

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE

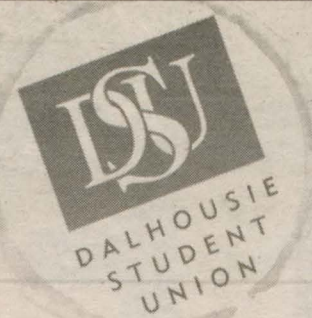
## UNSUSTAINABLE

Poor planning puts green office  
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Facebook albums a social plague  
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**FOURTH-YEAR FREAKOUT:**  
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**NINE-GAME WINNING STREAK SNAPS:**  
Laval beats Dal in volleyball tournament  
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# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Winter Carnival 2008 and the Munro Day Ski Trip

### Wednesday January 23

- Winter Wonderland  
10AM - 2PM - SUB Lobby
- Signal Hill  
9PM - Grawood - \$5

### Thursday January 24

- Free DAL Skate! (with your Dalcard)  
11:40AM - 1PM - DAL Arena  
Free hot chocolate and cookies!
- Jimmy Swift Band  
9PM - TRoom  
Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door  
Tickets on sale every Friday night in the TRoom  
Check [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for more ticket sales times



### Friday January 25

- Snow Sculptures  
1PM - Dalhousie Studley Quad  
Weather Permitting  
Contact [dsuvps1@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvps1@dal.ca) for more details and to register your team!
- Bling Bling Party  
9PM - Grawood - \$2  
All proceeds from this event are go to Shinerama!  
Bring your bling and dance the night away!

### Saturday January 26

- CHARITY BALL 2008! "A Masquerade Ball"

Tickets are \$25 and are going on sale Friday, January 11th at 6PM at the SUB Info Desk (cash and cheques only!)

Masks will be available for purchase on the night of the event. Doors open at 7PM, dinner is served at 7:30PM, followed by a live auction, live band and our house DJ.

All proceeds from the sale of masks and the donations from the live auction will be going to this year's selected charity: Bide Awhile Animal Shelter.

### Munro Day Ski Trip 2008

#### Friday February 1, 2008

Wentworth Valley of Snow  
Tickets go on sale at the SUB Info Desk starting on Friday January 11th, at 6PM

#### Tickets:

- (1) \$25 - Includes lift ticket, rental, and lesson (individual provides their own transportation)
- (2) \$45 - Includes lift ticket, rental, lesson, and transportation - buses will be leaving the front of the SUB at 8:30AM sharp and leaving Wentworth at 4:30PM

We also need chaperones for this event. If you are interested, please contact Courtney Larkin (Vice President Student Life) at [dsuvps1@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvps1@dal.ca)

Mike Tipping  
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## THE FINE PRINT

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

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

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

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.



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

# Give smokers a chance to catch their breath

**JOHN PACKMAN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

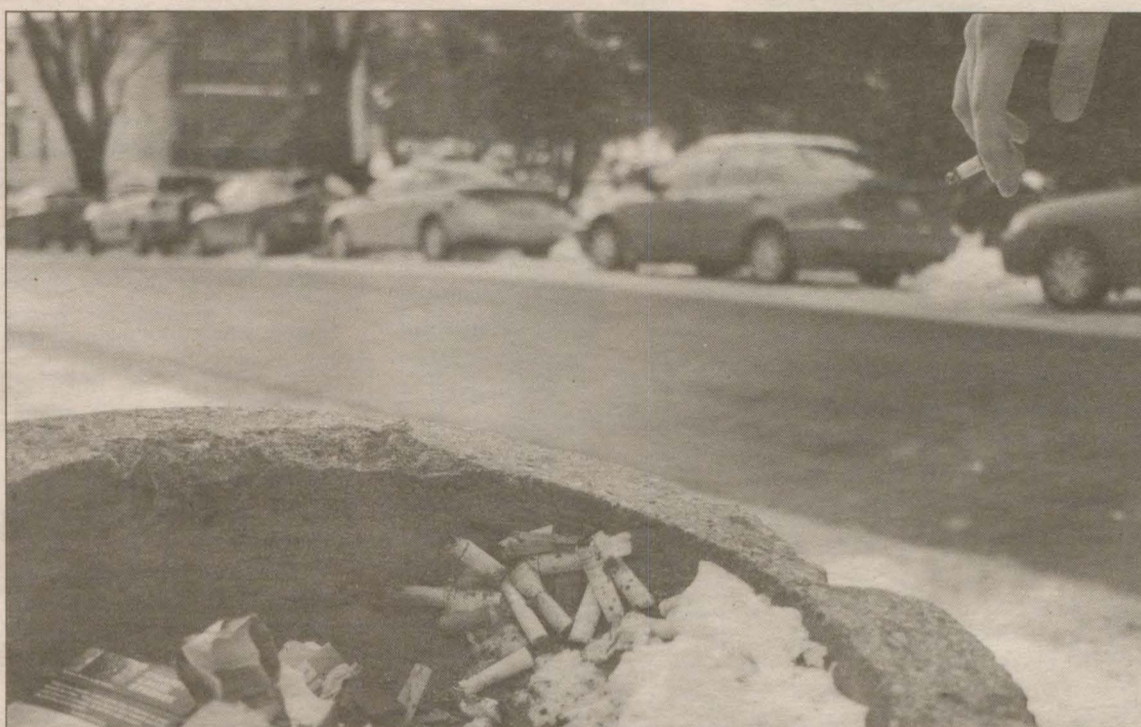
There comes a point when smoking bans are no longer based on legitimate health concerns but from a desire to ban smoking outright. And if Halifax's municipal government accepts councilor Linda Mosher's plan to ban people from smoking on city-owned beaches, sports fields, playgrounds and parks, smoking bans will have passed that point.

When the province banned smoking from restaurants and bars, it was to eliminate clear health hazards caused by the smoke. People had to work in these smoky areas all day and some workers were getting lung cancer. The phrase, "having a smoking section in a restaurant is like having a pissing section in a pool," gets the point across well enough.

When the province forced retailers to hide tobacco products from customers, I started to scratch my head.

But when a councilor wants to ban smoking on city beaches and parks for reasons like litter prevention, health protection and forest fire safety, people need to put their foot down.

Mosher is just pushing people to stop smoking. The idea that litter is so out of control that we have to outlaw smoking is unbelievable. Banning smoking from public parks is just a step in an attempt to ban



JOHN PACKMAN / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

What needs to be made clear to city council is that people who pay \$10 a pack and stand outside in -17 degree weather make a conscious decision to smoke.

smoking in all public places.

This is now happening in Bridgewater, N.S., where the town council tabled a bill last Monday to kick smokers off all public land. The bill would only allow them to light up in their cars and homes.

If this were to happen at Dal,

smokers wouldn't just be pushed to the sidewalk or on to smoker's island. They would either have to hike to King's College to smoke or decide whether to violate school or city policy.

These policies, in both Bridgewater and Halifax, don't recognize smokers as people who make informed

choices about their lives. They place the importance of litter prevention over people's right to choose.

What needs to be made clear to council is that people who smoke choose to smoke. And when they're paying \$10 per pack and standing outside in -17 degree weather,

there's no question that they know what they're doing.

I think smokers recognize, for the most part, that other people shouldn't have to deal with second-hand smoke, and according to a Canadian Cancer Society poll, 82 per cent of Canadians would support banning smoking in cars carrying children.

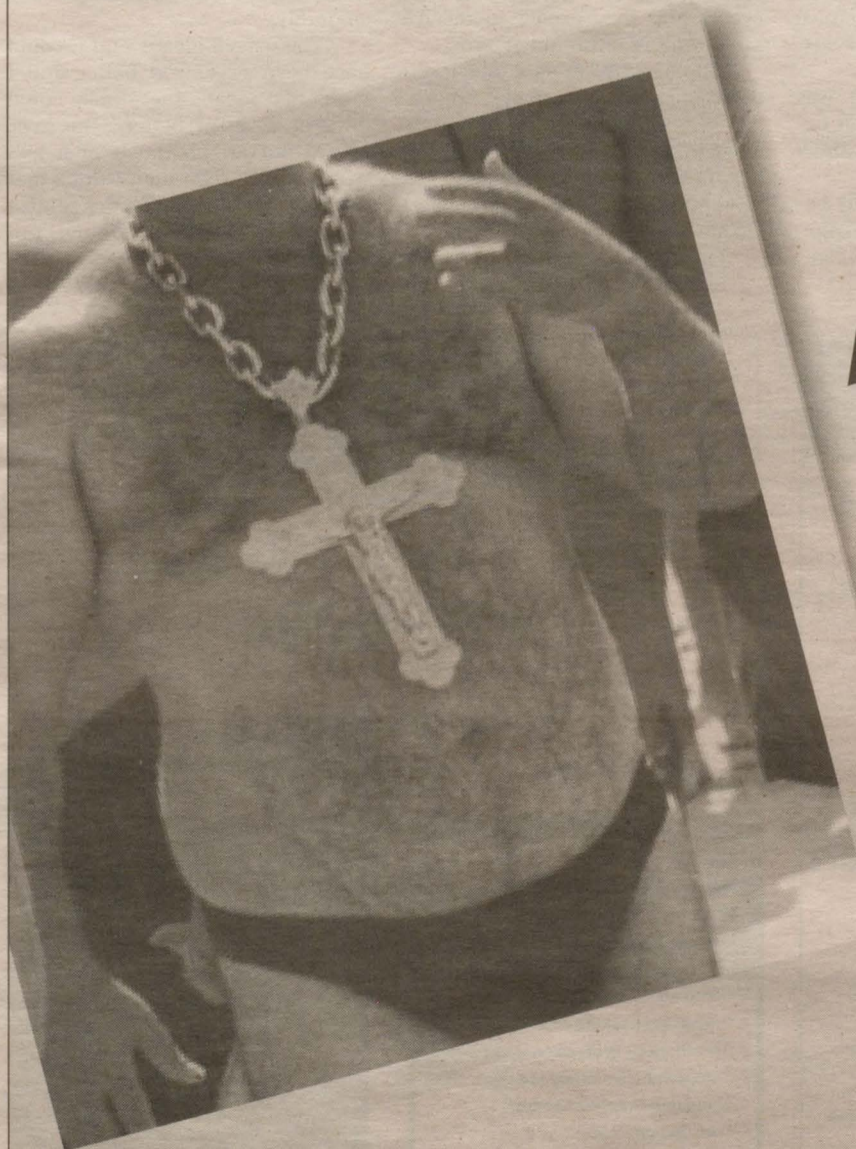
Smokers aren't unreasonable, inconsiderate people. Just like people who choose to drink coffee or alcohol, they know that what they're consuming isn't great for them and should be able to make the choice for themselves.

People should be annoyed if they feel their health is being affected by the decisions of others. But if people are simply offended by smoking as a general practice, they should have no more sway in government than people who are offended by nose picking.

StatsCan just released figures indicating that smoking among teenagers has gone down considerably in the last seven years. In Nova Scotia, the number of teen smokers has gone from 31 per cent to 12 per cent. This should make it clear that smoking is no longer just a social habit people pick up for no reason.

Our municipal governments should treat smokers as conscious citizens with rights and, stop wasting council's time by trying to ban smoking outright.

# THINK YOU'RE HOT?



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modelling for our upcoming  
sex issue?  
If so, please contact our  
photo editor:  
[photo@dalgazette.ca](mailto:photo@dalgazette.ca)

**GAZETTE**

# Levy mix-up caused office debt

## Sustainability structure overhauled

KATIE MAY  
NEWS EDITOR

Student leaders are still fighting for their environmental visions for the campus after Dalhousie Student Union's brand-new sustainability office fell short of expectations within its first days of operation.

Nearly \$7,000 short, in fact.

The student-funded office, founded to promote environmentally safe projects at Dal, was already thousands of dollars over budget when it opened in September, due to a mathematical mistake the union discovered too late.

Now the newly hired sustainability coordinator has resigned, the DSU is transforming the office's governance structure and some society executives are disagreeing about how the office was supposed to function in the first place.

Mark Coffin, policy director for the student group SustainDal, says the DSU-run office was formed amid widespread confusion.

"The way they originally thought it was going to work with the office isn't actually the way it ended up working out," he says.

Last year, when members of environmental societies, including SustainDal, then known as Dalhousie Integrated Sustainability Initiative (DISI), lobbied for an official eco-friendly headquarters on campus, they asked full-time students to pay \$2 each starting this school year.

Students agreed, voting in favour of the levy in a referendum during the DSU elections last spring. The referendum question, which was approved by last year's union executive, asked only full-time students to pay the fee.

But when two former Dal students, Zoë Caron and Lilith Wyatt, the main supporters of the sustainability office from the start, drew up the office budget before fall term with help from current DSU President Mike Tipping, they miscalculated available student funds.

They planned the budget as if part-time students would also be contributing \$2 each and posted a full-time coordinator position salary at \$28,000 - too expensive for the



JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
Some SustainDal members want official representation for their society on the DSU's sustainability office committee.

collected student money to cover.

By the time they realized their mistake, Tipping says, they'd already hired Torill Gillespie, who moved to Halifax from Victoria, B.C., to fill the position. The DSU decided to pay the extra \$7,000 from its own budget.

"She had already agreed to it, we had signed it (the contract) with her and she moved across the country. There was no way we were going to ask her to take less," he says. "But if we had known, we definitely wouldn't have signed a contract for that much money."

Some SustainDal members, meanwhile, wanted to play a bigger role within the office since they were so involved in organizing the sustainability movement. Some students, including Coffin, thought their society and the DSU office would become one and the same.

Then Gillespie, whose job involved raising awareness about en-

vironmental efforts and promoting sustainable student projects, recommended SustainDal stay completely separate from the office so the student group wouldn't inherit the debt.

"I was kind of uneasy about it then, but I guess \$7,000 is nothing university students want to worry about during the school year so I just kind of went with it," Coffin says.

Gillespie quit as coordinator in late November. She declined to comment when The Gazette contacted her, suggesting in an e-mail that members of the DSU executive asked her not to talk about the sustainability office.

