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GAZETTE

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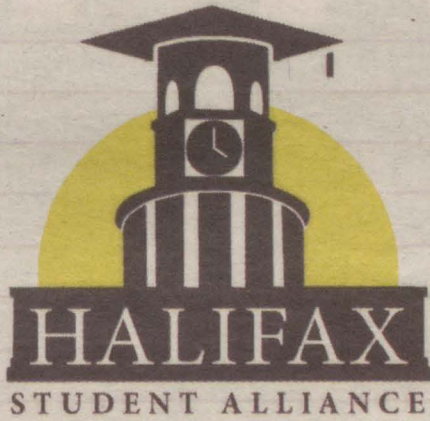
Low voter turnout in DSU elections
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WEEKLY DISPATCH



The Halifax Student Alliance

I'd like to thank the Students of Dalhousie for speaking out overwhelmingly in favour of membership in and financial support for the Halifax Student Alliance.

With 70% of students voting Yes in the recent referendum, the organization has a strong mandate to work on issues at the municipal level that are



important to Dalhousie students and the DSU has a strong directive to engage in a partnership with student unions all over the city.

I'm particularly proud that students made this decision after being engaged by a campaign that explained the organization and its goals to them and allowed them to make their own choice, rather than simply pushing the "yes" side.

Some issues I heard during the campaign, and that the municipal group will be focusing on include improved public transportation for students including advocacy for a late-night bus service, better housing options with more rights for student tenants, and a safer city.

I would like to continue, during my time left in office, to solicit feedback on the goals and methods of the organization and find ways that students all over Dal can be engaged in advocating for a student-friendly city.



If you have any thoughts or questions about the organization and its priorities, or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me.

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NEWS

Nobody loves the news section. You're all artsy-fartsy free flowing hippies. We can't all hang with rock stars, you know. Come back to me!
Love, Katie

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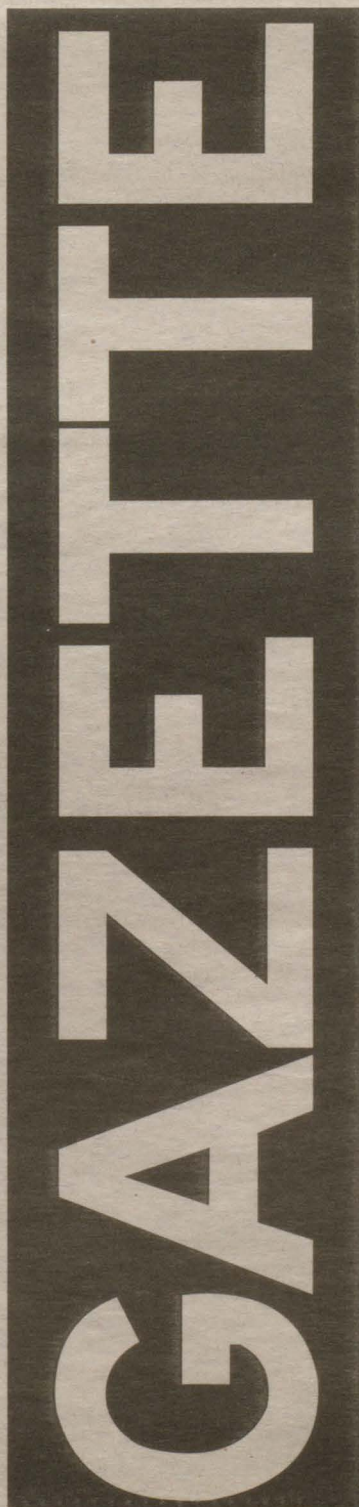
The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

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

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

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the 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.



And that's my cue to exit

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As my term as editor-in-chief comes to a close, I'm happy to say I defied all odds and didn't run *The Gazette* into the ground or destroy the office by fire. And there were no physical fights between editors this year. Trust me, that's a big step up for *The Gazette*.

But before you start breaking down and using this letter as a hankie or thinking up the cleverest way to say good riddance, I'm not really leaving.

Next year, I'll be back as photo editor while I finish the last year of my journalism degree. On the plus side, this will give me one more year to write my inevitable "I'm out, fuckers" opinions piece, which will outline in detail all my complaints about Dal. It should hit the stands this time next year.

Unfortunately, this is my last sincere letter from the editor. There's still one more issue and the spoof issue to go, but other people need this space to get in their two cents before next year.

And just as I tried to give all my advice to frosh 24 issues ago, I'll try to summarize what I've gotten out of university life so far. By this time next year, an exclusive diet of coffee and alcohol will have rendered me incoherent and ranting about the "good old days" at *The Gazette*, and I will be in no condition to do anything other than take pictures. So in a way, this is my last letter.

Most of what I've gotten out of university came from people I met and through working at the paper. Classes were interesting, but I've forgotten most of the information I learned since the final exams.

I've learned it's important to get



J. MARY BURNET / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The only thing worse than writing your last letter from the editor is having your picture taken while doing it.

to know people who are further in their degrees than you. They'll occasionally wistfully mention defunct bars, but ignore it. They're worth knowing, since only having friends in your graduating gets kind of tired by the second or third year. People in upper years know surprisingly more than you'd think and have had more time to figure out their lives. They'll

graduate before you, but it's good to know people living in the real world.

If you eat pizza three times a week, you will have the heart of a 50-year-old by the time you're 20. Also, you can't say no to free pizza. Ever.

Have a roommate who you don't know at all. You can learn to live with anyone. Push your boundaries.

There are more important things in life than grades. It took me way too long to figure that one out. I've pulled enough all-nighters and appreciate the importance of looking really closely at how many marks you lose a day for late assignments.

It's usually not as bad as you think. After I figured this out, the end of term crunches haven't been so

bad. My overall happiness is worth sacrificing a few marks for. And if you're reading this, Professor Mercer, I'll have my essay in on Friday... probably.

Have at least one friend who's a graduate student. They can give you a taste of what grad work requires and will probably have that one source you need for your essay somewhere in their office.

Don't look at life constantly considering whether it will look good on a résumé or on a grad school application.

Philosophy courses are extremely interesting and utterly useless in the real world. I doubt any prospective employers will care that I was part of the Dal Stage Society, but it was worth it. Do things because you want to.

Nova Scotia is way bigger than just Halifax. If you have a friend with a car, get out of the city for a weekend.

Have friends who aren't afraid to make fun of you to your face. Everyone has faults. Know yours.

Do something aside from studying and drinking. Your undergrad isn't a huge deal. Everyone will have their undergrad degree in 10 years. Do something - whether it's an extracurricular activity, a part-time job or a volunteer position.

If it weren't for *The Gazette*, I wouldn't know any of the above. I'd probably still be hanging out with the people I lived with in residence and stressing over homework.

Thanks to everyone who read *The Gazette* this year and took the time to e-mail comments or talk to me about their opinions.

If anyone misses my raving, complaints or advice, come to the office next year and I'll be happy to dispense it.

Come to the spoof issue contributor meeting on Monday March 31 @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB.

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DSU election results

MATT ERNST
FILL-IN GRAPHICS EDITOR

PRESIDENT	Courtney Larkin	Tara Gault	John Hillman	Gregory Debogorski	Spoiled	
First ballot:	38.3%	37%	10.6%	8.6%	5.4%	
Second ballot:	43%	42%	14%			
Final Ballot:	51%	49%				
VICE PRESIDENT (INTERNAL)	Daniel Boyle	Victoria Jones	Spoiled			
	48.1% 1035 votes	42.3% 909 votes	9.6% 207 ballots			
VICE PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)	Mark Coffin	Spoiled				
Yes	82.2% 1604 votes	10.6% 206 ballots				
No	7.2% 141 votes					
VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)	Kris Osmond	Krista Ali	Spoiled			
	54.1% 1164 votes	37% 796 votes	8.9% 191 ballots			
SENATE	Kaylyn Fraser	Eric Snow	Jonathan Hughes	Andrew Christofi	Blair Mason	Spoiled
	22.6% 1128 votes	20.6% 1029 votes	17.8% 891 votes	17.8% 888 votes	15.3% 763 votes	6.1% 303 ballots
SENATE (GRADUATE)	Yannick Tremblay	Spoiled				
Yes	82.5% 1780 votes	9.9% 213 ballots				
No	7.6% 165 votes					
HALIFAX STUDENT ALLIANCE REFERENDUM						
Yes	No	Spoiled				
65.9% 1442 votes	28.9% 633 votes	5.1% 112 ballots				

Larkin to lead union

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Courtney Larkin will take over as president of the Dalhousie Student Union next year, narrowly beating out her closest opponent by 24 votes.

Larkin, the current vice president (student life) was pitted against VP (education) Tara Gault on the final presidential ballot, taking the title with 51 per cent of the vote.

She described the four-candidate race as "amazingly close" after the results were announced Mar. 20 at The Grawood.

"It's totally unbelievable," she said, explaining that she remained confident in her campaign but didn't know much about the other candidates' platforms, aside from what they presented at election debates. "I had no idea, because everyone ran a really solid campaign."

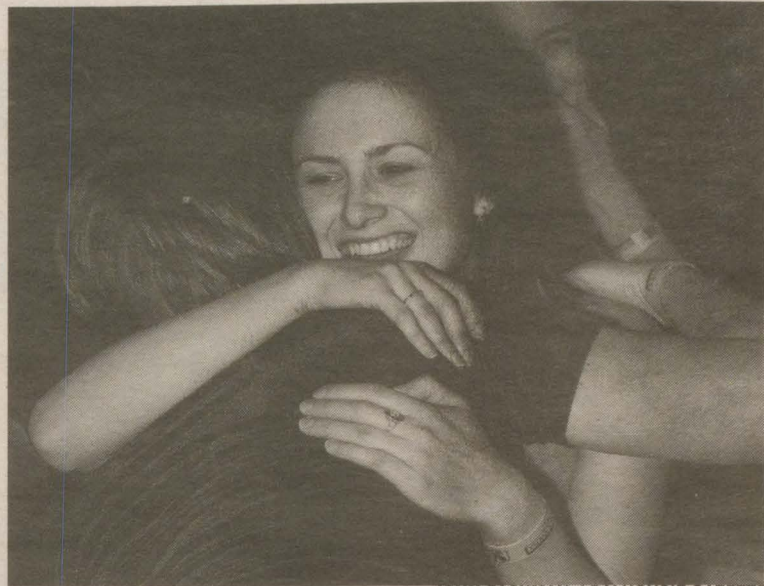
Larkin said the most challenging part about running for president was trying to fulfill her current duties on the DSU executive at the same time.

"(Going into campaigning), there's 15,000 students and you have to figure out what all of them want. It's daunting, but I did a very good job in the end - I'm here."

She says her first goal as president is to motivate next year's executive and ensure they have a smooth transition into their new jobs when they take office May 15. She expects one of her biggest challenges as president to be overcoming the negativity that some students feel toward the DSU.

"When people hate the DSU... I'm not going to like it, but I need to try to make everybody happy."

With 49 per cent of the final ballot vote, Gault was an extremely close runner-up. Leading up to the election for the presidential post among Larkin, John Hillman and Gregory Debogorski, Gault said she couldn't



Courtney Larkin squeaked to the top of the DSU's tight presidential race.

predict who would win.

"I was unsure and it was really up in the air," she said after hearing the results. "Courtney's a wonderful person, she's very well connected, and I think that we both ran very strong campaigns."

Her campaign team of about six supporters was "amazing" she said, adding that she did her best to win the race.

"I worked for this. I worked hard with this campaign and I couldn't have done it better."

The anthropology student has a few more credits to finish up before graduating and even though she said she had fun campaigning this year, she doesn't plan to do it again.

"I'm done with the DSU for now," she said.

But third-place candidate Hillman said he'd like to be more involved in the union next year. The graduate history student with no prior experience in the DSU decided

to run for president on a whim and finished with roughly 10 per cent of the first ballot vote.

"Well, I had a blast," he said. "I got about six per cent more of the vote than I thought I would."

When the elections committee announced at the beginning of the results ceremony that only about 15 per cent of Dal students voted this year, Hillman knew he didn't have a shot at winning. But he still wants to battle student apathy by applying to be part of next year's elections committee.

Second-year management student Gregory Debogorski came in fourth with roughly eight per cent of the vote. Debogorski, who ran a drastic campaign with a platform to cut the DSU's budget and make the union operations more transparent, was not present to hear the results. He sought election last year as a Board of Governors candidate and has promised to run every year until he graduates to promote change within the DSU.



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Q&A with

DSU President Courtney Larkin

Q: What will be the best part about moving into the president's office?
A: It's bigger, has nicer furniture, a nicer computer and a door going into other people's offices.

Q: What's your favourite Halifax bar?
A: I like the Seahorse when I'm there, which is rare.

A: A dozen.

Q: What's the best/worst thing about being the only woman on the elected executive?
A: They're all bigger than me so I'll be like a little sister with a whole bunch of older brothers.

Q: Which current/former political leader do you most aspire to be like?
A: Hillary Clinton.

Q: What's your favourite 90s TV show?
A: *Saved by the Bell*.

Q: What's your childhood nickname?
A: Shortney.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
A: Invisibility, for those awkward moments in life you need to get out of.

Q: How many times have you slept in your office?
A: Go through and highlight things.

Q: Who's creepier: the Trix bunny or the Lucky Charms leprechaun?
A: Lucky Charms leprechaun.


Q: What's your favourite thing to do with *The Gazette*?
A: Go through and highlight things.

Don't spend the rest of your life doing something that's not right for you.

I am excited to go to work every morning, because every day, my job is different. I might be taking pictures of a fire or car crash, questioning a political leader, uncovering corporate secrets, or maybe speaking with a mother whose baby made a miraculous recovery. I'm a video journalist, and to me, every day is an opportunity to tell a great story. Studying at the Atlantic Media Institute made this career possible. Before graduation, I had a year's worth of job experience, and when I walked into a TV newsroom for the first time, the transition was seamless. Most importantly, the instructors at AMI are honest, caring, professionals who guided and encouraged me along my chosen career path.

