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Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE



**Education
is a
way**

SPEAK OUT

**of
poverty
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Cover: SEM



WEEKLY DISPATCH

This week we're highlighting some current and upcoming projects and events run by DSU societies. This is by no means a comprehensive list. Check out my.dsu.ca for more society news.

For the Health of It

For the Health of It is a skit competition run every year between faculties and schools in the field of health care. The amount of effort and skill that goes into the productions is insane and the results are spectacular. This year, the event was held on November 24th and the Occupational Therapists won the night. Thousands of dollars were raised for the Nova Scotia Down Syndrome Society.

Women's Centre Films

As a part of the 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women, a great event in its own right, the Dalhousie Women's Centre will be screening the film *After the Montreal Massacre* on December 5th as part of its ongoing FemFilmFest. Free lunchtime film screenings have been held every week since October 31st, and have covered subjects as diverse as witch trials, war crimes, and global economics.

November/Frovenber

The engineers of the Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society have dedicated the last month to growing hair. The men are competing for best moustache, and the women are competing for best fro. The best of each will be decided on the evening of November 30th at the T-Room. Sponsorship dollars for this hairy marathon are going to cancer research.

Spread the Net

A group of concerned DSU councillors and society executives is dedicated to bringing Rick Mercer to Dal. They are participating in the Spread the Net Campus Challenge to raise money for anti-malarial bednets. The Dalhousie team currently holds the number three spot in Canada for money raised and the group has more events planned, including a Mario Kart Tournament.

DalOUT presents Gavin Crawford

On November 29th, Actor & comedian Gavin Crawford of CBC's *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* will share his insights about being queer in the entertainment industry. This is the latest lecture in the DSU Speaker Series, in which the DSU has partnered with societies to bring accomplished and entertaining speakers to Dal.

DAGS Travel Grants

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students has created a new program of conference travel grants to help Dalhousie grad students advance their own educations and more easily share their research with their colleagues around the world. The program will offer ten \$100 grants this year on a first-come, first-served basis. See www.dags.ca for more information.

One of the major objectives of the DSU is to support student initiatives like those above. For more information about DSU funding and support for societies and students, visit www.dsu.ca.

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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.

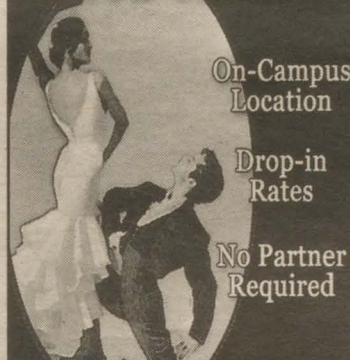
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It's all about who you exploit

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

University degrees are becoming less valuable but more expensive. Everybody has a bachelor's degree and you need something else to get ahead.

You are a student and you need money.

These are three reasons why students are always preoccupied with looking for a good job and a career path without a dead end. But just as it's hard to read while you're driving, it's hard to seriously pursue your studies while you're always checking to make sure what you're doing will be worth it financially.

If you're lucky enough not to let your degree's job prospects bother you, every relative, friend and co-worker will, asking what you'll do after graduation.

And the need to justify what you're studying in dollar figures is contributing to a concept that's infecting student society: networking.

Networking – the idea that who you know is more important than what you know – should be a concern among students at university and those going into the workforce.

The University of Toronto's career centre defines networking as "the art of developing relationships with the ultimate goal of creating visibility and keeping on top of the latest opportunities." In other words, the art of using people.

Since undergraduate students are getting less and less secure about the value of their degrees, more and more companies are able to sucker university grads into crappy, low-paying jobs that have "networking opportunities."

The ability to network supposedly opens up a wide variety of careers so university students can work in their field of study – for a price.

A business student can get a one-year internship at an office supply company to get to know people in the industry. But the company's other option would be simply to hire

them without stringing them along with hopes of connections.

The importance companies and individuals put on networking also takes away from genuine human compassion. People can't have real relationships when they're always on the lookout to see how others can help them get a job or how they can use someone on their résumés.

Just as journalists run the risk as treating people like quote machines and doctors have to ensure they don't see patients only as a bunch of textbook illnesses rather than as people with concerns and emotions, students have to watch out they don't buy into the idea of networking. It will lead them to treat their professors only as potential references and fellow students as either alarm bells for possible job or as competition.

Networking also moves the emphasis away from bettering yourself as an individual to simply getting better connections. People might refrain from furthering their education since they're spending time trying to

get to know people who may or not help them.

As objectionable as networking sounds, some say it's a deep-rooted part of our culture. The social networking page MySpace.com lets you list an official looking number of friends/networks and display them, most to least important.

Even though the idea of networking has become tremendously popular in business, a company's capability to exploit people through promises of networking, either by paying them less or by manipulating them since they have desired connections, is tremendous.

Their easy argument to prove networking is a reality is most people got their first job through a friend or family member. But this assumes that their family or friends were hoping to get something out of it, when they probably were genuinely trying to help out. If people only help others because of the potential for personal gain, we'll be living in a superficial and desperate society.



COVER

Ten thousand microphones later, this week's cover is finally done. Special shout-outs to Jamie and Julie for bearing through the ordeal of pleasing a certain Mr. John Walter Packman. Hey John, do you think your New Year's resolution can be to get off my ass? Because that would be awesome.
-Susan Maroun

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Students speak out in province's financial aid 'sanity check'

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Helen Langille is one of a dwindling number of university students who can expect to get a well-paying job when she graduates from Dalhousie in a couple of years.

But a decent salary won't be enough to cover her student loan debt. The third-year environmental engineering student already owes nearly \$60,000.

She choked back tears in a roomful of people as she described how she's put her life on hold for the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program. It will be at least nine years after graduation before she can buy a house and live without the weight of interest payments.

"The major issue for me is the amount of debt I will amass," she said.

Langille was one of roughly 45 students and community members who shared their personal borrowing experiences at the Dal Student Union Building on Nov. 27 as part of the provincial government's student financial aid review.

The forum was the fourth of eight public discussions the department of education is holding at schools across Nova Scotia to get student input on provincial loans so it can change the program before next year's budget comes into effect.

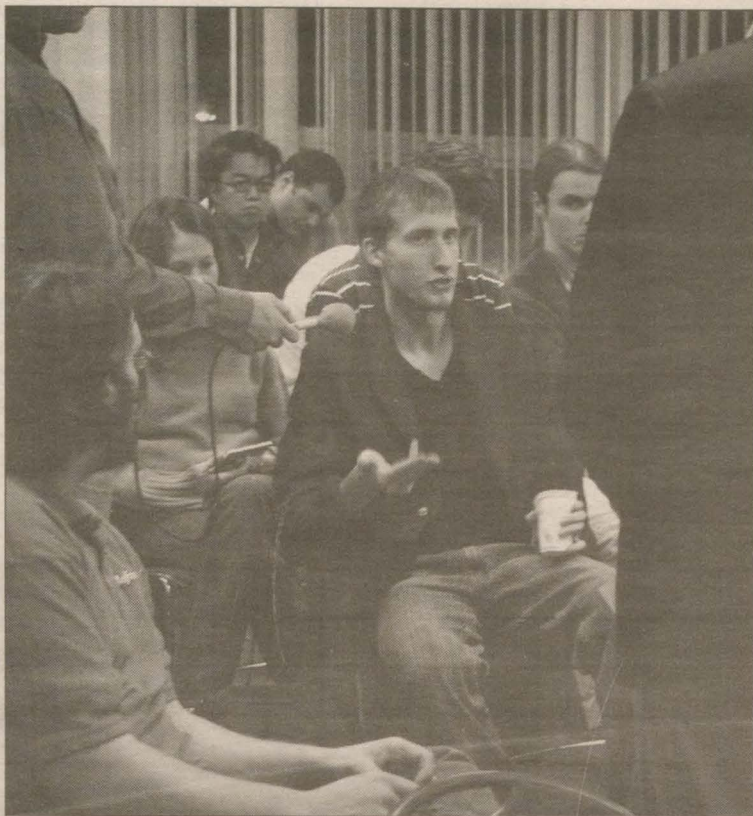
The students spoke plainly about their financial troubles, including the stress of balancing full-time jobs with courses and their guilt over having to ask their parents for tuition money when they simply didn't have the funds.

Many students who outlined their impressions of the student loan system — all of them negative — represented countless others who couldn't attend the forum.

A group of engineering students asked Langille to voice concerns on their behalf.

"When I came here, I knew it was just going to be a bunch of people getting angry at the government, which just made me not want to come," she said.

But she added it's beneficial for the government to be able to hear firsthand accounts from a wide variety of students. She said she would have liked to see more out-of-province students there to share positive experiences with their provincial loans.



Roughly 45 students shared their provincial student loan experiences on Nov. 27 as part of Nova Scotia's financial aid review.

Dal Student Union President Mike Tipping said students made the discussion a success by being so honest with their personal struggles for adequate funding.

Student aid is not a "charity hand-out," he said, and the government needs to understand that students who live in poverty because provincial funding is inaccessible cannot contribute to the economic growth of the province.

"It's (about) the survival of Nova Scotian society," he said. "Knowledge is our best commodity."

Students' main suggestions included improving communication between the federal and provincial loan bureaus, making the parental contributions factor of the loan application more flexible for low-income families and creating a system of needs-based grants for distribution in the province.

But students and their families aren't the only ones calling for a better financial aid system.

Elizabeth Yeo, registrar at the University of King's College, said the provincial government needs to partner with university financial aid offices so school staff can offer stu-

dent bursaries more effectively.

Under the current system, institutions are not aware of how much government funding students are already getting when they distribute financial awards. Students could have their loans reduced or revoked if they receive too many scholarships.

"We may inadvertently make a student ineligible for grants," said Yeo, adding the complicated process doesn't help students or university officials.

She said the student assistance program and the school could have an effective partnership if they communicated more clearly and worked on the same timeline.

Kevin Chapman has been the director of the province's student assistance program for four years. After the discussion, he said he listened to each student's story and that the department will consider all the input when it re-structures its financial aid budget.

"It's hard to remember that there's people at the end of [the loan process]," he said. "It's been a sanity check for us to reinforce that notion."



Member of Parliament Alexa McDonough said students need to learn how to work responsibly within corporations before they graduate.

Halifax universities committed to teaching students corporate responsibility

CHLOE WESTLAKE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Universities need to offer more classes that will teach students about the social implications of their future corporate careers, a recent panel discussion found.

Roughly 75 people, most of them Dalhousie students, gathered in the Kenneth C. Rowe building's Potter Auditorium on Nov. 26 to discuss corporate social responsibility within Canadian companies.

The panel focused on what it sees as irresponsible behaviour of Canadian mining companies in countries such as Honduras, Guatemala and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Alexa McDonough, member of Parliament and former leader of the federal New Democratic Party, moderated the discussion. In September, she went to Honduras, a small country in Central America, to see firsthand what Canadian mining companies such as Goldcorp were doing there.

Students have individual roles in making companies act responsibly, McDonough emphasized, adding it's important for students to be involved because most will join the workforce after graduation.

"The real reason why young people should be interested, and I'm thrilled they are, is because they are going to be involved all over the world," she said after the event.

"Some progress has been made, but then there's a long way to go."

The panel consisted of Dr. David Wheeler, dean of the faculty of management at Dal; Angela Day, speaking on behalf of the Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network; Samina Hashmi, director of chapter development for Engineers Without Borders; and Mary Durran, advocacy and research program officer with Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

Durran, who accompanied McDonough on her trip to Honduras, spoke of the pressure mining com-

panies put on communities.

She told the audience there is no consultation before companies arrive in mining communities, at which point families in those communities are forcibly removed.

Once the companies are there, she said, the problems continue. In one area of Honduras, a mining corporation dried up the community's entire water supply. In other areas, cyanide and arsenic leaked from the mining operations into the water.

Durran said behaviour of Canadian companies is undoing Canadian foreign policy funded by taxpayers.

The Canadian International Development Agency, for example, works to protect the environment, while Canadian mining companies are creating huge amounts of pollution.

Wheeler said it's not just about non-government organizations beating up on corporations — Canadians need to create conditions where it will make sense for companies to change their harmful practices.

"We need to have a theory of change," he said.

Wheeler said both Dal and St. Mary's University are committed to embracing corporate social responsibility programs in their core classes.

Fifth-year mining engineering student Sibi Jeyarajan, who attended the discussion, said throughout his years of study, he hasn't been taught a lot about corporate social responsibility.

"The way engineering is taught is so technically based," he said. "There's no study on how mining affects people."

In light of current problems regarding the lack of responsibility within some mining companies, Jeyarajan said students need classes to learn about how their future work within corporations will affect others.

"You base a lot of what you do [in the workforce] on whatever is learned in school."



