Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees release their debut album

ADOUBLE LIFE



-

WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hello, Dalhousie students!

There are some important dates coming up in the near future for societies and students at large; read on to find out more and contact your DSU Executive if you have any questions!

If you are intending to ratify your society this year, or wish to continue activity on your Dal-hosted Net ID or webspace, please submit all required documentation by the deadline of October 15th. Ratification can be done through Tiger Society, accessible at www.dsu.ca. Applications for Net ID and website renewal are available at http://www.dsu.ca/aboutus/forms. The required form is the second document under "Society Forms." All that is required is receipt of application by this date; the Society Review Committee will continue to review applications received on the 15.

Society Leaders, mark your calendars for October 23rd, 5:30-7:30 in the McInnes Room! This year's Society Village Square will be held at this time. The Village Square is an opportunity for you to learn about the benefits and responsibilities of society executive, to ask any questions you may have, and to interact with other societies with similar questions. Please RSVP to dsuvpi@dal.ca with your name and the society you represent by October 20th, with "Village Square" in the subject line.

There is a federal election happening on October 14th, and if you really love democracy, email Mark Coffin at dsuvped@dal.ca to join the Vote Squad and encourage your fellow Dal students to vote on Election Day.

Fall Fest is just around the corner, and we have a full week of activities planned. The festival kicks off on Wednesday, October 15th, and runs until the Bedouin Soundclash concert at the Grawood on Saturday, October 18th. Don't forget to pick up tickets! We'll kick off the Festival on Wednesday with the Oktoberfest Fall Carnival at the Studley Quad. Thursday is the Oktoberfest Fall Carnival at the Carleton Quad, Carleton vs. Studley Trivia at the Grawood, and Open Mic Night at the T-Room. Friday is the Hockey Home Opener, including pre and postparties and Engineering vs. Nursing Trivia at the T-Room. Visit us at www.Dal.ca for a more detailed listing of

Thanks to everyone who voted for Dal in the MySpace.com/telus secret show contest. We won! Yay DAL!!! The band and date of the show are still TBD.

As always, the Grawood is a great place to stop for lunch throughout the week, and both the Grawood and T-Room provide fantastic programming for your evenings. Check out this week's details online at www.dsu.ca.

Are you interested in becoming involved in student life on campus? Do you want to know what is going on around Dal in terms of events, movements, and services? Do you possess a desire to share this with your peers? If so, Tiger Troupe is the way to go! This enthusiastic and interactive group of volunteers will be charged with delivering basic information on DSU events and services personally to students. Commitment can be as simple as announcements in your own classroom, or as engaging as stunts and performances. This program is recruiting now! For more info, contact Daniel Boyle at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

Check back next week for more news, and as always, contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



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GAZETTE "STAFF



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THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhouse University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhouse 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 end/or society in general.

A "staft 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 Hot or Not feature. The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do hot 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. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousle University.

All students of Dalhousle 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 reportin all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libelious. Opinions expressed in submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its 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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR "GAZETTE

Missing the clear message

JULIE SOBOWALE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Marshall McLuhan wrote "the medium is the message" in his famous 1964 book Understanding Media, he was right, but the message is equally as significant as the medium. Recently Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) released important information to the public but unless you were paying attention, you probably missed it.

While sitting in one of my classes, I desperately tried to get online and cursed the Virtual Private Network (VPN) Client for the 100th time. Once I finally completed my Internet connection, I stumbled onto the announcement that Dalhousie University installed the new wireless network Dal-WPA, a system that does not require using VPN Client. Thankfully, the university moved away from the archaic VPN program. I am puzzled about why the university would keep this important upgrade under the public relations radar.

I didn't get any e-mails about it. Last month I visited the computer help desk in the Killam Library to fix my VPN Client. Not only did no one from the Help Desk inform me about the new network but I didn't see any signs, flyers or pamphlets explaining the change. After searching via Google for Dal-WPA instructions, I added the wireless network to my computer.

Maybe I missed the memo about the change but judging from my fellow classmates still using VPN Client, I think others missed it too. The bigger question here is why the university chose not to make a big splash about the move. Students have been rightfully complaining for years about the university's subpar wireless network. Why not take the opportunity to say a big change has been made? Why not recruit some wide-eyed first-year computer science majors to visit classrooms and talk up Dal-WPA? Why not even hire a student to dressup as Wally the Wireless Guy and have him handout flyers? Maybe the last idea is far-fetched but it would be better than just posting the new instructions on the Dal website. If





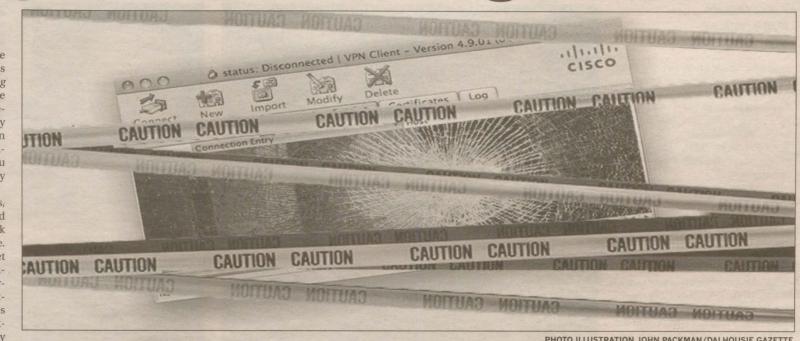


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Why would the university keep the important wireless network upgrade under the public relations radar?

Dal officials want students to believe that they are working on improving services for students, maybe they should talk about the things they're doing right.

The DSU missed its quality message opportunity too. The truth about Imagine DSU came out on Oct. 2 when the university announced that it had hired IBI Group as consultants to create a master plan for Dal's three campuses. On the Dalnews website, students are encouraged to give feedback about what they would like to see in the plan. Ironically, at least 20

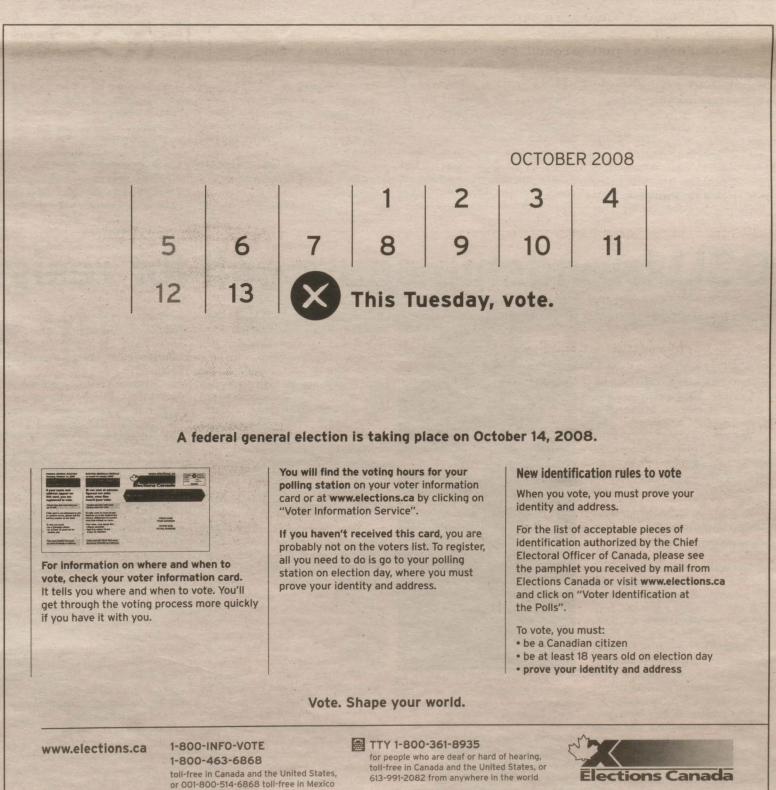
people have posted on the website, almost the same number who attended Imagine DSU, a public forum hosted by the DSU Sept. 23.

I assume the DSU knew about the consultants since the theme for this year's Imagine event was the future of Dal. Why would the DSU host the event, without giving out the most important information? More students would have attended the event if they knew the university is spending thousands of dollars on consultants. The DSU simply could have rebranded Imagine as a town hall meeting

for the campus master plan and invite community members involved in the process. If university staffers told DSU executives they wanted to announce the news in October, why not postpone Imagine DSU? I understand that the intense planning for the event happened months in advance but I think the DSU could have moved the meeting if necessary.

Given the clumsiness of all of this, I wonder when students will be involved in the consultation process. Dalnews is reporting that the university will schedule public meet-

ings with students in the future, but I expect my student representatives to work toward making sure these meetings happen. Maybe the DSU thought keeping Imagine as an open forum would be more beneficial. Whatever the intent was, it didn't work out so well. Unfortunately, the DSU missed out on a great opportunity to show leadership is this master plan process. At least the future of Dal includes no VPN.



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GAZETTE "NEWS

Candidates clear up student questions

AFTON AIKENS LAURA PARLEE **NEWS CONTRIBUTORS**

Anna Pearson knew she had a big decision to make when she arrived at the Halifax Riding Candidates' Debate on Monday.

"I really want to make a good choice," said Pearson. "I want a candidate out of this riding that is going to... be an advocate for (the issues concerning Halifax)."

About 500 people met in the Dalhousie Student Union Building to hear from Halifax's five candidates.

The debate helped some students decide which candidate they were leaning toward.

Liberal candidate Catherine Meade, New Democratic Party candidate Megan Leslie, Green Party candidate Darryl Whetter, Conservative candidate Ted Larsen and Tony Seed of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada discussed the economy, arts and culture, military involvement in Afghanistan and Darfur, and immigration.

Education and the environment dominated the majority of the de-

Larsen faced tough opposition from fellow candidates and students. Several of his answers were interrupted by boos and shouting from the audience.

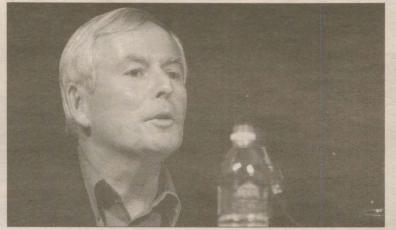
"I was representing the government which is incumbent," said Larsen after the debate. "But I think I did my best to explain the government's position on the issues as they arose. That was my job here and I hope I did it well.'

Many students. Including Gerjan Altenburg, were surprised by Seed's

"I think it's great that we live in a country that actually lets (Marxist-Leninists) talk," said the first-year arts student.

Business management student Richard Minuk had a different point

"We live in a democracy and I don't think many people in Canada want a Marxist-Leninist government," said Minuk. "(Seed) tried to compare himself to the Green Party... I think it's ridiculous to compare yourself to a democratic party. I



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Ted Larsen, Halifax's Conservative candidate



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Catherine Meade, Halifax's Liberal candidate

think it was kind of silly for him to be here in the debate.'

Students clapped and cheered for Green candidate Whetter and NDP candidate Leslie several times throughout the night.

"Megan Leslie was on fire," said first-year arts student Thomas

All of the candidates were committed to dedicating more federal funding to provincial education transfers. They differed on solutions to problems like alleviating debt for graduate students, affordable housing and transit and making education more accessible.

Eaton was happy to hear postsecondary education is on the candidates' agendas. He, like many students, is worried about paying back his student loan after graduation.

Seed argued education should be a free right, while the other candidates outlined their party platforms.

The NDP wants to work with the provincial government to make tuition more affordable, while the Conservatives want to focus on bursaries and grants for native Nova Scotians and out-of-province students.

The Liberal Party wants to get rid of restrictions on parental income for loans, and extend the grace period for repaying them.

Whetter said the Green Party views education as a public investment. If elected, the Greens plan to cut 50 per cent of student loan debt upon graduation.

The candidates also responded to the audience's concern for the en-

"I really do think students are



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Green candidate Darryl Whetter, left, and Marxist-Leninist rep Tony Seed



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

NDP representative Megan Leslie

very, very concerned about the environment," said Leslie. "Of course student issues, of course tuition... but I think they're very passionate about the environment, which is ex-

Leslie advocated for a cap and trade environmental system, while Larsen discussed the benefits of setting specific emissions targets for high polluters.

Meade made reference to the Liberals' Green Shift Plan and Whetter said he hoped students left the debate feeling confident that the Green Party had the strongest environmental policy.

Only about 11 audience members were able to ask questions.

Moderators and event organizers only allowed two extra questions, despite candidates' willingness to continue with the open forum.

About 20 people in line to address the candidates left the debate with their questions unanswered.

Meade said the debate went well for all of the candidates.

'We might not agree, but everyone was able to get their point across about what their parties do and help demonstrate for the people in the audience the distinctions between one party and the next," she said.

Dal student Trish Gautier hadn't followed the election closely, but she said the debate helped her determine who she will vote for.

"I don't think the majority of students are politically informed," she said. "If more people came out and got to hear the candidates speak, people would actually want to vote."

