

FREE

141-21 / Mar 5, 2009

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE

## Great Lake Swimmers take a trip through Lost Channels

Toronto band to stop in Halifax on tour

pg

12



Press photo



# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Important Dates

March 15th - Deadline for Society winter audit

## Upcoming Events

### In Flight Safety Live @ The Grawood

Wednesday March 11th

Tickets \$7 in advance \$10 at the door

Open to all DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests  
If under the age of 19, Dalhousie ID must be provided

### Student Appreciation Night "Vegas Comes to DAL"

Friday March 13th, 7:00pm

FREE

Dinner, dancing, awards and a magical performance

For tickets email Kris Osmond at dsuvpsl@dal.ca  
(limited quantities available)

### Residence Charity Face Off for the IWK

Saturday March 14th, 5:45pm

Tickets \$7 in advance \$10 at the door

Trojans vs The Bighorns @ the DAL Areana

Official After Party at the Grawood!

### Sloan Live @ The Grawood

Friday March 27th, 8:00pm

Tickets \$15

Open to all DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests

### DSU Union Annual General Meeting - March 11<sup>th</sup>

Join us on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 for the DSU's Annual General Meeting. You'll have chances to both listen and express your own opinions. Visit [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) to view proposed by-law and regulation amendments. For more information about the AGM, contact Courtney Larkin, President of the Dalhousie Student Union, at dsupres@dal.ca.

### Elections Campaign Week - March 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Next week, March 9-March 16, will be DSU Elections Campaign Week! Keep your eyes and ears open for messages from your 2009 candidates and don't forget to cast your vote March 17-March 19 at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)!

### Dalhousie Green Week - March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

March 9-13 is Dalhousie Green Week. Highlighting Dal's many innovative programs and initiatives, this year's installment includes a provincial political forum, regional and global leaders in food culture, green business, climate change, tidal power, sustainable buildings and communities and Dal's first Farmer's Market. Come mix with the leaders of today and tomorrow at the Green Leaders Reception after the Green Careers Panel! This week has something for everyone, from seeding with See More Green to women's health alternatives with Venus Envy. Check out [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for more information or join the facebook group!

### Student Accessibility Bursaries - March 13<sup>th</sup>

Each year the DSU offers two \$1000 bursaries to Dalhousie students with disabilities. Students are encouraged to apply, regardless of whether or not they have a student loan, or receive outside funding. Applications are available at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca), or can be picked up at the info desk or room 222 of the SUB. Contact Daniel Boyle at dsuvpi@dal.ca. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009.

### Survey for Student Renters

The Halifax Student Alliance is conducting a survey to collect information on the experience of student renters in the HRM. If you've had a bad landlord, a great landlord or an absentee landlord, we want to hear about it! The information will be used to direct our lobbying efforts in making concrete policy suggestions. Prizes will be drawn from among survey participants! Visit [StudentsRent.ca](http://StudentsRent.ca) to complete the survey today!

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



# GAZETTE...STAFF



Katie's Teasers:

CKDU highlights homelessness p. #  
Do students need mandatory votes on society funding? p. #  
Women's basketball comes second in AUS finals p. ##

That's what you get for leaving early Ms. May.

BUWAH HAHAHAAAA!

One coupon per purchase, expires April 30, 2009

**Frog Hollow Books**

**10% off**  
with this coupon

"Best Independent Bookstore"  
The Coast's 2007 Reader's Poll

Park Lane Mall • 5657 Spring Garden Rd. • 429-3318  
One coupon per purchase, expires April 30, 2009

**Frog Hollow Books**

Huge selection of fiction and non-fiction as well as graphic novels, cards, gifts, stationery and much more.

Park Lane Mall • 5657 Spring Garden Rd. • 429-3318  
"Best Independent Bookstore"  
The Coast's 2007 Reader's Poll

**LIFE & SPORT**

**NUTRITION**

Free T-shirt  
With \$10 Supplement Purchase

Park Lane Mall, Spring Garden Rd  
**429-3111**

This coupon required. Limit 1 per customer.  
Offer expires May 2009

Buy | Sell | Whatever

**NEED STUFF?**

[www.bargainhunterpress.com](http://www.bargainhunterpress.com)

## 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 EDITOR**  
Christie Conway  
arts@dalgazette.ca

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
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

- Tim Mitchell
- Rachel Sunter
- OPINIONS**
- Lisa Buchanan
- John Hillman
- Eric Snow
- Ben Wedge
- Shannon Zimmerman
- ARTS & CULTURE**
- Jason Cohanim
- Laura Dawe
- Anna Demello
- Alex Fountain
- Marc Z. Grub
- Rosie Jacobs
- SPORTS**
- Dylan Matthias

## CONTACT US

Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2  
[www.dalgazette.ca](http://www.dalgazette.ca)  
**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-1280  
editor@dalgazette.ca  
**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-6532

## 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 Streater 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.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...GAZETTE

## WE SCREWED UP!

Incorrect/misleading information appeared in "Tutoring Services closed due to drop in volunteers" (Feb. 12): Students can still request a tutor at this website: <http://tutoring.studentservices.dal.ca/index.php>.

Patricia Schappert is co-ordinator of the Study Skills/Tutoring Programs, not vice-president of Student Services.

The Tutoring Services website has been updated to reflect the changes in service, not the Studying for Success site.

Tutors did not volunteer their services. They were paid \$20/hour. The Gazette apologizes for the errors.

## The art of handling rejection

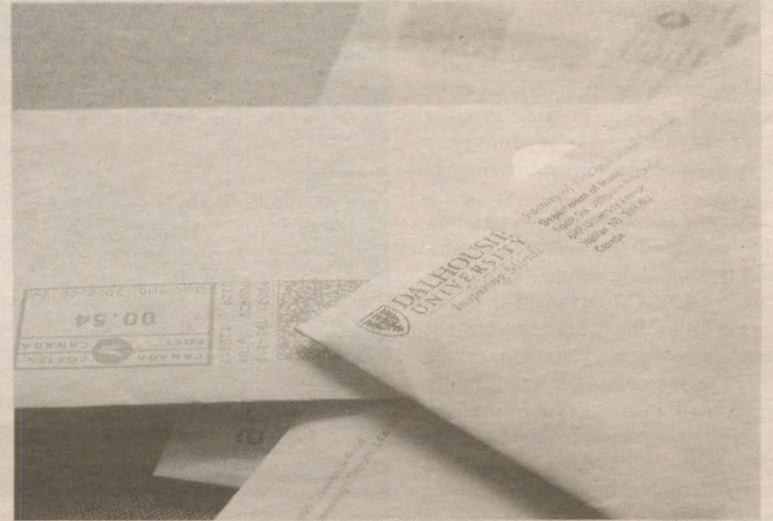
JULIE SOBOWALE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you're graduating and you don't have a plan, hopefully you've applied to graduate school and a few jobs. But be prepared for an infamous rejection letter or two.

No student is accepted to every school at which they apply. Few students can say they've completely escaped the formal letter, which states that, due to the large volume of applications and few spots available, the institution can regretfully not accept them.

At least when people are rejected by their boyfriends or girlfriends, there's a way to release the pain with angry text messages or nasty comments on the rejecter's Facebook page. It's not easy to yell or cry at a school to give you another chance. Most schools don't have mechanisms to challenge admissions policies, so people are stuck with the rejection.

People have plenty of chances to fail in the future but the rejection letter is just one of the sad realities of life. If rejection letters actually explained why a person didn't get in, the pain might be minimal. What's so wrong with saying the rejectee's transcript lacked good enough grades or extracurricular activities? When students fail a test, at least they usually know why. Schools stick to the formal rejection letter, de-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

One day you'll look back and laugh. Not for a long time, though.

livering a line like "due to volume of applicants..." but, given the time and effort students put into their applications, particularly at the grad school level, a personal rejection letter would be a nice touch.

Universities and businesses have turned the rejection letter into an art form. I recently received a lovely rejection e-mail from a media company in Ontario that said it all in one brutal sentence: "We received our quota of applicants." At least it was better than a

rejection letter from Cornell University. The school sends out e-mails to applicants saying their rejection letter is in the mail. Ouch.

Be prepared for the rejection. Whether it's a college or job application, it's not a pleasant feeling. But after lots of tears the pain will subside. Besides, there are lots of other schools and jobs to apply to in hopes of getting the acceptance letter – or at least adding to your collection of "it'll be funny someday" stories about nasty letters.

**HUMBER**  
The Business School

I earned my  
undergraduate degree,  
NOW

I want a  
rewarding career\*  
\* not just a job

In less than one year, Humber postgraduate programs will help you launch your career in:

- Financial Planning
- Human Resources
- International Development
- International Marketing
- Marketing Management
- Public Administration

Building on your university degree, Humber's postgraduate programs offer a concentrated curriculum, career-focused courses and practical field placements. You'll gain the real-world experience and skills that employers value most.

Get the career you want – apply now.

