

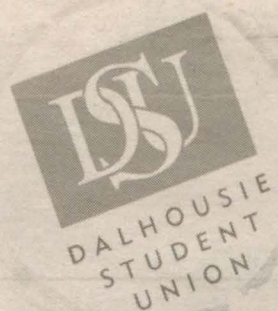
*Dalhousie's student
newspaper since 1868*

gazette

*living in
poverty*



*walking the streets p 12
for related stories pages 6-13.*



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hello, Dalhousie students!

Last Class Bash

On Monday, December 1, join us at the Grawood for the **Last Class Bash** with **Signal Hill**. Whether you bid the semester a sorrowful farewell or celebrate your upcoming holiday freedom, this party will be for everyone.

Sustainability

The DSU Sustainability Office is currently accepting applications for projects! These can be any scale, and anything from an event to a physical project to research on sustainability on campus. We are able to provide resources and funding to projects that are accepted, and this funding has the potential to include honoraria. Projects are limited only by your own imagination and determination! If you have an idea, send a proposal to dsuvpi@dal.ca along with a rough budget. The Board of the DSU Sustainability Office will review all applications and will be in touch.

Late-Night Study Space

Last week the DSU Council passed a new policy urging the university to provide all Dalhousie students with access to 24 Hour study space. To help students out in the meantime, the DSU will be looking into offering extending building hours for quiet study space. Stay tuned to the DSU website! www.dsu.ca.

Teaching Awards

Have you had a great prof or instructor this past semester? Tell us about it! The DSU is now accepting nominations for Teaching Awards. The DSU Teaching Awards have long been regarded as one of the most prestigious adornments a Dal prof can receive. Check www.dsu.ca for nomination forms and more information on how to nominate your prof.

Campus Copy

Make your presentations and reports stand out this semester. Whether you're typing or printing, **Campus Copy** is here for you. Come for the complimentary access to our computer lab and stay for our printing and binding services. Visit www.dsu.ca for information and pricing.

Tiger Patrol

As the days get shorter and homework gets more plentiful, you may find yourself studying around campus until longer and longer after sunset. Available on all three campuses, **Tiger Patrol** is a student-staffed, walk-home and patrol service that operates on University property. A prescheduled shuttle bus service also operates between the campuses and designated locations in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Stay safe and call Tiger Patrol at (902) 494-6400. Visit www.dsu.ca for more information and route schedule.

Legal Assistance

Just a reminder: the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has retained the services of Hill Law to provide **legal assistance** to Dalhousie students. The DSU Legal Assistance Program is available for any legal problem, regardless of whether or not it is University related. Consultations are provided to students free of charge. A lawyer will be available most Friday afternoons after 2:00 pm. All consultations are confidential and made by appointment only. Appointments must be made before noon on Thursdays. Visit www.dsu.ca for more information or call: 494-1106 to make an appointment.

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

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



GAZETTE...STAFF



GAZETTE STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Julie Sobowale
editor@dalgazette.ca

COPY EDITOR
Katie May
copy@dalgazette.ca

NEWS EDITORS
Ruth Mestechkin / Melissa DiCostanzo
news@dalgazette.ca

OPINIONS EDITOR
Bethany Horne
opinions@dalgazette.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITORS
Christie Conway / Hilary Beaumont
arts@dalgazette.ca

SPORTS EDITORS
Nick Khattar / Tyler Brown
sports@dalgazette.ca

PHOTO EDITORS
John Packman / Josh Boyter
photo@dalgazette.ca

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Susan Maroun
design@dalgazette.ca

WEB EDITOR
Jason Tenter
web@dalgazette.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

NEWS
Anastasia Philopoulos
Andrew Robinson
Rachel Sunter

OPINIONS
James Babbitt
Jeff Brown
Gregory Debogorski
John Hillman
Rebecca Hsu
Kaley Kennedy

ARTS & CULTURE
Daniel Blenich
Candice Cascanette
Marc Z. Grub
Delia Macpherson
Andrew Mills
Noah Mitton
Matt Ritchie
Laura Walton

SPORTS
Joel Tichinoff
Zack Wilson

CONTACT US

Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4J2
www.dalgazette.ca

GENERAL INQUIRIES
(902) 494-1280
editor@dalgazette.ca

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
(902) 494-6532
advertising@dalgazette.ca

CORRECTIONS POLICY

The Gazette is steadfastly committed to accuracy and always strives to provide correct information to students. We are human, though, and we do make mistakes. We promise to correct them as promptly as possible. If you spot an error in The Gazette in print or online, please report it to copy@dalgazette.ca.

THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year. Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

COVER:

We were stumped on how to portray the homeless with dignity and beauty but our wonderful arts beat reporter Laura Dawe drew a picture worth a million words. Thanks Laura!

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How do we measure up?

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Why do students decide to attend Dalhousie University? Some students want to be close to home or as far away from home as possible. Some students want to experience life on the East Coast. Others may come to Dal to attend various post-graduate/professional programs at the school.

When students make their decisions, I wonder how many factor in university rankings. November is the month Canadian universities are stacked up against each other and compared to schools all over the world. Academics, administrators, parents and students all hotly debate the accuracy and relevance of university rankings. With so many post-secondary choices available for students, independent evaluation is necessary. Evaluation methods are the main criticisms plaguing publications such as *Maclean's* magazine and the *Globe and Mail*. Many universities including Dal boycotted the 2006 *Maclean's* rankings. The ranking process may not be perfect, but people pay attention to the results.

Dal ranks somewhere in the middle of the Canadian surveys and near the bottom of international ones. Dal kept its eighth place spot in the recently released *Maclean's* rankings.

The most interesting findings are from the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium. Dal did well in services categories, ranking sixth for ease of registration and involvement in student activities. But

Dal didn't do so well in the classroom. Students don't like the large class sizes. Only 64 per cent of stu-

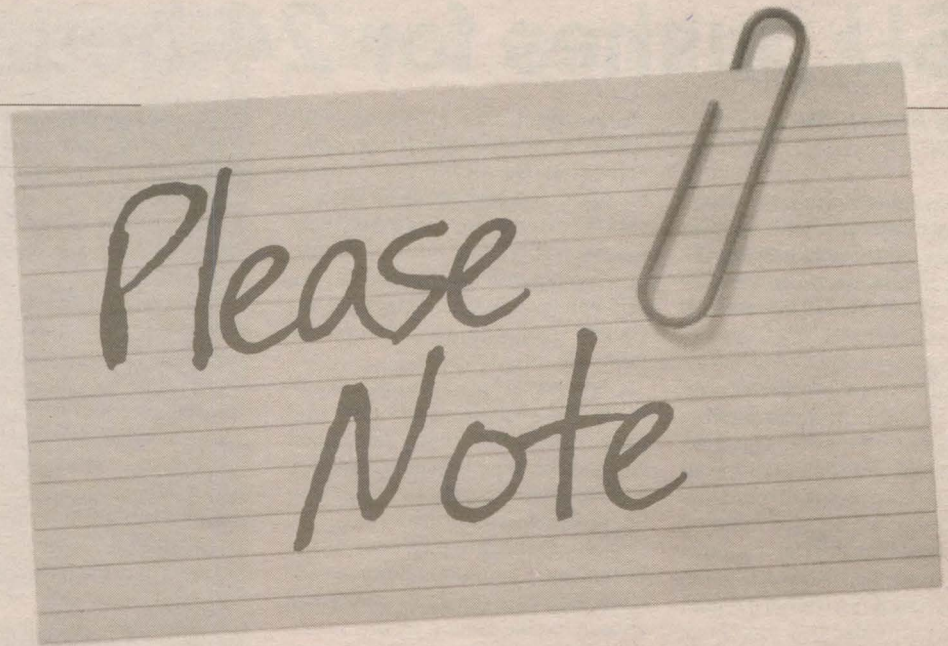
dents strongly agree or agree that professors encourage student participation.

The *Globe and Mail* found the same overall results in its University Report Card. Dal received a B+ for overall satisfaction. The national average is an A-, so Dal is right up there. Other than that, Dal's score was pretty average - with a few exceptions.

The school received a C for a sense of community on campus and a C+ for recreational facilities. Neither of those grades are surprising considering the university consistently lacks school spirit and the Dalplex is deteriorating.

Dal's biggest blemish is its D for food services. Maybe it's the lack of options, little local food and poor nutritional choices that makes this campus food so undesirable. As usual, Dal is above average as a research institution and for academic reputation. So students interested in a strong academic school that's not so awesome in terms of community and extracurricular activities should head to Dal.

The controversy of rankings lies in the critical analysis of how the rankings are determined. The *Maclean's* and *Globe and Mail* rankings are not perfect but they do strive to provide the public with an unbiased comparison of Canada's universities. Perhaps the solution is an independent board or organization similar to the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium to prepare the rankings. Ironically, some of the findings in *Maclean's* and the *Globe and Mail* reflect the realities of Dal. Rankings aren't perfect but there is some truth underneath the numbers.



THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR 2008

Next contributor meeting will take place

**Monday January 5th 2009
5:30pm in Room 312 S.U.B.**

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DSU pushes for 24-hour study space

ANDREW ROBINSON
DSU REPORTER

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has adopted a new 24-hour study space policy encouraging the university to offer access to around-the-clock study space for all students.

DSU vice-president (education) Mark Coffin wrote the policy and submitted it to the Academic and External Affairs Committee, who fine-tuned the policy. Council approved the document at its Nov. 19 meeting.

The Computer Science building was accessible to all Dal students overnight until last summer, when Dalhousie Student Services and campus security decided to change this policy. They cited a lack of funds, security concerns and health factors as reasons for making the decision. The building now opens at 7 a.m. and closes at midnight, but is accessible to computer science students using swipe cards to access the building.

The DSU policy states council disagrees with the university's de-

cision to not offer a 24-hour study space for all students. It also advocates that Dal offers these spaces on all three of its campuses and also asks for extended access to laboratories, workshops and meeting rooms.

Coffin says council received a lot of feedback from students after *the Gazette* published an article on the matter in its Oct. 23 issue.

"We got a lot of phone calls, e-mails and visits from students who were concerned about late night study space. Which is great," he says, adding council is prepared to follow-up on students' concerns.

John Doucette, president of the Dalhousie Computer Science Society, says he's pleased council has chosen to take a stand on this issue.

"I think it's been a long time coming and a good thing," he says.

Doucette, along with DSU president Courtney Larkin, met with Dalhousie Student Services vice-president Bonnie Neuman last summer about the initial plan to offer no opportunity for overnight studying at the computer science building. In

earlier conversations between himself and Larkin, Doucette says Larkin implied the 24-hour study space was only an issue for a small number of students. He is happy the voices of students have helped council to see things differently.

"I think students are starting to realize why it's important to have something like that," says Doucette.

The present set-up inside the computer science building has been an improvement for students within the program, says Doucette. Aside from having more space to study, he says the students have a sense of responsibility to respect the property, resulting in a decrease in overnight theft and litter.

"Previously you could come in mornings and there'd be garbage all over the place. That's unpleasant, but now it's no more," says Doucette.

Doucette says students need access to all the resources necessary to succeed, and he considers a 24-hour study space amongst them.

"Students who don't have a large amount of income are likely living

with a large number of roommates. I know people who live with as many as four or five or six people. That sort of environment is not always going to be conducive to studying," he says.

Engineering student Jerome Watson says having even one building accessible overnight on campus would make a big difference for students needing to get work done beyond normal hours.

"Just having one building open here at all times would be nice. When you come here late at night there's literally nowhere to go," he says.

The DSU policy recognizes the health concerns the university raised, arising from a student's lack of sleep. Fifth-year Dal student Nick Aikins agrees with the administration on this point.

"It encourages people to pull all-nighters before exams and I don't think that's a healthy or productive thing. I think we should encourage them to go home and sleep," he says.

But second-year engineering student Jeff Heyman says students can be faced with no other choice

but to work late into the night, and doing so at home is not always the best option.

"I find residence sucks and I get way too distracted in my room. Library is the best bet for me," he says.

Coffin says the unanimous support shown by council on this issue will be helpful in future talks with the university's administration.

"I think it will be easier to negotiate on an issue like this with that full support of council behind it," he says.

Discussions with the university's administration have been taking place since student feedback started to roll in. Coffin hopes for more talks to take place over the next couple of weeks following the release of the policy.

In the short-term, Coffin says council may consider extending the hours of the Student Union Building during the examination period next month. Coffin cautions this would not be a precedent setting move, and the cost of extending the building's hours has yet to be taken into account.

Daycare waitlist prompts new campus initiative

ANASTASIA PHILOPOULOS
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Alison Thompson, a chemistry professor at Dalhousie, has her 10-month-old child on a waiting list at Dalhousie University Children's Centre (DUCC). She makes up one of over 200 Dal families who have not been able to provide their children with childcare on Dal campus.

Dal currently has a waiting list of 348 children, including those who require after school care. Of the 348 waiting, over 200 of them are children from Dal families: children of staff, students and faculty families.

Frustrated, Thompson decided to do something about it.

Heading an initiative that doesn't have a name yet, Thompson is aiming to create awareness and increase accessibility to daycare services on campus for staff, students, and faculty with children.

"The initiative is aimed at raising awareness about the need on campus for more daycare, and the idea to, at some point, partner with Dal administration," says Thompson.

One way this new project hopes to increase accessibility is by applying for a loan through the provincial government's Childcare Expansion and Replacement Loan plan.

This loan will provide up to 75 per cent of the funding necessary to start a daycare and will supply funds for anything from toys to cooking equipment.

"The other 25 per cent would have to come from other sources such as donors or sponsors," says Thompson.

Brigit Tutschka put her child's name on the waiting list at Dal when she was five weeks pregnant with her daughter, Chloe. She didn't receive



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

There are 348 children currently on the daycare's waitlist.

news of a spot until two years later.

"I basically told my husband I was pregnant and then called the daycare to see about spots," she says.

Margo Kirk, executive director of DUCC, says the general wait time to get a child into one of Dal's two daycares is two years.

Kirk sees finding space that is already built and can properly accommodate almost 350 children as a problem.

"Right now I don't know of any space that would meet the needs of a daycare centre, it would need to involve something custom built," she

says.

Setting up in any building isn't worth shortening the waiting list, nor would it necessarily be able to pass provincial code on daycare centres, says Kirk.

Thompson has brought up the need for more daycare facilities on campus, specifically two more to meet the need outlined by the waiting list, at all four consultation meetings for Dal's Master Plan proposal. Dal issued the Master Plan to create a vision of how the physical campus should develop to meet the overall strategic plans of the university.

"I think this was possibly a sur-

prise issue for the consulting team," explains Thompson. "And now it has been called the third most requested item, after parking and athletic or recreational facilities."

Dal is in the middle of constructing two new buildings on campus, neither of which have formal plans for a daycare. The next step for the initiative is to either find a spot to build a space solely devoted to a daycare centre, or to ensure a daycare is included in the plans for Dal's next building project on campus.