Tammy Banfield, Video Journalist, CIBC Dawson Creek BC

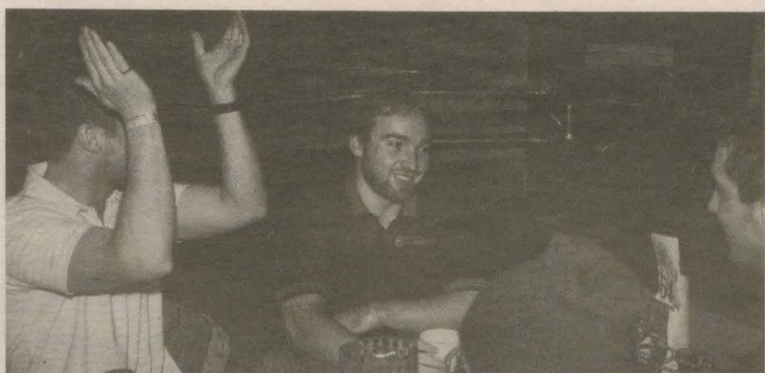
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Tammy Banfield, Video Journalist, CIBC Dawson Creek BC AMI Graduate, Dec. 2007



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Daniel Boyle calmly celebrated his victory at The Grawood on Mar. 20.

Boyle takes VP (internal) post

RUTH MESTECHKIN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Daniel Boyle, the Dalhousie Student Union's new VP (internal), says he had a hunch he would win the position.

"I had a feeling from consensus on campus," Boyle says. "People have been talking. Random faces on the street have been saying, 'Hey, I love your platform, I love your campaign, I'm going to vote for you.'"

Boyle says he thinks he did a good job of running his campaign, which hinged on improving the communication of Dalhousie initiatives to students and establishing a better understanding of student roles in societies.

But if he were to clear his slate and do it all again, he says he'd tweak his methods.

"I would have liked to have done a lot more, but given the time constraints, I think I did good," says Boyle, who adds he would like to have engaged in more class talks as part of his campaigning and encouraged students to vote for him.

Boyle says he anticipates some challenges in the upcoming year in his new position and plans to stick closely to his platform, which involves addressing issues like student apathy. He says he wants students to understand their potential and the opportunities available to them. He says he also wants to build a tighter relationship with students and their union.

"(I want to) get the word of the union out to the students, get the students involved in the union, getting them aware of what they can do and how we can help them achieve their goals," Boyle says.

He credits his opponent, Victoria Jones, with running a great campaign. The results were tight, with Boyle snagging 48.1 per cent of the vote with 9.6 per cent of ballots spoiled.

"I think both myself and Victoria have experience and a great track record," he says. "I think I just proposed more solid, sound ideas for implementation."

Jones is confident Boyle will do his job well.

"I'm sad I lost," Jones says. "But I know Dan's heart is in the right place and I know that he's going to do everything in his power to be an awesome VP (internal)."

Jones says she thinks she could have fine-tuned some approaches she used during her campaign.

"I think I could have gotten out there more, about getting the message out about the DSU in general," she says.

But she says she ran as best she could.

"I have no regrets about my campaign. I enjoyed it," says Jones, adding that both she and Boyle knew the outcome would be a good one. "Congratulations to Dan. It's in good hands."

Next year, Jones is jetting off to France to learn French, but says she might think about running again in the future.

"Just because you fail once doesn't mean you don't try again," she says. "Win or lose, it's an honour to be considered a candidate for a position."

Jones says the part she enjoyed

Coffin says he's confident as incoming VP (education)

RUTH MESTECHKIN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Although he ran his campaign unopposed, the new Dalhousie Student Union VP (education) Mark Coffin says it still feels good to win.

Coffin took the position with 82.2 per cent of the vote, while 10.6 per cent of the votes were spoiled.

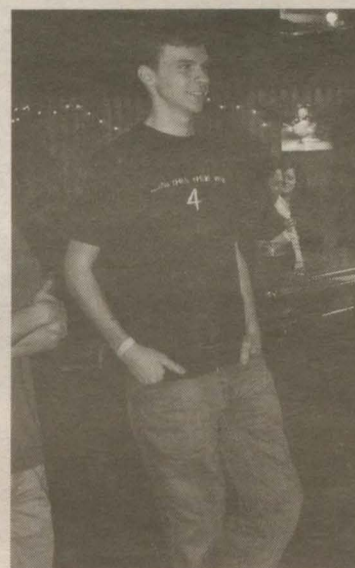
"It shows that there's a strong support," he says.

Coffin says he's confident he ploughed through his plea for the post as strongly as he could.

"I think it went well. There was no negative campaigning, of course," says Coffin, laughing. "I had a positive response from all the people I talked to."

Coffin says that if he were to start again, he might have encouraged someone to run against him, saying it would have made it more of a challenge. He says he couldn't have predicted he would be the lone candidate.

"Not having an opponent, I'd say



"Not having an opponent, I'd say that was the best part," Mark Coffin said after his VP (education) victory was announced.

that was the best part," he says.

Coffin is looking forward to hav-

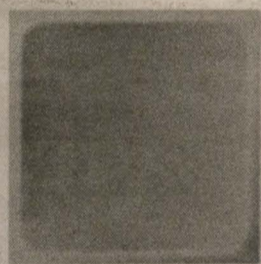
ing a good year and is gearing up to work with the rest of the DSU executive. He says the potential upcoming elections – municipal, provincial and federal – could pose a challenge for him.

"We're having a municipal election, so I'm glad the HSA (Halifax Student Alliance) referendum passed," says Coffin. "It's going to put student issues on the table and that's really important. And we might have a federal and provincial election... hopefully we don't have all three."

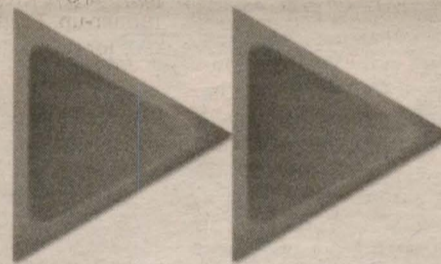
In working with the HSA, Coffin hopes to improve transportation for students to ensure student safety, particularly by working toward establishing a night bus.

Coffin recognizes that, in addition to the work involved surrounding the impending elections, he's going to have a full schedule with his other responsibilities as VP (education).

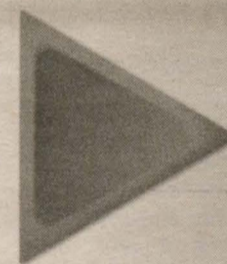
"I think it's all going to require a lot of work," he says. "I'm not going to take it lightly."



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Osmond steals VP student life

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

When he saw his own face on the big screen under the heading "Vice President (Student Life)," Kris Osmond was relieved.

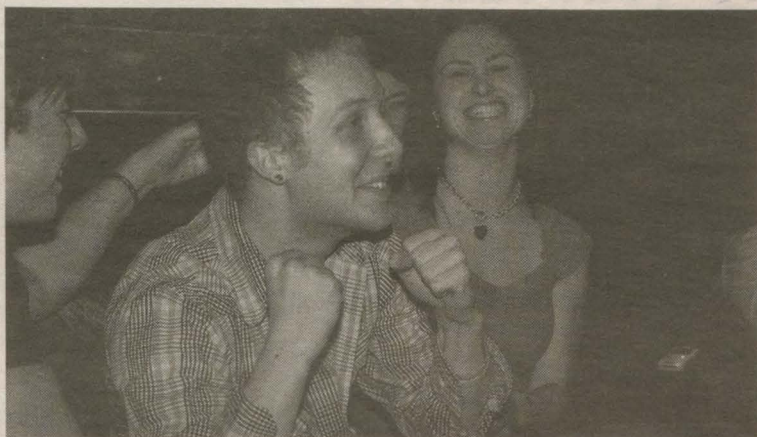
"Something like this was eating at me. I might not have shown it, but it was," he said, as friends and supporters offered him congratulatory hugs and handshakes at The Grawood on Mar. 20.

The fourth-year psychology student ran a close race for the position with his sole opponent, Krista Ali, and ended up sweeping 54 per cent of the vote.

He said both he and Ali ran tight campaigns, but he was confident as campaigning came to a close that he had a visible presence with voters. He encouraged students to vote for him at about 45 class talks in just under two weeks.

He'll tackle frosh week plans as his first priority when he takes over the office in May. He campaigned with promises to unify students from Studley, Sexton and Carleton campuses, to set up winter orientation events for new students during the second term and to boost Grawood attendance.

As VP (student life), he said, he'll



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kris Osmond will take over as DSU vice president (student life) after winning 54 per cent of the vote.

have to work on balancing his duties as a student with his new full-time executive position.

Runner-up Ali said after hearing the election results that even though she will graduate this May, she isn't leaving student life behind. As she brushed away a tear and smiled brightly, Ali announced her acceptance to St. Francis Xavier University's education program for next year. She plans to become a teacher and said she isn't devastated by her loss.

"I have lots of support, but I did put a lot of hard work into it," she said. The fourth-year English and international development studies major said becoming a candidate was a good learning experience for her because she put herself out there and ultimately placed her faith in students to make their own decisions.

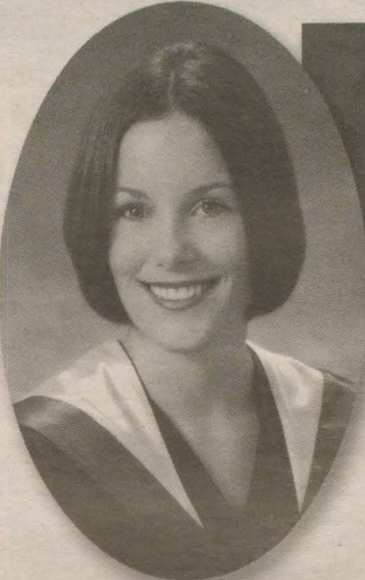
"There was such a low voter turnout, so that's really what it comes down to," Ali said. "I would do it all again if I had to. I learned a lot about myself."

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Montreal students lobby to keep former colleague from execution

Students at Université de Montréal and Concordia are trying to keep former Concordia student, Mohamed Kohail, from execution in Saudi Arabia, reported *The Link* student newspaper.

Kohail was sentenced to beheading by sword in early March for allegedly murdering a young man in Saudi Arabia in January 2007. The man died after a fight broke out in a schoolyard after a girl's male relative accused Kohail's younger brother of insulting her. The 19-year-old who died was also a cousin of the girl.

U de M student Golmehr Attaran helped coordinate a demonstration at Parliament on Mar. 23 and said the former Canadian resident should be given another chance.

"We have the facts saying he did not go through a fair trial," said Attaran. "He's from Palestine and Palestinians don't have status. The only status he has in this world is his Canadian status."

Students from Kohail's former Montreal high school signed a petition asking for Ottawa to intervene. They're planning to present the petition to Parliament.

Ryerson Conservatives unhappy with link to racist scandal

After a member of the Campus Conservatives sent a white supremacist e-mail to the Ryerson Students' Union on Mar. 7, the president of the political group said the Conservatives have been unfairly thrown

into the conflict.

The e-mail was titled, "KKK - White Power," and was considered a racist threat by a black student group. The United Black Students at Ryerson (UBSR) demanded an apology from Ontario PC leader John Tory after the e-mail was sent. Brian Petz, president of the Campus Conservatives, told *The Eyeopener* he thinks it's unfair the student group was automatically associated with the e-mail sent by Justin Morris.

"They've taken the words of a single individual and presented it as my group's stance," said Petz. "Morris is from Newfoundland. Why didn't they demand an apology from (Newfoundland Premier) Danny Williams?"

The president of the UBSR, Saron Ghebressellassie, is sticking to her stance.

"It's reasonable to expect an apology from the leaders of a group who is implicated by this individual's comments," said Ghebressellassie.

St. FX Young Liberals introduce transsexual policy

A fourth-year St. Francis Xavier University student and member of the Nova Scotia Young Liberals has written a policy supporting a transsexual health program, which was adopted by the Nova Scotia Liberal party at its Annual General Meeting on Mar. 2.

Student Neil MacIsaac wrote the policy after his friend went through sex reassignment surgery and found the government's stance on transsexualism inadequate.

"In Nova Scotia there are a complete lack of services for transsexual individuals," MacIsaac told *The Xaverian Weekly*. "Health services should represent everyone, not just the majority."

The policy outlines that Nova Scotia will provide a healthcare plan for transsexual people. The plan is set to cover the cost of sex reassignment surgery, which can cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Sources: *The Link*, *The Eyeopener*, *The Xaverian Weekly*

ACROSS THE POND

Court sides with students who trapped profs

Seven students who were expelled from Korea University two years ago should be allowed to return to school for now, a court ruled on Mar. 18.

The school decided to expel the students after they confined several professors for 16 hours in a school building in April 2006, reported *The Korea Times*.

The Seoul Central District Court ruled that the school should overturn the students' expulsions until a lawsuit involving their case is settled.

More than 19 students, including the seven who were expelled, trapped professors in the building because they would not listen to their formal complaints or hold negotiations regarding voting rights at the university.

When Korea University merged with the College of Health Sciences in April 2006, students from the col-

lege wanted the right to vote in student representative elections. The university said no, which prompted the incident and led to expulsions.

The court said the students deserve punishment, but that "the professors, who refused to sit at the negotiation table with students, were also largely responsible for provoking the students."

School to go against students by restricting admissions

Students at the University of Auckland in New Zealand are considering taking legal action to stop the administration from admitting fewer students next year.

University officials voted to restrict entry to all undergraduate courses because the school's new investment plan, in combination with less government funding, means the university will have less money next year.

But students aren't happy about the plan. More than 300 showed up to a university meeting to discuss concerns that students from underprivileged backgrounds and minority groups could be denied admission, reported *The New Zealand Herald*. The newspaper also reported that Auckland is only the first university to restrict entry. Other New Zealand schools will soon follow, and some critics are calling the move "a return to elitism," according to *The Herald*.