DSU friendship spurs call for resignation

ANDREW ROBINSON

A possible conflict of interest on the Dalhousie Student Union's (DSU) executive review committee prompted a request for the resignation of a committee member in charge of

keeping the DSU accountable. The executive wrote in a letter dated Sept. 21 that committee chair Shannon Zimmerman should resign from her position because of her friendship with members of the ex-

Zimmerman received the letter on Sept. 23, the day before her committee presented its first report to

The executive review committee (ERC) is a three-person group, with two members of council - Zimmerman and Eric Snow - and one noncouncil member, Andrew Christofi. They were appointed at a DSU meeting in May. The committee functions to ensure council is doing its job properly, and highlights in reports areas where council excels and others where it could improve its performance.

After presenting their first report to council, Zimmerman and Snow introduced a vote of confidence motion on whether council supported the current form of the committee. After an in-camera discussion of the matter, council voted to approve the



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE Shannon Zimmerman, chair of the DSU executive review committee, got a letter Sept. 21 asking her to resign.

motion. Eleven members voted in

favour, three voted against the motion and 11 abstained. Zimmerman wishes the matter

did not have to come before council

like it did, but she is pleased to formally have its support.

"I'm really happy that the council supports the ERC, because we have done a lot of work, and this is the first time in four years I've ever seen this report go to council on time," she says. "The three of us put a lot of time and a lot of energy into it."

According to Christofi, Snow and Zimmerman, they were the only people who accepted nominations to serve on the committee. The move by DSU executive to ask for Zimmerman's resignation creates an ethical dilemma, says Snow.

"You have the executive - who are held accountable by council and through council by the executive review committee - calling for the resignation of the person who is probably singularly most responsible for keeping them accountable," he says.

Christofi says Zimmerman's friendship with the executive was made transparent when the committee first came together.

All three members expressed their surprise that the executive did not bring up the issue in May.

Neither Christofi nor Snow believe their chair's friendship with DSU executive members affected her work on the committee. Christofi says he has "complete confidence in Shannon's ability to separate the working relationship from the social

relationship." Zimmerman says when conducting interviews for the committee's first report, she saw herself talking with DSU executive members,

Courtney Larkin, president of the DSU, says the executive was concerned about how students would perceive the DSU executive being held accountable by a friend.

"The problem here is the grand majority of executive would consider Shannon a best friend, which is beyond the extent of just having a working relationship," she says.

Following a committee meeting, the committee arranged to meet privately with the DSU executive shortly before the Sept. 24 council session.

Snow, also a senate representative on DSU council, says that meeting resolved nothing.

Zimmerman has been involved with council as long as she's been at Dal. She was a first-year member-atlarge, and is now entering her second year as the Board of Governors' student representative. During her four years at Dal, Zimmerman has also served on several committees and helped put together the final report of last year's review committee.

Both Zimmerman and Snow view the previous committee as a turbulent one, with multiple members leaving

over the course of its mandate. "We wanted to make sure we had people who were experienced and competent and had an idea of where to take the committee. I saw it as only sensible to take on someone who was completely qualified and wanted to do the job," says Snow.

Larkin does not believe the executive is interfering with the review committee. She says the executive felt it was important to bring the conflict of interest issue to Zimmerman's attention.

"I can understand people saying 'you could be meddling here,' because it's a review process," she says. "We just want to make sure it's being perceived as a fair process."

Larkin considers the first report from the committee a fair assessment of council and she hopes the committee can continue to hold council accountable in the future.

Meanwhile, Zimmerman will continue to weigh her options. Resigning remains one of them.

"I'm not going to say the thought hasn't crossed my mind, but at the same time I really wanted this process to change and I really wanted this to be a worthwhile report for all of the executive as well as council and students," she says.

The executive review committee has two more reports to complete this school year, with the next one due before winter break.

New daycare funding not enough

ANASTASIA PHILOPOULOS
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Troy Routledge registered his son's name on the waiting list for Dalhousie's University Children's Centre when his wife was only six months pregnant. His son still had to wait two years before finding a place there.

"People who have good incomes still find it difficult to find a spot for their children," says the recent Dal nursing graduate. "Good spots are necessary. They help create better outcomes for our children."

On Sept. 19, the federal government announced the delivery of \$10 million to daycare centres across Nova Scotia. Eight million of the total \$10 million will go toward opening 550 new child care spaces, 50 new subsidized spaces and the expansion of 16 centres across the province. The remaining \$2 million is aimed at helping centres improve their energy efficiency to cut costs and re-direct the money to expenses such as food and equipment.

None of the funding will benefit Dal's own daycare centre.

Leslie Phillmore, a psychology professor at Dal and mother of two, isn't satisfied with the current capacity of the centre.

"There are 175 children on Dalhousie's daycare waiting list," says Phillmore. "That's enough need to build two new daycares."

Dal's centre is already at its maximum capacity with 88 children, 32 of them in subsidized positions. The huge need for another daycare is outweighed by the lack of new building space on Dal campus, according to the centre's executive director, Margo Kirk, and there are no formal plans to expand.

"It's fair enough to say that more space is needed, but we're seriously lacking qualified teachers to fill those spaces," says Kirk, referring to a gap in childcare services across the province.

Dal's daycare centre currently has a full staff of 19 teachers.

In 2004, former Prime Minister Paul Martin's government created a \$5 billion childcare program as part of a five-year plan for all Canadian provinces. During the 2006 federal election, Martin pledged an extra \$6 billion to start in 2009, meaning that each province would annually receive \$1.2 billion for childcare. The Harper government has cut the orig-



SIMON BENNETTS/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Dal's Children's Centre is at maximum capacity with 88 kids and 175 on the waiting

inal plan down to \$200 million dollars over 10 years.

Qualified daycare educators are in demand all over the province, and some daycares have had to reduce class sizes and cut programs in response to the shortage.

Some programs that offer training for early childhood education are beginning to implement a recruitment process, in an effort to produce more early childhood educators for the work force. Unfortunately, according to Kirk, Dal's daycare won't reap the benefits for quite some time.

Sarah Connell, the centre's program co-ordinator, says qualified staff in daycares across the province are underpaid for the effort they put

into Canada's future.

"In order to recruit and retain staff we need to offer a more substantial salary. These people commit so much of themselves to child development," says Connell. "Here we pride ourselves on the quality of our centre and lifelong learning."

Better salaries and more benefits, such as healthcare coverage and pensions, are also some of the problems the government needs to address, says Nelly Matsumoto, an early childhood educator at the centre.

"Not only do we need more spots for children, we need more teachers," says Matsumoto. "We have such a huge shortage, but the salaries are already so little and teachers are so burnt out by the end of their day."

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Dal doesn't make sustainability grade

SUZANNA DE RIDDER NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's sustainability policies come up average, according to the university's C+ grade on this year's College Sustainability Report Card.

Rochelle Owen, Dal's director of sustainability – a position created last year with the inception of the university's sustainability office – says it's not a bad mark for the school's first year, but that "nobody likes to get a C+."

The Sustainable Endowments Institute, a non-profit organization that researches and teaches sustainability issues on campuses, published the report card to evaluate 300 leading colleges and universities across North America on their commitment to making their campuses environmentally friendly.

With the report card, the institute hopes schools will learn from one another's practices and that prospective students will be able to make informed decisions about which schools they want to attend. Students already enrolled might use the report card to push for more changes.

The report card is divided into nine separate categories, addressing climate change, energy, food and recycling. It also grades more complicated categories such as endowment transparency, which looks at how schools control information about their financial investments.

Only 15 out of 300 schools, including the University of British Columbia (UBC), reached A- status and made the cut for title of College Sustainability Leader. The average grade was C+.

Mark Orlowski, the executive director at the institute, says Dal came out above average despite its grade.

"We're tough graders, we don't give out easy grades," he explains, adding Dal is far ahead of a lot schools. About 48 per cent got lower grades.

The institute also gave Dal a Champion of Sustainability in Communities Award for the school's Eco-Efficiency Centre, which educates companies about being more sustainable.

Ken Burt, Dal's vice-president of finance and administration, says the university decided to participate in the evaluation as a challenge.

"One of the things that, in developing a plan for sustainability, was important, was to externally benchmark ourselves against other institutions," says Burt.

He adds he was surprised at how well Dal performed. Schools like UBC have had sustainability offices for years, so he says a C+ for Dal's first time around is impressive.

But the evaluation shows Dal needs to improve on many of these categories.

"We need to develop a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and we need a climate plan, and we're starting to work on the Atlantic Universities and Colleges Sustainability Network," says Owen, referring to the C grade for climate change and energy.

Emily Rideout, the project coordinator for the student group SustainDal, adds Dal needs to establish a carbon emission reduction target and try to use more renewable energy sources such as solar panels.

She also mentions the wideranging categories may have contributed to the C+ grade.

"You're looking at two things: environmental categories like climate change, energy, green buildings, but then also endowment transparency, which is not what I think of when I think sustainability," she explains.

Rideout says sustainability usually includes social, environmen-



Sophie Murphy tops off a coffee at Dal's Muggy Mondays.

tal and economic aspects. But she points out the report assesses only two of those.

"Where's the social justice component?" she asks.

Rideout would also like to see more specifics in the student involvement category.

"So much falls under student involvement," she says. "What students are doing makes up a very large proportion of the university's grade," she says.

Dal landed an A for food and recycling, which Owen says is because the school has one of the best waste managing programs in North America.

"We have a six-stream recycling process, plus other streams, like construction and demolition debris recycling, and we can always improve on contamination in the streams," she says. "And we're adding electronics to the recycling stream this year."

Dal got a C for green building, even though the school tries to build and renovate its buildings according to the Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, which are standards for building in an environmentally sustainable way.

Deborah Buszard, acting director of Environmental Programs, says Dal is doing well with green building, but that the school has much room for improvement.

"Re-using and recycling buildings may be the most environmentally safe thing to do," she says. "There's enormous potential for imaginatively renovating buildings, re-using materials inside the building, and using environmentally friendly ways of increasing the insulation by using recycled cellulose."

Buszard wants students to reduce elevator use to improve Dal's C grade in transportation because it uses up more energy. She says in many buildings on campus, the stairs are hidden away, which doesn't encourage students to climb them.

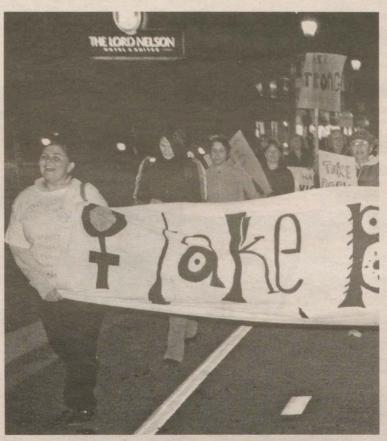
Like 56 per cent of the universities graded, Dal failed in the shareholder engagement category.

This category is important, says institute executive director Orlowski, because it exposes whether universities have systems in place to encourage investor companies to be environmentally sustainable themselves

Burt says Dal's F in the shareholder category has to do with the way the funds are structured in bigger schools.

"I suspect it's because they actually do their own funding investments, whereas the other schools rely more on fund managers to do it," he says.

GAZETTE "NEWS



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Gender inclusivity set Halifax's march apart from those in other cities.

Take Back the Night unites women

JANET MCGILL NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Halifax residents made 222 calls to police reporting sexual offences this year, according to Halifax Regional Police records as of Sept. 28.

On Oct. 3, a crowd of women gathered in Victoria Square Park to address sexual violence at the annual Take Back the Night rally.

The softly spoken words of poet and teacher El Jones rang out in the cold autumn air. She stood in the glow of vigil candles, facing a crowd of women gathered to Take Back the Night.

"Stories like these, they're not about sentiment. They're how we survive." Jones said.

Take Back the Night (TBTN) is an international event organized guided by the theory that if women start speaking out about abuse, their voices can create public pressure for change.

The march is meant to support and give courage to survivors of violence, but it is also intended to send a message to the local community.

Amnesty International reports at least one in every three women is the target of violence. According to the National Crime Ranking published in *Maclean's* magazine in March, Halifax has the third highest incidence of sexual assault in Canada.

Kathy Lewis, a student volunteer and former producer of The Vagina Monologues at Dalhousie, echoes the sentiments of the report. "(Halifax) is not a safe place for women to be," she said.

Many participants had personalized the event by wearing signs on their backs that read "I'm marching for myself, my friends, my community," "I'm marching for every woman who is alone" and "I'm marching for my mother, who survived."

Women led the march, but it was also inclusive to allies – those who support women's right to march and to live free from violence – who marched at the rear behind their own banner. Allies are understood to be those who support women's right to march and to live free from violence.

Its openness to all genders sets the march apart from some held in other cities that are open exclusively to women. While organizers tend to agree on the importance of having women lead the march in order for them to symbolically reclaim the streets, each TBTN event has to determine how allies will be included,

if at all

Dal graduate student Jeff Brown was excited to hear the Dal Women's Centre had opted for openness in its planning of the event, giving him a chance to march as an ally.

"This is a unique opportunity for me to participate fully in an event that empowers our entire community," he said.

Brown said the message TBTN hopes to convey is that everyone has to work against oppression of all kinds at every opportunity regardless of individual identities.

"Demonstrating that there is a critical mass of people committed to equality maintains that violence in any form is intolerable," he said.

Rene Ross is the executive director of Stepping Stone, a non-profit organization that provides support to sex workers.