But Coffin says Gillespie was "very frustrated" before she left because the DSU "didn't have direct goals" for the office.

"I think it was just basically because there was too much confusion as to what her job actually entailed,"

says Coffin. "She arrived here and there was absolutely nothing. Like, an empty office. Not even a computer."

"It was part of her job to set up the office so that it could function," he adds, "There was no office budget at all."

Caron, who co-founded DISI in 2005, changed the society's name to SustainDal last year when she started planning the official student-funded office. She says she meant for the DSU office to parallel Dal administration's new sustainability office, which opened at the beginning of winter term.

"The sustainability office was created before the administration decided to create one as well, so the original vision was much bigger," Caron wrote in an e-mail. "That narrowed once the administration announced their plans."

The DSU office should be "working towards economic, social, and environmental sustainability by improving DSU operations and policies, student culture on campus, and integrating sustainability into class learning," she added.

Before Gillespie left, she prepared a list of recommended changes to the sustainability office's structure for the DSU, including the creation of a management committee.

Rosalie Hanlon, DSU vice-president (internal) now heads the management committee, which is made up of six students - three DSU council members and three non-council members.

Hanlon also hired three students to replace Gillespie in part-time positions: a sustainability liaison between the union and the university, a "networker" to find eco-friendly campus projects and a "promoter" to publicize those projects. The students now have a small budget for events and they expect to receive honorariums at the end of term.

Tipping says hiring students for those jobs can only benefit the office.

"The situation we're at now is what we should have had from the beginning. I think this office needs to support the work of students at Dalhousie."

Though the networker, Emily

Rideout, also serves on the SustainDal executive, Coffin and fellow SustainDal member Rachel Derrah say they want official representation for their group on the sustainability office's management board.

"We should've had representation on that initial committee that put together the office. I mean, there should have been a spot for us," Derrah says. "We worry about the overlap. We think that the SustainDal structure... would operate well as the office and that's not the way it is right now, so we'll see how it goes. It should go fine."

SustainDal and the DSU sustainability office have almost exactly the same goals, according to their mandates. The only difference is that SustainDal is a student society that generates student projects and the office is an official student union facility that can promote student projects with more funding.

Hanlon says the management committee for the DSU office decided not to link the two in the interest of fairness for other societies and to allow the sustainability office to remain open to all groups.

"Predominantly, what we heard was (students) want the office to be a hub for all students on campus that work on sustainability," she says.

"What I'm hearing is that that wasn't fully communicated to all of the groups involved, so SustainDal didn't realize when they were advocating for (the levy), they weren't advocating for SustainDal's office."

Both Coffin and Derrah say their society doesn't want to control the DSU office, it just wants to reduce confusion among students by working together with the office instead of separately for environmental causes.

Derrah says the sustainability office needs to be up and running for a couple more years to function smoothly.

"The overall idea is that it could have been organized better and I guess that means the money could have been spent better," she says. "We're not at too much of a loss where we are right now. I think that we're at a great spot with this semester to really get off the ground, run with it."



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# Students skip Dal bookstore

Profs turning to local shops for texts

MIRA GOLDBERG-POCH  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The university bookstore used to be the one and only place to go for Dalhousie textbooks. But lately, more students are trekking to other Halifax stores in search of class texts.

Ordering course textbooks through the official university bookstore is not required at Dal, and many professors are taking advantage of that liberty by stocking their reading material at other bookshops throughout the city.

Profs seem to favour Outside the Lines, an independent bookstore on Quinpool Road that markets "books for critical minds."

History professor Dr. Colin Mitchell has been ordering his course books from Outside the Lines for two years because of his profound dislike for the campus store.

"Every time I went into the bookstore I realized how relegated books are as a commodity; you see scarves and T-shirts and brands," he says. "I began to feel fairly strongly that the bookstore was no longer a bookstore - that it was something else altogether."

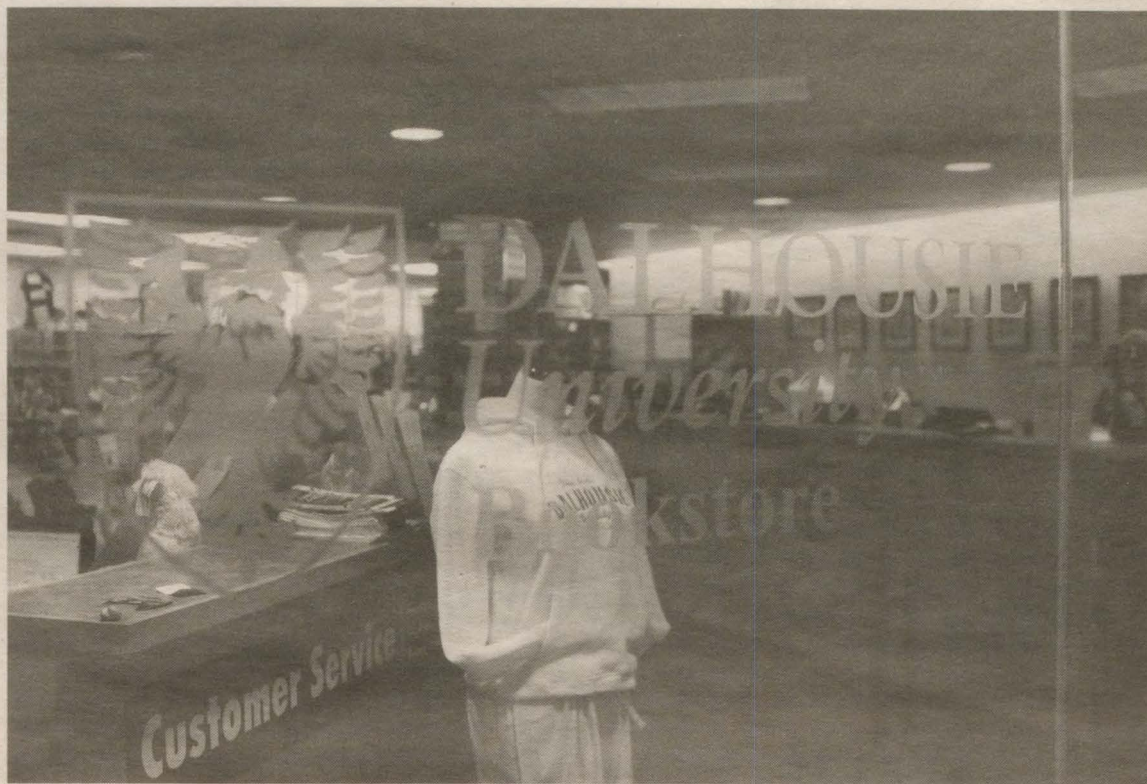
After the Dal bookstore botched his orders multiple times, Mitchell grew frustrated and stopped ordering from the store completely.

He says making course texts available at local bookstores is more beneficial for students because they can peruse titles other than those required for classes.

"My outsourcing isn't motivated by costs but by the fact that university students are not being given an environment to explore their literary or academic interests in books," Mitchell says. "I hope students will take five to 10 minutes to take a look at what's around."

But Dr. Christopher Bell, also a history professor, expresses a different view.

"I've never even considered using an outside source," Bell says, even though he's also experienced



JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"I began to feel fairly strongly that the bookstore was no longer a bookstore; that it was something else altogether," says history prof Colin Mitchell.

incorrect and omitted orders at Dal.

He has, however, heard several students complain about their expensive textbooks.

"If there was a place I knew that was reliable and cheaper, for the benefit of the student I'd consider switching. But I'm not aware that there is a good alternative at this time."

Political science professor Dr. David Black uses Outside the Lines because he gets better service there. He says ordering texts from the local shop is an "easy" and "personalized" process.

"I see it as an opportunity to support a local outlet that is a very valuable addition to the Halifax community," he says. "Students get to know the store and what it has to offer as a result of being drawn in there for

textbooks, and I think that's a good thing."

Third-year history student Elizabeth McArdle also says the Quinpool bookstore has more to offer.

"You don't get the cultural experience. Going to the [Dal] bookstore is boring," the 20-year-old says. "Whereas going to a store like Outside the Lines, you're exposed to new literature."

Despite the increase in professors ordering their books off-campus, Dal Bookstore's manager, Michelle Studley, says the store has not noticed a decline in textbook orders.

Professors aren't only looking for different book suppliers. Some have also turned to the internet for teaching materials.

Erin Christy, a third-year political science and business student, is

taking a course in which one of her textbooks is offered online.

"I can buy my textbook online for less than half of what it costs in the bookstore," she says, adding that while she won't receive a hard copy of the text, the money saved is well worth it.

But, as Mitchell says, professors' outsourcing to alternative retailers isn't solely motivated by money.

"Students are interested in academic titles," he says, lamenting the nonexistence of a section in the Dal bookstore that offers intellectual books other than those ordered for courses. But he isn't willing to give up entirely on the campus bookstore.

"The day they make it a real bookstore again, I'm back in."

## Neighbours want noisy students punished

BETHANY HORNE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie won't punish students who disrupt their neighbours, despite citizen requests for strict academic consequences, university President Tom Traves announced at a recent community meeting.

City councillors, police officers and roughly 25 community members met with university staff Jan. 16 to raise their concerns about Dal's relationship with its neighbours.

Two community members came to the meeting to ask that Dal impose penalties, such as suspensions or expulsions, for students who face civil charges stemming from noise violations or other public disruptions.

Patricia Brennan, a new resident of Halifax from Belfast, Ireland, made a complaint on behalf of eight of her neighbours against an apartment filled with disruptive Dal students. She's appealed to the landlord and brought charges against the students without seeing any changes in their behaviour.

She said the problem would only be solved if the university withheld graduation from students who consistently disrespect laws about noise, litter and disturbances.

Another neighbour, who left the meeting early after airing her complaint, also pressed Traves to impose more controls on student behaviour.

But Traves said university of-

ficials cannot and should not act as police.

"There are limits on the university's capacity to regulate the social lives of students," he responded. "I think that is appropriate... I don't think we should have an unfettered right to expel someone because someone else doesn't like the way they are behaving in their home."

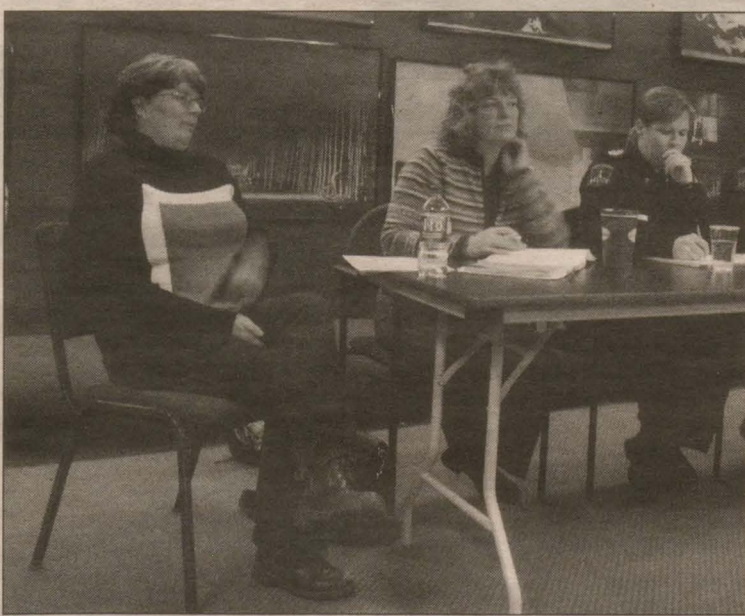
Though several citizens who spoke congratulated Dal administration and police on their efforts to control and prevent civil disobedience, many suggested alcohol abuse as a cause for unruly student behaviour.

Cliff Falkenham, superintendent of the Halifax Regional Police, confirmed the Dal-area patrol team is busiest between 1 and 4 a.m. - after last call at downtown bars - prompting Citadel MLA Leonard Preyra to suggest earlier closing times for city bars.

Sue Uteck argued it's common now for students to be drunk on their way downtown, not just on their way back. The Northwest Arm - South End city councillor, who has jurisdiction over the university, said closing bars earlier wouldn't do any good while liquor stores are still open until 10 p.m.

But the councillor for Connaught-Quinpool, Sheila Fougere, said drinking is a "broader social issue, not a university issue."

Dal's community committee has



JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

City councillors, police officers and roughly 25 community members met with university staff Jan. 16 for a neighbourhood discussion.

held annual public meetings since fall 2003 to deal with issues that arise among neighbours of the university.

"When we started this four years ago there were well over 400 people. So when you see 25 people tonight, I think Dal's addressing concerns and they are doing a good job," said Uteck, a committee member.

Traves said he was pleased with the results of the discussions and wasn't surprised by complaints.

"There was a fair share of voices who said things have gotten better," he said.

"We can do a better job of educating students to recognize their social and civil responsibilities to be better neighbours. Some people don't get it, but in any community there are always people who don't get it. You don't stop trying. That is the most direct thing we can do - public education."

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# Grawood losing less

Bar saves money, drinking declines: VP (finance)

JOHN PACKMAN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dal's main campus bar is once again far from making a profit. But this year marks the closest The Grawood has come to breaking even since it was completely redesigned and moved to the first floor of the Student Union Building nearly six years ago.

The Grawood is slated to lose at least \$44,000 this year - more if it rakes in less than the \$6,000 projected for this term.

Dal Student Union's vice-president (finance) says shrinking deficits are due to fewer operations costs.

"Drinking is actually declining, but we've been able to reign in waste," Gareth Stackhouse says.

He attributes the savings to bar manager Greg Wright, who's been overseeing The Grawood and Sexton campus' T-Room for the past five years. Since Wright took the job, The Grawood has cut back on unnecessary bar staff and on wasted food and drinks.

The Grawood also stopped hiring weekly pub bands to perform on Wednesday nights.

Linton Porter-Taylor, the bar's marketing and promotions assistant, says the bands cost too much money. Even with live music, the campus bar had difficulty competing for crowds with downtown venues.



JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Grawood marketing assistant Linton Porter-Taylor says the bar saves money because it doesn't hire pub bands anymore.

"Once The Dome went to dollar drinks all night, we seemed to have lost a lot of momentum with our Wednesdays," says Porter-Taylor. "We're really affected by what hap-

pens downtown."

This year, The Grawood is replacing its Wednesday night pub bands with a less expensive open mic night, which used to offer \$100 for the best

performers. Now, prizes are Grawood gift certificates.

Although The Dome recently raised its drink prices and shut down its upstairs live music showcase, Porter-Taylor says the Dal bar isn't trying to compete with clubs in the city.

"We're trying to focus on the crowd that isn't going to be going downtown," he says. "Most open mic people aren't The Dome crowd or The Palace crowd."

The Grawood is expected to spend \$20,000 on security this year, largely because of its wet/dry program. The dual license admits Dal students who are under 19 but doesn't give them access to alcohol.

The bar has to hire more security staff to enforce the program, says Stackhouse, and that can get expensive. One extra bouncer costs the bar an additional \$14 per hour.

"It can really put your liquor license in jeopardy if people are drinking underage."

He says security staff will usually only allow 40 underage students into the bar each night, except for special events or if the bouncers can handle more.

"It's a very fine balancing act. You want to have it available to all students because everyone pays into the rent," says Stackhouse, referring to the mandatory student union fee all students pay each year, part of which goes toward maintaining the

SUB.

While Mount Saint Vincent University and the University of King's College offer similar wet/dry programs, The Grawood is the only bar that welcomes underage Dal students.

Birgit Brun, a second-year international development student, says while she might go to The Grawood for special events, she prefers hitting the clubs downtown.

"[The Grawood] is more of a first-year student and underage scene," she says.

The Grawood also forgoes cover charge profits by occasionally donating cover money to charity and hosting weekly society nights. As an incentive to get more student groups to come to the bar on Friday nights, students collect a \$2 to \$5 fee at the door for their societies.

The T-Room, which is also run by the DSU, is currently running at a \$3,500 deficit, but is expected to break even or make a small profit by the end of the school year.

The bar, which doesn't have a wet/dry policy and doesn't serve food, made nearly \$3,000 last year, but lost \$5,000 the year before.

Any profits from the T-Room or The Grawood are put back into the bar. Losses are covered by student fees.

## Uni-Briefs

### DAL-IN-BRIEF

#### Mercer to visit Dal

A team of Dal students beat out 72 other student groups from universities across Canada to grab the top spot in a national anti-malaria fundraising campaign.

Their prize is a visit from Rick Mercer of The Rick Mercer Report T.V. show. Mercer sponsored the Spread the Net project along with former cabinet minister Belinda Stronach. The campaign required students to collect donations to purchase mosquito bed nets for families in Africa.

Dal's two fundraising teams, including Hilary Taylor, Victoria Jones and Keith Torrie, raised a total of \$17,035 since they began the campus challenge in November.

The University of Ottawa came in second and Carleton University took third place.

### CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

#### Expensive mistake at Ryerson

A Ryerson University student's debt almost doubled after adminis-

tration demanded she repay scholarship money awarded to her by mistake last month.

The school mixed up the identification numbers of two students with the same last name and wrongly sent Chi Nguyen a cheque for \$1,350.

Ryerson financial aid staff told the second-year journalism student the amount would be deducted from her student account, but she already owes \$1,500 in tuition charges and can't afford to pay back the scholarship.

"I don't want to pay for their mistake," Nguyen told The Eyeopener student newspaper. "It's a guilt trip, you know? Like they want me to feel bad and pay for their mistake."

The school originally told her that the student who was supposed to receive the money wouldn't get it until Nguyen paid it back, yet The Eyeopener reported that administration mailed a cheque to the intended recipient last month.

#### Schools balk at copyright fees

Students and staff across the country questioned why univer-

sities have to pay copyright fees for class material as course reader prices rose.

According to a recent Canadian University Press (CUP) report, students are now paying more for course packs. Photocopying is becoming more expensive, but most of the pack fees go to copyright organizations.

Copyright fees cannot be charged for private study material, according to Canadian law, and some university officials argue that "private study" includes academic courses and that schools shouldn't have to pay for licenses.

"I wish they [licenses] weren't around, but that's the way it is right now," said Inba Kehoe, copyright officer at the University of Victoria. "Some of us in the field feel that we could do without them and just follow the legislation and go with it."

#### Acadia students fundraise for laptops

An Acadia University student used concert tickets to help buy laptops for students in underdeveloped countries.

When the school sold tickets for

the Nova Scotia indie band Wintersleep, it asked students to donate \$1 toward the purchase of four of high-tech laptops that cost \$200 each.

The computers are designed to be especially durable for children, the Athenaeum student newspaper reported Jan. 17.

Trevor Kouyoumjian, the Acadia student who came up with the idea, was rejected when he first asked the university for money to support the project.

"The focus right now is on developing nations," Kouyoumjian said. "Giving them access to the internet, to allow them to educate themselves and hopefully create their own way of developing into what they want, [is the goal] instead of what we think they want."

Sources: *The Eyeopener; Canadian University Press; Athenaeum*

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER

#### Princeton frosh to go free

Princeton University announced undergraduates won't have to pay tuition or residence

fees in the fall.

The Daily Princetonian reported Jan. 16 that the university plans to get rid of all student fees next year. The announcement came after Harvard and Yale both boosted their financial aid programs and slashed student fees. The student newspaper called Princeton's move the best in the "financial aid pissing contest."

School officials said they will cover the costs by dipping deeper into Princeton's endowment funds.

"Eliminating all expenses of undergraduate study is the greatest thing we could do to attract students from diverse backgrounds to Princeton," said President Shirley M. Tilghman.

"Rather than attempting to make our financial aid packages slightly more favorable than those of our peer institutions, we've decided to go even further to make attainable the finest undergraduate education in the world. There is nothing more noble than a top-notch free education and we have made just that a reality."

Source: *The Daily Princetonian*

### SUMMER CAMP JOB IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 8/21-8/16. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting at SMU Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 PM in LOYOLA Room 176.

Interviewing Friday February 8th from 10-3 at Summer Employment Fair (DAL SUB - 2nd floor, MacInnes Room)

Visit [www.camptowanda.com](http://www.camptowanda.com) Staff Experience for application. Other questions??? email [staff@camptowanda.com](mailto:staff@camptowanda.com) or call 800 923-2267.



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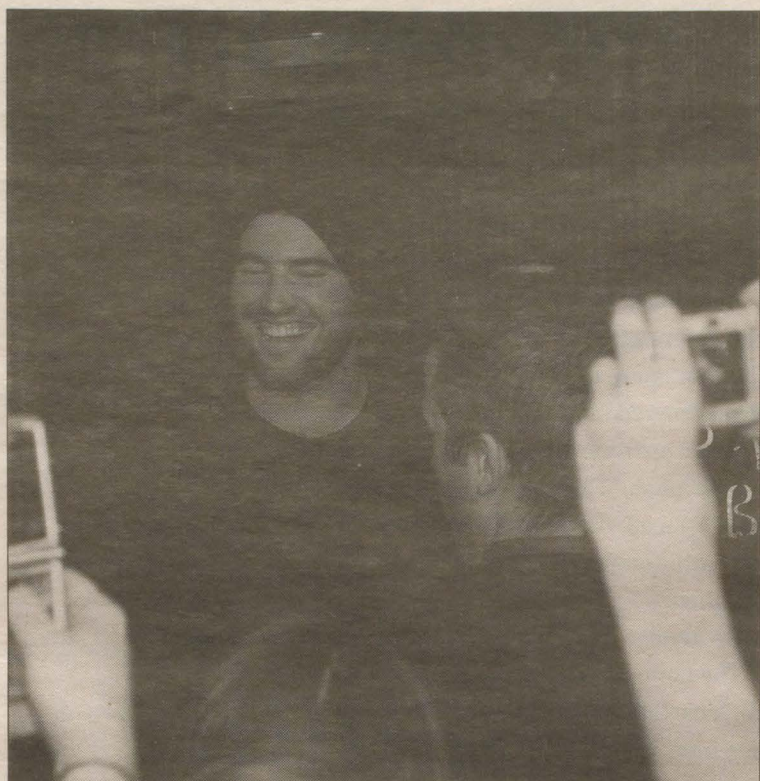
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JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

## Face the truth about photo albums

CHRIS METLER  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I was 'creeping' on a friend's Facebook page and couldn't help but notice she had 93 photo albums. Ninety-three albums, created in less than two years. I'm not discounting the importance of my friend's personal experiences, but really, 93 albums?

About 85 of the 93 albums featured the same people pre-drinking, girls standing in the same formation, everybody making the same Zoolander faces, flaunting themselves at the same club and of course, falling down in the same way at the end of the night. And there were doubles of about every single photo. It felt like I was looking at nearly 100 different versions of the exact same album!

Obsessive picture-taking and immediate mass-posting on Facebook, accompanied by unfunny album titles and tags, are an epidemic. It's no longer about sharing a personal experience - it's about advertising yourself and who you hang out with.

I realize the initial intention of taking pictures is to preserve a mo-

ment. But I can't even count the number of times I've been out having fun with my friends when all of a sudden, some girl I've never even met before whips out a camera and motions for us to all strike a pose.

All I can think is, "Isn't she kind of forcing the moment here?" And within 12 hours, that picture is uploaded, tagged, captioned and out there for the world to see.

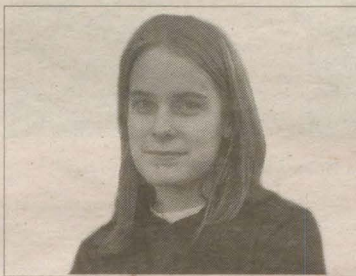
Facebook has become my own personalized little version of *People* magazine, complete with a recognizable cast of faces that keep popping up and others that are desperately trying to break in.

I just don't understand it. Do people even go out anymore to have a good time, or simply for the sake of documenting it? I don't need 40 albums from the same group of friends showing me everyone had a good time at Steve Aoki. I know everyone had a good time at Steve Aoki, because I was there.

So to the junior paparazzi: put the camera down for just a couple of minutes and enjoy yourself. Life will go on even if you don't post it on Facebook.

# The Scientific Skeptic

## Looking for Planet X



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

Two years ago, kids and astronomy enthusiasts mourned the demotion of Pluto from planet to trans-Neptunian object (TNO). A TNO is simply an object of a certain size in our solar system that orbits beyond Neptune.

Since Pluto's discovery in 1930, astronomers have found an increasing number of cold, distant, moon-sized spheres and Pluto just wasn't special enough anymore. But new evidence suggests there might be a dark, icy, Earth-sized sibling to Pluto hiding out there.

Our solar system and all the planets in it were formed around 4.6 billion years ago from a cloud of hot, spinning gas. Gravity caused hydrogen to condense around the centre, and eventually the pressure of gravity started a nuclear fusion reaction and gave birth to our sun. The remaining gas hovered around our sun, and particles the size of grains of sand continuously collided with each other until collections of them grew to the size of planets.

In the hot area close to the sun, the only molecules to remain solid were those with high melting points. So planets in this area, such as Mars, Venus, Mercury and our Earth, are giant rocks. Jupiter and Saturn are

gas giants made up of hydrogen and helium, leftover from the original cloud of gas.

Further out, things get much, much colder. Uranus and Neptune are giant clouds of frozen liquids. Beyond Uranus and Neptune is the Kuiper belt, made up of smaller balls of ice, such as Pluto, Sedna and all the other objects now classified as TNOs.

The yet undiscovered planet, dubbed 'Planet X,' is believed to be in the Kuiper belt.

It's very plausible that astronomers missed a planet in the distant regions of our solar system, even one as big as our Earth. Scans of the Kuiper belt are far from complete, and the asteroid belts and the Kuiper belt in our solar system aren't like those seen in the Star Wars movies or in other science fiction.

Asteroids are extremely spread out, even if they are supposedly 'clustered together' in a belt. There's so much distance between them that we don't even bother taking them into account when launching probes into our solar system, because the probability of coming into collision with one is pretty much nil.

The evidence for the existence of Planet X is not based on what we can see, but on how another planet might interact with the other objects in our solar system. Neptune was discovered over 100 years ago when astronomers noticed irregularities in the orbit of Uranus - irregularities caused by the gravitational pull of another large object. Pluto was discovered much later from the same sort of evidence.

Today, small anomalies in the orbits of the outer planets have yet to be explained. The Kuiper belt contains a 'Kuiper cliff' - a sharp drop in

the density of ice balls that is cleared of debris. The sharp edges of Saturn's rings were sculpted long ago by the influence of another massive object. Some scientists believe the same may have happened with the Kuiper cliff and Planet X.

Of course, as with all new theories in science, the idea of Planet X is still controversial among astronomers. Researchers at Kobe University have a computer model that explains the Kuiper belt and the anomalies of the orbits of certain solar bodies by predicting the existence of Planet X.

Another team of researchers from France and Colorado have a competing theory, in which the orbits of the gas giants in the early formation of the solar system explain the anomalies.

This controversy might be settled in the near future, when planned telescopes such as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope in Chile, the Discovery Channel Telescope in Arizona and Pan-STARRS in Hawaii become operational and start scouring the outer regions of our solar system.

We have known about most of our planetary neighbours for centuries. We have watched them cross the sky since ancient times. They seem static and unchanging, and we've moved on to exploring far distant objects such as other stars and galaxies.

Though humans have yet to travel past the moon, we seem to feel comfortable in our armchair observations of our solar environs. However, if Planet X is ever discovered, it will bring along with it some humbling questions. If a planet has remained hidden within our own solar system, what else could be out there in the dark?

## Getting to the root

RACHEL SUNTER  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

A male friend of mine who once advocated for pube maintenance recently informed me that, to his dismay, the bush is coming back into fashion.