The university said it consulted students before going ahead with the plan, but students disagree.

"This was the first real chance for students to show they feel about eliminating open entry," said stu-

dent association president David Do about the meeting. "They voted overwhelmingly, and loudly, 'no.'"

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Profs suspended for allegedly violating ethics policy

Two University of Texas professors may be fired for buying sections of land that their engineering students researched for a class project, which breaches the school's code of ethics.

The tenured profs, who taught at the university's San Antonio campus, are currently suspended without pay, and the university is going through the process of terminating them. The process could take months or years and the profs might not end up losing their jobs permanently, spokesman David Gabler told *The Associated Press*.

Chia Shun "Rocky" Shih and Alberto Arroyo each purchased property after students presented their research on that land in class.

The Associated Press reported that the university's ethics policy "prohibits faculty or staff from making personal investments which could reasonably create a substantial conflict between the employee's private interests and the public interests."

Some students are supporting the profs and opposing their suspensions.

Sources: *The Korea Times*; *The New Zealand Herald*; *The Associated Press*

Come to the spoof issue contributor meeting on
Monday March 31 @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

Letters@dalgazette.ca

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.

Re: 140-22; Premier faces anti-poverty protest at Dal

I would like to preface this letter by saying that I write this as an individual. I am only a concerned citizen. I do not agree with many of the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty's stated policy goals, but I am sympathetic to some of them.

Being poor in Halifax (or any city) is a daily struggle, and I am fortunate to not be counted among them. However, HCAP's tactics of personal harassment and terrorizing neighbourhoods are disgusting, and taint the nature of our great city. They believe that the only way to help the poor is by threatening others. I fear where this logic will take them.

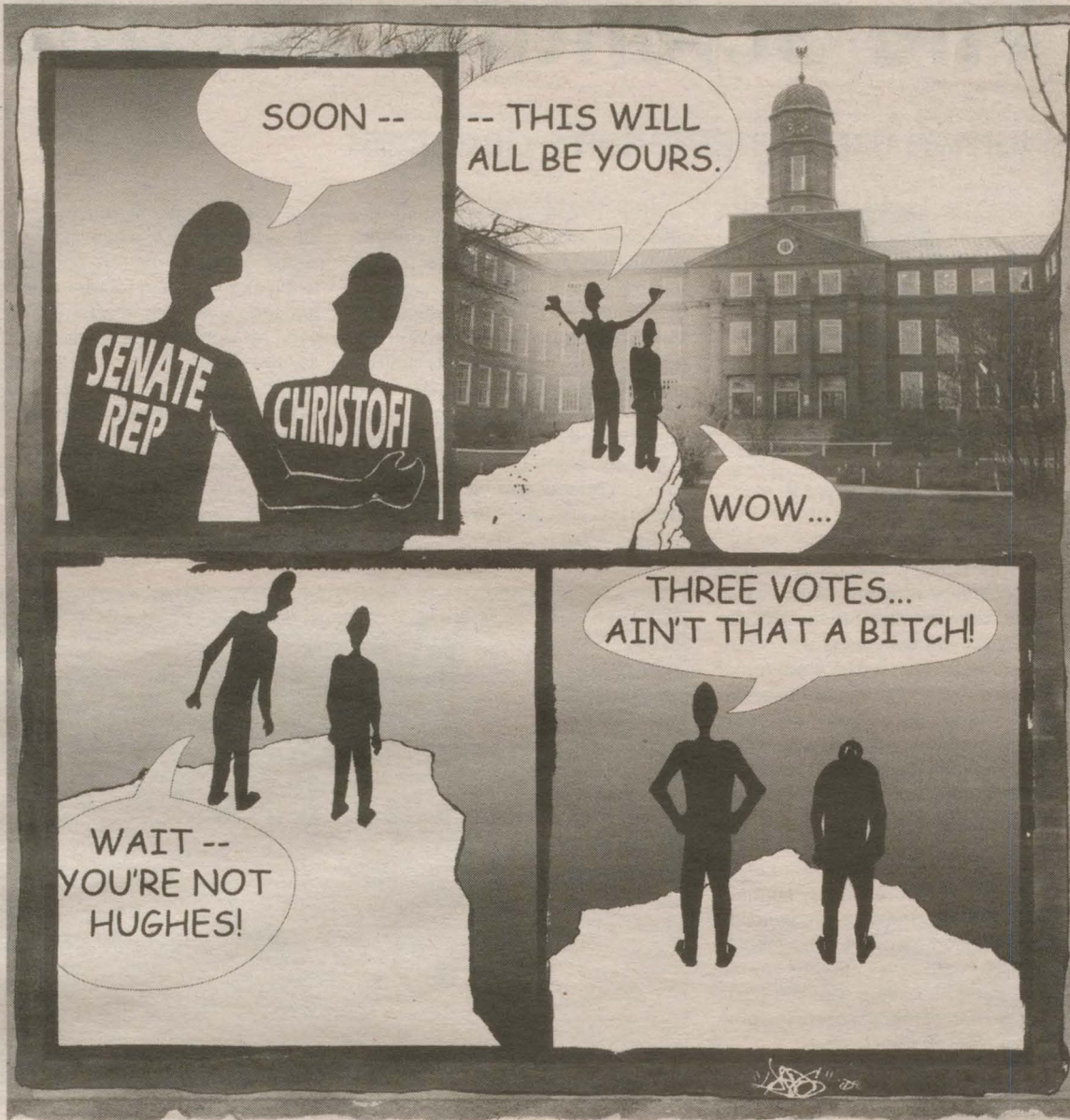
Their method of "direct action"

toward government and citizens has not worked. When committed ideologues (as found in HCAP) realize this, it is likely that their tactics will escalate. Personal harassment and abuse can very easily become violence, and it is not only the political elite that need be concerned.


I write this letter so that HCAP members are aware of the danger of their tactics, and that they step away from the precipice and engage in reasonable lobbying practices that can gain tangible results.

All mainstream political parties in Nova Scotia take poverty seriously, and I urge all who care to get involved in the legitimate political process. You can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Rob Ferguson



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The Scientific Skeptic

Human experimentation's dark past



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

This January, the BBC's science documentary program *Horizon* recreated experiments from the 1950s in which human volunteers were completely isolated in a dark soundproof room with very little sensory information. Though the subjects were only isolated for a period of 48 hours, they started hallucinating and lost their memory, and their ability to think rationally decreased afterwards.

At least in *Horizon's* experiments, the participants were all volunteers. In the 19th century, solitary confinement experiments were conducted in U.S. prisons, based on a Quaker belief that you could turn a criminal around by leaving him alone with the Bible. Instead of repenting, most of the prisoners involved went insane.

Human experimentation has a sordid past, and is especially despicable when conducted on involuntary or unsuspecting test subjects.

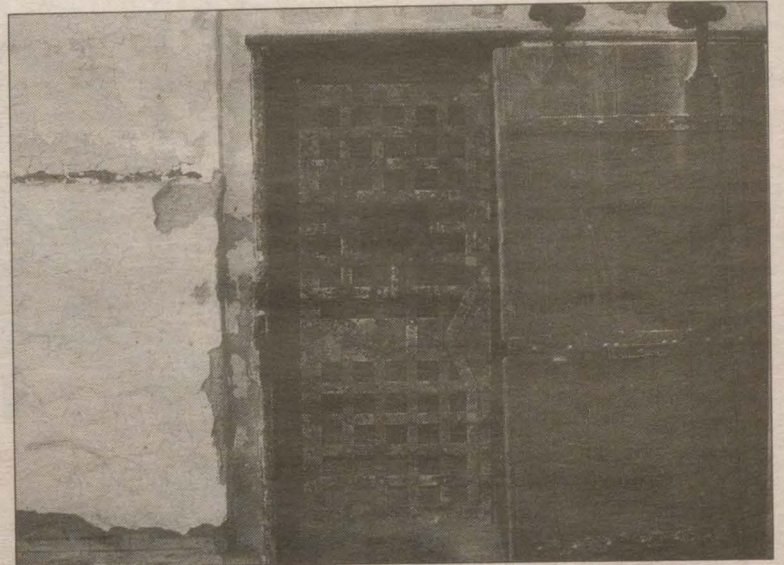
A particularly infamous example of this is the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male." From 1932 to 1972, nearly 600 poor and mostly illiterate black men were unwittingly made participants in the study funded by the U.S. government. Three hundred and ninety-nine of the participants were known to have syphilis, but all were told that they had "bad blood" and needed to stay in a clinic where they would get food and free treatment. None of the participants gave consent, nor were they informed that they were subjects of a study.

In 1945, penicillin was recognized as a treatment for syphilis, but the researchers denied treatment and information to their subjects in order to continue the study of how the disease progressed until death. It wasn't until 1972 that the study ended, due to a leak to the press. In 1997, the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study received a presidential apology.

The Canadian government has also been involved in some dubious research on human test subjects. During the Second World War, secret tests of mustard gas were conducted at the Canadian Forces Base in Suffield, Alberta. Although the test subjects were volunteers, many weren't really informed about the pain they would be subjected to. Mustard gas causes extremely painful blisters, and can cause blindness and bleeding in the lungs. It is also likely to cause cancer in the long term.

and when her family finally told her she was born male when she was 12, against Money's request, she started living as a boy. Brenda, who renamed himself David, was severely traumatized by Money's experiment. Following the suicide of his twin two years before, who was also part of Money's study, Reimer committed suicide when he was 38.

The common theme in all of these human experiments is the exploitation of underprivileged, unaware, or vulnerable individuals of society.



STOCK PHOTO

Solitary confinement might look a little less cruel than it was in the 19th century, but it's still just as contentious.

In 1965, a completely different type of human experiment was going on in Winnipeg. A baby boy named Bruce Reimer had his penis accidentally burnt off in a botched circumcision. His parents wrote to an American psychologist named John Money, who decided that it would be best to rename Bruce Brenda and raise him as a girl.

Money's advice was not exactly selfless. He knew that if Bruce's gender reassignment was successful, it would lend a lot of credibility to his theory that gender identity was based on nurture, not nature.

At first, it seemed to work. Money conducted yearly interviews with Brenda and her twin brother Brian. When Brenda was 5, Money began publishing his "success" with gender reassignment. However, Brenda never accepted that she was female,

isolation experiments have been conducted on prisoners, Tuskegee was carried out on poor black people by racist experimenters, the subjects at Suffield were attracted by the money and felt like they were doing their patriotic duty for Canada, and David Reimer was a child and his parents were uninformed and desperate when Dr. Money recruited him for his experiment.

Important knowledge can be gained from experimenting on humans. We can learn about the true effects of torture and make sure medicine works before releasing it to the general population. However, scientists need to be sure they have the consent of their subjects and that they are fully informed about what the effects of the experiment may be. Science should never be used to justify torture.

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STREETER

What's the best April Fool's joke you've ever heard?



“A buddy of mine publicly announced at a bar that he was ‘hooking-up’ with my girlfriend. It was a good April Fool’s gone bad.”

Sebastien Dolan, fourth-year political science



“Me and my twin pretended to be each other in class.”

Crystle Hug, third-year history



“My sister was having an operation and she didn’t want to know what day it was until the day before because she was scared, and it happened to be on Apr. 2. She didn’t believe us when we told her.”

Leah Fraser, first-year English



“Saran wrap over the toilet seat.”

Ayla McKay, second-year biology



“Saran wrap covered in grease on the bottom and glue on the top and you get someone to slide into a box of feathers. A buddy of mine did it to his little brother.”

Scott Lyons, first-year engineering



“I dumped water on my dad’s head when I was five.”

David Bethune, fourth-year anthropology



“I heard about somebody who pissed in an apple juice container and left it in the fridge.”

Sam Toulany, fourth-year math



“I once drank all my friend’s apple juice.”

James Munson, fourth-year manatee riding

TOP 10

Ways *The Gazette* has ripped off David Letterman:

1. This very list.
2. Most of our opinions editorials. If you watch the show and then read the paper, you’ll see we mostly just swap out his asides with Paul Shaffer for references to King’s or the DSU.
3. The Streeter is actually loosely based on a dream Jay Leno is said to have had, but, again, Letterman stole it first. It was later replaced by the beloved “Will It Float?”
4. Our “Hot or Not” section is plucked entirely from rejected scripts we find in our monthly trips to the dumpsters in the alley behind the studio.
5. During the writer’s strike of November 2007 to February 2008, Editor-in-Chief John Packman endeavoured to grow a beard, but succeeded only in developing a rather angry facial rash. Quote: “Miracle hair growth my ass.”
6. Following Mr. Letterman’s lead, we funnel a considerable portion of our funding to the Los Angeles Crips to aid in their ongoing feud with the oppressive Bloods.
7. Wanderlust was, is, and always will be a thinly-veiled account of our correspondents’ trips to stalk David when he vacations with his longtime girlfriend, Regina Lasko, and their four-year-old son, Harry.
8. When Letterman entertained troops in Iraq, *The Gazette* sent floods of letters and wrote editorials petitioning the Canadian Armed Forces to cease operations in Kandahar and to engage in Baghdad, Al Basrah and the border regions of Kurdistan.
9. Little known fact: David Letterman founded America’s first campus newspaper, Dartmouth College’s *The Dartmouth*, in 1799 (his senior year at the New Hampshire university).
10. News editor Katie May is Dave’s estranged half-sister, and is wanted in 11 states for the unlawful liquidation of the Letterman estate.

HOT OR NOT

- | | |
|---|---|
| HOT: Eye candy | NOT: Nose candy |
| HOT: April Fools | NOT: Inconvenient truth |
| HOT: Getting lucky | NOT: Relying on luck |
| HOT: Being comfortable in public | NOT: Scratching your junk |
| HOT: Political correctness | NOT: Bitches and hoes |
| HOT: Doing your best | NOT: Being the worst |
| HOT: Convincing excuses | NOT: Breaking your own leg |
| HOT: The girl next door | NOT: Living beside a seniors’ home |
| HOT: Following your dreams | NOT: Nocturnal emissions |
| HOT: This column | NOT: Being easily offended |

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 are do not necessarily represent views held by James Munson himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

In the SUB:

Girl: ...and they didn't pay my credit card, so now I'm out on that. And I asked for money from my parents and said I *need* \$700 because we're going out this weekend, and pitchers are, like, \$8 each!