Stepping Stone's records show that at least "97 women are working (in the sex trade) throughout the Halifax municipality," Ross told the crowd.

"While the issue of sex work is dividing the feminist community, the violence in this city is increasing and the crimes against sex workers are going unreported. Surely as feminists, we can agree that missing and murdered women are worthy of our attention," she said.

Ross also questioned how the regional municipality of Halifax could be adequately serviced by one sexual assault crisis centre, Avalon. She urged everyone present to remember the cause when they vote in the upcoming federal and municipal elections.

The crowd headed through the darkening streets, led by female police escorts on horseback, claiming the road and attracting the attention of drivers, pedestrians, shop keepers and patrons alike.

Residents opened their windows. Others came onto their balconies, listening as the women chanted in unison: "What do we want? Safe streets! When do we want them? Now!"

They paused for a moment of silence outside of the police station to honor the victims of gendered violence. Then they raised their voices again, calling out: "Women! United! We'll never be divided!"

Their path ended at the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, where staff asked marchers to be mindful of the simple rules governing the centre: – respect this space, respect others and respect yourself.

Medical Musings

-<>-

Walk-ins welcome



RACHEL SUNTER HEALTH COLUMNIST

When high school graduation cheers sound amid tailored gowns and rented hats, many of us prepare to jet from our homes. I know I did. I was determined to be as far as possible from my parents, eager to embark on a journey of glorified independence.

My ears buzzed with sheer excitement as my parents drove off, leaving me to settle into Halifax residence. Yes, I received financial help. Yes, I was on a meal plan. But I was free. Free of don't-forget-your-mittens, in-bed-by-midnight and eat-your-veggies-or-you'll-get-sick.

Veggies be damned, I said. I will get sick and I will love it, if only because

it will be my responsibility alone. I'll make mistakes and I'll learn.

So we make our mistakes. We drink too much, and curse the heavens the next day. We leave our jackets because there's no coat check, and we're sick for a week. We don't get our flu shots because we hate needles. We get the flu.

But what happens when our personal resources of indignant self-care aren't enough?

When I got my first urinary tract infection (UTI) in first year, I was alone. After confining myself within seconds of a toilet for a night and day, tearing up in pain and fear, I ambled over to Dal Health, found out I wasn't dying and got some antibiotics. I was told UTIs are normal, and was sent on my merry way.

Ten antibiotic courses down the road, I'm prone to yeast infections and still get recurrent UTIs. Only now I'm unresponsive to several kinds of antibiotics. Super.

In times of health-related anxieties, both physiological and mental, we students are left with multiple options. We can ask our friends, family, our coworkers, our tutors and our professors. We can peruse unverified Internet sources for hours, working ourselves into hypochondriac sweats. Libraries, bookstores and magazines all shout their answers at us too.

What kind of role are we to play in all of this? Is it truly responsible to accept every prescription without research, just because the doctor says so? Is it our place to self-diagnose when more reliable authorities are unavailable? And how about friend diagnosis? What do you do when you actually think your friend is lapsing into alcoholism, bipolar disorder, depression or bulimia?

In an effort to establish a more student-oriented place for health-related news — and discussion of said news — I'm launching this health column. I'll be inviting your feedback, anecdotes and suggestions throughout the year.

I want to assemble information to answer student questions about mental, physical and sexual health issues we face here throughout the year, in this busy, yet at times isolating, student-filled little city.

E-mail Rachel your health questions at vega_of_the_lyra@hotmail.

Environmental activists urge student action

ROSIE JACOBS NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

David Suzuki sees people in the world as bacteria growing in a test tube. After 40 minutes of growth, scientists warn that the test tube is running out of room and it needs to be changed. After one hour, the test tube can't support the bacteria. But only when the tube is brimming at the 55-minute mark do the bacteria realize.

Suzuki says we're now at the 59minute mark – and we still haven't changed.

Last Thursday world-renowned ecologist Suzuki and Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and water conservation activist, spoke at Dalhousie University, urging students to take action now in their communities to make the world more sustainable. Dal was their second stop in the 30-day tour across Canada that will end in Victoria, B.C. on Oct. 30.

To Suzuki and Barlow, sustainability is a lifestyle that is cyclical instead of linear, meaning all forms of consumption create waste that is reusable and fits into an ecological niche.

The two-hour event presented a range of Canadian activists such as Brendan Brazier and students representing SustainDal and the King's Students' Union.

Brazier, an ironman athlete and founder of Vega, a company that sells foods to promote an organic, plant-based diet, says reducing our ecological footprint can be as easy as changing our eating habits.

One of the examples he used is soil erosion. He argued overproduction of agriculture has led not only to the erosion of soil quality, but to the erosion of nutrients in food, since nutrients come from the earth.

He said malnutrition in our diet is "tied to the environment."

Suzuki told students via video conferencing they can't afford to ignore the upcoming federal election since these next four years will



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Activist Maude Barlow said governments need to enact laws protecting water.

determine not only the survival of the environment, but the survival of humanity.

"We all have to breathe the air," he said. "We have got to think about the big issue."

Despite all the statistics that Suzuki presented, such as 50,000 species going extinct every year, he still says sustainability is possible.

"We need hard targets in each area... and we can have sustainability in a generation," he said, suggesting these "hard targets" should focus on specific environmental issues and should have goals for each year, rather than a vague timeline.

Barlow sees water as the next major political issue.

She said Canadians need to see water as a global issue, as "we tend to see water as a consequence" of climate change, and it's already a concern in places such as Australia and Mexico City. She said impure water is the number one killer of children in the world, a number larger than those lost to AIDS and warfare combined. Barlow said governments need to enact laws that protect water because water doesn't belong to anyone and it's a human right.

Each speaker reflected on Canada's progress to a more sustainable future, including the opening of sustainability offices at Dal and at the University of King's College, that are happening in the Dal and the global community.

This tour showed the many different actions Dal students can take now to reduce their ecological impacts, either through joining a student society or by changing their everyday routines, such as eating less meat or buying fewer non-ecofriendly products.

NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

McMaster students may land housing bylaw

Students at McMaster University may be inking a deal with Hamilton city council to address the regulation of student housing. A committee made up of city councillor Brian McHattie, student union members and McMaster students will vote on this bylaw Oct. 14, reported The Silhouette.

McHattie said if this bylaw is

passes, landlords will have to meet specific standards in order to obtain a license. Without a license, landlords won't be permitted to rent out their houses. Landlords will also be required to pay \$250 per year for each house to get the

The new bylaw also proposes to limit the number of students permitted to live in a home.

Source: The Silhouette



Eco-friendly profs receive fund-

Five Ottawa researchers, including two Carleton professors, received \$135,634 from the Ontario government's Research Fund for eco-friendly research, reported The Charlatan.

Susan Bertram, an assistant professor in the department of biology, is researching how to target

grasshoppers that attack crops by using eco-friendly pest control.

Paul Simms is an assistant professor for the department of civil and environmental engineering. He and a team of five graduate students are studying how to better dispose of mining waste. The team is building a \$15,000 climate-controlled pit on Carleton campus.

Source: The Charlatan

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

N.S. prisoner accidentally

A convict was accidentally released from a Nova Scotia jail and is now back in custody, reported CBC.

The prisoner, Shane Captain Bernard Upshaw, was waiting for sentencing a conviction of break and enter, and theft and firearm convictions, but he mistakenly went free following his appearance in a provincial court in Dartmouth due to paperwork errors.

Upshaw should have been returned to the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Burnside, said a provincial justice department statement.

Later that night, he turned himself in to jail.

Last winter three prisoners were mistakenly set free during a period of less than one month.

Source: CBC



Soldiers hitting advance polls

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan at Kandahar Air Field and forwarding operating bases in the country can now vote, reported CTV.

In preparation for the Oct. 14 election, Canadian soldiers - approximately 2,500 of them - and Canadian civilians on military operations could cast their ballots for a candidate in their home ridings until Oct. 8.

Soldier Dave MacDonald said each party's stance on the role of Canadians in Afghanistan would affect his vote.

"The party that's going to support me the most while I'm over here is a big concern for me ... that's kind of the way I voted this year," said Cpl. Dave MacDonald.

Source: CTV

Business expert says politicians need wake-up call

The president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce said Canadian politicians are currently in denial about the financial crisis, reported CBC

Perrin Beatty said federal leaders have been avoiding the subject and talking about everything else.

"Ordinary Canadians, people who are middle aged today, planning for retirement, have seen much of their retirement savings evaporating this week in the stock exchange," said Beatty.

Last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the Canadian economy and banking system are in a better state than ones in the United States and Europe. Liberal leader Stéphane Dion said Harper is living in a bubble, signifying that a Liberal government would speed up investments in infrastructure and manufacturing.

Source: CBC

Atwood supports arts

Margaret Atwood said she went to hear Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe speak on Oct. 3 because he defended Canadian art and culture.

"I'm here because Mr. Duceppe understands the contribution that culture makes to our economy," she told CBC News at Toronto's Economic Club.

Duceppe spoke at a business luncheon in Toronto, following

the leadership debates on Oct. 1 and 2. During the debate, Duceppe grilled Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his government's proposal of \$45 million in cuts to arts and culture programs.

Duceppe said to the crowd in Toronto that arts and culture employs approximately one million Canadians and creates billions of dollars in revenue.

Source: CBC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

66.9 million:

U.S. viewers tuned into the U.S. vice-presidential debate Oct. 2, making it the most-watched in history, reported Nielsen Media Research.

Source: CBC

1 month ago:

the last time North Korean leader Kim Jong Il made a public appearance prior to Oct 2.

Source: CBC

13 years:

after being acquitted on murder charges, O.J. Simpson was pronounced guilty of stealing from two sports-memorabilia dealers on Oct. 4.

Source: CTV

European Union observers were sent to supervise the Russian pull-back and ceasefire in Georgia starting Oct. 5

Source: CBC

\$20M:

demanded in ransom by Somalian pirates who hijacked a Ukrainian ship with arms onboard.

Source: CBC

1 km:

set to be the height of the world's tallest building in Dubai.

Source: The Toronto Star

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GAZETTE "OPINIONS

Abort the protest

_etters to the editor

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

MICHELLE HAMPSON STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Twenty years after abortion was decriminalized in Canada, women still need better access to abortions.

The Health Sciences Centre at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital is currently the only place in Nova Scotia that provides open abortion access, and 85 per cent of abortions in the province are done there. Even so, a woman must have a referral from a doctor to get an abortion at the QEII.

The Morgentaler clinic in Fredericton, N.B. is the only other place in the Maritimes that performs elective abortions, but it costs \$550 or \$750, depending on the stage of pregnancy.

Last week pro-life protesters were standing outside the Victoria General Hospital complaining that the QEII provides women access to abortion.

One could argue that every single egg an ovary produces is a chance of life and that it has the right to live. All those potential children dying because they aren't fertilized by

sperm - how horrible!

True, this argument seems extreme, but so does the argument of pro-life advocates.

If anti-abortionists are so passionate about children's lives, why don't they protest more to protect children who are murdered in warfare? Every day children are bombed, shot, or burned by someone who has control over their fates. Those children have their lives stolen and have no one to defend and protect them.

What are the protesters thinking? Going through with an abortion is already a difficult decision to make and access is very limited. The pro-life movement will not be satisfied until it has completely eradicated the memory of safe, accessible abortions.

The protesters do not have a right to criticize unless they have been in that situation and even then, each person has different values and beliefs. Respect for these beliefs is important. If a pro-life woman gets unexpectedly pregnant, I will respect her choice to keep the baby. If I ever need an abortion, I want respect for my decision.



JOHN PACKMAN/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Katherine Giroux-Bougard, the Canadian Federation of Students' National Chairperson, waxes political.

Don't push your politics on me

JOHN PACKMAN
PHOTO EDITOR

Student lobbyists need to realize it's not 1968 anymore.

If you heard the speakers from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Public Service Alliance of Canada at the Students for Sustainability talk last Thursday, you'd think they were addressing the authors of the Port Huron Statement student manifesto.

Solidarity this, mobilization that, equality for all, blah, blah, blah.

Come on. Today's Dalhousie students aren't about to pick up placards and try to overwhelm the administration with a mass sit-in in the president's office.

I don't know what kind of pinko Kool-Aid those speakers were drinking but the only issue I have as a student is the \$6,000 I spend on tuition every year.

But if the administration approached me and said "John, we can lower your tuition on the condition

you've got to care heavily about municipal, provincial and federal politics, be very vocal about tuition cuts and give speeches about how students can do anything if they work together," I'm surrendering my tuition cuts on the spot.

To make the windbag speeches worse, the Stephen Harper bashing began during the fourth speech. Some wannabe politicos in front of me in their CFS shirts joined in with a chorus of "shame! Shame!"

Who says that any more? It's boorish and it makes you sound like a moron Member of Parliament.

I've never been in a situation where a friend was telling me he lost marks for making his margins too big and I have an overwhelming desire to interrupt him by shouting "shame!"