I asked him why it was such a bad thing. I'm not some über-naturalist-hair-loving feminist, but I do want to get to the root of pubic hair phobia.

Here's what I think it is: we pee near, around or through our pubic hair. The hair retains residue. Sexual involvement with this hair is sexual involvement with urine, bacteria and god knows what else.

This is both degrading and humiliating to think that, as a woman (although the same applies to bushy men), my natural body carries around a sponge of bacteria and human waste. It sounds pretty unhealthy. And that's the idea that fuels a fear of pubic hair - that when left to grow, it's unsanitary.

To investigate the truth of this fuzzy rumour, I consulted blogs, health websites and message boards that question pubic hair care.

The issue is much more tangled than I'd thought.

Many posts supported the notion that pubic hair is unclean, but this was rarely backed by any hard evidence. It was most often called "gross" and "stinky" and accompanied by ads for shaving and waxing. One writer went as far as arguing that pubic hair no longer serves its evolutionary purpose, seeing that we have warm clothing and shelter.

Perhaps the most entertaining site is my-pubic-hair.blogspot.com,



where a blogger dedicates an entire site to shaving, trimming and shaping tips, complete with links like "Shave your pubic hair in 6 steps" and "Your Own Pubic Hair Style."

But in a response to a post on fadedyouthblog.com, about nude photos of actress Marcia Cross and the ensuing debate over her pubic hair, one writer argues for the bush, complaining "porn has ruined us all." It seems not everyone believes hair is unclean or unattractive.

At youqa.com, a question and answer site, a writer argues shaved pubic regions are actually unsanitary because by keeping clothing away from the skin, pubic hair promotes

healthy air circulation. This flow of air allows sweat to evaporate, minimizing both odours and bacterial and fungal growth.

I personally can't help but find a bristling bush kind of unsexy. I won't deny it - smooth is in.

But I'm not about to confuse sexiness with sanitation and general health. Excluding the presence of hair-dwelling parasites (e.g. crabs), pubic hair is perfectly healthy and when kept clean, does not store any odours genitals don't naturally produce.

To paraphrase a writer at youqa.com: keep it or don't keep it, just keep it clean.

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# STREETER

If you could rename Dal, what would you call it?



“The Fraser Institute or something else right-wing.”

Brad Congram, third-year psychology



“Extra-Hot Vanilla Bean Mocha Latte University.”

Frances McGurre, fifth-year sociology



“D. and A. U. (Drugs and Alcohol University).”

Daniel Stern, fourth-year political science



“The Alex Gosselin Institute of Learning.”

Alex Gosselin, first-year engineering



“The Really Expensive and Piss Poor Facilities.”

Zeke Seedless, first-year MBA



“Peace and Prosperity University.”

Omar Ahmed, fourth-year philosophy



“Pumpnickel University.”

Keir MacInnis, first-year computer science



“The St. Joseph's Shelter for the Poor, Hungry and Lost.”

James Munson, eighth-year walrus pleaser

# TOP 10

## ...AWESOME TRUE FACTS

1. In terms of annual fatalities, donkeys are more dangerous than airplanes.
2. The only member of ZZ Top who doesn't have a beard is Frank Beard.
3. Two things in your house that don't spoil: honey and hard liquor.
4. The Tyrannosaurus, the Velociraptor, and the Triceratops never lived during the Jurassic period. Fuck you, Hollywood.
5. Almonds are not nuts. They are part of the same genus as cherries and peaches.
6. In Paraguay, dueling is legal provided that both people involved are registered blood donors.
7. There are nine different ways to pronounce the letter combination 'ough.' This sentence contains all nine: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough. After falling into a slough, he coughed and hic-coughed."
8. On average, right-handed people live nine years longer than lefties.
9. The national orchestra of Monaco is bigger than its army.
10. Most labourers who worked to build the great pyramids were free men. They are known to have gone on strike for more generous beer rations.

# HOT OR NOT

<b>HOT:</b> Showers	<b>NOT:</b> Douches
<b>HOT:</b> <i>The Big Chill</i>	<b>NOT:</b> The wind chill
<b>HOT:</b> Checkmate	<b>NOT:</b> Regicide
<b>HOT:</b> Falling temperatures	<b>NOT:</b> Falling ice
<b>HOT:</b> Seasonal Affective Disorder	<b>NOT:</b> Acronyms
<b>HOT:</b> Salting your sidewalks	<b>NOT:</b> Salt in your wounds
<b>HOT:</b> Requesting your transcripts	<b>NOT:</b> Reading your transcripts
<b>HOT:</b> Tigers on patrol	<b>NOT:</b> Tiger Patrol
<b>HOT:</b> Book buy back	<b>NOT:</b> Book burning
<b>HOT:</b> Subliminal messages	<b>NOT:</b> Sotirod yub

### DISCLAIMER

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

## INDUSTRY SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATES

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# OVERHEARD AT DAL

## On Spring Garden:

**Girl1:** You just need to go out in a blaze of orgasmical glory...

## Guy talking about his bowel movements in a co-ed washroom in Howe Hall:

They just haven't been the same since I came back from Indonesia..

**Guy1:** Yeah, so I think I failed, like, every exam I had... I think I might end up having to re-do, like, everything I already did this term.

**Guy2:** Damn. You should have saved before the final boss. (what?)

**Girl1:** You know, he's from the farm.

**Girl2:** Well, that would explain the bulge.

## Girl at Dalplex:

I never failed until I got to Dal.

## After an ECON 1101 exam, in Shirreff Hall lobby:

**Guy1:** Hey, how do you think you did?

**Guy2:** Better than you, you fucking retard.

## Prof:

All of this reminds me of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. My religion comes with sequins.

## A bunch of little kids walking with a few parents by Shirreff Hall:

**Kid:** What's that?

**Parent:** That's Shirreff Hall. It's one of the residences of Dal. It's like a prison for university students.

## Walking from Howe to Lawtons:

**Guy1:** So she was hot?

**Guy2:** Sooo hot! Like O.K. you see me? You know what I look like?

**Guy1:** Yeah.

**Guy2:** So this girl was so hot she was like me but a chick.

**Guy1:** ...sweet.

## 3000 level Microbiology class:

**Prof:** This is the sexy part of gene therapy

## Guy in the LSC food court:

I can't drink apple juice because it used to give me ear infections.

## Walking past the wetlands near the LSC:

**Guy1:** Those are some shitty wetlands.

**Guy2:** My mom has nice wet lands... I mean, wait... your mom."



# Gazette

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

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

## Keeping sustainability simple

The concept of sustainability is simple: waste less to maintain more for the future.

If we don't want our entire Dalhousie campus to someday resemble a Life Sciences Centre classroom without fluorescents, for example, we have to start making gradual improvements now. We won't squander what we already have, we'll plan ahead, we'll use our resources wisely.

But first we need to know how to do those things. That's why the reasoning behind the Dal Student Union's new sustainability office is so easy to understand. We students need a place to go to learn which eco-friendly changes to make and how to fit them into our daily lives.

We need a place where we can share our ideas for new environmental change, a place in which others will support our plans and help us demand action, even in the unflinching face of opposition, until our ideas are realities. That's the fresh, simplistic goal of such a sustainability office - to serve students so they will have the tools to make this school a better place for themselves and future students.

Indeed, the written philosophy of the DSU's green office is a commitment to "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

With all these straightforward sustainability notions in mind, the only part of the DSU's new office that's a little bit difficult to understand is why it currently seems to have so much trouble sustaining itself.

The institution's first term of unstable existence, despite the shining promise of a hard-earned and well-deserved student levy, makes more sense when we consider how a simple mistake set the foundation for a dangerous trap of continual confusion at the sustainability office.

A simple mathematical error compromised the office budget from the beginning. The budget planners, some of whom also helped decide the terms of the levy, mistakenly expected to collect office funding from part-time students as well as full-time students. The referendum question stated that only full-time students would each fork over \$2 to pay for the office.

It's an easy mistake. So easy, in fact, that all those responsible for organizing office finances overlooked it - and no one seems to know exactly where to place the blame. But it was a crucial error, because it wasted students' most important resource - money.

Instead of planning ahead efficiently to ensure a sustainable future for its office, the DSU simply used all of the available student fees - plus about \$7,000 more - to pay for one employee's over-budgeted salary.

Was it a wise use of our resources? One toonie per student isn't much, but neither is one littered sandwich wrapper or a puff of exhaust fumes. But it all adds up.

The student union has taken a step toward a functional and lasting sustainability office by setting up a governing body and splitting inner-office responsibilities three ways.

That structure will be impossible to uphold, however, if students can't incorporate the new changes into their daily lives.

DSU vice-president (internal) Rosalie Hanlon says students want the office to serve as "a hub for all students on campus that work on sustainability."

Policy director for the SustainDal society, Mark Coffin, on the other hand, says the office feels more like "a complex web-work of bureaucracy that doesn't really need to be there."

If different groups - that are already focused on Dal's environmental issues interpret the office's framework simultaneously as helpful or restrictive, the average student won't even be able to push past the cloud of confusion that still so clearly divides and preoccupies these societies and committees.

The sustainability office simply won't work in the long term if students do not or cannot get involved because those responsible don't yet understand their own roles.

So the DSU office needs to take control of its new circumstances before it can help students take control of environmental change. The office must work with members of environmental groups and clear out overlapping responsibilities to reduce inefficiency and confusion.

Change takes time. But if the student sustainability office doesn't change, if it doesn't put its weak, wasteful beginnings in the past and follow its own philosophy, it won't survive.



## THINK YOU'RE HOT?

Are you interested in modeling for our upcoming sex issue?

If so, please contact our photo editor:

[photo@dalgazette.ca](mailto:photo@dalgazette.ca)

GAZETTE



## COURSE SCHEDULE AT THE SPLIT CROW PUB

COURSE	CODE	TIME	INSTRUCTOR
BEGINNER	345-1	9.00 - 10.00	TBA
INTERMEDIATE	345-2	9.00 - 10.00	TBA
ADVANCED	345-3	4.30 - 5.30	TBA

# Fourth-year freakout

HANNA BUTLER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

For many upper-year students at Dalhousie, January brings the dreaded campus cultural phenomenon known as the fourth-year freakout. During this time, graduate school applications are due, and debts and the prospect of joining the workforce loom, culminating in a personal crisis.

"I'm just so nervous, you know. It's the first time that I'm applying for something so relative to my life," says Laura Starr, a fourth-year French major. She's applying to the Master's of Human Communication Disorder and Speech Pathology program.

"It's so high-risk and I feel like the committee is going to judge every little characteristic about me," Starr says.

Starr has been working toward her goal by volunteering for an adult literacy organization, after it was recommended by Dal's Career Counselling Services. She also maintains grades that are well above average. However, her efforts have not completely dissolved her apprehensions.

"I feel like I'm under the microscope and everything I do now really counts," Starr says. "It's not just about a pass or a fail anymore. I have to show them that I'm a hard worker, my marks are good and that I truly am dedicated to school."

While good grades are an asset when applying for a Master's program, many different factors are taken into consideration, says Judy Douglas, who works in the Registrar's Office.

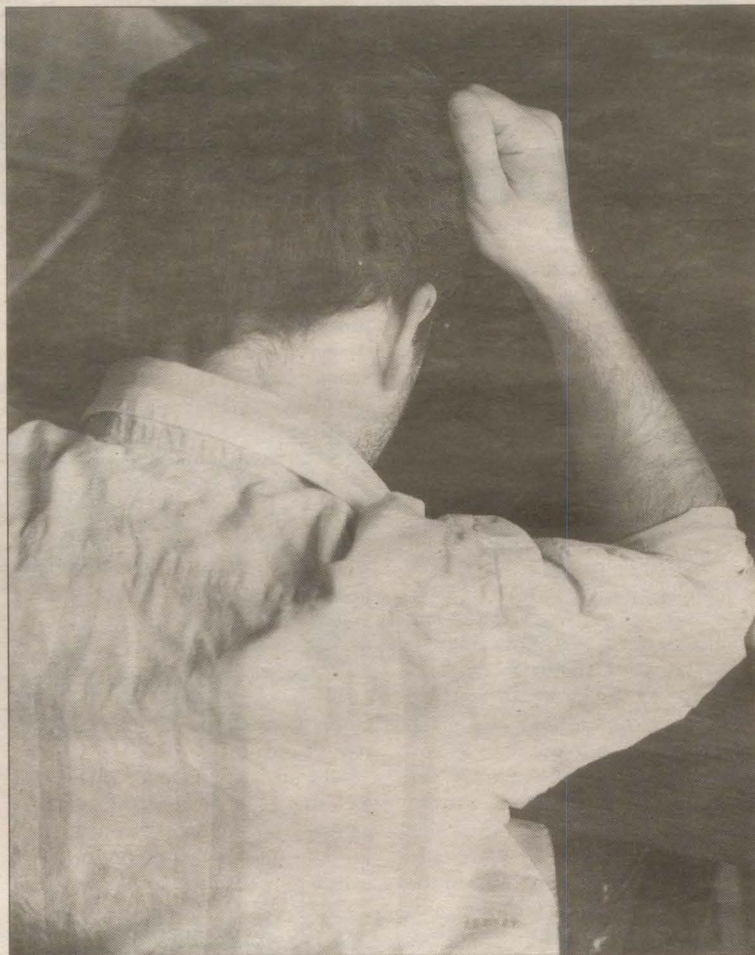
"When it comes to selection for a particular program, marks do have a great bearing, but it also depends on the flood of other applicants who want to get accepted," says Douglas.

"People with a higher average will definitely have a better chance of getting into a program, however, showing devotion for your discipline and previous experience can help as well."

Another concern for many fourth-year students is the prospect of paying off student debt.

James Billard, another fourth-year French major, is outraged with his current situation and partly blames the Canadian government. He pays \$160 per month in interest on his student loan from the Royal Bank.

"Nova Scotia has the highest tuition rates in the country and because I decided to come here for my education, unless I come up with a really good plan, I'll likely be paying off my debts until I'm in the casket,"



JOSH BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Last week the Career Services Centre had 30 unexpected students drop in for advice.

says Billard.