[business.humber.ca](http://business.humber.ca)

**STRANGE ADVENTURES**  
THE COMIC BOOK SHOP

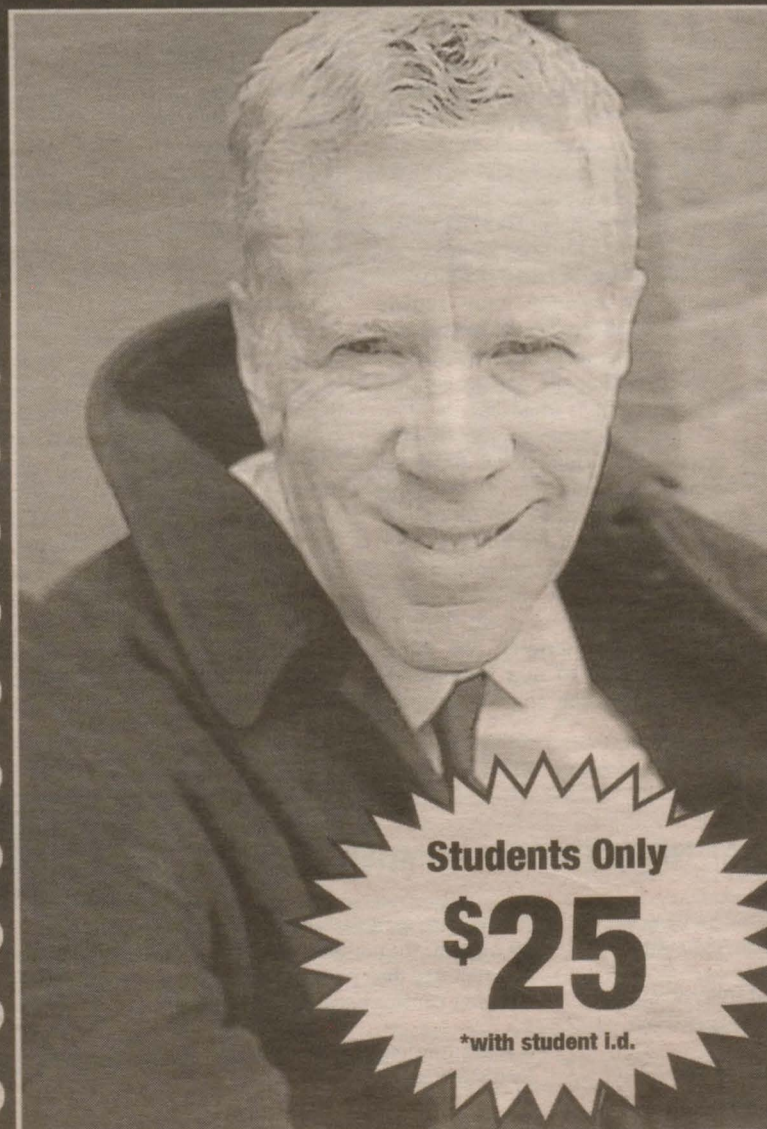
5262 Sackville Street Downtown Halifax  
between Market & Grafton • [strangeadventures.com](http://strangeadventures.com)  
**425-2140**

**Tea Makes You Smarter!**

Get \$2 smarter on us.



This coupon entitles bearer to \$2 off purchase at Cargo and James Tea. Coupon has no cash value. One coupon per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offer.  
1237 Barrington Street 406-4149  
Over 75 types of Tea \* Great Coffee & Pastries \* Free Internet



**STUART MCLEAN  
& THE VINYL CAFE**

**LIVE ON  
STAGE!**

**SPRING TOUR 2009**

Port Hawkesbury Mar. 3 - 902-625-2591

Glace Bay Mar. 4 & 5 - 902-564-6668

Truro Mar. 6 - 902-895-1681 X 211

Wolfville Mar. 7 - 902-542-5500

Halifax (Cohn Aud) Mar. 8, 9, 10 & 11 - 902-494-3820

Students Only

**\$25**

\*with student i.d.

5th show  
added in Halifax  
by popular demand

16819328

# CKDU participates in national Homelessness Marathon

TIM MITCHELL  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

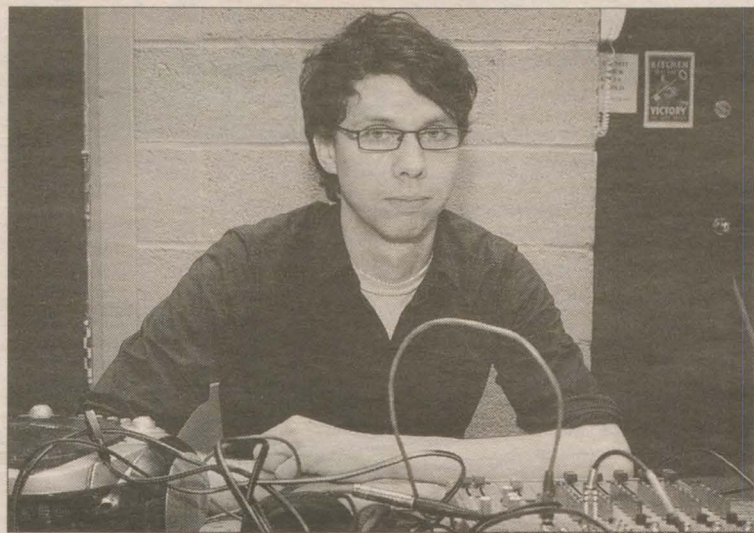
CKDU, Dalhousie's campus radio station, took part in a 14-hour radio broadcast on Feb. 23 with 35 other radio stations across the country to discuss homelessness and poverty in Canada.

Several homeless people, community organizers and volunteers gathered at St. Matthew's United Church on Barrington Street from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning for the seventh annual "Homelessness Marathon," where CKDU set up a remote listening booth and invited people to discuss over the radio homeless issues in the Maritimes and possible solutions, which ranged from affordable housing to government assistance programs.

Blair Bayers, 37, a maintenance worker for the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority, talked about his experiences being homeless and why it is a problem that needs to be addressed.

"I was homeless because I lost control of my finances," he said. "I got laid off from my job in construction and there was a lack of work. I could have gone and stayed with family but my family situation was not that great."

Bayers stayed at the Metro Turning



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

David Parker, spoken-word co-ordinator for CKDU, believes housing is a human right, not a privilege.

Point shelter on Barrington Street for two months in 2001.

The federal government has no official measure of homelessness or poverty, but Statistics Canada reported the poverty rate was at 10.8 per cent in 2005 - affecting about 3.5 million Canadians.

"The shelters, they open up a reality to you that you didn't know before. It centered my life, strengthened me,

humbled me. It's not a cheery, rosy reality," said Bayers.

In January 2006, Bayers found his friend Bernie's body near Ragged Lake in Halifax. Bernie was 39, broke, and about to be living on the street.

"His girlfriend was breaking up with him and he would've had nowhere to live," said Bayers. "His options were running out. He took a handful of sleeping

pills and succumbed to hypothermia. I miss him. He was a good friend."

Bayers wants homeless people and people living in poverty to know they have options, like getting help from friends or family. He said everyone has to play a part in fighting homelessness, even if it's just changing someone's mind.

"It's a social problem. It's something that has to be talked about. Everyone can talk to people, tell them to move forward and not to give up," said Bayers. "It's not an easy topic - some people would rather avoid it. We need to assimilate the homeless into society rather than ostracize them."

Inside the church, people enjoyed donated food, played hacky-sack and listened to the live broadcast.

Seven women from the Anchor Archive - a social centre and zine library on Roberts Street - sat knitting and chatting in one end of the church. Some were knitting clothes for the homeless, while others took pledges to raise funds for a new shelter in the works called Out of the Cold.

Out of the Cold, once constructed, will replace Pendleton Place, a shelter on Brunswick Street that was built for those who had problems accessing other shelters. Pendleton Place shut down

last November due to lack of government funding.

David Parker, spoken-word co-ordinator for CKDU, helped organize the homelessness marathon in Halifax to raise awareness about poverty issues among the community and the local government. He said housing is a human right and not a privilege.

"Lots of high-income buildings are getting pumped out and they're empty," said Parker. "We need more low-income housing."

CKDU has participated in all seven annual national homelessness marathons, but this was the first time it broadcasted live across Canada. It held a one-hour live panel discussion at 5 a.m. with homeless people from Halifax, community leaders and directors of homeless shelters.

"Homelessness is an issue that doesn't get adequate coverage in mainstream news," said Parker. "We're hoping to provide a coverage that's a bit more profound and hard-hitting."

Parker said CKDU, with the help of many volunteers, had been preparing for the homelessness marathon for more than a month.

"Just by pulling it off, reaching people, bring it home and making it a reality, we're changing society," he said.

## CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

### Report predicts university fee hikes due to recession

A recent report on Canadian university funding concluded governments should permit fee hikes to compensate for loss in revenues due to the recession, reported *CBC*.

This would be necessary to uphold the quality of education at universities, stated the report, conducted by the Educational Policy Institute (EPI).

The EPI report said university en-

dowments have decreased in value by between 15 and 30 per cent due to the recession. It also reported financial aid could cost the federal government up to \$400 million - the demand for aid will be greater because of income reductions and unemployment increases.

Cuts in private donations and public funding could also be a future possibility, said the report.

Source: *CBC*

### Computer error reveals Ryerson students' personal information

A computer glitch at Ryerson University has revealed the personal information of roughly 600 students, reported *The Ryersonian*.

This may have been caused by an error on the university's Student Administration System - used to register for, drop and switch courses - which was overhauled on Nov. 17.

Information such as social in-

urance numbers, student numbers, mailing addresses and names may have been viewed, reported university officials.

The university has installed a software patch to ensure the problem does not occur again.

Accounting and auditing firm Ernst & Young is investigating the issue. The firm said the patch has fixed the problem.

Source: *The Ryersonian*

## NATIONAL HEADLINES:

### Afghanistan mission could cost up to \$11.3B

The federal government estimates Canada's Afghanistan mission could cost up to \$11.3 billion for taxpayers.

CBC reported the estimate could change over time, depending on the mission's situation.

The government website Canada's Engagement in Afghanistan posted the report, which stated Afghanistan is a complex and challeng-

ing mission and costs estimated are constantly readjusted to reflect this.

Roughly \$9 billion of the costs include expenses for personnel, equipment and supplies and are related to the Defence Department.

The remaining \$2.3 billion includes \$1.7 billion for the Canadian International Development Agency, \$400 million toward the Foreign Affairs Department and \$150 million to Veterans Affairs Canada.

Source: *CBC*

### Conservatives plan to enforce compulsory prison time for drug dealers

The Conservative government has proposed mandatory jail time for drug dealers and traffickers under suggested changes to the Criminal Code, reported *CTV*.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said the new measures would try to crack down on criminal organizations and gangs. He added the Tories want to get these people off the streets.