Thompson emphasizes the need to act.

"This has been a chronic issue

for Dal for several decades now. The time has come for the university to act, especially with financing opportunities available," she says.

Another important aspect of this problem is the way potential staff and faculty may perceive Dal as not having adequate childcare services. The issue of childcare could make recruitment and retention of staff and faculty more difficult.

"Faculty who are interested in working for Dal could wait up to two years before we could take them, not saying this is the deciding factor in taking a job, but it is an important one," says Kirk.

She adds there is new research being done, exploring the benefits of a family-friendly work environment, which can include a boost in motivation, and minimal absenteeism.

Thompson acknowledges there has been great support from the assistant vice-president of human resources, Katherine Sheehan, as well as from Ken Burt, vice-president (finance and administration) who is also responsible for human resources.

"Daycare is important. Employers, particularly public sector employers will always struggle however, with making it a priority within their funding model given the many competing demands for limited resources," writes Sheehan via e-mail.

Sheehan says Dal might not be ready to apply in 2009 for the provincial loan and may not qualify under the Childcare Expansion and Replacement scheme, but says this issue has been raised and is on the Master Plan's agenda.

"Dalhousie is on track I believe, committed to doing all it can to support the demand for daycare on campus," she writes.

NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

Queen's drops Homecoming

Queen's University Principal Tom Williams stated the university would cancel its traditional fall Homecoming festivities in 2009 and 2010. He proposed a "homecoming-styled" reunion would replace the custom in May, reported *the Ubysey*.

The decision came after this year's event, which brought in a \$300,000 policing bill during an illegal all-night street party of

8,000 people. The bill covered two riot squads, 138 arrests and over 600 fines. A 35-year-old was also hospitalized with serious injuries after having been assaulted by a 19-year-old from Ottawa.

Williams said while he doesn't see Homecoming in itself as the problem, he believes shifting the fall Homecoming is an essential part of the solution.

Source: *the Ubysey*

Radio station show shut down

"Right or Wrong," a radio program on CKCU, a community radio station based at Carleton University, was cancelled after a discussion of Islamic history, reported *the Charlatan*.

Hosts Emrys Graefe and James Cohen discussed the life of Mohammed as part of a tribute to History of Islam month. Listeners complained after one host made an offensive comment.

CKCU management decided to drop the show. Station manager Matthew Crosier said Mohammed was presented inappropriately and offensively, referencing satirical comments, laughter and bomb sounds.

The hosts saw this as entertainment.

The show aired for eight episodes.

Source: *the Charlatan*

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

Liberals propose covering extra health costs for Nova Scotians

The Liberal party has proposed a plan that would cover additional costs for Nova Scotians waiting for surgeries, such as lung transplants, outside of the province.

CBC reported the Liberal government would take care of travel and living expenses for residents after three months outside of Nova

Scotia. Many patients waiting for organs at hospitals like the Toronto General Hospital sometimes have to wait up to two years.

Chris d'Entremont, the Nova Scotia health minister, isn't committing to the Liberal bill yet. He said he's still waiting for proposals for partnerships to come in from the lung association and other organizations.

Source: *CBC*

Facebook ban in N.B. schools

The New Brunswick Department of Education banned teacher and student Facebook use during school hours, reported *CBC*.

The ban took effect at the beginning of the week of Nov. 17. The ban begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. each day.

Gregg Ingersoll, director of education for School District 2 in the

Moncton area, said too many students were using Facebook during school hours.

Valerie Kilfoil, a department spokeswoman, said the effects of the ban have received positive reactions from teachers so far. She said school districts had initially said Facebook was troublesome towards student learning.

Source: *CBC*

Defence minister wants NATO countries to pull their weight in Afghanistan

Federal defence minister Peter MacKay said he doesn't think all the NATO countries are contributing what they can in the Afghanistan mission, reported *CTV*.

At a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Cornwallis, N.S., he said the member countries should examine their ability to do more

and he's asking them to pick up the slack and share the burden. MacKay didn't say specifically which countries he was calling upon.

He added efforts like the U.S. boost in its troops very much matters to Afghan civilians and their government. MacKay also confirmed Canada will conclude its combat involvement in 2011.

Source: *CTV*

Meteor strikes Western Canada

On Nov. 20, people from Edmonton to Edgeley, Saskatchewan said they saw a meteor flash across the sky, reported *CBC*.

Many people said they thought the meteor was very close.

Martin Beech, a meteor expert at the University of Regina, said the meteor would have been moving at an altitude of 30 to 60 kilometres.

Meteorite fragments haven't been found yet.

Dr. Christopher Herd, a University of Alberta earth and atmospheric sciences professor, said it was a massive fireball, and one of the largest he's seen in the area. He said meteorite bits look like they could have landed somewhere around the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

Source: *CBC*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

3,100 troops: number of peacekeepers the UN Security Council is sending to Congo.

\$150 million: the amount Somali pirates have made in ransoms over the past year, according to Kenya's foreign minister.

10 million people: the number of U.S. citizens who are looking for work, prompting President George Bush to sign a bill that will keep giving unemployment cheques to the unemployed during the holiday season.

2.5 million jobs: U.S. President-elect Barack Obama said he will create this much employment during his first two years in office.

6,000 people: number of Zimbabwe citizens who have been hit by a cholera outbreak.

45 years: length of prison sentence of Burma comedian and activist, part of the crackdown on dissidents in the country.

Sources: *CBC, CTV, CBC, BBC, BBC, CBC*

Medical Musings

Dodging the common cold



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

After Friday night's storm piled snow against my little bedroom windows, I impulsively waved a hand over my radiator, and, feeling no warmth there, turned the thermostat dial until I heard a tiny, satisfying click.

But this winter, green living guidelines on onemillionactsofgreen.com recommend I keep the thermostat down at a maximum of 18 degrees, and bundle up instead.

This is easier said than done. It's so hard to shiver in my sweater when I've got immediate heat as an option. I don't want to get sick, especially during exams.

So, I decided to spend some time researching the dreaded Cold and its teammates, Cough and Flu.

Thousands of studies have been done worldwide to investigate the prevention and treatment of the common cold.

Homespun remedies are often the first to be tested, and most lack the sufficient scientific evidence to be globally, or even nationally, approved. Pharmaceutical companies are currently racing to approve the first anti-viral cold medications.

But for now, proper lifestyle and nutrition will help us best ward off and manage our colds.

The common cold, or acute nasal nasopharyngitis, is caused by over 200 strands of viruses that are constantly mutating and quick to multiply. It is transferred between people by airborne saliva, or by contact with contaminated surfaces like doorknobs and telephones.

Scientists theorize that winter is cold-season because people spend more time indoors, together, where the virus can easily spread.

Current over-the-counter cold medications are palliative, meaning they relieve symptoms, but do not decrease the potency nor the duration of the virus itself. So your best bet is to avoid catching the cold in the first place.

Step one is to start washing your hands. Anti-bacterial soaps and gels have no effect on the cold virus. It's the physical act of washing your hands that washes off viral particles. The more people you see, the more you should wash your hands, because people, regardless of the weather, will expose you to viruses.

General immune-boosting lifestyle and nutritional habits will serve you best to ward off viral infections. You don't have to be a health nut to do them either.

Getting enough sleep and water every day are key immune-system helpers.

Vitamins A and C, as well as Zinc, are excellent immune-boosters. You can get these in daily supplements, but I prefer the natural route. One grapefruit provides

you with more than your daily requirement of Vitamin C, although oranges and tomatoes are great, too. You'll find vitamin A in orange foods like sweet potato, carrots and cantaloupe, as well as spinach. Zinc is highest in smoked oysters and mussels. Try some on crackers with a little cream cheese and sliced red pepper — delicious.

When you feel the onset of a cold, cough or flu, some studies have shown Echinacea, vitamin C, to be effective in reducing the duration of your illness. You can get Echinacea oil and drop it into a little orange juice (take it like a shot, because it's harsh), or choose from a variety of Echinacea lozenges and teas. Several Japanese studies suggest drinking tea, especially rooibos and ginseng teas, to prevent cold infection.

Once you've got the cold, keep up with immune-boosting activities like sleeping, drinking plenty of fluids and eating well. Socialization has been shown to be a key component in warding off and treating colds. General relaxation helps your body internalize its energy to fight viruses, so warm baths and calming activities are internal strengtheners, and make you feel better too.

I'm hoping that by taking steps towards living an anti-cold lifestyle, I'll find it easier to keep my thermostat, my power bills and my environmental guilt at a lower, healthier level.

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

Teach English in Japan

Interac is accepting applications for teaching positions commencing in April 2009.

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- Possess a university degree
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Contributor meetings are held every Monday
5:30pm in room 312 of the sub

HCAP fights shelter closure

JAMES BABBITT
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

In a Nov. 4 Chronicle Herald article, the advocacy group Halifax Coalition Against Poverty (HCAP) is accused by Kristen Tynes, a Department of Community Services spokesperson, of being "more interested in intimidation and bullying than in actually helping those experiencing poverty." This statement reveals how out of touch the government is with reality. Tynes' words better describe the actions of the provincial government.

The Department of Community Services regularly intimidates our society's most vulnerable by closing down shelters, refusing to provide adequate income assistance and treating those on assistance like children or criminals. How would you feel if the government was constantly watching you and controlling you because you needed help? HCAP spends most of its time making sure that Community Services is following its own rules and that people are getting what they are entitled to.

Right now, I am helping a woman on disability fight for her right to a scooter. She hasn't been able to leave her house to get groceries since February. As an HCAP advocate, I rarely hear anything positive about the department. What I do hear is that it is hard on social assistance. I hear how degrading it is to have to beg to get what you are legally entitled to have when the fridge is empty and the kids are hungry.

HCAP acts so people don't have to just scrape by. On Nov 3, members of HCAP occupied the fifth floor of the Community Services building on Gottingen Street to show that the closure of the emergency shelter Pendleton Place will not be tolerated. The closure of a shelter in the winter is a life or death issue. When it was first opened on Brunswick Street, it housed 40 people a night and filled up after 20 minutes. As it stands today, the city's shelters are either full or filling up quickly. At a meeting with service providers, I learned that at least two people in this city cannot go to the existing shelters.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Instead of re-opening Pendleton, the province gave extra money to Metro Turning Point and Barry House.

One of the individuals is a trans-woman. She cannot stay at the women's shelter any longer and is not comfortable staying in one of the men's shelters. She would have been able to go to Pendleton Place, which accepted anyone regardless of gender. She is currently living at a motel paid for by Community Services, uninformed about how long she can stay there, or what she will do when they stop paying for it. Tonight, she may be out on the streets. This compounds her daily struggle in a trans-phobic society.

Halifax needs diverse shelters to account for the range of needs that people living on the streets have. Some folks just need a place to stay at night because they are not at a

place in their life where they can kick their habit. Others need a dry shelter, with enforced sobriety, and connections to services that can help them get back on their feet. Some people need a shelter where they can stay with their children. What we cannot do is close down one type of shelter and alter the mandate of existing services to try to fit as many people as possible into the same space. To do that is heartless and dehumanizing. It also creates more problems than it solves. As a society, we have a responsibility to do better.

James Babbitt is an advocate with the Halifax Coalition against Poverty.

Wrestling with poverty

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I want to write about homelessness. I really do.

That's the theme of this week's *Gazette*, and God knows it's an issue that is seriously under-addressed in the media. We just celebrated the 19th anniversary of a unanimous resolution in the House of Commons to end child poverty by the year 2000, and there are still more than 760,000 Canadian children living in poverty as you read this article. Of these, roughly 40,000 are suspected to be homeless. I would love to be the one to tell their stories, to rouse *Gazette* readers to band together and put an end to this national disgrace.

Unfortunately, I can't seem to focus long enough to get the job done.

Last week, I entered the "Canada's Next Great Prime Minister" CBC contest, and like many of the other participants, I formed a Facebook group to rally online support. One of my friends, an actor and professional wrestling insider I met while writing an article about an independent movie, sent out Facebook invitations to his associates on my behalf. Several days later, the unthinkable happened: professional wrestling legend "Stone Cold" Steve Austin joined my group.

Now, I don't mean to rely on broad generalizations, but unless you too were an adolescent male in

the late 1990s, you might not fully understand what Austin's casual endorsement of my imaginary political campaign means to me. Let it suffice to say this development somehow calms the involuntary convulsions of self-loathing that I usually suffer when I think of the period between 1997 and 2000.

A day later, I am still trying to come to terms with the meaning of it all. I'm sitting in front of my computer, trying to compose a moving piece on the perilous winter that a segment of our community faces due to recent funding shifts at the shelter level. Unfortunately, I can't seem to type out three words without tacking on an "AUSTIN 3:16!!!!" for good measure.

Come to think of it, there might be a lesson in this after all: we all have our own Stone Cold moments when it comes to dealing with poverty and its associated woes. Bear with me - I'm going somewhere with this.

Am I the only one that starts a mental retreat when faced with a slew of incomprehensibly depressing facts about poverty? I can only watch about 30 seconds of watching flies circle the starving children on those World Vision infomercials before I feel an overwhelming urge to channel surf over to the compelling drama of Question Period in the British House of Commons on CPAC.

This, I think, is a big part of the overall problem. It isn't that people

are indifferent to the plight of the poor, it's that the truth is so harsh and the problems so daunting that most of us are afraid to dwell on them for any period of time, given that we know full well there are no easy solutions.

Already, I'm feeling the urge to change the topic to some serious Austin adulation, but I will resist until I've made my point. Poverty is an ingrained social ill and there's no way we're going to magically fix all of its related problems. But, if we could all manage to hold off retreating into our "Stone Cold" sanctuaries for just a little bit longer every time we're confronted with the harshness of this reality, we might just manage to win some small victories that together would improve the overall situation, if only slightly. When it comes to those suffering from the worst afflictions of poverty, a little help can sometimes mean the difference between life and death.

In the words of the great humanitarian Mother Teresa, "do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired."

There is only one thing that I could possibly add to that beautiful sentiment, and it is, of course, AUSTIN 3:16.

John Hillman is a graduate history student.



Gazette

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

stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Students have a lot more to say than their student union gives them credit for.

In September, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) announced despite being locked into an exclusive contract with Pepsi for two more years, our student union wouldn't be getting any money from them this year after it failed to meet the sales targets Pepsi wrote into its joint contract with the student union and the university administration.

The phenomenon of beverage exclusivity on campus is a relatively new development. Before the 1990s, both Coca-Cola and Pepsi donated money to universities without these strings attached.

Although monopoly and lack of choice is a concern, the ability to choose between drinking a Coke or a Pepsi isn't worth losing thousands of dollars over. Exclusivity deals can bring much needed cash to student activities.

But those thousands are worth relinquishing if our choices are going to be broader, beyond the two soda giants. Students want more say in the businesses and companies we allow into our building and more control over their dealings with us. This is freedom beyond a cola company.

