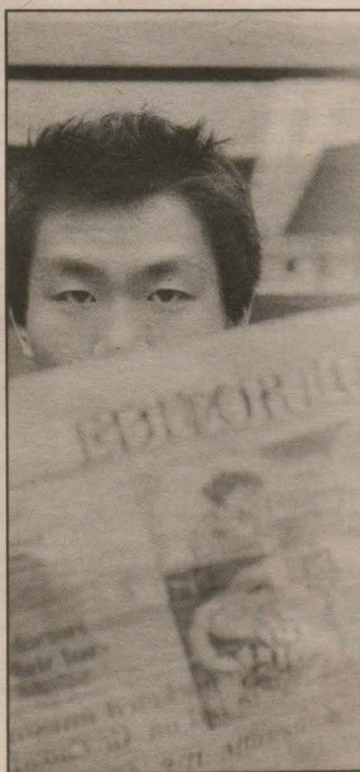


From old record to decorative bowl in under 10 minutes.

Step 3: Carefully remove from the oven. The record should be soft

enough to mold and cool enough to touch, but use an oven mitt at first just to be safe. Turn the bowl right-side-up and place the record inside it, molding it until you get the shape you want. You will only have about a minute before the vinyl starts to harden, so work quickly. If you don't get the shape you want on the first try, simply stick the record and bowl back in the oven for a few minutes and try again.

Once it has completely cooled, it is ready to use as a fruit bowl, flower pot (with a handy drainage hole), place to put your keys, coffee table decoration or gift.



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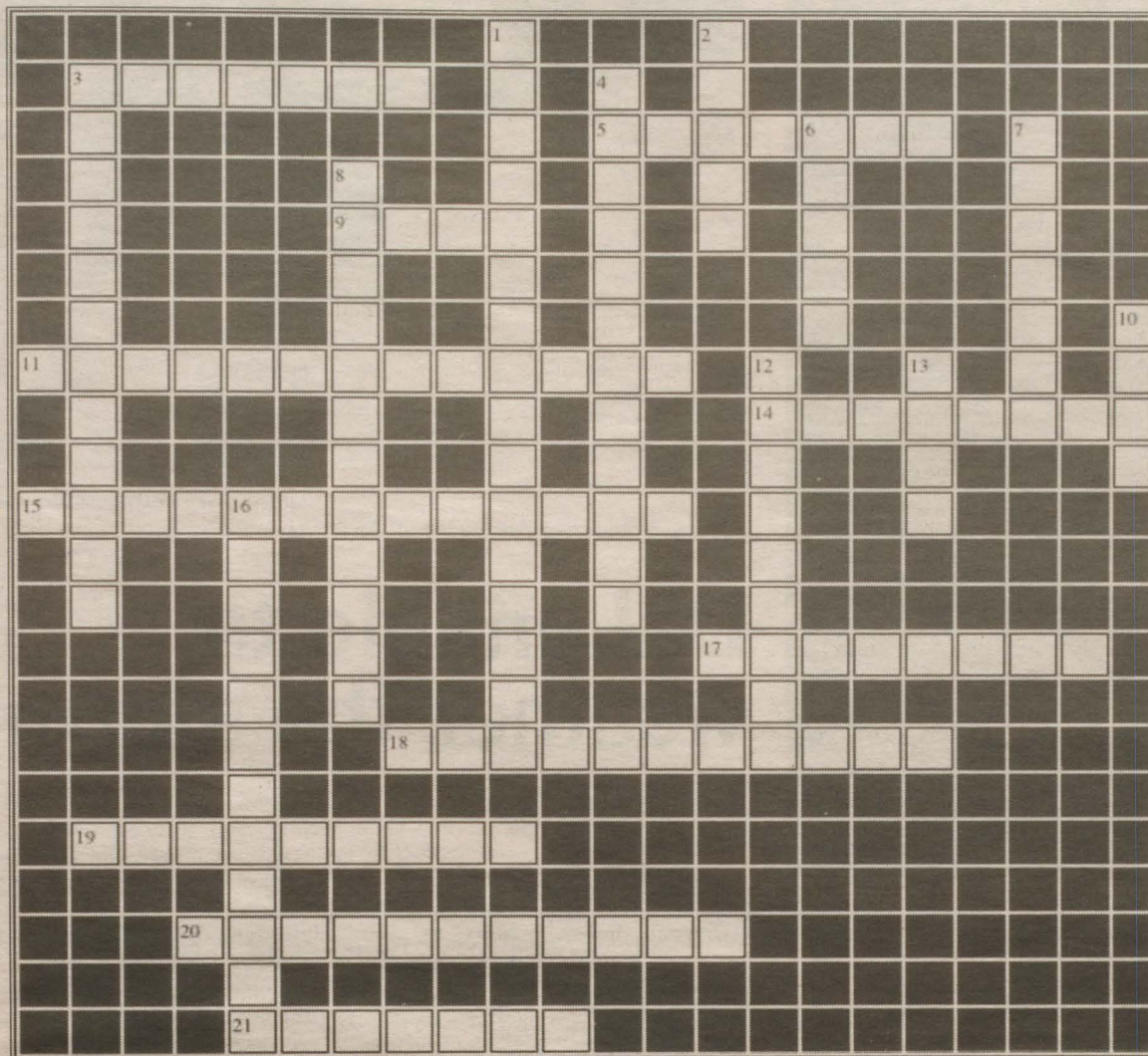


DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Minds

CROSSWORD

Arrested Development by Aly Coy



Across

- 3. The person holding the Bluth family together
- 5. "Hi"
- 9. Housekeeper
- 11. "Maybe she was referring to the singer/song writer..." (2 wds)
- 14. Who? (2 wds)
- 15. Banana stand character created by Gob, Mr. _
- 17. Anne's favourite treat
- 18. Musty old claptrap (2 wds)
- 19. Lawyer
- 20. Who played "Uncle Jack" (2 wds)
- 21. Show's creator

Down

- 1. Tobias's alias to stay close to family
- 2. What is hidden in the banana stand?
- 3. Not a documentary
- 4. Tobias's acting coach (2 wds)
- 6. "I'm not him, I'm _!"
- 7. "Get me a vodka rocks" (It's breakfast!) "And a piece of toast"
- 8. Tobias tries out for (3 wds)
- 10. Steve _!
- 12. What did Buster's turtle die from?
- 13. What ate Buster's hand
- 16. Location of show (2 wds)



Environmental tip of the week: Unplug your cell phone charger while not in use. It still uses energy even though it's not attached to your phone.

Teach English in Japan

Interac is accepting applications for teaching positions commencing in April 2008.

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HOROSCOPES



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You are simply the best, better than all the rest. They did not believe you when you first sang it, but by the end of this week they will. Perhaps it could be time for a new hairdo and some French onion soup. Be careful because cheese can be a dangerous thing.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

No more lollygagging - it's time to mount up. You have some regulating to do, because people are not following the rules and you need to figure out why. You are the chosen one, so do something. Spread the word of what being positive does, provide incentives, and the fruitcake will bake itself. Jesus Christ Superstore stocked your produce so expect delicious enchantment.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Don't think too much or you might hurt yourself. It's easy if you try. Analyze this, don't analyze that. You have a heart made of gold and good things tend to always happen. The universe has a plan, so make sure you play your part. If you do good things, the cherry will always be put on top of your ice cream, whether you ask for it or not. Love is inevitable.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

If your friends think you're a traitor, it's just because they don't understand what you are up to. If you build it, they will come. There is something in your teeth, so keep toothpicks in the breast pocket of your shirt at all times.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

You have gone to the moon and back. Shake hands with a monkey and teach it how to evolve. Nobody likes being left in the dust, so make sure to include everyone. Never stand in the middle of the circle; always make sure there is room for all. Circumference is equal to the square root this week, so make sure your isosceles triangle has three sides.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You don't fall for jokes, but you should at least be laughing. Eat, sleep and work may pay the bills, but it won't make you happy. Live a little, love a little. Yellow is a good colour on you. Someone is trying to court you. Show them you are pining for them too. A piggyback says it all.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Lately you have been drinking out of a sippy cup for fear of spillage. But your worrying days are over. Sticks and stones may break your bones, but a clumsy person just breaks things by accident. Don't be too hard on a friend who has been careless; they didn't mean to be. It will be made up for in the future. A lava cake with your name on it is sitting in the pantry.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You have been touched by an angel this week. The fava beans you have been saving in the cupboard are ready to make bean salad. Croquet is a charming game and one you seem to excel at. Wear a star on your lapel and you will get the recognition you deserve.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Plant the seed of love. Take it easy because then the seed of love will blossom into something beautiful rather quickly. Leopard print will look dangerously good on you. Fear is not a factor for you, but it could be for your colleagues. Take pride in helping others and the boomerang will come back.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