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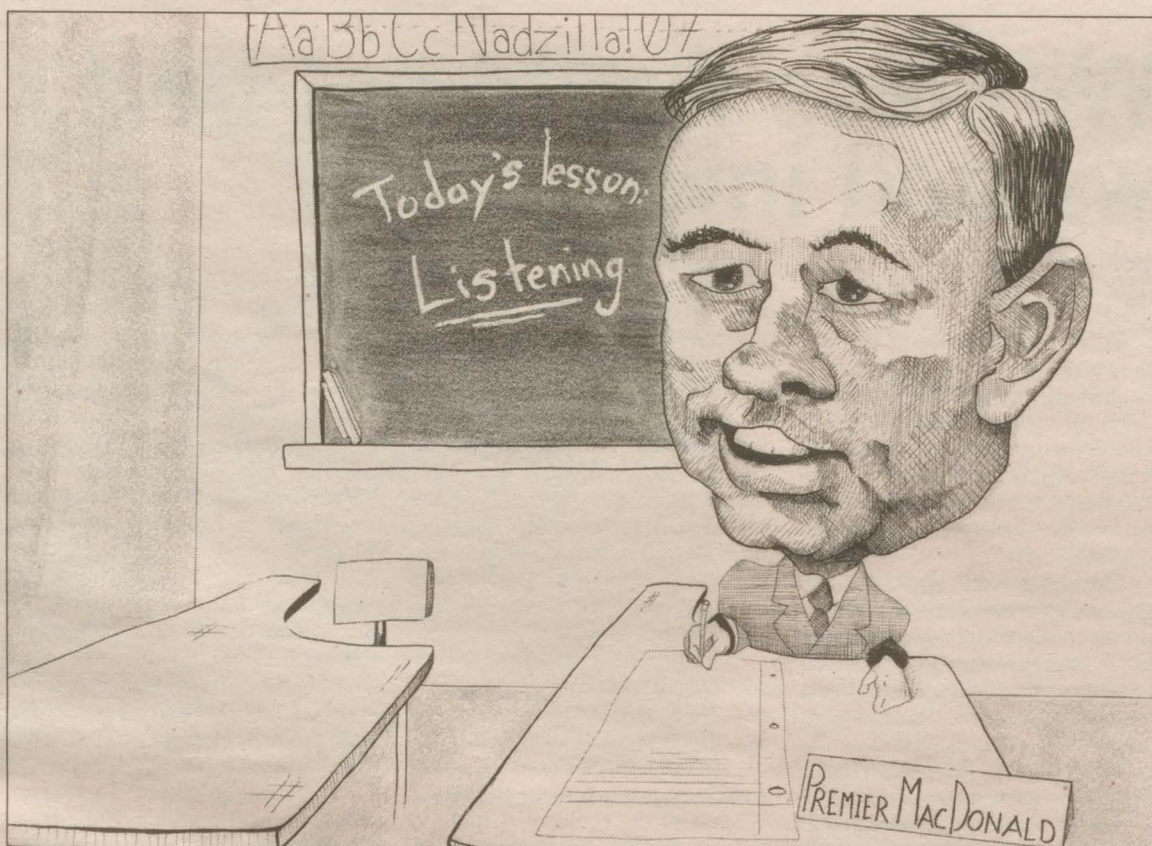
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affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Student assistance needs massive overhaul

When the Nova Scotia government followed up on its Throne Speech promise to review the province's student assistance program, it probably didn't realize what it was getting into.

The department of education brought the microphone to both students and their families on the evening of Nov. 27 in room 307 of the SUB and received an earful of questions and complaints.

One student vilified how slowly and inefficiently the program notifies its users about the state of their loans. One woman was puzzled at how little the department does to inform the Aboriginal and the indigenous black populations about its aid programs in the province. Another student could express nothing but guilt over having to ask his parents to take on the financial burden of his studies.

The angry noise coming from the public means something must be done. The student loan review is the first step; now here's how the education department should change its lending policies.

First, it is incomprehensible that every program offered through student assistance - from loan to debt-relief programs - isn't readily available to current and potential students in an age where everything is online. Almost every issue raised at the discussion was met with the surprised reactions of those who didn't know many of those services are available.

Increasing the visibility of student assistance programs could make post-secondary education an option for those who otherwise would not be able to afford the cost of university.

Many people complained during the review that they can't get student assistance early enough in their university careers and are left hanging with massive debts when they grad-

uate. Making sure high school students know a lack of money won't get in the way of good grades is imperative in one of Canada's have-not provinces.

The program's archaic method of informing students about the status of their loans - snail mailed letters, often received too late - needs to be updated to a state-of-the-art system which could use the accessibility and efficiency of the internet.

Students at Dal already use the Blackboard Learning System to stay up-to-date with deadlines on schoolwork. Many also use online banking to monitor their finances wherever a computer is available. There is no reason why an online system, which would make it easier for students to monitor the progress of their loans and keep track of payment deadlines, shouldn't be part of the provincial lending process.

The province needs to learn from the way banks lend money - make borrowing personal. A student assistance program should take into account a host of factors that limit a student's capacity to pay back their loans. As Denise Allen, a single mother trying to afford her daughter's education, commented during the discussion, students should be able to sit down and discuss with the department what they can and cannot afford. Students should be able to lay their financial situations on the table and receive honest, professional accounts of how much money they need to pay for their studies. That way both the program and its users can openly work together.

Then there is the question of how the government should dish out the money. The province should offer student assistance to those who have the grades but who don't have the cash. In the current system, students who need financial aid the most end up paying more for their education than those who have

ample funds because of the interest they acquire on loan payments. Government needs-based grants are the fairest way to help students.

Without distributing needs-based grants, non-repayable funds for those who need them most, the provincial government's student loan program simply profits from poor, cash-strapped students and their families who are asking for financial help.

Students shouldn't have to beg for money they'll later spend years paying back - if they can pay off their overwhelming debt at all.

Education should be a way out of poverty. It is not simply a fraction of human life as the department of education is only a fraction of the government. For many, education is a matter of survival.

While education can be a way out of poverty, it shouldn't be understood as a way out of Nova Scotia. The province doesn't do itself a favour when debt-ridden students need to leave the province fast in order to find well-paying jobs. To keep Nova Scotia growing, the department of education must ensure that its outdated post-secondary strategy doesn't imprison future workers in the red.

The province needs to bring the programs to the people who need them in a way they can use. Dal students' discussion, as a portion of the student assistance program review, made it clear that students who need financial aid to get ahead are hungry for it. But they often find themselves stuck in an inefficient bureaucratic maze without any clear signposts or helping hands.

The government needs to stop treating student loans as if they are charitable handouts. If its review is going to succeed, it now needs to clearly and honestly make student aid programs readily available to Nova Scotians.

Letter to the Editor

There is a blatant display of racism in the Saint Mary's University Art Gallery happening right now. It is an effigy of Santa Claus painted completely black with large, red lips.

This is not an expression of the beauty of being black. It is a throwback to post-slavery racism, where black people were caricatured by their physiological features.

Robin Metcalfe, the gallery's curator, says that artist Léopold Foulem used the ceramic work as a medium to spark discussion on the ugliness of racism and to expose whatever traces of racism each of us has in the darkest corners of our hearts.

This may be the case, but if he is not racist then he must be dim-witted. I can't understand how stepping on another person's toes is a way of drawing discussion.

I stood in front of the image and asked, "Why us?" The answer is simple: it is because we are black that this is allowed to occur.

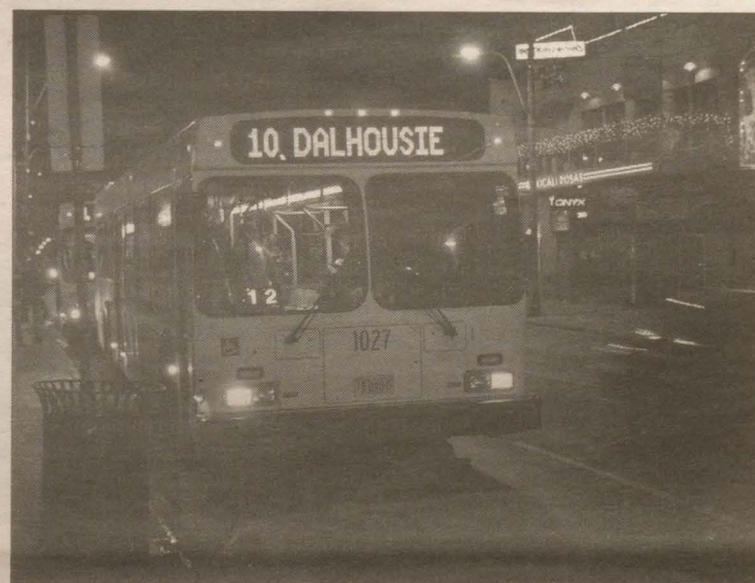
I am aware of the way other social groups are stereotyped in society, but I doubt Foulem would depict Jews, women, Muslims or gays in this way.

I feel you can get away with insulting Blacks in a way you can't get around with other minorities. Why wasn't an Arab Santa or an Asian Santa used to depict the ugliness of racism?

I was told the image will not be removed. This is a slap in the face to those who have fought long and hard in the struggle for freedom and equality, the same equality that this artist takes for granted and manipulates to his own ends.

It may seem that the battle is lost, but it is indeed only one battle in a greater conflict for respect and recognition among black people worldwide. We must do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to stand up to this sort of ignorance.

- Kendal A.O. Davis



Time for GoTime to go

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Sorry I'm late. I missed my bus. Or at least I think I did.

I know when I called GoTime it said my bus was going to be at the stop in 10 minutes. But when I got there four minutes early, I was watching my bus pull away.

I shouldn't be surprised though. It seems everyone I talk to agrees that Halifax Metro Transit sucks ass.

And I'm not the only one who is constantly set back by Metro Transit's incompetence. I know I'm not because there is usually someone else running after the bus.

I live about a block and a half from a bus stop but I have to leave a good 10 minutes before my bus is supposed to get there to make sure I catch it.

At least once a week when I call GoTime to see when my bus is coming, I get the ever infuriating "We are sorry, but GoTime is temporarily out of order".

Getting places on time requires

a punctual public transit system. I won't even mention the safety issues involved in taking my bike out in this city that's apparently filled with Nascar drivers.

I understand that traffic is a seriously problem in Halifax, so of course buses aren't always going to be on time. But I know for a fact that it is possible to relay accurate information about their arrival and departure times.

I have checked some buses that were all equipped with something that looks like a GPS system, which means the city could very easily be monitoring buses.

If buses don't already have this kind of device, then they should. Is too much to ask that Halifax be on par with the public transit systems of other cities?

And shouldn't that be a big concern for a city trying to create a greener image for itself?

I don't even bother checking what bus I am about to get on anymore, as long as it is moving somewhat in my direction.

"Anatomy is Destiny" - Freud

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Tim Hortons: an integral part of Canada's Afghan mission.

One Tim soldier rides away

DOUG ROOP
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I recently put my studies at Dal on hold for a promising job at Tim Hortons. That's right, I'd rather butter bagels than open another textbook.

On the home front, my Mom is scared about my future and my safety, but my Dad is pleased I'll be paying off my student loans. Meanwhile, my sister's only concern is whether or not I'll be carrying a gun on the job.

I should mention that I won't be serving coffee to your everyday Canadians or sleepy students in the SUB. I'll be serving coffee at the Kandahar Airforce Base (KAF) in Afghanistan. I am going to be a Tim Soldier.

I've been asked a lot of questions since I applied for the job. People often ask if I'm excited to go and my answer isn't really clear to me yet. My problem is there is nothing in my 24-year life with which to compare this opportunity. I have traveled before, but never to a war-torn country. How do you get excited about that?

A lot of people also ask me if I'm scared. I'll be living and working in a war-zone without a gun, but the answer is no. I take comfort knowing I'll be surrounded by the roughly 10,000 soldiers at KAF and living behind a heavily defended perimeter, which I won't be allowed to leave.

Timing is another factor. I will be in Kandahar from January to June. This is considered part of the war's 'off season.' A lot of weapons come through the mountain passes on the border with Pakistan, but these passes are snowed in during the winter.

As a result, many of the Taliban fighters go home. This means I'm less likely to fall victim to rocket attacks, the main threat to KAF's security.

These details are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what I learned during a recent two-week training camp at Canadian Forces Base Kingston.

Along with 107 other job candidates, I underwent the same briefing Canadian Forces personal receive before they're deployed to Afghani-

stan. Briefings ranged from various acronyms to info about UAB (unaccompanied baggage), but two sessions that stood out were about IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and Afghan culture.

IEDs are the leading killer of Canadian and other foreign troops. Behind every tragic headline about a fatal IED attack, I found little to explain how IED attacks are actually carried out. But the briefing I received in Kingston explained how they work in chilling detail.

The briefing told me Taliban fighters pay an unwitting Afghan civilian as little as \$20 US for him to drive up to a Canadian checkpoint or convoy. Just in case the hired man is a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), Canadian troops will open fire on him. The Taliban film the troops' reaction. I was told they use the information to plan future attacks.

I also discovered more about the role of women in Afghan culture during a briefing given by a female presenter from Afghanistan. Practices I'd attributed to Islam are actually thousand-year old cultural traditions that predate Islam in the region.

One practice is the way women are forced to walk behind men. I learned from the briefing this has nothing to do with men being more important than women, rather, it's so any danger met by the men first.

Another example is the wearing of veils. When you live in a desert, it's only natural to protect yourself from the sun, which according to the briefing was the original purpose behind the veil.

I wouldn't have learned any of this if I hadn't gone to CFB Kingston. The opportunity to learn more is what excites me most about my upcoming trip.

I am going to see what KAF is really like and about everything that doesn't make the front page in Canada, whether it's about Afghan culture or IEDs.

And I'm making an early New Year's resolution: to bring my experiences to the readers of The Gazette in 2008.

Wireless would not be a wasted investment

RAMI NASSER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There are two things at Dalhousie that piss me off on a regular basis: the long line at Tim Hortons and Dalhousie's wireless internet. I've almost figured out how to beat the line in the morning and between classes at Timmy's, but the wireless internet still manages to drive me up the wall everyday.

I always get low signal strength. It disconnects every minute. It takes forever to download a presentation. And I have to enter my password using special software every time I connect. Having wireless internet at Dalhousie is a tease; you know it exists but you can't use it peacefully for longer than a few minutes.

When I started my undergrad at Dal in 2000, almost every instructor printed out everything from the syllabus to assignments. By the time I graduated, I had at least four dead trees on my conscience.

But things have changed. Thanks to the Blackboard Learning System, a lot of instructors now have a website and hardly have to print anything.

Having stable and fast wireless internet at Dal is more important than ever. We need it to download presentations and assignments. We need it to submit assignments and papers. We need it to check emails.

Wireless internet works fine as long as you have only a few people connected to it. It works well in the mornings or late in the evenings, but it's useless to connect any other time. During classes, everyone wants to download the class presentation and during breaks, everyone wants to check their email.

The most frustrating time is when you want to submit an assignment to BLS. Nothing kills the wireless internet like having half your class trying to submit their assignment at the same time just before the deadline.

Part of the problem is that Dal fails to manage expectations. I was under the impression that the newly renovated Rowe building, where I pretty much live, has wireless internet in every class room on all five floors. But after looking into it, it turns out that only three classes in the whole building have wireless internet.

Another issue is the VPN software. If it's not enough that the internet disconnects every few minutes, you also have to enter your password every time you connect. It is beyond me why the program can't remember your password.

Every second student now has a laptop. Instead of investing thousands of dollars on improving and expanding the computer labs, why didn't we spend more of that money to improve the wireless internet infrastructure at Dalhousie.