Exclusivity contracts allow corporations to profit off the dire financial situation of our public in-

stitutions. Our government's failure to provide adequate funding to our university forces us into the laps of corporate daddies.

Matthew Golding, DSU vice-president (finance and operations), says the contract "we" want with a beverage provider is "obviously ... very similar to that of the university." By "we" he can only mean the five DSU executives, because the students, whose brand-loyalty is the real product being sold here, are not even allowed to know what the current contract involves, let alone have an opinion in the matter.

By restricting student access to contract details, the student union is acting like a corporation. If it was a government like our federal or provincial democratic bodies, members would have the right to submit access to information requests, and could examine the numbers for ourselves.

If students knew details of the deal, an informed population could weigh the advantages and disadvantages of signing over our student space to corporate control and we might not be as pliable as an uninformed population is.

If students knew what we were dealing with and could have a public debate, Golding might actually have a way to speak for the student body. In such a case, he might be surprised by his words.

New Offering

Attention all aspiring Creative Writers

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Critically acclaimed fiction writer Carol Bruneau has been praised by *The Globe and Mail* as "a first-class storyteller who uses words magically." Her novel *Purple for Sky* made the top 100 list of *The Globe and Mail's* "Best Books of 2000."

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Workshop Two

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Enrolment is limited to 15 per workshop, so please sign up early!

Register for either workshop by Friday December 12, 2008: By email: Carole.Poirier@dal.ca or by telephone: 494.3387 For more information check out: english.dal.ca



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Who hates feminists?

JEFF BROWN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

"I hate feminists!" I heard a male student yell outside the Student Union Building. I cringed. His statement made me angry, not only because of what he said but because of the context of it.

On Dec. 6, 1989, a man walked into Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal and lined up female engineering students, said "I hate feminists," and proceeded to open fire, killing 14 women. This event is known as the Montreal Massacre and is commemorated every year with vigils across Canada.

Many young university students like myself are part of the first generation of adults to grow up learning to value diversity. Many of us learned about diversity in a personal way, having been raised by professional working mothers. More recently, we were all witnesses to the establishment of gay marriage in Canada.

While there is no doubt that our world is more equitable than the world of our parents, the danger is that our generation will fall victim to the illusion that equality for all people has been achieved.

Though there are statistics to demonstrate the continued existence of discrimination and oppression in Canada - statistics as infuriating as they are staggering - speaking in

numbers can dehumanize the issue. Sometimes stories do a far better job of representing these truths.

I had only been a student at Dalhousie for two weeks when a drug was slipped into the drink of my female housemate at a bar. Luckily, she made it home safely with the help of a friend.

On a different night, three young men followed my other female housemate while she was walking home from an event, and amused each other by yelling sexual threats at her.

In the last year of my undergraduate degree at Queen's University, one female professor of colour was forced off the road by a group of students wearing Queen's jackets who met her with racist taunts. Just last week, a friend of mine who is Jewish had her car vandalized with swastikas and the words "dirty Jew."

It is tempting for others to brush off these instances as actions of a few bigots. And yet all of these events actually happened to people I know, people I love and people who will never be the same.

I know they are not the only women with these stories. The rates of violence against women are higher if their identities are subject to further discrimination because of race, sexuality, or other factors. Take for example the hundreds of missing and murdered aboriginal women in our country that don't make news-

paper headlines. Or look up the facts about how transgendered women are murdered at a rate 10 times that of the rest of the population. We can't remain blind to these issues.

I can't understand how someone can hate people who stand up for their rights and rights of others. I can't understand how someone can hate ideas that challenge the status quo and make others confront their prejudices. I can't understand how someone pursuing a university education can yell "I hate feminists" in public.

While some might not see the connection between a simple statement and an act of violence, our words have power. Ultimately, the responsibility for hate crimes rests in the hands of the people who commit them. But we all play a role in fostering a safe space, where fear, hate and violence are unacceptable. Interrupting a homophobic joke, challenging a racist observation, and calling your buddy out on "harmless" cat-calling is a good start.

We all have the right to free speech, but fewer people have the privilege of speaking up without the consequences of violence. It's awfully hard for a girl walking home alone to confront three drunken men. Racist jokes rarely happen in front of a person of colour. And homophobic bullying rarely happens one-on-one.

Let's all step it up. This feminist will make an honest effort.

Facebook: A lazy activist's dream

REBECCA HSU
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The other day I overheard two people were talking about a Facebook group that allows you to donate food to poor people by clicking a button.

"It makes more sense. At least you'll be making a difference," one of them said.

This exchange between two oblivious people defines for me the mindset of our generation - the Facebook generation.

I am by no means against joining online communities to express one's individuality. Go ahead, join the "Surfers' Paradise" community on Facebook. Let the world know that you think "Judo players make superior lovers."

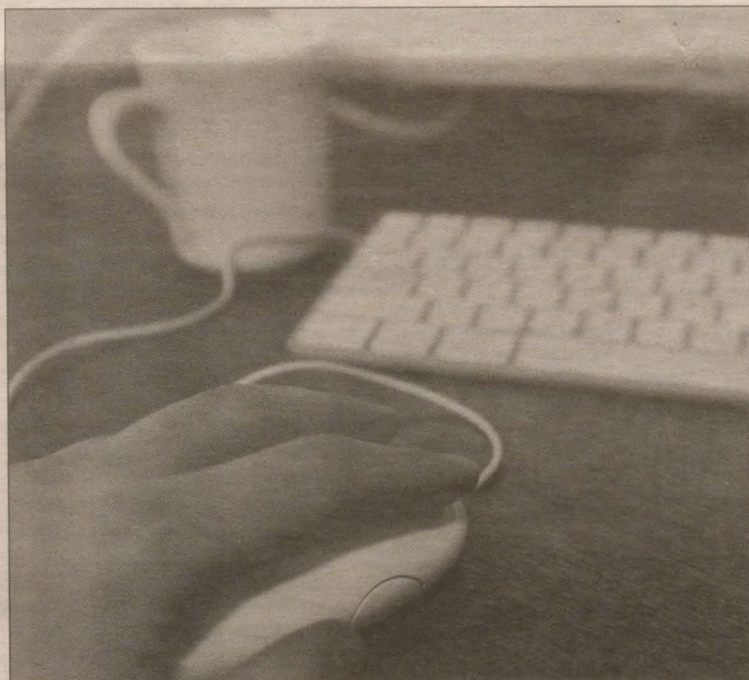
But when groups such as "Stop the Darfur genocide" or "1,000,000 Facebookers against HIV/AIDS" surface, I can't help but question the road down which Facebook is leading us.

This social networking site is redefining the way we look at our world. With a few clicks, Internet users, cloaked in virtual personas, can donate to a cause. The money comes from the site's sponsors, who use the site as an advertising medium. Each time a visitor to the site clicks to end poverty or some such thing, he or she is shown a flashing ad, giving sponsors an incentive to continue supporting the site.

While I do not doubt the legitimacy of sites such as these, I believe in the long run they will be detrimental to the essence of activism.

Activism is defined as a practice involving direct action, especially for against a controversial issue. Clicking a button does not make you an activist.

When the purity of helping oth-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Facebook is redefining the way we look at our world.

ers is reduced to virtual button clicking, the heart and soul of activism is replaced with the same ideology that runs the sweatshops of the world: time is money.

Some might argue networking sites promote rather than hinder action by helping alert users to global issues.

Sometimes it seems that by simply joining an online community, one is contributing to change. But it isn't that easy.

Currently, the Canadian Facebook population makes up 15 per cent of the site's 57 million-plus members. Our Oct. 14 federal election had the lowest voter turnout rate in Canadian federal history. People feel they are taking action when they

sit in front of their computer screens to comment on a message board, but they don't go out and vote. It's easy to get sucked in to the virtual world, as the lines that divide reality from the internet get fuzzier.

So you can click to donate 10 grains of rice to someone on the other side of the globe. But don't forget to indulge in the educational, eye-opening process of getting out of the house and volunteering at a food bank or speaking at a local elementary school. The heart of activism lies in feeling the needs of your fellow human beings, empathizing with pain, but working for change anyway. It would be heartbreaking to watch it dwindle to a button on a screen.



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AIMS: Targeting your right to public education

KALEY KENNEDY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Charles Cirtwell, executive vice-president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) took time to speak last week with students at Dalhousie. Cirtwell and his organization are no friends to students, though, having advocated for several years for such regressive public policy ideas as privatizing Nova Scotia's universities, and for complete deregulation of tuition fees.

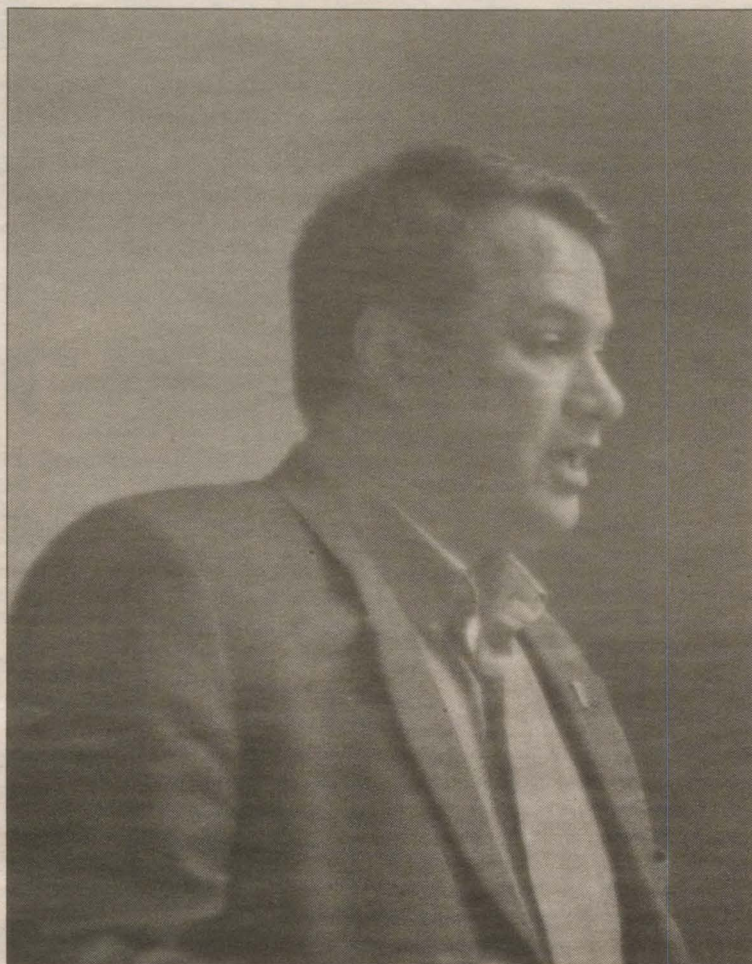
While N.S. students and their families have fought relentlessly to make universities and colleges a priority for the provincial and federal governments, AIMS has attempted to argue that the government should fund universities even less than they do now and have students pick up the tab.

Tuition fee increases and a lack of adequate financial aid means student debt in this province is one of the highest in the country. According to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), the average student in N.S. graduates with \$28,000 of student debt after an undergraduate degree. About one third of students graduate with debt loads of more than \$40,000. In five years, average student debt has increased by about \$5,000.

For more than 15 years, Nova Scotia has held the honour of having the highest tuition fees in the country. Currently, tuition and compulsory fees in the province add up to \$6500 per year for an undergraduate degree – that's almost three times the tuition fees of the early 1990s.

Even MPHEC has acknowledged there is a relationship between tuition fee increases and declining enrolments at N.S. universities. It's fairly simple economics – if you increase the price of something, demand is likely to decrease. The education commission's data also shows more and more N.S. graduates leave the province because of financial difficulties, and students with high debt loads are less likely to continue their education with graduate studies.

So what does AIMS have to say about this crisis facing Nova Scotia's young people? The organization said the government should stop funding universities outright and give students more loans – leading to more debt – to deal with the massive tuition fees that result. For AIMS, our education is just another product to be bought and sold. AIMS' quest is to convince the government to allow private for-profit companies into



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Charles Cirtwell, executive vice-president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, spoke to students about affordable education.

our region and charge more than \$10,000 in tuition fees alone. These schools would have complete control to increase tuition fees.

The past five years saw more than \$56 billion in federal budget surpluses. That would have been enough funding to eliminate tuition fees 10 times over and still have enough money left over for a generous grants system. Despite the modest portion of public expenditure higher education requires, there is no doubt the continuing culture of tax cuts has damaged the accessibility and quality of public post-secondary education. In 2000, for example, when N.S. students saw tuition fees increase by more than 10 per cent, the government decided to cut taxes by \$100 billion over five years. Most of those tax cuts went to Canada's wealthiest individuals and corporations. In a time of economic prosperity, it was students who were expected to take on immense debt loads while corporations got a break.

Many students sitting in classrooms across the province are strug-

gling to make ends meet. They're deciding between paying tuition or paying rent, between buying books or buying groceries. Students are flocking to food banks in record numbers, and every year students are forced to drop out because they simply cannot afford to go to school. Full-time students are working full-time hours at jobs and living in overcrowded, sub-standard housing.

Still, people such as Cirtwell at AIMS will continue to advocate for a system that reserves post-secondary education for the few who can afford it and shuts out everyone else. With spending cuts on the mind of governments during this time of economic uncertainty, it's important that students and their families continue to speak loudly in favour of affordable, accessible, and quality post-secondary education.

Kaley Kennedy is a third-year contemporary studies and social anthropology major. She is the president of the King's Students' Union.



JOSHUA BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Should *the Gazette* have a mandate to provide coverage for the Dalhousie Student Union?

Freedom of the press

GREGORY DEBOGORSKI
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Gazette is not living up to its potential. In all the years I have been at Dalhousie, it has never exceeded the bare minimum that is expected of it. Its general operations, output of content, and readership has remained relatively constant. Consistently, it fails to inform students of the important information they need to get involved in the Dal Student Union's (DSU) decision making process, bureaucratic committees, the university's radio station, and *the Gazette* itself. To maximize its usefulness, *the Gazette* needs to reform its constitution so that it is more demanding. As a student paper, *the Gazette* should have a clearer responsibility to keep the students informed about their student union. The bare minimum is not good enough if we want students to be aware of the issues they face.

The Gazette needs to fulfil its role in this student union. I propose the paper reforms its constitution in a way that makes *the Gazette* accountable to the student union and the DSU council. It can do this by allowing DSU executives room to publish information within its pages, maybe in a special section at the end of the paper. I know there is already room made for the DSU, in the DSU Dispatch, but I feel that this space, and the coverage within it, is not enough. This doesn't contradict freedom of press – it reinforces the obligations of the press. If *the Gazette* doesn't uphold its end of the social contract it has with students, we should write it into their society constitution.