The storm's a comin' and about to blow your pirate flag right off the balcony. A moose is wandering through your backyard. He is lost, so help him find his way. A fun ride through town on the Spruce Moose will be your reward.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Mathematics has never been your strong point, but words are where you shine. Spell your way to the top and only the roof will be your limit. Dumbo could fly with ears, so figure out what makes you fly. You need a vacation. It's not summertime and it appears that the livin' ain't so easy. Just remember there is no hope in dope.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

How dare you. You have been bullying those around you. You need to pull back the reins on your horse and carriage. You're upset because the Sloppy Joes are extra sloppy this week, but don't worry - if you have a napkin on your lap you will be just fine. Your mug is going places, just make sure it takes you with it.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

- Across
- 3. Michael
 - 5. Anyong
 - 9. Lupe
 - 11. George Michael
 - 14. Anne Veal
 - 15. Bananagrabber
 - 17. Mayonegg
 - 18. Family Cabin
 - 19. Bob Blabla
 - 20. Martin Short
 - 21. Hurwitz
- Down
- 1. Mrs. Featherbottom
 - 2. Money
 - 3. Mockumentary
 - 4. Carl Weathers
 - 6. Oscar
 - 7. Lucille
 - 8. Blue Man Group
 - 10. Holt
 - 12. Marijuana
 - 13. Seal
 - 16. New Port Beach

Getting to know men's hockey coach Brad Crossley

ZAC RESNICK
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Brad Crossley is in his first year as head coach of Dalhousie's varsity men's hockey team. Hailing from nearby Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, Crossley is returning to a program he played in as a student. He was also part of the coaching staff in the early 1990s. Crossley answers some questions over e-mail about his high expectations for the season and his plans to work hard to bring success back to the men's hockey program.

Q. As a former Dal player and assistant coach, how special is it to be able to lead the Tigers as the head coach?

A. This is a very special opportunity – one that doesn't come about very often – and I am honoured to have the chance. Our goal right now is to bring the team back to the national spotlight, but we will take it one step at a time and look to be better day after day.

Q. After coaching midget and junior hockey for over 15 years, what has been the biggest adjustment to coaching at the CIS (Canadian Inter-university Sport) level?

A. The size and the speed of the players are outstanding, as is the level of coaching. Hockey is hockey but preparation, accountability, and communication is a key at this level. Outside of that, the biggest factor for success in the Atlantic University Sport league is finding the right players for future success. That challenge lies ahead and I am looking forward to it.

Q. What type of identity must the team have in order to be successful?

A. Honest, committed and hard-working. If we can outwork each other, we can outwork the competition and half the battle will be won.

Q. What are the teams' expectations as we embark on the 2007/08 season?

A. We want to compete every night as good as anyone but we expect to be in the top four teams and battle for a conference title. Realistically, I believe in our guys and the program. This is attainable.

Q. When did you first know that coaching hockey would be for you?

A. I started teaching hockey school here at Dal when I was a Midget-aged player. In my second year of my combined BPE/Bed (Bachelor of Physical Education/Education) de-



NICK PEARCE / NICK PEARCE PHOTO
This is Crossley's first year as head coach.

gree in 1985, I took up coaching with a Halifax Bantam AAA team as part of one of my course requirements and I have been doing so since. I enjoy helping people become better and pushing them to test their limits. If you don't have a passion for that, coaching is the wrong place to be.