Having worked as a communication engineer, I know that wireless internet is one of the easier infrastructures to implement. It's far easier than implementing electricity, landlines and cable.

Dalhousie should get working on this as soon as possible. There are a lot of things that Dal can improve, but wireless internet is something that students struggle with everyday.

As more students use laptops and more instructors depend on BLS, the load on the current wireless internet infrastructure is only going to get heavier and more frustrating.

The Scientific Skeptic

Waking nuclear dragons



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Over the next few years, the U.S. will be replacing its nuclear stockpile. The United States National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has already selected a bomb design for its controversial Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program last March.

The last U.S. test of a nuclear weapon was over 15 years ago, and both England and the former Soviet Union's last tests were earlier than that. Countries like India, Pakistan and China have continued testing since then, but nowhere near the frequency of American and Soviet tests during the seventies and eighties. The U.S. also stopped producing new nuclear weapons in 1991.

The U.S. still has over 5000 active nuclear weapons. A study done by the JASON Defence Advisory Group, an independent group of scientists, found plutonium in nuclear weapons stays potent for 100 years. This means the U.S. can remain a nuclear power for 60 to 70 years without building new weapons.

There is no need for replacement warheads and the RRW is a bad idea. The only time nuclear weapons were detonated in warfare was in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first, 'Little Boy', had a yield of 13-16 kilotons, and 'Fat Man' had a yield of 21 kilotons. Together, they killed 180 000 people.

The proposed RRWs could be anywhere between 100 kilotons to 1000 kilotons. A nuclear weapon of that size, detonated in the air over a dense population such as New York City, could kill around 4 million people in one day. Hopefully, we will never use nuclear weapons again.



It already takes around \$6.5 billion per year to take care of the U.S.'s current nukes. That's on top of the \$5.8 trillion total that has already been spent on nuclear weapons.

The U.S. are still a close second in nuclear power behind Russia. Sure, North Korea may have admitted to doing a nuclear test, but their bomb was less than 1 kiloton - so small in comparison to the arsenal of the U.S. or Russia that they wouldn't dare attack.

The RRW also has a high price tag. It would cost \$21 billion to replace the current warheads, according to George Allen, a director at the U.S.'s National Nuclear Security Administration.

It already takes around \$6.5 billion per year to take care of the U.S.'s current nukes. That's on top of the \$5.8 trillion total that has already been spent on nuclear weapons. That's a lot of money to spend on weapons that the U.S. has vowed never to use.

To make matters worse, the \$21 billion RRWs might not even work. It's a conundrum for the NNSA: how do you make sure a new weapon works if you're not allowed to test it?

Individual parts have been tested, but the new warheads as a whole haven't been. Researchers for the lab that designed the RRW have attempted to guarantee that their bomb will work through simulations run on their supercomputers, but these simulations are no match for reality.

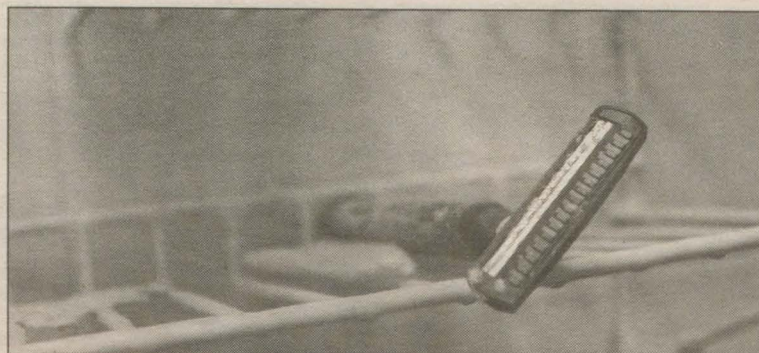
The Federation of American Scientists, a group established in 1945 by scientists working on the Manhattan Project, criticized the RRW project. In their view, there is no benefit to producing the RRW. They believe that the Bush administration is using the RRW as an excuse to expand the U.S.'s arsenal and maintain it forever.

No Western country, especially in a time of peace, should be actively trying to expand its nuclear power. By funding the RRW project, the U.S. isn't setting a good example if it expects other countries to stay away from nukes. Nuclear weapons are sleeping dragons - best kept asleep and only disturbed as a last resort.

Come to the next Gazette
contributor meeting:

Monday, January 7th @ 5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB



Being a rude guest

RACHEL SUNTER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I overheard a guy-friend of mine discussing a particular sexual encounter with a girl who didn't appear to shave 'down there.'

After elaborating upon the hairiness of her nether regions, he said, as if addressing the universal sex partner, "Maintain yourself!"

What a word, I thought. Maintain.

I couldn't quite put my finger on what seemed so uncouth about his statement. So after mulling it over for two months, I finally consulted my Microsoft dictionary. These are the definitions it came up with and what they mean for the world of vaginas.

Maintain (verb [trans.])

1. To make something continue > Upon becoming hairy, a vagina will cease to exist.

2. To keep something in working order > Hairy vaginas don't work.

3. To provide somebody with financial support > You should support the welfare of your vagina by removing its hair.

4. To enable life to continue > If you don't shave your pussy, you will die.

5. To declare something to be true > A vagina's hair is intrinsic to the reality of the vagina.

6. To defend something against criticism > A hairless vagina is flawless.

7. To keep going > A hairy vagina will eventually wither and die.

8. To defend place > A hairy vagina is transient; it may move from place to place, or disappear altogether.

9. To update website or software > Shaving your vagina keeps it up-

to-date and fortified from today's current viruses.

How enlightening.

Calling pubic hair removal 'maintenance' is a perfect example of how people confuse today's notions of what it means to be 'natural,' 'healthy' and 'fashionable.'

'Maintenance' sounds so clean and comfortable. 'Maintenance' doesn't have a place for razor-burns. It doesn't evoke visions of ingrown hairs, sticky wax or plucking.

Unlike skinny jeans and converse sneakers, keeping up to date with this trend demands a whole new level of commitment.

Never mind keeping your legs and underarms smooth. At least these parts are commonly exposed.

Vaginas are private.

To take our womanhood and not only demand, but expect that it be perpetually conformed to an unnatural state - one that can require considerable pains to achieve - is ludicrous.

Guys wouldn't walk into a girl's room, gape at the Brad Pitt and *Sex in the City* posters, the makeup and the hair clips on the floor, and cry out, "Maintain this bedroom!"

And if they did, any girl would laugh at the notion of changing her bedroom to suit someone else's tastes. I mean, it's her bedroom.

Anyone else is just a visitor.

But when she invites others to explore her most private chamber, they have the gall to expect it to be custom-tuned to suit their desires.

If you don't like your partner's bush, bring out the shiny sheers of communication and tell her.

Spicing up the holidays

AMY DEMPSEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

With the holidays fast approaching, most of us are looking forward to finishing exams and going home for a few weeks of much-needed rest, relaxation and fun.

Unfortunately, moving back into your parents' place and dealing with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season can be a little overwhelming. If you find yourself stressed, bored or annoyed during your vacation, here are some ways to spice up the festivities:

The holiday season's endless series of family gatherings can quickly become yawn-worthy, so liven them up with some mind-altering goodies. Spiking the punch is old news.

Instead, make a batch of 'special' Christmas cookies and watch your family event morph into a re-run of *The Osbournes*. Uncle Roger's story about the 15-pound salmon he caught back in '82 will never be so detailed or funny again.

If you're still bored when the cookie effects wear off, do a few tequila shots and make out with your snooty cousin Tiffany's hot new boyfriend. When she has a hissy fit, point innocently at the mistletoe conveniently hanging above your heads and continue groping her man in front of the entire family.

Make a few changes to your Mum's annual holiday newsletter. Along with the family trip to Disney World, the new Honda Accord and your Dad's promotion, add a few other fond memories from 2007. Your little sister's first period, brother's short stint in juvenile prison and Mum's mid-life crisis breast implants will make for newsworthy events.

Get a group of friends together in your front yard and create a tableau of snow people engaging in sexual activity. Bust out some old issues of *Cosmo* for inspiration and make as many humping snow couples as you can. Particularly artistic forms are Joystick Joyride and *The Erotic Accordion*.



Making snow people is fun for the whole family and a great way to fend off holiday boredom.

If the group is still in the mood for some holiday fun, continue with the sex theme by doing some erotic caroling. Make 'Santa Baby' your sexy solo and use a streetlamp to perform a Madonna-like pole dancing routine for your neighbours. If you're really into the holiday spirit, you might even want to hand out candy-cane condoms and cinnamon-flavored lube to those whose homes you serenade.

The pressure to look fantastic over the holidays can be extreme, if only to impress people you don't see very often, like your ex-girlfriend or that bitch you hated in high school. If you're feeling less than confident about your appearance, try this: host an ugly sweater party, inviting everyone you know and instructing

them to dress their worst for the occasion. Meanwhile, toss your own ugly sweater and get scantily clad in your holiday best. Your friends will all look like crap, and you'll be the hottest person in the room.

Dress up in a Santa Claus costume and head on over to your local shopping centre, preferably on a busy Saturday afternoon. Shove your way through the line-up of small children, stomp right up to the big red chair and pick a fight with the mall Santa, accusing him of being a phony.

Be sure to shout lots of obscenities, kicking and screaming as you are dragged away by security. Extra points if you can get the guards to club you, fully costumed, in front of the kiddies.

Bringing out the benefits in autism

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

The right way to deal with autism is a balancing act. On the one hand, we need to stop looking at autism as a crippling, imprisoning illness that cuts off its sufferers from the world and instead rejoice in what autistic people can bring to society. On the other hand, the disability needs to receive the treatment it deserves under the Canada Health Act.

Autism is a unique illness that breaks the mold of medical treatment. The cause of autism is still unknown, but put simply it is a developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and interacts with other people.

However, the disorder does not diminish what an autistic person can experience if he or she is treated properly. It takes a lot of work and money to bring the best treatment method to those who need it.

Robab Haghpanh is a single mother who studies at Dalhousie and whose son suffers from autism. But 'suffer' isn't the right word.

There are many websites where adults with autism speak of it as a culture and despise its description as an illness. They see autism as simply a different take on life and Haghpanh says it is vital to be creative in finding new ways to help her child cope.

"These children need to be treat-



In 2004 Robab Haghpanh successfully lobbied for autism coverage in Nova Scotia.

ed with a lot of love," says Haghpanh, "for improving their development, the interest area of the child."

She says everything from piano, yoga, drawing and ballet has helped her son come out of his shell and show his capabilities. This approach proves that no matter how

unique autism is, it doesn't have to be a condition that stifles someone's experiences.

Haghpanh says the culture of autism is very different and that she believes it should be accepted and respected like other differences. But the only way to bring out the best in

autism is to assure that we use the most advanced medical knowledge in treating it.

Research has shown that expensive behavioural therapy can help autistic people lose or diminish their symptoms. However, the treatment has a hefty price tag - around \$80 per hour for speech and \$150 per hour for behavioural therapy.

Nine provinces offer coverage up to the age of six. Nova Scotia began offering the coverage in 2004, due in part to Haghpanh's lobbying efforts during a provincial election.

According to provincial MLA Dina Whelan, "the fact that the government did introduce funding has something to do with her efforts, no question. And I think that's really commendable."

Haghpanh reached out because her son could not. Her efforts highlight the most important aspect of autism coverage - those who have autism learn not to suffer from it, but become acquainted with its advantages. This also goes for the families who suffer from its heavy load.

"The struggles can be too much. It's like a chronic disease," Haghpanh says. "But sometimes it feels like even more that that because you feel this is a developing child, a growing child. You ask whether this child will grow up having a beautiful future for his parents, if they will ever be able to live independently."

The financial and emotional burden put on families can often be overwhelming. Especially if families have to travel across the country to get the kind of treatment they need.

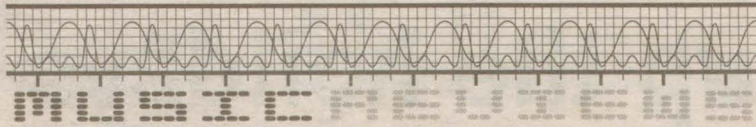
Currently, only Alberta covers autism treatment under health care until the age of 18. While accessibility and universality are key components of the Canada Health Act, this doesn't mean that you can get the same coverage everywhere in the country.

During the Auton case in British Columbia, families with autistic children sued the provincial government for not providing more funding.

The court ruled against them, saying the Canada Health Act confers core-funding service and that the province decides what can be a core and non-core service. In B.C., health care practitioners appointed by the province make that decision.

Better coverage is needed to turn autism from a painful experience into a beautiful one. According to the Autism Society of Canada, there has been a steep rise in the number of autism cases in Quebec, Saskatchewan, and B.C. three provinces that monitor such statistics reliably.

Haghpanh's work may have made life easier for a lot of families. We hope an increased awareness of what good coverage can do to bring equal treatment across Canada.



Folds of Policy are stuck in the middle

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Even though Folds of Policy's third album, *Paradigm City*, was funded and produced entirely by the band, you have to give it to them for sounding so manicured and polished.

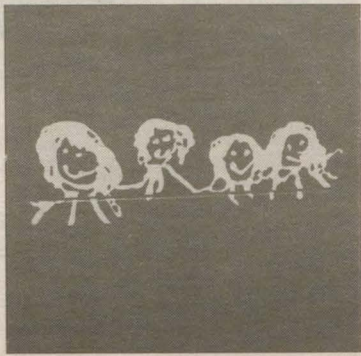
These self-proclaimed "schizo-rockers" have put together an album with an interesting and varying sound. The first song, "Great Slave Lake," starts off with a rustic guitar riff that fades into a repetitive high-beat and with mellow vocals.

The single "Bright Lights, Big Cities" is catchy but that could be because it sounds like a Supertramp song. It does come equipped with some 70s rock guitar solo's that may be its saving grace.

In general, the harder barnburners on the album aren't very moving. They just sound a little too post-grunge for an indie band that labels themselves "schizo."

"Schizo" suggest crazy and unpredictable. These songs, although they do seem to move between harder garage rock and folk country, sound too familiar.

Vocalist Jon Landry's vocals sound great when he lets them loose and raspy. "I've Been Called Away" is a beautiful duet with Jon Landry and Jenny Wright. They sing a slow folk ballad in front of an acoustic guitar and harmonica, which captures the



moment of lonely romance.

