

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

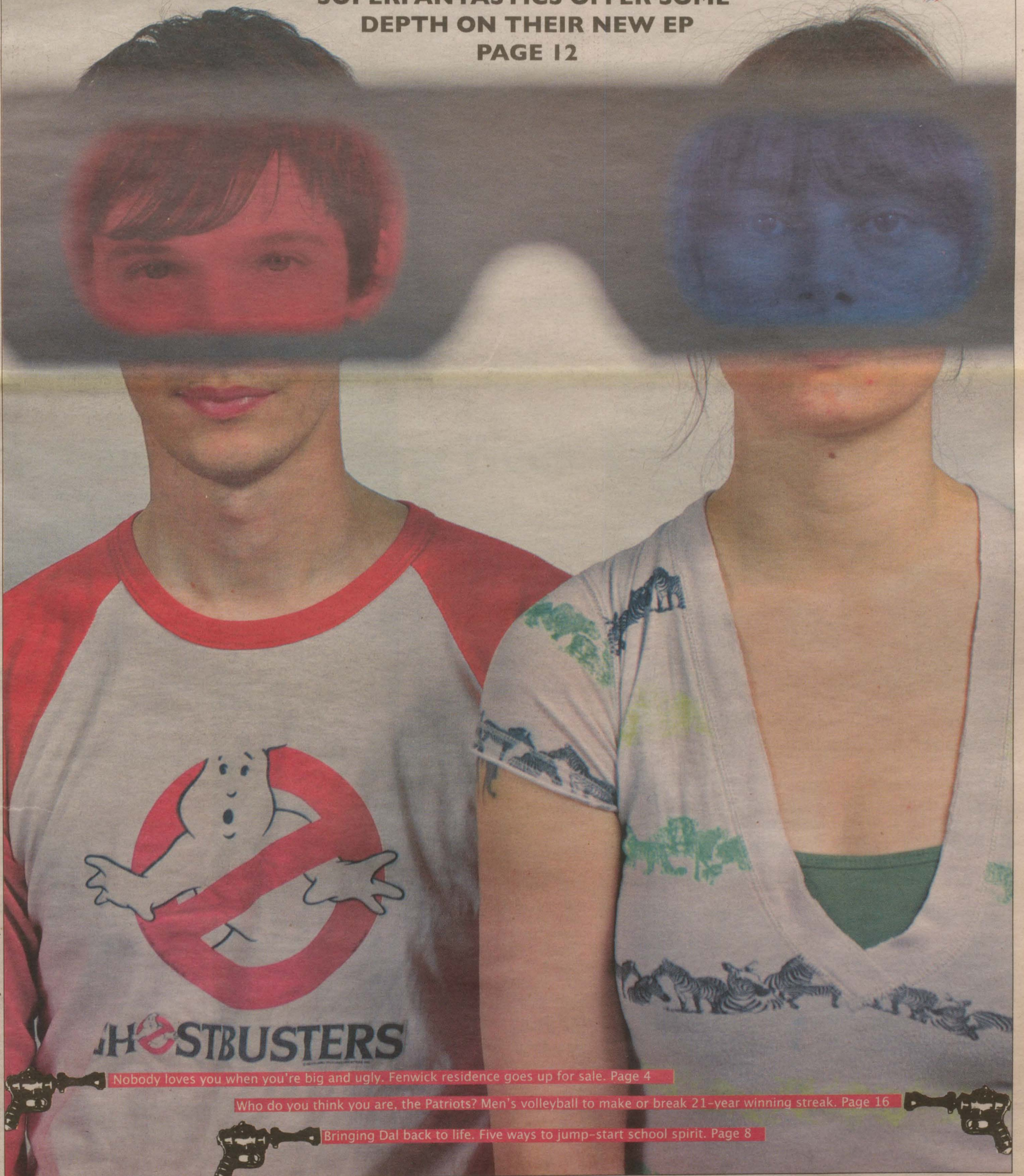
# GAZETTE



## A VOYAGE INTO THE 3RD DIMENSION



**SUPERFANTASTICS OFFER SOME DEPTH ON THEIR NEW EP  
PAGE 12**



Cover: Sue Maroun Photo: Josh Boyter Concept: John Packman

Nobody loves you when you're big and ugly. Fenwick residence goes up for sale. Page 4

Who do you think you are, the Patriots? Men's volleyball to make or break 21-year winning streak. Page 16

Bringing Dal back to life. Five ways to jump-start school spirit. Page 8



# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Get Involved

### Run the DSU.

In the next few weeks, the elections committee will begin accepting nomination forms for all the DSU's elected offices, including **President, Vice Presidents Internal, Education and Student Life**, and the **DSU representatives to the University Senate**.

For more information on how to run for office in your student union, keep an eye on [DSU.ca](http://DSU.ca), where chief returning officer, Sarah Amyotte, will soon be posting all the details.

### Employment & Leadership Opportunities

The recruitment committee will be accepting applications between March 10th and March 21st for the following positions:

- DSU Council Chair (honorary)
- Recording Secretary (honorary)
- Vice President (Finance and Operations) (honorary)
- Spring Member at Large on DSU Council
- DSU Board of Operations Members

Please submit a cover letter and resume to:

Dalhousie Student Union Recruitment Committee  
6136 University Avenue  
Suite 222  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2

For more information please contact:

Courtney Larkin  
Vice President (Student Life)  
[dsuvpsl@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpsl@dal.ca)  
(902) 494-1281

## Listen In

The DSU Radio Show: Chit Chatting with Courtney broadcasts every Tuesday from 5:10-5:30pm on CKDU, 88.1FM.

Tune in to hear what is going on at DAL this week!

## Your Advocates

The Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service is managed by the DSU and staffed by a team of volunteer law students who can help you navigate academic appeals and discipline matters.

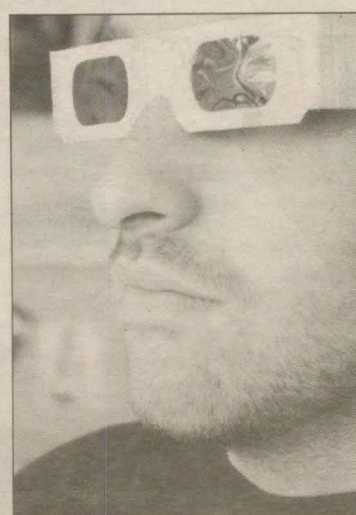
[dsas@dal.ca](mailto:dsas@dal.ca)  
Phone: (902) 494-2205

## Trivia with Tweeg

Think you're smart? Prove it. Visit the Grawood every Thursday night for drink specials and the best trivia in town.



# GAZETTE...STAFF



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
John Packman / [editor@dalgazette.ca](mailto:editor@dalgazette.ca)

**SUBSTITUTE COPY EDITORS**  
John Packman and Katie May

**NEWS EDITORS**  
Katie May & Ruth Mestechkin  
[news@dalgazette.ca](mailto:news@dalgazette.ca)

**OPINIONS EDITOR**  
James Munson / [opinions@dalgazette.ca](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.ca)

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITORS**  
Aly Coy & Christie Conway  
[arts@dalgazette.ca](mailto:arts@dalgazette.ca)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Julie Sobowale / [sports@dalgazette.ca](mailto:sports@dalgazette.ca)

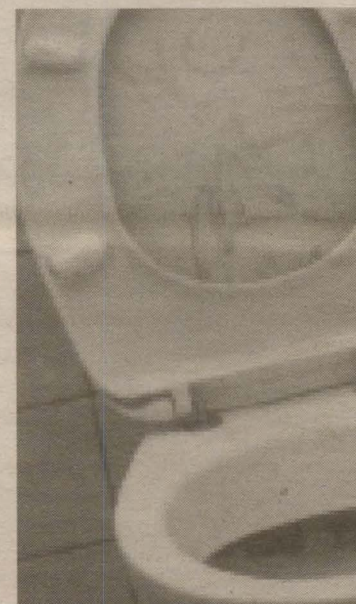
**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Josh Boyter / [photo@dalgazette.ca](mailto:photo@dalgazette.ca)

**PRODUCTION & DESIGN**  
Susan Maroun / [design@dalgazette.ca](mailto:design@dalgazette.ca)

## COVER

Heartfelt congratulations go out to John Walter Packman this week for his jaw-dropping, tear-inducing, and awe-inspiring cover conceptualization. All hope was lost and the impeachment process had already begun until he finally pulled his head out of his ass and came up with this gem. A perfect storm was brewing upon the realization that Joshua Boyter and JWP would be collaborating on this photo shoot, miraculously both survived without having mental breakdowns, going on stress leave, or screaming like banshees. Hoorah.

Questions or comments welcome:  
-Susan Maroun [design@dalgazette.ca](mailto:design@dalgazette.ca)



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for the  
GAZETTE

## CONTRIBUTORS

### NEWS

Chloe Westlake

### OPINIONS

Catherine Holloway  
Jenn Conter  
John Hillman

### ARTS & CULTURE

Amy Dempsey  
Brad Congram  
Hilary Beaumont  
Laura Dawe  
Jen Alford  
Andrew Edward Davies  
Rachel Sunter  
Lee Constiano  
Hugh Wallace  
Patrick St Amand  
Britanny Smith

### SPORTS

Alyssa Feir  
Mark Buckley

## CONTACT US

Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2  
[www.dalgazette.ca](http://www.dalgazette.ca)

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-2507  
[editor@dalgazette.ca](mailto:editor@dalgazette.ca)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-6532  
[advertising@dalgazette.ca](mailto:advertising@dalgazette.ca)

## 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.

# GAZETTE EDITORIAL

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.

## The big green mean machine

### A response for readers

We interrupt your reading to bring you this important news bulletin. The Dalhousie campus teeters on edge as *The Gazette* vs. Sustainability Office saga breaks into an all out war. Riots and Molotov cocktails are expected to descend upon the once peaceful "school by the sea" transforming it into a veritable sea of madness.

Well, that may be a bit of a stretch. You probably don't care much about the recent back and forth *The Gazette* staff's been having with members of the sustainability movement here at Dal. But in the interest of fairness and good coverage, and er, our reputation, we would like to make some clarifications to the general public about what has happened between us and the Dal Student Union sustainability office.

We believe the facts speak for themselves and that the behaviour of some members of the DSU has descended into downright silliness and child's play. But hey, who doesn't enjoy a little playground shoving match every once in awhile? We all get stressed out and letting off some steam usually makes everyone feel a little better.

We should make it clear that we direct no ill will toward anybody involved in the sustainability movement in general. We received a lot of compliments about our coverage of the sustainability office from students who enjoyed the article because somebody was finally telling it like it is.

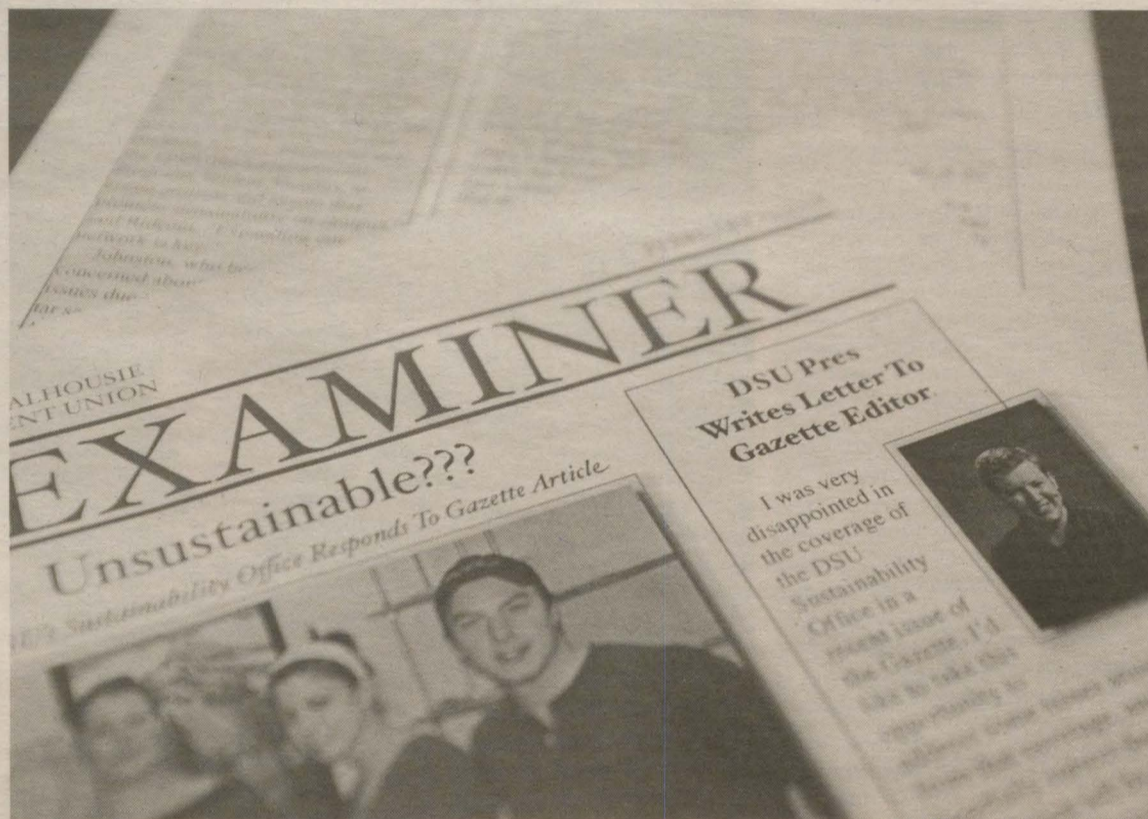
We feel that only a few people are at fault in our recent spat, not including the countless students who work hard everyday for a greener campus, and ultimately, for a greener way of life everywhere.

In our Jan. 24 issue, we published a news article entitled "Levy mix-up caused office debt." It explained the recent financial troubles that plagued the sustainability office since its inception at the beginning of the school year. We'll take a minute to reiterate the facts.

After students voted in favour of creating a Sustainability Office under the DSU during last year's referendum, a couple of members of what is now the SustainDal student society worked with the union to put together a budget for the office in 2007/2008.

They miscalculated some numbers and thought they would be collecting quite a bit more money from the office's new \$2 per full-time student fee than they actually did. They posted the head job for the sustainability office at a salary that, had the hire stayed on for the full year, would have required the DSU to take thousands from an extra fund just to cover the shortfall. Instead, Torill Gillespie took the job in Sept. 2007 only to quit less than three months later, one of the reasons being that she was too frustrated with the management of the office.

Our reporter asked DSU President Mike Tipping about the sustainability office's financial state. He said there was a \$7,000 shortfall that the DSU paid for through one of its extra



Goodbye *Daily News*, hello the *Examiner*.

JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

funds, with money separate from the finances previously set aside for the sustainability office.

The story did what a good news story is supposed to do. It's important for Dal students to know when their money isn't managed effectively, and good coverage keeps the DSU on its toes. We shared nothing but the facts, and, in our subsequent editorial in the same issue, our opinion on those facts.