I came to hear an intelligent discussion about the environment. I didn't come to have a bunch of leftists push their politics on me and I didn't come to be reminded student unions wish they were trade unions. I'm not saying student lobbying is a bad thing. I'm extremely impressed when student politicians point out specific problems with university administrations. It takes knowledge and dedication that most students don't care to work toward. And even if you did a really great job at pointing out the problems, most students still won't care.

But I'm sick of student politicians describing students as an underprivileged class.

I'm sick of the same people using ancient rhetoric to try to pump students up. It's not creative and it's boring. Of course students are apathetic to these causes. No wonder students don't attend student government meetings even when they include free pizza.

If student governments want to stay relevant they need to recognize they're not trade unions and can't lead students on a mass strike. They need to embrace the smaller but more important roles they have on individual campuses.

to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violete this relies. The Co.

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters

for length and clarity. This publication will only

print submissions that its editorial board deems

zette may invite the author to revise the submis-

Re: Who's paying the bills? (Oct. 2)

Contributor Kaleigh Trace states that it rests on student's shoulders to "block militarism off-campus" in response to the apparent "increased military presence on-campus". She is referring mostly to the large recruit-

referring mostly to the large recruitment drive being done by the Canadian Armed Forces. Undoubtedly military recruiting ads will be placed on campus, and military recruiters will be present at career fairs as part

of this campaign.

Does Trace think that just because her personal political opinions do not agree with some of the policies of Canadian Forces that these recruiting campaigns should not happen on campus? Are Dalhousie students not intelligent enough to choose whether or not a career in the military would be right for them? I urge her to do some research, especially regarding the case of the University of Victoria in 2007, where the student union banned Canadian Forces recruiters from appearing at a career fair, only for the decision to be overturned by a tremendous backlash of students who believed it was undemocratic, and unfair for the Canadian Forces to not be represented. The Canadian Forces are a legitimate career option for many students: it helps pay their way through school. They are there to protect Canada and Canadian interests. They are not "fighting for oil, using depleted uranium in Afghanistan, or occupying Haiti". Having just come back from doing a tour of duty in Afghanistan myself, I can easily refute your first two accusations about the Canadian Forces. With regards to Haiti, maybe Trace and her colleagues at the Student Coalition Against War could do some research. Canada has about four staff officers in Haiti participating in a United Nations mission to bring stabilization and aid to Haiti.

I urge Dalhousie students to keep an open mind about our military. They put a lot of students (myself included)

Recently a Canadian Navy frigate

was sent to Haiti to provide humani-

tarian aid relief for the victims of

hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna and

Ike. Hardly a "military occupation."

through school, and serve as excellent part-time jobs. While you may not agree with what the Canadian Forces are doing, or with war in general, you cannot simply ban them from our campus. In the free and open society that we as Canadians are so lucky to live in, it is absolutely unacceptable to attempt such a thing.

Submissions to The Gazette opinions section

must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit

a list of sources along with articles to opinions@

dalgazette.ca. This publication only prints sub-

missions its editorial board deems to be void of

libellous and/or defamatory material. Submis-

sions are due at noon on the Saturday prior to

Sincerely, Daniel Campbell

Turn up the savings, turn down the heat

Dalhousie poses as a university that is ever concerned with energy saving, eco-friendly options and more importantly, hearing the voice of its students.

There have been a few articles in *The Gazette* lately about this energy issue, and how Dal plans to deal with it.

As a fifth-year student, I have had some class time experience in all of the university buildings except the law building. This fall, I have gotten so fed-up that I wish to tell Dalhousie administration to turn down the friggin' heat.

It's not winter yet. We just reached fall, and after walking to class, or to school from across town, we are hot! The classrooms don't need to be 25 degrees Celsius when it's still 19 or even 16 degrees outside. The Henry Hicks is the worst and a list could be generated in order of most stuffy and hot to most comfortable.

I propose we all dress for the weather and wear a sweater to class if we get cold instead of getting all hot during our commute and then not cooling off at all in class.

Not only would cooler classes make for easier learning and less "hot and bothered" syndromes, there would be money saved on heat and energy saved in general.

Tuition is high and I'm hot; so turn down the damn heat. At least until winter hits.

Sincerely, Erica Aver

Erica Averill, fifth-year health promotion

The Scientific Skeptic

Exploring the small scale



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

"We live in a time of extraordinary innovation and progress."

This was the phrase Don Eigler used to introduce his lecture "The Small Frontier" on Sept. 18, as part of the Guptill Memorial lecture series.

Eigler is an example of that innovation. He is a pioneer in the field of nanotechnology. In 1990, working at IBM's Almaden Research Center, Eigler spelled out the letters IBM by individually positioning 35 xenon atoms with a microscope.

The Guptill lectures always attract prominent physicists. Last year Dalhousie hosted Lisa Randall from the European Organization for Nuclear Research's Large Hadron Collider team, who talked about string theory and extra dimensions. The year before was Gerhard Ertl, who was awarded the

Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Nearly 50 years ago, physicist Richard Feynman gave famous lecture called "There's plenty of room at the bottom," in which he predicted the dawn of miniaturization. Although computers took up entire rooms at the time of his lecture, he predicted a time when computer circuitry would be on the scale of angstroms, the unit that equals one hundred-millionth of a centimetre.

He compared the human brain to the computers of the time, and suggested that we would soon have computers with human qualities such as pattern recognition, the ability to recognize items in pictures. Nowadays, most cameras come with facial recognition software, and the most advanced computers can recognize a cat from a dog in a photo just based on a human-drawn picture of a cat.

But computers have yet to become as small as possible. Though quantum computers, computers that use characteristics of quantum mechanics, are far off right now, Eigler's group is already making nanotech inventions, which are paving the way. One of Eigler's group's inventions, the quantum corral, led to the discovery of the quantum mirage effect, which may one day be used to store and transmit data. Moving several iron atoms into a

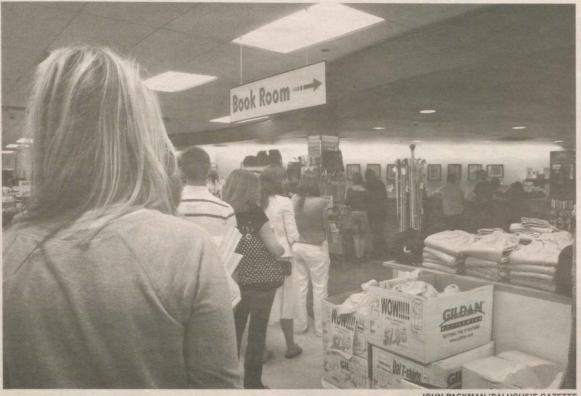
ring creates a quantum corral that can trap surface electrons inside, like a horse in a corral.

Even before we get to quantum mechanical computers, though, nanotechnology will make several breakthroughs in the miniaturization of computers. Computer wiring can be shrunken down to carbon nanotubes, and Eigler's group has also demonstrated that it is possible to create logic gates on the scale of molecules. Even now, there are products on the market that use the strength and lightness of carbon nanotubes, such as bike frames, tennis rackets and glass pedestrian bridges.

"The exploration has just begun," Eigler said at the end of his lecture.

Dal could be part of that exploration. We have the tools we need – a Scanning Electron Microscope, which I was lucky enough to use for my first-year nanotechnology research project, and several atomic force microscopes. The physics department is even considering purchasing for second-year students a scanning tunnelling microscope, which Eigler used back in 1990 to spell IBM

Dal students and researchers may become pioneers on the small frontier of the future.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Without an overpriced, overcrowded bookstore, what would students have to complain about during the first week of class?

Accept no substitutes for Dal bookstore

RYAN BOON STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Though alternative means of textbook purchasing may save some money, the experience of authentic university bookstore shopping has its advantages.

Why does anyone bother to shop in the Dalhousie bookstore?

Every year the student body grumbles about the price of texts, and every year there's at least one student paper hoping to expose the hypocrisy of bookstore prices with some inflammatory report. After all, when you can download everything on your reading list for free, buy it cheap second hand, or order it online for much less, why waste your time any money at the bookstore?

Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby says bookstore prices are comparable with other outlets.

"We conduct a regular price comparison with Chapters and Amazon and have found that most prices are within \$2 of the prices charged at the Dal bookstore," Crosby wrote in an email. "If there is a larger discrepancy with one of the online companies, it is usually because the company posted the American price and not the Canadian price."

He maintains that Dal's official textbook source offers the guarantee of up-to-date editions, easy return policies and friendly customer service.

So maybe the question really is, who doesn't bother to shop at the Dal bookstore?

Probably the same penny-pinching rebels who have always bucked the tides of conformity, choosing the more labourious task of hunting and pecking everywhere they can for the best deal on individual books. The rest of the student population seems happy to grab everything in one convenient stop and get back to intermittent periods of studying and binge drinking.

Yes, every September the lineups in the Student Union Building basement swell up with innocent new minds, high on their recently received student loans, lazy, rich or apathetic enough not to bother with alternate purchasing routes. And really, isn't that the true value of the bookstore?

Like so many wood-panelled shacks on the waterfront, the bookstore lures in newfound visitors with shiny, expensive souvenirs. Only instead of remembering your cruise to historic Halifax with a \$40 T-shirt, you get to take part in the frenzied life of a university student. It's both gift shop and theme park ride; a rollercoaster of intimidating textbooks, over-enthusiastic spirit wear, preposterously long lines and a general waste of your parents' money. Throw in a free 2-4 and STD test at the health clinic around the corner and you've got the authentic undergrad experience.

In the end, the bookstore presents a rite of passage, a privileged opportunity, to join countless students before you in complaining all year long about the price of the books you don't read for the classes you skip. That's a bargain if I've ever heard one.

Transforming the seeds of corporate misconduct

SKYE FRIESEN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Our generation is no stranger to the concept of corporate wrongdoing. From the infamous accounting at Enron to the suffering caused in India by Monsanto's genetically modified cotton, the capacity of big business to cause harm is painfully clear. But it will soon be our time to enter the workforce and, before we do, we need to be sure we have tested our own value systems and defined our own visions of corporate integrity.

Last Friday, we demonstrated our desire to engage with the issue by showing up en masse for author and activist Naomi Klein's appearance at Dalhousie. The crowd was so large it required two overflowing auditoriums.

Klein spoke about the greed and corruption that led to the recent Wall Street collapse.

The turnout for her speech was heartening because it shows that people have come to realize an important fact: If we fail to define our values, they will be defined for us.

I recently had the eye-opening experience of participating in law firm job interviews only two weeks into my first year of study. I came to law school with idealistic aspirations and an interest in international humanitarian law. Confronted with the interviews, I found myself contemplating corporate commercial practice.

I am not trying to suggest that all corporate activity is immoral. On the contrary, the April 2008 report by the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Special Representative of the Secretary General describes businesses working abroad as "powerful forces capable of generating economic growth, reducing poverty and increasing demand for the rule of law, thereby contributing to the realization of a broad spectrum of human rights."

However, businesses differ in their levels of commitment to corporate responsibility. For some, it means merely complying with government regulations; for others, it means taking an active role in integrating an articulated policy into the everyday life of the company.

In the course of the law firm interview process, I found that I was not only unsure of how to formulate questions regarding corporate responsibility practices, but that I was also unsure as to what I could expect from a law firm in this regard. Do firms have their own corporate responsibility policies or do they follow those of their clients? I became aware that if I accepted a job without grappling with these issues myself I could find myself blindly applying policies that I didn't necessarily agree with or understand.

It can be incredibly useful to have resources to draw on in the quest to define a personal vision of corporate responsibility. Such tools are available through the Calgary-based organization Integrity Bridges, which seeks to develop the capacity of individuals and companies to "navigate the complex integrity dilemmas we face in the 21st century."

These tools are useful to students who have yet to enter the workforce in that they provide insight into the nature of real corporate responsibility.

The integrity ladder is one of the tools available on the Integrity Bridges website. It is designed to help determine what the motivation is or should be behind a policy of corporate responsibility. The ladder begins with "How do I cover up?" and moves through compliance and sustainable practices to individual leadership, where decisions are made with regard for future generations.

Another tool is the simple reminder to make decisions "based on your values as a whole person." This process entails naming and embracing personal values and incorporating them into working life, rather than subscribing to the belief that the personal and professional realms exist as separate entities.

It is much easier to abdicate responsibility and let someone else define integrity for us than to engage in self-examination and to articulate our own visions of corporate responsibility. But if we are to transform the seeds of corporate misconduct around us and commit to true leadership, this is the path we must follow.

For more information, visit www. integritybridges.com.

Skye Friesen is a first-year law student who dreams of practicing international humanitarian law even though formal recruitment in this area is non-existent.