Many students have no idea how to write for *the Gazette*, how to get on CKDU radio, or how to get involved at council meetings and DSU committees. We can have a fully democratic decision making process within our union, but if students do not have a clue how the most important mechanisms of our student government work, or what issues we face, democracy will fail. I believe fighting the problem of asymmetry of information amongst the student body is the duty of *the Gazette*, first and foremost. Asymmetry of information is created when students in leadership positions, like on council or in the media, know disproportionately more about the operations of the student union than the average student does.

Unfortunately, *the Gazette*, much like past DSU executives, has been unable to uphold its duty. This duty includes informing students of the basic mechanics of the union, past decisions made in the DSU and the major societies and any details about foreseeable problems these societies and our union could likely face. Did

students know that last year, the DSU did not publish minutes from their council meetings? *The Gazette* could have provided students with briefs of the meetings, and would have served as a vital provider of information.

It took me two and a half years to find out how I could write for *the Gazette*, and when I did it was purely by chance. This information needs to be conveyed in an efficient and effective manner. If more students could feel an ownership for *the Gazette*, maybe thousands of unread newspapers wouldn't be recycled at the end of every week. The student apathy that plagues DSU elections affects *the Gazette* as well.

If the DSU is having communication flow problems with students, *The Gazette* needs to step up to the plate. In my opinion, *the Gazette* should be responsible for providing room in its weekly issues that describe in detail how to get involved in societies, council and committees. Although this is not in its constitution, it is a part of its social contract. If students have to spend any length of time discovering how to get involved, they are far less likely to do so.

If students do not know how to get involved with various societies, committees and council meetings, and are not aware of past decisions, how can they even begin to guess how these groups operate? Student apathy is a result of a lack of knowledge of these things. In other words, the DSU and the societies it funds are creating the various symptoms they keep spending time and money to cure. If students have no idea how things are going, there is no way to fix this tyranny of the minority problem. *The Gazette* can play a strong role in curing our student union of these problems.

Some say *the Gazette* should not be a mouthpiece of the DSU. But it is the student paper. Why do the students allocate large amounts of funding to the newspaper yearly if we cannot expect a certain level of social return on our investment?

Every Thursday across campus, thousands of unread papers go unnecessarily into the recycling bin. Why do we persist in creating this waste? This lack of vision in distribution is another example of how *the Gazette* settles for a bare minimum and doesn't feel pressure to exceed expectations.

Editor's note: Though The Gazette is financially and structurally accountable to the DSU, the newspaper is committed to remaining editorially independent from the student union and strives to uphold its democratic responsibility to provide Dalhousie students with a wide range of information about the university and the community at large.

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Halifax Streetwalk

ANDREW MILLS
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

As soon as I arrived at the Metro Turning Point Shelter, a fistfight broke out.

The commotion developed out front of the Barrington Street shelter where two men are settling a disagreement of sorts. Meanwhile, a taxi pulls up to the shelter containing a duo that is subjected to one of the wrestling men being thrown up against the passenger window.

I catch a glimpse of the girl in the cab. Her eyes were wide as members of the shelter coaxed the men into postponing their scrap.

I wanted to get a sense of what it would be like to be homeless, so I decided to participate in a Streetwalk run by the shelter. I passed through a basement entrance, where the executive director of the shelter, Mike Poworoznyk, sat waiting for me. He is dressed in a dark blue hoodie with a hat pulled low. Six other participants and I were herded into a room where Poworoznyk explains we will be walking the city streets with the intent of gaining perspective on homeless life in Halifax.

He tells us a story of a 15-year-old who fled from a violent home in a rough neighbourhood and survived some traumatic childhood experiences. We are to imagine this story as if it is our own for the evening.

"Any number of situations can lead to someone living on the street," says Poworoznyk. "A lot of us operate under this idea that life is fair, that everyone gets a fair shake of it. But that just isn't the case."

We start our walk imagining ourselves as young runaways; the cold yellow streetlights have become strangely ominous.

"Every homeless person has five urgent questions to answer," Poworoznyk explains. "One. What am I going to eat? Two. Where will I sleep? Three. What will I do for money? Four. Where will I clean and use the washroom? Five. How will I deal with boredom and loneliness?"

"There is a stereotype that homeless people are lazy...it's simply untrue," he says. "You have to be resourceful to survive on the streets."

As we walk the streets, we are challenged to be creative and answer the five questions. A girl mentions a dark corner beside Cornwallis Street as a viable place to sleep.

"Sure you could sleep there," replies Poworoznyk. "But what are you going to do if someone comes in the middle of



JOSH BOYTER/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

One of the worst problems homeless people face is loneliness.

the night and that's their spot?"

We continue onto Gottingen Street, where someone mentions we might be able to sleep a night in a building under construction. At this point, a construction worker who happens to be in our group speaks up.

"You better hope I don't find you in the morning," he says. A busy foreman is not always thrilled to find a homeless person on site.

Soon after, a man walking down the street spots our yuppie-looking group.

"Woo wee. Who's got some change?" he says, driving home the fact that we are out of place.

Our walk illuminates many difficult questions, giving us a mental glimpse into the challenges faced by those who live everyday on the streets.

"It's really hard to deal with boredom on the street," Poworoznyk explains. "How long before you are offered drugs by some new friends? How long before you try them?"

Later we wind up at the bottom of Citadel Hill.

"How desperate would you have to be in order to consider prostitution?" Poworoznyk asks our group, alluding to the after hours activity that occurs on the Citadel.

These questions seem to have clear-cut moral answers but in the shoes of a runaway youth, a lot of the moral high ground, so easy to maintain in comfort, is lost.

During our walk, we eventually receive some answers to our five survival questions.

Hope Cottage, a house that serves meals to the homeless, is a great service to the city. Poworoznyk points

out a glowing Salvation Army sign.

"This is the McDonald's (arch) of the homeless world," he says.

The Salvation Army meets many of the physical needs of the homeless population but it is surprising to some that the one of the worst problems homeless people face is loneliness.

As we walk under the bridge on Barrington Street, Poworoznyk tells us to be silent until we return to the shelter so we can imagine we are walking these streets alone.

We pass a hotel. People in large warm jackets laugh cheerfully out front. The bright lights of the casino and the headlights of oncoming traffic all contribute to a growing sense of how alien the atmosphere of this concrete landscape can be. How maddening it could be to walk these streets completely alone.

I wonder how long I'd last before I'd begin to talk to myself.

Back at the shelter, we gather to end the night. Poworoznyk has some parting words of advice for those wishing to help improve the homeless situation.

"Say hello to your neighbours!" he exclaims. "We live in a crazy world where people don't even know the people next door. It is this type of isolation that leads to core problems homeless people face," he says.

"It's important to look out for people, build community. If you see someone asking for change, stop and talk to them. If you pass by again, initiate another conversation, eventually maybe you take them out to coffee or something. We are all trying to deal with our boredom and loneliness - from the richest man in the world to the men sleeping at Metro Turning Point."



JOSHUA BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Marquee's entertainment manager, Craig Mercer, plans to open a new centre for the arts on the tail of the iconic venue's closing.

Don't cry for me, Marquee

Entertainment booker ready to fill closing club's void

HILARY BEAUMONT
ARTS EDITOR

When cheerful "come-from-aways" return from their holidays, The Marquee Club might already be closed. The heart of the Halifax music scene is slated to shut its doors in January, as early as five weeks from now. Music-loving Haligonians have been panicking since club owner Victor Syperek broke the news on Nov. 19.

But there's no need to fear for the local music scene. The Marquee's entertainment manager, Craig Mercer, plans to open a new centre for the arts on the tail of the iconic venue's closing. He's bringing his long list of contacts with him.

Mercer has managed the flow of gigs at the club over the last year. His booking resume reads like the ultimate music library, with locals including Joel Plaskett, Sloan and Rich Aucoin, national artists such as Thunderheist and upcoming Polaris Prize-nominated act Plants and Animals. All those plus international acts, one of which was British band Bloc Party.

For more than a month now, Mercer has been secretly piecing together a business plan with partners Mark Townsend, the Marquee's general manager, and Peter Farmer, a performance artist from Montreal. Their project could be one reason Syperek was tight lipped about The Marquee's closure for so long.

"We're tirelessly working to find a solution," Mercer said over the phone. "There will be a lot of music lovers who will starve if we don't."

Live music will be the number one priority in the new venue with an emphasis on local artists, Mercer explains.

"The goal is to nurture local bands," he says. "It's a necessity in this city."

The new and still nameless arts centre will also cater to performance artists, aiming to "merge all artistic mediums."

Mercer says he wants to open the venue to combat what he sees as a lull in local and national music.

"I want to build up the scene again."

Local one-man orchestra Aucoin has played the Marquee six times since May and considers it his "new home turf." He says he hasn't seen a lull in the local music scene - things are only getting better. He lists alternative venues such as Gus's Pub, which shows live local music every night of the week.

But Aucoin says Halifax will need another venue to step up.

"We were all sad when Stage Nine closed, but The Seahorse and Gus's and The Attic for a little while

seemed to pick up the slack that it dropped."

He's heard about the trio's project and says he's excited because "they're great at what they do."

Another notorious Marquee regular, Plaskett, referenced the club in his song "Love This Town." He says the Marquee is the classic Halifax venue that gave his band its teeth.

"A club can be the life of a scene," Plaskett said on Friday.

He says if there's anyone to open a replacement venue, Mercer is the guy he'd trust.

"Of all guys, he's got a real understanding of the business," he says.

Plaskett isn't worried for the local music scene whether or not Mercer's arts centre opens. The last time the Marquee closed, he says, "people were resourceful enough." Underground jam spaces and parties opened up to fill the void.

Plaskett predicts the scene might stumble and venues will take risks, but he says if people really want to make something happen, they will succeed.

Mercer fully expects Halifax bars and other spaces without a primary music focus will try to convert "as an after thought." But he says his business will do the job properly.

He expects to finalize the project in early December.

Mercer, Townsend and Farmer have been looking at several spaces with a capacity of 300 to 500 people, about half that of the Marquee. Mercer says that's because the venue's size was one of the original problems. It's tough to fill a space that big most nights of the week.

He still plans to book bigger names but says they will have to play in spaces that cater to larger capacities, such as the Cunard Centre.

While the local scene is likely to survive, it seems there will be no venue to fill the Marquee's niche. But with a long track record of closings and re-openings, the club might not be finished for good. In a recent interview with CBC's Grant Lawrence, club owner Syperek said he wouldn't be opposed to opening it up again for special events such as the Halifax Pop Explosion.

Outcry from artists and local music fans will help, too.

Aucoin says he would swim across the harbour if it would save the venue. Dave Cyrus MacDonald, the drummer from Paper Lions, says he plans to shave his flowing post-adolescent beard in protest.

So while fewer famous faces will appear from behind those red velvet curtains, there will always be dedicated people and alternate venues, to nurture the local scene and bring the big names to Halifax.

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STREETER

What is your holiday wish?



“Get through exams”

Julia Matthews, Forth year Social Anthropology



“For the holidays to never end”

Brechen Macrea, Second year History



“Leafs to win the cup”

Micheal Cadesky, Third year managment



“Free time, lots and lots of free time”

Laura Conard, Second year Journalism



“Some time off”

Samuel Perreault, First year Music



“A visit from my friends from Fredricton”

Emilie Hurst, First year Bachelor of Science



“Spend time with family”

Julia Nelham, Forth year Costume studies

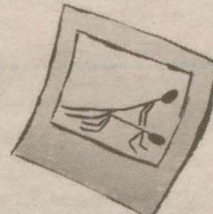


“More Holidays”

Nick Khattar, First-year Holiday Enthusiast

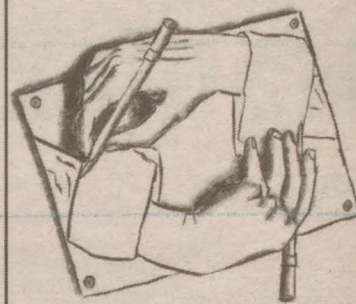
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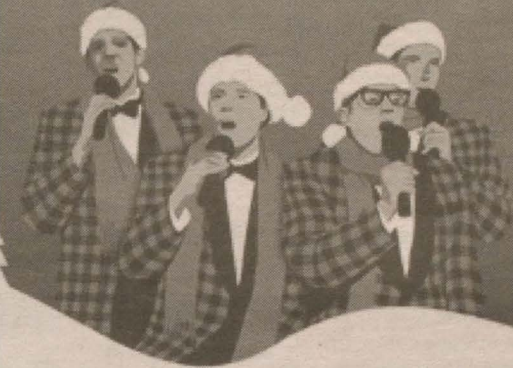
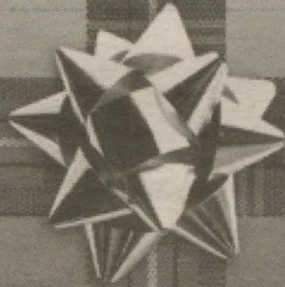


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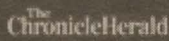


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Kuol's story

Sudanese refugee treasures education

HILARY BEAUMONT
ARTS EDITOR

Kuol Majak exhales an icy cloud as he steps through the doors of the Student Union Building and onto the pavement. He's wearing a furry white hat with earflaps and a black jacket zipped and buttoned all the way to his chin. He takes thick wooly gloves out of his pockets and pulls them on over his hands. Lowering his arms, he smiles. He's ready for a Halifax winter.

Majak saw snow for the first time last week. He looked outside last Thursday morning and was shocked to see the ground had turned white. The Dalhousie engineering student says he's not thrilled about snow because it's freezing, but he doesn't mind it.

"It's nature," he says.

There is no winter where Majak is from. The temperature only dips below 35 degrees Celsius at night. Storms cover houses with sand and dust rather than snow.

Majak lived 12 of his 22 years in southern Sudan, and the last 10 in Kakuma, a Kenyan refugee camp. In late August the bright-eyed, soft spoken student came to Halifax with the help of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

The organization helps international refugees pursue education at Canadian universities. This year WUSC Dalhousie, the university's chapter of the organization, is sponsoring Majak, waiving his tuition and residence fees for four years. This is the first year Dal will be covering the full costs for refugee students. Since 1981, when Dal started sponsoring students with WUSC, the university only supported students for their first year of study.

When his classes started, Majak says the university impressed him, but he felt a strong sense of culture shock. School in the refugee camp was vastly different.

At Kakuma, classes with 100 to 170 people were held outside under a tree. Class started at 7 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m. School was cancelled whenever the wind gusted and filled the air with dust so thick that "you could not see," says Majak.

In these classes, he says the ratio of girls to boys was as few as one to 20 or as many as one to 10.

"In a class of 100 you will only have 10 girls," Majak says. "And that was an improvement. Before the ratio would be zero to 100, but because of new concepts, the modernity has given them (a) chance."

He says in Sudan not all people go to school.

"But here in Canada I'm excited because almost, in some classes, girls are almost equal. They are of (the) same ratio," says Majak.

In the camp, he says students frequently dropped out of classes.

"Because in the camps life is hard," he says. "And I don't blame them."

Every day the people living at



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kuol Majak arrived in Halifax in late August.