Killam Library:

Girl: Why is Joe always sad?

Guy: Is Joe always sad? I just thought he was always high.

Walking along Chestnut Street:

Guy1: I was smoking weed with my 30-year-old friends and old people have the best weed.

Guy2: I know. Where do they get it?

On the #1 bus:

Girl: Your Manitoba accent is so sexy.

Guy: I'm from Ontario.

On Walnut Street:

Girl: Oh my God! Are you okay? I can't believe your door fell on you! How does that even happen?

In a History of Political Thought class:

Prof: Capitalism is a lot like puberty. It sucks when you're there, but once you get it over with, things start to get better.

In the Killam:

Girl1: Today I ate a piece of pepperoni and I've

been a vegetarian for 11 years.

Girl2: Oh my god!

Girl1: Then I went to Wendy's and had a Baconator!

Girl2:oh.

On LeMarchant Street:

Girl: I laughed so hard I broke my diaphragm

Waiting for a bus:

Guy1: I don't understand why people can't bring food and drinks on the bus, but people bring babies on all the time.

Guy2: Well, most people don't eat their babies.

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Cowboy bebop

BRAD CONGRAM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Strangeboys aren't just bluegrass cowboys. The local band is five young musicians who have been jamming together over the last seven months, primarily in the living room of their shared house. They play a blend of bluegrass-infused jam, but they have an experimental side, too.

"Cowboys are a bluegrass theme music, and then once we get into the robots we're gonna get into our experimental side, getting some electronic music, getting some more robot music," says banjo player Neil Wiancko of their upcoming show.

The 'boys will be performing Mar. 27 at The Grawood in the themed "Cowboys and Robots" party.

Strangeboys guitarist and Dalhousie history major Adam Shier has similar things to say about the motivation behind the party's theme.

"Our whole idea about this band originally was that we're going to take traditional music and bring it into a new era with the tastes we all have for newer genres," says Shier. "A lot of the guys in the band are big fans of electronica and computer-type music filled with electricity. This is our way of doing both at the same time."

The Strangeboys have been performing a lot in Halifax over the last few months. Haligonians can find them playing at standard venues such as Bearly's and less common ones such as Saint Vincent's Nursing Home, where they recently tickled the fancy of residents with a live concert.

The Strangeboys have also been picking up prime show time at The Grawood. At both the Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day parties, hundreds of Dal students were exposed to what it



The Strangeboys will bring the best of both worlds at "Cowboys and Robots" Mar. 27 at The Grawood.

is The Strangeboys do.

As for the type of music they play, Shier says the band incorporates several elements into their style.

"I've had lots of friends come see us live who were completely disassociated with bluegrass, but they're really into rock, or really into hip hop, or really into dance music," Shier says. "We try to cater to those audiences. We make some of it danceable, make some of it appeal to people who like folk or slower stuff too, we like it all."

"We like to have our own sound that's unique in itself, but you can trace where it's coming from into

other genres. A lot of our songs appeal to a bluegrass audience primarily because our instruments, but beyond the instruments, we can play anything."

Though billed as a five-piece acoustic band, from time to time The Strangeboys join forces with other musicians. At a recent show at Bearly's, well-known maritime fiddler David MacIassac unexpectedly joined the 'boys for a few boot stompin' songs. The matinee performance was well attended and the diverse crowd seemed to truly enjoy the performance.

JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Gazette contributor Adam Miller plays drums for the band at times. Miller, who will sit in with the band during the robot portion of "Cowboys & Robots," ups the dance factor of The Strangeboys by providing a backbone with his percussion.

Not only do the 'boys modify their lineup to suit the mood of the party, they also perform songs by other artists at live shows as well. On any evening you might hear the band covering Prince, the Grateful Dead and Neil Young. These influences, plus a researched knowledge of contemporary bluegrass, have

helped the band develop a number of original songs.

The number of shows The Strangeboys have been playing is hard to ignore. They've been promoting themselves through a poster campaign in and around Halifax, making themselves known and practicing for the upcoming release of their first LP.

The Strangeboys will be going into the studio in May to record a 10-song album of original tunes under producer Ryan Roberts that will remain steeped in bluegrass tradition. Jeff Rothwell, Strangeboys mandolin player, prefers a live recording to one in a studio.

"We want to record live, as a band, like all at the same time," Rothwell says.

"It's pretty much about getting the music tight as possible," says bass player and Dal alumnus Scott McCormack. "That's the main thing."

Strangeboys fiddler Daniel Latner says he wants people to know that when you go to a Strangeboys show, you're going to get "the best bang for your buck."

"We play very long shows," he says.

The Strangeboys will be making themselves visible and audible in Halifax for the foreseeable future, so it may not be a bad idea to check them out. If you think you can hold a jam with these Phish-heads who love to please, let them know.

They'll be transforming before your eyes at The Grawood on Mar. 27, so run home to get a bite to eat, get to The Grawood and decide for yourself if you prefer cowboys or robots (or if you prefer Gazette cover girls The Rhythm Method, who will also be performing).

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Hockey, coffee and sex

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

Christopher Bolton sure does love his hockey. And his coffee.

The actor, writer, and co-producer of *Rent-A-Goalie*, the Showcase series in its second season, says coming up with the idea for the show was a pretty simply blend.

"I was working on a couple different shows," Bolton says. "One about renting goalies and one about an Italian coffee shop, and so I ended up mixing the two together."

Rent-A-Goalie is about a guy named Cake, played by Bolton, who has reformed from his addictive past and now goes by a code of ethics he has written in a little black book. Cake works at an Italian coffee shop to hone his sober ways, while renting out goalies to hockey teams in need.

The book of ethics is Cake's "sort of compass through life," says Bolton.

"I sort of have one developed in my own life as well, and that was something we pulled over."

Bolton pulls other things from areas of his life and incorporates them into the show.

"All the characters are versions of people I know," says Bolton. "Or amalgamations of people I know."

Cake's best friend, Short Bus, played by Jeremy Wright, stays outside in the alley for most of the show, due to an unidentified fear.

"It's sort of agoraphobia, not really," Bolton says. "Cake says he has a fear of 'Je ne sais quoi.'"

Bolton and Chris Szarka produce *Rent-a-Goalie* together, and Bolton says they rarely have disputes over the show.

"Bottom line: Szark has last word on business and I have last word on creative. We always consult one another on relative issues. We very seldom fight."



Christopher Bolton's *Rent-a-Goalie* has Canadian charm and edgy humour. SUPPLIED

other on relative issues. We very seldom fight."

"[*Rent-a-Goalie* was] born of the desire to make a show similar to ones I grew up on," says Bolton. "Like *Taxi* and *Cheers*."

The show is set and filmed in Little Italy in Toronto, just because it's where Bolton lives, he explains. And there's other realities to the show. Bolton says he's had enough experiences to allow him to write about Cake's addictions.

In the show, Cake is constantly reminded of his rocky past - especially with a reoccurring lover name Malta, played by Sarain Boylan, who is a wild ride, to say the least.

Its slot on Showtime allows Bolton to do what he wants with material on the show without having to hold back.

"I don't want to push the envelope just to push the envelope,"

says Bolton. "It's funny, I have a little alarm in the back of my head that whenever we get close, likes to pull it back from the edge."

On an episode that aired a couple of weeks ago, Bolton skated around the rink completely naked.

"That was chilly," says Bolton. "Our first day, first season, I spent the entire day naked. Just getting used to what it's like on the set."

Rent-A-Goalie is absurd in its own way, mixing hockey, coffee and sex. In that order. It has a Canadian kind of humour that reaches past the border, and is worth checking out.

"Hockey's pretty big in a lot of nations. Here I think what's core universal about the show is just the passion for the game," says Bolton. "Doesn't matter what game it is."

Rent-a-Goalie airs Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on Showcase.

Stepping into Chilean past

ANNA DEMELLO
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Chile has special meaning for Rosa Laborde, a 27-year-old playwright whose mother, aunt and grandmother were all exiled from Chile during the coup in the 1970s.

She writes honestly and openly, filling her play, *Léo*, with raw emotion that portrays the universality of youth and communicates with a rare finesse the constant turmoil, uncertainty and pompousness that exists within all of us as we grow up.

Léo is currently playing at the Neptune Theatre until Apr. 6, which in my opinion isn't nearly long enough.

The action takes place in Chile in the 1970s, at a time when the country was feeling both great hope and great fear. Salvador Allende was president of Chile at the time, from 1970 until his death in 1973 during the coup d'état, brought on by a Chilean military revolt that overthrew him. Allende was involved in Chilean politics for almost 40 years and co-founded the Chilean Social-

ist Party. The play takes place both before and after he was overthrown from power.

The play is about the intersection of politics, poetry, love, lust and adolescence. Three young Chileans must deal with these things amidst the events that occurred in the country at the time.

The characters' love for each other collides with their need for sex, as well as a desire to make a difference in a seemingly doomed nation.

All three actors give perfect performances in this play. Their ability to portray the passage of time from childhood to adolescence and young adulthood is particularly impressive and believable. They also seem to love Chile in a deep and powerful way.

As I sat in the audience, I constantly saw myself and others in the characters. I felt their pain and I saw what they saw. We all exist within Laborde's characters, and it's important to see theatre like this, if only to recognize ourselves.

In the roles of the three youths, Salvatore Antonio, Sergio Di Zio and Lesly Faulkner pull off original, mov-

ing and heartfelt performances.

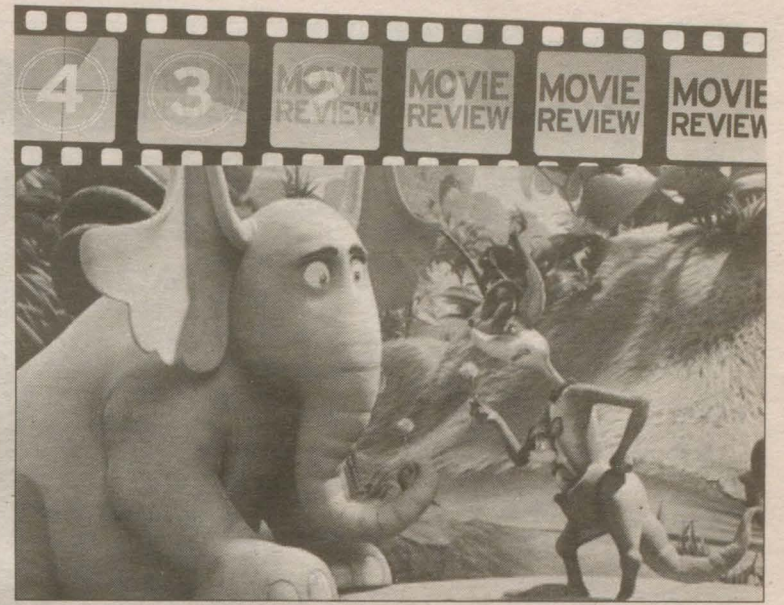
Antonio's portrayal of Léo is simply stunning. As he passionately recites poetry, you can't help but feel alone in the theatre. It's as if he's looking straight at you, and you suddenly feel like you're the one in the spotlight. The burden of youth, as well as the greatness of it, is evident in his acting.

Antonio has also appeared in some recognizable TV and movie roles, including *The Path to 9/11*, *At the Hotel*, *This is Wonderland*, *Sam's Lake*, *Queer as Folk* and *The Associates*.

After seeing this play, I developed an interest in Chilean history, which I think was part of Laborde's goal. If a story is told well, people will develop an interest in the subject matter. This is a sign of a gifted artist.

This is one of the best plays I've ever seen, and the lessons it teaches are important. I would encourage anyone who can to go see it before it finishes its run here in Halifax.

Léo is playing at Neptune Theatre until Apr. 6. Tickets are \$15 to \$35.



Horton is heartwarming

JENN CONTER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Horton Hears a Who! is one animated film you won't feel silly about seeing without your younger siblings. The film is littered with one liners and topical humor to keep the teens and adults in the audience laughing along with the kids.

Based on the book written by Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who!* takes place in the fictional jungle of Nool. Like the film versions of *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *Horton Hears a Who!* remains true to the message and morals of Dr. Seuss' original work.

Horton (voice of Jim Carrey) is an inquisitive elephant whose sensitive ears hear the cries for help coming from Whoville – a speck sized town which exists on a clover. Realizing that the future of this microscopic world rests in his hands (more or less), Horton heads to Nool Mountain in order to ensure Whoville's safety, facing many obstacles along the way.

It appears to all the other animals in the jungle, who can't hear the voices coming from Whoville, that

Horton has befriended the clover. This is something Kangaroo (voice of the legendary Carol Burnett), the moralizing villain of the tale, simply cannot have happen under her watchful eyes.

The film's animation appears highly advanced, which truly brings the characters to life. Everything from the colourful swirls and twirls of Dr. Seuss' whimsical world to the detail in the expressions on the face of the Mayor of Whoville (voice of Steve Carell) is stylistically impressive.

This is a lighthearted, family-friendly film that will not only impress viewers, but entertain them till the very end. The story's moral of respect for all the creatures on earth is tastefully taught through the wisdom of Dr. Seuss and the beautifully animated characters.

You can't help but agree with Horton and cheer him on in his journey to save the tiny residents of Whoville. "After all, a person's a person, no matter how small."

Whether you're stuck babysitting a younger sibling or in need of a whimsical study break, take a moment to revisit your childhood and enter into the world of Dr. Seuss.



SUPPLIED

Look for their picture under "party" in the dictionary.

Get Down with Webster

MARTINA JAKUBCHIK-PALOHEIMO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Three shows and I'm hooked. Down with Webster came to town this past week to play a medley of music. They definitely left their mark on the Halifax scene, leaving behind a newly formed fan base of ladies and partygoers.