The possibility of travelling is another option for students to consider. Sean Swanick, who is now in the Master's program of Library and Information Studies, remembers the anxiety he felt during his fourth year.

"My marks weren't perfect. I had a 3.2 GPA and no idea what I wanted to do. I did owe some money for student loans so that's part of the reason why I choose to go to Korea for a year and teach English," says Swanick. "I had to change gear but that's a part of life, living the unknown."

For students preparing to enter the workforce after finishing their undergraduate degree, finding the right career can be a daunting task.

"Mostly people don't know where to start and they are looking for guidance," says Jennie Brimicombe, a career advisor with the Dalhousie Career Services Centre.

"What they don't know is that there are so many options. There are always jobs out there but not in the way that many might expect," Brimicombe says.

Students can find only 20 per cent of the jobs available to them on sites like [www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca) or [www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com) says Brimicombe,

as the remaining 80 per cent are never posted. Brimicombe stresses the importance of networking to the students she counsels, as well as the power of a solid resumé and cover letter.

The Career Services Centre provides a wide range of resources for conducting job searches and has been extremely busy in the last few weeks. Last week they had 30 unexpected students drop in for advice.

Jennifer Coombs, an employment advisor at Dal, says students often simply need to be reassured that they have the potential to succeed in the working world.

"There have been so many times that I've experienced a 'light bulb' moment with students. We've gone over their qualities and after laying them out on paper, the student actually realized that they do have great marketable skills. Sometimes it just needs to be laid out in front of them," Coombs says.

Brimicombe wants students suffering from the fourth-year freakout to know there's hope.

"I have a huge success folder of happy student e-mails thanking me for having helped them find their true calling."



LOU BROWN / PHOTO

With his shirtless Grey Goose swilling and crowdsurfing, Aoki is A-OK

## Aoki heats up on a cold night

DAVE NYKYFORUK  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

On Jan. 16 at Embassy, a Los Angeles native transformed the wind and snow of Halifax into sun and sand. DJ Steve Aoki was on a mission to turn Argyle Street into sunset strip and bring some authenticity to our adopted moniker of "Hollywood, Halifornia."

If you haven't caught a glimpse of Aoki's ubiquitous pop culture persona, perhaps you've heard of Bloc Party or Klaxons, two U.K. imports taking over North America on Aoki's Dim Mak records. Then there's Aoki Signatures WeSC headphones, Dim Mak's eponymous clothing line and a host of other endorsements.

So Aoki is a celebrity, record label founder and astute businessman. He also happens to be one of the most highly sought after party DJs in the world right now and was enlisted to help bolster Embassy's grand open-

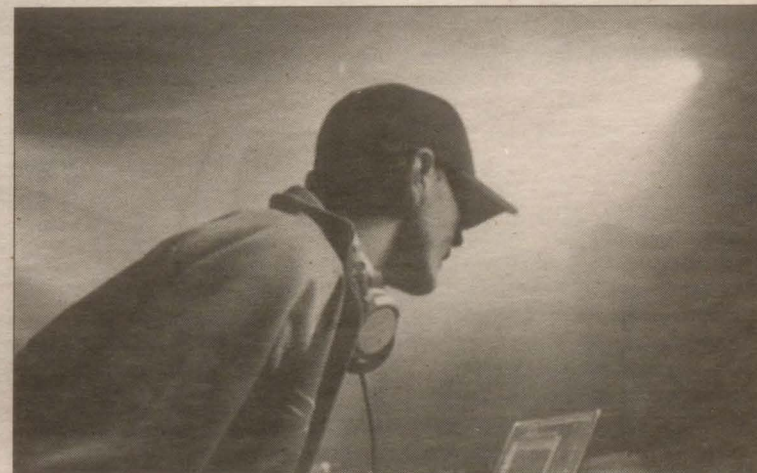
ing week.

Johnston Farrow, Afif Khan and Andy Ares held things down while the crowd got primed for Aoki. Clad in his signature headphones and sporting his trademark Fu Manchu, Aoki proceeded to smash the glamour of L.A. nightlife into Halifax.

Using tracks from his own roster as well as tastemakers like Debonair Samir, Aoki was able to deliver both crowd pleasers and offbeat selections.

Not to be deterred by the thinning crowd later on in his set, Aoki boosted his stage presence with some shirtless Grey Goose swilling and crowd surfing.

As much a performer as a DJ, Aoki was ready to represent the image and lifestyle that he is famous for. Embassy might not be Cinemaspace and Halifax isn't quite Hollywood, but Steve Aoki is the perfect ambassador, making people feel like they're part of the hottest scene on the planet, if only for a night.



PRESS PHOTO

This is one rodent we like.

## Deadmau5

LAURA MACDONALD  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Pure adrenaline filled Reflections Cabaret Jan. 18, as Deadmau5 fans waited for Joel Zimmerman to appear onstage in his trademark glowing mouse head.

Manipulating music while wearing the huge mouse head is only one of Zimmerman's talents. As a producer, the Canadian-born DJ has exploded on the scene with his own brand of minimal electronic music. He's been deemed Producer of 2007 by industry heavyweights Tiësto and Armin Van Buuren, and big name DJs and producers, such as Chris Lake, have been spinning and remixing Deadmau5's work all over the world.

So what's up with the name? Zimmerman says one day he noticed a nasty smell coming from his computer. When he finally disassembled the PC, he found a crispy mouse that had gotten stuck in his hard drive.

Underdog Productions, the same

guys who brought Tiga and DJ Dan, are the ones responsible for bringing Deadmau5 to Halifax. If you've been to one of their shows before, you know your highest expectations will be met. With a powerful opening set from Underdog's resident DJ Jay Hamilton, the vibe was set and the crowd was craving some serious electronic music.

There was never a dull moment from the time Deadmau5 laid down his first track to the time the fans chanted for an encore (and got it). He played some of his own tracks, including "Faxing Berlin" and "Not Exactly," as well as some kickass beats and remixes.

Reflections is possibly the best venue in Halifax for big name house and electronic DJs. If you've been wanting to bust out a few of those new dance moves, but are too shy to strut your stuff in the more generic clubs, you need to give Reflections a go.



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# Marilyn spills the beans

NICK KHATTAR  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

In a small auditorium, the stage is set as a plain, all-white bedroom. It emits a blue light.

It is Jan. 16, and *Marilyn: Forever Blonde* is about to make its Canadian debut at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS). This is its only Canadian stop. The show will remain in Halifax until Feb. 17.

A flash of light momentarily illuminates the stage, accompanied by the mechanical sound of a camera taking a picture. The scene is a recreation of a photo shoot by Douglas Kirkland entitled *An Evening with Marilyn Monroe*. And there she is, in one of her classic poses, blowing you a kiss. Then darkness, another flash of light, and another pose.

Wrapped in silk sheets, lying on the bed, is actress Sunny Thompson. But if you didn't know better you would swear it was Marilyn herself.

She looks out at the audience as if each member were that lonely photographer.

"When you're playing someone else, especially someone like Marilyn Monroe, you really want to get it right," says Thompson. And does she ever get it right. The soft-spoken tone, the subtle humour and the sexual power are all spot-on.

As the play begins, Marilyn recounts her childhood - growing up in orphanages and marrying her next-door neighbour at age 15. She speaks of her active sex life with her first husband, saying, "Nobody ever got cancer from sex."

She tells tales of how she moved up in the Hollywood circle. One of the beautiful things about Monroe, which is communicated majestically in this play, was her ability to be incredibly witty and comical without missing a beat.

While you're watching Thompson navigate the stage, you realize how talented she is. She executes the blocking perfectly, all the while focusing on the audience and engaging them in amusing tales of Hollywood life.

In a red dress that leaves just



Marilyn: *Forever Blonde* is an emotional ride, playing at AGNS Jan. 16 - Feb. 17

enough to the imagination, Thompson as Monroe recounts how she gained fame through sexual exploitation. She tells of performing oral sex on a geriatric movie producer who liked to play with her breasts.

In between anecdotes, the character serenades her audience, performing perfect renditions of songs from Monroe's films. Thompson sings tunes such as "Ev'ry Baby Needs A Da-Da-Daddy" and "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" gracefully, pairing them with Monroe's gentle mannerisms.

It's almost hard to concentrate on the lines when Thompson's movements, diction, gestures and image are so hypnotizing.

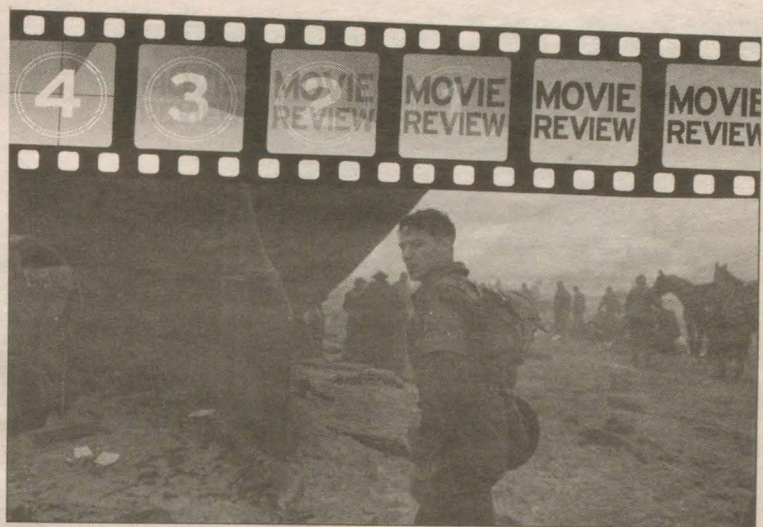
After another costume change out of a diamond-studded outfit and into a pink dress, the character is on her fifth glass of champagne (having already accredited Joe DiMaggio for her affinity for the bubbly). She is

drowning her emotional instability with the drink.

Thompson's lines include some quotes from Monroe. "I'm one of the world's most self-conscious people," she says, then speaks of her two miscarriages with Arthur Miller. As she quotes a poem on love by Yeats, the mood of the play changes.

Marilyn is half in the bag and the audience is frozen. One girl wipes her tears away. This isn't the story of a woman's rise to Hollywood success, but rather the confessions of a vastly intelligent woman who was only seen as an object, an arousing image.

*Marilyn: Forever Blonde* is an emotional ride. Provoking laughter, thought and sadness, this play is executed perfectly by a wonderfully talented actress. For an hour and a half, you are the photographer, sitting in a room and listening to one of the most beautiful yet tragic stories ever told in pop culture.



## Atonement: Better as a book

BRITTANY CURRAN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

As a novel, *Atonement* is superb. But Christopher Hampton's screenplay is slightly disappointing, considering the brilliant acclaim the film has received.

Written by Ian McEwan, *Atonement* is based in the late 1930s during the beginning of the Second World War. Cecilia Tallis (Keira Knightley) lives in a lavish English mansion with her family, and Robbie Turner (James McAvoy) is their housekeeper's son. Cecilia and Robbie share an emotionally unbridled yet covert love.

Cecilia's younger sister, Briony, spends her time writing plays for her relatives' enjoyment. But with her fanciful imagination comes a chain of misunderstandings which lead everyone but Cecilia to believe Robbie raped Briony's friend, Lola. This incorrect accusation is not a naïve mistake, but comes from an underlying enmity.

Briony's character is certainly the most complex. She is played exceptionally well by three actresses representing three crucial periods of her life. At age 13 she is played by

Hollywood newbie Saoirse Ronan, at age 18 by rising-star Romola Garai, and at an older age by the inimitable Vanessa Redgrave.

Visually, *Atonement* shines with stunning and skillful lighting techniques. Composer Dario Marianelli provides a hauntingly beautiful soundtrack to the film. Fiery violins and simple piano capture the story's sense of haste, passion and impediment. "Farewell" and "Elegy for Dunkirk" are particularly moving.

The click-clacking of a typewriter is used effectively as background noise to capture the film's underlying theme of writing, such as Robbie's note to Cecilia and Briony's incessant prose.

Cecilia and Robbie are only shown together in a handful of scenes, which makes it difficult to understand their passion. The war scenes are generally unemotional and Knightley's total screen time is too brief. The stars of the film are the actresses who play Briony. They each manage to capture how a young girl's reckless error can haunt her forever.

Individual scenes from the film are radiant, but as a whole, it lacks the lustre of McEwan's remarkably unique love story.



## Bloody good

CASSANDRA WHITTY  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* is an exceptionally bloody, exceptionally good musical.

It's based on the legend of Sweeney Todd that originated in the 19th century, and more specifically upon the hugely successful 1973 play by Christopher Bond. Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics.

Tim Burton directs Johnny Depp in the starring role as Todd and Helena Bonham Carter as his willing accomplice, Mrs. Lovett.

*Sweeney Todd* is the sixth collaboration between Burton and Depp, and displays again how well the director and actor work together. It's a match made in Hollywood heaven.

The story surrounds Todd, who returns from the penal colonies in Australia where he spent 15 years on false charges.

Todd comes back to London seeking revenge, specifically toward Judge Turpin (Alan Rickman), who brought the false charges against Todd in order to seduce his beauti-

ful wife. Upon meeting Mrs. Lovett, Todd learns that his daughter, Johanna, is Turpin's ward.

A rival barber, Signor Adolfo Pirelli (Sacha Baron Cohen), challenges Todd to a contest of who can perform the fastest shave, setting the stage for Todd's murderous rampage.

Todd opens a barbershop above Mrs. Lovett's pie shop, and together they devise a wonderfully clever plan to satisfy both of their needs. Todd means to rid London of the corrupt upper class and hopes to be reunited with his daughter.

Depp has a charming voice and adds intense and passionate flair to his character, making Todd all the more believable. Depp and Carter work perfectly together as the ghastly pale duo.

The story moves quickly with beautifully dark scenes throughout and quite a few memorable songs. "A Little Priest" is funny and disturbing and "No Place like London" is rather catchy. You may find yourself humming the tunes long after the movie's over.