The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act would demand a minimum of one year in prison for marijuana dealers associated with organized crime and a mandatory jail sentence of two years for dealing hard drugs to youth.

Those guilty of owning large marijuana grow-ops could spend 14 years in jail, according to the proposed legislation.

Source: *CTV*

# Medical Musings

## Correlations, causes and confusion



RACHEL SUNTER  
HEALTH COLUMNIST

It's amazing how quick people are to respond when they're angry, hurt or otherwise offended. After my last column on marijuana lit up some serious tempers as expressed in my e-mail inbox, I've concluded curiosity and general approval definitely rank low on people's list of Reasons To Write To A Columnist.

The use and implications of the word "correlated," in my last column caused the most confusion, highlighting an issue that can affect all readers of health news.

In the scientific world, the words "correlated to" do not translate to "is caused by" or "causes." A correlation refers to a positive or negative relationship between two factors.

A positive relationship means increasing one factor increases another: for example, people who eat more food are more likely to feel full. A negative relationship shows how increasing one factor decreases another, or vice versa: people who get less sleep are more likely to feel more irritable, or people who get more sleep are less likely to get sick.

This basic understanding is crucial to interpreting scientific news. Headlines can cause faulty health scares for this very reason. Being able to distinguish between causal connections and mere correlations will empower you against medical propaganda.

For example, a November 2008 American study found a correlation between rainfall and autism. In Northern American states, precipitation levels were positively correlated to autism rates in children: higher rainfall was linked to more autistic kids.

Questions that arise might be: does rain cause autism? Do autistic populations radiate something that causes rain? It could be that autistic people enjoy rainy climates more, and are more likely to move to and stay in rainy states. On the other hand, maybe clouds and the lack of sunlight somehow cause autism. Or the humidity. It could even be that when it rains, people have more sex, creating more autism-prone children. Or maybe, as one autism researcher stated, autism is on the rise globally, and the connection with rain is irrelevant.

Just look at how many hypotheses one can think of. Our intuition may increase our acceptance of one cause over another, but ultimately, there's no proof for any one conclusion. At least not in this study.

That doesn't mean correlational studies aren't useful. Finding a correlation between two things gives ground to new hypotheses. These ideas can spark further in-

vestigations.

Ultimately, researchers can zero in on the underlying chemical, social, environmental or physical reasons one thing is correlated to another.

So why bother publishing such ambivalent studies, before further research has been done?

Because it's interesting. Because it makes us think. Because we live in a free society where, for the most part, we're allowed to know what the experts know.

Scientific findings derived from large-scale studies shine light on the little conclusions we make in our day-to-day existence. Like how some people look like their pets, or how chocolate cake makes some people feel better when they're upset.

Casual observations and urban myths are foundational to scientific studies that are, after all, performed by curious people. Popular beliefs are sometimes - though certainly not always - the first signs of real correlations.

So next time you hear something is correlated to more or less of something else, remember the distinctive difference between correlations and causes. At a time when health news is an explosive industry increasingly shaped by consumerist objectives, knowing this may make you a more critical and less naïve reader. That's my hypothesis, anyway.

E-mail Rachel your health questions at [vega\\_of\\_the\\_lyra@hotmail.com](mailto:vega_of_the_lyra@hotmail.com).

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

**18 months:** the length of time U.S. President Barack Obama promised until operations end in Afghanistan.

**3 rebels** from Sierra Leone were found guilty of multiple crimes against humanity during the 11-year civil war.

**The 18-year ban** on news reporting the return of war dead in the United States has been reversed.

**2 regions** near the Afghan border mark the areas where

Pakistani troops defeated Taliban militants.

**30 people:** the number of BlackBerry Bold users in Japan who reported their phones' keyboards overheated during charging, causing a suspension in sales.

**5 years:** the length of time it has taken China to pass a food safety law.

Sources: *CTV, CBC, CBC, The Toronto Star, CTV, CBC*

Letters to the editor

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

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

Articles

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

'Safe' in the LSC

Dalhousie's department of biology does not have a state of the art building - the Life Sciences Centre (LSC) is affectionately known as 'the Death Sciences Complex - nor does it have the infrastructure needed to support the construction of new one. What the department does have, though, is the ability to define what qualifies as "safe" and "unsafe" within the confines of this building.

Sometime between Dec. 21 and Dec. 26, 2008, high winds and storms caused glass panels in the greenhouse roof on the top of LSC to come crashing down in two growth rooms, much to the chagrin of researchers and graduate students. Seven large glass panels dropped from the roof into one room and were not picked up or vacuumed away. As I write this, there are still very small glass shards all over the floor, the benches and on the plants I was growing in the affected room. I swept up as best I could. From what I can gather, this is nothing new; glass panels fall down in the LSC greenhouse all the time, and students and researchers are responsible for picking them up. What is new, however, is the response time and the type of response provided by facilities management at Dal and the contractors hired to replace these glass panels.

As of Jan 26, the seven panels were replaced. In the interim, plywood boards had been somewhat loosely secured to the open hole in the roof that rattled against the metal roof frame when winds were up. But facilities management didn't knock down the remaining huge glass shards hanging from the roof and they hung there for an entire month.

The greenhouse is open to everyone, and students go up there to study for natural light. One time, I found a student sitting in the shards of glass on a bench, not noticing the danger hanging overhead.

Before Jan. 26, someone in a position of authority at the university told me the area was perfectly "safe." On Jan. 26, however, the contractor and one person from facilities management hired to replace the glass panels walked into the room where I was working and said: "You can't be in here. If those big glass shards fall, they'll kill you."

To which I replied: "But it's perfectly safe!"

Kate Crosby  
PhD biology student

A more conscientious Dal?

I want to say something positive about the campus community at Dalhousie. I am a part of the church that supplies umbrellas for the umbrella stands around campus. I have been at Dal for 17 years and our church has been providing umbrellas for almost four years now. In the past we have seen the umbrellas disappear at an alarming pace. Alarming, because it could border on vandalism how fast they go. Not that we expect the umbrellas to always return to their perches - we're not stupid, just hopeful. But before this year, I had seen full stands emptied in a week, without a drop of rain! Last week I saw that it was going to rain and so I set out to refill the four umbrella stands. It had been three weeks since I had last distributed 24 umbrellas in their holsters in the Student Union Building the Killam library, the Life Sciences Centre and the Goldberg Computer Science Building, so I expected to find them empty. Instead, I found 18 umbrellas still in the stands! This is a record, by far. I know they had been used, too, because some were open in the

stands and some stands had more than I had left in them. Hallelujah!

Having been here for a while, I choose to conclude that the 2008-09 student body of Dal is more conscientious than any I have seen in the past 15 years. You think more as a group than your predecessors and I think you have the potential to be kinder and more pro-active in consideration of others.

Could the "Entitlement Generation" be turning a corner? We provide this service in partnership with the DSU to give back to the Dal community of which we are a part. As a Christian church that meets right on campus, we hope it will be a chance to speak of the love of our message, but also to provide a chance for average joe students to do something for themselves and still think of the next person (take an umbrella, stay dry in the rain and then place it back in the stand in another building). Good on you, Dal! You're showing signs of true community.

Dan Rolfe  
Pastor, Real Life Community Church

Re: "Peace does not always come easy" (Feb. 5)  
Israel a far cry from Canada

I am writing in regards to the opinion piece by Paige T. MacPherson, the vice-president of the Dalhousie Israel Action Committee.

Her article was simply disgusting, especially when we have just witnessed Israeli's attack and mass murder of Palestinians.

Canada in no way resembles Israel, a country that kills people indiscriminately and methodically with no hint of remorse.

I used to think the Israeli government was a terrorist group, but if what the writer claims is true - that Israel boasts a liberal democracy - then Israeli citizens are the terrorists.

Peace will not come so long as the Israelis remain self-righteous.

Mayuni Burgener

Israel: a racist state

One must read with amazement the extraordinary statements made in recent issues of The Gazette by Paige MacPherson, Alexandra Dezenhouse and Larry Riteman, trying to justify Israeli policies and the massacre committed in the attack on Gaza. These statements defy the facts on the ground. This vicious attack brought about the killing of 1,350 people, including 417 children, 108 women and 120 elderly, as well as leaving 5450 injured. Four thousand homes were totally demolished and 21,000 homes damaged, leaving 100,000 people homeless. These figures are confirmed by international and United Nations observers and reported in The Lancet Global Health Network, Feb. 2.

We are told that Israel, like Canada, is a democracy. I think that is an insult directed at Canada and Canadians. Israeli democracy is best described by noted Israeli journalist Maxim Ghilan, who wrote in an editorial in the February 1983 issue of the Paris-based magazine, Israel and Palestine, titled "Israeli Democracy, Values & Limits." He stated: "Israel is a Western-type democracy for Jews only ... Arabs, who are citizens of the state, are less fortunate. By covert or overt means, they are arrested arbitrarily and may be held without trial according to emergency regulations; they are not granted equal economic privileges and are prevented from access to public housing and loans given only to those who served in the IDF and allied services, bodies into which most Arabs are not admitted."

Dezenhouse objects to describ-

ing Israeli practices as apartheid, claiming that this is insulting to the victims of apartheid in South Africa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said in 2002: "I've been very distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us blacks in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about."

On Nov. 29, 2006, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran an editorial by John Dugard, a South African former anti-apartheid leader. He is currently the Special Rapporteur on Palestine to the United Nations Human Rights Council. He not only compares Israeli policies to apartheid, but he says that in many ways Israeli policies are worse than the South African apartheid was. Tutu and Dugard know what they were talking about.