The Toronto-born musicians are a progressive hip hop/pop group of eight, pumped with some serious testosterone. They played three shows while in Halifax, performing twice at The Marquee – once on Wednesday, Mar. 19 and an encore show on Friday – and just when I didn't think I could get any more Down with Webster, they performed at Casino Nova Scotia for the PUMPED fashion show to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation on Saturday.

The band consists of a musical orchestra of talent, including Marty, who provides the back bone of the beats by tearing up the drums, Tyler, who switches from both the bass and keyboards through the variety of songs played during their show, Pat, who does lead vocals and plays guitar, burning out some strong guitar solos, Bucky, the front man MC who talks one-on-one with the crowd, Cam, who is also an MC, Kap, who is their "hype man," Diggy the DJ and Bones

(who was absent), another guitarist.

They all bring a different persona to the stage, creating what Bucky likes to refer to as a "party on stage." He definitely exudes that mentality throughout the show.

Their stage presence allows the audience to become both enthralled and entranced, making sure that the energy never dies and the sound stands strong. The band works as a comfortable family dynamic, living the dream with the on-the-road rock star lifestyle that many dream of.

Driving from show to show in a large RV proves to translate into a travelling party with your best friends for this band. Another perk to having a travelling home base is it allows the vivacity to never die off-stage. It provides a rather easy stumble to the next party, as they drive around booming Lil' Wayne out of their bus's sound system.

Down with Webster is a big band with a big sound. They sound amazing live, with music you can't help but rock out to, or at the very least pop to. Their songs are infectious, including such tracks as "Grind" and "Pop your Trunk." These boys are bound to break out into the big leagues any day now.

During their sets they also take the time to cover songs, playing a revamped version of "Rich Girl" by

Hall & Oates during their Halifax show. But they have creative juices flowing from all angles, writing 100 per cent of their songs together.

As of now, the band is being a bit of a slut, courting a number of different record labels, and are in negotiations to see who puts out the best offer in order to stay true to the musical direction they want to head in.

But they say that if they can't find the right label, they're content with doing their own thing. This shows their commitment to maintaining their true personas and not letting record labels gain power and make unwanted changes, as they have in the past with many artists.

Fans have already begun to get fanatic, doing a number of outrageous things to get the band's attention. A girl at one of their shows made her own band T-shirt and stood at the front of the crowd, bawling her eyes out at the sight of the tenacious eight.

"Which idiot on stage are you crying over?" they thought. "Are you really crying over Bucky right now?"

The band has mixed ideas about what they'll do next, including a possible cross-country tour starting in May and recording sessions for their next CD.

If you're sad you missed their show, don't fret – the guys said they loved Halifax and will most definitely be back.

NOTICE from the Dalhousie Student Union

As at March 24th 2008, the following is published as per S7§14 (d) of Dalhousie Student Union Constitution.

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have submitted their Winter 2008 Audit materials and received an evaluation of either 'Satisfactory' or 'Excellent':

- Architecture Students Association
- Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society
- Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students
- Dalhousie Computer Science Society
- Dalhousie Commerce Society
- Dalhousie Dental Hygiene Society
- Dalhousie Management Society
- Dalhousie Nursing Society
- Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society
- Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society
- Gerard Hall Residence Council
- Mini Residence Council
- School of Social Work Student Group
- Sherriff Hall Residence Council
- Society of John Rislely Hall
- Society of Undergraduate Planners
- Student Association of Health and Human Performance

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have submitted their Winter 2008 Audit materials and had their materials returned with a request for more information:

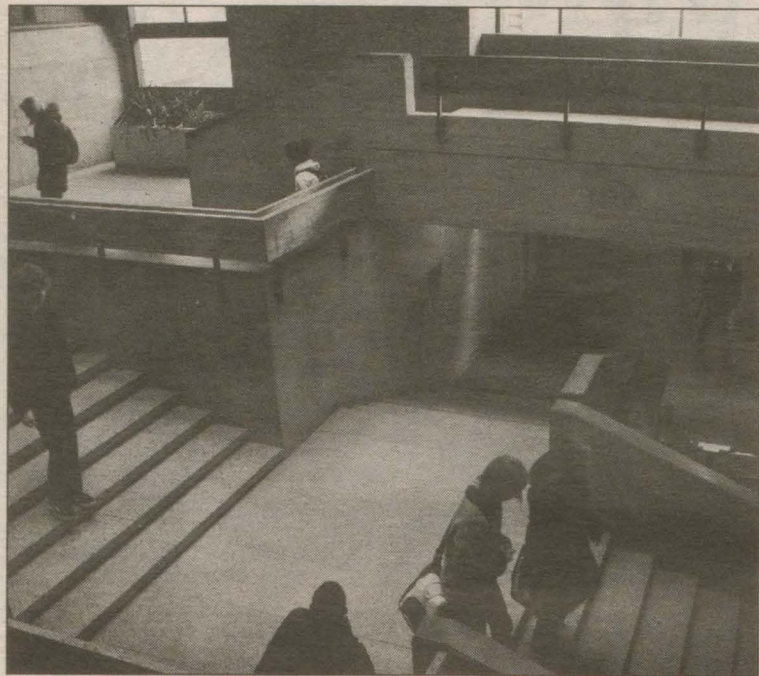
- Dalhousie Physiotherapy Student's Society
- Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have not submitted their Winter 2008 Audit materials:

- CKDU FM Radio
- Dalhousie Engineering Graduate Society
- Dalhousie Dental Student Society
- Dalhousie Graduate Planning Society
- Dalhousie International Students Association
- Dalhousie MBA Society
- Dalhousie Medical Students' Society
- Dalhousie Occupational Therapy Student Society
- Dalhousie Science Society
- Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society
- Dalhousie Women's Centre
- DalOUT
- Eliza Ritchie Hall Residence Council
- Howe Hall Residence Society
- Law Students Society
- O'Brien Hall
- Students Association of Health Sciences
- The Dalhousie Gazette Publication Society
- The Sextant Publication Society
- World University Services of Canada

Societies who have not submitted materials for and successfully completed an audit do not receive their levied fees. Any questions about this list and society audits can be directed to the undersigned:

Gareth Stackhouse
Dalhousie Student Union Vice President of Finance and Operations
V.902.494.1278/dsuvpfo@dal.ca| www.dsu.ca



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

The Life Sciences Centre isn't just a building around a Tim Hortons.

The science of cool: a fresh look at the LSC

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Studying at the Killam got ya down? Getting nauseous from the overdose of "Angel" wafting off of the girl with the big sunglasses and Uggs sitting next to you? Tired of having to sneak into the back of people's unlocked cars just to do stats homework? Why not try the Life Sciences Centre?

Sure the LSC has a reputation of being a shadowy concrete labyrinth designed by the inverted mind of architect Raymond Tait Affleck, but really it's not so bad once you get to know it.

Completed in 1971, the addition of the LSC brought excellent facilities to Dalhousie and the ability for sophisticated research in the marine sciences.

Posed with the task of designing an "in-fill" building, meaning it had to fill space between existing buildings, Affleck decided to depart from the cut-stone designs of other campus buildings and do something slightly different.

A Dal website about the building quotes supporters of the finished product as calling it "a very happy escape from rectangularity," but says most people were turned off by its "utilitarian and labyrinthine interior." Regardless, in 1968 the Life Sciences Centre was given an award of excellence by the Canadian Architectural Yearbook. You can't argue with that!

O.K. so history lesson over – let's point out why the LSC is more than just a place riddled with nooks and crannies for having sex in (of which there are an abundance).

Today the LSC is home to the Biology, Psychology, Oceanography and Earth Sciences departments. So basically it's where all the really neat stuff at Dal is.

You're probably saying, "Could it get any cooler?" Indeed, my friend, it could and it does!

The LSC also contains some seriously amazing facilities, such as the Aquatron Laboratory (when you have a name like that, cool envies YOU!). This is a research facility that provides freshwater facilities and a flow-through seawater system to labs on eight floors.

Inside the Aquatron there's a 684,000-litre pool tank, a 35-foot-deep Tower Tank, many wet labs, and the Behavioral Observation Tank, used for observing fish and seals, among other animals.

So there's pretty much an ocean living inside the LSC.

But the fun doesn't stop here: there is also a museum and a greenhouse!

What? You didn't know there was a museum or a greenhouse? And you call yourself a hippie. Comb those dreads and go back to King's.

Thomas McCulloch was a man of many great achievements, but all you need to know is that he was the first president of Dalhousie College (yes, it became the university), and there is a museum dedicated to him in the LSC.

The museum is located on the bottom floor of the LSC. Just look for the large glass windows, aquariums, stuffed birds and words "McCulloch Museum," and hopefully you can find it.

Inside is the McCulloch mounted bird collection, the Alma and Ernst Lorenzen Ceramic Mushroom Collection, Michael Burke's collection of deep-sea corals and seashells and a butterfly and insect collection. There are also fossils, whale vertebrae and live tropical fish.

Best of all, it's free, and it really impresses Toronto girls when you take them there and pretend like you know something about the natural world.

Lastly, we have the greenhouse. Located on the eighth floor of the LSC, the greenhouse is composed of eight glass-enclosed growing rooms, each with their own individual 'climate.' The greenhouse is used to grow plants for classes, research and display.

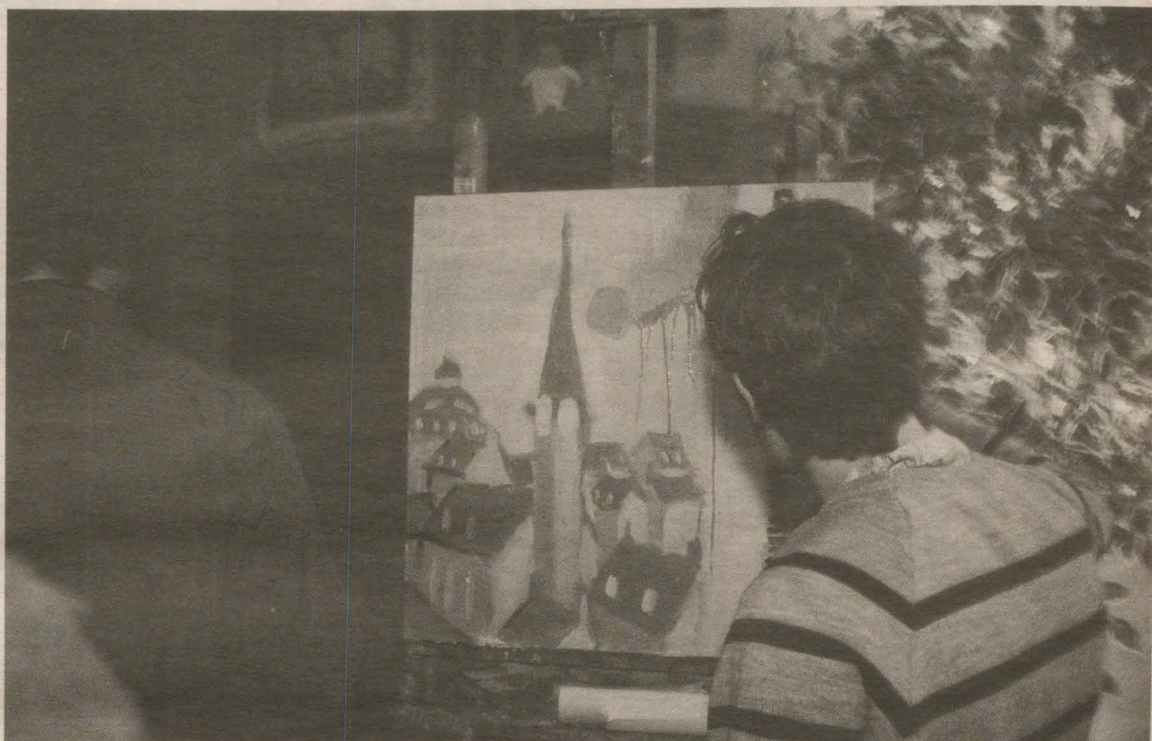
The place is like a jungle and a great spot to play Jumanji. There are literally hundreds of different types of plants and flowers for you to check out. If you wind up there after a few too many bong hits, don't be surprised if you look at your watch and suddenly realize you've been there for five hours.

The greenhouse also has a cactus collection. The Dalhousie Collection of Cacti and Other Succulents, donated by Paul Brunelle, is the largest grouping of cacti in Atlantic Canada. Yes, finally Dal students have something to brag about!

The best part about all of this interesting stuff is that it's open for you, the students, to come check out. That's why you pay all that money. It's not for the second-rate education you're getting. It's for cool things like greenhouses and seal tanks!

The LSC has plenty of study space, a decent food court, the requisite Tim Hortons and über cool spots to explore.

So whether you're sick of trying to study in the bathrooms at the Killam, are looking for a cheap date, or perhaps even just swallowed a bag of zoomers and need somewhere to go, I suggest exploring the LSC, where life is science!



LOUKAS CROWTHER / LOUKAS CROWTHER PHOTO

Sip champagne with local artists before dancing the night away at Fast Times.

Fast Times for the eyes and ears

LAURA DAWE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Champagne, Red Bull, questionably lit art and music from here and away: it's certain to be another fast night at The Marquee.

Every month, Fast Times starts off at 10 p.m. with an art show. The event is a monthly party that features DJs, local music acts, artists, projectors and free Red Bull and champagne before 11. But the top priority of the night is dancing.

Three university students organize the ambitious events. Aaron "DJ Double A" Siegner is at l'Université Sainte-Anne, training to become a French teacher. Brett McDermott goes to Saint Mary's for commerce and Jenner Berger has hopped from major to major at Dal, recently landing on English.

McDermott and Berger met up with me to talk about Fast Times at Tom's Little Havana – the same place Siegner first proposed the night to them in August 2007.

According to Berger, Siegner got the idea when he learned The Marquee was set to re-open.