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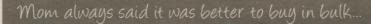
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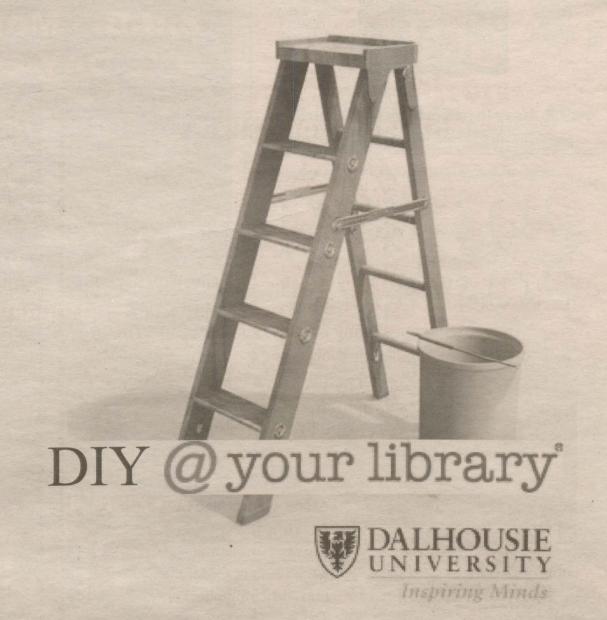




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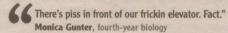
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STREETER

☐ What was the last text message you sent?







66 I'm getting dressed and then meeting a prof."
Nora Hammond, fourth-year philosophy



66 Oh I love me a Needs slushie."
Cat Powell, second-year IDS



Guess who doesn't have testicular cancer? This guy."

Geoff Brisbin, political science master's



66 Cool. I'm heading back atm."
Nick Foran, first-year linguistics



66 Probably but call me tommarow."
Maria Glowacka, fourth-year forensic psychology



66 Quick sess after class?" Ariana Smith, second-year IDS



"AIRSHIP HINDENBURG HAS CAUGHT FIRE STOP SEND WORD TO FIRE HALL STOP OH THE HUMANITY STOP."
Nick Khattar, fourth-year telegraphy.

HOT OR NOT

7 нот:	Ultimatums	vit	NOT:	Deadlines
T HOT:	Group showers	र्ध	NOT:	Group toilets
T HOT:	Wool sweaters	d	NOT:	Mutton pants
T HOT:	Chili and cheese	of	NOT:	Arteries
T HOT:	MENSA	औ	NOT:	Rejection letters
1 нот:	Blind dates	ø	NOT:	Tasteless dates
T HOT:	Man's right to be free	d	NOT:	Underpants
T HOT:	Keeping your word	d	NOT:	Losing your pubes
1 нот:	Being on hold	d	NOT:	Waiting in person
1 нот:	Your girlfriend's cooking	d	NOT:	The antidote

OVERHEARD AT DAL

At the Grawood, during the federal debates

GIRL: "Do you think Jack Layton has ever done porn?"

GUY: "Obviously! Look at that 'stache! Thats a porn stache!"

GIRL: "God, I hope it wasn't with Olivia Chow."

Drunk guy at Risley:

"Oh my God, you have a fish! Do you ever just take him out and put him in a ball and let him roll around? You know, like a hamster?"

In Risley caf:

"And you shouldn't have sex with your brother."

Girl watching TV:

"Oh my God, a show about puppies and boys! It's like... my life!"

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 Nick Khattar in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by Nick Khattar himself, The Gazette and or its staff.





Ruby and Rebekah

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ARTS EDITOR

People have been talking about Rebekah Higgs.

Since her debut solo album in 2007, her name is often heard in the same sentence as Feist's. She takes it as a compliment. She hears she might be the next new big thing from Halifax. She smiles and keeps working. It's not that she isn't excited by the hype but she has no interest in being a flash in the pan.

Now, with the upcoming album release of her side project, Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees, Higgs, 25, is preparing for another step toward making music a sustainable lifelong career.

On stage, Ruby Jean belts out melodic dance tracks garbed in glittery sequins but in person Higgs is slightly more subdued; she is soft spoken but even on a grey Halifax afternoon sports a hint of sequin on her vintage blouse.

For Higgs, inspiration comes from the past. She came up with her alter ego by combining the names of her grandmothers, Ruby and Jean. She collects vinyl records and loves vintage clothing.

"I have a really serious thrift store addiction so whenever I travel or tour I always collect things," says Higgs. "I have a lot of crazy outfits."

For the moment, second-hand shopping will have to wait.

It's a busy time for the Halifax musician and there is no rest for the weary. Having just finished performing with the Exclaim! Wood, Wire and Whiskey Tour with the likes of Jason Collett, Higgs is putting the final touches on her debut CD of Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees with band mates Colin Crowell, Sean MacGillivray and Jason Vautour. The debut is set for release on Jan. 13.

"I'm just trying to take it one day at a time, record and write songs and be really happy with the product," says Higgs.



"Either you exceed people's expectations or you don't and you get forgotten about," says local singer Rebekah Higgs.

She released her self-titled debut album in 2007 with Outside Music. Early on critics and fans characterized Higgs' sound of sweet yet confessional lyrics mixed with an electronic edge as "folktronic."

While the tracks on the debut Ruby Jean album are distinctively more dance oriented than her solo CD, Higgs says roots of Ruby Jean's sound are evident in some of her earlier songs such as "Apples."

"I wanted to put something on my first album so that people could listen to it and not really know what to expect on the next album – to give me that creative freedom to do whatever I wanted," says Higgs. "I didn't want people to classify me as just writing pretty love songs."

For Ruby Jean's debut CD, Higgs wants to harness the energy of the band's live performance and keep the album upbeat.

"It'll be like a live show only a little more compressed and organized," she says.

The corners of her mouth turning up whenever she starts to talk about it, Higgs appears genuinely excited about the band's debut album – not anxious. She says collaborating with a group of other musicians for this project has allowed her to be less critical of herself and simply enjoy the final product.

"I actually feel separated from it a little bit," says Higgs of the Ruby Jean album. "When I put out my solo album I got really anxious and nervous about it because that's me putting myself out there but with Ruby Jean I feel like I have a bit of a mask. It's a band and (the pressure) gets divided between all of our shoulders instead of just mine."

With Higgs' love of all things vintage, it is appropriate that *Ruby Jean* and the *Thoughtful Bees* will be released on CD and on vinyl. The vinyl record will include a digital download of the featured tracks.

For Higgs it is not only the tangible elements of the past that fascinate and inspire her but also the cultural including her own unique family traditions in music. As a child, Higgs was encouraged to pursue piano and violin lessons.

"Everybody in our family plays an instrument or sings and we would have these big family parties that usually revolved around us all picking up our instruments and playing together," she says.

She didn't pick up a guitar until she was in her 20s, though she says the transition was easier given her string background.

The Halifax music scene has also helped shaped Higgs and sharpened her tenacious attitude.

"It's definitely challenged me to be a better musician in a way because when there are so many good things you have to step it up or you fall off the radar," says Higgs of the city's musical diversity and quality. "Either you exceed people's expectations or you don't and you get forgotten about."

Thus far, Higgs feels she is making progress. She spent the summer playing festivals and touring in Atlantic Canada. Her CD sales and digital downloads have been OK, she says, but she knows she'll have to spend a lot of time on the road if she wants to get her name out to the general public.

"Now with the digital era it's going to go back to the old style where musicians really only made money playing live and I'm just going to have to tour more," says Higgs. "I've accepted that kind of lifestyle and I really love it."

She may just be the next big thing as a solo act or with Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees, but for Higgs it's all about keeping busy and believing in her own talent.

"You've just got to keep doing it. It could take awhile. I could be touring the way I'm touring now for 10 years and no one's going to give a shit and then one day," Higgs pauses and then smiles. "I'll have an ITunes hit."

Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees will be performing Oct. 11 at The Marquee with We Say Party! You Say Die!

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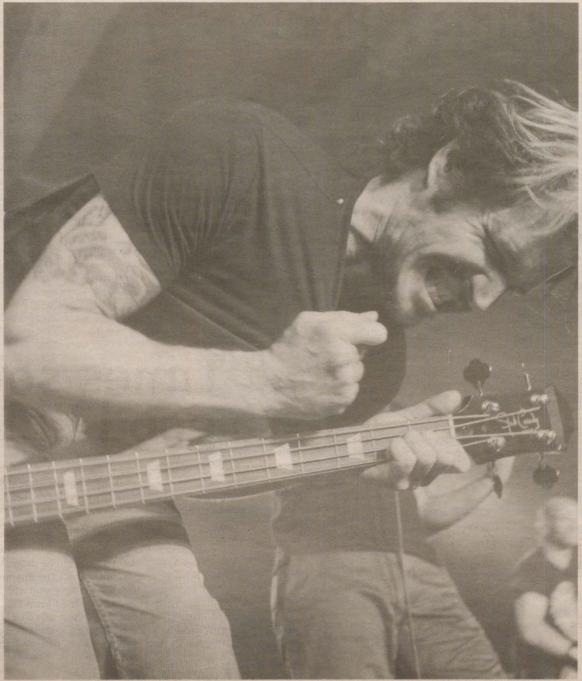
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GAZETTE "ARTS & CULTURE



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

At Bad Religion's Halifax Forum show last week, "all ages" really meant all ages.

Just because you're old doesn't mean you're dead

Old school band Bad Religion appeals to new school punks

CANDICE CASCANETTE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Punk rock is far from dead. Bad Religion proved it last week when the band played a packed show at the Halifax Forum, the last stop on their most extensive Canadian tour

"We picked your town to be last in line simply because we wanted you to have all those other cities as rehearsals, so that your show would be the best," lead singer Greg Graffin told the crowd. "We're well rehearsed, and we're gonna need it for this song."

Launching into one of their most aggressive signature songs, "I Want to Conquer The World", band members worked up the crowd until a full-fledged mosh pit was underway.

One of the genre's best examples, Bad Religion has played a crucial role in the longevity and popularity of punk rock. Since 1982 they have released 14 albums and they're set to release another next year. Each release has been true to their political roots, one of the many reasons they've stuck around for so long.

On this particular night "all ages" really meant all ages. Bad Religion fans young and old mingled together and thrashed to the music. A handful of fans, all well over 50, played an active role in the ongoing circle pit. The scent of sweaty teenage angst hung in the air as power chords resonated through every inch of the large venue. The band played a balanced combination of old and new songs, reflecting the mixed ages of the fans.

ecting the mixed ages of the fans.
Just before the show I spoke with

Jay Bentley, Bad Religion's bassist. Bentley is old enough to have a teenaged son, so the last thing I expected were bunk beds and white string lights inside the tour bus. He poked fun at his son for eating his vegetables without being told.

"That's not punk rock. You're a poser," Bentley joked.

"One of the things I've noticed more is guys my age coming back (to our concerts) with their kids, saying, 'I saw you in '88 and I'm bringing my son to see you,'" he went on to tell me. "And that's totally rad."

Although Bad Religion's stamina has proved that punk rock music is still alive and well, the scene has changed a lot since it emerged in the 1980s.

"I think the term hardcore now means something very different from what it was back then," Bentley says.

Barricades that separate the audience from the band are another of the more drastic changes, according to Bentley.

"I didn't like the barricade at first until I started seeing what happened to people without it," he says. "What the barricade really provides for everyone is an alleyway to get out. I know there's been talk of not being allowed to get on stage, and I say to people, when we were kids, we weren't allowed to get on stage either. But we did. So stop fucking complaining and just get on stage, and if you can't then you're a loser."

With the mainstream success of punk rock Bentley says the genre has started to question itself.

"What is it? Who is it?" he asks.

"Maybe musically it has lost a bit of direction. But that's fine. It's all art."

He says new technology means older bands must adapt and cater to a wider audience.

"With 100,000 bands on MyS-pace and 10,000 bands out on the road any given day, people are going, 'what do I want to see? What do I want to listen to?' It's no longer a matter of going to the record store to the little punk section, flipping through and going 'well, these guys look cool.' All you've got to do now is hop on a computer and sample bits of music."

Bad Religion is said to be one of the main bands that revived the punk rock scene after the genre had been declared dead. But Bentley jokes that he deserves full credit.

"It was mostly me. I revived the scene myself. It was a mouth to mouth resuscitation."

But he really rejects the idea. Bentley notes that *Suffer*, the album that supposedly marks the punk rock comeback, only sold 600 copies.

"If that's saving something, it must have been pretty pathetic," Bentley laughs. "All I know is we went on tour for the *Suffer* album, played in front of 20 people every night who said, 'fuck you, you suck.' And we came back owing a thousand dollars."

The Bad Religion relic explains that punk rock's recovery had more to do with indie record labels starting up in the late 1980s.

"Bands, like us, were making music for no other reason than just to do it. And that's really where the credibility factor came in."

When the stars go blue

Blue Man Group conquers the Maritimes

MATT RITCHIE STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

In the late 20th century and early 21st century, The Blue Man Group was the most buzzed-about performance group next to the everexpanding Cirque de Soleil empire. The group's blend of new age electronic prowess, classical percussion mixed with electro rock and miming made the group a household name. Computer companies and other advertisers quickly jumped on the members' geeky electronic appeal and made them superstars. They became modern-day *Three Stooges*.

The Blue Man Group graced Halifax for the first time ever last Wednesday. Even though the group's hype has died down in a post-September 11 world, the blue men set themselves apart from other acts gracing the Metro Centre stage this fall. The house was packed except for the upper bowl, seating with such a bad view that you would have to be an idiot to purchase those tickets.

The show started with a little-known street painter who created beautiful pop art interpretations of Mick Jagger, Bono, and Jimi Hendrix in less than 20 minutes. His ability to construct great works enticed the crowd and would have made Andy Warhol fear for his fan base.