"The Bear" is one of the few harder songs on the album I really enjoyed. Again Landry's voice here seems less refined than the other tracks. And as the song says "there are forces at work that reasons can't explain", that catch my attention.

Folds of Policy is definitely a talented group of fellows making some good music, but it seems like they're holding out on this album. It's as though they are stuck between deciding if they want to be playing folk rock or grungy, hard rock.

The songs that fall closer to either genre are great, but the others are lacking and uninspiring, and unfortunately, that's what takes shape in this album.

Folds of Policy will be releasing *Paradigm City* on Dec. 1 at The Seahorse Tavern.



ANDREW CHOW / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Medium Mood led the crowd into a chaotic frenzy at The Marquee Friday Nov. 23.

Between walls of sound

The Medium Mood's *New Alarm* goes off at The Marquee

ADAM MILLER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Last Friday night at the Marquee was a big night for local alt-rockers The Medium Mood. Not only did they release their brand-spanking new album *New Alarm*, they also provided a platform for some of the most original and inspired indie music in Halifax.

The set-up of the bar was far different than the average night at the Marquee. Audio engineer, Kristan Moore, created a totally unique and low-budget acoustic arrangement with massive speakers strewn across the walls creating a kind of ghetto surround sound. This worked amazingly with the band selection for the night, with opening acts i see rowboats, Play Guitar, and Tomcat Combat. They all hail from Nova Scotia, and coincidentally all have incredibly powerful musical styles.

i see rowboats, a totally unique folk-alt-rock band, flawlessly incorporated a variety of instruments into their imaginative sound - including a violin, cello, keyboard, and glockenspiel. At one point, these drum-stick-toting madmen even attacked chairs, walls and handrails.

Their sound wasn't too impressive at first, with a slow, dark, depressive and heavy use of string instruments. But the vocal performances by front men Will Robinson

and Luke Fisher were reminiscent of bands like Radiohead or Coldplay, adding an intense emotional quality to the music.

The incredibly versatile percussion skills of drummer Darcy Fraser took the performance to a completely different level. His ferociously intricate and fast-paced rhythms showcased the different styles of the band, even though their performance was cut short by time constraints.

The next local sensation to explode on stage was Play Guitar, an unconventional trio who manage to generate an intense energy from their seemingly tame musical style.

Frontman Christian Simmons accentuates the fluctuating tempos of the rhythm section with the leering and wailing quality of his voice, producing an almost psychedelic effect when combined with his tactful guitar style.

The vibe from this band is very Nova Scotian - performing one song written about a shitty job in a telemarketing company in Halifax - and playing in cardigan sweaters with Simmons sporting a beard that would make Lincoln proud. This band is the definition of easy listening, grass-roots Halifax indie rock.

The third and final opening act was the passionate instrumental powerhouse Tomcat Combat. The wall of sound created by the guerilla audio setup and forceful indie rock

sound was totally overwhelming.

Like the other bands, the powerful percussion section is what drove the music, but the overpowering, nonstop barrage of heavy instrumental jams attacking the senses gave the effect of being underwater.

Russell Simco, a rambunctious first-year science student, summed up the erratic and unpredictable music: "It sounded like the soundtrack to a date rape."

After a lot of anticipation from the crowd and taking forever to set up, The Medium Mood took to the stage with their violent and unrefined garage-rock. Abrasive lyrics complimented a tight instrumental backdrop that blasted through the speakers.

They were the only band that seemed hindered by the surround sound experience. Piercing and unrefined vocal abilities overshadowed their hard rock, like they were trying to condense punk-rock lyrics into a more accessible and popular format.

When they focused less on the vocal assault, the cohesive style and musical ability of the band came through.

With the help of eerie synthesizer sounds with intense guitar-work, The Medium Mood led the crowd into a chaotic frenzy. They played most of the songs off their new album *New Alarm*, which is definitely worth checking out.

Bag hag

KATIE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

At long last, the "it" bag, the biggest pimple on the face of fashion, is beginning to shrink. After years of relentless recurrence, the popularity and production of the "it" bag is on the decline. And I couldn't be happier.

The "it" bag is that one incredibly expensive and unattainable designer tote that for at least a week or two, every celebrity and filthy rich 'trendsetter' feels is necessary to own. It exploded in the 1990s and was on a steady increase right up until this year.

The bizarre obsession peaked last March with the release of the infamous \$45,000 Louis Vuitton "Tribute" patchwork bag - the most expensive, and probably ugliest, bag ever sold.

The bag is nothing but a hideous reminder of every horrible bag and its subsequent knockoffs that Louis Vuitton has unleashed on the world over the years, not to mention, probably the biggest mistake of designer Marc Jacobs' career.

Louis Vuitton only made two-dozen of the "Tribute" bags, which instantly sold out. But the public criticism of the bag forced the fashion world to sit back and see the Frankenstein's monster that its obsession had created. It's no wonder that the presence of the "it" bag began to decrease from there on out.

Eric Wilson of *The New York Times* writes that, "in some circles, status bags have already become a punch line" and really, it's been a long time coming. The "it" bag represents that insatiable need to validate ourselves with what others can't afford, producing a sea of tasteless knockoffs in its wake.

Now naturally, there's another side of this hideously expensive coin that shouldn't be forgotten in the "it" bag aftermath: the bag itself.

The first "it" bags on the market



Expensive "it" bags are a tribute to bad taste.

gained their legendary status because they were truly gorgeous and versatile bags. It had nothing to do with marketing, celebrity endorsement or snob appeal. These bags were simply so beautiful that women stopped caring that they were holding the same bag as their neighbour.

A perfect example of this is the world's first real "it" bag: the legendary Birkin. Named after Jane Birkin in 1984, the Hermès weekend tote still maintains the celebrated status it enjoyed in the 80s.

Status itself now plays a key role in the bag's desirability, but initially the Birkin gained popularity for its beauty and craftsmanship. This concept is all but lost on the celebrity trendsetters of today.

With this in mind, a truly beautiful, well-structured bag is an investment worth careful consideration. No one should ever, ever be expected to spend \$45,000 on a handbag, but a good bag should be expected to last a while and is usually worth spending a bit of money on.

Above all, keep in mind that personal taste is way more important than popularity. Just because Victoria Beckham can has it, doesn't mean it's a bag worthy of your hard-earned dime.



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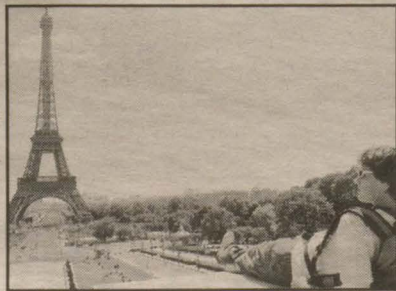


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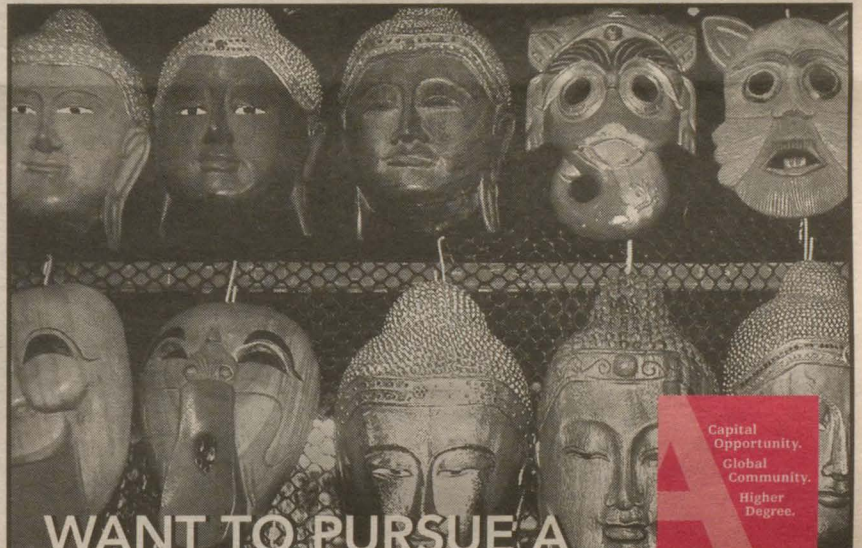
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What's your worst cramming experience?



“I don't have any bad ones. I'm one of the good students.”

Leigh-Anne Outhouse, first-year masters



“Ah, there's been way too many to count...”

Brandon Stevens, Masters in history



“Having three exams and not knowing which one to study.”

Chea Tan, fourth-year commerce



“Right now, I've got an essay, an exam and a lot of other things I don't want to think about.”

Melissa Bonnell, first-year arts



“Studying in my room, not getting anything done, and feeling like the walls are collapsing around me.”

Michael Benoit, second-year arts



“When I was in FYP at King's I had to do the oral exam and stayed up all night.”

Jennifer Eleidg, second-year communications



“This morning.”

David Berton, first-year community design



“Getting locked in the Killam the night before an exam and having to fight off brain-fucklers instead of studying.”

James Munson, ninth-year noodle drying

TOP 10

...REASONS TO BLOW OFF EXAMS

1. Sacrificing your own mark for the sake of a low class average is rewarded with eternal life and 80 virgins in paradise.
2. Your kids will be more impressed by your story of ditching exams than your key to the Wal-mart break room.
3. None of your idols would have gone to their exams.
4. Flights are cheaper if you go home early.
5. You can make mad cash working as an exam 'advisor' camped out in one of the bathroom stalls with a laptop and some vodka shooters.
6. You've got a week left and you're reading Top Tens in The Gazette. There's no way you're going to be prepared.
7. Skipping exams leaves more time to switch those boxes of Number 2 pencils for boxes of Number 1 pencils.
8. Remember “*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*”? 'Nuff said.
9. A spotless university record is like a spotless kitchen: it looks nice, but only the most psychotic people have one.
10. People have been predicting an impending apocalypse for hundreds of years. It's bound to come some time soon.

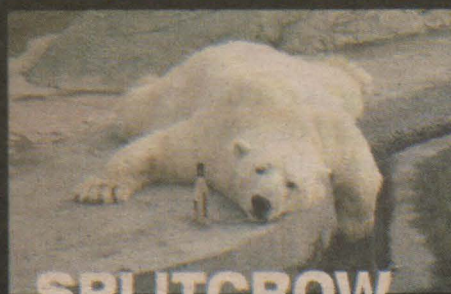
HOT OR NOT

- | | |
|---|--|
| HOT: Last day of class | NOT: First day of exams |
| HOT: Buying egg nog | NOT: Drinking egg nog |
| HOT: Christmas Lights | NOT: Energy Conservation |
| HOT: Eight Nights | NOT: One Day |
| HOT: <i>A Muppet's Christmas Carol</i> | NOT: <i>A Muppet's Tale of Two Cities</i> |
| HOT: <i>Home Alone I and II</i> | NOT: Child Abandonment |
| HOT: Mistletoe | NOT: Aggravated sexual assault |
| HOT: Mistletoe | NOT: Mono |
| HOT: Mrs. Claus | NOT: Holiday fetishes |
| HOT: Channukah | NOT: Phonetics |

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Adopt a shirt

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Kim Munson is giving used clothing a second chance with her line, Orphanage Clothing.

"I just love the process of saving the tee [shirt] and giving it new life and a new owner," says the Halifax designer.

Munson says she created her line to redefine ideas about re-cut and re-worked vintage clothing. Almost all of her raw materials come from the local Frenchie's, Value Village and Salvation Army.

Munson, 32, searches the bins and racks once a week for interesting and eye catching used t-shirts.

"The shirts have to be made of high quality cotton with no damage. They have to be something different, strange or random and can't have any corporate logos," she says.

Munson says the quality of the shirt is important because it's the t-shirts and their potential combinations that inspire her designs.

When she was growing up in New Brunswick, Munson's mother had a clothing line and as a child, Munson would create her own designs.

"I would always tear apart my clothes and rework them," she says.

After graduating from St. Mary's with a Bachelor's degree in English, Munson decided to pursue her interest in fashion and enrolled at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Toronto.

Upon receiving her degree in fashion design, Munson tried to launch her line in Toronto. But after finding the fashion market too competitive and the rents too high for an aspiring designer, she returned to Halifax in 2003. That year, she successfully launched Orphanage Clothing, selling her shirts out of Junk and Foibles.

Four years later, Munson says business is great. This summer she expanded her line to seven new boutiques in New Brunswick, Ontario,



CHRISTIE CONWAY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Halifax Designer Kim Munson is giving old t-shirts a new life.

Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

"It's a full time job," Munson says with a smile.

Munson sells her revamped t-shirts for \$40 each and long-sleeved shirts for \$50.

With the success of her t-shirt line Munson is expanding her line to denim pieces and dresses that she creates using second-hand trench coats, which she sells for \$120 to \$150.

Munson is also hoping to incorporate more custom work into her

business.

"The idea is that you bring me your favourite pair of old jeans and I rework them, make them into a jean jacket for you and give them a new life," she says.

Munson also takes pride in the fact her clothing is eco-friendly.

"I love that it's sustainable fashion but that my pieces are also fashion forward," says Munson.

Orphanage Clothing will be having a sale at The Seahorse Tavern on Tuesday Dec. 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Living with landmines

ESTEE TRUDEAU
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Anyone who walked into the Student Union Building last week couldn't miss the children with missing limbs printed onto large cloth hangings.

The photography exhibit "Living with Landmines," depicted children affected by land mines in Cambodia and was displayed on the first two floors of the SUB from November 12 to 16 as part of Dalhousie's International Education Week.

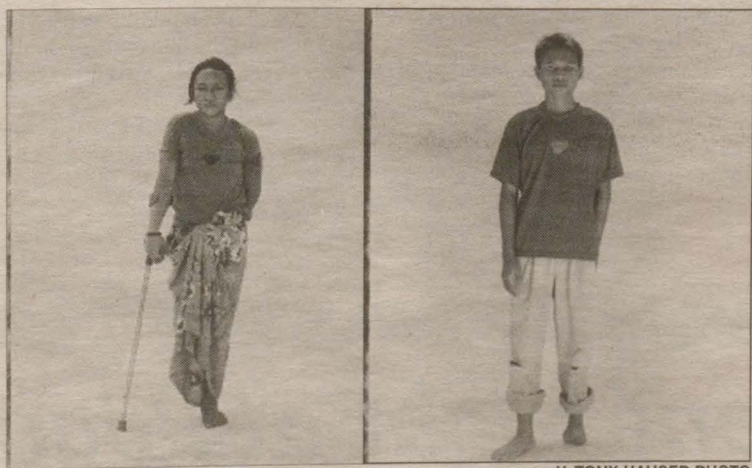
Photographer V. Tony Hauser was inspired to share the stories of these children while visiting Cambodia to photograph people coping with HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia.