"[Siegner] approached us and told us that he wanted to start doing something. And he wanted it to be... really inclusive for everyone."

McDermott books the artists. He says one of the night's overall successes is getting Halifax folk, who he describes as being "a late crowd" out early.

Fast Times showed the art of Yo Rodeo Poster Co. in September, and has also shown the works of this humble reporter (Laura Dawe), Dallin Ursenbach, Rachael Parsons (*The Coast's* first runner-up for best artist in 2007), Shakeel Rehemtulla (member of Wooden Bullets, whose silk screened T-shirts and hoodies you can see at the Halifax Farmers' Market), Peter Diamond and Chris Lockerbie (Lucky Comics), and most recently, Bill Young.

Young, 24, has been to every Fast Times event except the first one. After he met McDermott and Berger, they agreed to show his work. The focus of his show was a 9x8-foot piece

called "Saturday Morning Monsoon" that he made with The Marquee in mind.

"[The drawing was] kind of referring to Saturday morning cartoons, obviously," says Young. "I wanted the piece to have that kind of power... I wanted it to make kind of a fireworks display."

Young feels like his work was well received.

"There weren't people that I usually see at openings there," he says. "It was people that probably wouldn't go to the openings, and they seemed to really enjoy it."

However, Young has some constructive criticism for the organization of the event.

"I think it would be awesome if more attention was given to the art at those shows. Mainly like the lighting and the advertisement of the show I think could be focused on the artists a lot more. And that would bring in a crowd that Fast Times hasn't even considered."

The artist for next month's event will be Toronto's We Kill You. WKY is actually just one guy named Justin. He produces toys, clothes and street art based around his stylized monster characters. WKY will be holding an art show in Halifax on Apr. 3, as well as some new street art which should appear around the city. McDermott says WKY will also be doing live painting at Fast Times.

After an hour of art, alcohol and caffeine, the local act plays. This is Berger's domain. In October they showcased Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees, and later had Rich Aucoin do a "special dance set." Fast Times has also featured local Walmart-thieving rapper GhettoSocks and DJ Cosmo, Albertasaurus, A/V and *Gazette* cover girls The Rhythm Method.

Albertasaurus is Stacy Lloyd Brown, 23, and Paul Alexander McLean, 21. According to Brown, the duo plays "synthesizer party music" and their goal is "to have fun."

They got hooked up with Fast Times after the first time they ever played, at an eviction party in the North End that McDermott was

DJing at.

"Jenner approached us. She was interested because she'd partied pretty hard to our set," says Brown.

The two consider their Fast Times experience successful.

"Man, playing on those speakers, with that much sound, was like one of the funnest things I've ever done," says Brown. "A kick drum would actually reverberate in your chest cavity."

Albertasaurus was approached after Fast Times to play more parties, such as the NSCAD graduation dance and Gus' Pub on Apr. 13.

"It's definitely a good networking event," says Brown of Fast Times.

Berger says she and her fellow organizers have done their share of networking to make the night happen and bring in DJs that McDermott and Berger have been fans of for years.

"Aaron (Siegner) was essentially like an international DJ for years, so he's made a tonne of connections," says Berger.

The second Fast Times featured Smalltown DJs, a Calgary duo.

"That's who I grew up listening to with my fake ID," says McDermott.

DJ Huggs from Montreal will spin at the upcoming Fast Times on Apr. 3, along with locals Windom Earle (first runner-up for *The Coast's* Best Local Band to Dance To). McDermott's especially excited about DJ Contra, who will also play a set.

"He was M.I.A.'s old tour DJ, and he's DJed for Spank Rock and Santogold. Santogold's apparently the new M.I.A. Really big in the U.K. right now."

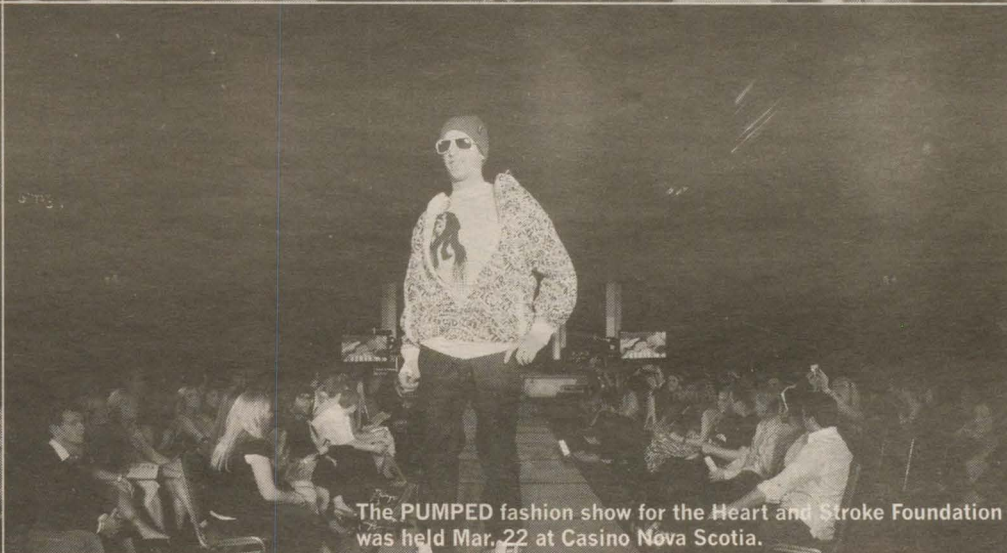
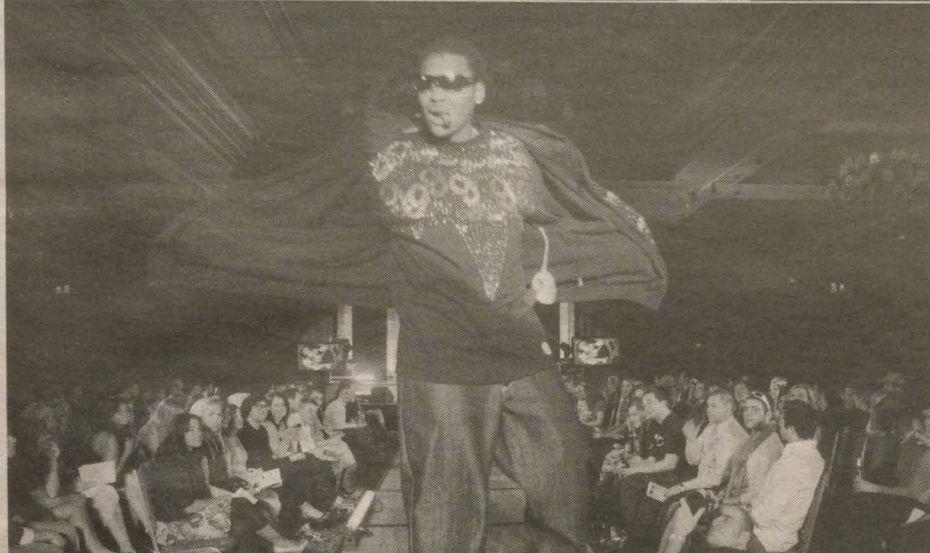
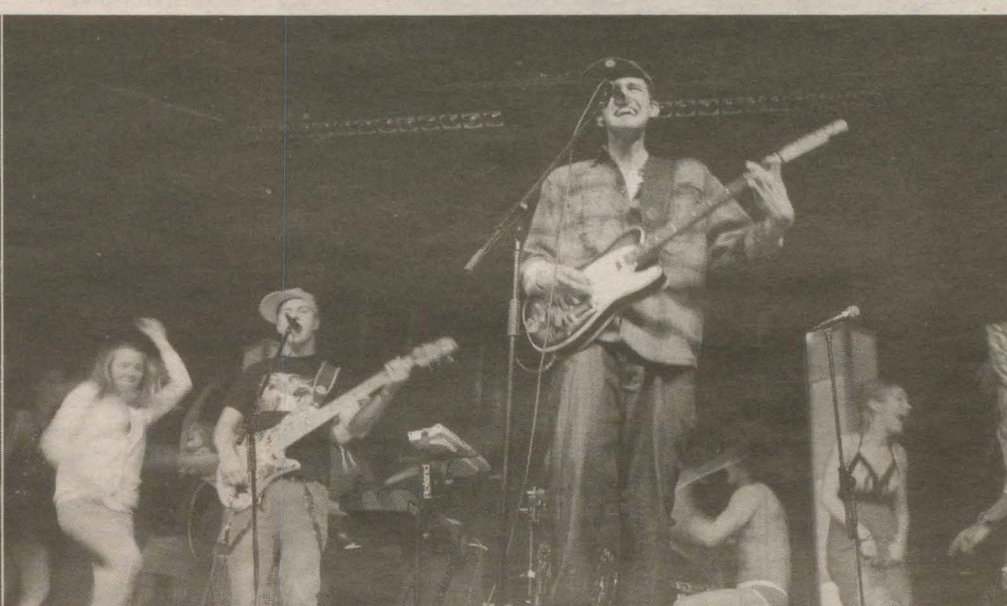
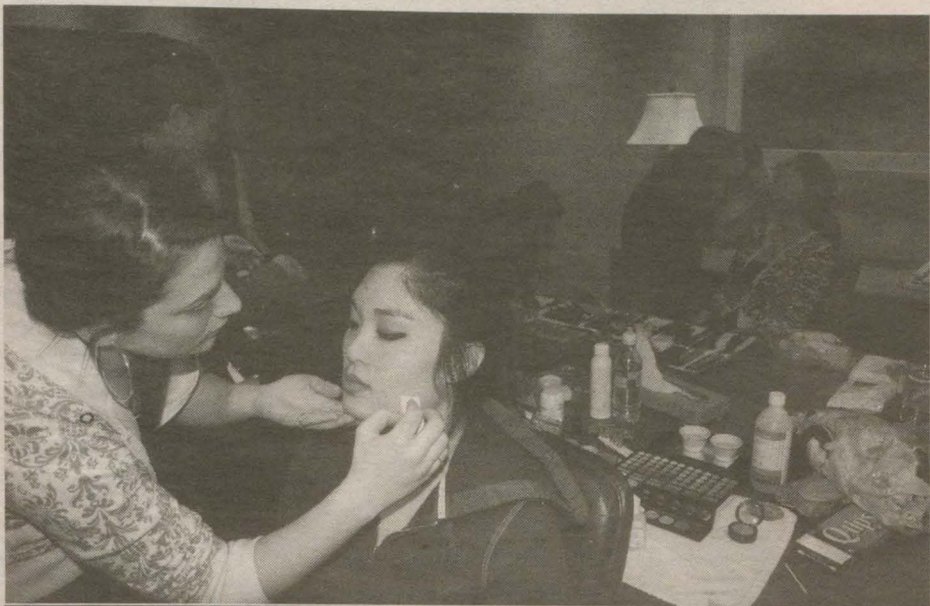
The Fast Times organizers foot the bill to fly in all these exotic headlining DJs.

"We're getting to the point now when we bring out people and we get them at the airport, they're saying, 'I've heard great things about this,' whereas, you know in October it was like, 'I've never been to Halifax,'" says Berger.

Tickets for Fast Times 7 are available at CD Plus on Barrington and through McDermott and Berger, who you can find on Facebook. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door.

Come to the spoof issue contributor meeting on
Monday March 31 @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

Dal fashion gets pumped Photos: Corey Woods



The PUMPED fashion show for the Heart and Stroke Foundation was held Mar. 22 at Casino Nova Scotia.

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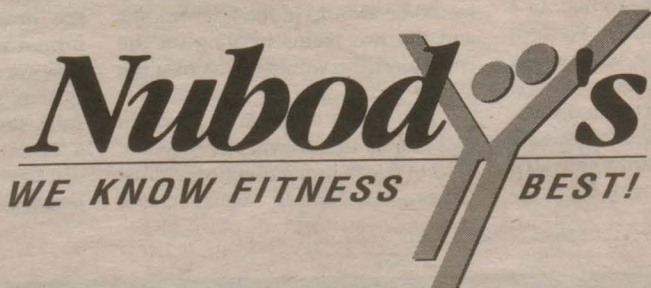


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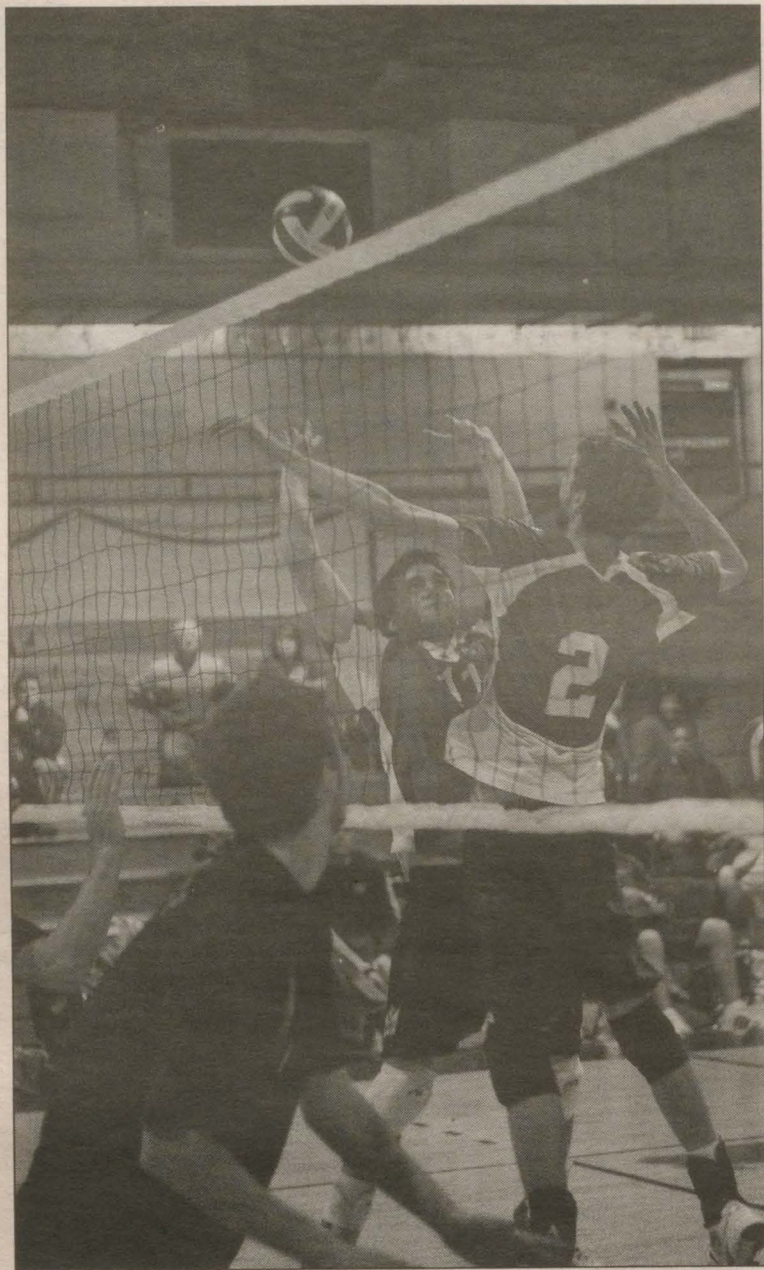
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JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie players faced off against the University King's College team in a charity event.