But things got nasty once the article was published. We received some angry letters from student members of the sustainability movement at Dal, who claimed we exaggerated statements that the office was in debt. They were directed toward our editorial - which is plainly the newspaper's comment on the news story.

We always accept and enjoy this kind of criticism. An editorial is not based on universal truths, but on our staff's well-reflected opinion of current affairs. We welcome criticism of our opinion and we don't hesitate to publish it. That's why we printed three dissenting letters in subsequent issues of *The Gazette*.

But when those dissenting opinions attempt to lead the public to believe our reporter lied or exaggerated in covering the straight facts, our entire staff takes these allegations very seriously. We are a newspaper with a circulation of 10,000 copies and we are well-read on and off campus.

We don't protect our reputation for our own sakes, but to defend our actions as a campus newspaper that seeks to serve students.

Our actions came under fire in a little flyer called the "DSU Dispatch" that we received a few weeks ago. Its author, Mike Tipping, intended for us to print it.

The DSU dispatch opposite this page is an advertisement space we provide to the DSU so it can announce

events and accomplishments. After the sustainability article was published, we received the aforementioned dispatch as a newspaper-mimicking advertorial from the DSU. An advertorial is an ad that looks like a real news article to confuse readers into believing it's actual news content.

The ad also included some "revised" numbers, whatever that means, and said the sustainability office's shortfall would have been closer to \$3,000 or \$4,000 rather than the \$7,000 we reported.

We contacted Tipping and explained we don't print advertorials. They can mislead the public when content with a vested, or in this case, blatant, interest tries to look like objective, impartial news. We also told Tipping he could write a letter to the editor stating his opinion of the story, explaining the "real" financial figures and making it clear that he gave us the wrong ones.

We published a clarification in the next issue to explain that "in the red" and "debt" may have been misleading terms to use on our cover and in our headline. We published all three letters to the editor - one from SustainDal, one from the Sustainability Office and one from Tipping. We should mention that in his letter, Tipping did not say he gave us the \$7,000 figure. We had to add that in an Editor's Note.

We didn't squash any criticism toward our editorial; we published it. We didn't lie and we didn't fabricate or distort any quotes, as we were accused of doing. We simply wrote a flashy headline and were given the wrong numbers by the people in charge. This all falls under normal newspaper protocol. We stood for the facts and we still do. That's all that matters.

The story was over, or so we thought.

But some people, particularly those held publicly accountable for their mistakes, enjoy carrying grudges.

On Feb. 14, DSU Sustainability Office Liaison Mark Johnston mass e-mailed a shortened version of Tipping's advertorial, including the same one-sided claims, to Dal societies and individuals.

Besides the fact that Tipping had to explain himself to concerned students who showed up at his office after the original article was published, we can't figure out what made him upset enough to go out of his way and design his own newspaper.

Maybe he's testing the newspaper business with a little bit of entrepreneurial spirit now that *The Daily News* is down and out. In that case, his advertorial, cleverly named *The Examiner*, could really take off. It might open up a new market for damage control-spin doctor tactic hybrids.

Or perhaps he's making a statement about recycling using electronic news as opposed to paper-wasting newsprint.

Johnston, acting as spokesman for the sustainability office, pulled a low blow by sending out fallacious claims to the student body. He alleged in his e-mail that *The Gazette* resisted criticism and that we didn't publish Tipping's letter. When we contacted Johnston, he put the blame back on Tipping and declared the DSU-run sustainability office "neutral".

We're beginning to think he's on another planet. And that must not make saving this one too easy.

Our credibility as journalists was attacked and this is no laughing matter. For those who didn't follow our coverage of the DSU's sustainability office the first time around, we would like to take the time now to debunk the wild and juicy claims in

*The Examiner*.

In it, Tipping claims the office was never in debt and that it has "incredibly good financial oversight."

Ha.

Tipping explains the discrepancy between the \$7000 figure and the revised numbers as a result of "office restructuring." That means the union had to find new people to replace Gillespie after she quit as coordinator. The DSU hired three people to do her job at a net lower income than Gillespie would have been paid had she stayed the whole year.

The fact is that if Gillespie hadn't quit, the sustainability office would still need \$7,000 from the DSU to bail it out. Her departure was not planned in the budget, so those are figures that Dal students could have seen today. But, since the DSU avoided that crisis, all students can see of this year's revised sustainability office budget on the DSU website are a few bold blacked out lines.

We're sorry the DSU sustainability office began while it couldn't sustain its own finances, but a student-funded office should have enough financial oversight to avoid any shortfall. Misleading budgets make it harder for any organization to run itself properly.

But once again, a good newspaper digs for the facts and makes sure that shareholders of any organization, in this case, students, know about financial mismanagement.

Tipping also writes that the concerns of SustainDal society members interviewed in the article were "significantly exaggerated."

Tipping makes no effort to support this claim, a sign that he makes a great politician but a pitiful journalist.

The quotes from members interviewed in our article, such as those from Mark Coffin, are their own words. Maybe they didn't know how their words would read in print, or maybe they expected a campus newspaper would write about their sustainability movement projects with nothing but glowing praise.

But we wrote exactly what they said. Newspapers inevitably make mistakes and should always be ready to admit them, but this time around *The Gazette* made no mistake.

News spreads like wildfire and media perpetuate that fire. But when people spread inaccuracies about our coverage to the general public, it doesn't bode well for *The Gazette* or for the student body.

If people are going around saying that we spew bullshit, we suffer severely. In the media business, a bad reputation sticks like glue.

Each time readers pick up a copy of *The Gazette*, we want them to know they're getting well-researched, impartial news stories and insightful opinions pieces. If we lose our readers' trust, we may as well pack up and go home.

If you're still looking for a moral to this story, here it is: The DSU should do its job and let us do ours. Not the other way around. Students are smart enough to know the difference.

# Students hesitant to report crimes: Mugging victim

KATIE MAY  
NEWS EDITOR

It was around 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Tyler Dennis had spent the last two hours studying at Dalhousie's Killam library, preparing for his American government class presentation the next morning and working on a history assignment.

Deciding to put the finishing touches on his assignment later, the third-year history student typed up the final page, packed his notes, textbooks and laptop into his shoulder bag and headed out into the chill, clear night air. He started out toward South Street on his regular five-minute walk home.

As he passed Risley Hall residence on LeMarchant Street, Dennis felt someone tugging on his bag.

"Give it to me," a man's voice demanded close behind him.

Dennis turned around. It was then that he saw the unshaven stranger in the black bomber jacket. And the knife.

His mind raced. "This is not actually happening to me. Is this really happening?"

The Halifax Regional Police recently announced through local media that the city's overall crime rate is falling. Last year, robberies were down by 28 per cent, said spokesman Const. Jeff Carr.

But that Tuesday night marked the first time in at least two years that a Dal student has reported an armed robbery on campus.

"I didn't fight or anything; I just gave it to him," Dennis says two days after the incident. "He just took it and was gone."

"Like that," he snaps his fingers. "This happened in the span of... five minutes, not even."

Roughly 15 minutes later, Dal security and police had come and gone, taking with them Dennis' report and a description of the suspect. A passerby had witnessed the robbery and called security right away. So Dennis

walked home, empty-handed, and explained to his roommates what had happened.

"I was more shocked than anything else. It didn't kick in I actually could get hurt," the 20-year-old says.

His friends were shocked too. At first, one of them thought it was all a joke.

"We've gotten in this comfort zone," Dennis explains. "It's that mentality that we're in a bubble here and you don't think anything happens."

Dal security representatives, who could not be reached for comment before publication, sent out a mass e-mail bulletin the next day, Feb. 13, warning students about the thief and asking for any helpful tips.

Police reported four similar robberies within two days that week. All of those victims reported matching suspect and getaway car descriptions - a white male in his 20s, about 180 pounds and nearly six feet tall, fleeing in a beige four-door car.

Six days later, Dal security announced police arrested and charged the suspect on Friday, Feb. 15.

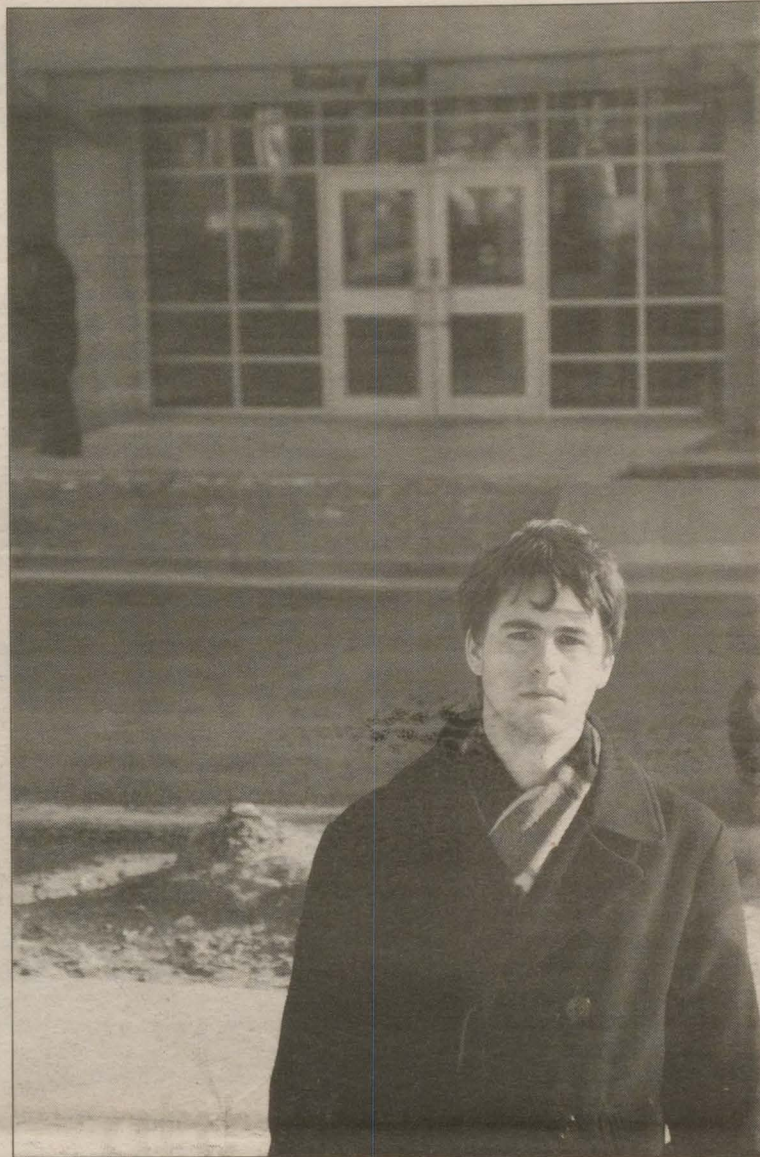
"Usually when there's a string of robberies like that, they stem from an addiction," Carr said a few hours before police made the arrest.

Carr cautions students that it's "not wise to become involved in a confrontation - leave that to police."

"Those types of robberies happen from time to time in different areas of the city. They can happen anywhere at any time."

But Dennis, who's been a delegate with the Halifax Student Alliance (HSA) municipal lobby group since December, says he's always thought of campus as a "safe haven," and didn't really think of local crime as a big issue until it happened to him.

"In my three years of being at Dal, I've never heard of anything happen like this on campus here or in general in the South End," he says. "Even



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Tyler Dennis was not hurt, but his laptop was stolen.

Dal security was rather surprised because it's not usual something like this happens on campus."

Dennis says he thinks there's more crime happening on campus than most students know about. He's heard students say they don't want

to report campus crimes because it's a hassle that's not worth the effort.

The results of a student survey the HSA conducted in November pointed to the same conclusion.

"I hadn't heard of a crime issue being reported in awhile, at least

since my first year," Dennis says. "And it does make me wonder: are people reporting it?"

"I think people are being quiet and I don't know why, because the best thing you can do is report this to security, report to the police."

While Dennis says he doesn't want to become a "poster boy" for anti-crime efforts, he wants to use his involvement in the HSA, a group combining five Halifax university student unions, to pressure the municipal government to react seriously to crimes against students.

"I joined (the HSA) largely because, while crime was a major issue, I just felt that the city doesn't really take students that serious," says Dennis. "This is still an issue in parts of the North [End] and the big thing is a lot of students are moving up there because of cheaper housing, because they can't afford to live down here because residences are packed."

After Dal's school-wide security bulletin circulated, some Risley Hall residents realized the campus isn't as safe as they thought. First-year student Claire Hage says news of the mugging was a reminder that no one can completely stop crime from happening.

"I always felt like it was such a safe place and I do still feel safe around campus, but obviously you can't take that for granted and you have to watch your back, as always," she says. "I think they've (security) been doing a good job."

Michael Akerman, a first-year science student, agrees that Dal provides sufficient campus security.

"It's kind of scary that it happens right here, right outside Risley Hall, right downtown on Dal campus. But it's just the way things are," he says. "There's no sense in getting scared about walking down the street. You've just got to live your life."

With files from Ruth Mestechkin

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 3rd @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

## Fenwick on the market

Dal unsure how to make enough room for students

RUTH MESTECHKIN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie University's Fenwick Place residence is still open for housing next school year. But after that, students will have to find a new place to bunk.

The university's Board of Governors has passed a motion to start the process of looking for a listing agent for the off-campus housing building, says Dal's official spokesperson Charles Crosby.

"All we're doing right now is we have a request for a proposal seeking applications for someone to be a listing agent," said Crosby. "We're looking for someone to consult with us on the listing process."

Currently, the residence's number one shortcoming is its inability to meet the needs of students, like being close to campus.

The present outdated and shabby condition of the building is a factor in this decision as well, says Crosby. He adds that it would be a considerable investment for the university to renovate the building in coming



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The university is trying to put Halifax's tallest building on the market.

years for Fenwick to be considered

"structurally sound."

"Will it be so in 10 years?" asks Crosby. "That's the question to answer."

And residence space is already tightly crammed.

"This year we had more applications for student housing than we had spaces," says Crosby.

He says there were as many as 100 more requests than places available. The short-term solution was to open up two floors in the O'Brien Hall residence on Morris Street in September.

"This showed us that down the road, we'll be facing similar space crunches," says Crosby. "We have to do something different to accommodate future student needs."

Crosby says it's too early to speculate on what new alternatives could be, and whether planning for a new housing facility is in the works.

"It's not a done deal," he says. "We're looking at current housing availabilities. If we continue to get more applications, then we have to look at another solution."

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Allison Watson plans to bike across Canada this summer with her younger brother David to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis.

## Dal student with CF training for cross-country bike trip

CHLOE WESTLAKE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Allison Watson has been planning a cross-country bike trip since last year. This summer, she'll do it - her only fear is getting sick and having to stay off the road to recuperate.

Watson, a fourth-year biology and psychology major at Dalhousie, plans to bike across Canada with her younger brother David this summer to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis. And she's not going to let her own cystic fibrosis hold her back.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the digestive system and the lungs, making it difficult to breathe and to digest food. It is a fatal disease for which there is currently no cure.

"I want to raise awareness about cystic fibrosis and make people more aware of the impact it has," says 21-year-old Watson.