During a quick change for the performers, screens prompted audience members to wave their cell phones anytime a question mark appeared. Once the show got under way, the crowd of young and old became feverish.

The Blue Man Group accurately named this tour "The Megastar Tour." Three guitars, three drum sets, keyboards and two main singers accompanied the percussion heavy blue men. This added to the rock heaviness of the show, but the real treat was seeing the Blue Man Group

perform using pipes, long tubes, and giant drums.

The strength of the performance relied heavily on the clowning around on stage. The group performed feats such as catching gumballs in their mouths from 30 feet away and finding funny new ways of making beats using common plumbing items.

The downside was the heavy rock music. In between these foolish pieces was an array of cliché dark alternative rock with mediocre lyrics. More than one crowd member near me complained, saying they wished the songs would hurry up and end.

Near the end of the set the members busted into a few 30-second numbers by the likes of Rush, Madonna and Devo. Out of nowhere they performed their version of the highly neglected Pink Floyd song "One of These Days I'm Going to Cut You Into Little Pieces." The music nerd in me couldn't have been more excited at this bass-heavy rendition.

The most excitement came at the end of the show when the band performed The Who's "Baba O'Riley" using piping to play the synthesizer parts. The sound was spot on. If only the female vocalist had put a little more enthusiasm into the singing instead of pulling off a mediocre Roger Daltrey.

Finally the show ended as local hero Bubbles from *The Trailer Park Boys*, took the stage during the encore to read the names of the band members.

All in all it was a fun concert with a distinct Maritimes feel. The rock music was a bit boring and it probably would have been better to have seen the group on a previous tour to really appreciate the complex percussion involved in the music.

If I wanted to see a redundant rock concert I would have bought tickets to see Lenny Kravitz. That aside, it was a memorable evening.



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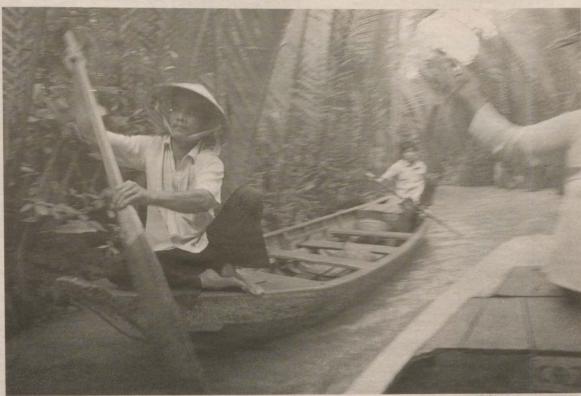
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The book girl walked with tourists along the Saigon River.

DANIEL BLENICH/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Book Girl in Ho Chi Minh City

DANIEL BLENICH ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

It was in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam that I had my fist encounter with a "book girl," though I later discovered them in Cambodia as well.

The name lacks imagination as book girls are simply that – girls with shoebox-sized containers filled with 10 to 15 books. The term is an unofficial title I heard a British ex-patriot give them, but to be fair there are boys as well. The boys often only use the books as a front; they really want to sell you the more profitable drugs hidden in the box beneath them.

The first book girl I met was probably my age making her amongst the oldest; most of the ones I have seen are no more than 13 and I would not be surprised if many were younger.

I was walking along the Saigon River and she walked beside me. At first, the usual formalities of nationality and age were asked as is common amongst almost all street hawkers who can muster up enough English to do so.

Her English was fairly good. I would later discover this was more than likely meant she had been peddling to tourists for the better part of her life. At first, she waved the *Lonely Planet* Vietnamese phrase book in front of me. Little did she know I had spent the last few weeks in Hong Kong and China getting taken for more money than I would like to admit, but my naïveté was slowly beginning to pass and I was determined not to fall into any more scams.

"No thank you," I said without breaking stride. I didn't even look at her box. Avoiding eye contact and not slowing down, I've learned, are two effective ways to evade being suckered.

Undeterred, she met my pace and held out her box so that the books contained within unavoidably met my vision. There was *Vietnam*, a copy of *Life of Pi* and a history book on the Vietnam War along with several others

I had more books than I could read over the remainder of my trip among my belongings back in my room. Books I ever so carefully loaded and unloaded in and out of my backpack every few days. In the end, they all ended up in rough shape by getting bent when my bag was haphazardly thrown onto a luggage carrousel, or by absorbing water like a sponge when I got caught in the rain on a small transport heat in Theiland

port boat in Thailand.

Now, while walking and glancing at the titles, I happened to notice one in particular. It was perhaps the thinnest book in the box: *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene. Two days earlier, I wouldn't have noticed its blue cover at all, but Greene's is a pretty big name in Ho Chi Minh City, so it's hard not to hear about his famous Indo-China war novel. I stopped walking. The girl knew she had me hooked.

She told me I could have it for far more than it was worth. So goes the game of buying from hawkers.

"I only have three dollars," I lied.
She then unabashedly told what
my hardened self now refers to as a
sap story. Peddlers tell these tales
because they are effective marketing
tools. Almost every person trying to
sell something in South East Asia has
one. They are more often than not
heart-wrenching tales of their observable poverty and are sometimes

lies. Unfortunately, many are true. Yet one quickly realizes that he could easily expend the entire contents of his wallet tending to the needy and still any change would go almost entirely unnoticed.

Her story pulled another few thousand dong from my pocket and I paid the equivalent of \$5 for my copy of the book that was packaged in a thin cellophane wrapper. I put it in my bag and forgot about it.

She walked off. I didn't see where to but I imagine she went looking for the next unassuming tourist to sell her wares.

I went to the murky riverside and took a few black and white photos that will never show the awful brown water or tell of the foul smell it gave off.

When I got back to my room, I found the book in my bag and took it out of its covering. I thumbed through the pages only to discover that I had been sold a very poor counterfeit. Photocopied pages had been printed on poor quality paper, the typeface unclear and just legible enough to ensure that the book can be read without too much eyestrain. I should have said I only had \$2 and paid no more than \$4 for the book. Despite my best efforts, I had been duped yet again.

I thought back to my earlier encounter with the girl. When we finally settled on the price I would pay, the book girl told me that it was too little, but said that I must read the book so as to "understand the trials of the Vietnamese people." While I've never read *The Quiet American*, I'm certain that I learned more about the trials of the Vietnamese people from my experience with the book girl than from the story that she sold me.



hings hip and artsy in Halifay

Fast Times in a melange of all things hip and artsy in Halifax.

Fast Times set for a good time

ALEX MCPHEDRAN ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Fast Times will be celebrating its one-year anniversary Oct. 9 at Tribeca.

"It is a party where anything goes," says Fast Times organizer Aaron Siegner about the monthly music and art show.

For those in-the-know, Fast Times has become a bit of an institution in Halifax - a monthly mélange of all things hip and artsy. With everything except Top 40 music, it is an alternative to a night in the clubs.

The event showcases the work of local artists, the talents of local music acts, and local and visiting DJs.

Siegner, a University of King's College graduate of Political Science and French, is also well-known for his talents as DJ Double A.

Siegner started Fast Times with two other university students, Brett McDermott and Jenner Berger. The two have since left the project for school and travel.

Siegner says Fast Times is definitely a labour of love.

Fast Times, originally financed out of Siegner's own pocket, has since gained sponsors including Eclipse Clothing Line, CD Plus, and Soled Out Sneakers while McCauslan Breweries provides the hospitality.

"There's a good chance you'll get free stuff," says Siegner.

Local graphic artist James White is set to display his retro-cosmic series at the upcoming show alongside local musical act The Rhythm Method, a female rap group with a sound like "The Insane Clown Posse meets your babysitter," says band member Sasha "Snake Chains" Garrey.

The female trio, also including Angie "Hand job" Chapin and Kristen "Xtava" Finley have been together for almost two years.

"We let it all hangout," says Garrey. "There will be people who love our music, people who don't know what to do, and people who will leave."

DJ Vinyl Ritchie, travelling from Vancouver, will also be making an appearance at the upcoming show.

"Fast Times is always fun. People are open minded and ready to dance," says Garrey.

The party continues with Fast Times Oct. 9 at Tribeca, 1588 Granville St., from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at CD PLUS on Barrington Street.



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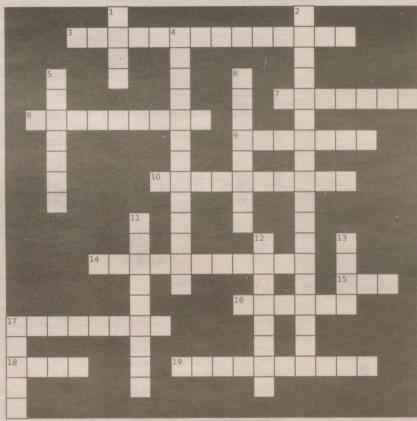
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16 Peggy Hill's favourite

Q is worth 10 points

18 Holding Europe may prove impossible

19 Bismarck, for example

It's pop-o-matic

"King me!"

13 Scarlett, kitchen, lead pipe

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17 Apologize

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TI, Soffy 12. Monopoly 6. Checkers 11. Candyland 5. Trouble

19. Battleship 18. Risk

10. Balderdash 7. Dead end

Crossword Answers:

The scales that you have been putting yourself on are unrealistic. You have been an escapist lately trying to master the art of running away. Now comes the time to face the facts of reality. You are going to have to start doing the dishes if you want something to eat off of. You make a dash for it, because you would rather flee the scene than make a real decision in life. Stop being so narcissistic and realize that your big head just means that you're smarter than most people, not better looking. You are still a caterpillar waiting to get your wings, so slow down and eat a leaf.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

You have been extra passionate this week, showing your emotions like that of a ripe banana. You are more clever than you let show to the average Joe, but those who know you well know your smarts. You have been swigging on the dank stuff long enough to know that the mirage someone is trying to lead you to is just a reflection of water from the sky. Show how loyal you really can be by protecting the dynamic of your production. Chocolate milk may make you gassy, but it is one heck of a delicious treat with pizza.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 21)

You are an archer able to point your arrow and hit the target. Richter scales around the world can measure your enthusiasm. Do not let it bother you when some ant in the earth does not seem to want to be your friend. There are plenty of plankton in the sea.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 20)

You look so good they want to know why you work there. You are an extremely resourceful person that can make a designer shoe out of a cardboard box. You have been feeling a bit lackadaisical lately, but that is all about to change as you get a burst of energy in your lazy-ass sign at the beginning of this week. Your wit will bring you all the money you have been missing in the past weeks. A penguin can jump six feet in the air. Now show that you can do the same.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

You've cranked the volume up to the highest level. The tomatoes in your garden are ripe and just dying, quite literally, to become ketchup. So get your stomping feet ready to smother some fruit. Show your rebellion by wearing a pair of socks whilst doing it.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

You Pisces are very easily fooled and some might even call you gullible. So be cautious when a little white butterfly tries to tell you something is different than how it is. You are a big fish swimming through a sea of wonderful, so stop recognizing all the bad and start noticing how beautiful all the coral is around you. You are about to receive a message in a bottle that has been thrown off a pirate ship especially for you.

ARIES (MARCH 21- APRIL 19)

You are known for your boisterous sense of humor. Keep one of your friends in good spirits when he or she is down in the trenches later this week. Your smile can brighten up the darkest rumor, and your jokes can bring a carrot to a rabbit's mouth. If you are feeling restless, pump yourself up a bit until you've kicked yourself into high gear. Your mates don't want to make you walk the plank, so pull those

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

You are about to set sail for a trip down memory lane, whether they be good memories or bad memories you want to remember is up to you. Being the good-natured Taurus that you are - you can be depended on to do the right thing. You've been plundering away searching for buried treasure. Don't let yourself be cast away into the sea like the gold you are looking for. Go ahead and get daytime drunk if you want. It's the pirates' way.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

When all your mates are telling you to abandon ship, you know it is best to do otherwise. A prospector has been a little too inquisitive and is trying to trick you into mining for gold in the wrong spot. You are twice the fun of a regular human being so start using that to your advantage. Rely on your colourful imagination to put you on the right path. Release the chains of the unknown that have been holding you back. Ahoy matey! Make yourself known to the great wide world

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Your natural intuition is that which guides you through life. You are one of the most endearing signs that is deserving of respect. So do not take anything you do not deserve when the monkey starts laughyou are lucky

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

9

थ

You can raise your flag to the fact that your arrogance and pushy attitude are going to pay off big time in the next week. You are the lion whose mane can never be tamed. So when that lustful someone tries to make it seem like they made progress, that's all they really wanted. As long as you try hard, you've done your best. In the still of the night, don't let yourself become shark bait but don't be the predator either. Make love like a dolphin and the noise will follow.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

You are the virgin mind that likes to assume the best. Your perspective in life halts your analytical skills. Place yourself in the large shoes of another. If you display your passion, make sure no fine young spy is watching from an undisclosed location. The industry you plan on infiltrating has bad piping so make sure to get that colon clearing you need. Nobody likes a clogged drainage system. Be generous to those plants around you that are in need of water. The earth will thank you later.