Kakuma lined up for food and water. Rations were provided by the United Nations: three kilograms per person for 15 days. That's as much as some Canadians eat in one day.

"You would have maybe one meal a day," he explains.

Getting enough to drink was also a daily struggle. People waited in line for two hours to collect water from a tap, but there was no guarantee they would get water.

"Those conditions led many guys (to) drop out (and) many girls could not go to school because everyone was starving," he says. "But it was possible for some at least."

They didn't receive their basic needs, Majak says, and many people died. The lack of security in the camp was just as perilous.

At night, nomadic gangs raided refugee camps for food. They killed anyone who refused to give up their rations. Majak says he slept with one eye open every night.

"They felt that we had more privileges because they see us being provided with the ration that was not even enough for a day that we use for 15 days. They think we have a lot and they would come at night and shoot us. It was you either die or you give what you have. 'Surrender,' and then you have to surrender. Give whatever you have. Give it."

Because of the violent and desperate situation, Majak says people lived day to day. "We could not talk about the future."

But his voice is calm. He says the Bible gave him a reason to survive.

"Religion was what keep us, and that was the source of hopes. And because if we didn't have hopes most of

us would have not, at least, gone so fast. I would have not made it here."

The Bible was the first book Majak learned to read. Now it sits beside his bed in residence. He reads from it after he wakes up in the morning and before he goes to sleep at night. "It gives me hope of tomorrow. It gave me hope to come here."

Majak says he came to Canada to learn. At first the keen student found concepts hard to grasp. But though he finds his classes tough, he is grateful he can attend them.

But he says some students are not as appreciative. If he sees someone skipping class, Majak says he would force them to go. Where he's from, the actions of one person affect the whole community.

He swears he'll only miss class if it's cancelled because of a snowstorm.

Majak says students need to understand that in less fortunate places in the world, it isn't possible to get an education.

"When I lived in Sudan, my plan for the future was to learn. But there was no chance of me going to school because the schools I was supposed to attend were burned down. Almost everything was reduced to ashes," says Majak. And because everything was burned, I was not thinking of education at some points."

Majak now has as much of a shot at a successful future as any other student. He says he wants to be a doctor or an engineer. And WUSC Dalhousie will make that goal easier for him to achieve.

Majak feels he can overcome cultural and learning barriers during the next few years.

"The verses in the Bible tell me, 'the future is there for you.'"

The Stolen Minks are pro-mooning

Local band returns from North American tour

CANDICE CASCANETTE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Stolen Minks have a history of mooning. The band members even moon each other during recording sessions to ease tension. Guitarist Stephie Johns' theory on mooning is that everybody wins.

"All of a sudden you're pissing yourself laughing over the stupidest thing," she says.

Emerging from the Halifax local scene in 2003, the rockabilly garage band of Stephie Johns, bassist/vocalist Tiina Johns and drummer Erica Butler has come a long way.

The trio has just returned to its native Halifax after a 10-week tour through North America promoting of the band's new album, High Kicks.

Three girls stuck in a van for 10 weeks, playing show after show, spending all of their time together, figuring out directions and getting along may seem like a small miracle to some. The secret to their camaraderie, is the Global Positioning System (GPS) the girls used to find their way around the continent.

Whenever anything went wrong with directions, they just blamed everything on the GPS and remained harmonious.

The computer system was like "the fourth person who was always the stupid one," says Butler.

This tour was the first outside of Canada for The Stolen Minks. Although the shows they played in the United States didn't make them lots of money, the girls say they were certainly valuable experiences. The biggest breakthrough that resulted from the tour was the connection the girls made with Rob's House Records, a record label based in Atlanta, Georgia, that now wants to release a Stolen Minks seven-inch record in spring 2009.

Though starting a driving tour from Halifax means a nearly 12-hour drive before you hit another major urban centre, the ladies of The Stolen Minks are grateful for the musical environment Halifax has provided them.

"For the size of Halifax, it's an insanely awesome scene that isn't competitive in a bad way," says Stephie Johns.

Among the Stolen Minks' favourite local bands to play with are Dog Day and The Maynards.

"Coincidentally, all the bands we'll be playing with in December are the ones we love to play with," Butler laughs.

The Stolen Minks like to see more girls playing music in the indie-rock and punk scene. The thought of being an all-girl band has always appealed to them.

"We were somewhat conscious of the fact that if we did it, it would contribute to the cycle of eventually more girls getting involved," says Butler. "You've got to put your money where your mouth is."

The band's best advice for any girls who want to get involved in the Halifax music scene is to set a goal and a deadline by which to reach that goal. Even if you're not quite ready, book a show.

"If you've had six band practices, there's no reason you shouldn't book a fucking show," says Butler. "You'll be so nervous that you'll have 12 practices before hand."

The girls head out on another tour of the eastern U.S. this spring, so be sure to catch them live in Halifax while you still can. If you're lucky, they just may moon you.

The Minks will be playing at The Maynards CD release party at Gus' Pub on Dec. 5, with Dog Day at the Marquee on the 13 and at a New Year's Eve party at Gus' on Dec. 31.

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Looking at homelessness

DELIA MACPHERSON
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Just outside the Tim Hortons on Spring Garden Road stands a cheerful man. He is around 50 years old, balding and holding a skinny wooden cane. Two or three yellowing teeth are visible through his large grin.

Craig (Pops) Mcavoy has been on the streets for three years. The money he collects panhandling is enough to buy the prescription drugs for one of his three diseases.

"I have cancer, osteoporosis and cellulitis," says Mcavoy.

Osteoporosis makes bones prone to fractures and cellulitis is an infection of the skin that causes swelling, pain and redness.

While he worked as a chef, Mcavoy was making \$3 too much to have his medications paid for by the government. He lost his job four years ago and has been on the streets ever since.

"The only family I have left are my two grown up kids living in Kingston, Ontario," says Mcavoy. "I speak with them now and again but they don't know I'm on the streets."

He feels unsafe in the community shelters around Halifax.

"The shelters are full of criminals and ex-convicts," he says.

Micah Pirk O'Connell has been a homeless outreach worker for four years. He has worked in shelters with homeless people of all ages and genders in Toronto, Ont.

"When you pass by the homeless you are passing by a human," says O'Connell. "They are all relatable."

There are many stereotypes about the homeless but the cause of their homelessness is as varied as the individuals themselves. The stories on the street include people who suffer from addiction, physical and mental health problems and those who are victims of abuse or runaways.

"There is a small percentage that



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Getting back on your feet can be difficult.

chooses to live on the streets," says O'Connell.

According to O'Connell, there are many grey areas about why homeless people choose not to stay in community shelters. Shelters can be dangerous. Some shelters also have curfews and mandatory group sessions that some people do not respect.

"Shelters have time limits," says O'Connell. "They aren't there to house people permanently; they are there to help people get back on their feet for a period of months, not years."

Getting back on their feet can be an especially difficult process for the homeless. Without a permanent address, it is very hard to get a social

insurance number, a bank card or gainful employment. Hiring someone who can't receive mail or be reached by phone is a concern for employers.

"The homeless problem of Canada is not a homeless problem," explains O'Connell. "It is the collective failure of a nation to help or deal with its citizens who have addictions and mental health problems."

O'Connell says there are two sides of homelessness. The first is the side we see everyday, the faces of the panhandlers asking for change and wishing you well as you pass them by. The second side is the homeless culture that most can only understand after spending time on the streets and living in poverty.

The man skirt

LAURA WALTON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Long hair, tight jeans, and a low cut v-neck shirt. These days, this description could just as accurately apply to both men and women.

Fashion has always blurred the lines between the masculine and feminine, which is why the reaction at the emergence of a skirt made for men is so interesting.

Elite fashion designer Marc Jacobs caused a stir when he wore the man skirt at New York City fashion shows in September. Since then, he has been seen frequently wearing the breezy garment all around Los Angeles.

This skirt is indeed a skirt - it has no tartan print that would sweep it into the kilt category. It is plainly coloured and comes in a variety of lengths, from just above the knee to down past the ankles.

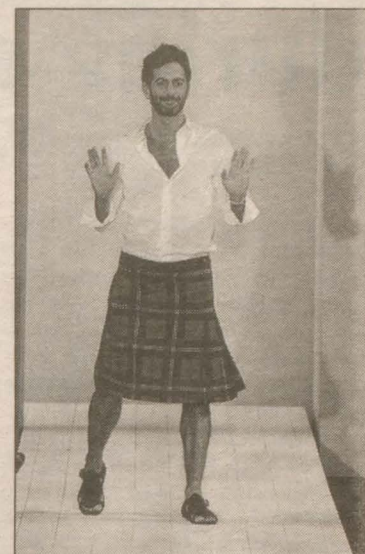
While Jacobs easily accepted the feminine connotations of the skirt, some students on campus have a different reaction.

"I would never and will never be caught wearing a skirt," says Mike Howard, a third-year international development studies student. "They're for girls and that's it."

The first garments worn by humans evolved from loincloths to full skirt-esque garments. That's right gentlemen - burly cavemen wore these items while they hunted, grunted and did all things masculine.

Men in ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece, to name a few, donned this historic garment while they fought bloody wars and battled for power. Kilts are still common in Scotland and surrounding countries. Most European cultures still recognize this type of garment as masculine.

So why the reluctance to embrace the man skirt over here in North America? Why would it be so ridiculous for a guy to throw on a



STOCK PHOTO

Marc Jacobs sports a man skirt at his runway show.

loose, non-restrictive piece of clothing instead of a pair of sweats?

The emergence of male skinny jeans and low-cut shirts show, slowly but surely, men are becoming more comfortable wearing clothing once labelled girls only.

Lingering connotations of appearing feminine, including looking weak or being homosexual, may play a large part in this delay of acceptance for the man skirt.

Even those who embrace the item have reservations about its potential in the fashion world. While new trends are always about the shock factor, Jacobs himself says he will not be including skirts in his menswear line. Barneys New York already carries man skirts, but Bloomingdale's has resisted putting them on the shelves.

Opinions change, discriminations fade and people start to look at things in a new way. Denim skirts just may be what's next to appear on males across the country. They already seem to love those toga parties.

Fear and loathing at the Repixx exhibit

DANIEL BLENICH
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

I entered the Argyle Fine Art Gallery last Friday night to see the infamous Chris Smith's Repixx. Smith's photos, largely depicting Nova Scotian musicians, were juxtaposed with artistic interpretations of his work. I initially felt as though I had entered hipster heaven. I felt onlookers' eyes judge me for not having thick-framed, non-prescription glasses or a formal education in art appreciation. As I surveyed the work, I had the distinct feeling that a hefty dose of tribal mescaline would enhance the mindless drudgery that confronted me - it was that boring. Just kidding.

There was a painting of a crow, which, instead of a beak, had a gun wired to its face. It was shooting at a television set.

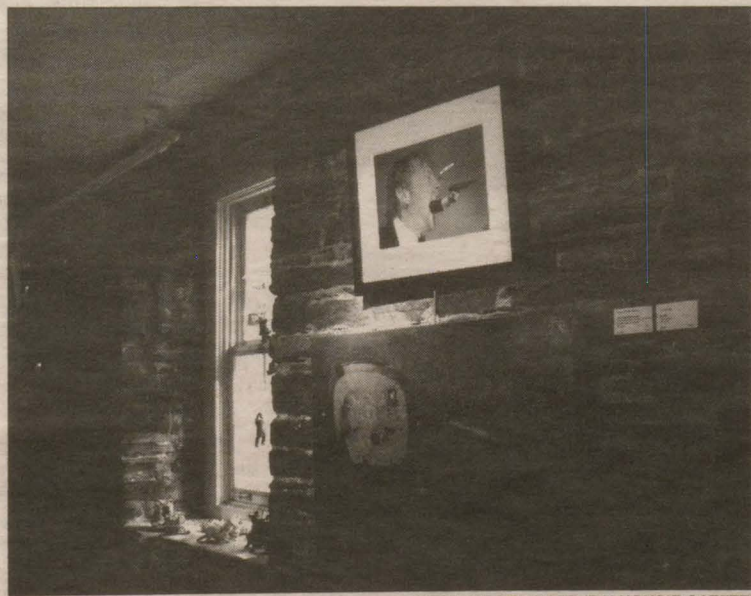
"This shit is brilliant," I thought.

I looked around to see if anyone else understood the weight of was hanging on the walls. An oil portrait of Matt Mays seemed to be the only thing in the room who knew what I was feeling.

There was a Smith photo of Joel Plaskett and next to it an "artful interpretation." The photograph was great - with shadow and lighting truly attractive to the eye. The "artful interpretation," on the other hand, was a green canvas with a picture of Plaskett. It instantly conjured up horrible memories of a food poisoning incident when I was in Grade 10. I surveyed the room for a puke bucket.

Mynausea subsided when I turned to find a photo of the band Wintersleep staring blankly at me. Somehow, this cut me to the core. I fell on my knees and wept in my mind.

Actually, I stood there staring



SUZANNE DERIDDER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

There was a painting of a crow, which, instead of a beak, had a gun wired to its face.

blankly back at Wintersleep.

"You smug little fucks," I thought. "You don't know me. Only Matt Mays understands!"

My friend asked me why I was swearing at the photograph.

The jig was up; the fuzz would be here any minute. How long could I stand these horrible, obscene electric images clouding the walls?

"Snap out of it," I thought to myself. This was no place to be having such thoughts. The art gallery swine could sense my recklessness. The weasels were closing in.

"Act in a manner befitting a doctor of journalism," I told myself. Don't take any guff from these bastards. I turned back to the Wintersleep photo and pulled an acid blotter from my pocket. My friend shot me a look that seemed to say "if you

take that you'll be just as fucked as this picture of Motley Crue."

I dropped it and went up the stairs to look at the 3-D posters. If I wasn't twisted before, I certainly was now. A man with winding roads in his stomach bared his teeth in a smile at me. I knew it was time to leave.

I exited the building with as much grace as I could muster.

"They can assault you with putrid interpretations of Plaskett photos," I thought. "They can rape your mind with violent parables of crows and television, but they cannot take the dignity away from this doctor of journalism."

Somewhere behind me now hung, an oil canvas of Matt Mays. His dead, unconscious eye seemed to plead the great silence of the void, which held, in its pregnant emptiness, all possible futures.

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How and where to study during exams

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Now that Dalhousie's 24-hour study zone has been shut down, it seems everyone is panicking about where to study. Any place you go will have its downsides. Whether its distractions – cute girls inside Starbucks and not-so-cute girls inside Coburg Coffee – or time constraints, studying becomes impossible. But here are some surefire study places so you can succeed in studying anything from Intro to Micro Economics to a real course.