Her brother David, who is 18 and in his first year at Mount Allison University, was the one who initially planned the trip. He had already been planning to bike across Canada after his first year at university, but last year Allison decided to get on board as well. She suggested they do the trip to raise awareness for cystic fibrosis.

The siblings plan to leave Vancouver in May and arrive in Newfoundland in August. The Petitcodiac, N.B. natives plan to fly to Vancouver on May 6. They want to bike five to six hours a day on average, stopping to rest now and then in

cities they would like to explore.

Watson has been involved in raising funds and awareness for cystic fibrosis in the past, helping with campus activities such as Shinerama and bar blitzes. She's grateful that Dal does so much to help battle cystic fibrosis. She says so far students have been very supportive of her plans for the trip.

Her Facebook group, called "Aley and Davey Bike Canada for CF," has 346 members, most of them students at either Dal or Mount Allison. Watson says being part of a campus community has helped her gain support for her trip.

"It's made it easier because there are more people who know people."

She and her brother are trying to line up places to stay at each of their stops, but they're taking a tent so they can camp if they don't have other accommodations. Watson says she's e-mailed all of the chapters of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to let them know about the bike trip and some parents who have children suffering from cystic fibrosis replied, offering to provide a place to stay overnight or a hot meal.

Watson says they've received several such offers in the Maritimes, but they're still waiting to hear from people in Ontario and the Prairies.

Watson says students can also help her cause.

"If they could help us out finding a place to stay, or if they have extra grocery money they could pass along, that would be great, or if they want to donate to the cause," she says.

Watson says she initially just wanted to do the trip to raise awareness about the disease, but after people kept asking how they could donate, she decided to set up an arrangement with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Anyone can donate to the foundation in Allison and David's names, and the organization will keep a running total of how much they raise.

Watson says balancing the preparation for the trip with being a student hasn't been as bad as she thought. The only thing that has overwhelmed her so far is finding the time to reply to all the e-mails she receives about the trip.

Right now, she's just trying to get physically prepared for the trip. Watson bikes 30 minutes to an hour everyday and takes a couple of aerobic and weight training classes each week at the Dalplex.

Her good friend Alison Che, a fourth-year biology major at Dal, accompanies her to these classes. Che says the two keep each other exercising regularly.

"I think me going gets her motivated to go," says Che.

She's not taking part in the bike trip herself, but Che says she is trying to be as supportive as she can. And Che has no doubt that Watson will succeed.

"She makes me feel like I can do anything because she can do anything," she says. "I think she's the most courageous person I know."

To find out more about the bike trip, visit Allison and David's website at <http://bikecanadaforcf.weebly.com>.

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March 3rd @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

## Uni-Briefs

### CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

#### U of T shreds students' defamatory posters

University of Toronto administrators have ordered custodial staff to tear down a student activist group's defamatory posters to avoid a lawsuit, reported *The Varsity* student newspaper.

The group, AlwaysQuestion, posted flyers that accuse chairman and founder of the Barrick Gold Corporation, Peter Munk, of instigating wars, funding militias and burying miners alive.

Munk has donated \$12.2 million to the university to date, around half of which went to Trinity College's international relations Munk Centre.

Prambir Gill, a member of AlwaysQuestion, said all the statements on the posters were backed up by fact.

"They (the university) limit our right to free speech and censor our material, and they've given no clear reason for it," said Gill.

The group then put up revised posters, asking why the university tried to censor them. UoT has already taken down 250 of them.

#### SMU astronomers discover an undetected star

A group of Saint Mary's University (SMU) astronomers, led by professor David Turner, discovered a star that had not been detected for more than half a century.

The star shines 100,000 times brighter than the sun and has a temperature of 45,000 Celsius, reported the *Saint Mary's Journal*.

"Such hot stars are rare in our galactic neighbourhood," said Turner. "But more importantly, the present discovery allows astronomers to investigate the star's influence on the stellar nursery where it was found, which may help us understand the broader environmental contexts in which our own sun was born."

SMU astronomer Dave Lane, a member of the team, designed, constructed and now operates the Abbey-Ridge Observatory where the star was discovered outside of Tantallon, NS.

The *Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers* will feature this discovery in its upcoming issue.

#### Palestinian solidarity panel angers pro-Israel support group

Representatives from pro-Israel organizations accused a panel discussion of Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) at Concordia University of censorship and racism, reported *The Link*.

IAW's goal is to support the Palestinian struggle by putting pressure on Israel to change its practices toward Palestine. The IAW panelists did not allow the protestors to distribute their information, which challenged IAW's purpose.

Editor of pro-Palestinian publication *Between the Lines*, Tou-

fic Haddad, attended the event and said Israel is strangling the Palestinian society.

"It's a war of ideas and that's what it's about and we're going to fight it, and we're going to fight it to win," said Haddad.

Rachel Yane, a board member of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) attacked the IAW speakers, some of whom included a group that boycotts Israeli products, for their account of the Zionist movement.

"I sat here and listened to your bullshit for so long," said Yane. "You can sit here and listen to mine."

CIJR representatives said they plan on filing complaints about the panel with the university.

Sources: *The Varsity*; *Saint Mary's Journal*; *The Link*.

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER

#### Yale police now publicly accountable

Campus police at Yale University are now forced to publicly release their records and follow the same disclosure rules as government departments, following a unanimous Feb. 13 decision from the Freedom of Information Commission of Connecticut.

Previously, campus police services had been considered "subsidiaries of private entities and thus have not been required to release police reports to the public," reported *The Harvard Crimson*.

The decision stemmed from a complaint brought against Yale police last spring by a public defender, who suspected racism and police misconduct, and was denied access to police records.

If Yale police don't appeal the decision, *The Crimson* reported, they will set a precedent for other campus police departments.

"I think it will promote the notion that even private institutions should be subject to the same sort of transparency that our society has recently put on public ones, and that will add a great deal to our reporting," said Andrew Mangino, editor-in-chief of the *Yale Daily News*.

### ACROSS THE POND

#### Students asked to build functional torture chambers

An architecture student at the University of Kent has refused to participate in a school project after he and several of his classmates were instructed to design and build "full-scale, operable" torture devices.

The school's architecture department, based in Canterbury, England, defended the assignment. Department head Don Gray told *The National Student* the project would develop students' awareness of the "contemporary artistic debate" and of the "tactics of shock."

But the former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, George Ferguson called the project

"stark raving bonkers."

"Of course it is part of the role of architectural education to stretch our minds, but not towards extreme discomfort and ugliness," said Ferguson.

#### Newspaper busts student essay business

An undercover reporter at an English student newspaper teamed with school administration to bust a booming national essay-selling business.

Kai "Jimmy" Li, a Master's student at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), ran an essay-writing and selling ring for almost two years, reported *The National Student*.

He charged students around the United Kingdom up to £1,000 for an essay, roughly \$2,000 Canadian.

He handled about £30,000 a month without paying taxes. He advertised for writers and available essays on a Chinese social networking website.

A reporter from the school's newspaper, *Pluto*, posed as an interested essay writer, translated Li's Chinese ads, and turned him over to university officials.

Faced with expulsion, criminal charges and tax evasion, Li fled to China, his home country.

Sources: *The Harvard Crimson*; *The National Student*.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

## Letters

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, The Gazette may invite the author to revise the submission.

## Articles

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

I was very disappointed with your paper last week: the "Sex Issue". The cover was very disturbing and I don't see how sane individuals can post a picture like that on a cover. I understand that the theme was Valentine's Day and sex but this could have been achieved without an image in such bad taste.

I would be ashamed to show this paper to my little sister and my parents. Sex is a beautiful thing in life. It shouldn't be commercialized or just looked at

from a physical point of view.

Sex has a deeper emotional and spiritual essence to it and could have been easily portrayed by pictures that aren't so trashy. I felt like I was looking at a porn magazine when I read this week's paper. This kind of material will definitely discourage me from reading the *Dal Gazette* ever again and I won't recommend it to anyone else either.

Thank you,  
Ahsan Syed, Dal Student

The Gazette is quite often a pleasurable read; however, the pretentious sex issue was disturbing. This may be your most famous issue but it lacked the modesty I expect from a campus newspaper. I was repulsed by the explicit images as well as the content within this issue.

The subliminal message here is

that may be the next time you publish such idiocy, you should take into account that not everyone is up to date with these contemporary ideas. If this continues I will have to refrain from reading more from the *Dalhousie Gazette* and advise my friends to do the same.

Neriman Qayyum, Dal Student

In your attempt to demonstrate a sense of sexual liberation and maturity in the sex issue, you in fact only achieved to objectify women by publishing images which can be best described as tasteless porn.

You'd think for a student-run, sometimes progressive newspaper, you would have made sure to balance the gratuitous, cheap looking pictures of naked women with comparable ones of men; however, there are a total of nine pictures of solo women and only three of men.

To top that off, the pictures of half-naked men are almost comi-

cal while the pictures of women are unfortunately desperate, evoking memories of 1-900 commercials. I don't mean to disrespect the models but to draw attention to the fact that this blatant display of female objectification is in no way liberatory for anyone involved: it is oppressive.

These pictures are tasteless and demonstrate no sexual diversity, body-shape diversity, let alone cultural diversity. Shame, shame *Gazette*.

Sincerely,  
Lacey Haynes

## The Scientific Skeptic

A scandal by any other name



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

Aetosaurus are a group of extinct dinosaurs that lived around 200 million years ago in the late Triassic period. They were between one and five metres long, had armoured backs and were mostly vegetarian. Some scientists believe they are related to modern crocodiles, but for the most part these dinosaurs were pretty boring.

However, the once humble aetosaurus is now at the centre of a huge controversy in the scientific community.

For paleontologists, naming a new dinosaur is a huge honour. Of course, there are many cases in which paleontologists have had a little fun with that honour; there are two dinosaurs named after Mick Jagger: *Aegrotocattellus Jaggeri* and *Anomphalus jaggerius*.

Other musicians with dinosaur namesakes include The Sex Pistols, The Beatles and Simon and Garfunkel: *Arcticalymene Vicioussi*, *A. Rotteni*, *A. Jonesi*, *A. Cooki*, *A. Matlocki*, *Avalanchurus Lennoni*, *A. Starri*, *A. Simoni*, *A. Garfunkeli*, *Struszia Mccartneyi*, *S. Harrisoni*.

The list goes on and on. Elvis Presley once had his own dinosaur, the *Elvisaurus*, a dinosaur with an Elvis haircut-style bump on its head, but now it's known as the *Cryolophosaurus*. Marilyn Monroe was the inspiration behind an hourglass-shaped trilobite named *Norasaphus Monroae*. And the *Dravorex Hogwarsia* is a dragon-like dinosaur named in honour of the Harry Potter books, while other dinosaurs have been named after species from the *Lord of the Rings*.

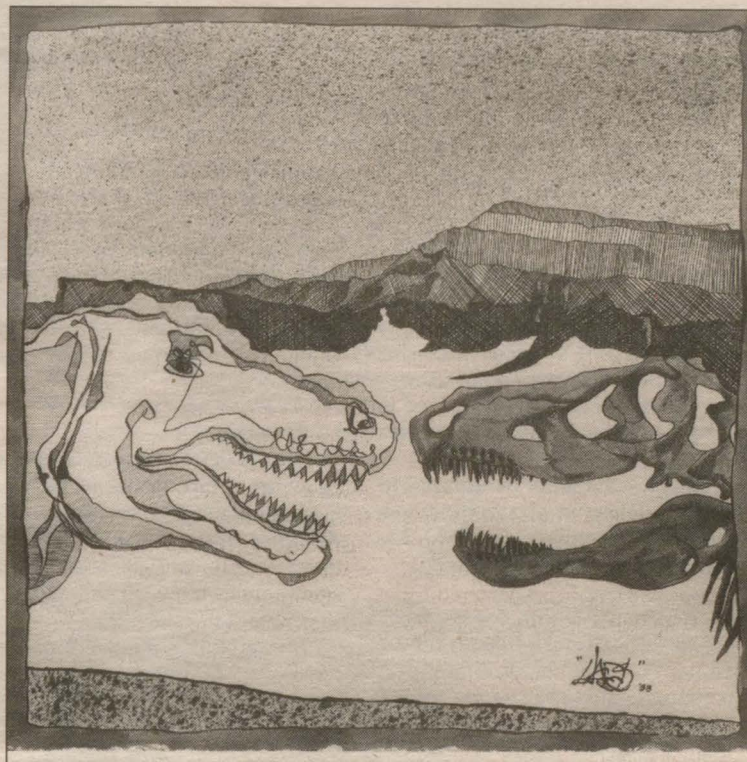
Since 1895, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has been making sure species are known in a uniform manner by the same name, and ensuring that the discoverer is always the person who decides the name. In the commission's code, the "discoverer" is the first person to have a scientific paper

published on a species, and scientists cannot name a species if they know a colleague is in the process of getting their own paper published.

Controversy erupted in the paleontology community when scientists at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, led by interim director Spencer Lucas, published a paper naming a new species of aetosaurus *Rioarribasuchus* even though

Lucas of plagiarizing his work about a species of aetosaurus with spines on its back.

Lucas, who is notoriously competitive when it comes to publishing research, already has more than 500 scientific papers in his name. The papers at the centre of the aetosaurus controversy were all published in the bulletin of the New Mexico museum, a journal that is edited by Lucas.



JAMES NADEL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

My mother calls me Ezekiel.

they allegedly already knew that a paleontologist from the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona was going to publish an article naming the species *Heliocanthus*.

Two other serious ethical complaints have been raised against the same group of scientists at the New Mexico museum. Last July, Lucas visited the Institute of Paleobiology at the University of Warsaw, where Polish scientists were excited about finding their own new fossil, an uncommon occurrence in dinosaur-poor Poland.

Upon returning to the U.S., Lucas published his report on the Poland fossil before the Polish scientists finished their research. A paleontologist from Texas Tech University is also accusing

Publishing in your own journal is definitely an abuse of power; it means you can skip over all that tricky peer review process that usually keeps dishonest scientists from getting published.

Several ethics review boards are now investigating Lucas and his dinosaur names are being reconsidered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

While having a lot of scientific papers published to your name does increase your reputation as a scientist, Lucas has gone too far. Even if the international commission decides in his favour, his involvement in the aetosaurus naming scandal will likely tarnish his reputation forever.

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## Five ways: to summon the spirits

JAMES MUNSON  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Dalhousie has a school spirit in that it is invisible, out-of-this-world and very hard to bring back to life.

We practically have a school spirit complex. It's the missing keystone that would hold the campus a little closer. As it stands today, we are what Joe Clark once called Canada, "a community of communities."

It's hard to believe that students in faculties like management, computer science, arts and engineering really have the same experience at Dal. Each faculty feels pretty segregated. This is a far cry from the days when universities meant a common bond through four years of discovery and a shared journey into adulthood.

Today these kinds of things are left for university president speeches and website advertising.

Other than the isolationism of each faculty, the other great impediment to school spirit is the draw to all the other great events in our coastal city. Comparing ourselves to Acadia and St. FX. is really lowering the bar; these schools are in towns the size of our campus. People go to their football games because there's not much else to do.