Martina Jacubchik-Paloheimo

E-gaming for excellence

SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Evan Oberman can play all his favourite sports without leaving the

The second-year business management student is the president of the Dalhousie E-Sports Society, a ratified society that represents Dal against other schools in the rapidly growing field of competitive video

Oberman is also the founder of the Varsity E-Sports League (VESL), owned by parent company Varsity

Oberman got serious about egaming back in the Nintendo 64 days. Heavily involved in the Toronto gaming community, he made several cameos in the online TV series Pure Pwnage, a mockumentary that follows the life of a pro-gamer

With an international video game tournament featured as a welcome event prior to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and professional video game matches regularly televised in Korea, Oberman has quietly placed himself and Dal at the centre of the global phenomenon that competitive e-sports has become.

Not only is he an avid gamer, he has dedicated himself to building the sport from the ground up in Canada and the U.S. His company is the driving force organizing a North American league for e-sports at the varsity level.

Less than a year since its creation, the VESL already counts 29 participating schools from Dal to California State University.

Although North America lags behind Asia in the mainstream popularity of e-sports, there is strong participation on campuses where competitive gaming is offered. The University of Toronto has an e-sports club with 600 members, and while Dal's e-sports club doesn't have nearly as many members, they hold their own, winning the first ever e-sports tournament hosted by Dal last winter.

As far as recruitment goes, word of mouth is the most important source of new members. Anyone interested in joining the society should "just want to have fun," says Oberman. Participation is not exclusive to the couch or to cyberspace: members meet up for games bringing their gear with them, allowing for strong communities to develop around gaming.

The society competes in a number of different games including the

ever-popular Counter-Strike, Team Fortress, Halo, Call of Duty, Starcraft and others. Oberman points out that a gamer is simply a person who enjoys video games

What do e-sports and athletics have in common?

"It would literally be everything." replies Oberman, "When you look at what makes up a sport by definition, it has everything except the intense physical labour; but if you ever try carrying around a 30-inch and a really big CPU (central processing unit), that's your physical activity right there."

Above all, the challenges of esports are mental, Oberman explains as he leans over his sleek laptop.

Pulling up a definition of the word "sport" he continues, "teamwork, communication, competition, just as much if not more practice has to go into it. It's a very team oriented activity; we go over plays just like in football, if you ask most competitive gamers they played basketball or football and take the skills they learned and apply them to gaming." Physical fitness is an advantage in high levels of video game competitioin, as breathing, blood flow, reaction time and stamina become important elements of the sport. There are stretches and exercises that can be done specifically to enhance players' performances.

It's not only the players who are taking their sport seriously. Major competitions offer prizes of up to \$500,000 USD and Dal E-sports itself enjoys corporate sponsorship.

"The way poker is now ... it's going to get to that point and keep going," says Oberman. "They already had the Digital Games as the intro for the Olympics. It's got so much corporate backing aside from the fans wanting it - the sky's the limit.'

In addition to the E-sports Society and VESL, Oberman is organizing next weekend's third annual "Frag For Cancer" non-profit gaming tournament to raise a goal of \$10,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The event will be held at the Student Union Building and will feature Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Halo 3, Rock Band and Defense Ancients.

The tournament will feature a range of tournaments and games, food, drinks and prizes such as a new laptop.

When asked whether the esports team has uniforms, Oberman

"Not yet."

Sport retort



Virtual reality



NICK KHATTAR SPORTS EDITOR

While I sat alone at the bar on Saturday, watching the Milwaukee Brewers escape elimination and waiting for someone to say "Sir, I think you've had enough", I imagined how many baseball fans out there had already played this very same game. Not in their minds, or on the field of course, but at home, on their respective video game consoles.

I remembered back to my early years when in the days leading up to playoff time, me and my brother would fire up the ole Sega and engage in virtual-sporting playoff battle. The idea was to video game predict the outcome of the upcoming real life playoffs. I still don't think I ever managed to win the Toronto Maple Leafs a Stanley Cup.

Then I came across an article from the Canadian Press about Electronic Arts' (EA) 2008-09 NHL simulation. According to the simulation, which presents no details on accuracy, the Detroit Redwings will be taking home the cup again. I'll save you the rest of the simulations' predictions for the 2008-2009 NHL season, but I assure you they are vastly more un-inspiring than being a dedicated Leafs fan.

In 2006, EA predicted the Ottawa Senators would win. Wrong. In 2007 the company said the San Jose Sharks would win. Man, did they miss the mark there. They even predicted that this year the Leafs would finish 14th in the east with 34 wins. Are you kidding me? Even Toronto head coach Ron Wilson isn't that optimistic.

Anyway, after such a bad success rate, why would they even bother telling us about their video gaming prophecies anymore? I can't even imagine how much money EA puts into legitimizing and broadcasting a full NHL season video game simulation.

Perhaps they are onto something with this whole "simulation" thing. With constant advances in video graphic technology and broadcasting quality, watching games from home has become a far more stimulating and engaging experience.

Take, for example, EA's Virtual Playbook technology used on ES-PN's football programs. The technology allows "television analysts to highlight, critique and dissect on-field action more intimately than ever before," EA Sports president Peter Moore said in a release on ESPN's website.

Essentially the technology creates a simulation of a game, with realistic-looking virtual players standing next to TV commentators in the studio, creating an "augmented reality." This form of virtual reality is widely used in TV, movies and now, to lesser degree, in video game consoles such as Nintendo's

If visual graphic companies are not there yet, they will soon be at a point where they can create seamless re-creations of real life subjects. The box office hit Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow was almost entirely shot on a "digital backlot", blending live actors with computer created surroundings.

Since powerful people of the world have already spent so much time simulating things - natural disasters, terrorist attacks, biological development, professional sports why not take the extra step and virtual create some reality. I don't mean they should go all Matrix on our asses or anything, but what if wars weren't fought on land or sea, but instead in a giant arena, with

two teams at video game consoles? Geez, would it ever save a lot of time and money. And lives.

OK, maybe we can't start fighting wars with Nintendo Wiis, but what about professional sports? Certainly those could be good candidates for virtual creation. Sure a few players might be upset and some fans might riot, but give it 50 or 60 years and no one would even remember what it felt like to take a rogue fly ball to the kisser.

With the growing popularity of video gaming and the world of e-sports starting to gain notoriety, who's to say that the inefficiency of professional sports will be tolerated in the next 100 years? Maybe it's time we start looking elsewhere for sporting glory. Like the Spartathlon, the 246-kilometre race from Athens to Sparta along the route soldier Pheidippides followed when he ran to seek reinforcement for the Spartans. I guess you could simulate that race pretty easily too, but why bother when all it encompasses is a dude and some running

There is something to be said about real live humans battling each other, but like all fads, this too will pass. Do you remember the video game Mech Wars? In it, you were inside a giant robot fighting other robots. That game was awesome because it posed a new form of competition beyond human capabilities. Or how about the original Battle Bots game? That game was great because it presented something new and innovative that allowed us to imagine athletic competition beyond what was possible of mere mortals. Seriously, there are only so many times you can get excited from a home run or a triple deek.

I suppose the idea of virtual reality professional sports is pretty Jules Verne science fiction of me, but come on, wouldn't you rather live in a world where a Cubs vs. Whitesox final could happen?







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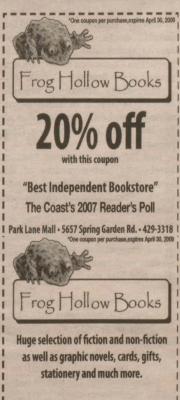




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GAZETTE "SPORTS

All the King's men couldn't win

DYLAN MATTHIAS STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It looked like the University of King's College Blue Devils men's soccer team would take three points from their Sunday game against the Mount Saint Vincent Mystics. But they couldn't quite get a third goal, and in the end, it hurt them.

The cross-town rivalry lived up to its expectation, and was a physical, exciting encounter, with the Blue Devils and the Mystics tying 2-2 by the end.

It took only 12 minutes for the first player to get injured, with the Mystics' Bryce Crosby going off after receiving a knock to the face.

King's scored immediately after that off a corner kick. After a huge scramble Brendan Parsley found the ball and laced it to the top of the goal.

His lead stood for only two minutes, though, as the Mystics' Stephan Sears broke through the middle of the King's box and rolled one past keeper Josh Viner to equalize for the

Despite getting two balls behind Viner but not into the net, the Mount couldn't manage to get into the half on equal footing. The Mystics wasted no time in attacking in the second half. A foul on the edge of the penalty area led to an appeal for a penalty kick, but only a free kick was forthcoming, which Mark Harnish drove low for King's keeper Viner to save.

The Mystics missed several other grand opportunities, unable to convert as the game headed into its first hour, with the ball rolling three inches in front of the goal. Viner was eventually able to pounce.

Mount Saint Vincent had a glori-

ous chance after about 75 minutes, with a shot hitting a Mystics striker before falling to Conner Gormley, who managed to shoot almost straight up in the air from four yards out, putting his shot up over the bar.

Another penalty shot was denied in the 76th minute, but the large number of vocal Mystics supporters wouldn't have to wait long.

Just as things were looking dire, Mystics striker Mark Harnish broke into the King's half. He slid the ball across to Luke Bokma, putting him in alone. Bokma made no mistake, driving a shot across the goal and into the bottom corner. A huge roar erupted from the stands as the supporters celebrated the equalizing goal.

Both teams toyed with the idea of scoring again, but neither was able to find a full-fledged chance in the final 10 minutes.

King's women mystified by MSVU Mystics

DYLAN MATTHIAS STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The women's soccer match between the University of King's College Blue Devils and the Mount Saint Vincent University Mystics had been hailed as a derby match between cross-town rivals - but that only happens when they both show up to

The King's team didn't arrive until the second half, which made winning the match difficult, to say the

The Mystics opened quickly, with Amanda Doyle breaking into the left side of the box and beating Blue Devils' Krista Bishop with a low

The Mystics had several more opportunities before Sarah Parker capitalized on a King's mistake to score the Mount's second goal. Rather than head the ball back the King's defender used her chest, and her pass to the keeper lacked enough power for Bishop to grab it. Parker swooped in and scored easily.

After that the Blue Devils seemed to awaken slightly and began to come forward and even get the better of the Mystics. Keeper Breagh MacDonald was forced into a solid save at the near post.

The game went back and forth with great energy, with the Mount managing to counter-attack several times. Doyle nearly scored again, volleying just past the right post from about 10 yards.

About two minutes later, a ball was rolled back to Bishop again. She went to kick it and missed completely. The ball rolled through to Doyle, who tapped it into an empty goal for

The bright spot of the first half for King's had to be Hye-Yeon Jang, who held the ball up very well in midfield and showed tremendous creativity. In the second half Jang was joined by a few other players who began to settle in and get chances. Neesha Madhvani, who struggled in the first half, managed to find Allie Akers right after the restart.

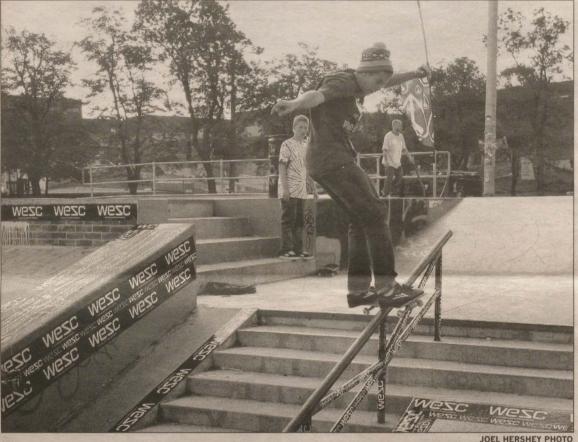
Akers herself began to get involved, too, which is a huge boost for King's-she hadn't played much this season for an unknown reason. The former Canadian Colleges Athletic Association all-Canadian made her return Sunday and it obviously rubbed off on the players around

Bishop kept King's in it for the first 20 minutes of the second half with several great saves, some on clear breaks from Mount strikers.

Just as King's was reeling again, Akers made her biggest and most noticeable impact yet. Mystics defender Sara Edsali miss-hit a clearance straight to Akers at about 12 yards. She didn't even bother to stop it before smashing a low, unstoppable shot into the corner to bring King's within two points.

After that goal, the derby became a derby again, with the Blue Devils surging forward looking for another goal. Madhvani took advantage of another poor clearance at the back but couldn't quite control the ball and it trickled out of play.

Despite several scrambles around the Mount goal, nothing more found its way past keeper MacDonald and King's had to settle for its second loss of the season, slipping to 5-2-0.



Kyle Macdonald performs a frontside-boardside on the eight-stair at the Stacked skateboard competition.

Skaters kick it

KRISTINA MARTIN

SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Bloody elbows, rolled ankles, broken decks. This Saturday's Stacked skateboard competition at the Halifay Commons skate nark was survival of the fittest.

The sunny afternoon brought together 10 teams of three representing skateboard shops from all over the East Coast, and one from Quebec.

Joel Hershey, owner of Monark skateboards and organizer of the event, says this invitational contest is the only actual team event the East Coast has ever seen.