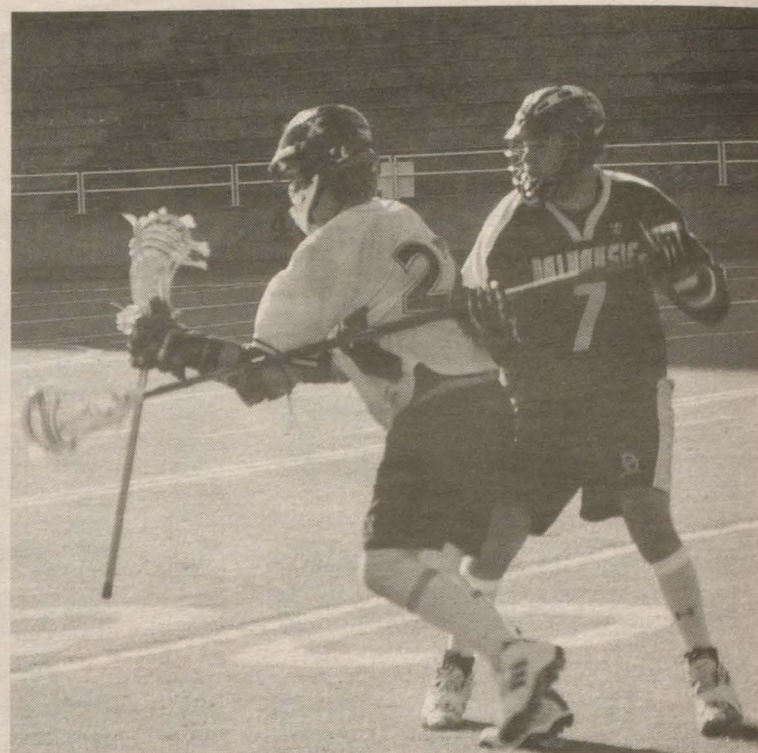
Q. It has been documented that you coached Sidney Crosby growing up. What was that like and did you know he would become the dominant player he has so quickly become in his career?

A. I first saw Sid play during hockey schools here at Dal in the mid-1980s and he was very special then. As a 13 and 14-year-old he was extremely dominant against 17-year-old elite players. He had qualities and ability above and beyond anyone I've ever come across. His passion and intensity was overwhelming at times, especially for a young teenager. He won the scoring race at the National

Championship, with 27 points in seven games as a 14-year-old in Major Midget against the best 17-year-olds in the country. He was destined to succeed in the NHL and he has proven that he belongs amongst the best names in the game.

Q. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time away from the rink?

A. Family! I have my wonderful wife Leslie and four great children that all play hockey and various other sports. The kids play for Cole Harbour Minor Hockey Association... Alexis (13) plays Bantam AAA, Haley (12) plays Pee-wee Girls and ringette, too, Brett (9) plays Atom AAA and Brady (6) is in Novice. Any time I spend away from the rink here at Dal I likely spend in another rink watching them. There is no downtime, except the time we spend camping in the summer. But, if you're not staying busy and not involved, you're not living life the way it should be experienced.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Tigers and the X-Men faced off for the championship.

Dal unable to weather the storm

ZAC RESNICK
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

During a weekend that was supposed to be dominated by Hurricane Noel, it was the St. Francis Xavier X-Men who were looking to steal the thunder. For the second year in a row, the X-Men and the Tigers faced each other in the Maritime University Field Lacrosse League (MUFL) championships held at Saint Mary's University.

The Tigers were looking for a repeat performance of their Oct. 26 win against the X-Men, last year's league champions, that put the Tigers in first place at the end of the regular season.

Despite the uncertain forecast leading up to the game, the teams played under blue skies with brisk winds before a lively crowd at the Huskies Stadium. The Tigers got off to a poor start as the X-Men came out with a tenacious and aggressive approach.

The X-Men carried the play in the first half, controlling the time of possession. X-Men goaltender Chris Soucie made some key saves. The result was an 8-0 halftime lead for the X-Men and a deflated Tigers squad.

"Unfortunately we were behind the eight-ball right from the start," says Coach Bill Brydon. "We just did not respond in the first half."

The second half proved to be a different story. A rejuvenated Tigers team came out and played with the desire and passion missing in the first half. While the X-Men increased their lead to 9-0, the Tigers countered with five goals to bring the

score to 9-5.

In the end, it was too little, too late. The X-Men prevailed 10-6 and captured the Telus Cup for the second year in a row.

"We were down 8-0 and took some bad penalties in the first half," says long-pole Tigers defense player Ian Cameron. "The X-Men were able to capitalize on some power play opportunities and carried the momentum heading into the second half. I'm proud of the guys and they never gave up. We beat [the X-Men] 6-2 in the second half. If that had happened all game, we would be walking out of here hoisting the cup."

Offensive MVP Mike Zanyk led the Tigers in the game, along with team captain Ben Sharpe, who captured the defensive honours.

It was a trying season for the Tigers. They lost defensive captain and first-team all-star Ian Cameron midway through the season with ligament damage to his elbow. Cameron was able to return for the playoffs but was noticeably tentative on the field, unable to take the aggressive approach that makes him so effective.