Hauser was in the town of Siem Reap touring the temple Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious site when he visited a landmine museum that also acted as a school and home for children disabled by landmines.

Here, he met the 16 children documented in the exhibit.

Touched by their stories of perseverance and confidence despite the devastating effects of landmines, Hauser wanted to share their stories and bring awareness to the issue of landmines in Cambodia with his camera.

Landmines continue to be a daily threat to Cambodians, particularly in rural areas. According to UN statistics, 841 people were injured



V. TONY HAUSER PHOTO
V. Tony Hauser's exhibit in the SUB depicted harsh images of children affected by landmines in Cambodia.

or killed by landmines in Cambodia last year.

The landmines that litter the country are left over from when the Khmer Rouge tried to turn Cambodia into an agrarian communist society.

Landmines were used not only as weapons against other political factions, but against citizens attempting to escape from the rural labour camps into which Cambodians were forced.

Although the party's rule ended in 1979 with the Vietnamese invasion and the formal dissolution of the party in 1996, landmines continue to haunt the country. With no

record of the number or location of landmines, Cambodia struggles to eradicate these deadly devices.

Hauser displays each crippled child alone, and against a blank backdrop in each picture.

Next to each photo is a description of how the child came into contact with the landmine, and their future ambitions.

Although these children are considered to be victims, Hauser is able to capture and demonstrate the human capability to rise above that their disabilities.

Fourteen other universities across Canada are also hosting the exhibit.



IMDB.COM

Death at a Funeral will kill you laughing

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Death at a Funeral has everything British comedy is known for: peculiar characters, satirical plotlines, and slapstick humor. And by portraying a clamor of mishaps and amusement under the most inappropriate circumstances, director Frank Oz manages to fit it all in.

During his father's funeral, Daniel (Matthew MacFadyen) tries to keep his grieving family under control. But mourning turns into mayhem, as a casket mix-up, kooky relatives, an unexpected visitor and hallucinogenic drugs threaten to ruin the service.

Daniel also grows increasingly self-conscious, as guests show obvious disappointment that he will present the eulogy instead of his hot-shot writer brother, Robert (Rupert Graves).

A few of the film's gimmicks are too cliché, particularly the senile, bitter uncle.

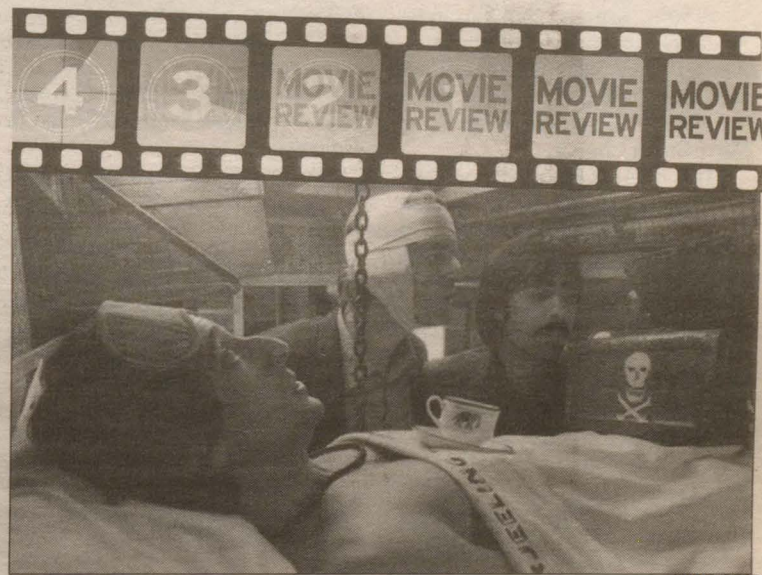
What compensates for these pre-

dictable gags are moments of sheer hilarity.

Andy Nyman and Alan Tudyk share the award for the film's best comic relief. Nyman's character is a friend of Daniel's who winds up biting off more responsibilities than he can chew. His eager, yet feeble personality is entertainingly uncomfortable to watch.

Tudyk plays Simon, the fiancé of Daniel's cousin, Martha (Daisy Donovan). Due to an insufferable nervousness around Martha's strict and callous father, Simon takes what he thinks is Valium to calm his anxiety, but the pills land him naked on the rooftop contemplating a jump.

Set within the span of a few hours, *Death at a Funeral* depicts the inevitable chaos of a dysfunctional family's attempt to run a disaster-free funeral. Frank Oz allows dark humour to lighten even the grimmest situations. That is the wonderful wizardry of Oz and the product of brilliantly talented actors given a fantastic script.



IMDB.COM

Staying on tracks

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Darjeeling Limited is another of Wes Anderson's unusual gems filled with quirky repartee and unexpected heartbreak.

One year after their father's death, brothers Francis (Owen Wilson), Peter (Adrien Brody) and Jack (Jason Schwartzman) embark upon a spiritual journey across India aboard a train called *The Darjeeling Limited*.

Guided by Francis' detailed itinerary, all three temporarily postpone their lives to repair family bonds, agreeing to be open to whatever happens on their trip.

Francis immediately sets the tone of their relationship: "We don't trust each other." What begins as a trip to reunite with their estranged mother, allows the family to better understand each other.

The film's most beautiful for its authenticity. Director Wes Anderson

earnestly and accurately illustrates India's vibrant colors, exquisite scenery and a soundtrack true to its music.

In certain instances, however, Anderson's attempts at peculiarity feels contrived. Some stale dialogue and prolonged scenes lack the zest necessary for such an amusing script.

Wilson presents Francis' imperious nature while Schwartzman effortlessly portrays Jack's neurotic tendencies.

Brody's performance is award winning. His character is the most tragic and endearing, as he anxiously awaits fatherhood and holds onto his dad's olive-tinted glasses. Brody brilliantly captures Peter's vulnerability, especially in a poignant scene where all three brothers rescue three drowning boys.

The Darjeeling Limited has its flaws, but a stellar cast and delightful concept keeps it from derailing.

Happy Holidays from the broke student

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

So you spent your last few dollars at The Dome buying drinks for a T.A.

Now all you have is the clap and an A+ on that assignment, but no cash left for Christmas presents.

But don't worry. There are plenty of ways to pack the bottom of that fir tree.

First, root through your basement, garage or attic in search of the junk your family might have forgotten they already have.

Now this move has become pretty popular and they might be expecting it. So I'd strongly recommend you redecorate what you find.

A little coat of paint and some sprinkles on a coffee mug can go a long way. Sewing a few cotton balls to a tuque is not only stylish but also handy in case of a bloody nose.

In the unfortunate event that your parents recently had a yard sale, you're pretty well up shit creek, re-gift-wise.

But if rooting through the garbage is good enough for home decorating, why shouldn't it be good enough for festive gifts?

A week before Christmas, get your mitts on and go for a stroll.

An old bent golf club can be put in a decorative case and pawned

off as a prop from *Happy Gilmore*. A rusty box of nails with a healthy dose of glue becomes 'modern' art. Even a green garbage bag with some dirt can become 'organic potting soil' for your green-thumbed aunt.

Now for your brothers, sisters and significant other, you may have to be a bit more crafty.

Garbage won't do unless you go to NSCAD first.

You can find some decent gifts by skulking around the esteemed art college, waiting for assignments to get thrown out. Heck, why not just go nab someone's work right off the wall or out of the studio? It just might wind up seeing the light of day.

If you're not on a criminal type, you're not screwed.

Here's what you do: get some blank CDs and spend a few hours downloading every stinking bit of media you think your brother or sister will like.

The more the better to divert their attention from the fact you seriously scammed them out of a present while they spent \$100 on those new jeans for you.

For the boyfriend or girlfriend, you're going to have to get seriously crafty. Here it's all about quantity, not quality.

First, go find an old mixed tape.

Get out all your CDs and carefully make a list of songs you think he or she will like.

Record these songs to the tape.

Decorate the hell out of the tape case. This will be your saving grace.

Next, go steal one of your parents' bottles of wine (this will be essential in saving your ass) and make a fake label depicting both of you on a beach holding hands or something like that. Tape it to the bottle.

Lastly, la crème de asshole, bring your digital camera to a nearby spa/salon and snap a shot of one of their gift cards.

These are usually cheap little plastic cards without a bar code or scan strip. Take that picture home and open it up in Photoshop (Paint will work). Enlarge to the desired size. Go get some sticker paper and print it out. Find an old card, preferably with a blank white back, resembling a real card and stick the picture to it.

Abra-ka-forgery, you've got a gift card!

Wrap it all up, toss it under the tree and no one is any the wiser.

You can easily substitute money with a healthy mix of knavery, pilfering and Christmas spirit. Just make sure they drink the wine before you give them the sparkle-covered mixtape.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Afif Khan mixes electro and rock last Friday at The Palace's White Party.

Student by day, CEO by night

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Local DJ and entrepreneur, Afif Khan spun at The Hills' White Party last Friday at the Palace along side reality-TV stars Brody Jenner and Frankie Delgado.

Khan, an economics student at Dalhousie, says he has always wanted to be a DJ. His interest in electronic music started eight years ago and Khan started organizing shows in high school.

International DJ Darude encouraged Khan's efforts and gave him pointers as he progressed.

Now the 23-year-old Khan is the CEO of Viva International, formerly Vivid Productions, an event promotion company which has offices in Canada, Ireland, Mexico and Qatar.

Viva International organized and promoted Darude's show at the Palace as well as The White Party. Viva was also responsible for the popular Ibiza Fever parties at the Coconut Grove in September.

Khan is encouraged by the change he says is occurring in the Halifax music scene.

"People are appreciating house music more these days," says Khan. "Every show so far has been sold out or close to sold out."

Halgionians rising affinity for electronic music means big business for Khan. But event promotion isn't all fun and games and Khan takes his parties very seriously.

"It's all about connection, crowd reaction and production," says Khan.

When he's spinning Khan likes to combine electronic music with his favourite rock artists like The Killers and The White Stripes. He says remixes of electronic music featuring hip hop and rock tracks are the way the scene is headed.

With his recent success Khan is looking forward and is finalising a deal to open a new nightclub in Halifax.

"[My] goal is to create the best venue and most upscale place in town," says Khan.

Khan says that any venue he opens will cater to university students but he hopes it can also be an alternative to the current after party spots in the city as more electronic and dance music artists perform in Halifax.

His hour upon the stage

DAN BRAY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Actor!, written by bartender Frederick Stroppel and produced by the Dal Stage Society, is the funniest tragedy that you probably didn't see when it played last weekend at North Street Church.

This one-act follows the various misadventures of a selfish yet good-natured movie star as he ascends to glory, and then quickly tumbles into obscurity.

Actor! is a parody of the entire movie business. Oral sex is referred to as an "oral contract" and a one-night-stand is nothing more than an opportunity to "network."

It is also a morality play, examining human condition by detailing the rise and fall of an 'Everyman.'

It covers Actor's entire life,

(played by second-year theatre student Robert Murphy), from his crib where he quotes Hamlet, to the old-folks' home where he wastes away with a disease whose name he can't remember.

The snappy show effectively captures Actor's temporary reign in Hollywood.

When his agent tells him that it has been twelve years since he won his Oscar and not in fact, two, the devastated player can only respond, "That was fast."

The nearly two-hour show is preformed without anyone leaving the stage. It is a mighty challenge, but director Grace Smith has a talented troupe.

Despite his tendency to muddle some big words, Murphy is able to make the little kid who dreams of becoming an actor as equally con-

vincing as the dying Alzheimer's patient who does nothing but wait for someone to visit him.

Dorian Lang plays many parts with equal sophistication and mischief, excelling particularly as the father who hopes to live vicariously through his son's homosexual escapades.

Kennedy Cullen struggles in the admittedly hard role of Taylor by zipping through some of the play's most tender moments. But she remains a fitting foil for her partner and succeeds most when she is silent and hoping that Actor will transform back into the man with whom she fell in love.

Actor! does an excellent job of asking the audience what they want in their own lives, and re-evaluate the lengths people go to achieve them.

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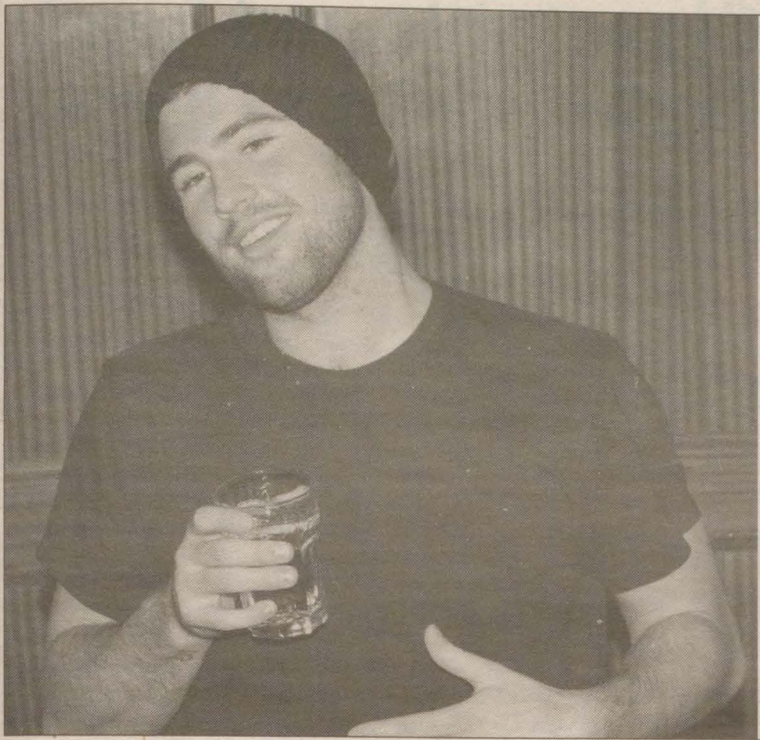
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JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Brody Jenner: Hunk, or hunk of meat?