Dal and King's battle for charity

ALYSSA FEIR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team dusted off their kneecaps and court shoes to take on the King's College Blue Devils in a charity volleyball game. The two teams faced off on Mar. 22 as part of a fundraiser for the IWK Health Centre.

"It was just fun to get out here after the season is over and just play for a good cause," says Tigers player Dan Murray.

Katie Gibson, a health and human performance student at Dal, organized the event along with six of her classmates. The game was made the focus of the afternoon fundraiser as part of a project designed for their programme planning class. Both teams and coaches were up for the challenge.

"I think anytime we're in a position to give back to the community, I think that it is really important that we do that," says Tigers' head coach Dan Ota. "Our guys are in a pretty privileged position, so I think they understand that and anytime they can help out any worthwhile causes like this, we're more than happy to."

The event managed to raise a total of \$397.35 for the recreational rehabilitation therapy department of the IWK. The \$2 admission, snack bar and 50/50 draw proceeds were all donated to the IWK. The winner of the 50/50 draw, Julie Chicoine, donated her \$15 winnings back to the cause.

"We got a lot of support and lots of volunteers and everyone had fun," says organizer Jade Urquhart.

A total of 64 people came out to support the cause and watch the volleyball game.

Both teams won their respective provincial championships – the Tigers

in the Atlantic University Sport league and the Blue Devils in the Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association league, and both attended nationals this year.

"It was a fun game and I think it's a great cause to help out kids – especially kids at the IWK," says Calvin Simmons of the Blue Devils. "It's another reason to play volleyball."

They played a best-of-five match. The game started out with low energy. Both teams had some kinks to work out in the first set.

"It's amazing what two weeks does for our game," says Ota. "But it was just all for fun and I think both teams approached it the same way."

The Blue Devils stayed with the Tigers as best they could, but the Tigers took the first set 25-19. The Tigers went on to win the game 25-17 and 25-19. There was a lot of scrappy play that required a lot of hustle, and the Tigers had a number of decent play-saving digs.

Despite the initial lack of energy, the Tigers and Blue Devils agree that the afternoon was fun and that it was for a worthwhile cause.

"I guess for both teams it's kind of after the season and it is not as competitive as if it were an actual game with stakes," says Murray. "Both teams looked like they enjoyed themselves and it was just good to get out here on a Saturday and play some volleyball, because that's what we all enjoy doing."

Gibson, a self-proclaimed King's fan, hoped the game would have lasted a little longer but was pleased with both of the teams for their support of the event.

"All the players came out for a good cause," says Gibson. "I was afraid that not all of them would, but they all showed up and I am really impressed."

A regular season to remember

JOE WOLFOND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

With only three weeks remaining in this NBA season, I find myself wishing I could fast forward to Apr. 19, that momentous day when the playoffs begin and the regular season becomes a distant memory.

But amidst the overwhelming excitement about this spectacle, there is a growing worry that these playoffs won't measure up to the remarkable hype generated by one of the most electrifying seasons in the history of basketball. The postseason will certainly have big shoes to fill. This year fans witnessed LeBron James evolve into the greatest player of his era, Kobe Bryant finally figure out how to win without Shaq, and Chris Paul and Deron Williams become the point guards of the future. Dwight Howard pulverized opponents and Kevin Garnett restored the Celtics franchise to its former glory.

The Western Conference this year is more competitive than any in recent memory, punctuated by the LA Lakers returning to their familiar perch atop the conference, the Houston Rockets reeling from the second-longest winning streak of all time, and monumental mid-season trades that saw the likes of Pau Gasol, Jason Kidd, Shawn Marion, and Shaquille O'Neal swap teams.

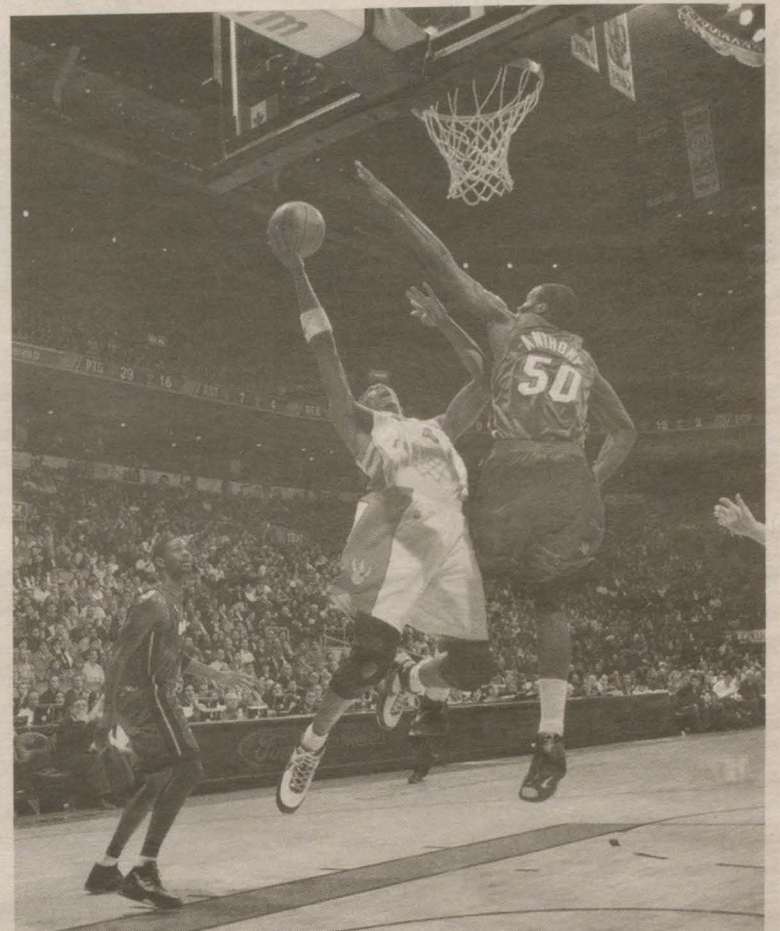
Preparing to watch the playoffs feels like watching *The Godfather Part II* for the first time, being completely convinced it couldn't compare to the original. Thankfully in that case, I was pleasantly surprised. But it's hard to know if the 2008 postseason will be as compelling a sequel in this series.

The sad reality of the situation is that this year's season, good as it has been, will be an afterthought if the playoffs are a disappointment. There is a way to prevent this, even though the idea has been openly opposed by Commissioner David Stern in the past. However, with the NBA at its apex as a product, it's time for the league to take a leap of faith and change the playoff format.

Under the current format, the top eight teams from the Eastern and Western Conferences make the playoffs, and the victor of each conference competes for the NBA title. This format was implemented by the league when it formed in 1946 and has been in place ever since, with the number of playoff participants increasing as the league expanded.

Since the system has been unproblematic in the past and league officials have been hesitant to alter the tradition of the sport, the idea of remodeling the format has never been explored. Stern is not responding to the problematic status of the West emerging as the far superior conference. Ten of the top 16 teams reside in the Western Conference, including nine of the top 12 teams, which means fans will not see the best 16 teams in the league compete in the playoffs.

That is a real pity, not just for the deserving teams that will be left out, but for every avid fan of the NBA who will be forced to settle for a lower quality of playoff basketball. In a season of unprecedented Western Conference dominance, we may see a team with 50 wins miss out on the postseason for the first time in history. If the season ended today, we'd be denied the opportunity to watch the Denver Nuggets, with their dy-



SUPPLIED

The Toronto Raptors are headed to the playoffs.

namic tandem of Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson, grace the playoff hardwood. They currently sit in ninth place, just outside the playoff bubble – despite the fact that their record would place them fourth in the Eastern Conference.

We also wouldn't get a chance to watch the young upstart Portland Blazers, with sophomore sensations Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge, garner some much-needed postseason experience before Greg Oden joins the team next year. We would, however, see at least two sub-.500 teams, including the lacklustre Atlanta Hawks, whose modest 30-39 record would land them behind 11th place Sacramento in the Western Conference.

The problem doesn't end there. Since eight of the league's top 11 teams will have to face off in the first round, fans won't get to watch the best teams play deep into the playoffs. We again may see a less talented Eastern Conference team take advantage of their weaker competition, while the Western Conference teams knock each other out. The Cleveland Cavaliers did just that last year, making it all the way to the NBA Finals. Stirring as it was to see LeBron James willing his team to victory en route to his first finals appearance, it was clear that they didn't belong there. The Spurs swept the Cavaliers in four consecutive games.

The easiest way to fix this problem is to switch from the current dual-conference playoff system to a single, 16-team bracket, with teams ranked based on their season record, regardless of their conference or division. With the new system, the top 16 teams in the NBA would be in the playoffs. The cream of the crop would be around in the later rounds and the two teams battling for the championship would be the best the league had to offer.

The quality of basketball would increase as the playoffs progressed. Fans of teams in the much-maligned Eastern Conference would watch

their teams test their mettle against the best of the West. After all, who in the Eastern Conference wouldn't want a crack at the defending national champions or a storied powerhouse team like the Lakers? Even if it meant a tougher series, it would produce unparalleled excitement for fans and players alike.

Stern has rejected the idea of the 16-team bracket for a number of reasons, the biggest of which is the geographic problem. With teams on opposite coasts flying back and forth over the course of an extended series, fatigue could become a major concern for the players. However, the league could find a way around this problem by shortening the number of games in a series to allow for more travel time between games.

Why not make the first few rounds best-of-five instead of best-of-seven? We're only half a decade removed from the era of the best-of-five first round, and anyone who remembers watching those series knows how intense they were.

There are other concerns, such as tradition and historical rivalries, but the pros vastly outweigh the cons. The traditional playoff format could always be restored if this concept failed, but as an immediate experiment, it would only further pique fans' interest in the sport, which is already spreading worldwide at an incredible rate. The NBA front office has so little to lose and so much to gain, and they'll never know how successful a new format could be until they give it a shot.

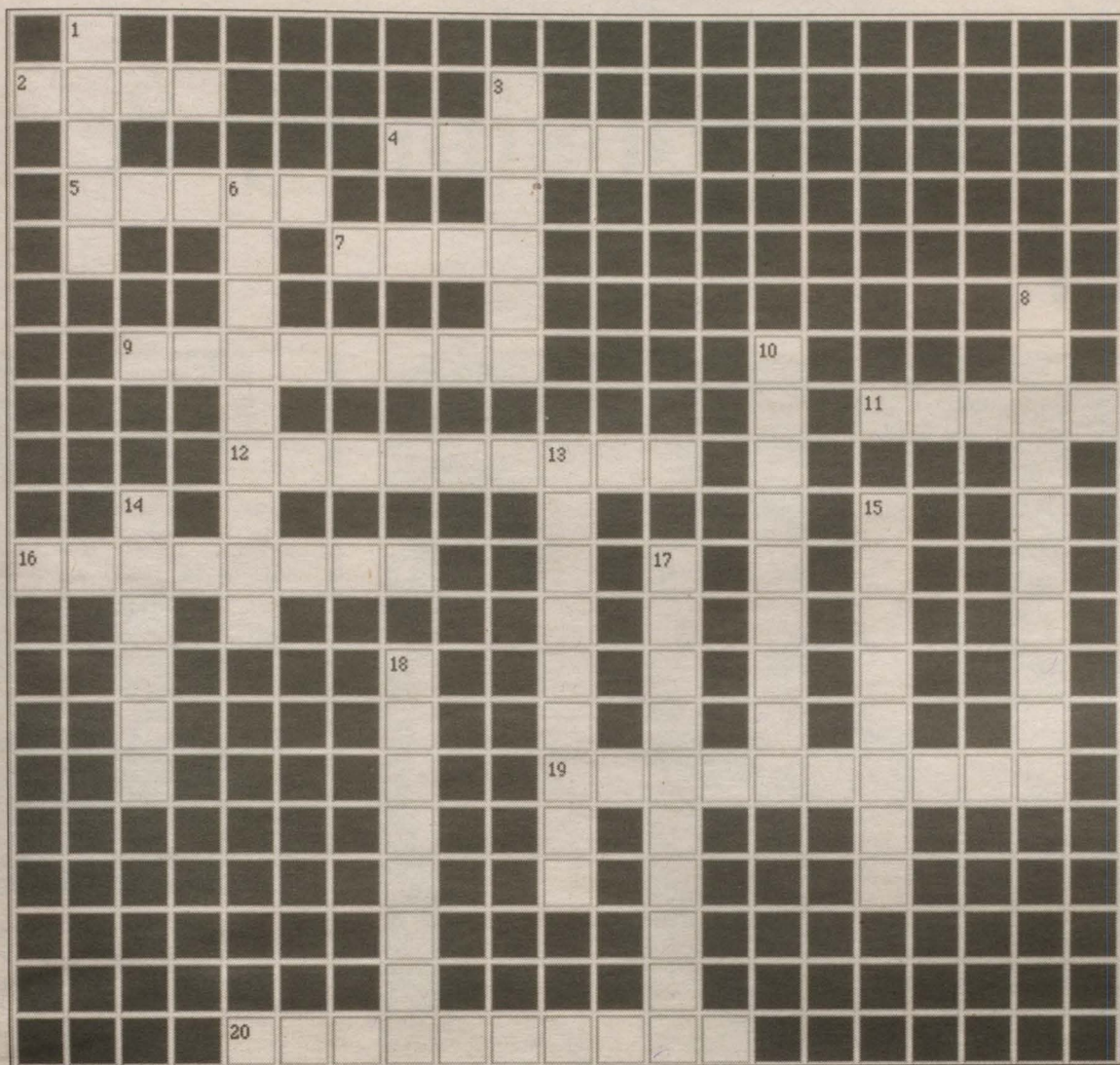
If the current problem of disparity persists, eventually the league will have to take notice and make some changes. Unfortunately, at least in the immediate future, the playoff format will remain the same, so for now we'll have to hope the current system will yield entertaining results. Because it has certainly been a regular season to remember, and it will be a shame if it is followed by a postseason to forget.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on
Monday March 31 @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPES

How well do you know your body? | Aly Coy



Across

- 2. Tootsies (slang)
- 4. Bony portion of nose where it joins brow
- 5. Trunk containing organs.
- 7. Back of neck
- 9. Small, sensitive area at anterior part of vulva
- 11. Main artery leaving heart
- 12. Very small blood vessel with thin, permeable walls
- 16. Part of small intestine joined to stomach, with ducts leading to liver and pancreas
- 19. Thyroid cartilage (2 wds)
- 20. Nervous tissue forming inner part of spinal cord and outer part of brain (2 wds).