But we shouldn't be unfazed by our handicaps; we should turn them into opportunities. Here are five ways to bring school spirit to Dal.

### Partnerships with downtown

As I was sitting at the Dalhousie Student Union's board of governors meeting last week listening to why Dal lacks a school spirit, my roommate was at the Metro Centre preparing for the exact kind of activity this school needs more of: partnerships between the school and downtown events.

In the halftime of the Halifax Rainmen game, Dal and SMU commerce students took to the court in a friendly game of basketball. If the



JOSH BOYTER PHOTOSHOPIING/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

A Dal Wiki could help us share Dal's little details without any expert oversight.

DSU can coordinate more events with downtown bars as well as music festivals, we might be able to share the love Dalhousians have for the night scene with their school experience.

### Faculty day

There's no better way to get to know other faculties than by beating their asses at competitions. The residence hockey games between Risley and Howe Halls attract quite a few people, but what about upper-years?

Intramurals bring some needed passion with your classmates, but bigger events against entire faculties could make us all closer friends by making us even closer enemies.

### Make a Dal Wiki

Apparently Wikis aren't just for encyclopaedias. Wikis can be made for just about anything as an editable database for information. Maybe a Dal Wiki with the lowdown on profs or classes, and campus ac-

tivities can make us see Dal as more than a bunch of drab buildings.

### Cheap drinks at hockey games

We're never getting a football team for some inexplicable reason, but we can make more out of what we do have: a long tradition of good college hockey. Students from cities like Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto know how absurdly expensive NHL games are, and a cheap ticket matched with a few cheap drinks would be a great escape from academic breakdown on campus.

### Steal something from SMU

I really don't know much about SMU. I can't even think about something to steal from their campus. They must have some statues or flags to steal but I can't even vouch for that.

A hostage taking on the other hand might make a bigger impact. Nothing murderous; that's just tasteless. We'll just borrow a prof for a few days. I'm sure that will start a rivalry.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Frankly, we agree.

## The good, the bad and the bawdy at *The Gazette*

JOHN HILLMAN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Based on recent discussions with acquaintances and letters I've seen printed in *The Gazette*, I've come to realize that a sizable number of people are growing frustrated with our once-prestigious student-run paper. Frankly, I have to agree.

In recent weeks, *The Gazette* has made the bewildering decision to publish opinions on issues that not only question the popular consensus, but deviate from my own personal feelings. This is becoming a problem that may threaten the very future of the paper if left unchecked.

Many people, including myself, were highly offended by the recent *Gazette* coverage on the Dalhousie Student Union's sustainability office. Who do these *Gazette* reporters think they are, coming up with devastatingly witty titles like "Unsustainable," and questioning the thousands of dollars of wasted student funds that the office has been responsible for this past year?

Sure, some embarrassing mistakes were made, but why not focus on the positive things the sustainability movement has achieved at Dal? I mean, in other than some nine issues over the last three years, when has *The Gazette* ever presented the sustainability movement in a positive light?

And what to make of the editor's ridiculous article on the 'rights' of smokers? The last time I checked, only humans and animals had rights. Smokers, as we all know, are smog-spewing minstrels of death, raised to our realm from the depths of hell.

How could anyone claim they have a 'right' to partake in their fiendish habit in the open-air of a public space?

What am I supposed to do if I'm out for a morning jog and someone is smoking right in the middle of the beach? Aside from holding my breath briefly, or taking a five-foot detour, I cannot think of how I could possibly escape the horrors of endless seconds inside their thoughtless death cloud.

And then there is the Sex issue. It is almost inconceivable that *The Gazette* could advocate and

celebrate sex in such an open way, given the potentially devastating effects of the act. Did you know that of the nearly 60-million people who die around the world every year, almost all report that their parents were sexually active in the period immediately preceding conception?

Think of the countless deaths that could be prevented if only people could learn to abstain!

Thankfully, the days of the offensive *Gazette*-style media might be coming to an end. On Monday, Feb. 11, the Halifax *Daily News* shut its doors permanently. Yes, after years of recklessly presenting multiple sides of the same story, those radical professional reporters were herded into a conference room and told, out of the blue, that their paper was finished.

The publication that is being brought in to replace the *Daily News* seems to understand what the people really want. *Metro* will be a free daily tabloid aimed at university-aged Haligonians. It's too early to tell just yet, but given the massive layoff of professional staff, and shift to an advertisement-driven format, one can only hope that this paper will offer respectable levels of pandering to all of the hip concerns of our generation.

They certainly got off to a good start, hiring an innumerable host of Green Peace look-alikes to hand out papers across the city. It is clear from this strategy that they already know that we wholeheartedly approve of the colour green, and will unquestioningly support anything draped in it.

Let the fate of the *Daily News* serve as a warning, fellow Gazetters. If the university market is as opposed to serious journalism as the people at Transcontinental Media seem to imagine, then your critical reporting styles and insistent failure to jump on bandwagons may mean that your days are numbered.

Don't be surprised if someday soon, the faux-hawk sporting founders of a new 'Dalhouzine' have evicted you from your cushy third-floor office. The revolution may not be televised, but it will likely be summarized in inoffensive articles stuck between vodka advertisements and glossy photos of 'Dalhotties.'

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The new market will offer more flexibility for vendors and more food for consumers.

## A market on the sea

JENN CONTER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Part of Halifax's charm has always been the Farmer's Market. When many students move here, they discover that there is finally a reason to drag themselves out of bed in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Hundreds of people flock to the market every week and join the crowds to browse local produce, fresh baked goods and the best Chinese food in the city.

Growing up in Halifax, I only became aware of this cultural "smorgasbord" of tasty delights and hand-crafted splendors two years ago. Now I feel a weekend is not properly initiated without a trip to the market.

The market is overwhelming at first. When I first went to the market, the tables of seasonal produce and the aroma of the breakfast wraps being made to order amplified my sense of chaos from the crowds.

Over the years, I have become very familiar with the market's layout within the Alexander Keith's Brewery on Lower Water Street and I join in the frustration of other market vet-

erans when a popular table has been relocated. Like sacred tales passed down from sage to sage, I have learned where the "better bakery" is located and the correct time to enter the fish line to have best pick from the catch of the day.

But the market is changing. Larger crowds, made denser still by hundreds of students that manage to get up early, have forced the market to seek out a new location. To meet the demands of the general public, the market is expanding and re-locating to its new seaport location at Pier 20 on Harbourwalk South sometime in 2009.

Only a few minutes away, the market will be enlarged to a 4500 square feet permanent, two-story structure that will be open and available to the public on a daily basis. In addition to the traditional market tables, retail stores will also be located within the newly proposed site. These stores will be also open to the public six to seven days a week.

Upon learning of the market's relocation plans, I became worried about the community feel that is ever present in the weekly market crowd. However, the landlords at the Keith's

Brewery are charging exorbitant rent fees which increase up to 40 per cent every four years. Better business will definitely bring better food.

Once in their new surroundings, the vendors will have more freedom and will have the opportunity to bring in more revenue than what was possible in a weekly market.

According to documentation circulated by the Market Manager Fred Kilcup, vendors will have the choice to attend Saturday only, weekdays only or in any combination that works for them. That means seasonal vendors who are now limited to 12 market days in a typical three-month production season can expand and potentially have 90 selling days in a season.

In addition to giving back to the community on a daily basis, the design of the building itself gives back to the environment since it includes things such as a rooftop farm, wind power, and passive ventilation.

The new market will surely increase its popularity with its new location, but only because of the strong loyal base it developed during its formative years in the Keith's Brewery.

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# STREETER

Where would you like to move and why?



“Florida to play baseball and Disneyworld is pretty cool.”

Andrew Ryba, fifth-year chemical engineering



“Anywhere where there isn't a winter.”

Matt Herndorf, fourth-year history



“Heaven because I can live forever.”

Alana Firestone, fourth-year informatics



“I like it here. I love 10 months of winter.”

Chris Bryant, first-year science



“Somewhere warm like Brisbane, Australia.”

Kelly Leighton, first-year voice



“I would go to Neverland to see Peter Pan”

Emily Nguyen, first-year science



“Europe because it's beautiful and its society seems more adjusted.”

Lisa Todd, first-year English



“Lilliput, to be free and amongst my kin.”

James Munson, half-year bootstrap tying

## Ways to spend your reading week:

1. Visit a friend who's reading week is over and bring down their GPA.
2. Go on a Carnival Cruise and hook up with divorcées and retirees.
3. Spend the whole time in bed, eating to gain as much weight as possible, just to trip out your friends.
4. See how long you can make it without sleep. It's like free drugs!
5. Learn a bunch of pen tricks and blow all your classmates' minds.
6. Research one of your profs. Intensely. Go to their office hours and ask deeply unsettling questions.
7. If you're going home, get a fake tattoo first. Maybe the name of a lover somewhere prominent. Show the folks.
8. Paint portraits of people you only know through Facebook. Upload and tag.
9. Drink a fifth of liquor, by yourself, in one day. When else can you take 48 hours off to recover?
10. Go cow tipping to find out if it works.

## HOT OR NOT

<b>HOT:</b> The Gazette's Sex Issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Your sex issues
<b>HOT:</b> Hemp jewellery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> The people wearing it
<b>HOT:</b> Reading week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> In Peterborough
<b>HOT:</b> XXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Roman numerals
<b>HOT:</b> Rick Mercer Report at Dal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> To Catch a Predator at Dal
<b>HOT:</b> Midterm cramming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Studying diligently
<b>HOT:</b> Tpyos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Editing
<b>HOT:</b> Hallucinogens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Chasing that damn dragon
<b>HOT:</b> Home movies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Amateur porn
<b>HOT:</b> Moustaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> On women

### 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.

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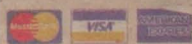
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# Destination: The Superfantastics

BRAD CONGRAM  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Although The 'Tics are getting people to scratch their heads, don't confuse Stephanie d'Entremont and Matt MacDonald with forest critters that bury themselves in your skin.

The Superfantastics would prefer to tickle you with nostalgia than to drink your blood. Their music is reminiscent of 1990s Halifax pop music, and if that isn't retro enough, they'll go so far as to include 3-D glasses in the packaging of their new EP release *Choose your Destination*.

"It's always good to make a good little package that people can enjoy," says Matt, 25. "It's something to look at while you're listening to the music."

Following the heels of last year's debut LP *Pop-Up Book*, The Superfantastics are gobbling up notoriety in the land of pop and winter. While many bands may be snoozing away the day, The Superfantastics are busy buffing up because they know bathing suit season will be here before you know it.

The Maritime music community may not be wholly focused on The Superfantastics but more people are paying attention. *Pop-Up Book* and a subsequent video for their single "Countdown" captured a nod from East Coast Music Awards (ECMA) decision makers. Their experience at the ECMAs turned out to be a crash course in grace and maturity.

The awards show gave Matt and Stephanie a chance to meet with industry representatives and reflect on what it means to be a pop duo in Halifax. There may not be a clunky piece of steel on The Superfantastics mantel this year but they've also gotten over the bitter visit from Mr. Teardrop already.

The band also gained notoriety by not being satisfied with the standard online networking information machinery. Stephanie has proved to be prolific at generating copious amounts of video that highlight the



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Superfantastics have a 3-D vision of the future.

bands adventures through the realm of music scenery.

"We try to kind of keep it light and fun," she says. "We take it seriously but it's like if we miss a beat on one song it's not like we're going to freak out over it."

Stephanie's dedication to providing good media is surely a factor in the rise of The Superfantastics'

popularity since they got together in 2005.

Matt, who's been playing music since he was seven, earns and takes most of the credit for The Superfantastics song writing and Stephanie says that "Anything you hear on the album that is not drums... Matt played."

"Steph looks after all the video



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

stuff. She went to school to learn video editing, and she's very good at it. And I look after the song writing," Matt says about what each band mate contributes to The Superfantastics.

"We have our roles," Stephanie chimes in.

"There's a balance there, it meshes," Matt says.

The new five-song EP, available on 7-inch vinyl and as a MP3 download, includes 3-D glasses which are more functional flashback than fashion faux pas as well as an eight-page booklet of blue and red space-themed drawings to use with the glasses.

*Choose Your Destination* picks up where *Pop-Up Book* left off. It is five catchy melodic tunes that explore transition, early relationship infatuation, pretentiousness in the arts, hope for a happy future and the quest for fun.

Matt opens up a little about the album's final song, "Astronomer": "It's sort of about my past life as an electrical engineer," he says. "I kind of drifted away from it, I wasn't into it, you know."

"Logic dictates that I should stay with the same thing that's making me a fair amount of money and

some sort of security but [...] music was calling to me."

Making music is Matt's preferred place. While he pursues pop and power, playing and writing with The Superfantastics, he also plays keyboard with Halifax-based The Sleepless Nights.

Robert Lawrence co-owner of Halifax's Taz Records says he sees good things for The Superfantastics.

"They are industrious and have it all together. Their CDs and records sell. They even had to do a second press of the first album," says Lawrence.

To keep the pop light burning through until spring, The Superfantastics will be touring with New Brunswick musician Julie Doiron in the coming months, taking their craft as far west as Vancouver Island.

You can shake out your shrunken wool sweaters or dust off your Blossom hat because The Superfantastics celebrate the release of *Choose Your Destination* with a performance at Gus' Pub on Saturday, Feb. 23 with Doug Mason and the Certified Legends, as well as The Just Barleys. If you can't get out to the show you can tune in to the CBC Radio One program Fuse that afternoon to hear The Superfantastics perform with Julie Doiron.

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Happy reading week!

# Picnicface or die

AMY DEMPSEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

With a solid fan base, over 5-million hits on their YouTube channel, a miscellaneous cast of hilarious individuals, and a number of projects currently in the works, Halifax's Picnicface could become the greatest Canadian comedy troupe since The Kids in the Hall.

After generating buzz with "Powerthirst," a mock energy drink commercial, Picnicface landed a three-video short contract with Collegehumour.com and have since been attracting the attention of big names comics like Will Ferrell.

Recently, the *Saturday Night Live* veteran chose "Powerthirst" and several other Picnicface productions for "Will Ferrell's Favorite Videos" on Funnyordie.com.

"Frickin' Picnicface just cranks out the goods," reads Ferrell's comment on "The Proposal," another of the group's sketch videos.

Last week, Picnicface took a quick trip across the border for Ferrell's Funny or Die tour stop in Boston. Members of the group were invited to the event by the show's producers because of Ferrell's interest in their work.

Though Picnicface is rooted in Halifax, individual members hail from around Canada.

"We all came out here for school at one time or another and then just sort of bumped into each other," says Mark Little, one of the head writers for Picnicface who came from B.C.

The rest of the cast includes



SUPPLIED

The next year or two will be do or die for Picnicface as they push to make deals and ultimately to find interest in a television show.

Andrew Bush, Scott Vrooman, Kyle Dooley, Evany Rosen, Cheryl Hann, Brian Macquarrie, and Bill Wood.