Israeli policies display blatant racism directed at the country's Muslim and Christian citizens. The late professor Israel Shahak, a Holocaust survivor and chairperson of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, summed it up accurately in his statement: "It is my considered opinion that the state of Israel is a racist state in the full meaning of this term. In this state, people are discriminated against, in the most permanent and legal way and in the most important areas of life, only because of their origin. This racist discrimination began in Zionism and is carried today mainly in co-operation with the institutions of the Zionist movement."

It is time that Israel's apologists should come to see the facts as they are and so that all can work together to see that equality and justice is made available to the Palestinians, so that Israelis and Palestinians may be assured peace and security in this tortured land.

Dr. Ismail Zayid  
Professor (Retired), Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

First Nations' plight resembles Palestinians'

In responding to Paige MacPherson's article I would like to add some more ways in which Israel is like Canada. Just as Israel's siege of Gaza is creating serious poverty in Gaza, so are the Canadian government's policies continuing to ignore the poverty here in Canada, especially among aboriginals and children, to the point that the United Nations announced just this month it would examine this country's shortcomings in dealing with this problem.

Then, there are Israel's settlements in the occupied territories, its walls and Israeli-only roads creating a system of apartheid for Palestinians. Canada's policies toward the First Nations, the reserves, and refusals to settle land claims have created a similar situation here in Canada.

Just as Israel has confiscated land in the occupied territories, so the Canadian government continues to exploit land not ceded by the First Nations peoples. When Palestinians protest the injustice of their displacement, they are met with force, resulting in injuries and sometimes deaths. Our government reacts in the same way to protests by First Nations peoples, as witnessed not long ago at the Barrier Lake Algonquins' blockade of Highway 117.

And finally, just as the majority of Israelis remain indifferent to the plight of the Palestinians, so the majority of the Canadians remain indifferent to the plight of our First Nation peoples.

Peter Nelson

Re: "Abortion hurting birth rates in Canada" (Feb. 12)  
Women should be the ones to choose

The author of this article, Ben Wedge, is a male Conservative.

While he admits "women have every right and responsibility to join the workforce," he is absolutely wrong to suggest that Canada should remove a woman's right to choose in order to boost the birth rate. The declining birth rate is a problem, no question. But to say that "young professional women like the ones attending this university," myself included, should not be able to choose when they have children is abhorrent.

Yes, it does need to be made easier for a woman to have both an excellent career and a family, but that's not going to happen with Wedge's preferred government. Not only has the Conservative government limited women's rights to sue for pay equity in its most recent budget, if it got a majority, who knows what other rights of sexual minorities they may take away.

I am damn proud to be a member of Pierre Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada. The man brought in the charter, recognized a woman's right to choose, and believed in the equality of all.

Victoria Jones  
Young Liberals of Canada representative to the National Women's Liberal Commission

I was offended by Ben Wedge's article. His argument centered on the fact that Canadian women have a "whopping" number of abortions, and that options such as banning abortion were positive.

First of all, I would be interested in finding out where Wedge gets his facts. Implying Canada has one of the world's highest abortion rates is utterly false. A recent study by the World Health Organization found that overall abortion rates in the world are similar, regardless of whether abortion is illegal in a country or not. Furthermore, in countries where abortion is widely available there has typically been a decline in abortion rates over time. Canada's abortion rate is low compared to other countries in the world and has been decreasing steadily since 1999, according to the most recent Statistics Canada report with 14.1 out of 1,000 women of childbearing age having an abortion in 2005. This rate is comparable to the lowest abortion rate in the world, of 12 abortions per 1,000 women in Western Europe, where there is, for the most part, access to legal and safe abortions. In contrast, the rate is 20 per 1,000 in the U.S., where there are abortion restrictions, and the global average rate is 29, with the highest number of abortions occurring in countries where it is illegal and in countries with poor access to contraception. The anti-choice movement likes to ignore the fact that illegal abortion is widely practiced and that it is dangerous. Wedge suggests we "preferably cut back on the abortions that are performed merely upon request" to lower abortion rates. Suggesting a request for an abortion is a "mere" one is dismissive and an insult to a women's right to their reproductive autonomy.

Meredith Evans  
Third-year music

Re: "Wedge is wrong about abortion" (Feb. 19)  
Wedge is right, but misguided

Canada is definitely facing a

long-term labour shortage; government officials acknowledge as much - as do economists, such as Brian Crowley of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies. These individuals, who probably have more expertise than either I or the writer of "Wedge is wrong about abortion", John Doucette, believe the combination of a low birthrate and the imminent retirement of large numbers of baby-boomers is responsible for that acute labour shortage. Crowley asserts that labour shortages will be the most acute economic problem facing Canada over the next 50 years.

The fact that Ben Wedge fails to buttress his argument with a sound analogy or with pertinent facts does not mean his position is a weak one; rather, he may not be the most articulate spokesperson for that position. I wouldn't want to talk about the Ireland of a generation ago; that was a poor analogy on Wedge's part and I don't think it's applicable to Canada. In any case, Doucette is the villain here - not simply because he resorted to ad hominem attacks in an effort to discredit another individual, but because he focuses so much of his attention upon Wedge's faulty Irish analogy and because he devotes too much time to mouthing complacent and lazy multicultural platitudes. This does not advance the debate.

Please stop trying to monopolize the definition of who is, or who is not, a proper "Canadian."

Blaine Hislop

Re: "Cutting down on the green" (Feb. 19)  
Cannabis is safe

Writer Rachel Sunter tried to be objective about cannabis, but ended up resorting to discredited prohibitionist claims to support the con side.

One reason to legalize the relatively safe, socially acceptable plant that Sunter didn't mention is that it will lower hard drug addiction rates. How many citizens try cannabis and realize it's not nearly as harmful as taught in government education programs? Then, people think other substances must not be so bad either, only to become addicted to deadly drugs.

The old lessons make cannabis out to be among the worst substances in the world, even though it's never killed a single person. The U.S. government even classifies cannabis as a Schedule I substance along with heroin, while methamphetamine and cocaine are only Schedule II substances. That message must change.

Regulated cannabis sales could prevent citizens who purchase cannabis from coming into contact with people who often also sell hard drugs, which would lower hard drug addiction rates, too.

Stan White

Psychosis links discredited

Rachel Sunter wrote: "Increasing evidence supports strong correlations between marijuana use and psychosis, especially during teenage years."

But did Sunter even read the studies linking pot to psychosis? Obviously not, because those studies themselves point out that there is merely a correlation between pot use and psychosis, but that it is equally as likely that the psychosis sufferers were merely self-medicating. The stories about those "studies," however, are full of fear mongering, inaccuracies and hype.

Also, the rates of schizophrenia have remained constant for decades, at about 1.1 per cent of the population. Meanwhile, the worldwide use of cannabis, especially among people under 30, has increased.

Canadians smoke more pot than any other country in the industrial-

ized world. So why are we not seeing a dramatic increase in psychosis? Because, like everything reported about pot, it is either deliberate hype or lazy journalism.

The effect on medical marijuana users is particularly devastating, since we are routinely discriminated against for having medical conditions that are alleviated by pot.

Russell Barth  
Federally licensed medical marijuana user

Patients Against Ignorance and Discrimination on Cannabis

**Chips are worse than pot**

Rachel Sunter may have amused herself presenting a derogatory and distorted picture of cannabis and the culture that embraces Earth's most useful plant, but her skill at research leaves much to be desired.

There has never been a recorded case of cannabis causing cancer in humans, and neither has cannabis ingestion ever killed a human.

Recommendations to avoid cannabis to prevent fictitious cancers are nonsense. Potato chips are infinitely worse for human health than cannabis.

Cannabis has been shown to kill eight cancers in experimental conditions.

The average cannabis user is better educated, earns more income, and is healthier than the average Canadian.

Cannabis use in all forms needs to increase, whether as fibre, food, fuel or medicine, and that's exactly what's happening.

Bruce Codere

**Facebook is like a bad tattoo**

Facebook made news a couple of weeks ago about matters of privacy and who owns the data and content posted to the site's pages. A revised Facebook policy claimed the site owned it, but a subsequent uproar from users had representatives back-peddling quickly.

The issue of content ownership, however, seems like a red herring. Anyone in this day and age who simply trusts that what they post online is "theirs" is naive. Call it what you want, you are posting your information on computers that belong to others.

What if the Facebook headquarters were hacked? What if your friends today were taking "snapshots" of your Facebook page? What if, say, in a few years, when you're going for a job interview, your potential employer was able to pull up your entire Facebook page from today? Would this help you get the job? Would there be any cause for concern? You can quibble about ownership, but what's out there is out there. You also need to be careful about what others post to their pages about you.

The point is not to abandon Facebook, but to be discerning about how you use it. Everything you do on your computer, every place you go on the Internet, everything you post to your pages is stored somewhere. We've become too complacent with this fact. If you are going to use Facebook, be smart about what you post. It can stay with you, like a bad tattoo.

Dwight Fischer  
Assistant VP, Dalhousie Information Technology Services

# Referendum would put students in control

JOHN HILLMAN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Insiders of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) are on the verge of passing constitutional changes that would reduce, not enhance, their powers. Is the apocalypse neigh?

The DSU's referendum review committee has recently come out with a set of recommendations that would shift the power and the responsibility of evaluating the work of levied societies away from the DSU council and executives, and back to the student body as a whole. Under these changes, all societies receiving direct funding from a student levy will have to put that levy back up to a referendum at least once every four years, so that students can either re-affirm it or stop coughing up the cash to pay for it.

As things stand now, once a society wins a levy referendum, it is more or less set for life, provided it doesn't get on the wrong side of the DSU executives. As the years pass, and as the students who originally voted on the referendum leave Dal, incoming students may never have another chance to evaluate whether the society is living up to its founding objectives, or whether those objectives are even still relevant.