# Much goes to Markit

ADAM MILLER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

A humble local rapper with the lyrical gift to produce consistently sharp-witted, thought-provoking hip hop is going to be getting some national exposure.

After his debut album *Mark My Words* dropped in Sept. 2007, Markit (Mark Cwajna) and fellow Fax 4 member Spesh K received a VideoFACT grant. The grant is a music video production fund financed by Much Music, which Markit and Spesh K used to film a video for their song "We Call The Shots." The video premieres on Much Music rotation Jan. 28.

They were chosen out of over 300 applicants. Other successful applicants include Halifax natives Classified, Wintersleep and Slowcoaster.

Emcee and University of King's College student Markit successfully combines the philosophical depth of his lyrics with unorthodox samples and beats, producing some of the most groundbreaking hip hop in Halifax to date.

Markit is on the King's basketball team. He plays spontaneous shows in Halifax and Toronto with his various musical projects during breaks in his hectic schedule.

The concept for the video is a testament to the unconventional



HARLEY BUTLER GEORGE

After his debut album *Mark My Words* dropped in Sept. 2007, Markit and fellow Fax 4 member Spesh K received a VideoFACT grant.

and bizarre approach to hip hop that Markit and Fax 4 embody. It was shot at a local bar with vibrant Muppet-like characters populating the crowd.

As Markit and Spesh K throw down intelligent and hilarious lyrics to the backdrop of a deeply infectious beat, these characters represent the lyrical imagery in the song

and add an absurd comedic element to the video.

Markit also has a pseudo-local side project in the mix. Legato Block is the name of his latest collaboration with Metropolis Votary - former Dalhousie student and music producer Tyson Wachter. Their album, *All A Lounge Town*, will be released mid-February.



Why is it that, following an emotionally charged event in their lives, so many people change their image?

## Fashionable feelings

KATIE NATION  
FASHION COLUMNIST

A friend of mine decided to cut off all of her hair last week following a devastating over-the-phone breakup. Her emotion-fuelled shearing took her locks from a wavy below-the-armpit length to something a good two inches above her shoulder. Very Katie Holmes. Very drastic.

Why is it that, following an emotionally charged event in their lives, so many people change their image? Whether the change is inspired by a great new job, a new relationship, the death of a loved one or academic probation, it reflects a need to truly feel like a new person. This often translates to dramatic new style choices.

People get excited about makeovers because they require an incredible amount of confidence to pull off. Making a change can be an emotional experience and can help you define where you are and where you plan to go next in life.

Are you going to retreat from society? Wear sweatpants all day and forego showers? Or are you going to break out afresh? Start over with a new mindset and a new image?

We all know how powerful and telling personal style can be. A new style can either allow you to distract yourself from change or emphasize it.

There are lots of ways to make

yourself over, depending on your state of mind and how badly you feel the need to recreate yourself: cut off your hair, start wearing neon, stop wearing a bra, start wearing a bra, become the kid who wears blazers to class everyday, never leave the house without red lipstick.

If you want to reinvent yourself in the image of someone you really admire, go ahead and do it! Imitate their look and emulate the qualities of theirs that you respect.

But if you're going get rid of the old and move on to the new, I urge you to move as slowly as your emotions will let you.

If you're going for a new wardrobe, work the thrift stores at the beginning and see how excited you get about the change before you break out the big bucks. There's no need to think you're on *What Not to Wear* and replace your entire closet with new gear.

When it comes to the permanent and semi-permanent, I beg you to think things through and take the subtle route. Going from light blonde to jet black hair can look cool at first, but when you realize you liked things the way they were, it's not exactly easy to switch back.

When you're going through an emotional change, it's nice to be able to rely on some things to stay the same. But whatever you do, there's nothing wrong with starting fresh.

# The Epicurious Student

Eating well for less

ANDREW BERNARDO  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

February is a very exciting time in Halifax, and in Nova Scotia as a whole. It is the month the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS) has chosen to showcase the progress its members have made in the past year in the area of food and beverage service.

From cooking classes to affordable, fixed-price menus at some of Nova Scotia's best restaurants to the Savour Food & Wine Festival, there are plenty of opportunities in all price ranges for students to participate in the province's vibrant culi-

nary scene.

The main show is being hosted at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel on Feb. 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Some of the best domestic and international wine, beer and spirits will be paired with food prepared by over 40 restaurants in the province.

The ticket price might seem a touch high at \$75, but considering you can eat and drink the best the province has to offer to your tummy's content, the price is likely to be worth it.

With dishes such as seared rabbit stuffed with goose confit, bacon roast apples and honeycomb; pan-

seared scallops on a white polenta with a foie gras butter foam and avocado oil; and porter cheddar soup with beer grain molasses bread, there is bound to be something to suit everyone's tastes.

From Feb. 17 to 27, select restaurants across the HRM will offer fixed-price menus ranging from \$25 to \$40. The price includes an appetizer, main course and dessert. This is a great opportunity to grab a great meal with friends or family without breaking the bank. Restaurants such as Onyx, Fid, Chives and The Five Fishermen headline the 10-day event.

# How to: Make sushi

RACHEL SUNTER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

After trying sushi for the first time two years ago, I found myself lying awake at night, fantasizing about crisp cucumber and succulent strips of salmon.

I quickly learned how to make my own sushi. It's phenomenally cheaper than restaurant sushi and the process itself is fun. On top of that, I can now host chic sushi gatherings and exhibit my cultural prowess.

There are three kinds of sushi: maki (the sushi roll), nigiri (fish laid atop a ball of rice) and sashimi (raw fish on its own, although traditionally garnished for presentation). The following instructions are for making maki.

You'll need the following basic ingredients and gear, which can all be bought at Sobeys and most Atlantic Superstores.

**You'll probably have most of these things at home already:**

- sushi rolling mat (like a placemat made of sticks)
- strainer (fine enough to strain uncooked rice)

- large spatula or spoon
- broad, flat-bottomed dish (non-stick metal or glass will do)
- large, sharp, non-serrated knife
- fair-sized pot with secure lid

**Basic ingredients you can get at Sobeys or Superstore:**

- 2 cups short-grain, white rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 pack nori (sheets of black seaweed)

- 1 seedless cucumber (cut into 1/2" thick strips, with jellylike centre removed but skin on)
- 1 avocado (ripe, skin removed, cut into similar strips)
- 5 oz raw fish (salmon and tuna are most popular. Ask for skinless portions for easy preparation. This is sushi-grade fish. We're in Halifax, so it doesn't get any fresher. Always rinse under tap water before preparation.)

- 1 package artificial crab sticks (if you have issues with raw fish/are a sissy)

**To be eaten with sushi:**

- pickled ginger strips (to cleanse the pallet between pieces)
- wasabi (sold as powder or in ready-to-serve tubes; to be mixed



into tamari)

- soy sauce or tamari

**Rice mixture:**

- 4 tbsp plain rice vinegar
- 2 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt

In a small bowl, whisk the above ingredients with a fork until they are dissolved. Set them aside for three hours. Watch the time closely; the rice's consistency is crucial.

Let the rice soak in water for 30 minutes. Squeeze and grind it with your hands. The water should become foggy with residue. Pour rice into a strainer over the sink and run it under room temperature water until the water runs clear.

Pour the rice and two cups of clean water into a pot and bring it to a boil. Let it simmer on medium-low heat for 10 minutes. Then, without removing the lid (even a peak!) remove the pot from the stove and let it sit for another 10 minutes.

Once the time's up, pile the rice directly into the centre of a flat dish. Let it sit for another 10 minutes.

Pour the mixture of vinegar, sugar and salt into the middle of the rice pile and flip the rice with a spatula to distribute the mixture evenly. Spread the rice in a pan and let it cool to room temperature.

While the rice cooks and cools, cut your fish and vegetables. Vegetables should be cut to 1/2" thick strips and fish to 1" thick strips or chunks.

Arrange your sushi fillings, prepared rice, rolling mat and nori sheet before you. You're ready to roll.

This next part is better seen than described, so check out [www.sushi-faq.com/homesushi/howtomake-sushiathomemaki.htm](http://www.sushi-faq.com/homesushi/howtomake-sushiathomemaki.htm) for the best step-by-step images I've ever found.

As you invariably stumble though attempting your first rolls, keep these tips in mind:

Keep a bowl of vinegar-water (1 cup water, 2 tbsp rice vinegar) nearby to rinse your hands and your knife in as often as needed. It's an anti-sticky-rice solvent.

Spread the rice thinly (about 1 cm in height) across the nori sheet. The biggest mistake beginners make is spreading the rice too thickly, resulting in gargantuan rice roles with teeny centres.

When rolling, go slowly at first to ensure you get everything inside. Once the ends meet, peel the end of the mat out and get your whole hands in there, applying pressure from all sides to shape a perfect roll. Keep it tight or it will fall apart once you try to cut it.

Leave cutting until all the rolls are rolled. This gives them time to set. Cut quickly and smoothly, first breaking the nori skin, then slicing down and out without squishing the roll.

Before you eat, know that a piece of maki is meant to be eaten whole, even if it means stuffing your cheeks like a chubby bunny. Sushi is about a collaboration of flavours and textures. So after dipping your piece into wasabi-spiced soy sauce (the ketchup and mustard of sushi), put the entire piece into your mouth at once.

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If so, please contact our photo editor:

[photo@dalgazette.ca](mailto:photo@dalgazette.ca)

# Tips for student living:

## Oil change

DAN MAXWELL  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

You're a student, strapped for cash, and very lucky if you have a car. But ol' Betsy is coming up on the 5,000 km mark and in need of an oil change. Luckily, only a few tools are required to make you a regular grease monkey.

First, get these tools: a ratchet, screwdriver, a minimum 4L receptacle/bucket and some socket-wrench sockets. Once you have your tools and are dressed for the occasion in crappy pants and an old Metallica shirt, crawl under the front end of your car and get between the front tires.

Locate the oil drain plug. It's usually a hex head bolt at the lowest point of the engine block. Unscrew it counterclockwise with the appropriate socket and remove it slowly. Be careful not to drop your screw in

the oil.

If your car has been running for longer than five minutes, the fluid will be hot.

While unscrewing it, be sure to have your receptacle close by to collect the fluid. This will take about 10 minutes. Once the oil has drained completely, replace the bolt and tighten just enough so that the screw will not loosen itself. Don't tighten it too much, or it will take longer to unscrew next time.

The oil filter also needs to be replaced. Oil filters, which vary in size and colour, stick out from the engine block. Once you find your oil filter, try to unscrew it by hand. If it doesn't loosen, use the screwdriver to stab through the oil filter. Make sure to stab straight through the filter, using the screwdriver for leverage.

Once the old filter is off, check to make sure the gasket is still attached

to the filter and not to the engine block. Put some new or old oil on your finger and rub the new gasket on the oil filter before fastening it to the block. Tighten it in the same way as the oil drain plug.

Now replace the original oil with the manufacturer's recommended oil, either 5W30 (less viscous) or 10W30 (more viscous). Oil is the lifeblood of your car, so don't try to start your car without it.

Once you complete this DIY, pour the old oil into the empty oil canister and remember to dispose of it properly according to the regulations of local waste management or at a local auto shop.

As momma always said, "patience is a virtue," so don't rush your work. And if you don't feel comfortable working on your car, don't. Pay the money and have a trained professional service it properly.



An economic way to inebriation

# SEX WITH HUGH

## Laissez-faire



HUGH WALLACE  
SEX COLUMNIST

Awkwardness is sometimes more common than we'd like to think, and more specifically, the awkwardness associated with deciding where you are in a relationship... or friendship... or whatever.

I think I just proved my own point.

Dealing with the inner turmoil associated with trying to figure out the exact step you're at in your dealings with another person can be nerve wracking. It's stressful to deal with on your own, and bringing the subject up with the other person can cause much more discomfort.

Say you just met someone and you start hanging out, and all of the sudden you have a sexual encounter with them. Are you dating? Are you seeing each other? Are you still just friends? Who decides? What do you do?

This feeling of pressure makes you think it's actually necessary to define exactly what you are as two people.

First of all, if you're having a good time just hanging out, then you should continue to do so without being awkward. You were friends before the sex and you are friends after the sex. Having sex doesn't have to change anything.

If you're questioning what the other person thinks, fuck it. If they want a particular sort of set up, they should tell you. We are all mature (ha) adults (ha), are we not?

So maybe communication isn't our strong point.

The most important thing is that you communicate what *you* might want. For example, if you're looking for a relationship, then you should bloody well tell the person, even if you think it might be awkward.

Though, you should wait a little while. It's important to make sure that what you think you want today is what you will actually want tomorrow. Sometimes we get too excited and delude ourselves about our true feelings - dangerous.

If the next day you feel the same way, wait another day. If it causes a lot of anxiety in your life, it's probably something you should wait to tackle.

Sometimes you'll develop feelings for someone based on some-

thing that doesn't make sense, like when you fall for someone just because you know you shouldn't or because you know they don't like you. I'm sure we've all been there and gotten that fucking god awful T-shirt. I bet it's tie-dye.

I guess what I'm getting at is the importance of learning to trust yourself and your own decisions surrounding your sex life. I mean, there's no one on this planet who knows what you want more than you do.

But if you have sex with someone you don't already know as a friend, you'll know very little about their calling habits, personality and other interesting tidbits that would help you to understand how they might feel afterward.

So if you've given them your phone number, all you can do is wait for their call. And when I say wait for the call, I mean that you go about your normal life and if they should happen to call, you play it from there.

The anxiety you may or may not experience after having sex with someone doesn't do you any good. If you're interested in the person, it's best to remain seemingly indifferent to the situation if you find it difficult to express your feelings. Awkwardness is not usually very attractive.

*Please send ideas, comments, questions, concerns or criticism to [sex@dalgazette.ca](mailto:sex@dalgazette.ca)*

# U-brew

HILARY BEAUMONT  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Sixty-four empty brown beer bottles take up a sizeable chunk of Matt Gunn's small kitchen table. Each has been stripped of its label and sterilized, a process that takes hours. Gunn admits it's boring, but he says it's worth it to produce Gunn's Smokey Red.