The group performs at Ginger's Tavern in downtown Halifax every other Sunday, where they present a combination of live sketches, improv and videos to a usually sold-out audience. Last summer they performed at the Toronto Fringe Festival and their act was named one of the top ten comedy shows of 2007 by Toronto's *Now* magazine.

Despite their success onstage, the group's career goals are in film. Bush says they use the live audience "as a testing ground" for sketches before they post them on the web.

While live audiences can be forgiving with minor flaws, anonymity gives the online community the power to speak their opinions very freely and openly.

"The internet right now is kind of like the wild west for entertainment,"

says Bush. "There's no one to tell you what you can and can't do, so you live and die by the people's opinions."

Little admits that the negative feedback can be hard to handle, especially when comments "hit on something that you're already self-conscious about." Members of the group deal with the criticism fairly well, Little says, with some exceptions.

"Sometimes I go on as a fake person and I'll be like 'Fuck you! You're a douche bag!'"

He's probably kidding.

When it comes to being offensive in their sketches Bush says "there is no line" they won't cross, as long as the idea is funny. However, he notes that Picnicface is trying to move away from extreme vulgarity.

He says offensiveness only works well in comedy when it has shock value. After a certain point, the vulgarity isn't shocking anymore and it

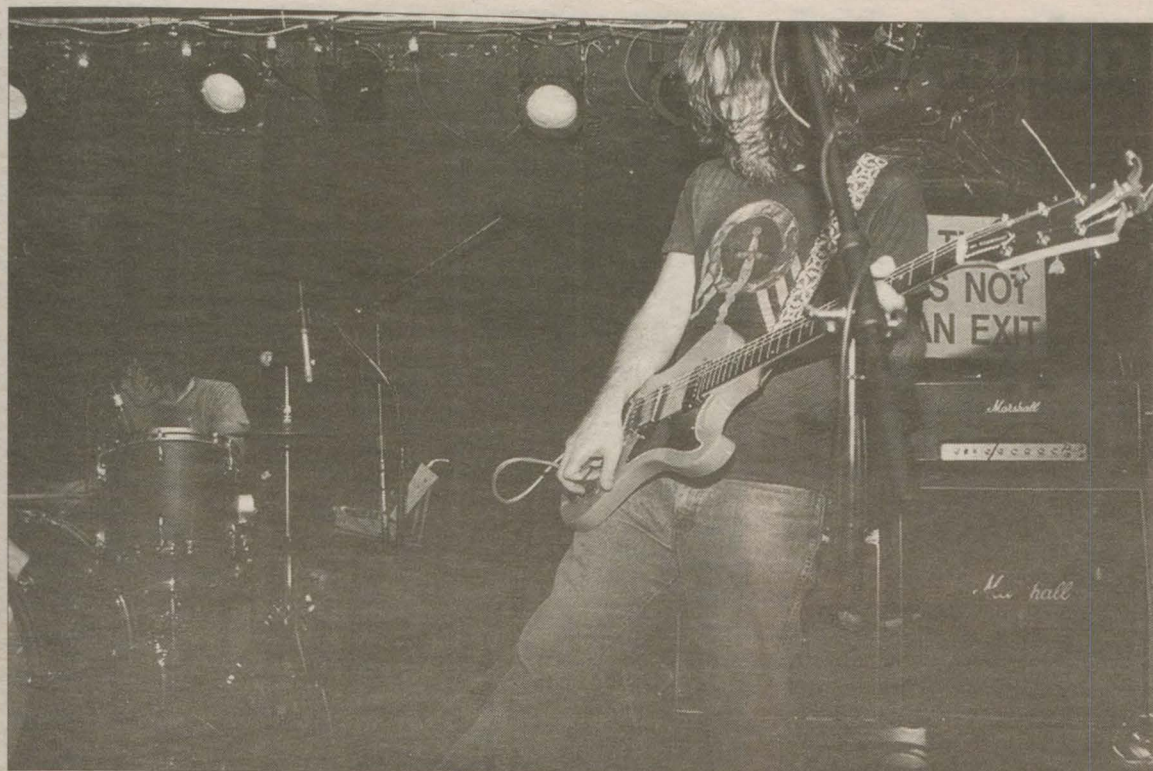
stops being funny.

Bush and Little both agree that if there is any kind of line, it should definitely be drawn at "not funny."

Picnicface is now represented by United Talent Agency, whose clients include Jack Black and Vince Vaughn and they recently signed a contract with Breakthrough Film and Television, who are in the process of editing a 22-minute pilot. The troupe says an American company has expressed interest in marketing an actual Powerthirst energy drink.

The next year or two will be do or die for the troupe as they push to make deals and ultimately to find interest in a Picnicface television show.

Visit Picnicface online at [www.picnicface.com](http://www.picnicface.com) or check out their next show this Sunday, Feb. 24 at Ginger's Tavern 8 p.m.



DANIEL ARNOLD / WIKIPEDIA

You can say whatever you want, just don't call them Black Sabbath.

## Black on Black

LAURA DAWE  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Matt Camirand, bass player for Black Mountain, ended our interview with a genuinely friendly laugh. He told me, "If the article comes out and it paints us in a bad light, you're off the guest list and I'll find your house and I'll burn it fucking down to the ground."

Black Mountain has a hard time with the press. Sort of.

They get rave reviews and impressive coverage, but they also get a lot of easy route treatment. Which is to say, if you were a journalist and wanted your reader to care about Black Mountain, you might do what 90 per cent of the articles do: conjure all the glory and power of Black Sabbath.

Once you have summoned a great dark, smoking brilliant orb of 1970s rock-iconery, you just have to point to the Vancouver band and say "They're just like that, but now."

There's no getting around it. Black Mountain has the same qualities that keep your old Zeppelin vinyls closely acquainted with your record player. It's easy to flippantly coin them "stoner rock," describe a couple of their bitchin' guitar riffs, acknowledge their considerable success and sign off. But by doing that, these journalists aren't getting past the skin and leave the guts and heart of the band untouched.

These are not five people out to "make it." These are five musicians making honest to God rock and roll.

I spoke to Camirand on the phone as he was driving from a show

in San Francisco to one in Los Angeles. He said he was eating a burrito supreme, in the band's 15-seat Ford van. It was the fifth day of touring their new album, *The Future*.

They are playing a lot of festivals this tour and are generally playing to bigger, more excited audiences. So it was surprising to hear that they just played a house show in Seattle on their night off.

"We were in a random basement. You couldn't even stand up straight the ceilings were so low. There were like 200 people crammed into it," said Camirand.

A dirt floor house show where, "it was kind of just a rumor, I think, that we were going to play," is a far cry from the sold out stadiums that the band is getting used to.

But Camirand said the band's interest isn't fame.

"We did the tour with Coldplay," he said, "and watching Chris Martin walking around with his own personal 350-pound bodyguard always behind him, I think that would be a bit of a drag."

This blasé attitude toward celebrity helps explain why no one in the band likes having their picture taken. It's a matter "...of dealing with photographers where they're like, 'Ok, how about you guys jump in the air and do something stupid? You know, that you never would do in your life.' We don't want to do that," said Camirand.

But for all their lack of commercial ambition, you can still find a Black Mountain song on the *Spider-Man 3* soundtrack.

Camirand wasn't particularly impressed with the movie.

"It's terrible," he said.

But they did it because producer Dave Sardy asked them.

"He called me personally and said 'I really love your band,'" Camirand said. "He recorded Johnny Cash for Christ's sake. That's the only reason why I could give a shit about *Spider-Man*."

Dave Sardy liked the band so much that he mixed *The Future* with behind-the-scenes big name and Grammy-nominated John Congleton.

"[But it] wasn't like, 'Oh my god I can't believe these people are mixing our record.' It was more like I can't believe we're going to let this guy in our inner circle to mix our record, you know?" said Camirand.

But fear not. Black Mountain's hands are still all over the recording process. They did all the tracking themselves, said Camirand, "setting up the mics, and trying to get certain sounds. I think it's fun. It's like a kid in a candy store when we go to the studio."

At the end of the day Black Mountain have come out with another record that cuts right through the shit down to the substance. As far as comparing them to every classic rock band that ever existed goes, Camirand has an answer for that too.

"We come from a pretty honest place I think when it comes to enjoying music and being fanatics and fans of music," said Camirand. "And I hope that comes across, definitely. We are just kind of out to please ourselves." And maybe burn some houses down.

## Firefly lights up DalTheatre

ANDREW EDWARD DAVIES  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

DalTheatre's production of *Firefly* was an entertaining and poignant play and introduced some new faces.

Playing from Feb. 5 to 9 in the David Mack. Murray Theatre, it was the first production ever to showcase Dalhousie's third-year theatre students, rather than students in their fourth year.

The play, written by Carol Sinclair and directed by Pamela Halstead, tells a sweet romance about Emmy McFadden (Sarah Jane MacDonald) and Jack MacKay (Nick MacInnes) in PEI circa 1910.

The telephone system had just been introduced and the familiar trend of phone-gossip is just emerging, which provides some great humour with little vignettes.

Emmy becomes a switchboard operator and before the dawn of the First World War, Jack proposes to her. She tells him they'll wait a few years.

Besides being a romance and a period piece, *Firefly* is also a musical.

Even if you're not a fan of the musical genre, *Firefly* offers musical

entertainment and good singers, especially Candyce Sellars as Emmy's Aunt Frill who opens the second act with the song "Royal Telephone" which was truly a showstopper.

The opening song "Do you Hear," is energetic but wasn't enough to open a musical, especially compared to the songs later in the play.

What makes those songs work is that they don't drag on and the actors seem to have fun with them.

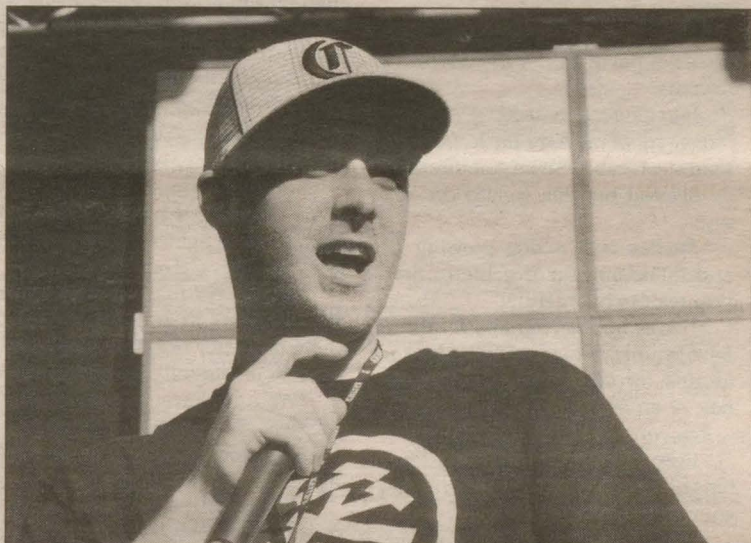
The play is well staged with a cool set; in the background, newspapers hang on the wall and are shaped to look like a town on the bottom.

One of *Firefly's* best achievements is the shift from happy-go-lucky to despair as the horrors of war creep in.

Jack, as a soldier now, recites his letters to Emmy. He tells her about the "sausage factories," of dead bodies on the battlefield. Jack tells her it is foolish to think that if she had married him she wouldn't be a widow by the end of the war.

"Adorably dull" is a term repeated in the play; *Firefly* is sometimes adorable, but never dull.

*Daltheatre's next production is A Midsummer Night's Dream March 25-29 at the Sir James Dunn Theatre.*



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Be prepared to fight for your right to party.

## Class is in

JEN ALFORD  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday Feb. 16, the Marquee was at capacity with a huge audience. Everyone was there for the same reason: Class.

Halifax rapper Classified's show was completely sold out and the scene couldn't have been more bumping. Flocks of fans out front tried desperately to sneak their way in, some scheming up ridiculous scams and begging to buy tickets for outrageously high prices.

After hitting the road for a month, Classified ended his coast-to-coast Canadian tour in the comfort of his hometown surrounded by many of his friends, who showed some local support.

The doors opened at 9 p.m. and the show started an hour later. Classified headlined and brought with him his HalfLife entourage.

Class started his HalfLife record label in 1995 and has since signed a number of talented local musicians all with the goal to highlight the talent that goes unrecognized everywhere else but thrives in the Maritimes. The label shows the rest of Canada that the East Coast knows good music.

The HalfLife label has grown immensely over the past decade, and now has featured artists such as Jor-

dan Croucher, Chad Hatcher and Mic Boyd. Saturday night's show kicked off with performances by Boyd, followed by special guest Shad, and at about midnight Hatcher came on stage singing songs from his debut album, *Tunnels and Pathways*, which just hit stores.

A one-man show, Chad wowed the crowd with just his guitar. The combination of his guitar plus Classified's banging beats makes for some really interesting and new music, a kind of cross between folk and hip hop.

Class was in after Hatcher performed and as always he put on a wicked show. The Marquee was so squished and cramped people couldn't even move and were very aggressive pushing and shoving as others walked by to protect their spots by the stage.

It would go to fists before somebody would steal someone else's place. But that has to be expected when Classified hits Halifax.

Singing old tunes and new hits, Classified promoted his new album *While You Were Sleeping*. This is his 11th album and it's packed with bangin' tunes.

The show was incredible. Everyone should try to catch a Classified show to see some East Coast talent thriving right in downtown Halifax.

## Cupid's nymphs strut their stuff

HILARY BEAUMONT  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Embassy nightclub's elite patrons, united by a passion for expensive garments and beautiful people, sip their drinks and chirp like birds in mating season. This truly is the essence of Valentine's Day.

A stream of strutting ladies pose for a crowd of clothing worshippers.

A yellow shirt, worn as a dress, makes its debut. The audience cheers as a model prowls down the small white catwalk, throwing her hips excessively from side to side.

A pink disco ball shaped like a dress twirls inches from the dark faces in the front row. Coloured dots of light drift dreamily along the electric blue walls. Cameras flash, but the Barbies on the stage don't blink.

Those in attendance seem identical in black, but each outfit is



JOSH BOYTER

unique to the cultured eye. Big hair and pointy toes are back for spring.

On this so-called "hottest night of the year," security is tight. But the bouncers only have eyes for the delicate lingerie models strutting within the confines of a rectangular runway.

One bouncer strides across the floor, searching for the best vantage point.

Ambient music fills the dark club, reverberating beneath the painfully trendy stilettos and boots.

A busboy walks into the spotlight, casting a dark shadow on the pink, fuzzy teddy on stage. He stops and stares, holding his ground.

The stage darkens and the DJ thanks the crowd.

Suddenly the booming music hits a new decibel. At the bar, a head protrudes from a collar and tie, bobbing enthusiastically to what else but Rihanna.

The club is packed to the seams with Halifax's hottest. This Valentine's Day it is clearly love, not pride, that goes to your head.

# Caring for kitties and class

RACHEL SUNTER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

New cat bylaws effectively outlawing free-roaming outdoor cats in Halifax will come into effect this April. All cats will have to be registered, and kept on owners' property. Off-property cats will have to be leashed, like dogs.

Due to public outcry, the laws are under serious revision, but local animal shelters are expecting an explosion of cats reported homeless.