Some people – usually those who are active members in a society receiving a levy – are vehemently opposed to the proposed changes. They usually start their arguments with something along the lines of "this is just another case of DSU insiders meddling in our business." This is a forgivable reaction since the DSU

has, on many occasions, used its control of the purse strings to pressure societies into making unwanted constitutional changes. What is beautiful about these particular proposed changes, however, is that they actually weaken the powers of the DSU executive.

One of the proposed changes, for example, is that the DSU remove section 13(b) from the Financial Regulation section of its constitution. According to this section, "The Vice President (Finance and Operations) should review all levies annually with the Board of Operations and make recommendations to Council on whether or not a levy should be sent back to referendum." By replacing this section with a mandatory trip to the polls every four years, the DSU is actually reducing both its ability and its obligation to meddle in the internal activities of levy-funded societies. In addition, receiving a regular popular mandate would provide societies with a solid base of moral and political legitimacy in their negotiations with council and with the executives.

Some oppose the idea of holding referendums on the grounds that it would lead to instability and needless distractions within the affected societies.

Again, this is misleading, as referendums present no serious drain on a society's resources or time. The campaign period is only one week long, and there is a \$200 cap on campaign expenses, all of which is refunded by the DSU. If a society does a proper job reaching out to students and ensuring it meets their

expectations, it should have very few problems convincing students to cast a vote in favour of renewing its levy every four years.

The worst-case scenario for any society as a result of these changes would be that it loses its levy funding. While this would be a tough blow to members of the society, it would give them an opportunity to take a long, hard look at why students rejected them, so that they might come back to a referendum the following year with a new platform that would be more in tune with student needs and expectations.

At its heart, this whole debate comes down to one simple question: to whom should societies receiving student money be held accountable? At present we have an uncomfortable balance between the societies themselves and the DSU elite. Sure, we might only get 15 or 20 per cent of students out to vote on a referendum, but at least all students who care enough to express their opinions will have the chance to cast their votes and make their voices heard.

All in all, this is a fantastic step on the way to promoting an involved, empowered student electorate.

If many students stay away from the polls because they feel their votes make no difference, what better way to encourage involvement than by giving them the power to make clear-cut decisions about the future of their campus? Maybe, if this constitutional change passes, we may one day see the DSU put its own student funding on the line.

Hey, it's OK to dream, right?



**LOCAL BEER, STUDENT SIZES**

- ✓ Party Kegs
- ✓ 2 li Growlers
- ✓ Brewery Tours
- ✓ 24's

1149 MARGINAL RD.  
NEAR PIER 21  
902.453.5343



**CANADIAN BEER OF THE YEAR!**



**Travelling This Summer? Save more with ISIC & Travel CUTS!**



Get an ISIC to access tens of thousands of student discounts worldwide, including EXCLUSIVE travel deals at Travel CUTS.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT UNION BUILDING,  
LOWER LEVEL  
902-494-2054



www.travelcuts.com

**The Marine Institute**

Where you want to be.

**\$1,000** Entrance Scholarships For advanced diploma students



**Enhance your degree at the Marine Institute**

**Advanced Diplomas**

**Food Safety**  
Protect Canada's food industry with a strong technical education in food safety, inspection, quality assurance, security, traceability, nutrition labelling and biotechnology.

**Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management**  
Explore the bio-ecological, socio-economic, and technological elements impacting global coastal development and learn how to manage aquatic resources.

**Water Quality**  
Become a water quality specialist with the only post-graduate program of its kind in Atlantic Canada. Understand ecological issues impacting water supplies and learn how to treat, maintain and use resources in an environmentally conscientious manner.

**Sustainable Aquaculture**  
Study the science and business of aquaculture. Join environmental managers, technologists and researchers in the fastest growing food production sector in the world.

**Master's Degree**

**Master of Marine Studies (Fisheries Resource Management)**  
Understand the biological, ecological, economic, policy and planning and business aspects of fisheries management.

**Post Graduate Certificates**

**Quality Management**  
Enhance your career by applying specialized skills in quality management, project management, quality assurance and production management through this web-based program.

**For more information and to apply, visit [www.mi.mun.ca/programs](http://www.mi.mun.ca/programs) 1-800-563-5799, ext. 543 or email [admissions@mi.mun.ca](mailto:admissions@mi.mun.ca)**

## Yearly referenda would jeopardize much-needed funding

LISA BUCHANAN  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

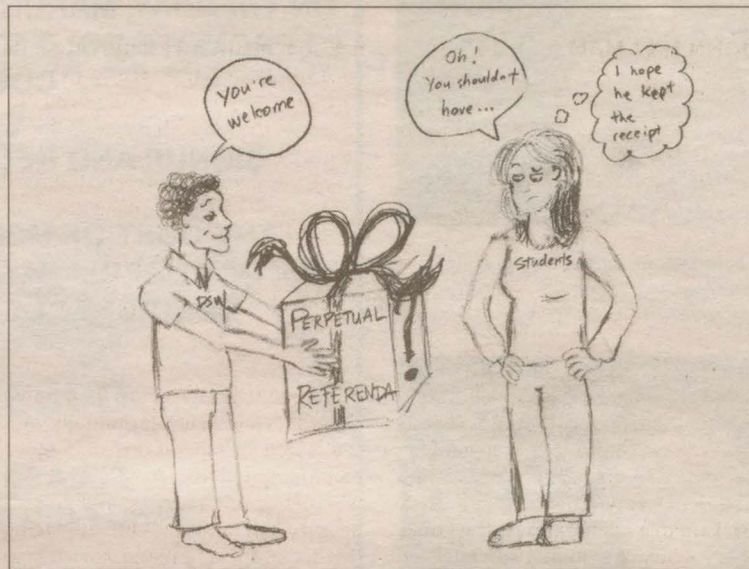
A handful of Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) student societies, including *The Gazette*, DalOUT, and Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), receive funding by way of a levy from all students. These levies were each approved by students through a referendum and are part of the fee each Dal student pays to the DSU. To ensure the societies are using their funding in the way students intended, each society should maintain the mandate it had when its referendum passed. But because, in some cases, years have passed since the referendum, the societies receiving money from the students aren't always faithful to their original mandates. For example, this year a student union committee was created with the sole purpose of resolving inconsistencies as between a "Dal-PIRG" referendum question and the NSPIRG constitution. A mechanism must exist to keep these societies accountable and to ensure they are entitled to the money they receive.

To accomplish this, the student union's ad-hoc referendum review committee is proposing all referendum-mandated societies be sent back to the polls at least every four years.

Unfortunately, this recommendation goes far beyond addressing the problem at hand.

Societies that do not remain loyal to their mandates as endorsed by students are the problem. This would not be a problem if there were an effective way of assessing society mandates from year to year to ensure compliance. There is currently no incentive for societies to keep their original mandates. The DSU's vice-president (finance and operations) and board of operations are meant to review levies annually; this has not happened in the board's first two years in operation. Alternately, any student can call for a referendum question targeting a specific levy; this should not change.

The problem can be addressed by only sending to referendum those societies that break their mandate and refuse to go back to it, rather than voting on all societies that are in



BETHANY HORNE/DAL GAZETTE CARTOON

compliance with their referendum-approved mandates.

Some argue that because of the four-year rotation of undergraduates, a re-occurring referendum will allow all students to vote on all levies during their time at Dal.

But there are other ways for students to reject particular levies. If students feel a levy has become unnecessary or irrelevant, they can start a referendum process to eliminate the levy in question.

With re-occurring, referenda, students could end up voting on the same levy more than once in their time at Dal. If a referendum fails and a society loses its funding, you will likely see that question back on the ballot in the next election, as the society attempts to re-establish its funding. If this happens, we will be faced with perpetual referenda, since levy questions are less likely to succeed when there are other money-related questions on the ballot.

Societies can be held accountable without having to run a referendum campaign every four years. All referendum-mandated societies must make an annual presentation to DSU council about their activities of the previous year. This could be a way to assess each society's compliance with their mandate. If council finds a society has strayed from its original intentions, it can opt to send

the levy to a referendum.

I know from experience that it takes a lot of time, energy and people to run a successful referendum campaign. Societies involved in a referendum rely on their membership to get the word out about their campaign. I have seen firsthand the peaks and troughs of society attendance and involvement. If the referendum review committee's proposals are made reality, a society that has been meeting its mandate could lose its levy simply because not many of its members are attending regularly or because the executive members, who might be great at running their society, are not adept at running an effective publicity campaign.

To meet the timeline for changes to the DSU constitution, the committee met only once to discuss this portion of its mandate. If these proposals do not pass, further discussions should take place at the committee level. Consideration should be given to what other student unions do to hold their societies accountable. If and when this happens, referendum-mandated societies, most of whom do not have a representative on council, should be consulted.

Lisa Buchanan is a third-year law student, president of DalOUT, and a representative of the LGBTQ students' community on DSU council.

## The myth of apathy

ERIC SNOW  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Apathy. It's a word you've probably heard a lot, especially about students. It's a recurring theme around election time, whether the election is federal, provincial, municipal, student union or society. The media, politicians and even students themselves suggest that overall, students are lazy, indifferent, or lack the passion to get involved in the community around them.

But those aren't the students I see. When I look around our campuses, I see anything but apathy.

This year, Spread the Net, the Model United Nations and the Vagina Monologues organized fundraisers for good causes. Medical students put on an amazing show, Euphoria. Engineering students put together a great party, Techball. SustainDal and the DSU Sustainability Office have been working on some creative new ideas to make this campus more environmentally friendly. The efforts of these societies are just the tip of the iceberg. How could anyone say students are apathetic?

Part of the problem is with the way apathy is traditionally measured. Voter turnout rates, one of the most common measures, are low among students and continuing to drop. Lower levels of student membership in political parties also seem to suggest apathy. Students aren't even as involved in radical political organization: the grand protests of the 1960s just don't happen the way they used to. But does this really mean we're apathetic?