Nonetheless, the Tigers were able to finish the season with only one loss and the top ranking heading into the playoffs. Although it was a bittersweet season for the team, they can hold their heads high as they prepare for next season.

"We showed a lot of resilience, especially in the second half. There is lots of room for improvement," says second-year midfielder Mike Diener. "We'll be back and ready to go next year."

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:

Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE



HEATHER ARMSTRONG
SOCCER

Armstrong, a keeper for the Tigers, had an outstanding weekend at the AUS Women's Soccer Championship. Her best performance came in the semi-finals against SMU, a game that went to a six-person shootout. She made the final stop to capture the win and ultimately secure a spot at the CIS Championships. Armstrong, a third-year engineering student and native of Ottawa, was named Player of the Game for her performance.

Other nominees: Robyn West (volleyball)



MALE ATHLETE



JORDAN MORRISON
HOCKEY

Second-year centre Morrison leads the Tigers in points and plus/minus. He also ranks among the AUS leaders in these categories. Over the weekend, Morrison scored key goals in both games against the highly ranked UdeM and UNB teams. His goal against UNB came in the third period to tie the contest at one goal apiece and gave the Tigers an opportunity to defeat the defending CIS champions. Morrison is originally from Uxbridge, Ont. and is enrolled in the arts program at Dalhousie.

Other nominees: Germain Bendegue (basketball)



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MATTHEW ANTOLIN

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Well, here is your chance to have a say in how your money is spent. The Engineering Society asks what YOU want done with the \$15 that you pay each term to the Sexton Engineering Endowment Fund (SEEF). I am putting out the call for proposals to find out how you and your fellow students think the money should be spent.

What is needed for a proposal, you ask?

- 1) Name(s), and signature(s) of proposer(s)
- 2) Contact Information
- 3) A description of the project
- 4) A detailed budget for the project
- 5) Who does it benefit

If you have this information, then you have yourself a SEEF proposal. The deadline for SEEF proposals is: Tuesday, November 13. Proposals can be sent to: DSEUS@dal.ca

Remembrance Day

ZHINDRA GILLIS

Every year on November 11 a group of Dalhousie engineering students get together to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at Grande Parade. A wreath is laid on behalf of the two engineering societies to honour those who have served our country during conflict and in peace times.

It is very important to attend a ceremony on Remembrance Day out of respect for our veterans. Throughout the last century Dalhousie alumni have given their lives to protect the freedom of this country both at home and abroad, and it is important to honour their memory.

I encourage all students to take part in a local parade. I know from personal experience that the presence of young people at these ceremonies means the world to the veterans and those in the Canadian Forces.

For those of you who have never attended a ceremony on Remembrance Day it is a great experience and a wonderful way to learn about military history and the traditions of this country. Please check local newspaper listings for ceremonies in your respective communities. For all students who would like to join the DSEUS and DUES at Grande Parade please meet at Tim Horton's, 5639 Spring Garden Rd. at 9:45 am on November 11, 2007.