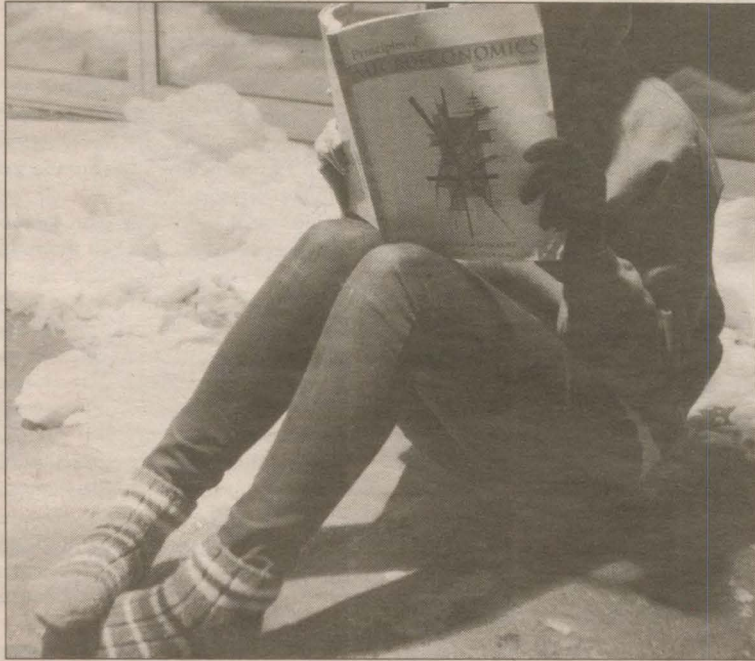
First off, don't go to the Killam Library. Think back to when you walked through there in the evenings on your way to meet your friends at Fountain Hall residence and noticed how empty it was. That's when you should have been studying. Come exam time the Killam Library becomes what I like to call the "Kill Me, why can't I find a seat?" library. Even if you take solace in the atrium, you should prepare for a plethora of girls in sweatpants and Uggs boots drinking the exam pain away via frappuccinos.

Frappuccinos are over-priced too, so go somewhere that serves coffee, not the caffeinated version of a Pop-Tart. Yes, I'm talking about a coffee house.

Just Us! (5896 Spring Garden Road) is always good because of its multiple floor levels and the fair trade experience. Plus, the cafe plays David Bowie, which is way better than anything you would hear at Starbucks.

The Daily Grind (5686 Spring Garden Road) is also an excellent place to fill your brain with knowledge. It serves affordable coffee and snacks, and has a jazzy atmosphere. If you get bored enough after reading Milton's "Paradise Lost" all day, you can pick up a magazine.

Speaking of the battle between



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The outdoors is an alternative spot for studying.

heaven and hell, let's stroll to the purgatory that is fast food. Fast food restaurants are generally noisy at times, but they're a place you won't get distracted by your friends. You can never get kicked out of McDonald's because they don't have any form of loitering policy.

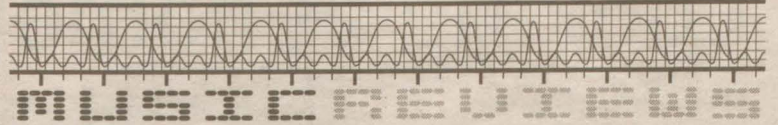
Other than fast food places, studying in real restaurants is pointless and makes you look like a loner. So why not call up some friends for some studying and beer? Nothing makes you study better than alcohol. Sarcasm aside, quiet bars are actually a great place to read. I recommend Gatsby's (5675 Spring Garden Road) at night and Economy Shoe Shop (1663 Argyle Street) during midday.

If you have a good group of friends, studying in someone's living room can be rewarding, even if you aren't taking the same subjects.

At least it gives you something to talk about during breaks. Another bonus of studying with a friend is the possibility of a bedroom study, because few things turn people on more than the impending doom of an exam.

If all else fails, isolate yourself and your notebook with a nice cozy set of headphones and bliss out to your favourite Modest Mouse tunes. If you're the kind of person who can't study with music, try high-strength earplugs that will dull the sound of the outside world. Sadly they won't drown out the voices in your head asserting that you will fail.

The secret is finding out which location works for you. Choose a place with the least distractions available and take breaks in between spurts of studying. And if you haven't figured it out already, start studying now if you want to do well.



Have a metal x-mas

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

My brother is a pretty smart guy. When he isn't working on his PhD in genetics and finding a cure for cancer he will usually send me e-mails from his laboratory with drawings of penises and little notes of ideas he's had while working. A few years ago around the end of November he sent me an e-mail that said simply: "This Christmas needs more metal."

Apparently he isn't the only one who desires more thrash during the celebratory season. *We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year* is basically an album made up of your favourite metal artists from the past 40 years, as well as the members of Anthrax, working together for the common goal of making the birth of Christ a little more rockin'.

The album starts off on a strong note with "We Wish You a Merry Xmas." The song begins with a satanic dissonance and emerges with solos everywhere courtesy of Bruce Kulick of Grand Funk Railroad fame.

Song two is absolutely dreadful. With a lineup of Lemmy from Motocore on vocals, Billy Gibbons from ZZ Top on guitar and Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters on drums, how can you lose? Apparently you can lose big time when they are performing "Run Rudolph Run."

Lemmy shouldn't sing about Rudolph. Grohl lays down some solid drum work, but without his vocal presence, the album seems

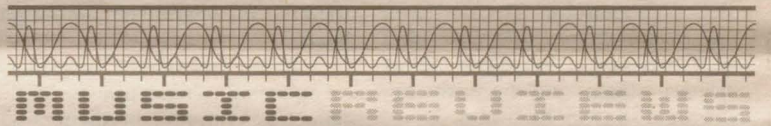


mundane. So here lies this album's problem. It goes back and forth from fun metal renditions to tracks that I wouldn't even force my darkest enemy to listen to.

"Santa Claws is Coming to Town" by Alice Cooper is undoubtedly the best track, due to Cooper's creepy appeal. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" by Ronnie James Dio and Tony Iommi is as menacing as any Sabbath record they've ever worked on even though they're performing a holiday tune.

But some artists ruin the classic tunes, especially when you hit tracks such as "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" by the dreadful Traci Gunns, or Scott Ian's (of Anthrax) blasphemous rendition of "Silent Night."

Overall the album is a cute attempt. If you want an original Christmas album, look no further. But if you're looking for something that rocks you like a hurricane don't touch this. Here's hoping for *A Very Norwegian Death Metal Christmas* to come out in 2009.



The Waking Eyes: Holding On To Whatever It Is

MARC Z. GRUB
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Coming from Toronto, I didn't think there were bands in Manitoba. Incredible. I was under the impression it was prairie and nothing else, but I guess The Waking Eyes' music proves me wrong. Judging by the band's album, *Holding On To Whatever It Is*, it's not a bad prairie band, either.

The Waking Eyes fuse the Elephant 6 kaleidoscopic aesthetic with a Hot Chip dance-pop mentality, resulting in a beautiful hybrid of the two that unfortunately lacks the distinct personalities of either crew. But that doesn't mean it's not an enjoyable, if forgettable, listen.

The opening title track sounds like The Apples of Stereo if their lead singer Robert Schneider were half as depressed as Radiohead's Thom Yorke. Then a dance beat kicks in with dark club-synths.

Three tracks later, the beautiful "Wolves at the Door" is a gospel-tinged number where vocalist Rusty Matyas goes for his best Murray Lightburn of The Dears impression. The gospel influence shows up again on "Pick Up Your Number," another of the album's best tracks.

Tracks such as "Keeps Me Coming Back," that sound like Billy Talent/ My Chemical Romance with



borrowed Billy Joel melodies, bring down the album. The vocoder synth doesn't help either.

"Boyz and Girlz" doesn't know what the hell it wants to be, jumping between dark dance pop, some weird kind of operatic punk rock and a sunny, almost Strokes-y type song.

Sure, it's interesting, but that's the best thing about it. The middle of the album is comprised primarily of skippable tracks as the group loses sight of its lovely brand of dance pop. Luckily tracks such as the hooktastic "Trouble On The Patio" redeem the album toward the end.

Holding On To Whatever It Is isn't a great album, but it's not a terrible one either. It's a document of a group that's not sure what it wants to do. But there's hope for the band. As they are right now, The Waking Eyes need to figure out what they're all about.



Quantum of Solace

NOAH MITTON
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Quantum of Solace is James Bond film number 22, the second film starring Daniel Craig as Bond. This time around, he's fighting a clandestine group that uses one company as a front for another.

Quantum of Solace is better described as a continuation of *Casino Royale* rather than the typical Bond sequel. Usually the events of one film in a series don't have any lasting repercussions. In this series, that's not the case.

Vesper Lynd's relationship with Bond and the tragedy that ensued loom largely in this movie. If you didn't see *Casino Royale*, you would be at a loss to explain the motivations and concerns of Bond and M, played again by Judi Dench.

Craig does a great job portraying Bond as a serious character. Bond's drinking is now seen as a crutch rather than something to be flaunted. Occasionally, he is ruthless to a frightening point. His charm is portrayed as a weapon – something he uses when he needs to accomplish something. Craig manages to say a lot with his body language, which is a refreshing change for the series.



The movie's pacing takes a cue from the Bourne series, particularly the *Bourne Ultimatum*. There are no exposition scenes and no big reveals. The villain – a criminal posing as an environmentalist – and Bond have little to say to each other. They rarely confront each other face to face. While the plot isn't complicated, director Marc Forster expects the audience to put the pieces together.

There's an undercurrent of jaded morality throughout the film. With government officials willing to turn a blind eye to human rights abuses to benefit senior agents who use patriotism to advance their own careers, the film feels a little more realistic than your typical action film.

Unnecessarily so, since Bond movies are primarily about escapism.

Even the villain is a little more realistic. Unlike evil-doers before him, he doesn't have an obvious physical defect or weird quirk like using a bowler hat as a weapon. While obviously a psychopath, he looks more like a company executive than someone who laughs maniacally from an underwater volcano while stomping on puppies.

Overall, *Quantum of Solace* was quite entertaining. It was unlike any of the previous Bond movies and I really enjoyed this vision of a modern Bond. Anyone who wants to appreciate this film should watch *Casino Royale* first.

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Developing Leaders in Energy

Congratulations to the winners of the 2008 Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Petroleum Innovation Grant



From left to right: Shannon Ledger-Piercey, Eric Negulic, Calvin Campbell, Stephen Rankin

Shannon Ledger-Piercey

Shannon Ledger-Piercey is from Sackville, Nova Scotia and graduated in 2007 with a bachelor degree in geology from Saint Mary's University. She is currently working towards a master's degree in geology at Saint Mary's. Her research is focused on the provenance of lower cretaceous sandstones.

Eric Negulic

Eric Negulic is a master of Earth Sciences student at Dalhousie University researching hydrocarbon potential of the cretaceous channel systems on the sable shelf. Eric is from Bedford, Nova Scotia and in 2008 completed a bachelor degree in earth sciences with honors from Dalhousie University.

Calvin Campbell

Calvin Campbell is originally from Hatchet Lake, Nova Scotia and is a master of sciences student in the earth sciences department at Dalhousie University. His master's thesis is focused on the cenozoic continental margin evolution off Nova Scotia. Calvin graduated from Saint Mary's University in 1999 with a bachelor degree with honors in earth sciences and geology.

Stephen Rankin

Stephen Rankin is studying towards a master's degree in applied sciences from Saint Mary's University with a focus on submarine canyons on the Scotian slope. He is from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and graduated last spring from Saint Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in geology.

Thinking about petroleum-related research? The Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Petroleum Innovation Grant supports researchers investigating areas of importance to Nova Scotia's growing energy sector. As many as four non-renewable \$15,000 awards are available each year for master level students who are beginning studies in **earth sciences, business, or engineering** at a Nova Scotia university.

To find out how to apply for the next academic year, please visit: www.gov.ns.ca/energy



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Basketball teams win in final 2008 games

TYLER BROWN
ASSISANT SPORTS EDITOR

Dal basketball had a good weekend Nov. 21-23, with both the men's and the women's Tiger teams picking up convincing wins over the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Panthers.

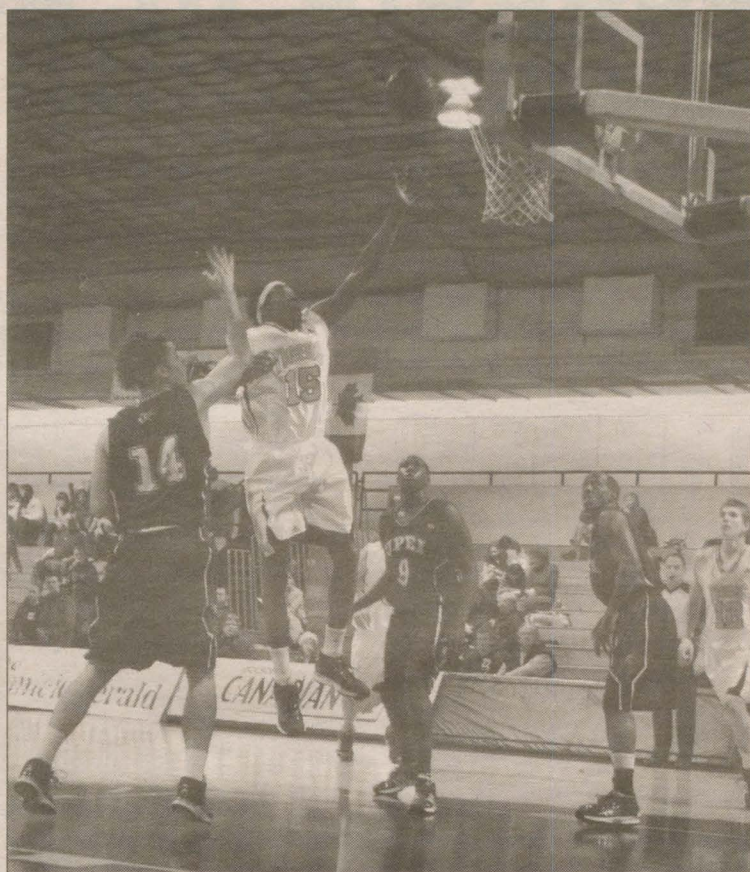
On the men's side it was an absolute trouncing, with the Tigers walking all over the Panthers in a 94-50 win. A strong performance on the defensive side of the ball put good pressure on the Panthers, giving the team very few good looks at the basket. The outcome was never really in doubt. The Tigers built up a large lead in the first quarter and rode it through the game, leading 51-24 at halftime.

Second-year guard Josh Beattie had a hot hand, leading the Tigers in scoring. The real story of the game was the way the Tiger's first year players performed. With the game well in-hand early, the rookies got in some valuable minutes and played well.

After the third quarter, all three of the Tiger's rookies finished out the game, shutting down the Panthers effectively and managing to put together a solid offense working with veteran point guard

The win moves the Tiger's overall record to 10-3, and up to 4-2 in the conference. The Panther's loss drops that team to 3-4.

The women also put on a good show, winning 79-68. A much closer



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Tigers rolled over the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers.

game than the men's, Brianna Orr put away any comeback hopes for the visiting side.