We come to Dal from diverse backgrounds, from across Canada and all around the world. We come for different reasons with passions for arts or science, engineering or business, law or medicine. On top of that, we're educated – or at least getting there. We learn from a breadth of information: not just in the classroom, but from the news, from the Internet, and from other sources.

When you combine diverse interests, critical minds and access to information, you're not going to produce sheep. You're going to produce

free-thinking people with their own unique passions. Not everyone at Dal is going to jump on the same train, and why should they have to? Students are going to pursue their own passions in their own ways. With this much diversity, we end up with pockets of student engagement in wildly diverging areas. Voter turnout is too antiquated a standard to effectively measure student engagement.

Now, this isn't to say that all students are getting involved with the community around them. When students do get involved, they do so in their own way, whether it's by helping with events, by raising awareness of important issues, or even by helping a fellow student with an assignment. It's the responsibility of student leaders to bring others in to join their causes in a way that will harness their interests and talents.

There are many ways we can put our students' skills to work in our community. Law students can volunteer to represent their fellow students in cases of plagiarism and academic integrity. Business-oriented students can help manage a society's advertising and finances. Engineering students can take part in Engineers Without Borders, to reach beyond their own community.

The passion students show for these causes is worthy of support from our union, our university and our community. Events need places to be held and some means of communication to reach out to the community. Also, so many of the projects that students take on cost money. If there's anything holding student engagement back, it's these hurdles, not apathy.

Building a stronger student community is about harnessing the passions of our students, embracing the diversity of our community, and showing our fellow students how we can make a difference. As long as the tools and resources needed to fuel those passions are made available to our student groups and societies, we will have the student leaders to use them.

Eric Snow is a fourth-year political science student, and a senate representative on the DSU council.

FREE FOOD + FREE BOOZE =

WRITING FOR THE DAL GAZETTE

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

## Students shafted by city's transit priorities

BEN WEDGE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Is Halifax's MetroTransit meeting your expectations? For many students, it's not.

When students request improved service, city council argues upgrades should not be made "for free," as if the students of Dalhousie, University of King's College and Saint Mary's weren't contributing some \$2.4 million through mandatory bus passes to the system each and every year. It's time that we demand more of MetroTransit. We need to pressure the city to fulfil the transportation promises it has already made and also to comply with more of students' demands regarding transportation.

The GoTime system is one of these unfulfilled promises. MetroTransit claims it provides real time departure information over an automated phone line and displays this information on computerized signs at major stops. It's no secret, however, that this system provides nowhere near the promised service, much to the dismay of travellers waiting outside for a missing bus in February.

The buses themselves also have



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Students should get more MetroTransit services for the \$2.4 million they put into it.

issues. There are few low-floor buses on major routes, and this slows the system. According to a European transit study, buses often spend a per-stop average of 15 extra seconds idling when passengers exit from the front rather than rear doors.

Here, students are some of the worst offenders: coming from the back, passing an open door, and going out

the front, which delays the boarding of other riders.

In 2007, Entra Consultants released a report to the Halifax Regional Municipality noting, among other things, that because only 2 per cent of the population requires accessible access, low floor buses are perhaps not worth the added expense. This is not true. In Europe, buses without

stairs have been overwhelmingly embraced, and ride barely above curb height. This is an advantage to everyone, as it allows for quicker and easier access, even for able-bodied students. The goal is to spend as little time as possible at the stops to shorten travel times and delays.

Does Halifax's relatively small population mean we can't hope to have a better system? No. If you compare Halifax to European cities of similar size, our transit service rates abysmally. Part of this has to do with city council's desire to widen roads, displace residents and under-fund the transit system, despite repeated studies that show an effective transit system allows for narrower roads, shorter commutes and lower overall costs to the city.

Students often request bus service to a larger variety of locations on the peninsula but these requests are ignored. The authorities again cite the "cost" and our supposed "free service" – despite the millions of dollars we pay into the system every year.

Aachen, Germany, is a good comparison for Halifax. With a population of 275,000, almost 50,000 of whom university students, the city has an excellent transit network.

It has a fleet of more than 300 buses, similar to Halifax's 266, and only a handful of vehicles that are not completely low floor. The Aachen fleet also features bi-articulated buses – ones with two joints – that serve the busiest routes.

Aachen's transit system moves about 60 million people per year, five times more than Halifax's does. Buses in Aachen are rarely overcrowded due to an effective use of infrastructure, articulated buses, and scheduling. The timing of the buses matches the students' schedules.

If HRM would make even a few of the moves that Aachen has made, we'd be far better off.

Unfortunately, Halifaxians missed our recent opportunity to replace city council with more transit-friendly representatives because of an election technicality that excluded many student voters.

When the next municipal election comes around in 2011, we need to make our voices heard. Before then, it's important to keep lobbying. We deserve to receive services that have already been promised and we should be getting more for our \$2.4 million. It seems the city is only too glad to take our money without holding up its end of the bargain.

# STREETER

What should be the number one issue for candidates in the DSU elections?



“Addressing issues of racism and homophobia on campus.”  
Maureen Maynes, first-year social work



“Getting more local businesses on campus instead of multi-national corporations.”  
Annie Covert, first-year social work



“Student engagement. Apathy is a real problem.”  
Meaghan Pitman, fourth-year IDS and political science



“Student debt.”  
Madut Majok, first-year master's IDS



“Food services. There should be healthier options and more of a variety.”  
Reama Khayat, first-year master's of public administration



“More forethought.”  
Jazz Alyxzander Turner-Baggs, fourth-year computer science



“School spirit. Dal is lacking serious school spirit.”  
Daniel Shouldice, fourth-year English



“Getting the stain out of the carpet in DSU council chambers.”  
John Packman, 10th-year rug enthusiast



A COSTCO WHOLESALE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE IN THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH 10 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. TO PROMOTE GOLD STAR MEMBERSHIPS FOR COSTCO.

SIGNUP AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP IS \$62.15 (TAX INCLUDED). PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY DEBIT, CHEQUE, CASH OR AMEX.

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT  
NANCY CROSS AT 450-5305



Love what you eat

WE DELIVER!

Debit & Credit Cards accepted at the door.



420-1594

1526 Dresden Row, Halifax

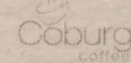
## SUMMER CAMP JOBS

Swim Director,  
CIT GIRLS HEAD,  
Waterski, Tennis,  
Rock-wall Climb,  
Windsurf, Sail,  
Canoe, Football,  
Archery,  
Golf instructors.  
Nursing students (3rd or 4th year) to assist camp doc, north of Montreal.  
[www.mishmar.com](http://www.mishmar.com)

2 for 1  
Lattes



Coburg Coffee House  
6085 Coburg Road  
Corner of Coburg Road and Henry Street



Enjoy one complimentary  
**MEDIUM LATTE**  
when a second  
**MEDIUM LATTE**  
of equal or greater value is purchased.

Latte • Flavoured Lattes  
Cappuccino • Mochaccino • Hot  
Chocolate • Free Wi-Fi  
Sandwiches • Sweets

[www.coburgcoffee.com](http://www.coburgcoffee.com)

Valid until April 30, 2008



Frog Hollow Books

10% off  
with this coupon

“Best Independent Bookstore”  
The Coast's 2007 Reader's Poll

Park Lane Mall • 5657 Spring Garden Rd. • 429-3318  
\*One coupon per purchase, expires April 30, 2008



Frog Hollow Books

Huge selection of fiction and non-fiction  
as well as graphic novels, cards, gifts,  
stationery and much more.

Park Lane Mall • 5657 Spring Garden Rd. • 429-3318

“Best Independent Bookstore”  
The Coast's 2007 Reader's Poll

## SUNDAY SPECIAL

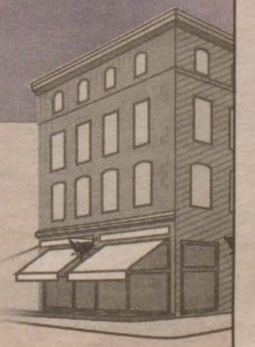
Lobster Dinner \$14.95 after 4:30pm

DOUBLE  
CAESAR

\$6.25 Double  
Caesar all day  
Sunday



Drink. Eat. Be Social  
THE SPLIT CROW PUB





The original Oven♥Sub®

Starvin' Student Solution #1!

- **Two Oven♥Subs®** Full-size
- **9" Fingers** with dipping sauce
- **2 Pepsi** 355 ml

Only **\$14.99**



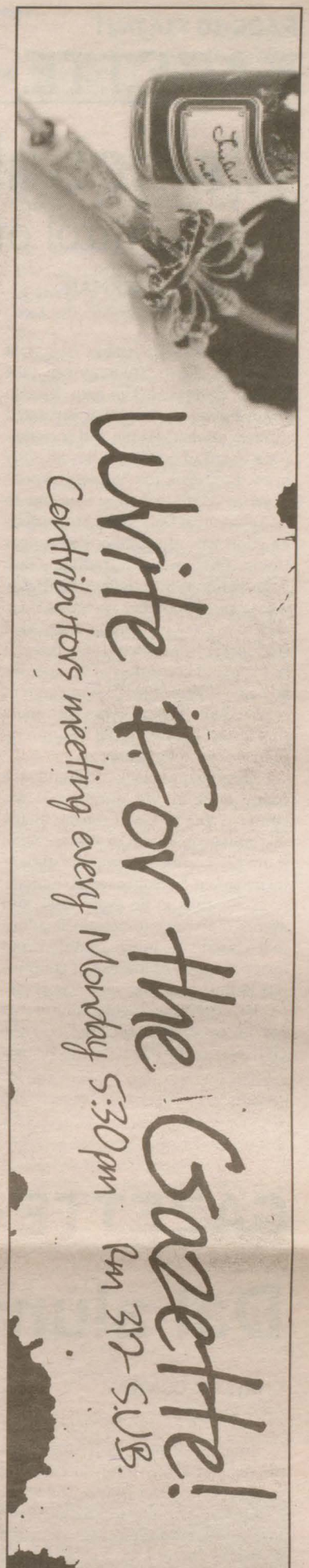
Your Starvin' Student Solution!