Down

- 1. Choppers (slang)
- 3. Lateral muscle along inside of upper arm
- 6. Annular muscle that closes and opens rectum
- 8. Nerve that sends sight impulses from eye to brain. (2 wds)
- 10. Long muscular tube from pharynx down neck to stomach
- 13. Long, slow brain wave of relaxation (2 wds)
- 14. Shell-like structure of external ear.
- 15. Premolar tooth with two-pointed crown.
- 17. Clavicle
- 18. Ring finger

Teach English in Japan

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

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

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



9. Clitoris
11. Aorta
12. Capillary
16. Duodenum
19. Adam's Apple
20. Gray Matter

ACROSS
2. Feet
7. Nape

13. Alpha wave
14. Cochlea
15. Bicuspid
17. Collar Bone
18. Annular

DOWN
1. Teeth
3. Biceps
6. Sphincter
8. Optic nerve
10. Esophagus

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Everyday you're in the grind, looking for somewhere to unwind. The fans want more and you better believe you're going to give it to them. Don't be thrown off if someone is weeping in the crowd - they are tears of joy, not melancholy. You are all dressed up with too many places to go, so you better make sure you are wearing some seriously vivacious kicks to keep you going. Surf's up, dude.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

A rising tide lifts all boats, but the rhythm of your heart is rocking out to the beat. Your drumsticks and keyboards are giving you the benefit of the doubt and making you look damn cool at the same time. You must be tired from running through so many people's minds all day. Don't let yourself fall asleep at the wheel or you might end up hurting that someone you were dreaming of. Just because you couldn't swing a squirrel in that fine RV you have been squatting in does not mean you can't swing the party of a lifetime.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Someone is looking to get down with you. Are you down with that? Someone has been saying your vocabulary is larger than Webster's, but you know it is only as good as Oxford's. You can be as angry as a bear sometimes, but perhaps that is because you have been working as hard as a bee. The sight of you makes them go bada-badum-badomp, so don't be worried if your heart takes an extra thump when you see them. Just wink back, and if you keep on wishing, they will make the call.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Stand up and try to put your leg behind your ear. Can you hear the song "Call on Me" playing? All hell seems to break loose every time your cheeks part ways briefly to release air, so why do you continue to do it in public? Your tighty whities are giving you awkward lines in your pants, but you know they look damn sassy when worn only with socks.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

A picture is worth a thousand words, but the sound of your sweet voice is worth more. It's springtime and the birds are calling you to sing for them. Spin around in circles until you fall over, and you might land on a more than pleasant somewhere you did not anticipate being. Just remember that a rolling stone gathers no moss, but a rocking stone gathers a party.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Is there a hitch in your giddy up? You have recently woken up with an unknown naked person in your bed. Instead of letting it get to you, let it excite you. You ain't your regular Tom, Dick or Harry - you are the big cheese. Cheese tastes gouda, but it will taste bad if you leave it out in the sun. You would walk a mile just to see that miracle smile, but if you run you'll get there faster.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

You didn't go bananas, you went potato. If you're mashed up, it's probably 'cause you have been boozing too hard and letting people microwave your brain. Don't let them pin a label on you if you're not ready to commit yet. You are dating numerous customers at the moment, so make sure they're selling you, and not the other way around. Dine and dash may seem like a good idea at the time, but it is not such a good one for that someone who was looking for a dime.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

You're the kind of shit that will pop the people's trunk. The time has come to figure out who the apple of your eye is, who puts the bing in your cherry. You have been hearing sounds of hovering objects, but that is just some fool buzzing with a comb under their moustache. If you find yourself at someone's throat, don't cough - hug it out. Sit down and talk over some nice wine and a delicious vegetable. Try a squash, or perhaps a gourd.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

A trumpet is blaring its noise just for you. You are an ambulance chaser looking for the next big thrill, but doing a handstand and falling off a balcony is not the answer. You can rely on your old man's money, but it's even better if you can make yourself a rich sucker's honey. The ball is in your court: where are you going to play it? A well-placed banana peel will lead to a delightful April Fool's joke, but will end up hurting a friend. Go BuzzUrK.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

You're worried because you built it and they did not come. So what? A little bird just told me that with the sun rising over your horizon, you are born to shine. You learn from the things that make you smaller, because they teach your head not to get too big. All that glitters is not gold, but what does that matter if your name's in bold? As long as at the end of the day it's worth it, then do it.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

A still tongue keeps a wise hand, but a righteous playa adds fuel to the fire. You know that some like it hot and you're one of them. They have always said all roads lead to Rome, but lately all the roads are leading you to serious street cred. You got good publicity, but who's paying for it all? You will be getting the job you have been dreaming of, so you can stop stressing.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

You have been strutting your stuff down the runway, shooting people the gun and poppin' your colla' when you enter the room. You are at the top of your list, and happily at the top of everyone else's. Damn it feels good to be a gangster, and damn it feels good to be first-rate at Rock Band. They need a new bassist and I hear they want you. They know you have your axe to the grind, so keep hacking away. The squirrel will bring you the chestnut when he knows you are hungry.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo



THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Corporate Social Responsibility & EWB Fundraiser

DAVE ERLANDSON
ANGELA ALAMBETS

Wednesday, March 19th was the Engineers Without Borders Pub Talk at the T-Room highlighting corporate social responsibility (CSR). Alexa McDonough has been a devoted supporter of the Dalhousie EWB Chapter for a number of years and showed this again by sharing her insight into the role of Canadian engineering companies operating on the international scale.

Specifically, she highlighted her experience in Honduras, where a Canadian mining company has been accused of polluting water resources with cyanide and arsenic. Due to a lack of legal enforcement the company has yet to be held accountable and is continuing operations with no intentions of working to improve or change.

She emphasized that because the Canadian government is not taking an active role in the issue, the responsibility currently lies in the hands of engineers and the companies themselves.

CSR in general focuses on the global resource sector –including mining companies and oil and gas companies. As Canadian engineers we have developed the expertise from our abundance of natural resources which allows us to exploit foreign resources.

Often, the mining and oil and gas industries are berated for the ways in which they operate in these contexts, for a number of reasons. Often they are justified reasons, including human rights abuses and bribery. For example, recently it has been estimated that 25% of Africa's GDP actually came from bribery and leakage of funds from government payments by multinational companies.

Large engineering companies have extreme capacity to have a positive impact on communities where they work, by avoiding things like environmental degradation, and the loss of property and life of people living in the communities they operate.

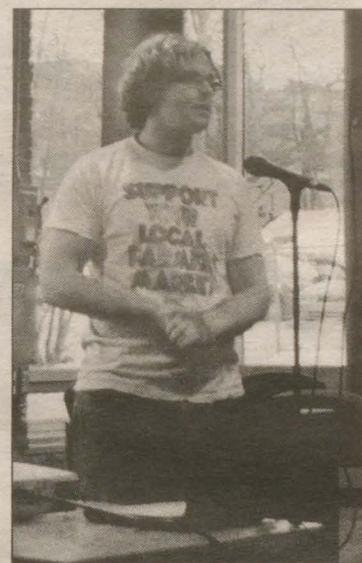


More importantly they can go above and beyond that by contributing to social services or the education system where they are working.

However, there has been significant evidence showing that the best, most effective and sustainable way for developing countries to enhance

economic activity is for it to happen from the ground up.

When people in the local communities start their own business,



this fuels community involvement, sustainable practices, pride, movement of resources, healthy business competition, the diffusion of good practices and self sufficiency – without the influence of outside players.

In volunteering in Ghana for four months with EWB experiences with large companies were limited. But we both had the opportunity to have first hand experiences with local community development through agro-business and other small and micro business. We also had the chance to experience the lifestyle and meet, and make friends and family with the type of people who are often affected by multinational companies when they do move in.

Through that, we gained a greater appreciation for the need of Canadian companies to be more responsible, which we were able to share with presentations of our experiences.

Thank you for all who supported EWB and its over seas volunteers by attending the event and showing interest in the timely issues surrounding the role of engineers in regard to CSR. Also, we would like to wish next year's volunteer, Emily Stewart, a first year Environmental Science and International Development Studies student, an incredible experience in Malawi this summer which she will share with us in September.



NEWS

Thursday
Open-Mic Night

Friday
Rock Off – Rockband Competition. Qualifiers 4-6pm at the TRoom. Finals during Trivia.

To look out for:
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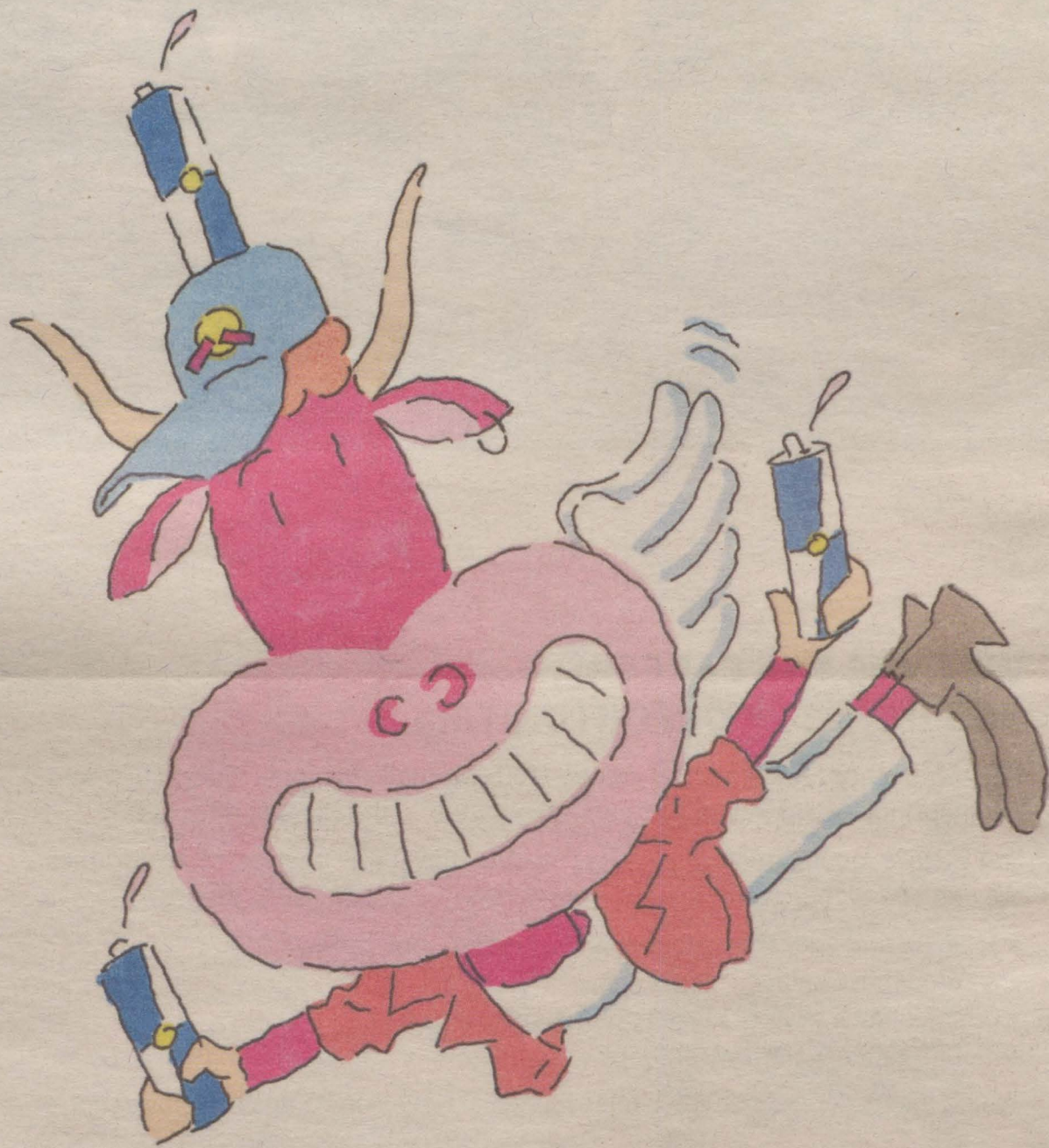
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