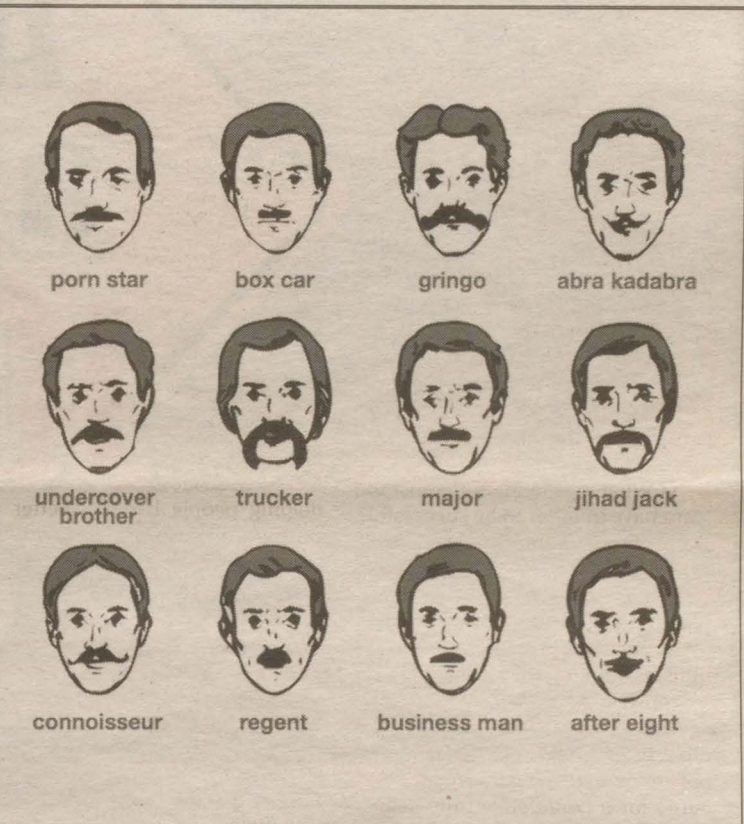
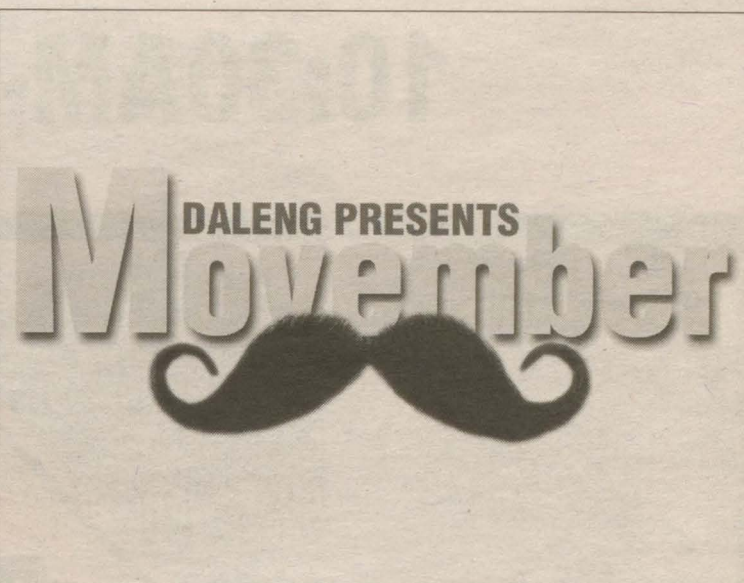
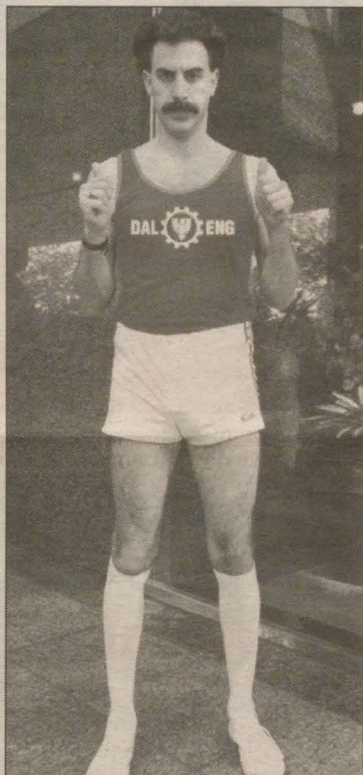
Mo-vement at Sexton

Have you ever felt cold, alone, or just empty on your upper lip? This is your opportunity to finally show your post-pubescent self and be proud of that new voice and hair growth. Not only can you grow a 'stache, but you can raise some money for charity at the same time!

Throughout the month of November, get support for your 'stache from your friends and family. There will be a prize for the person that raises the most money in support of their masterpiece. Prizes will also be given out for the best 'stache, worst 'stache, and most creative use of facial hair.

Come on out on November 30th to the T-Room between trivia rounds, and see if your 'stache is a winner. All proceeds will go towards prostate cancer research.

Rock the 'stache, win some cash!



Any articles you wish to submit, please submit them to sextant@dal.ca by Sunday night.


Wondering what to do next year?
Why not spend an exciting


**YEAR ABROAD
IN
DIJON, FRANCE**

The Department of French offers a year-abroad programme at the CIEF (Université de Bourgogne) in Dijon, France. Located in the heart of historic Burgundy, just 90 minutes from Paris, the CIEF offers an exciting language programme for students at all levels of proficiency in French. Interested in learning more? Join us for an information session

ON
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Can't make the meeting? Visit us at www.dal.ca/dijon
Questions? Please contact njwood@dal.ca

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Ron Ulrich, Artistic Director



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Written & Directed by shahin sayadi

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