**310.30.30**

**1672 Barrington Street, Halifax**

Starvin' Student Specials Available Sunday to Thursdays only.

TM of Grinner's Food Systems Limited, used under license. Offers available at Barrington St. location only. Must show valid Student ID. Delivery and debit on delivery charge may apply. Prices do not include tax or deposits. Prices subject to change without notice.



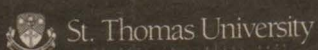
**FREE FOOD + FREE BOOZE = WRITING FOR THE DAL GAZETTE**

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



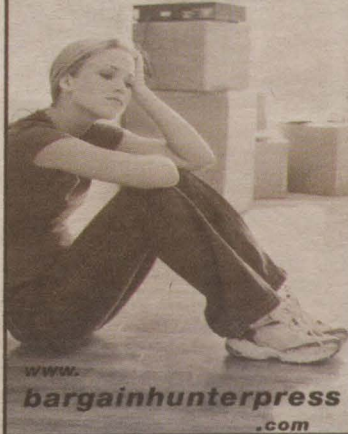
**Atlantic Student JOURNALISM AWARDS**

For complete information, visit [www.stu-sja.ca](http://www.stu-sja.ca)



Whether it's with a pen, a microphone or a camera, you have a story to tell. And, we want to hear it. Enter the Atlantic Student Journalism Awards, open to high school and post-secondary students working in a print or broadcast medium. Top prizes are \$1,500. Top stories will be published online. An additional \$1,500 will be awarded to the winner in the high school category who enrolls at St. Thomas University.

Buy | Sell | Whatever  
**NEED STUFF?**



**POSTERS! POSTERS! POSTERS!**



We have 1000's of prints: Photography, Fine Art, Movie Posters, Celebrity Photos, & Novelty Posters. We also offer Lamination & Canvas Transfer!

**THE ART EXPO: Our Art is Priceless!**  
Park Lane Mall, Lower Level 492-7128

**KIT KAT PIZZA**  
DONAIRS - SUBS - SEAFOOD  
429-3223 or 425-2229  
2314 Gottingen St., Halifax

Buy a 16" pizza w/works for \$13.99, get 9" garlic fingers for \$1.00  
16" pepperoni pizza for \$9.25  
or 2 for \$16.99  
2 med. pizzas w/3 toppings \$14.99  
3 small donairs for \$7.99 plus tax



**Résumés that (get you) work.**

Professional résumé writing and editing, at prices students can afford.

[www.nataliejoan.ca](http://www.nataliejoan.ca)  
or email: [resumesbynat@gmail.com](mailto:resumesbynat@gmail.com)  
or call:

**444-9992**

**SUMMER CAMP JOBS**

Swim Director, CIT GIRLS HEAD, Waterski, Tennis, Rock-wall Climb, Windsurf, Sail, Canoe, Football, Archery, Golf instructors. Nursing students (3rd or 4th year) to assist camp doc, north of Montreal.

[www.mishmar.com](http://www.mishmar.com)

# It's not about what we don't have

## Take control of student events

SHANNON ZIMMERMAN  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University isn't just about the classes students can take and the degrees we can earn. It's also about the community that is created through student events and societies. Dal's board of governors has recently been discussing the "student experience" in depth and what it means to be a student at Dal. The board, in conjunction with the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), set up a Traditions Task Force committee mandated to discuss what type of traditions we have at Dal, and new ones we should start. As a student representative on the board, I participated in a variety of discussions at many different levels and came to realize there is more at our university that fosters a sense of Dal community than we currently recognize.

The university looks at attendance numbers from big events and assumes if they're low it means there's not enough going on or that we need more big events to pump up student involvement. In reality, we have smaller events that go on every week and events that cater to certain faculties that contain as much tradition and foster as much of a sense of community as the larger, Dal-wide events do.

If we don't start highlighting events put on by student societies and the DSU, we run the risk of having the uni-



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Student societies deserve more support from the university and from the DSU.

versity take responsibility for student societies. With a larger budget and more staff, it is easy for the administration to assume it can provide what students want. If this happens, the administration can take more power from the DSU, which means student societies lose power. Student events become university-administrated events, jeopardizing Dal's student-created community.

The board of governors shouldn't focus on starting new, huge, unifying events; it should acknowledge and

support small ones that already exist. Students do not need the university to come in and create events for us. We need more support for the DSU and for societies that organize these popular events.

Engineering students go to "Engibeering" every Friday, for example. The philosophy, history and classics societies regularly host "Bagel Days" in their departments in the McCain building. The political science society organizes "Polibeer" at the Grad House on Thursdays and the comput-

er science society hosts "Geek Beer." The international development studies society has been doing Samosa days. The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group and the Dal Women's Centre hold weekly events, and there is always a varsity sports game going on. This list only includes a few.

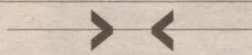
Societies also organize annual events for all students. Medicine students annually put on a variety show called Euphoria. The law management and the commerce societies hold semi-formal balls each winter

semester. The residences have one or two hall dinners per year. Every year, the International Students Society holds an International Night for the Haligonians. The DSU has annual parties that have been going on longer than most of us have been at this university. My point is, there's no lack of things to do, but not enough students know what's going on.

Communication is something with which student societies, the student union, and the university are all struggling. It is an issue they all need to stop paying lip service to and actually start improving. There are more than 200 societies ratified through the DSU that show the broad interests of Dal's student body. If the university administration really wants to help, it should offer more funding to the DSU to disperse amongst these societies so they can hold events more often and have bigger budgets for things like advertising.

The DSU could also use its resources more effectively. The DSU website could be an avenue for these societies to advertise their events and promote student involvement.

It is at society events where students talk to each other, where they feel they're a part of something bigger than their classes or the hours they put into studying. Small student societies shape our student experience at Dal, and we need to value those groups.



## GAZETTE ... ARTS & CULTURE

# Dal alum directs award-winning documentary

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ARTS EDITOR

Imagine fishing in a small motor boat in a tiny inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The water is flat and the surroundings green and wildly beautiful. Just under the surface, there is a flash of white and suddenly a slippery black mound appears, spouting mist into the air. The orca swims close to the boat. Instinctively you reach out to touch its rubbery side. And the wild thing lets you.

This is the story of the documentary *Saving Luna*, about a baby male orca whale who found himself separated from his pod in 2001 in Nootka Sound, B.C. and sought out human companionship, swimming up to boats and interacting with humans.

The film is set to make its Atlantic Canadian premiere in Halifax on March 6 and is co-directed by Dalhousie graduate and Nova Scotia native Suzanne Chisholm.

Chisholm, who graduated with a master's degree in developmental economics in 1996, co-directed the film with her husband, writer and filmmaker Michael Parfit.

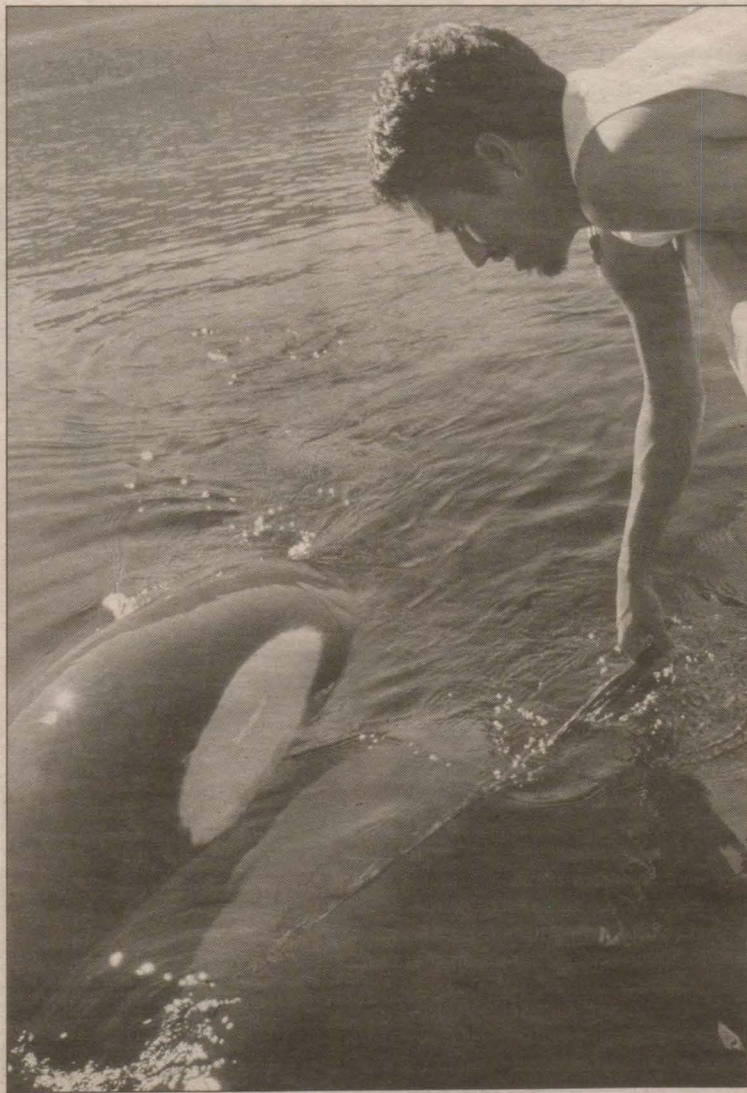
They started working on the story in April 2004 as an article for *Smithsonian* magazine — a simple in-an-out story, the couple thought.

"When we started covering this story it was going to be just a simple wildlife relocation story where the government was going to pick up this little orca, who had been separated from his family for several years, and bring him back to his pod," Chisholm says over the phone from Abbotsford, B.C.