The tall, skinny 19-year-old from Ontario is living the beer lover's dream. He brews his own customized ale and drinks it for almost one-fifth of the cost of a professionally brewed beer.

"It smells like Big Foot's dick," he warns. "But taste it."

Leyland Cecco, Gunn's friend, swirls his glass, takes a sip and smacks his lips. This batch is only at the bottling stage. The smell will fade when the beer is ready in about three weeks.

"It tastes like charcoal and vomit when you first try it," Cecco says. "But then you realize, 'Wait, charcoal and vomit are great flavours, and they go well together.'"

Gunn was inspired by the winning Scottish ale at the Canadian International Beer Championships and started brewing his first Smokey ale as a tribute.

"I tried it and it was awesome and I wanted to make my own rendition of that," says Cecco. "I'm still working on it. The recipe isn't exactly right. Gotta add a few spices later on. I just wanna get it good."

Gunn's Smokey Red might not become famous for its flavour alone,

but the name could help. Not only is it Matt's last name, but a reference to the gunshot-like sound the first batch of bottles made when they were opened.

Gunn's first beer-making kit came from the Noble Grape on Quinpool Road, a store that co-owner Mark Haynes says provides "almost infinite" possibilities of different recipes and beer flavours. The starter kit costs between \$65 and \$80 and comes with all the equipment you need to brew, including enough grains and ingredients for the first batch.

The brewing process occurs in two-stages, says Haynes. The ingredients are combined in a primary fermenter for three to four days, then moved to a large glass container called a carboy where they are left for a little over a week.

After the brew is siphoned into a bucket to get rid of any sediment, the percentage of alcohol is determined. Then the beer is ready for bottling and the carbonation process.

Haynes says his business caters to an increasing market of hobbyists like Gunn.

"More and more people are getting into it," he says.

And why wouldn't they? The starter kit yields 23 litres of beer, or about 67 bottles. That works out to \$1 per beer, including the cost of equipment - something you won't need to buy again.

Another thing Gunn won't be buying again is a bottle of \$3.75 beer at a bar.

"Why would I do that?" he says. "I sleep in a brewery."



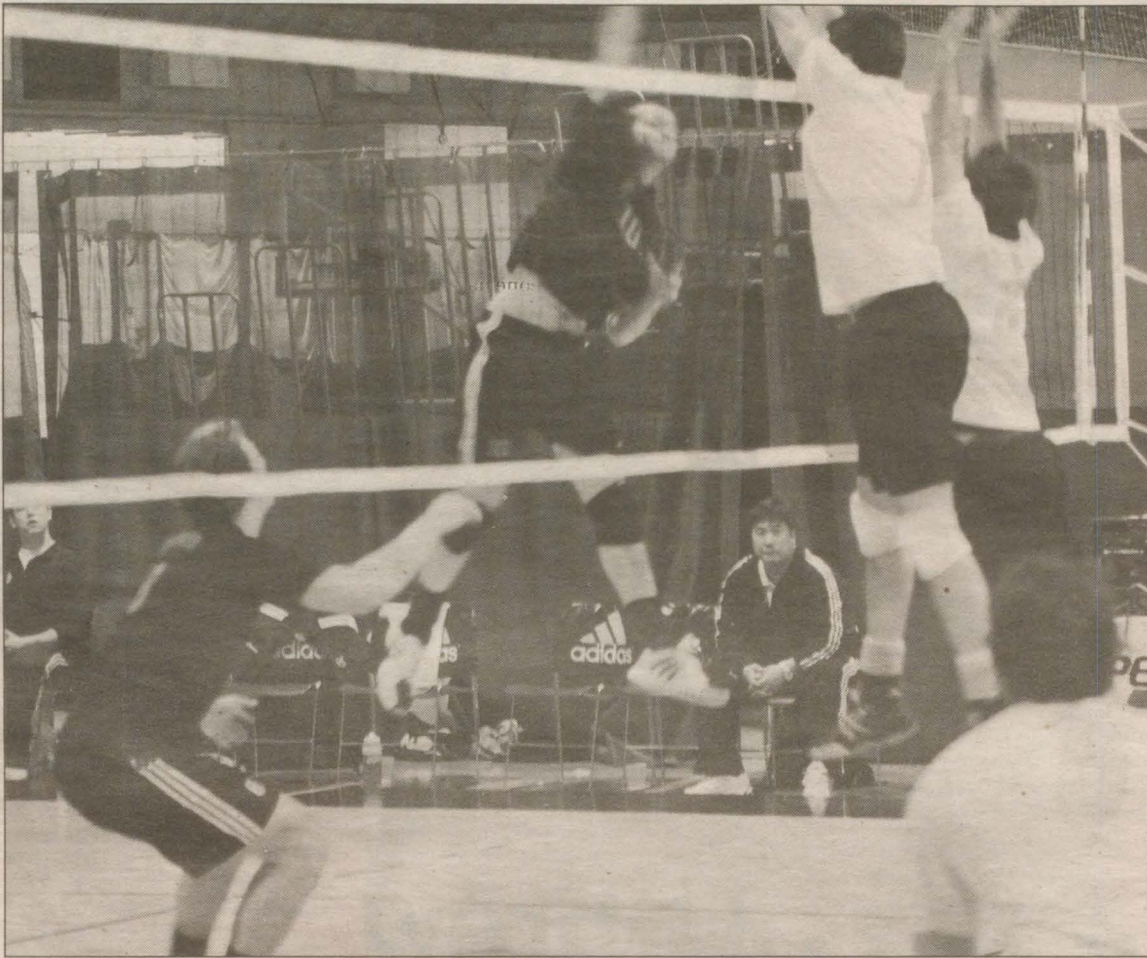
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GAZETTE



Sander Ratsep and Graeme Higgins go for the block.

JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

## Rivals snap Tigers' nine-game winning streak

JULIE SOBOWALE  
SPORTS EDITOR

After riding a wave of nine consecutive wins, the Dalhousie Tigers were defeated by the Université Laval Rouge et Or (23-25, 24-26, 25-21, 14-25) in the men's volleyball interlock tournament held Jan. 18 to 20.

The match started out well with the Tigers taking an early 9-7 lead in the first set, but the Rouge et Or soon rallied back. With numerous ties throughout the set, both teams struggled to regain control. Costly errors at crucial points by the Tigers led to the Rouge et Or taking the first set.

The second set played out like the first and had the same result. In danger of being swept, the Tigers found their footing in the third set. Unfortunately, they couldn't keep up in the fourth and the Rouge et Or easily took the set.

"We had a slow start [in the tournament] but we responded well in our other matches," says Dan Ota, the Tigers' head coach. "I think we

sometimes lose focus and we didn't execute very well."

Overall, the tournament was a success for the Tigers, who won their other three matches. The Rouge et Or were their main rivals. Both teams fought in last year's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships in the fifth place consolation match, in which the Tigers came out victorious.

The Tigers went into this year's tournament ranked fifth in Canada, with the Rouge et Or behind them in sixth place in the CIS rankings. The rivals also played an epic five-set at Laval University in November, with the Tigers edging out a victory.

So far the Tigers look poised to win their 22nd consecutive Atlantic University Sport (AUS) title, despite some setbacks. With the graduation of key players in the libero (defensive specialist) and setter positions, as well as some injuries, the Tigers have struggled to keep up their high level of performance.

"It's hard to say how we're do-

ing since we're going through some growing pains," Ota says. "We've done a good job so far. We had some big wins this season, and I'm very satisfied with our season record. We're focusing on mixing the old and new, young players with veterans. We want to carry on the tradition of success and strong work ethic."

Some of the injured players are beginning to recoup. Second-year player Max Burt sat out most of the season with a back injury, but made his return to the court earlier this month. His performance helped the Tigers defeat the McGill University Redmen at last weekend's tournament with seven kills and no errors.

"The surgery went great and I'm feeling better each time I get on the court," says Burt. "As a team, we're doing great. It's exciting to see how well our team is playing."

Only four games remain for the Tigers this season before the AUS championships.

## Bouncing off the wall

JULIE SOBOWALE  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Jan. 17 to 20, the Dalhousie Squash Club hosted the Dal Invitational Tournament. With over 100 people participating in the event, mostly from the Halifax community, it seems squash is becoming a popular sport.

The club began nearly 30 years ago when the Dalplex was originally built with three squash courts. Over the years, President Rick McFarland has seen people's enthusiasm for the sport grow. This year the club boasts over 80 members ranging from age 10 to 65 and teams that participate in the Halifax City Squash League.

"We provide access to courts for all levels and all age groups," says McFarland. "We have some members who play for physical activity and others who are in the B competitive level. In the past few years our levels have really improved."

Squash originated in 19th century Britain, where prisoners at Fleet Prison bounced balls off the wall for exercise. The game is played in a small, square room with rackets similar to those used in tennis. Points can only be earned when a player is serving. The goal is to hit a shot that can't be returned by the opponent by hitting the ball against the side and front walls. The sport can be played in singles or doubles.

"Squash is one of those sports that you can play at any age," says Tom Pellerin, former president and current member-at-large of the Dal Squash Club. "There's different ways to test your abilities, whether it's hitting or moving across the court. It's a life sport."

Club executives are looking for more women to get involved in the sport. Club Treasurer Jessica Gerrits, a fourth-year nursing student, began playing four years ago and played in the tournament's consolation final.

"I became the treasurer because I thought there needs to be a women's point of view," says Gerrits. "It's a great sport for women because it's a year-round sport and it gives

you a great workout. I started playing because I wanted to get fit and the sport became addictive for me. It's also a great way to relieve stress since all you're doing is hitting a ball hard against the wall."

Recently the club has been lobbying to improve their facilities. The squash courts in the Dalplex haven't been upgraded in the past three decades. Different shades of paint cover the courts, and there is noticeable wear and tear.

"We really need new courts," says McFarland. "Usually squash courts have glass walls so spectators can have a better view, but we don't have that. Right now there's no money for the courts, but hopefully that will change."

Universities across Canada and the U.S. have student squash players. An article published in the Dec. 9 edition of *The New York Times* notes the growing trend of American high school students enrolling in squash programs in hopes of getting a scholarship to an Ivy League school.

Many highly competitive schools like Harvard and Yale have varsity squash teams, though squash remains a club sport throughout Canada. Schools from Ontario and B.C. have active squash programs.

This year the Dal Squash Club went in a new direction with their youngest members by implementing a junior training program. Enrolment exceeded expectations, so the club increased their original 12 spots to 22 and put the rest of the interested youth on a waiting list.

"It's one of the reasons why we would like to fix up the courts," says McFarland. "The future of Halifax squash is coming up and so far everything looks promising. We're pushing for more support from Squash Nova Scotia and encouraging our members to join the organization as well."

Club membership costs \$25, but there is a discount for students. Practices are on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. to close at the Dalplex. For more information, visit [www.dalsquash.org](http://www.dalsquash.org).

Are you interested in modeling for our upcoming sex issue?

If so, please contact our photo editor:

[photo@dalgazette.ca](mailto:photo@dalgazette.ca)

## Athletes of the week

### FEMALE ATHLETE

SOPHIA CHOW  
TRACK & FIELD

No photo available.

Fourth-year student Sophia Chow competed in her first race as a Tiger over the weekend and wasted no time making a national impact. In the 600m, she ran to a second-place finish with a time of 1:34.2, which is also the second fastest time achieved in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport organization this year.

### MALE ATHLETE

UELI ALBERT  
TRACK & FIELD



Through his strong performance at the Dalhousie-hosted meet held on Saturday, Albert secured the top spot in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport organization for the 600m event. His time of 1:18.8 seconds not only tops the national rankings, but puts him more than 1.5 seconds ahead of the second place time, which is an enormous margin in an event usually separated by tenths of seconds. Albert is a third-year kinesiology student.

Other nominees: Dan Murray (volleyball), Chad McCaffrey (hockey)



## DAL TIGERS

CATCH THE ACTION!