Biddies battle for Brody

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

Thirty blondes and brunettes stood by their watering hole, taking note of the best way to attack their prey, waiting in high anticipation for the appearance of reality show *The Hills*' star Brody Jenner. This was the scene in the VIP lounge for The Palace's "White Party," Nov. 23.

Lionesses dressed all in white sized up their opponents by hiking up their skirts and showing more cleavage.

Each white cloak was altered slightly by a trinket or accessory to stand out from the pack.

A sheer red and white polka-dot shirt here, a birthday crown there.

Eighty per cent of those girls were there for one thing: to fuck Brody Jenner. The others got free tickets and came for the cheap drinks.

The handful of guys who paid 30 dollars to get into The Palace were there to sleep with the forlorn girls rejected by the reality-TV star.

As Brody strolled in at 1 a.m., the elated girls swarmed.

Jenner basked in the glory of blood-thirsty girls throwing elbows and pleading with the bouncers to get into the ultra-VIP area of couches marked off with a velvet rope.

Jenner posed for pictures and laughed at the intense hunger in every girl's eye.

His fellow partier Frankie Delgado videotaped the girls while starting the chant "Brody! Brody!" riling up the already on edge crowd.

After a few girls wiggled their way through security and into the presence of *The Hills*' regular, pleading and pulling of imaginary strings and name-dropping became stronger.

Empty promises from promoters rang through the VIP area as some of the girls backed off in dismay.

When Afif Khan started his set, Jenner and his new-found entourage went down onto the stage as girls reached up in hopes the reality-TV star would give them a high-five.

Screams of overwhelmed fans overpowered opening songs of Khan's set.

The biggest question about Jenner's cross-Canada tour is 'what exactly is he promoting?' which brings up the other question of 'what the hell is he famous for?' These rabid fans aren't swooning over the reality-TV star's creative genius or acting talents.

He's famous purely out of just being himself. And being hot.

Perhaps part of the reason he denied all interviews is because he isn't promoting anything he has achieved, or any product of his ingenuity.

He is purely partying it up in Canada and getting paid for it.

Maybe it's a good thing that he isn't using his new found fame from MTV to ignite a hack-singing career or to endorse a product he doesn't even use. But doesn't he want to be famous other than for just a pretty face?

The girls who had dreamt of being picked out of a crowd on the dance floor, going back to Jenner's hotel to talk about whether *The Hills* is actually staged, and what LC is really like were crushed when Brody stuck with his elite crew all night.

The vibe of the night was a strange one, made up of crushed hopes of lonely girls on a mission. The overall seediness and desperate attempts at hooking up has never been so low. And for The Palace, that's saying a lot.



Lost Angeles

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The seasons had just freshly changed. It was the brink of March, and I was about a month shy of seventeen. My childhood love for movies had naturally translated into a grown-up fascination with Hollywood.

I admit to romanticizing the city of Los Angeles, hoping for throngs of women with red-lipstick, big mink coats and long-stemmed cigarette holders, men with pocket watches, fedoras and Humphrey Bogart's voice. I wanted to see unprecedented glamour.

When one of my closest girl friends, Genevieve, asked me to accompany her on a ten-day trip to L.A., I knew I'd be a fool to resist. It was my first flight without my family.

A seven hours later we landed at dusk and were driven in a sleek, black jag to a pale yellow, stucco

house in the Hollywood Hills.

We were staying with Genevieve's aunt and uncle. Her aunt was stunning: an actress/athletic model: blonde and leggy, and a personality bubblier than freshly popped champagne.

Her uncle was calm and welcoming, a handsome man whose friendliness surpassed everything else. They were warm, smart and chic.

I loved the days we strolled down Melrose and rollerbladed along Venice Beach. Thrift store shopping, where I found my beloved vintage NYPD baseball cap and lusted after the sweetest baby pink skirt two sizes too small.

Their guesthouse was perfect for lounging: a canopy bed with cream-colored sheets, with French doors that opened to the pool.

Dining in Hollywood was a truly amazing experience: Mexican one night, Italian the next. Those mo-

ments were fabulous. Although we were too young for nightclubs and too poor for Dolce and Gabbana, Gen and I made those 10 days worth it.

But something wasn't right. I felt misplaced. I put a lot of emphasis on gut feelings, and mine said "move on."

I knew that Hollywood wasn't just sunglasses and Pilates, red carpets and breast implants. But I also knew it wasn't for me.

For a city so hot, it too frequently felt cold. Director John Schlesinger explains my feelings better than I ever could: "Hollywood is an extraordinary kind of temporary place."

Five years later I still feel the same way. So now that it's December, I think back on my brief affair with Hollywood.

For some it may be perfect. For some it may be fantastic. But for me, it's just like that pink skirt: if it doesn't fit, don't force it.



ANNIE PATTILLO / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Dalhousie Wine Society lets members try several types wine for cheap, without having to rob a wino.

A taste of wine at Dal

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR
ANDREW BERNARDO
WINE CRITIC

The Dalhousie Wine Society met at the relaxed atmosphere of the University Club's bar on the night of Nov. 15 to drink and comment on several Nova Scotian wines.

Will Demers founded the wine tasting club this year and says his society doesn't discriminate. That night, the wine knowledge differed from connoisseurs to beginners, all there connecting on one thing.

"I'm here to drink some good wine," said Mark Raven-Zemla, one of the night's wine tasters.

Adam Aleksis, the Vice-Chairman of the Dalhousie Wine Society, welcomed the group of eager wine tasters saying, "This isn't for people who know lots about wine. Hopefully you'll learn some things about wine after [the meeting]."

After a couple of glasses in, the group loosened up with each other and their comments.

Creative comments like, "It tastes like my grandma's bathroom," and "It smells like my cottage," filled the air as the night went on.

Demers led discussions about each bottle and encouraged members to share their opinion around the table.

At between \$10-15 per meeting, a member can sample around eight different wines.

Demers says he hopes to add dinners to with wine tasting at future meetings.

The group sampled Nova Scotia reds and whites, all purchased from the Saturday Farmer's Market.

Our Epicurious Student, Andrew Bernardo, listed and critiqued them.

Grand Pre Seyval Blanc 06:

This light-bodied wine displays a floral, citrus nose. Its palate is that of grapefruit, melon and pear, with a good structure of acidity. Could be paired well with light seafood dishes.

Grand Pre L'Acadie Blanc 06:

Medium-bodied wine, a great summer sipper. Good acidity, with a light floral and straw nose leading to gooseberry and grapefruit on the palate balanced by a fine, oily texture. Great with poultry and seafood dishes.

Jost Eagle Tree Muscat 06:

A very pronounced wine, it has a nose and palate of tropical fruit and dried apricots and a structured finish. Paired nicely with lobster or fish stews or duck pâté.

Gaspereau Vineyards Riesling 06:

This slightly off-dry Riesling has a grassy nose with good acidity leaning towards a palate of citrus and light stone fruit notes. Best as a sipping wine before dinner.

Sainte Famille Marechal Foch 06:

Loads of red and dark fruit on the nose and palate. Raspberries, blueberries, and dried cranberry. Medium finish with a hint of pencil shavings.

Grand Pre Vintners Reserve Castel 06:

An herbaceous and peppery nose with ripe dark cherry and plum on the palate.

Jost Trilogy 03:

Combination of Baco Noir, Leillon Millot, and Marechal Foch, this wine has a dark berry aromas opening up to a palate of smoky black cherries, dried red fruit, cassis, and anise. Great paired with lamb.

Sainte Famille Acadianna Port:

Huge alcohol flavours overpower this port, yet still the dark berry fruit flavors prevail. Demands heavy food like strong cheeses.



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Immigrants face difficulties when participating in sports

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

League fees, language barriers and a lack of information are just a few reasons why immigrants are having a hard time getting involved in sports in Canada. And a new study from Dalhousie says not enough is being done to help them.

The study, "Engaging New Canadians in Coaching and the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP)," outlined the major issues facing newcomers to Canada when it comes to participating in sport leagues. Lori Livingstone, the director of Dal's School of Health and Human Performance and Susan Tirone, associate director and associate professor of the Health and Human Performance, were the main authors of the study. Recent graduate Emma Smith and masters student Jordan Miller also co-authored the study. This was the first time Miller worked on research related to community involvement.

"When I talked to sporting associations about the research, they liked the idea of focusing on immigrant participation," says Miller. "I don't think the associations are blatantly racist but I think they just never thought about reaching out for immigrant coaches. The best thing about this study is raised awareness."

The study was commissioned by Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) as part of their mandate to improve opportunities for underrepresented groups.

"The CAC identified that new immigrants are underrepresented in coaching and sport and we wanted to find out what barriers exist," says Sandra Gage, the CAC Director of Marketing and Communication.

Hoping to get input from immigrants, Miller tried to find participants for the study from sporting associations but was unsuccessful. After sending out hundreds of e-mails, Miller went to alternative sources.

"I didn't get a single response from any of the sporting associations," says Miller. "I did some investigative work and eventually went to community immigrant groups to find them. For example, I went to a Lebanese church, which has an informal soccer league, to find the coaches. Based on my experience, I found many of the coaches in alternative sport leagues within their community."

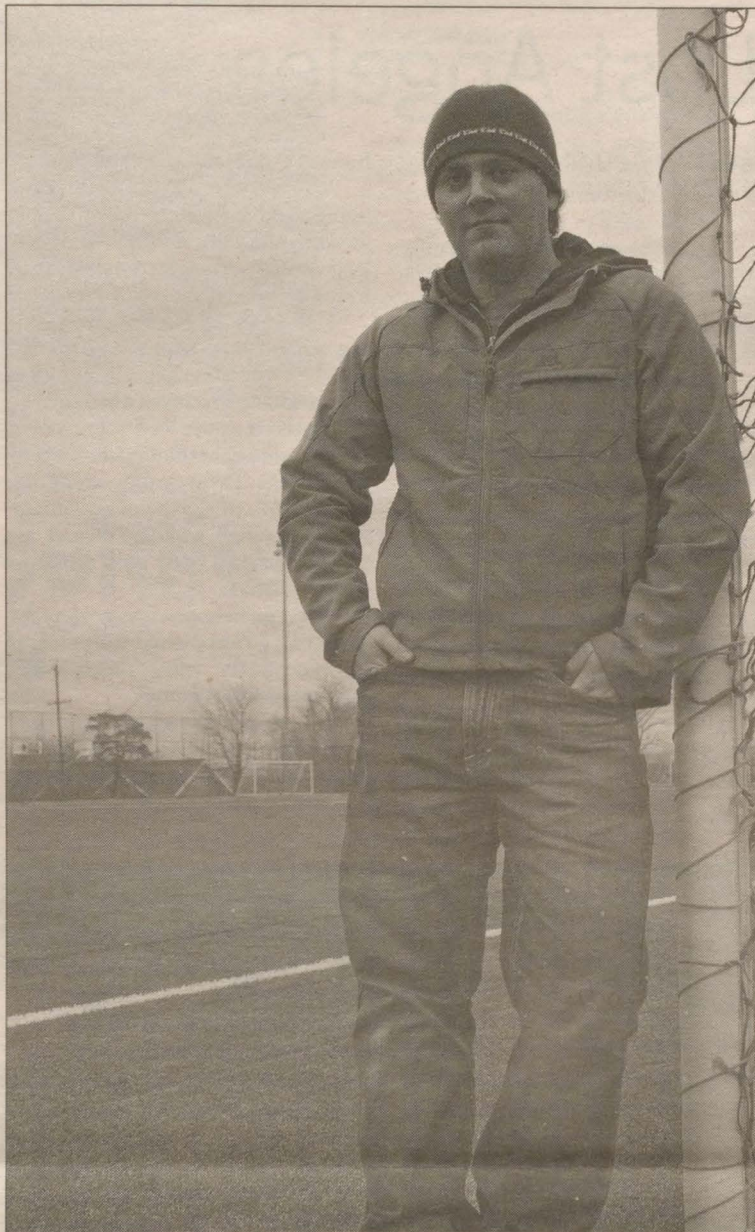
Based on interviews with Halifax coaches, athletes and other community members, the study concluded that many barriers exist for immigrants. According to the study, there is lack of communication between community groups and immigrants about what opportunities are available and what the expectations are for volunteer coaches and athletes.

"When we talked to community groups, they indicated that they wanted to reach out to different groups of people but they didn't know how to," says Susan Tirone. "When we talked to immigrants, they said they didn't know how to find the information about sport clubs or that it was difficult to find."

League costs and language barriers were also identified as major issues for immigrants. The study discussed how special considerations for athletes such as religious practices may be improperly mishandled due to lack of understanding.

"With language, immigrants may not understand the Canadian rules or sports jargon," says Tirone. "Some of the newcomers interviewed did express their frustration about these barriers."

Recommendations from the



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Masters student Jordan Miller found participants for a Dal study that revealed immigrants are having a hard time getting into sports.

Dal study focused on training for coaches about cultural diversity and distributing information packages on coaching opportunities for immigrants. The study recommends the NCCP include a sociology module to educate coaches about gender, ethnicity, race and religion.

"There needs to be some sort of training that targets local sport clubs from the YMCA, churches and community centres," says Tirone. "Our local ways may be excluding to other groups who may have different ways to play a game. For example, coaches told me that they enjoy having immigrants on their soccer team because it allows them to learn about other strategies and techniques in soccer."

While Dal conducted their study, Queen's University worked on a study with a similar research mandate.

Jean Côté, director of the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's, led the study that focused on the overall coaching experience of immigrants. The research done by Queen's was also commissioned by the CAC and gave near identical recommendations.

"We interviewed 29 coaches for our study and found two distinct groups," says Côté. "One group was regular leisure coaches. The other group was leisure coaches who were overqualified. The second group of coaches were frustrated because their coaching credentials from other countries were not recognized and they had to start over the process of certification. This is a problem that many new-Canadian coaches face."

The study recommended education for coaches, recognition of non-Canadian coaching credentials and new recruitment strategies that targets immigrants.