Player of the game Laurie Gird-

wood was a force for the Tigers, sweeping up most rebounds. She seemed to score at will over the smaller the Panthers defenders. Jenna Kaye proved



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

With their win over the Panthers, the women have a 2-3 season record.

herself again to be a great addition to the club, putting in a tenacious defensive game and coming up with a few key steals.

The win moves the girls' record to 2-3 in conference play, giving them some much needed momentum after their previous four-point

win over St. Francis Xavier University X-Women. The loss drops the Panthers to 0-5.

Both teams are off until after the Christmas break. The next home game for the Tigers is Jan. 10 when the men and women welcome a visit from the University of New Brunswick.

ROSEMARY GILLAWARD

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the Rosemary Gill Award in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. Up to four awards can be made each year. The selection of recipients is made by a committee consisting of the President; the Vice-President, Student Services; the Chair of the Student Experience Committee of the Board of Governors; and a student appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 2009. Nominations should be made in writing and include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support, preferably including at least one from a student or students.

The Rosemary Gill Award is a plaque presented to the recipient at a spring reception hosted by the President. In addition, a permanent plaque bearing the names of annual recipients is displayed in the Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Nominations should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
Room G28, Main Level
Killam Memorial Library
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H8



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Minds

The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 19, 2008.

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Used sporting goods

Sports in brief

Vanier Cup coloured Red and Gold

The number one-ranked Laval Rouge et Or team beat the third place Western Mustangs 44-22 on Nov. 22 at the Vanier Cup, making them the 12th team in Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) history to complete a perfect season. Laval has now won four Vanier titles in the last six years, proving yet again the school has the country's top university football program. Laval is now second in CIS history for the most Vanier Cup wins. It has five, all of which came after 1999.

Aigles Bleu (9-2) lost their second game of the season on Nov. 21 to the second place (9-4) Saint Mary's Huskies with a score of 8-3. Moncton scored just 20 seconds into the game, but then gave up a whopping six goals in the first period. Scoring for Moncton was Remi Doucet, with two, and Pierre-Andre Bureau. In the previous 11 games Moncton has not allowed more than four goals against them.



Tigers fall to UNB Reds

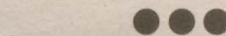
The Dal men's Tigers fell hard on Nov. 21 to the third-place University of New Brunswick Reds 11-2, putting their record at 3-8, keeping them in the second last place in the Atlantic University Sport league. Scoring for the Tigers, who were out shot 56-16, were captain Tyler Dyck and Hampus Enzell.



Olympic torch to travel through N.S.

Next November the Olympic Torch relay will have itself a five-day vacation in Nova Scotia as it makes its way to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. While here, it will be visiting 54 communities, including the Fort Anne National Historic Site in Annapolis Royal, Halifax Citadel, and Windsor, N.S., said to be the birthplace of hockey. More than 500 lucky Nova Scotians will get to help carry the flame across its 1,390-kilometre journey through the province.

Source: the Chronicle Herald



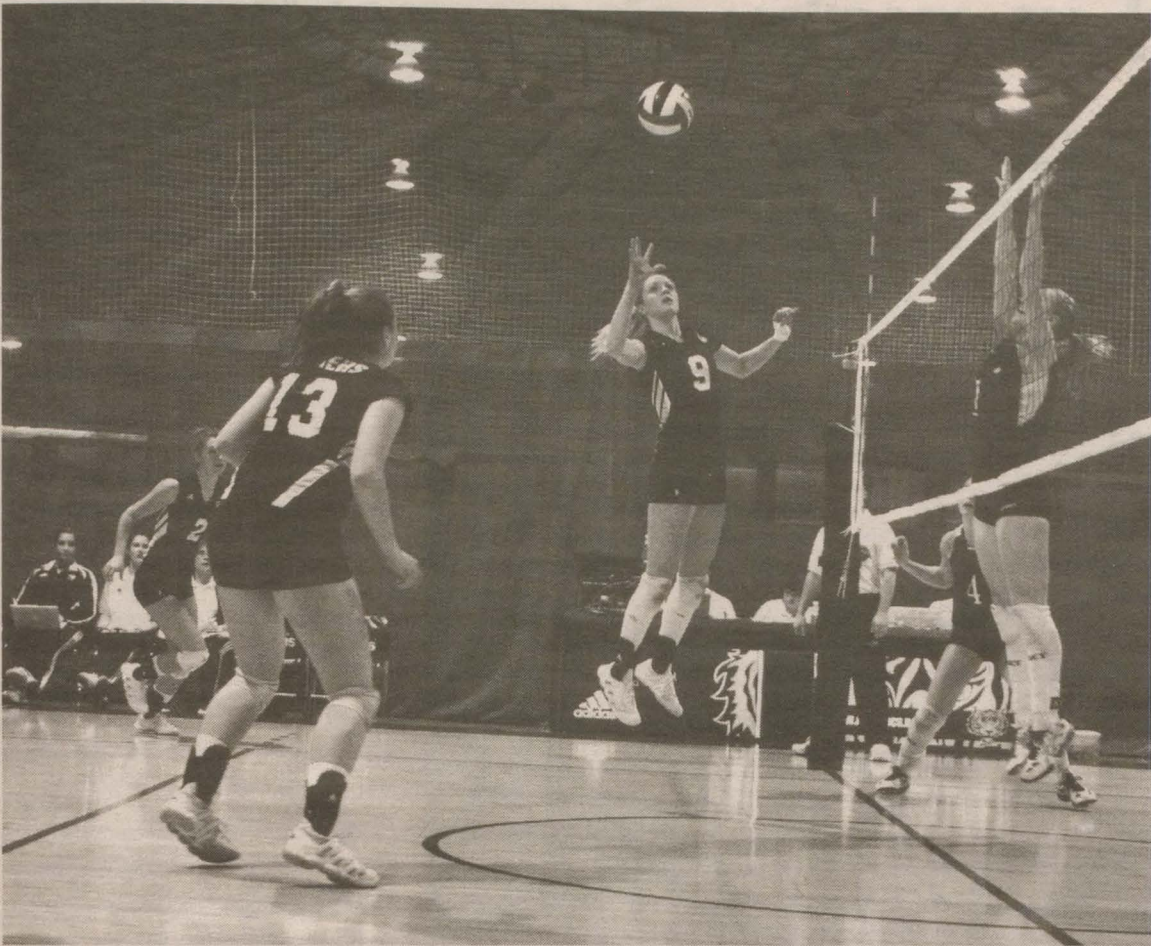
Mooseheads continue winless streak

The Mooseheads have lost seven consecutive games after a 5-2 loss to the Screaming Eagles in Cape Breton on Nov. 21. The Eagles had a heavy lead, going up 4-0 by the middle of the second period. Thomas Knotek continued to produce for the Mooseheads, getting one of the goals, while Jessyko Bernard had the other. For the Screaming Eagles Nicolas Choinard got a hat trick, J.C. Gauthier also had one and Robert Slaney scored his 10th of the season. Christopher Holden, the Eagles' backup goalie, made 21 saves for the win while the Mooseheads' Mark Yetman had 34.



Huskies lose to Moncton

The Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league's first place Moncton



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Tiger women beat their rivals, the Saint Mary's University Huskies in a tight five-set match.

Tigers start weak in SMU volleyball matchup

NICK KATTER
SPORTS EDITOR

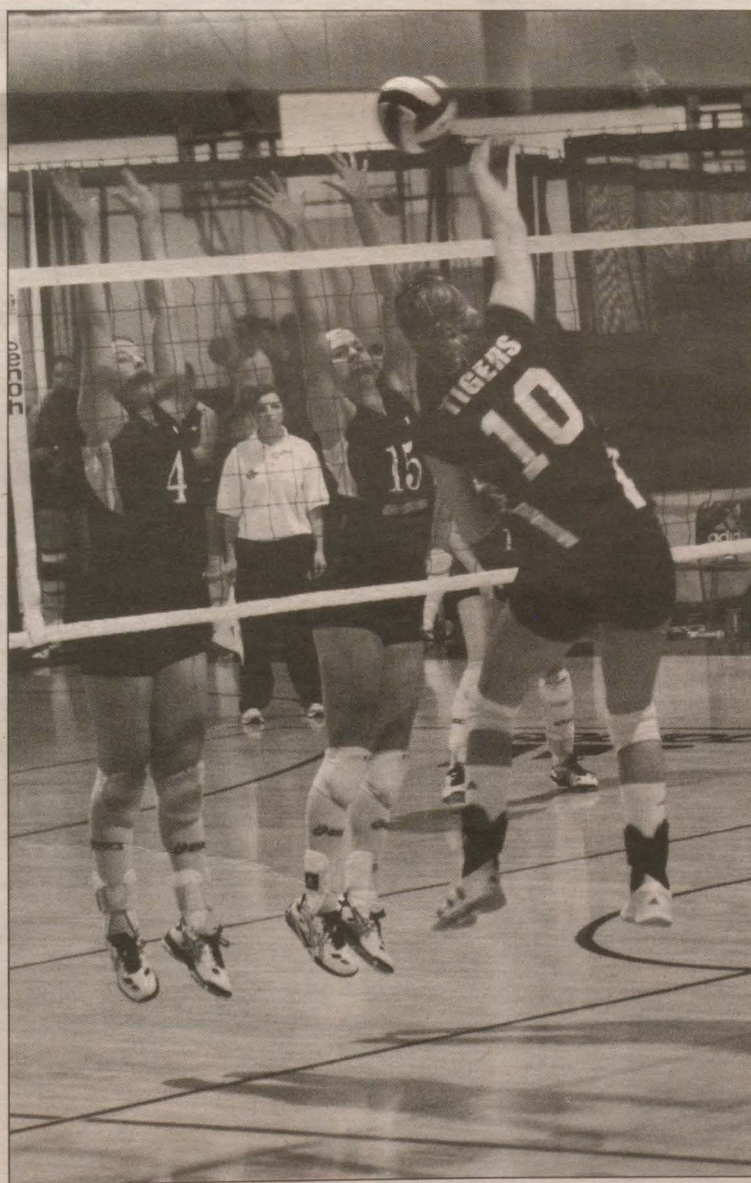
The house was nearly packed at the Nov. 20 cross-town rivalry women's volleyball game. Currently fourth place in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league, the Dalhousie Tigers (5-6) were coming off a 3-0 loss to UNB, while the fifth place Saint Mary's University (SMU) Huskies (4-5) were coming off a 3-1 win over UPEI the previous weekend. Both teams have traditionally been extremely competitive with each other and this game was no different.

Dal's women came out with a truckload of momentum and it looked as though the evening could be a quick victory for the Tigers. In the first set, Dal put forth composed and disciplined plays. The Tigers quickly controlled the Huskies' serves and set up for well-placed kills, such as a sneaky backwards set to the middle by Robyn West for a perfect kill down the line by Kirstie Shepherd, to put Dal ahead 8-5. But the Tigers obviously lost their composure in the second set as SMU took a commanding 10-4 lead just minutes into play. Dal called a timeout to try and break the Huskies' momentum to no avail. Dal's women clearly had trouble controlling the Huskies' serves throughout the game. A powerful spike serve from SMU's Janesse Boudreau frequently resulted in points, as the Tigers would send the return out of bounds.

The second set saw a flurry of dramatic rallies highlighted with spectacular hits and digs by both teams, most notably a sprawling one-handed dig by SMU's Kaila Whitton.

Despite amazing efforts from powerhouse hitter Lauren Schinkel, the Tigers lost the second set 25-17, giving the already annoyingly vocal Huskies fans even more to cheer about.

As the Rolling Stones' 1965 classic "Satisfaction" played for the third time, the ladies took the floor for the third set. Again it appeared as though Dal was off, as more than a couple errors gave the Huskies an early lead on the scoreboard. Dal's poor offence and serving gave the



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Huskies a 25-15 win in the third set.

But in the fourth and fifth sets Dal's women clearly had their concentration back. Their defense showed the discipline and structure it lacked in the previous two sets. The Tigers managed to get a handle on the Huskies' powerful hitting, and ended with a 26-24 win.

The crowd was noisy and restless for the fifth set. The two teams went back and forth, point for point for the first few minutes of the game,

but after that it was all Dal. Consistently returning SMU's kill attempts and a few big blocks from Maggie Morrison and Shepherd gave Dal a 15-12 win for the match. Throughout the game, one of Dal's major weaknesses was the team's setting ability. West was setting balls too low, forcing Dal to resort to tips, and pushes that were easily returned. SMU had 79 defensive digs in the game compared to Dal's 67, with Lauren Smith contributing 30 of them.

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Tigers stun McGill in rugby championship

JOEL TICHINOFF
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

With a breathtaking penalty kick in the game's final second, Dalhousie fullback Ellis Gray sent the ball sailing through the uprights and the Dal men's rugby team into the history books as the 2008 Eastern Canada University rugby champions.

Playing under a torrential downpour of icy rain, the Tigers beat the McGill Redmen in a game the *McGill Reporter* described as "mythical." Fans who braved the rain and cold at Molson Stadium were rewarded with an epic match that saw four lead changes. A strong McGill team surrendered only its second loss in three seasons of league play including three straight Quebec league titles. The Redmen had gone 21 - 1 against other Canadian university teams since 2006 until the Nov. 15 match. Dal's win completed the team's second consecutive undefeated season putting them 9-0 in 2008.

The much-anticipated match-up between the Maritime and Quebec league champions was truly a case of David versus Goliath, with the Redmen team fielding six Quebec university rugby league all-stars, two Australians and one Team Canada Olympic prospect against a coachless, under-funded Dal team that paid its own way to Montreal for a chance to play.

Gray opened scoring for the Tigers, putting Dal ahead 3-0 with a



LAURIE MCKEOWN-THOMASSIN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The match-up between the Maritime and Quebec league champions was a David and Goliath fight.

penalty kick midway through the first half. The McGill Redmen responded swiftly with 210-pound junior Michael Davis beating Dal on the wing for his team-leading 13th try of the

season. Redman Sam Skulsky converted the try to put McGill ahead 7-3 after 40 minutes of play.

Inch-deep puddles of freezing water had formed on the Molson

turf when the two champion teams returned to the field for the second half. Four minutes in, fly-half Kyle Langille handed the ball to Tigers captain Paul Forrest, who broke

through a hole in the McGill line for his ninth try of the season. Forrest has scored in every game this year. Langille, a Truro, N.S. native, followed Forrest's try with a rare drop goal and sent Dal ahead 11-7.

The final 30 minutes of play saw the Tigers forced to make two 10-minute defensive stands on their own goal line. Dal's defense was anchored by forwards Steven Cutcliffe, Ewan Wilson and Alasdair Bishop, who repeatedly crushed the McGill drive with pulverizing hits and sent one McGill player to the hospital with minor injuries.

With a minute left in the game, McGill's Tyler Staton dove onto a loose ball in the Dal end zone, giving the Redmen a 12-11 lead.