Free energy drinks distributed throughout the afternoon amped up the competitors, who had three minutes each round to land the best tricks not just the average ollie or

During the first intermission. judge Paul Kitchen from Max Skate and Snow in Woodstock, N.B. said the best trick so far was a 270 landslide by Neil Blackwood on team "Ballistic" from St. John's, Nfld.

Blackwood was the guy to watch out for throughout the competition. He stuck many tricks effortlessly that other skaters attempted over and over. Blackwood was also one of the few competitors who managed to

receive a reaction from a very tough

At one point, the emcee had to ask the crowd to applaud in appreciation for the tricks being attempted, as there was more reaction when the skaters collided into each other at full speed, or smoked their faces on the concrete

Fortunately, skateboarders have developed a talent for falling from unthinkable heights without injuring themselves. So although there were many serious bails, resulting in deep scrapes, bruises and cringing ankle rolls, no one was sent crying to the hospital.

The top three teams didn't go home unrewarded. Event sponsors awarded \$2,000 to the first place team, along with skateboards. watches, T-shirts and more for the second- and third-ranked teams.

The top three teams of the Stacked Skate Competition were team "Dart-myth" in third place, team Pro Skates - defending champions from Halifax - in second place, and the Grand prize of \$2,000 went to team Ballistic from St. John's.

Blackwood, winner of best individual trick, and member of champion team Ballistic said he was going to spend his earnings by "paying my rent and buying a lot, a lot of beer." Damian Mosher and Connor

Nowlan were among those watching the skaters dish out everything

"It's pretty tight getting to see so many skaters from different areas," says Mosher.

Creating an upbeat atmosphere were DJs Greg Landau and Steve Hodgson from Fredericton, N.B. Landau relished the Halifax Commons skate park saying "there's nothing this nice in Fredericton."

B-boys and girls of all ages had their chance to bust some moves and battle one another in the skate park's deep bowl, drawing attention from everyone awaiting the announcement of the skate competition's winners.

The fourth-place team, Pussy Cat Puppies, gained attention due to their interesting team name. But, it was real life puppy Dexter, also known as "Murder-face", who was arguably the star of the afternoon. Dexter, a bulldog belonging to team Truro member Bruce Trebey, has been trained to skateboard on his own. He effortlessly rolled around, causing jaw-drop reactions from the

Trebey was able to outshine Dexter the skater-dog by making it to the finals and landing a massive ollie over a 15-foot step down gap.





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hero visits Dal

MIRA GOLDBERG-POCH

It's not often that one gets a chance to meet a childhood hero, but such was the case for a few lucky Dal swimmers on Friday when Mark Tewksbury, an iconic figure in Canadian swimming and an Olympic gold medalist, came to the Dalplex pool to support a friend of his, Catherine

Meade is running as the Liberal Party candidate for the Halifax riding in the federal election Oct. 14.

The small crowd that gathered to hear Tewksbury was composed mainly of swimmers rather than politically motivated attendees.

After an introduction by Meade, who emphasized her own involvement with sport and her intention to promote youth sport in Nova Scotia if elected, Tewksbury took the floor.

Tewksbury started off politically, speaking about how it is our democratic responsibility to pick our

"We need to do our civic duty,"

From the very beginning, Tewksbury's charisma and enthusiastic manner enthralled the audience, undoubtedly working in an opening boost for Meade's campaign.

He brought his three Olympic medals with him - one of each colour - and let the fascinated swimmers touch them.

He spoke a lot about his Olympic experiences as an athlete and also as a commentator. He said it felt "strange" when he won his first medal - a silver in Seoul in 1988 - and he

couldn't stop smiling when asked about his gold medal. The gold medal, which he won in the 100-metre backstroke at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, is the last gold medal a Canadian swimmer has won.

But we're on the way back up, according to Tewksbury. "In Athens," he said, "we literally hit the bottom of the pool."

But after the recent success in Beijing he sees a far brighter future for Canadian swimming.

While commenting on the Beijing Olympics, Tewksbury praised American swimmer Michael Phelps, saying "he really was an amazing guy."

Tewksbury is not only known for his medal-winning swims. He also hosted the Discovery Channel television program How It's Made, and has written two books. He caused a media storm in 1998 when he came out as a gay athlete. Now, he's combined his two passions – sports and human rights. In 2006, he was the president of the first World Outgames in Montreal, and is an active member of the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association.

He says sport is not a world particularly welcoming of homosexuality, and he did face some hardships.

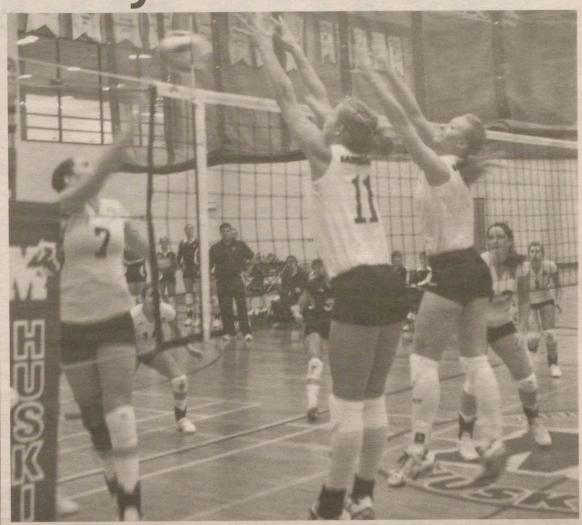
"Yeah, it was hard," he said. "It's not a fun day to be like, 'gee, I have to go talk about my private life."

Tewksbury retired from swimming right after his victory at the 1992 Olympics.

When asked if he ever feels the urge to jump back in the pool Tewksbury exclaimed,

"Absolutely zero!"

Canadian pool Volleyball strikes back



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie's power forwards send a hard block back to Acadia in last weekend's women's Husky Cup exhibition tournament at Saint Mary's University.





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





THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER



October 9 - Karaoke

October 10 - Trivia

October 16 - Fall Fest Open Mic

October 17 - Nursing vs. Engineering Trivia

SustainDal

Dan Barker

Sexton Campus Coordinator, Sustain-

Hello all! I'd like to take a couple minutes and let you know about some sustainability initiatives going on at Sexton Campus this term. As prospective engineers, we are developing the tools and skills that are necessary to bring about the environmental change that our society is asking for. Wind turbines, smart electrical grids, and biofuels are just a few technological developments that engineers from a variety of disciplines are bringing to the forefront.

Closer to home, there are opportunities to make Sexton Campus a more sustainable place to study. Through SustainDal, a student society here at Dal, initiatives to encourage reusable mugs and recycled paper and eliminate bottled water on campus are underway. If you have an idea or initiative you are interested in, send an email to sustaindal@dal.ca. Information on SustainDal and meeting times are posted at sustaindal.blogspot.com.

On a more urgent note, the federal elections take place on October 14th. Whether you are a come-from-away like myself or a local resident, you CAN and should vote in the HRM. Visit (www.elections.ca) for more

info. There are also a couple of interesting campaigns related to the election. The Power Vote campaign (www.powervote.org) encourages Canadians to vote for the party that pledges action against climate change. There is also the Vote for **Environment campaign** (www.voteforenvironment.ca) that encourages strategic voting to bring in a majority government with an environmental focus. These initiatives are gaining real support; even the Canadian Auto Workers union has announced support for Vote for **Environment.**

So, go vote on October 14th, and keep your eyes peeled to the Sextant for upcoming SustainDal info!

Starting at Sexton Anna West

Coming from Acadia I had great expectations of studying in the big city. I was looking forward to apartment living, memorable nights downtown (for those who can remember) and reuniting with my Acadia friends while meeting lots more from the other associate universities. ..Oh, and of course I was looking forward to long days of classes and all-nighters working on gruelling assignments.

I am absolutely thrilled to learn of Dal's policy regarding Supplementary Examinations: I think it's a great idea to allow students a second chance to prove their competency in an area. When so much is weighing on final exams, just a simple headache could potentially set one back an entire year. Supplementary Examinations are very generous of the professors and something I had never even heard of before coming to Sexton. How wonderful to be able to have a "do-over"!

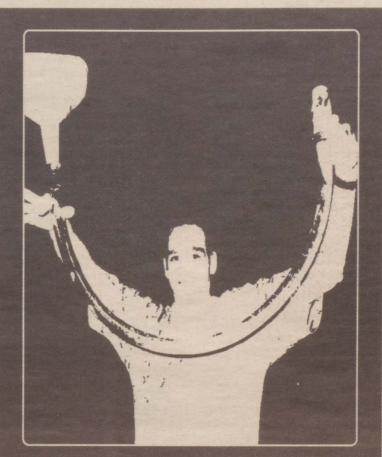
The biggest transition for me was not the work load or course material, but everything else that is part of 'the life' - all those learning experiences outside the classroom. I no longer live in residence so I never have to fear the dreaded 'mystery meat'. I make what I want, when I want it...but then I also have to clean up afterwards. There's nobody patrolling the halls telling me to be quiet or to get out of the hallway with my glass...

I loved the small university experience, but in Wolfville we had only two bars to choose from, and even then it wasn't really a choice as there was an unwritten rule as to when and where you were to go. But with that monotony came cheap drinks, free cover and a certain level of comfort. I spend a lot more money in the city as there is a lot more to do and cover almost everywhere you go. I have difficulties with standing in line for nearly an hour to pay to enter a bar that may or may not have people you know in it. But I guess that's just compensation for the variety of entertainment... If I don't put on 20 pounds this year there's only one thing to

thank - the gym.

I think my favourite part of being an engineering student at Sexton is the gym facilities. They aren't state of the art, but they certainly do the trick. The place is never full, nor do I feel intimidated going. I mean, an engineering jock? Who am I kidding?! They've got equipment for cardio and for strength training, squash courts in the back and even a ping pong table set up in the hallway. If that isn't an extreme sport, I don't know what is!

And then there's the T-Room. What girl doesn't love a bar that is 80% full of intelligent young men who are bound to make a decent salary? I most certainly enjoy it! Unfortunately, I've been informed that the nursing students are coming to trivia night to take on the engineering students. I'm not so sure how I feel about so many girls, not only coming to the T-Room, but being invited! Why do you think I went into engineering? I'm good with math, particularly ra-



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"Top 3" - Music JF Nowlan

We've all watched a major league sporting event at some point in our lives. Although each venue offers its unique appeal, all of the stadiums seemingly have the same taste with respect to music. The music choice is critical, for it's a fine art to pump up a crowd. This week's list reviews the Top 3 All-Time Stadium Pump-up

3) AC/DC - Thunderstruck. With a perfect combination of build-up and delivering a clear climatic point, Thunderstruck is more than deserving to earn a spot of this coveted list. From

the NBA, to the NHL and to the NFL, this song has enticed generations of fans to stomp their feet and chant till their voices are hoarse. Nothing drunken NFL fans like better than AC/

2) Gun's and Rose's - Welcome To The Jungle. With an iconic guitar opening, building the anticipation, this song is used literally everywhere. One of the most recognizable songs from G&R, it has also gained a much more youthful fan base in past years with the introduction of Guitar Hero III. Often times this song will be played at the beginning of the game, letting the visiting team know where they are...they're in the jungle baby.

1) Europe - Final Countdown. Without a doubt, this is the most epic sporting song of all time. Think of every professional sport which has a time restriction, or when a team has their backs against to the wall. This song has been played through all situations: start of overtime, last game of a playoff series, start of the second half, etc. For sheer flexibility and the most recognizable synthesizer opening, the Final Countdown is hands down the **Ultimate All-Time Stadium Pump-Up**

These 3 tunes are in my personal music Hall of Fame. What's on yours? Email sextant@dal.ca with your comments and suggestions for a Top 3 List.

Notes from DSEUS Mila MacLean

There's nothing wrong with instilling a little bit of healthy competition across the disciplines... With the hopes of drumming up some good old fashioned rivalry amidst the disciplines, the **DSEUS** Executive has decided to host a series of "Discipline Challenge" challenge type events. These events will occur throughout each semester. At each event, each of the discipline societies will have the opportunity to earn points. The discipline society with the most points at the end of the semester will get a prize (to be determined). The first of these challenges will occur on Thursday, October 9 at

7:00pm at the T-Room. The discipline teams will be set to compete against each other in a series of events loosely related to Thanksgiving. The second of these Discipline challenges will occur during Halloween week, in a similar festive fashion. The DSEUS Executive encourage you all to come out in your Dal Eng t-shirts and prove just who is the best discipline out there.

The engineers will be returning to the Metro Centre to cheer on their favourite Moose on November 8. Tickets will be on sale near the end of October from the DSEUS. Watch for your chance to be part of the Mooseheads' most dedicated fans!

The door to the DSEUS Office is often

open, do drop by and chat with the **Executive while enjoying the Engineer**ing Design Commons study space. This is open to all under-graduate students with a dalcard (the swipe entry is now activated!). A board room is also available to be booked for group meetings and study.

Have homework to do on Friday afternoons? Bring your books, and wear a sweatervest, to the Engineering Design Commons on Friday afternoons from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. It's a great way to unwind after the week, and windup for Friday night Trivia at the TRoom. Please feel free to email comments/ concerns and suggestions to dseus@dal.ca.