"We shouldn't treat all coaches the same way," says Côté. "The CAC should try to match people's aspirations to the right kind of coaching

assignments so coaches can reach their goals. For new Canadians, there should be a differentiation in terms of leisure and elite sports for coaching."

Neither Dal or Queen's knew about each other's research until both schools completed their studies. The CAC commissioned both studies simultaneously to compare the results.

"We were happy that we had similar results with Dalhousie because it helps to validate our research," says Côté. "We weren't surprised by our findings but it's interesting how our studies complement each other."

Both Dal and Queen's are known for their sport research. Tirone is one of the leading researchers in sport research related to minority groups and has worked in the field for nearly 20 years. Côté's research focuses mostly on coaching and youth sport.

With the recommendations set, the CAC looks to move forward. Different organizations are interested in working with the CAC to implement the changes.

"Right now the CAC is pursuing funding opportunities in order to enter in the new phase of the research," says Sandra Gage, the CAC Director of Marketing and Communication. "We don't know yet exactly what the next step will be but there are general levels of interest from different foundations."

For Tirone, working on the research solidified her enthusiasm for diversity in sports. She says sports can be integral part of community building.

"Many of the people we talked to were happy to have diversity on their teams so they could learn about new cultures," says Tirone. "Sports provide a great way for people to make community connections and to stay healthy."

Close calls and heavy losses for the Tigers

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

With classes ending, the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league is slowing winding down the first half of the winter sports season. But, the Dalhousie Tigers were still in action on Nov. 23-25 for their final regular season games of 2007. Here's a recap:

Women's Basketball

Things didn't go as planned for the Tigers when they faced the New Brunswick Varsity Reds in a road-game doubleheader Nov. 24 and 25. Besides losing both games, the Tigers dropped in the AUS rankings from first to fourth with a 3-3 season record.

In the first game, the Varsity Reds' offence was on fire, shooting with over 50 per cent accuracy in the first half. The Tigers rallied against a 13-point deficit and ended the third quarter only two points behind the Reds, 55-53. Though the Reds shot poorly in the second half, they hung on to win 72-69. The second game was a repeat of the November 24 match-up with the Tigers losing 73-69.

"We had opportunities to get the job done," says Tigers head coach, Carol Savoy. "We missed a lot of lay-ups. We missed shots close to the basket."

The break will allow players to rest up for a gruelling season, but it also means less practice time before the team's Jan. 4 home game against the Memorial University Sea-Hawks.

Men's Basketball

The men had a better experience in New Brunswick, winning both of their games against the Varsity Reds. The first game was tight throughout but the Tigers got the upper hand in the end with a 62-60 win. The Reds fell apart in the second match-up as the Tigers took an easy 84-61 win.

"We've struggled in the past on the road so the two wins are great," says Tigers head coach John Campbell. "In Sunday's game we were control from the start. We didn't play very well from the start in the first game. We weren't in a strong position until the last two minutes."

The Tigers won't have much of a break in December. The team will host the Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament December 28-30.

"We're in an interesting position because we take a lot of time off before the tournament," says Campbell. "We use the tournament as start-up for conference play, which begins a week after the tournament. At the same time, this is our home tournament so there's pressure to perform for our fans and alumni."

Teams participating in the tournament include the Concordia Uni-

versity Stingers, the Varsity Reds, the Ottawa University Gee-Gees, the St. Mary's Huskies, the Wilfred Laurier University Golden Hawks, the St. Xavier University X-Men and the Laurentian University Voyageurs. Games start at 1 p.m.

Women's Hockey

The Tigers split their games with a win and a loss. Their November 24 game ended in a disappointing 3-2 loss to the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus.

After a scoreless first period, the Aigles Bleus made their first goal midway through the second period. By early third period, the Aigles Bleus held a 2-0 lead but not for long. The Tigers bounced back with a quick goal less than a minute after the Aigles Bleus second goal.

Robin Mullen of the Tigers scored another goal late in the third quarter. It seemed that the Tigers were shooting to win but two minutes later, the Aigles Bleus scored the game-winning goal.

In their November 25 game, the Tigers smashed the Varsity Reds in a 5-2 home victory. The Tigers completely dominated the game with four straight unanswered goals in the first period. The Varsity Reds tried to battle back with a goal early in the second period but the Tigers scored again late in the period. Another early Varsity Reds goal in the third period wouldn't help as the Tiger defence held on for the win. Rookie forward Jocelyn Leblanc had an outstanding performance with two goals and one assist.

Men's Hockey

With over 1,000 spectators in attendance, the Tigers faced off against their rivals, the St. Mary's Huskies and lost 4-2. The Huskies led early with their first goal off a power play in the first period.

Down 2-0 in the second period, Tyler Dyck ended the Tigers offensive drought. Two minutes later, the Tigers took advantage of a power play and tied the game. The Huskies quickly shut down the Tigers hope for a win with two goals to end the quarter. The loss puts the Tigers in seventh place overall in the AUS league with a 4-7-2 season record.

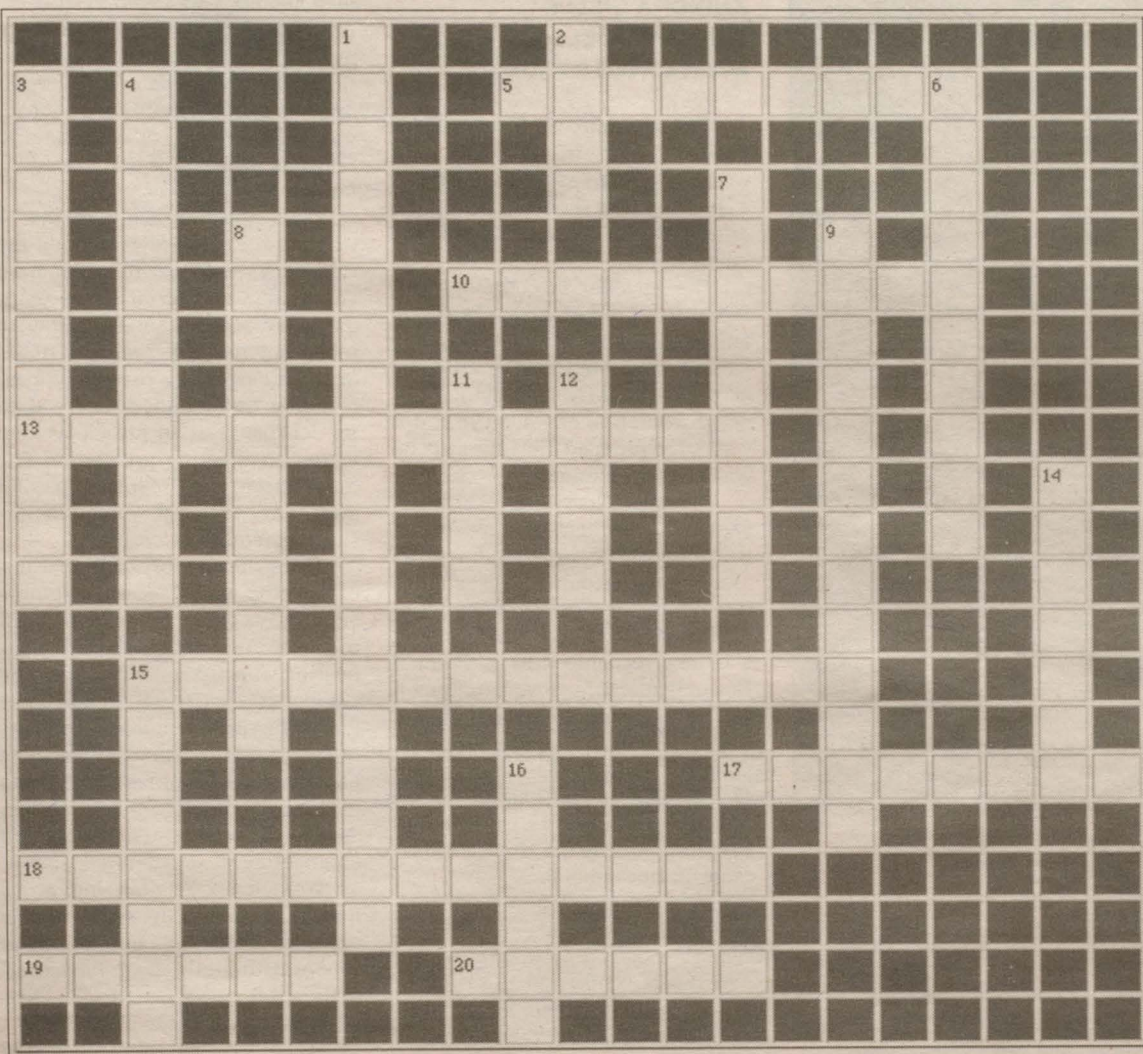
Women's Volleyball

In their final match of the year, the Tigers held on to win a tough five-set match against the Acadia University Axewomen, 25-13, 25-23, 20-25, 21-25 and 15-7. Carlye Higgins had a solid performance with 14 kills, 17 digs and 4 service aces. The win gives the Tigers a 4-4 season record. They currently sit in fifth place in the AUS standings.

Come to the next Gazette
contributor meeting:
Monday, January 7th
@ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

CROSSWORD

Never enough *Seinfeld*



- Across**
5. George's father sells these out of their garage with Lloyd Braun
 10. Reason to mug an old woman
 13. George fights for an apartment with a survivor of what tragedy? (three words)
 15. 20-year-overdue library book (three words)
 17. Frank Costanza's male undergarment
 18. Cause of Bubble Boy fight (two words)
 19. What repair does Kramer convince Jerry can be written off?
 20. Defect of Elaine's cashmere sweater (two words)

- Down**
1. Kramer's cock-fighting rooster (three words)
 2. George's little brother from the Big Brother program
 3. Location of George's pretend residence (two words)
 4. George's architect alias (two words)
 6. Newman's black market item (two words)
 7. Where Uncle Leo gets caught stealing
 8. Frank Costanza relaxation phrase (two words)
 9. Kramer's doctor alias (three words)
 11. Elaine's middle name
 12. George's bank card code
 14. High-scoring arcade game
 15. Frank Costanza's collection (two words)
 16. Kramer's intern at Kramerica Corporation

Alice Bradstreet



Environmental tip of the week:
Put incense or a feather up to the edges of doors, windows, and outlets around your house to check for drafts.

Teach English in Japan

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

Qualified candidates must:

- Possess a university degree
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- Have teaching experience and Japanese language ability (preferred, but not required)

Visit www.interac.ca.jp/recruit for more information or to apply online.



HOROSCOPES



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Have a holly jolly exam period. You're the one who has to go to the store if you want to bring back the cheddar. Rudolph's nose has turned blue and none of the presents are getting delivered. You better have a pretty darn good explanation why the presents aren't going to be there on time.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Somebody has been stealing your moves and it is time to claim them back. Marilyn Monroe sang Santa Baby, show 'em what she meant by it. Life is like a pie, round and sweet. What you lose you will gain back in other ways. It is now the holiday season which means it's time to settle down by roasting chestnuts on an open fire with loved ones. All they want for Christmas is you.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

If you think just because you are wearing camouflage no one will spot you, you are wrong. If you have no place to go, The Dome is not the answer. If it is snowing outside, the ground is where you should be, doing snow angels.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

How you live your life should be your choice, not someone else's. Fly by the seat of your pants and see where it takes you. Flashing lights is your thing, so make sure to pay attention to them on the runway. If you are trying to eat that last chunk of funnel cake, be careful it isn't your partner-in-crime's thumb.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Nobody ever just strolled into a fraternity and became a member. You have to pay a toll, so be prepared to run through campus in a diaper made by Depends. Santa is making his list and checking it twice, so you better make sure you have made the choice between naughty and nice. Either way a reindeer is going to leave you a special surprise in your shoe.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

The full moon is out and your teeth are sharpening. Someone is chasing after you with a silver bullet, but just explain to them that you are not after Little Red Riding Hood. You are on a mission to spread the holiday cheer. Point them in the direction of a toboggan as a distraction, and then just walk away whistlin' and twiddlin' your thumbs.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Frosty the snowman was a very jolly soul, it's time to pick up some of that spirit, and his corn pop pipe and button nose. You do not want two eyes made out of coal, because you will not be able to get any of the work done that has been piling up on your extra large plate. The buffet is an all-you-can-eat, but that does not mean it should turn into an all-you-can-poop.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Don't let them play you. The fans have gathered to see you and no one else. Don't think negative thoughts, you can still win this thing. Ask and you shall receive. Love is not a losing hand. Finally say what you have been meaning to, and Santa's little helper will give you that candy cane you have been dreaming about.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

The gingerbread man is missing a gumdrop and you are the one he is looking at. Just because you are hungry does not give you the excuse to do whatever you want. The rules still apply. But, if you put on a jolly face they will be none the wiser. Just make sure to stir some Nesquik into the bearded man's milk to drink with his cookies, and the crisis will be averted.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

You have been fighting a losing battle. That is only because you were fighting with a public defender who could not remember your name. Scrooge is waiting at your doorstep to give you a stern awakening. You have been stingy to the people around. 'Tis the season of giving. Show them the holiday armadillo.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Deck the hall with balls of holly, la la la life is good. You have just been upgraded to first class so make the most of it. Someone is waiting for you underneath the mistletoe, so give them the big ol' smooch that they have been waiting for. You know they deserve it. They are a few of your favourite things. Mix in some liquor, a glazed ham and a pie and you will never have to leave the igloo you call home.