McGill failed to convert the try and the unwavering Tigers team stormed back, putting their opponents on their heels with only seconds left in injury time. McGill's desperate defense resulted in a penalty with no time left on the clock. Gray's sharp-angled kick from 30 yards back would've been impossible under normal conditions, let alone in a driving November rainstorm with a championship on the line. The kick was good and Dal captured the Eastern Canada title by a score of 14 - 12.

The word "unbelievable" was on the lips of many in the stands at Molson Stadium as Dalhousie players and fans rushed to the celebration at centre field.



TIGERS ACTION!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

MEN'S HOCKEY vs ACADIA, 7:00PM

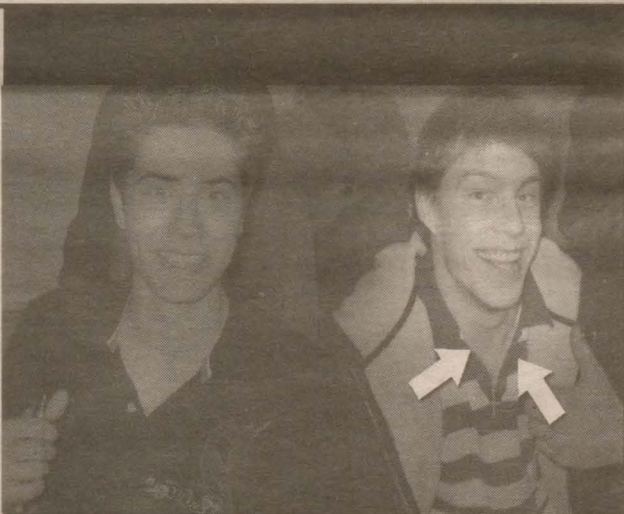
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs SMU, 7:00PM

The Friends of Dalhousie Men's Hockey Society presents **HOLIDAY SKATE WITH THE TIGERS!** Sunday, December 7, 2:00-3:20pm, Dalhousie Memorial Arena. Donations will be accepted for the 44th annual Christmas Daddies telethon. All are welcome! Bring the children for a fun and FREE afternoon of skating. Light refreshments will be available.



ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH ID
WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA



LOOK WHO "GOT IN THE GAME" DURING FRIDAY'S BASKETBALL GAME!

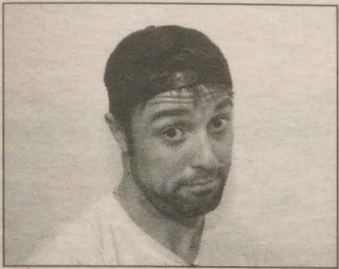
Show your Tiger Pride and be on the lookout for the Tigers Fan Spotter at Dal Tigers home events and you can WIN!

IF THIS IS YOU IN THE SPOTLIGHT, CALL 494-2212 TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!

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Sport retort

Off to the races



NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

This is a celebration of the end of Beach season. No, I'm not inhaling duster, I'm talking about the end of the lusciously wealthy racing career of the Nova Scotia-owned harness racing prince Somebeach-somewhere.

An inspiring title indeed, but the gasper is the bankbook. The greatest in harness racing history, the lengthy named horse has a record of 19-1. Though he lost at the Million-Dollar Meadowlands Race, the three-year old has bankrolled more than \$2,848,299.

Nov. 15 marked the horse's last race and his last victory on Canadian soil. Somebeachsomewhere won the \$300,000 Ontario Sires Stakes at Woodbine. His last race(s) will be in the Nov. 29 Breeders Cup and I predict the 'lil scamp is going to light it up.

I can see it now: he is coming around the last bend and all of a sudden out of the crowd a baby falls onto the track. Somebeach-somewhere races toward it at full speed. Then, the cunning horse

sees the baby and with a flick of his neck, flings the baby up into the arms of its parents.

Yeah, that's how it would happen.

The solemn few of you who read this loose-jawed column may have wondered why I have taken a particular liking to this horse and the wacky sport of horse racing. Well, I have a bit of a history with equestrian. I used to spend my summers dividing my time between a ranch camp and a farm in PEI. Needless to say, I grew fond of the ole "equus caballus." A deep-rooted attraction to the Mr. Ed type, and a handle like "Somebeachsomewhere: Fastest Three-year old in racing history," was enough to make me a lifelong fan.

Due to certain side projects I have taken on in my spare time over the past year, I have found myself spending more and more time in the beautifully boring town of Truro, N.S. When you spend that much time anywhere, you get attached to it. So news that the legendary Standard bred racing phenom was Truro-owned, I naturally hopped on the fan bandwagon.

There is something traditional and comforting about walking into a small town coffee shop and engaging in a four-way conversation pertaining to the local race horse's recent victory. It's so southern romantic.

Harness racing is a sport that seems to invite a man who wears a tan trench coat, fedora and Italian Ferragamos. Harness racing essen-

tially began in the Roman era with chariot racing; a sport for kings. It's a sport of wealth and class. But today's harness racing is America born and bred. Modern day harness racing was born from the days of racing trotting horses down country roads, similar to the birth of NASCAR racing. The early peak of harness racing happened in the mid 19th century with the creation of a Grand Circuit of major events. After the birth of the automobile, cart racing declined and the popularity of harness racing faded. That was until 1940 when Roosevelt Raceway in New York introduced night harness racing with pari-mutuel betting, the same betting used for harness races today.

The real reasons I love harness racing are the money and danger. A member of the Department of Emergency Medicines at the University of North Carolina, Anna Walker, wrote a four-year long study that reported 6,545 injuries between 1993-1996. Between 1950 and 1987, 100 jockeys were killed in the U.S.

In 2005, the Hambeltonian Society oversaw the disbursement of more than \$18 million in purse money and the Breeder's Crown series has given out more than \$122,805,733 million in purses over 250 events.

On top of all this history and wealth my boy Somebeachsomewhere is at the top of the game, making his Nova Scotia owners a whole bunch of money. What's not to like about that?

JOCK TALK

ZACK WILSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Name: Quincy Weatherby

Team: Dal Rugby

League: Atlantic University Sport

1. Are you the father of Jamie Lynn Spears' second baby?

"Depends who's asking. I swear she said she was 18!"

2. At any time in your rugby career have you been in the middle of a scrum and had an opponent poking his fingers in some inappropriate places?

"Only when I presented the opportunity."

3. Did you kinda like it?

Absolutely not. Unless it's a match against Dal women's rugby."

4. If you were paddling upstream on a river of chocolate pudding in a kayak and the wheels fell off, how many pancakes could you fit into a doghouse?

"What kind of question is that anyway?"

5. Would your team have been

better off this season with Mr. T as your starting prop?

"Absolutely not. He has too much pity."

6. Can you name all four of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

"Cutter, Blaze, Curley and Moe."

7. Recently on Facebook some pictures surfaced of you sporting "granny panties." What do you have to say in your defense?

"It was actually Depends diapers. Rookie night got the best of me this year."

8. Could you take the fat kid from Superbad in a steel cage match to the death?

"If I had tube socks, a sandwich and a pair of bolt cutters, I think I could pull it off."

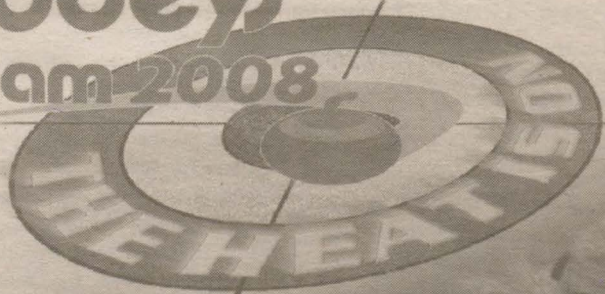
9. You are also a coach of a Dal-housie intramural hockey team. Although you don't play, do you participate in the team showers after the game?

"Despite my best efforts they won't let me."

10. Of all the players on your team, who would you say is most like Sloth from The Goonies?

"Blaze Rhino."

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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER



Nov. 27 - 100 days till Iron Ring

Nov. 28 - Last Class Beach Party Bash

Building Bridges Zhindra Gillis

Most Haligonians would tell you that the distance between Queen St. and LeMerchant St. is simply a few blocks. For several years however the distance seemed like miles with Oceans and mountains in the way. Unfortunately the transition of TUNS to Dalhousie Sexton Campus was not as smooth as everyone would hope, especially between the students of the campus and the DSU.

The distance between campuses coupled with the students who were against the change created some bad blood. Students of Sexton felt that their student culture was in jeopardy. They were scared to lose things that had become tradition like tech ball, the T-Room and the yearbook. They were also afraid of much bigger issues arising such as their campus being overlooked when it came for renovations and new equipment.

Agreements were reached between the Dalhousie Student Union and the Student Societies at Sexton to keep some things in place such as the yearbook but this was not enough to dissuade the animosity between campuses. Some students were unwilling to let go of the past and some were too eager to force the new state of affairs. A coming together of both sides was needed.

When Ezra Edelstein took office as president of the DSU as always with a new president; change was imminent. Fortunately for the students of Sexton and engineering students in particular an important relationship between Ezra and Scott Blake; former DSEUS DSU rep and Sexton campus director was formed. This was a first step towards making progress within the DSU. Scott and Ezra didn't always agree but the willingness to work together was in place.

When Scott was asked if he believed his voice on the DSU was a help to the students of Sexton he just smiled and winked. Scott often fought for students in his school career especially students of Sexton and engineers. This inspired others to say "hey we have a voice on the DSU and at this university let's use it!"

Scott isn't the only student to credit when trying to make change, there are many others who were there and still today are making changes. The roles of Sexton Campus Director and Sexton Entertainment Director have become integral parts of the DSU sexton relationship. Mike Tipping former President of the DSU actively campaigned to

engineering students and students of Sexton in 2007. This gave students of Sexton hope for the DSU. As well; last year on the DSU the position of Vice President Internal was filled by an engineering student for the first time; Rosalie Hanlon. While having her on the DSU definitely helped relationships between the campuses, Rosalie was careful not to favour engineering students and did an excellent job of fulfilling her duties on the DSU.

Then there was one Hockey game in the fall of 2007 which was attended by members of the DSU. This sparked a chain reaction which would open lines of communication and bring people together. Courtney Larkin, now President of the DSU and formally Vice President of Student life at the time saw a spark of student life and participation that needed further investigation. She took more time to interact with Sexton students and this eventually prompted the entire DSU executive to do so as well.

When asked about how she felt student relations between campuses had advanced in the past few years she very modestly wrote; " Last year members of the DSU executive and members of societies on Sexton campus worked very hard to create a sense of pride within the campus and to create awareness on how the student union and student societies can enhance students' university experience. The Sexton Campus Student Advisory Committee and the Sexton Campus Entertainment Committee were key players in bringing together members of the DSU and Sexton campus to achieve the goals mentioned above."

She went on to say "The dedication that the DSU executive had to Sexton Campus last year and to Sexton Campus students was an advancement from past years. That is not to say that there was not attention being paid to the campus and the students in past years, but more that there was a dedicated effort on both the DSU's behalf and the societies on Sexton campus's behalf." This is definitely agreeable on both sides. Sexton Students had definitely noticed the presence on the DSU on our campus much more so than in other years and were definitely appreciative and welcoming.

This year the DSU was integral in the Sexton Campus Orientation Day. Kris Osmond was very dedicated all summer to helping the Sexton Entertainment committee achieve goals set out for the day. He could easily be found in the T-Room on a Friday interacting with the Sexton Students. This dedication was especially appreciated since Kris also organized Frosh week all summer which as

everyone who has ever been involved with Frosh week knows it is a great deal of work.

It is also important to note that now the entire DSU Executive is conducting office hours on Sexton Campus. The office is located in the J building across the hall from the DSEUS office. Not only the DSU executive but DSU Health and Dental Plan Administrator, T-Room managers, Sexton Campus Entertainment Director, Sexton Campus Director, Sexton Campus Office Manager, and the Sextant have access to the office and the ability to conduct office hours.

Courtney also wrote "There have been great advancements between the DSU and Sexton Campus and student societies from all three campuses in the past few years. It is my hope that these advancements will continue and change with the forever changing student body. " and concluded, " I am very proud of all the students (DSU executive to committee members to the average student) that have played integral roles over the past few years to get us to the great place that we are at right now."

While students will not always agree with the DSU and sometimes need a voice to stand up for them it is apparent that there has been progression and positive action taken that is ongoing between the campuses. There is always opportunity to get involved and help make things better, bridges have been built and time has healed some wounds. If any student is interested in maintaining these bridges, they can feel free to drop by the DSU office or the DSEUS office hours anytime to find out more about getting involved.



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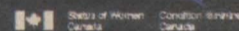
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Canada

Top 3 - Greatest Sports Team of All-Time

JF Nowlan
Sextant Contributor Extraordinaire
This topic is argued all over the country in bars, living rooms, kitchen parties and yes...even bedrooms. In an attempt to resolve this hotly debated topic, this week's Top 3 list is reserved for simply the best sports teams in history.

3) 1995 Chicago Bulls - After the death of his father in 1993 which led Michael Jordan to retirement, his "Ainness" returned to the game in 1995 to resume his throne of dominance in the NBA. The Chicago Bulls went a ridiculous 72-10 over the course of the season, an NBA record highlighted by an 18-game winning streak. Led by the coaching of Phil Jackson, the team sported the dynamic duo of Pippen and Jordan, the rebounding prowess of Dennis Rodman and the dead aim shooting Tony Kukoc and Steve Kerr. The Bulls lost only one game on the road to the NBA finals, crowning their season with a 6-game series win over the Seattle SuperSonics to become the NBA Champions yet again.

2) 1972 Miami Dolphins - The only NFL team to have a truly perfect season, the '72 Dolphins had something special that year. The QB, Bob Griese, suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle in Week 5. Earl Morrall led the team through the rest of the season and one playoff game, keeping their perfect season alive. It was also the first time that two teammate running backs, Larry Csonka and

Mercury Morris both rushed for 1000 yards in a single season. However, as impressive and powerful as this offense was, the Dolphin's also possessed the league's top ranked defense that year, led by NFL Hall of Famer Nick Buoniconti and Dolphin greats Manny Fernandez and Bill Stanfield. The Dolphin's met the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII and won 14-7.

2006 - 2008 Bio/Enviro Engineering Intramural Ball Hockey Team - No team epitomizes perfection quite like this immaculate group. On November 19th, the team won over the resilient Civil 5 team 12-10. This event marked the continuance of a winning streak and sheer dominance that has carried over 5 semesters. During this reign, the Bio/Enviro team has never lost a game. This record is truly a team achievement since the team has had dramatic roster shifts throughout these semesters, with co-op students being unable to play. However, those who played simply won. This dynasty is now coming to an end with many of the senior members graduating and moving on to new battle grounds. Although perfection is difficult to maintain consistently in all aspects of life, on the ball hockey courts, we were kings of perfection.

These are the best teams to have ever played their respective sports. Their positioning maybe interchanged but their accomplishments can never be doubted.