"It's going to be quite staggering," says Pamela Keddy, the president of the Nova Scotia SPCA and director of the Metro Animal Shelter in Dartmouth. "We have to have the space for these animals."

Due to last week's seizure of more than 100 neglected pets from Cape Breton's Celtic Pets, animal shelters are currently filled to the brim with cats and dogs.

Many of them have respiratory illnesses.

All of them need homes.

Students frequent the Dartmouth Metro Shelter looking for pets, but Keddy warns against students adopting cats and dogs.

"If at all possible, [students] should wait," she says. "Just starting off, your life is going to go through so many changes, and unless you're really committed to that animal and keeping it long-term and willing to make all the sacrifices that might go with it, then the best thing for the animal is just to wait."

But for many students, the sacrifices of having a pet are worth the rewards.

Liza Shelley, a second-year history student at Dalhousie, happily shares two cats with her roommates.

"I need animals, I really do," she says.

Shelley had a dog growing up and found her fur-free life in first-year residence lonely.

"I was actually so upset I didn't have [a pet]," she says. Shelley looked around for dog-walking opportunities — an alternative for pet-lovers — but couldn't find anything.

Every Saturday at the Metro Shelter, volunteers come to walk their favourite dogs.

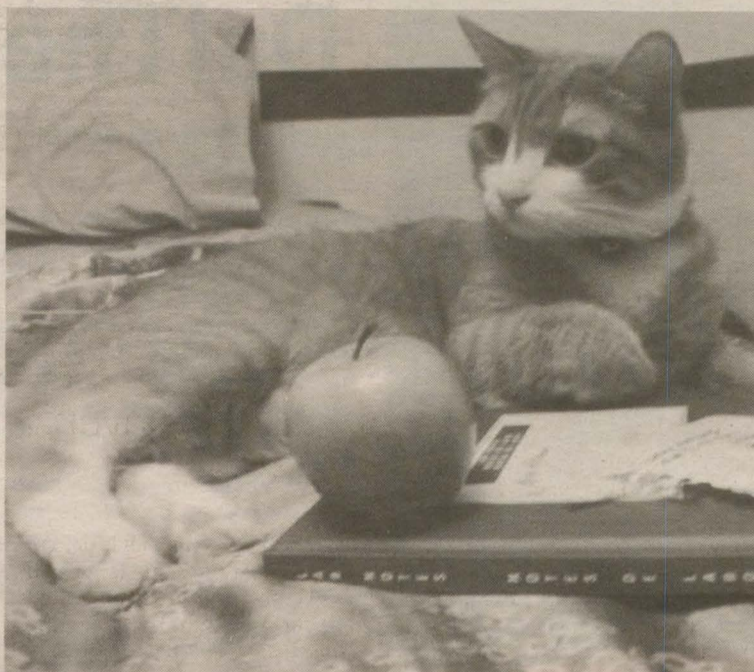
"It's my stress relief," says one walker as she grabs a couple of dog treats from the reception counter and heads out with her eager pup.

But, located several bus rides away from Dal's campus, the shelter's program isn't ideal for students.

Although Shelley and her two roommates have never had cats before, they find it easy to live with Whiskey, a perky, six-month-old black kitty, and Mr. Orange, or Mo for short.

The cats are used to the girls' student lifestyles — partying included.

"Cats don't like beer," explains Shelley. "They do like Baileys [Irish Cream] though. It tastes like milk.



RACHEL SUNTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sometimes love isn't enough when it comes to student pet owning.

"You've got to be careful with that," she says, laughing. But she points out she knows this from experience — not experimentation.

People are always coming in and out, so the cats are used to new faces.

"If they were home alone for a day ... you open the door and they both come bolting and sit at the door and wait for you to take off your shoes and then they jump you," says Shelley.

"But they'll do that to anyone," she adds. "That's why I wouldn't feel bad leaving them with people," says Shelley, explaining what happens when the girls go home for Christmas and summer breaks.

But back at the shelter, Keddy says some students have tendencies to abandon their animals because of allergies, landlords and out-of-town trips.

Keddy says the SPCA's mandate is responding to animal cruelty. But shelters do not readily take inconvenient or unwanted pets from owners.

"We only have so much space," she says, "so we turn them away."

However, pet abandonment constitutes animal cruelty.

Under the law, abandoning your pet can get you prohibition of ownership, a fine, or even up to six months in jail.

Shelley and her roommates find it easy to make alternate living arrangements for their cats.

"Cats are independent animals," says Shelley. "More so than dogs."

Whiskey and Mo get along with most people. Come Christmas and summer the girls have plenty of friends who are willing to help out.

Keddy warns people not to underestimate a cat's needs.

"People seem to think cats are totally disposable," she says. "We see the numbers here. It's just ridiculous."

Alison Shea, a Dal graduate, did her part to combat these numbers this weekend when she applied to adopt a new cat.

Shea had a cat for three of her eight years at Dal.

"I moved 10 times in 11 years," Shea says. But Mr. Darcy, her cat then, was happy in his various homes.

"It worked really well," she says. "I'd study with him, and he'd just curl up."

After university, Shea moved to Toronto and had to leave Mr. Darcy with her parents, who live in the country. Mr. Darcy became an outdoor cat. Although back in Halifax, Shea doesn't want to confine her old cat to indoor life.

So Shea started hunting for a new cat. On Saturday she was introduced to River, a fluffy grey cat from the Metro Shelter. She fell in love.

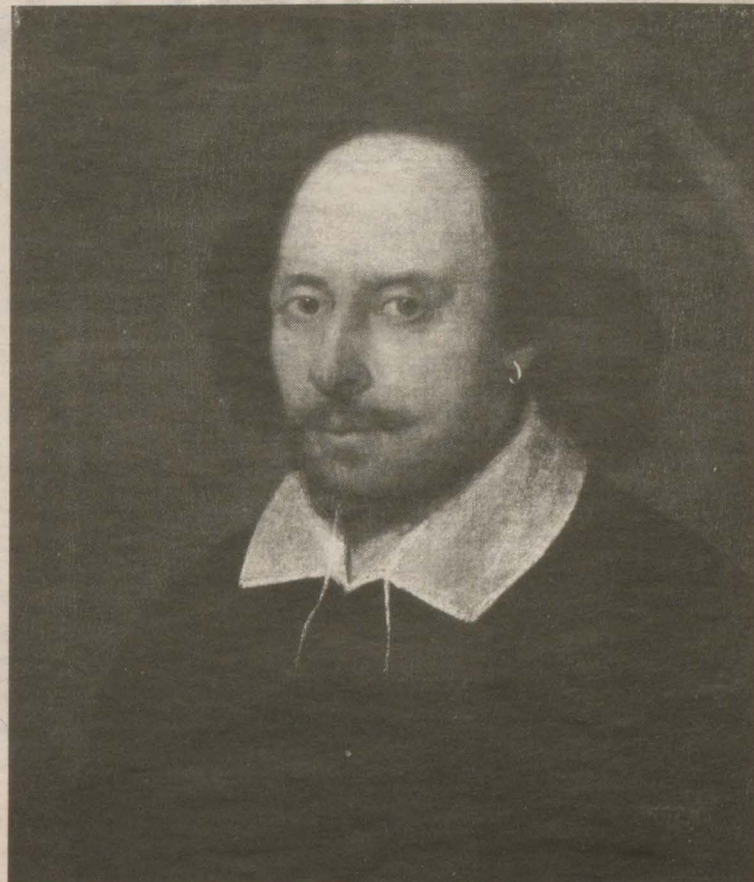
"He was so soft," she says, barely suppressing her excitement.

Adoption fees are \$120 for cats and \$160 for dogs. Fees cover vaccinations, medical bills for a month, the first vet check-up, microchip implants for identification, and the big one: spaying or neutering your animal.

Shea fills out application paperwork on the counter at the SPCA. The shelter requires pet references — friends, roommates, past veterinarians — and does not let you take your cat or dog home until they have deemed you an eligible owner.

Both Shea and Shelley insist the work is worth it.

"If you love animals, and you love companionship, it's actually a great way to escape the stress of university," says Shea. "But you have to make time for them. They grow to love you and depend on you."



WIKIPEDIA

Pizza, poetry and prizes: The trinity of Valentine's Day bliss.

## Sonnet contest melts hearts

PATRICK ST. AMAND  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

their poems.

The topics ranged anywhere from the sexy observations of a woman smoking, a couple growing old together to unrequited love, seen through board games.

Peter Chiykowski, a second-year student in the early modern studies program won the \$300 first prize. Amy Dempsey took second and \$200 and Julia Clahane won the \$100 third place.

Professor David McNeil, one of the judges, said Peter's poem left an exceptional impression and the vote for him was unanimous.

"All three of us came together with his as number one. Usually that doesn't happen. His sonnet followed iambic pentameter closely and his rhymes were consistent with the theme of the poem," says McNeil.

However, after all the sonnets were read, he shared a general admiration for all of the contestants.

"Hearing them read out loud by author adds much more to their works. It brings a new element to their sonnets," he says.

Needless to say, there were many wet spots on The Grawood floor from the hearts that were melted by the poetry. So, if you had a romantic or bitter Valentine's Day, write your feelings down in a sonnet form. You might be able to enter it next year and win some money, or better yet, the hearts of the listeners.

Mr. Shakespeare, Petrarch and their medium, the sonnet, were done justice this Valentine's Day as the Dalhousie English Society held its first poetry contest in The Grawood.

Each contestant had to write a sonnet about love. The topic could be on physical or spiritual love, how much you detest it, how much you... love it, who knows? As long as the poet addressed that four-letter word, the sonnet went.

For those of you out there that are unfamiliar with a sonnet, it is a fourteen-line poem, with a unique meter and rhyme scheme (if you want to know more, consult an English prof...or Wikipedia).

Students and faculty gathered at The Grawood anxious to hear some good poetry and enjoy some pizza and beverages. And the English Society provided more than the audience bargained for.

MCs Dan Bray and Andrew "Concussion" VerBoom's witty dialogue and envelope-pushing tomfoolery made it worth sticking around between the poetry. But their stage performance was no match compared to the reciting of the sonnets.

With thirty entries, the competition was tough. And after three English Professors judged them, only the top ten poets came up and read

## Guitar stores for the real hero

LEE CRISTIANO  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

You are in the middle of a song and a string breaks. It was your last E string for your guitar. Your frustration begins to grow. Now you either have to play your favourite tune with something missing, or put the instrument down and improve your Guitar Hero skills.

If neither one of these suggestions agree with you, there are a couple of guitar oases about 20 minutes walking distance from the Dalhousie campus.

Halifax Folklore Centre on 1528 Brunswick is the place to go for buying, selling, trading or fixing musical instruments. Everything about this place is old-fashioned. It's as if Bob

Dylan bought his instruments here in the 60s before he went electric. The prices are fair, and there is never a sleazy salesman who should be working at a used car dealership trying to grab every penny you have.

If you're looking for some more picks, slides or even want to purchase an acoustic guitar for a price that won't leave you eating Kraft dinner for the next two months, this is the place to visit. You can walk into this store knowing they are going to have an eye-catching Art & Lutherie guitar free to try out. They let their customers play "Stairway to Heaven" too!

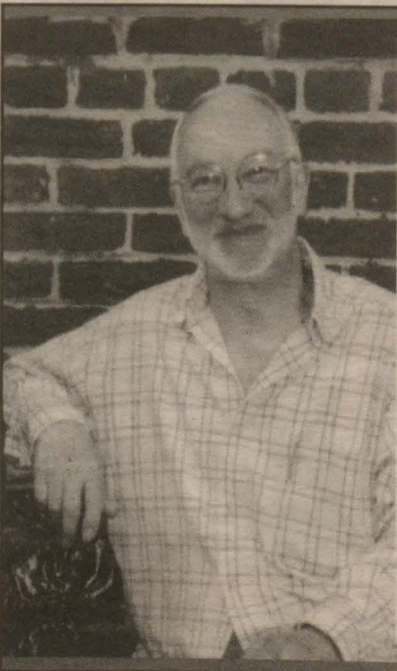
On Quinpool Road, Buckley's Music is a music haven. This place has enough instruments to put on another Woodstock. This shop is the Toys "R" Us of music. There are soundproof rooms with about 25

guitars in each for customers to test out. You can turn up the volume to 11 without bothering anyone.

Buckley's offers lessons to people who are just getting into an instrument. Their \$95 package deal gets you an instrument for four months along with four private lessons. The package would be ideal for students who are taking a guitar course at Dal, but who are questioning purchasing an instrument.

That broken E string, or ultimate Guitar Hero achievement, can lead you to a couple of music shops in Halifax. Both stores bring something different to the table. They are like the black and white to an Oreo cookie. More importantly, they can help you sustain interest in music.

Cheers, and keep on rocking in the free world!



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# SEX WITH HUGH

Getting jiggy with garments



HUGH WALLACE  
SEX COLUMNIST

One of the most common fetishes (and maybe the most vanilla) is garment fetishism. We have jockstraps, ladies panties, silk and other fabrics. Clothing fetishism knows no boundaries. Some people have specific fetishes for things like kilts, police uniforms, etc.

Garment fetishism is not a new thing. The basis of most fashion is an obsession with certain articles and styles of clothing that make a person feel a certain way. One thing most people look for in potential outfits is their sex appeal.

Even the little black dress can be considered a fetish – although it falls short in terms of true fetishism, as a real fetish requires some kind of sexual arousal. I'm not talking one-time arousal; I'm talking about being

habitually turned on in the presence of the item.

Shoe fetishes, sock fetishes and foot fetishes all seem somewhat related to me. But if you get off on shoes and socks, does that mean feet necessarily turn you on? I would hazard to guess no. Footwear fetishes are quite common, revolving around high heels in particular.

High heels are such an obvious choice.

I hope we have all seen Boogie Nights starring my dear friend (I wish) Mark Wahlberg. In the film, Heather Graham can't seem to take her rollerskates off, even during sex! I think this was the first time I was overtly exposed to the idea of foot-related fetishes. Though, her wearing of rollerskates isn't necessarily a fetish so much as it is stubbornness.

Of course we have the ever-popular themed garment fetishes, such as the Catholic school girl, French maid, fireman, police officer, etc. It seems that many of these fetishes have to do with uniforms that depict the very masculine or very feminine characteristics everyone loves to hate.

For example, think of the fireman. When you picture one in your mind, what do you see? Well I see a well-built, tanned, Abercrombie & Fitch-esque model wearing nothing but a fireman's overalls and hat. He also has rippling muscles and a perfect smile – ideally, along with a perfect brain.

But real firemen might be slightly overweight, have astigmatism and not be very intelligent. Not to say that none of them fit my fantasy. I'm sure they all have muscles, but whether or not they are rippling and well-defined is debatable.

The coy and chic French maid is quite possibly the most recognizable examples of ultra-feminine fetish wear. She is flirtatious yet timid – a woman who wants to clean and be dirty at the same time. She is tender, fragile and weak, and needs the help of a man (especially in terms of sex).