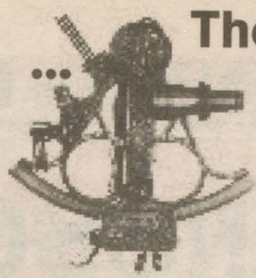


SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You're TNT, you're dynamite. Show you can be explosive, and people will no longer take advantage of you. Pop rocks don't count, so make sure to be clear about your intentions.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

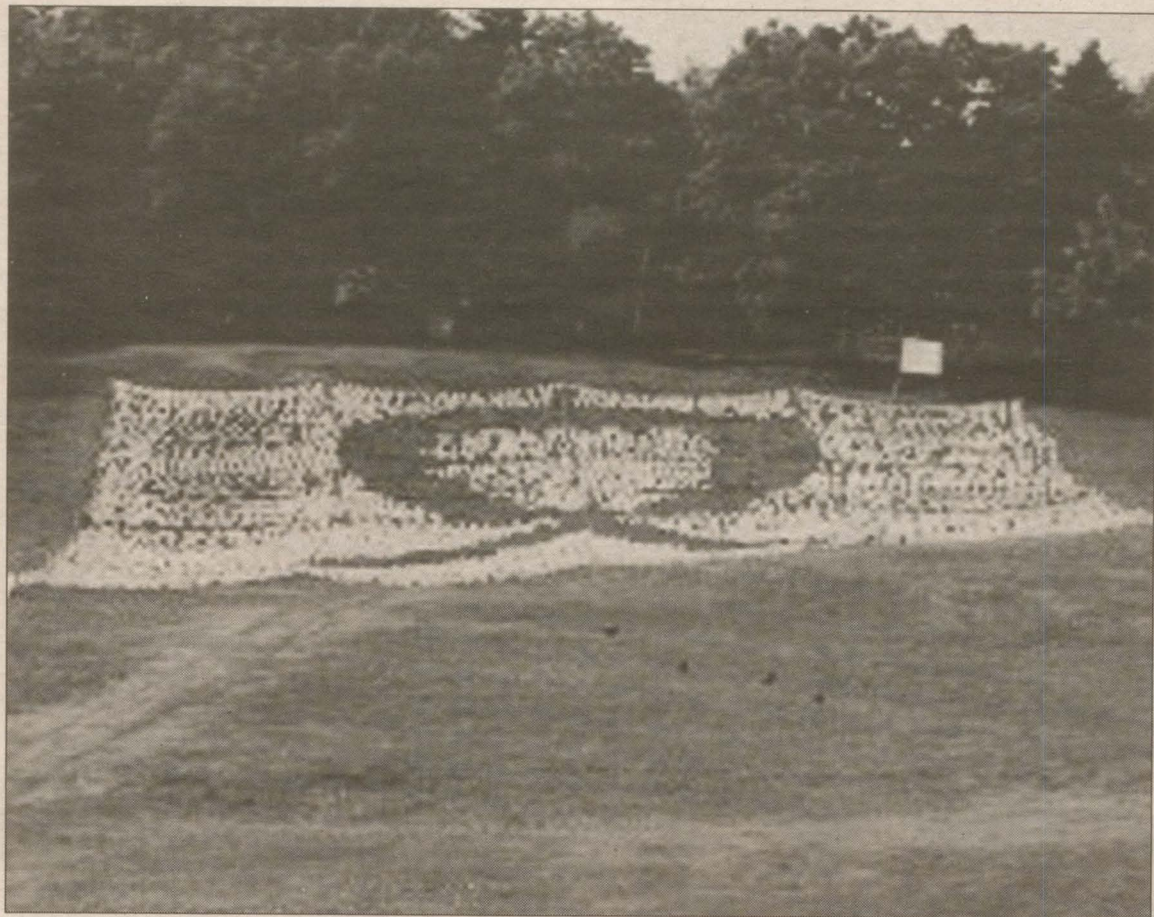
- ACROSS
5. Computers
 10. Marble rye
 13. The Andrea Doria
 15. Tropic of Cancer
 17. Manslere
 18. Trivial Pursuit
 19. Stereo
 20. Red dot
- DOWN
1. Little Jerry Seinfeld
 2. Joey
 3. The Hamptons
 4. Art Vandelay
 6. Shower Head
 7. Brentanos
 8. Scentily now
 9. Dr Van Nostrand
 11. Marie
 12. Bosco
 14. Frogger
 15. TV guides
 16. Darren



The

SEXTANT

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



World Aids Day

ASHTON FERGUSON

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region most severely impacted by AIDS. According to the 2007 UN AIDS report, two-thirds of the estimated 34 million people infected with HIV/AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa including 1.3 million children under the age of 15 years. Additionally, according to the UN AIDS report, more than three quarters of all AIDS-related deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to statistics from a World Bank Report, AIDS in Africa has yet to peak in the number of people it will affect. AIDS has become the number one cause of mortality among adults 15-49 years of age.

AIDS is also complicit in the mortality rates usually caused by fatal diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, which are also at risk of increasing due to the pervasiveness of the AIDS disease.

Approximately eleven-million children under the age of 10 have been orphaned because of AIDS. As it significantly impacts those aged 15-49, AIDS related illness and deaths will also significantly impact

the skilled labor force.

The greatest obstacle in the battle against the AIDS epidemic is not the human and financial resources. The attitude of silence about the AIDS disease that is so pervasive hinders any ability to be effective in combating the AIDS epidemic. The cultural element of silence is the pervasive thread connecting the AIDS epidemic throughout the continent.

Not engaging in enough dialogue about AIDS is adding to the problem. In most African cultures open and random discussions about sexuality are not welcomed and are customarily considered private matters. Strict cultural practices make it embarrassing and uncomfortable to discuss intimate matters.

There is still an enormous stigma attached to the AIDS disease and persons affected are very often isolated and ostracized from their communities. This results in an attitude of fear about revealing and discussing one's status and seeking help and ultimately results in desperate denial.

Those affected associate their condition with something else like fatigue, tuberculosis, malaria; any-

thing except AIDS. This attitude of silence and rejection hinders prevention and care.

Not to mention that there is still much ignorance and disbelief associated with the spread of this disease. Educational programs to counter these myths and misconceptions are critically underfunded where they even exist.

AIDS must be given high priority to end the epidemic. AIDS is a serious problem and effective communication about the disease must be encouraged from within countries battling the epidemic. Outside support for something that can only be solved from the inside will not work.

The intolerance and ignorance about the AIDS disease must be done away with. The truth must be spoken about the cause of death in situations where AIDS has already inflicted death. Attributing death to alternative or supernatural causes makes it easy to ignore the real cause and does not save lives. The silence and stigma that is feeding the AIDS epidemic must be addressed so that life can triumph over death.

Thank you for your interest...

MELANIE HOLMES
SEXTANT EDITOR

Since when is it the end of November? I mean, seriously...

One minute I'm spending my nights torn between whether I should procrastinate or party, the next I'm frantically playing catch-up, having only now realized the immense grandeur of my senior design project.

Luckily I have found a saving grace in the commonality of this apparent bomb of realization. It takes only one sweep of Sexton campus to realize the titanic-sized boat upon which we all hold a comfortable seat together. Some of us are used to the ride, some of us are embarking for the first time, while others are curled up in a corner hugging their legs and rocking in a disconcerting manner. It's ok, we've all been there.

As for words of wisdom, or helpful hints of advice, I'm not sure I'm the best person for the job. It has always been my attitude that the only way to get through the final two weeks of a semester of engineering has been to take a deep breath and suck it up. We've come this far. We're hanging in there. We can get through it.

And if you don't, take pride in the fact that you tried. Then try again.

What I would like to offer, however, is a simple thank you. Thank you to those who have helped contribute to the Sextant this semester, and those who took the time to read.

Thank you for your input, your criticisms and your reassuring pats on the back. All were much needed and appreciated.

On that note, the winter semester is bringing some harsh team turnovers, which when coupled with the crappy January weather we have

to look forward to, will bring a search for the new Sextant team.

Once the vacation begins and you find yourself falling back into the bliss of forgetting how stressful school becomes, please take the time and consider joining our team. The Sextant will be happy to hear from you all throughout the holidays, so feel free to write to sextant@dal.ca with any questions you may have.

As for now, take a deep breath and console yourself with the thought that at least it will all be over before you know it. And please, take the time between the seemingly endless rounds of studying to get a little excited for family, friends and pie.

Good luck, and may the next two weeks be filled with Christmas spirit, wedged somewhere between the copious and almost dangerously high levels of caffeine you are all about to consume.

A Time to Remember

ZHINDRA GILLIS,
FRANCINE DELOREY
ALANA ROBERTSON

On December 6, 1989 at École Polytechnique in Montreal, 14 women were killed as the result of a shooting. The shooter also injured 4 men and 10 other women before killing himself.

The incident is commonly referred to as the Montreal Massacre and is a day that is remembered by women and engineering students across the country. The shooter targeted women in engineering and it was later revealed that he said he was "fighting feminism."

Between November 25 and December 10 women's groups around the world will organize public events and actions as part of the international campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. December 6 is now recognized as a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada.

In 1990 the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia implemented The Purple Ribbon Campaign in remembrance of the 14 women that were murdered in the Montreal Massacre on December 6.

Purple Ribbon campaign's purpose is to raise funds and to work against violence towards women. Between November 25 and December 6, supporters all around the country will wear a purple ribbon over their chest to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of violence against women and to remember not only the women who died in Montreal, but all women who have died violently and the many thousands who continue to live with abuse.

In 1991 the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) was developed by a group of men from Canada in response to the Montreal Massacre. The WRC is a worldwide support network of men working to end violence against women. Each year

men and boys are urged to wear the ribbon for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and participate in commemorative events open to men. All funds are contributed from supporters, corporations, religious institutions and charitable foundations.

Following the deaths of the 14 women at École Polytechnique the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation was formed. The foundation was established in 1989 to meet engineering society's needs and challenges of a diversified professional body, and to succeed in this challenge is to attract women to the engineering profession. The foundation offers scholarships and awards to encourage women to pursue engineering as a profession.

Using the memory of these women to stop violence and promote equality is a great tribute to them. Of the 14 women killed, 12 were engineering students, one was a nursing student and one was a clerk in École Polytechnique's finance department. While the Montreal Massacre has made a large impact on women in Canadian Society, it has not dissuaded women to pursue a career in engineering.

Women in engineering strive for equality and respect. Female students at Sexton Campus attend classes without the fear of discrimination. It is a positive learning environment for people of either sex.

Equality is something we need to work together to achieve in all fields. It is important to come together to honour the memory of these women. They were victims of a heinous crime. Every year the students at Sexton along with the Dalhousie Women's Centre have a ceremony on the anniversary of the massacre.

This year it will be held in the Alumni Lounge in the B building on Sexton Campus at 6:30pm. All students and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Rant of an Engineer

Hey! I am not an electrician, a mechanic, or an architect.
I do not live in a lab. I do not drive a train
And I do not build bridges for a living.

I know Eddy Currents, Cori Olis and Max Power
But I know they are not real people.

I know I can study hard and still fail
And sometimes, not study and still pass.
I can skip all classes, study for 15 minutes and still do better than any arts student in any course.

I pronounce it "McDonald's Training Academy"
Not "Business School."

I know that judging by my friends, engineers are either Drunks, mingers or keeneds.
I can handle stress and strain in any relationship.
And I know it's not the length of the vector that counts but
How you apply the force.

I am not cocky, but my IQ is higher than yours.
Six exams can be written in six days.
And I know I'll never have to ask "Do you want fries with that?"

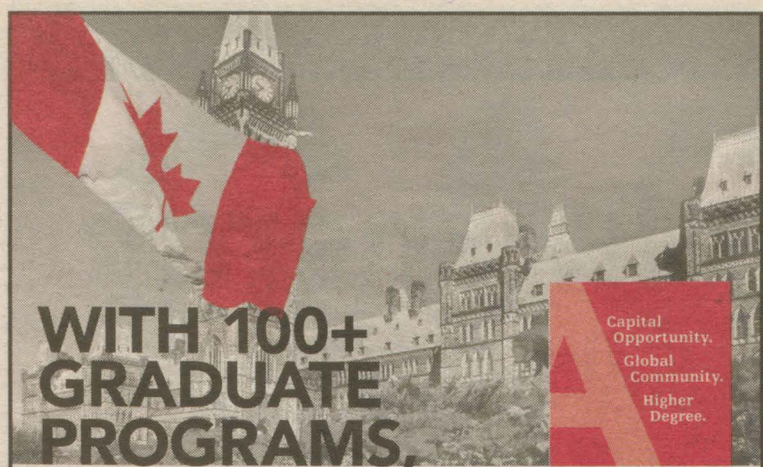
Engineering is the best faculty at Dal
The first organization of Innovation
And the greatest of all professions!!

My name is Joe,
And I am an Engineer.

OPT OUT

Every full-time student at Dalhousie pays \$2 per term to NSPIRG, a non-profit volunteer-led organization for social and environmental justice. We put on free events for our members, loan out alternative resources and distribute funding to community-based projects. We are also the only student society on campus that offers an opt-out period. To get involved or find out more, check out www.nspirg.org or drop by Room 314 of the Dal SUB.

To pick up your opt-out fees, come to Room 314 of the Dal SUB with your Dal ID anytime between:
10:30am-1pm, weekdays from Dec 3 - Dec 14, 2007



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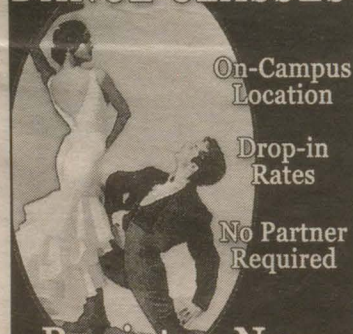


Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:

Monday, January 7th @ 5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB

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Developing Leaders in Energy

Congratulations to the winners of the 2007 Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Petroleum Innovation Grant



From left to right: Michael Giles, Clarke Campbell, Jonathan Cribb and Cody MacDonald

Michael Giles

Michael is a master of science student in the earth sciences department at Dalhousie University researching the geological architecture of the Laurentian Fan. Michael is from Bras d'Or, Nova Scotia and in April 2007, he completed his bachelor of science degree with honours at Dalhousie University.

Clarke Campbell

Clarke is from Mabou, Nova Scotia and graduated last spring from Dalhousie University with a bachelor of science degree with honours in earth science. He is currently working towards a master's degree in science at the earth sciences department of Dalhousie University studying structural and basin modeling of the Scotian Basin.

Jonathan Cribb

Jonathan lives in Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia and is a master of science student in the earth sciences department at Dalhousie University. His master's is focused on structural geology and basin modeling. Jonathan graduated from Memorial University in December 2006 with a bachelor of science degree with honours in earth science.

Cody MacDonald

Cody is working towards a master's degree in science at Dalhousie University, with a focus on Scotian Basin evolution and salt tectonics. He is from Enfield, Nova Scotia and graduated in April 2007 from Dalhousie University with a bachelor of science degree with honours in earth science.

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