THURS., JAN. 24

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. SMU, 7PM

FRI., JAN. 25

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. SMU, 6PM

SAT., JAN. 26

SWIM DOUBLE DUAL MEET, 1PM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. ACA, 6PM

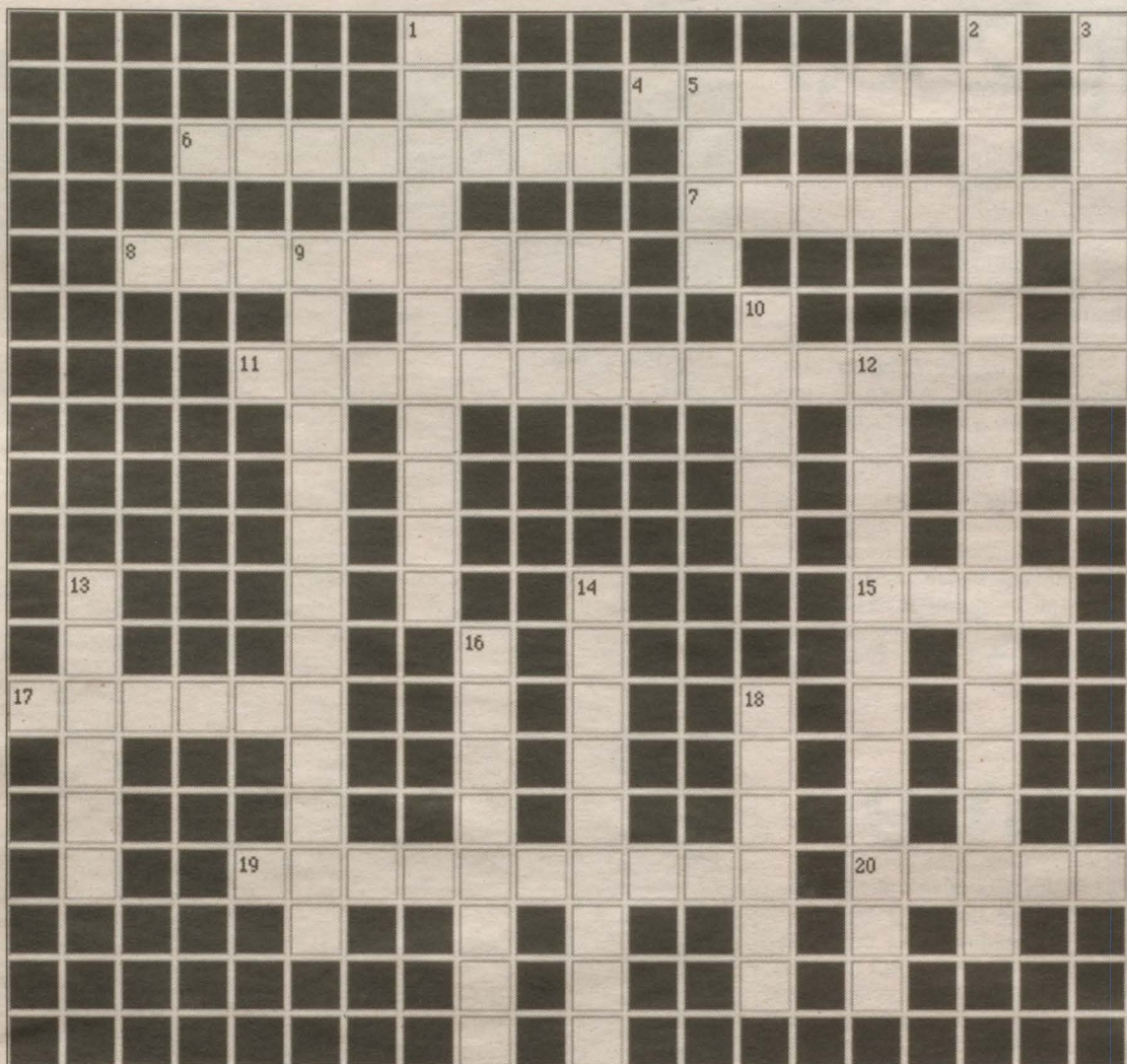
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# CROSSWORD

Heath Ledger



- Across**
4. Famous writer in *A Knight's Tale*
  6. The film *Paws* existed to cash in on guitar prodigy \_\_\_\_\_
  7. The character which he said, "is definitely the most fun...He's just out of control - no empathy" (2 wds)
  8. Was named "The new \_\_\_" in *Josie and the Pussycats* (2 wds)
  11. Place of birth (2 wds)
  15. What movie did he work in with Orlando Bloom
  17. Australian director who auditioned Ledger for *Two Hands*
  19. Serious war drama in 2000 (2 wds)
  20. Heath and his sister are named after which

- Down**
- Brontë sister's characters
1. Love interest in five down (2 wds)
  2. Movie that got him nominated for a Golden Globe (2 wds)
  3. Character's first name in five down
  5. *10 Things I \_\_\_ About You*
  9. Played The Joker in \_\_\_\_\_
  10. *The Brothers \_\_\_\_\_*
  12. Fake name in *A Knight's Tale*
  13. Magazine that named him one of 50 most beautiful people in 2001
  14. His first movie (1997)
  16. Actress who played Lady Jocelyn
  18. His nickname

# HOROSCOPES



**SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)**

I presume your presumptions are precisely incorrect and your insulting insinuations are too obnoxious to be appreciated. Big words are fun, but they can be confusing. Keep dancing with your vocabulary, but use it for some good. It seems someone has put salt in your water. Kindly remind them that the only drink salt goes with is tequila.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)**

Papaya is a good look for you. You are about to take a flight that will provide the boost of juice your tummy has been aching for. In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make. You will be a free-floating organism that knows no bounds. So make sure your knapsack's closed and your toenails are trimmed.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)**

Don't let the cart you're attached to drag you along. You are El Niño and all other tropical bullies must bow before The Niño. Welcome to the good life. You will no longer be scared of the boogeyman. You finally know better. With Henry Hicks as your witness, you will do well in school this year.



**AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)**

The silly rabbit knows tricks are not only for kids. The times are a-changin' and so are the tunes. Frank Sinatra croons just for you, so why do you choose to ignore him? You have the power to be as inspirational as you want this week. Just make sure you're not pushin' it when you ask for extra sprinkles on your ice cream. Stay in line and you will be Chippendales' number one choice.



**PISCES (February 20 - March 20)**

Make sure to bet on da Bears this week, and da goods will follow. You are a product of evolutionary biology. Why have you been disregarding your adaptive capabilities? Getting stuck in the same routine won't get you picked by natural selection. Nor will it get you picked by some dapper new mate. Step out of the norm and show them why humans became hairless.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20)**

You have perfected the art of sushi rolling - now it's time to perfect the art of essay writing. If you want, you can be the next Bill Shakespeare, but that's only if you try. You do not speak Japanese nor do you speak tuna. The Great White is willing to teach you the missing piece of the puzzle. You don't own Donald Trump, but one day the fortune will be yours.



**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)**

Conan O'Brien grew a beard; now it's time for you to grow a brain. The Husky Diner no longer wants you as a customer, but people do want to be your friend, so there's no need to worry. The neon hat you've been sporting is turning heads, so it's time to turn the wheels. The eggnog in your fridge has gone bad, but replacing it with apple juice won't do the trick. Has anyone ever told you that the back of your head is Rid-dikulus?



**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**

Your heart is the deepest ocean, but your pocket is another story. Stop pretending you're Mary Poppins who can just magically pull things out of her you-know-what. Go to a famous fishery and catch yourself a catch. The living will become easy as long as you're nice to the lunch lady. Always push the button, just not too hard. Don't take note of the person who keeps asking for your number.



**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**

If you're not careful this week, you could end up living in a van down by the river. Your karma is working against you, but that's only because you have been egging it on. Stop pretending you don't know. The secret to the elixir lies in the unlabelled bottle. Some things are better left unsaid, but some things look better done up. The fusion between cranberry and grape will be exciting.



**LEO (July 24 - August 23)**

People have been asking where the love is. Show them it never left by explaining why you love your nation in a letter. You will experience a one-minute miracle when you get the sweet release of escaping a sticky situation. Ironing a wrinkled piece of clothing will make you feel like you're ready for some risky business.



**VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)**

The elephant's trunk is what's been ticklin' your fancy. The elephant is afraid of mice and so are you; but the whole lot of them are blind, so what are you worried about? Love will find you no matter where you hide. Hide-and-seek is a fun game, but not if you never let anyone find you. Plain old ravioli will turn into a delightful holy cannoli.



**LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)**

This week, it's time to come out of hibernation. You will be a knight in shining armour, rescuing a fair student from the metaphorical tower in which they're trapped. Your good deed will be much appreciated and will not go unrewarded. Winnie the Pooh is willing to share all the honey. That's right, all the honey from the hive.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

## Teach English in Japan

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

Qualified candidates must:

- Possess a university degree
- Be native/fluent English speakers
- Have teaching experience and Japanese language ability (preferred, but not required)

Visit [www.interac.ca.jp/recruit](http://www.interac.ca.jp/recruit) for more information or to apply online.



- Across**
- 1) Julia Stiles
  - 2) Brokeback Mountain
  - 3) Patrick
  - 4) Cavaleri
  - 5) Hate
  - 6) Matt Damon
  - 7) The Joker
  - 8) Perth, Australia
  - 9) The Dark Knight
  - 10) Grimm
  - 11) Lichtenstein
  - 12) People
  - 13) Blackrock
  - 14) Sossamon
  - 15) Healy
- Down**
- 1) Troy
  - 2) Jordan
  - 3) The Patriot
  - 4) Emily
  - 5) Troy
  - 6) Perth, Australia
  - 7) Matt Damon
  - 8) The Joker
  - 9) The Dark Knight
  - 10) Grimm
  - 11) Lichtenstein
  - 12) People
  - 13) Blackrock
  - 14) Sossamon
  - 15) Healy



# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## Munro Day ski trip 2008

**COURTNEY LARKIN**  
DSU VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

It's just about that time of year again - Munro Day!

The annual Munro Day Ski Trip to Wentworth is taking place Friday February 1st.

This event gives Dalhousie students the opportunity to experience the great winters that Nova Scotia has and also to celebrate George Munro.

But who is George Munro and what did he do? George Munro was a very well known publisher of cheap books during the 1870s and 1880s. Through his career he became a very rich man.

In 1879 George Munro rescued

Dalhousie University from their financial condition, and if he had not rescued them they would have most likely closed their doors.

Due to his great contribution the University was able to stay open. Since 1879 approximately 8 million dollars has been donated from his estate.

It is in his honor that Dalhousie students are given the first Friday of February off every year.

Tickets for the ski trip are available at the SUB Info Desk. There are 2 ticket options:

(1) \$25 - Includes lift ticket, rental, and lesson (must provide your own transportation)

(2) \$45 - Includes lift ticket, rental, lesson, and transportation (buses will be leaving the front of the SUB

at 8:30AM sharp! And buses will be leaving the ski hill at 4:30pm to come back to the SUB)

And whether or not this is the case I invite you to share your thoughts, feelings, observations or simple need for attention by contributing to your faculty newspaper.

Straight up, we hope to have some great things happen in 2008 and we need your help. Last but not least we need a new team for 2008-2009. If you would like to get involved in any capacity please drop us a line at sextant@dal.ca.

So remember, if your room is clean and redesigned, the dishes are done, and the afternoon nap is coming to an end, writing to the Sextant is still better than homework.

## 15 minutes of fame

**JOEL ROBITAILLE**  
SEXTON CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR

On January 31 the open mic will come back to the T-Room. After an initial experiment in the fall, the T-Room stage is once again open to student talent from Sexton campus

and beyond.

The event is open to any Dalhousie students as well as non-Dalhousie guests. The stage will be set up to accommodate a variety of talents, from individual performers to full bands and perhaps even a stand-up comedian.

If you have a group and would

like to play for students please come out. In time honoured Dalhousie open mic tradition, the performer that elicits the best crowd response will be awarded a cash prize of \$25 and perhaps some alcoholic compensation at the end of the night. Performances get under way at 9:30.

## Tech Ball

**MELANIE HOLMES**  
SEXTANT EDITOR

With this winter semester in full swing I can't believe it's already time to fret over finding a dress and taking the dusty heels out of the closet for another celebration on Sexton Campus. Tech Ball '08 is quickly approaching with some fantastic planning going on behind the scenes and a great variety of things to offer this year.

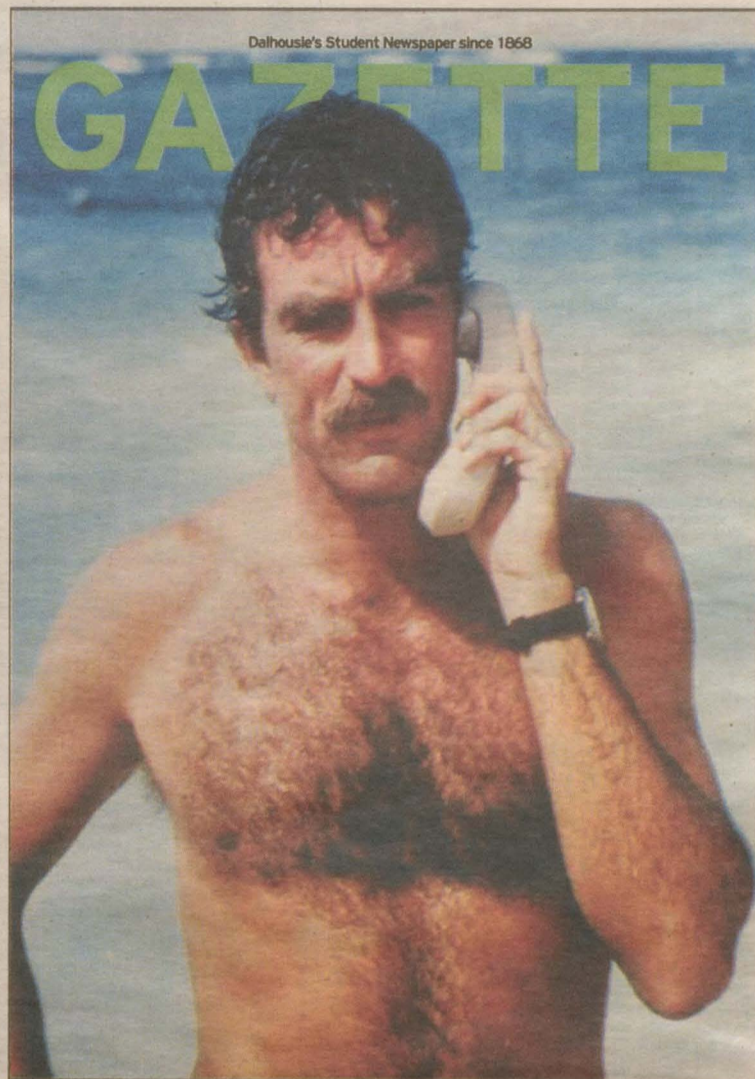
Where "The Odds are Good, and the Goods are Odd" this year's ball

is something to look forward to. The Sexton Campus Entertainment Committee, responsible for organizing and funding Tech Ball among many other things, is a group of incredibly dedicated and involved characters from all over Sexton Campus who are aiming to spread the word to at least 500 people with hopes to make this an unforgettable evening.

With performances from Big Fish, as well as appearances from some of your favorite local rowdy Engineers, the night will host a fantastic lineup of NSCAD art projects,

photo slideshows, cheap drinks and great times.

Please mark February 8th off on your calendars to be part of one of Sexton Campus' greatest events and Halifax's own almost century-long tradition of celebrating the liveliness of downtown. A long-running event for the city, the Tech Ball was once the most anticipated party of the year. The SCE Committee would like to extend their invitations to everyone to welcome back to a revamped and rejuvenated Tech Ball.



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(Former Gazette Sex Issue Model 1978)

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