These gender stereotypes can be good for role-playing and indulging in fantasies in the bedroom. As we seek a more interesting and fun love life, the costumes and their premises can get significantly racier.

You can also switch gender roles in the bedroom with the help of typically masculine or feminine outfits. A woman can be the dominating, controlling and forceful firefighter, and a man can be that submissive French maid. These are totally unconventional ways of being sexual and yet a thousand times more exciting.

One of the best parts about garment fetishism is costume fetishism and role-play. It allows for changes in sexual dynamics and for playing with power. It allows the people involved to pretend they're something they're not.

Send questions, comments, or concerns to [sex@dalgazette.ca](mailto:sex@dalgazette.ca).



BRITTANY SMITH / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
Brittany Smith explores Norwegian drinking habits and \$7 kebabs.

## Norwegian Diary: Student's haven

BRITTANY SMITH  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Back when we were all little, I'm sure we all had the same fantasy of living in a world without parents, old people, or any authority cramping our unabashed lifestyles. Bergen fits nicely in a more ripened version of this reverie. The city is virtually run by young people.

The youth of Bergen linger in the streets, run the shops, fish the food, sip the cappuccinos and dominate the nightlife. The city caters nicely towards the bloated youth population. And why shouldn't it?

Out of 240,000 inhabitants, 30,000 are international students alone, making the city an international student hotbed. And I'm just tickled pink to be one of them.

Living in the biggest international student hostel in the city, I get to have drink-offs with the Auzzies, cappuccinos with the Italians (although they'll say it's never as good as at home), play football with the Ugandans and get my ass kicked in ping pong by my Chinese friends. I have enlightening political conversation with some of the Kurdish refugees and make fun of Americans with everybody else.

Indeed, being an international student in Bergen is sweet. But paying crazily high Norwegian prices makes any international student pretty bitter.

If you're Norwegian, you're swimming in oil revenue, so it's no big deal. But if you're not making

Norwegian wage, it hurts to pay \$8 to \$10 Canadian for a pint.

But there are ways around this. As an international student, the *forspiel* (pre-drink) is the most important part of the night. Here's where bottles of duty-free, smuggled or bodoga-brewed wine and spirits come in handy.

Drinking all you can during the *forspiel* also has the added benefit of not having to battle through the drunken Norwegians at the bar to order a drink. Drunken Norwegians are insane. Especially on the dance floor.

It's like an Aryan jungle in there. Pushing, shoving, pretending to dance, you have to squirm through people who look like pre-'97 Courtney Love/Britney post-K-fed.

But it's all in good fun. At 3 a.m. when the bars shut down, both international and local students spill onto the streets and race to the 24-hour kebab stores. While the girls get their three-inch stilettos stuck between the cobblestones, the guys with their kebab tunnel vision, keep on going.

And unlike elsewhere, the 3 a.m. international fight time doesn't apply in Bergen, at least among students. It could be the kebab tunnel vision, but I'm pretty sure all the aggression gets unleashed on the dance floor.

Although the prices are high in Norway, sometimes too high to even believe, the possibilities as a student in a student-oriented city are endless. That, and the \$7 kebabs get great.

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# Tigers force decisive third match in championship

JULIE SOBOWALE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Few teams have to worry about winning too much like the Dalhousie Tigers. The men's volleyball team has the longest winning streak in Atlantic University Sport's history with 21 consecutive titles.

The Tigers were in the familiar situation as the heavy favourites to win another AUS title, but this year is different. The University of New Brunswick (UNB) Varsity Reds stunned the Tigers' home crowd with a four-set victory in the first match of the best-of-three championship series, 25-20, 25-21, 23-25 and 25-22.

Team co-captain Niklas Rademacher says he realized his team needed to move beyond the myth of a team that always wins.

"We can't think about the twenty-something titles that the school won before," says Rademacher. "Those players are not on the team anymore. Winning since the 1980s doesn't help us play better. The only thing that is important is what we do right now."

The Tigers unravelled into poor individual play, a lack of focus and overconfidence in the hotly contested first match.

"We came out flat, and for whatever reason we didn't play well," says Dan Ota, Tigers' head coach. "We didn't compete for every point and let the Reds dictate the play. It's unfortunate the way we played that night."

Facing elimination, the Tigers traveled to UNB and won the second match 27-25, 19-25, 25-16 and 25-20 to force the decisive third match.

"Based on the way we played in the second match, we deserved the win," says Ota. "Whether we're playing at home or not is not the most important thing. What we need to do is give out more effort."

The Tigers are one of the best teams in Canada and are sixth in the Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) rankings thanks in part to their great individual players.

Paul Richer won the AUS Libero of



NICK PEARCE / NICK PEARCE PHOTO

The Tigers secured the fifth spot in the AUS playoffs.

the Year Award and Rademacher won the AUS award for Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the third time in his four-year university career. Rademacher came to Dalhousie University four years ago.

"I used to play beach volleyball in Germany but it's difficult to play sports while going to school since there are no university sports in Germany," says Rademacher. "I started looking for schools in Canada that were good in

both academics and athletics, which is really hard to find. A friend put me in contact with the Tigers' head coach and I decided to come here."

"I'm flattered by the award but I rather play a bad game and win than do great individually," Rademacher said. "One guy can't win you the game."

*The Tigers face the Reds in their final AUS game of the year on Saturday, February 23 at 7 p.m. in the Dalplex.*

# Tennis, anyone?

MARK BUCKLEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Dalhousie University tennis club was formed in fall 2006 upon a promising show of interest from the student body. But its first meeting was telling of the present state of affairs. University administrators offered the students two unlit, outdoor courts.

Roger Keating, executive director of Tennis Nova Scotia (TNS), studied methods of similar clubs across Canada and found that the overriding obstacle to their success is a lack of playable courts.

Keating says if Dal constructed an additional two courts, it would see increased interest in the sport.

"Once this is established and leagues are formed," says Keating, "it just snowballs."

Tennis Nova Scotia is an institution that exists principally to develop public interest in the sport, though it can only do so if adequate facilities are in place.

Shawn Fraser, senior manager of programs at Dal, says students play a key role in getting sports clubs off the ground.

"There is not a movement nationally to make tennis a varsity sport, especially in the Atlantic region," he says.

"The reality is that this is not a core sport played in all schools," says Fraser. "Successful clubs are a testament to student leadership."

Nearing the West Coast and throughout the U.S., tennis has more of a presence through programs and scholarship opportunities, mainly

due to a more favorable climate.

However, tennis is not part of Canadian Interuniversity Sport or Atlantic University Sport, two organizations that govern official university varsity sports.

"At this time we have no plans to develop any further tennis courts," says Al Scott, Dal's director of athletics and recreational services. "Space is an issue. The university is on an urban campus with very little land mass."

New tennis courts require a three-fold process. First, a suitable site must be chosen, then the university must approve the plan and consider a proposed budget for maintenance costs. Keating says St. Francis Xavier University is considering a six-court facility due to a large donation.

Seasonal sports are plagued with a number of obstacles. Lobbying for a sport that is dictated by the varying weather of the East Coast will require a persuasive advocate.

Karsten Gehrig, club advisor and former president of Dal Tennis, has overseen the developments and failings of the club since its inception and shares this sentiment, contending that it is a matter of organization.

Gehrig attributes other schools' successes on resources and connections, but says the fate of any sports club depends on a committed council and effective team-building strategies.

The University of Prince Edward Island is interested in having provincial competitions, but it faces the same obstacles as those in Atlantic Canada. There is not enough involvement from other schools to establish tournaments.

Happy (mind your own fucking business Katie) week!

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## Athletes of the week

### FEMALE ATHLETE

MAGGIE MORRISON  
VOLLEYBALL



Maggie Morrison played a key role in two must-win matches over the weekend. Although the squad missed making playoffs, this was the first time the women's volleyball team captured wins in back-to-back games in two seasons.

The third-year captain collected 11 kills, 10 digs and seven stuff blocks in Friday's four-set win over St. EX.

On Saturday, she had 10 kills, two digs and seven stuff blocks. Her seven stuff blocks were a match high for the Tigers this season.

Morrison is a commerce student from Sydney, N.S.

Other nominees: Susan Sobey (track and field), Jocelyn LeBlanc (hockey)



### MALE ATHLETE

SANDER RATSEP  
VOLLEYBALL



Sander Ratsep came off the Tigers' bench with strong performances in both AUS playoff games against UNB. In Sunday's must-win match he captured 12 kills, three digs and one stuff block.

Ratsep is an arts student and originally from London, Ont. He is in his second-year of eligibility with the Tigers.

Other nominees: Sandy Veit (basketball), Ueli Albert (track and field)



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# Kebs take down the Rainmen on college night

ALYSSA FEIR  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Lupe Fiasco's "Superstar" was blasting through the sound system and the bass was reverberating through the Metro Centre as the Rainmen were introduced to screaming fans.

But outside, the snow, pouring rain and ice persuaded many fans to stay home. Still, just over 1,500 fans filled up the lower stands of the Metro Centre for the first Rainmen College Night Challenge, Feb. 13.

As a part of the challenge, commerce students from Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University faced off in a quick game of basketball at half time.

The Halifax Rainmen returned to the Metro Centre after losing to the Vermont Frost Heaves the week before.

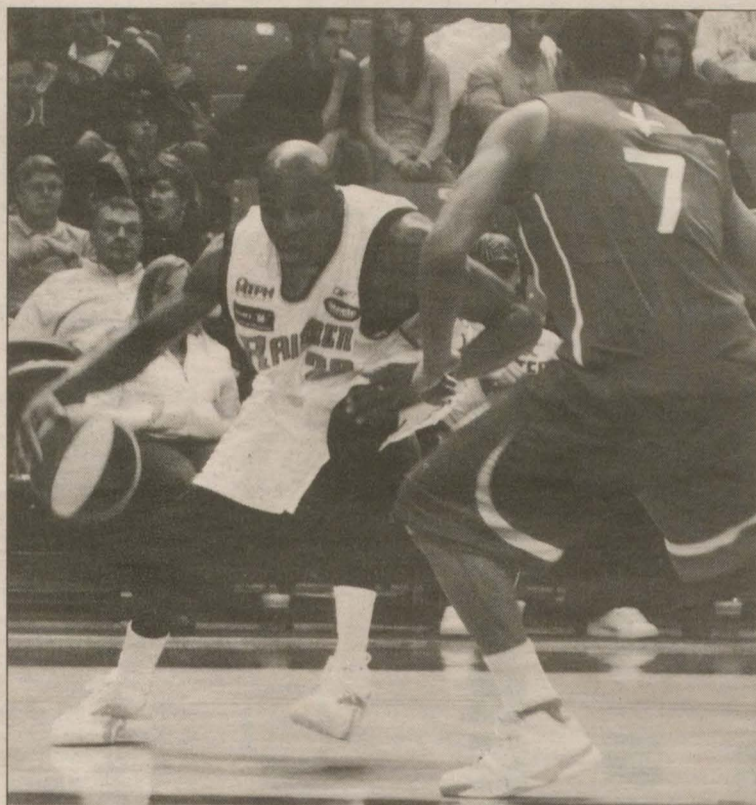
The Rainmen took an early lead over the Kebs in the first period but seemed to lose a bit of steam and couldn't catch up to catch-up. At half time the Rainmen were down 48-61.

After the break, the Rainmen's defense quickly picked up, but it wasn't enough.

The Kebs pushed through, scoring 12 points in the last two minutes to beat the Rainmen 120-102.

Rainmen forward, Eric Crookshank, said that they came out overconfident. They had the Quebec Kebekwa three times away.

"I feel we came out thinking we already had this game won," says Crookshank. "And then we find ourselves trailing and then we started panicking." That night, Crookshank had 20 rebounds, but missed nine of



ALYSSA FEIR / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Rainmen reached out to university students but couldn't deliver the win.

14 free-throws.

The Dal-SMU commerce game was one of the many time-out, inter-period and half-time events that took place to get the crowd involved. At the beginning of the game the fans helped franchise owner, Andre Levingston, sing Happy Birthday to Rainmen guard, Derico Wigginton.

The Halifax native turned 19 that night. There was also a giant tricycle race, a three-point shot competition as well as performances by the Hali-

fax Weather Girls dance troupe.

It's not only on game nights that the Rainmen get close to the community. They recently participated in an event to raise money for the Bathurst High School Student Union and pay tribute to the seven basketball players and their coach's wife who died earlier this year in an accident.

The Rainmen will play in Halifax next on Feb. 22 against the Vermont Frost Heaves.

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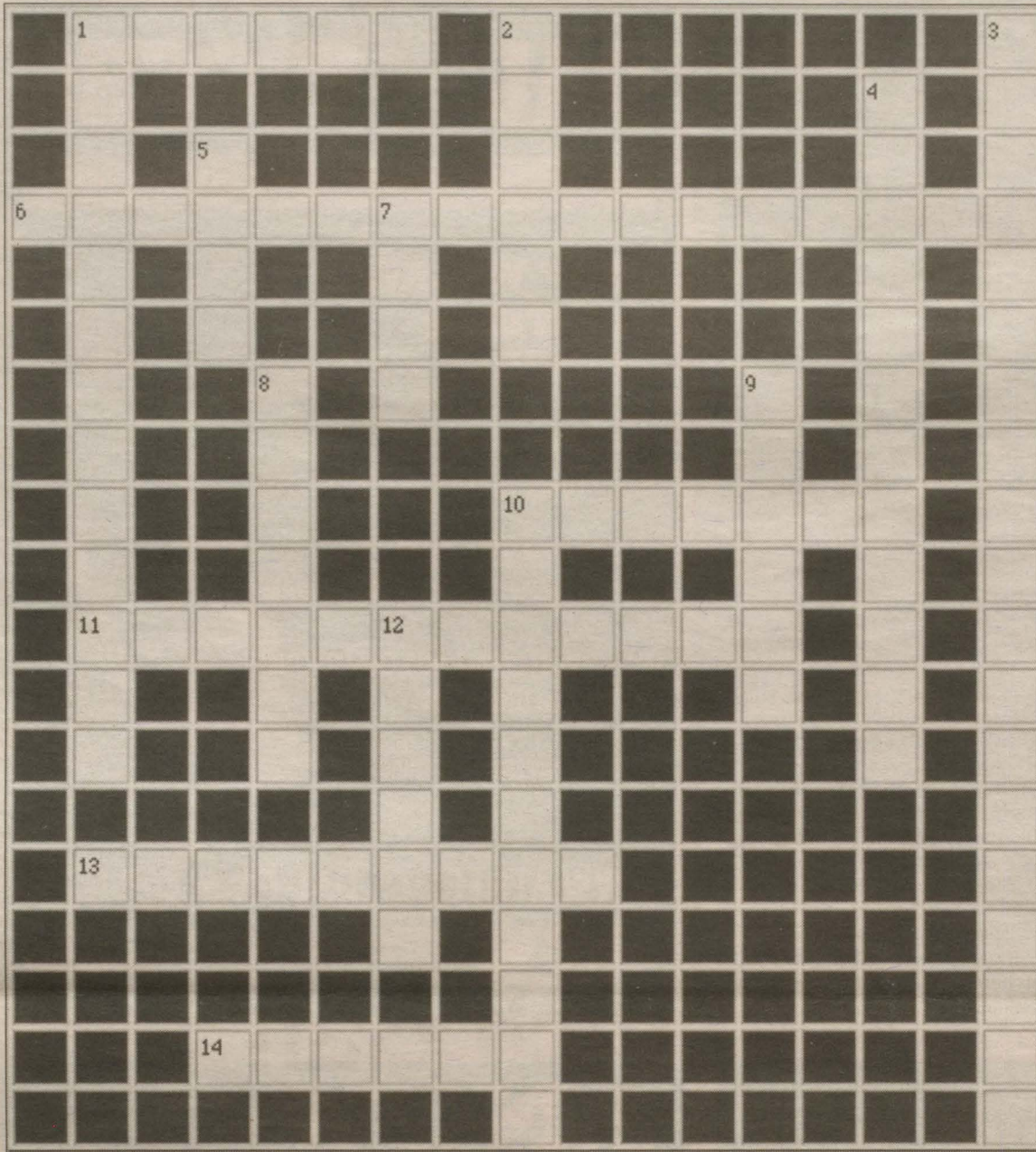
**DEIRDRE AYRE**, Studio Head, Other Ocean Interactive of Charlottetown, PEI, says,

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**University of Prince Edward Island**

# CROSSWORD

Breeding week. By Alice Bradstreet



**Across**

- 1. Sport of choice for those staying in Halifax
- 6. Punta Cana, \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Native language in most holiday locations
- 11. Three daily meals plus snacks, all drinks
- 13. Drink-type of choice during reading week
- 14. The location of choice for high-schoolers' March break

**Down**

- 1. A tasty drink, and adventurous activity
- 2. Post-travel skin status
- 3. "Two beers please" in Mexico, Cuba, and Dominican
- 4. The goal membership of many couples while travelling
- 5. The amount of days off from classes
- 7. The location of the most recent leader resignation
- 8. Warm location favoured by the elderly
- 9. Post-travel liver status
- 10. Deep-sea adventure
- 12. Turks and \_\_\_\_\_

# HOROSCOPES



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

The jumping castle you have been bouncing on is about to blow. Why do they build you up buttercup? Just to get you off baby. Bristol board is a superb stimulant and an excellent source of calcium. Shake your banana milkshake and the flavour is soon to follow. The elasticity in your socks is wearing thin, make sure that your cankles aren't exposed.



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

Gambling is a risky game that is turning into a sport. If you don't take chances how will you ever get anywhere you've never been? Riding motorcycles is always good for a thrill. Don't deflate someone else's ego but don't over inflate your own. Luke Skywalker wants you to walk the line and fight with the force. Craft hour is always productive even if you have other things you should be doing.



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

Terms of ferment have been getting in your way. But you are soon to be flying down a freeway to a destination of your choice. With a break near you are bound to live la Vida spectacular. They bang they bang, oh baby when you move you move. You are riding through life on a horse that has wings. The Shining is not a scary book but a light that will be shined on you. Show them you ain't so bashful by swinging from chandeliers in a fancy restaurant.



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

Don't identify yourself with the collective majority too much. The sound booth is collecting satisfying noises for your ears only. You've got a long arm to keep your opponent at bay until you want to knock him out cold. Robert Munch had the munchies most of the time and now you know why. Is tomato a vegetable or a fruit? You decide. Don't let it trip you out too much, dude.



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

Preheat the oven before you stick in the pizza. Do not let anxiety get you down. They say if it tastes good going down, eat it. You are a lovely person with lovely qualities do not let anyone tell you different. Just make sure to be the type that listens to people when they talk. Donkeys are not really asses, they just got a bad rep.



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

The proctologist called and he found your head; he is ready to do the operation. The game is to try to make it difficult for you. If they turn you down the first time, it is because they are playing hard to get. Point your nose to the sky, and pretend like you didn't throw yourself at them last weekend. It's time to turn up the heat, but conserve your energy for when the getting is good.



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

The glitterati are migrating to your hood. Do you have the red carpet prepared? You are a space cadet and have just been nominated captain. You don't get it? What a surprise. Boom baby you will be able to turn minutes into hours. Someone just hired a cleaning lady to fancy up the pigpen you have been dwelling in. Don't zone out, zone in. Frank the Tank called. He wants his beer back.



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

You have a wonderful hobby that brings you so much joy. But people are wondering whether you are just doing it to look good or whether you really do enjoy it. Don't let that bother you because you know you're doing it for the love of the game. It's not whether you won or lost, but how much gosh darn fun you had doing it. The world's oldest woman is a long lost relative of yours. Have you taken a trip to the fountain of youth lately? Fun is close by and looking most fly.



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

Your watermelons are looking extra succulent this week. The question is, who wants to suck on your seeds? Share your fruit and the boobs will follow. If you're wondering whether the train will ever let you off, you should be asking who is going to get you off. The ex-factor will not be a factor for you, but a sex variable is most certainly going to come into play.



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

Sitting on the dock of the harbour, you are dreaming of becoming heavy weight champion of the world. You want to knock the snot out of them but you don't want to hurt their noses. You don't need glasses to see that you win more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. Not to toot your own horn but toot-toot.



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

You are going on an exotic vacation that will only lead to good places. Whether that vacation is a stroll down the street, to some wild location or just a vacation away from your problems, it's going to be good. If you have writer's block think about a clear pond, and a giant catfish waving at you. An outside workout regime will lead not only to refreshment of the body but of the mind as well.



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

Don't Bogart something that isn't yours. A banana split is meant to be shared. Dress up is a fun pass time. Just make sure it doesn't last a lifetime. You have been fighting against the stars that have been aligning. Just go with the flow and the motion of the ocean will soothe you. You hurt someone that did not deserve it, so make sure to apologize. This will be an everlasting love...

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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- 1. Skating
  - 2. Tanned
  - 3. Dos Cervezas, por favor
  - 4. Middle-high club
  - 5. Five
  - 6. Florida
  - 7. Cuba
  - 8. Florida
  - 9. Filled
  - 10. Scuba diving
  - 11. All inclusive
  - 12. Calicos
  - 13. All inclusive
  - 14. Cancun



# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## Battle of the Bright Ideas

MELANIE HOLMES  
SEXTANT EDITOR

Dalhousie students recently became involved in a competition sponsored by Nova Scotia Power, challenging them to promote "innovative thinking on energy conservation." The goal: to come up with a unique method of energy conservation for everyday Nova Scotians.

What came of this were 10 fantastic submissions and some clearly brilliant ideas.

The winner, Nathan Steeghs, a student in Mechanical Engineering, received a \$2,000 award for his concept of "Drain Water Heat Recovery."

He explored the possibility of using hot household wastewater to aid in preheating incoming cold water. His concept incorporated heat transfer laws to allow a water stream at 40°C heat an incoming stream from 6°C to 27°C.

He explained his idea using an example of a shower system and hot water tank, stating that from the minute you turn the shower on, cold water flows into the hot water tank to replenish it. If this water could be efficiently preheated, it would cut the energy required to heat the hot water by a noticeable margin.

This will inevitably lead to obvious energy conservation and in turn great financial savings, estimated at \$200/yr for a family of four. Nathan hopes they continue this competition in future years saying that once people see how



great this turned out submissions will double and bright ideas will be springing up all over the place.

The second place winners Kelli McGean and Kaitlyn McNutt, Chemical Engineering students, received a \$1,000 award for their idea of "Reducing Phantom Loads in the Home."

Third place saw a tie between Benjamin Breen, in Mechanical Engineering, and Laura Payne and Mike MacMillan, Chemical Engineers. Benjamin's concept of "Computer Power Management Applications" encompasses the idea of installing a new computer software package to reduce computer power loads.

Laura and Mike's submission "Redesign of Customer Bill" created a new customer bill concept to show

the allocation of power usage in an effort to educate them on ways to track their environmental impact and reduce household energy.

Alan Richardson, Vice President, Commercial, Nova Scotia Power, commented on the winning concepts as being incredibly feasible, marketable tools.

He was very pleased with all submissions and hopes to incorporate some of these ideas to help Nova Scotians with their power consumption, and to promote the concept of energy conservation throughout the province.

Congratulations to everyone who participated - we appreciate all your hard work and hope to see your ideas someday throughout homes in Nova Scotia.

## National Engineering Week

MELANIE HOLMES  
SEXTANT EDITOR

The annual celebration of National Engineering Week is quickly approaching. A tribute to Engineers and a week devoted to celebrating excellence in the field of Engineering, the week is packed full of information sessions, community events, competition and a chance to see what being an Engineer in Canada is all about.

According to APENS, the Association of Professional Engineers of

Nova Scotia, the goal of the week is to "Celebrate Canada's rich engineering heritage, promote engineering as a career choice, and remind Canadians of the role engineering plays in their daily lives."

Events this year include a pop-sicle stick bridge competition, luncheons, marathons, a curling bonspiel, cardboard boat challenge, egg drop competition and finishing with the Iron Ring ceremony on Mar. 8.

Other events will be hosted by our own Engineering Society around campus so check out dalsexton.ca

for updates.

Be sure to keep your eyes open for things going on around the campus and around the city. Please feel free to get involved. Volunteers are needed to help promote Engineering to the local Elementary and Junior High Schools.

If you're glad you're in Engineering and think you could promote it, without scary off the kiddies, get in touch with us at sextant@dal.ca, and we'll get you in touch with the right people.

## International Aid: Efficient or Not?

RICHARD PLOURDE  
GENERAL MEMBER EWB DALHOUSIE

Today, there are billions of dollars invested in developing countries around the world, but for the most part it will not reach its goal. Although the investment is meant to help, there is so much money lost along the way: administration fees, overpriced items, corruption and many other obstacles that are walls blocking the efficiency of international aid.

The \$20 annual contribution you're making to fund a project in an under privileged location in the world might never reach the population. The help will not be getting there but all the while you're sitting at home thinking about how they

appreciate your help!

You have to consider how much of what you give is actually going to the purpose, and not just the advertising, foundation, and people behind the program. Don't forget that without your money they couldn't run their program!

Ask questions, be informed, ask for results, be critical about it!

If you are someone who isn't interested in giving money to any international aid programs, you can still make a difference in those people's lives. When you shop, pay more attention to the product you are buying and what you are supporting.

Read labels on boxes, see where things are made, and ask questions. We have such easy access to infor-

mation on where a product is made and by whom. Maybe the shirt you bought today was made in a sweatshop by a 10-year-old child.

Or the wedding ring you are about to buy has cost the lives of many people back in a mine due to lack of safety protocol and human rights.

International Aid is not just about how much it costs, but rather how you spend it. You can give as much as you please, but if it is going to an organization that may take 90% of the money you give, it leaves next to nothing for the help itself.

There are so many ways to help people in need, but only few of them will reach their goal and eventually leave a sustainable and positive impact on the population.



# NEWS

T-Room

Feb 21 - Three Sheets - Waterpolo Society

Feb 22 - Trivia

Other News:

Mar 1-8 - National Engineering Week

Mar 4 - "Gear Head" 1/10th Marathon, 7am

Mar 5 - APENS Student Professional Network Luncheon

Mar 8 - Iron Ring

Check [www.dalsexton.ca](http://www.dalsexton.ca) for DSEUS

events during national engineering week

## Tech Ball



# FIGHT WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES

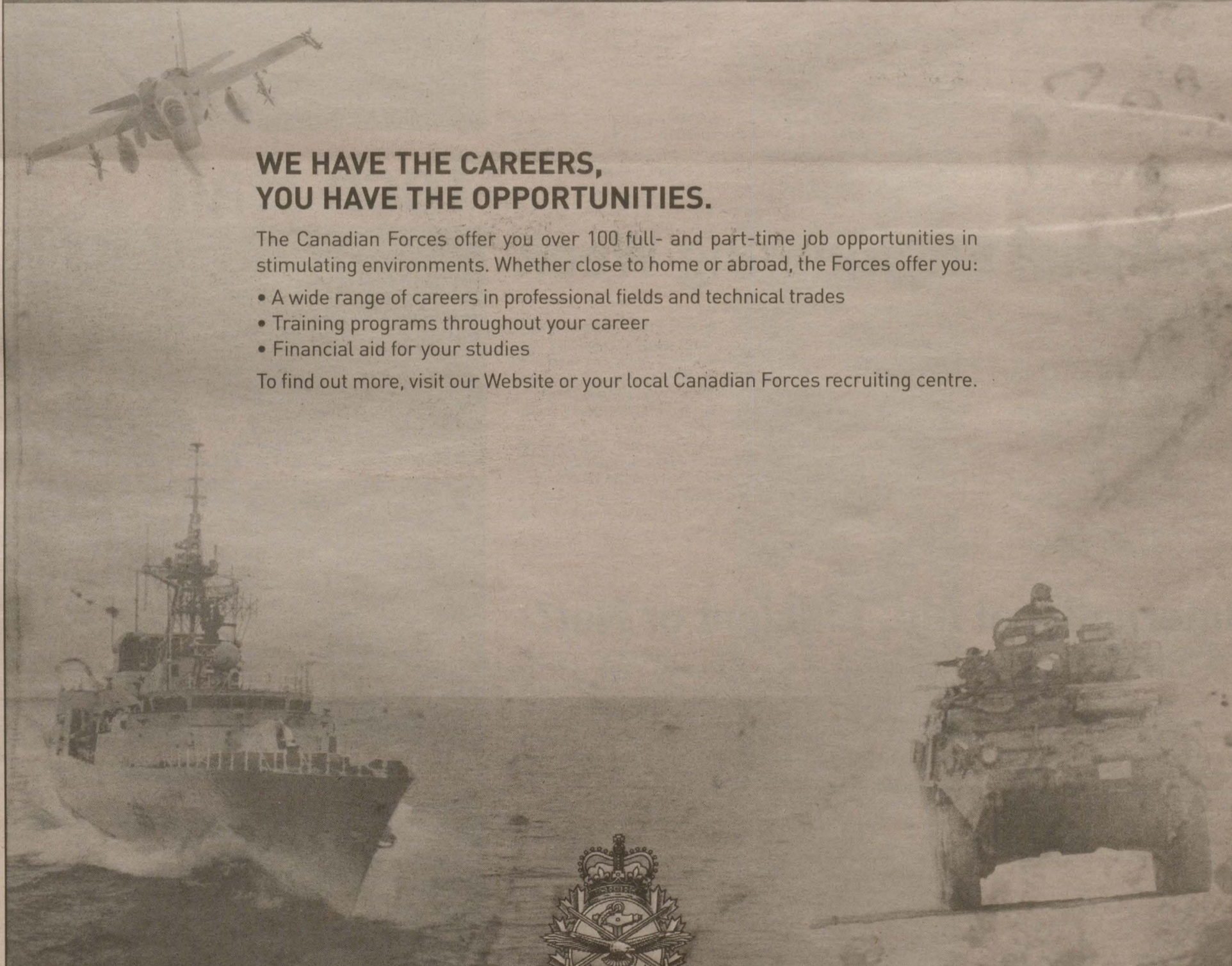


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