"It turned out there were a lot more complications."

The couple had intended to stay for three weeks and left three years later.

Orca whales are social animals within their pods, but it's extremely rare for a wild orca to seek human companionship.



SUPPLIED

Jamie James of Gold River, B.C., reaches out to Luna, a baby orca abandoned in Nootka Sound, B.C. in 2001.

"If you think about the relationship humans have with wild animals, they come to us for food.... With Luna it was all about friendship and companionship," says Chisholm. "He came so he

could have his tongue rubbed or have his fins rubbed or have songs sung to him or have his nose touched."

As a result of Luna's continued attempts to befriend boaters in the

area, local fishery officials stepped in to ban human interaction with the whale in an attempt to keep both him and boaters safe. They finally decided to relocate the whale and reunite him with its pod.

But native groups in Gold River, a village in central Vancouver Island, believed the whale to be the spirit of a recently deceased chief and continued to interact with Luna. They interfered during his attempted capture, fearing the whale would be privately sold to a marine amusement park. Singing and paddling in cedar hand-carved canoes, they lured the orca away from the government boat attempting to capture him in a story that made international news.

"After the news story was over Luna was still there and back at square one," says Chisholm.

That meant while Luna's story may have made him a celebrity across Canada, some local fishermen and boat owners still saw the whale as a nuisance — his curiosity with humans and boats damaged equipment, compromised fishing catches and drew unwanted attention.

After submitting their story to *Smithsonian*, Chisholm and Parfit stayed on in Nootka Sound. They realized the story of Luna was only just beginning.

"Without other whales he interacted with people and that was the story we decided we wanted to cover," says Chisholm. "It wasn't the story about the First Nations; it wasn't the story about the government trying to move him. It was really a story about this amazing animal who reached across species lines to befriend humans."

In 2005, the CBC commissioned the pair to do a one-hour documentary on the friendly orca and the controversy surrounding him. When the couple presented their editors with some early footage, the CBC immediately called for a longer version. Chisholm and

Parfit received funding from Telefilm Canada and the feature-length version of their documentary was born.

As the camera rolled, controversy continued to surround Luna. Canadian government and fishery officials under the Marine Mammal Regulations attempted, with little success, to keep boaters from getting close to or touching Luna.

"There was nothing that the government could do to keep Luna away from people," says Chisholm.

*Saving Luna* was released in 2008 and has toured nationally and internationally, including screenings in China, Korea, and Japan, as well as in a recent film festival in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

"I really had no idea how it would be received there. It's a country where there is no cultural connection to orcas and very little connection to marine mammals in general and I wondered how are they going to respond to this whale film," says Chisholm. "There were these little kids in the audience, five-, six-, seven-year-old kids just squealing with delight every time Luna came on the big screen. To me, that just spoke to the universality of the story."

That universality won the film 19 national and international awards.

While Chisholm is encouraged by the positive response to the film, she says she is not interested in forcibly preaching or lecturing on the importance of wildlife conservation in *Saving Luna*. Rather, she says, she simply wants to share the story of a truly remarkable creature.

"It's not our goal to try to preach about how people should think. At the end of the day, it's just this amazing story about an incredible individual who came to humans for friendship."

*Saving Luna* opens March 6 in Halifax at Bayer's Lake Empire 17 Cinema and will be showing through March 12.

# Burn Baby Burn

Workin' hard for the money

MARC Z. GRUB (SIDE A) & ALEX FOUNTAIN (SIDE B)  
STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

What can a poor boy do but sing for a rock n' roll band? Here are 10 songs about having no money and/or having to work shitty jobs.

## SIDE A

### 1. The Clash - "Career Opportunities"

The version off The Clash's self-titled debut may technically be better, but I've always had a soft spot for this version off *Sandinista*, in which a bunch of kids sing along with a tinkling harpsichord about how the only jobs available positively suck.

### 2. Pulp - "Common People"

The inimitable Jarvis Cocker sings about meeting a rich girl who wants to live like common people with no money, not realizing they despairingly "dance and drink and screw because there's nothing else to do."

### 3. The Bee Gees - "Stayin' Alive"

A wise man once said, "Whether you're a mother or whether you're a brother, you're stayin' alive, stayin' alive." He then added, "ah ah ah ah. Stayin' alive, stayin' alive."

### 4. The Constantines - "Workin' Full Time"

"The sun was coming up/ Soldiers of light storming my brain/ Day, have I the guts to greet you?/ Alarm clock tomorrow, cradle to the grave." Seriously, Bryan Webb, nobody likes getting up in the morning but you don't have to get all emo about it.

### 5. The Who - "The Dirty Jobs"

"My Karma tells me/ you've been screwed again!" A song about characters that tend to pigs and drive buses.

### 6. Suffjan Stevens - "Flint (For The Unemployed And Underpaid)"

The prettiest song you've ever heard about a dude on his way to commit suicide after losing his job.

### 7. The Dirtbombs - "Living in the City"

The Dirtbombs fuzz-up this fantastic Stevie Wonder song about being screwed over by city life. The Dirtbombs are so cool they don't even need to tune their guitars.

### 8. The Kinks - "Situation Vacant"

Johnny doesn't make enough money: his mother-in-law is pissed. Johnny leaves his job and goes and looks for a new one but can't find anything. Now Johnny makes no money. He wife divorces him and goes back to live with her mother: his mother-in-law is happy.

### 9. The Beatles - "You Never Give Me Your Money"

"Out of college, money's spent/ see no future, pay no rent/ all the money's gone, nowhere to go...but oh that magic feeling." Sorry, but unless you're a day tripper, you won't have much luck trying to eat magic feelings.

### 10. The Velvet Underground - "Oh! Sweet Nothin'"

Lou Reed romanticizes being so broke he can't even afford a shirt.

## SIDE B

### Refused - "Worms of the Senses / Faculties of the Skull"

What better way is there to start off the flip side of your money woes mix tape than by screaming "I've got a bone to pick with capitalism and a few to break, grab us by the throat and choke the life away"? They say that the classics never go out of style but they do. They do.

### Bruce Springsteen - "Atlantic City"

You all know this one - a desperate but hopeful ballad about getting into debt, trying to gamble your way out and finally meeting up with some shady character to "do a little favour for him" to solve your problems. "Everything dies, baby, that's a fact, but maybe everything that dies someday comes back."

### Hot Water Music - "Blackjaw"

The only natural transition out of a Springsteen song (at least if you have a beard) is into some gruff melodic punk jam about mining times: "Cry for help, can't get out. You're in the hole with the walls caving in on you."

### Cyndi Lauper - "Money Changes Everything"

This is a catchy but sad little number about leaving your lover

because he doesn't have enough money. The acoustic remake Lauper did a few years back features Adam Lazzara from Taking Back Sunday and he gets in some pretty awesome emo-whines in the last few seconds that totally make the song.

### Kanye West - "Spaceship"

"All Falls Down" would be rad too, but this perfectly produced song about working shitty jobs and waiting for your big break to escape from it all is really a better fit. "If my manager insults me again I will be assaulting him. After I fuck the manager up then I'm gonna shorten the register up." Kanye's hard, son.

### Nickelback - "Too Bad"

Probably the most sincere repre-

sentation of midwestern poverty ever heard in a mainstream rock song. Not.

### The Early November - "Money in His Hand"

"It's not the heart that makes the man; it's the money in his hand." Self-explanatory.

### Guns Up! - "No Shelter"

This tough hardcore song from 2005 about a storm moving in but having "seen the warning signs and moved out of its reach" feels to me like a prediction of things to come. Don't invest all you have into a material lifestyle and perhaps the recession won't hit you as hard. "You're behind, you haven't realized it yet. The rain is creeping up on you...."

### Embrace - "Money"

This mid-1980s emo anthem (by Ian Mackaye's short-lived band in between Minor Threat and Fugazi, not that boring Brit-pop act who stole their name) spells it out plain and clear: "Money has nothing to do with the value of life, but that's just common sense."

### Owen - "Put Your Hands On Me, My Love"

This pretty acoustic ballad is probably the best way to wrap this up; it's just about the little things you can do for yourself and your friends to make life a little better. The last line hits the nail on the head: "Put your hands on me, my love. While the world wakes up early and wastes the day working for money they don't need to buy things they don't need; we'll sleep in. We'll do it again."

money back  
fast

student  
tax prep  
\$29<sup>95</sup>  
get a FREE  
SPC card

walk in with your taxes, walk out with your money  
and you could win \$5,000 towards a road trip. visit [refundroadtrip.ca](http://refundroadtrip.ca)

come in today or call  
1-800-HRBLOCK (472-5625)

H&R BLOCK®

To qualify for student pricing, student must present either (i) a T2202a documenting 4 or more months of full-time attendance at a college or university during 2008 or (ii) a valid high school identification card. Expires July 31, 2009. Must also qualify for Instant Cash Back and Cash Back products. See office for details. Valid only at participating H&R Block locations in Canada. SPC Card offers valid from 08/01/08 to 07/31/09 at participating locations in Canada only. For Cardholder only. Offers may vary, restrictions may apply. Usage may be restricted when used in conjunction with any other offer or retailer loyalty card discounts. Cannot be used towards the purchase of gift cards or certificates.

# Great Lake Swimmers take Lost Channels across Canada

MARC Z. GRUB  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Toronto-based folkies Great Lake Swimmers are set to support the release of their latest album with a massive tour across North America and Europe that includes a stop in Halifax.

*Lost Channels*, the band's fourth album, will be released on March 31 via Vancouver label Netwerk.

Great Lake Swimmers began as a songwriting project for Tony Dekker in the early 2000s. After about four years of playing solo acoustic shows in the Toronto area, touring and recording, he found the group of musically like-minded persons who would become the Great Lake Swimmers band.

"Around 2004 I started to put together a band and the lineup has sort of been fluctuating since then," says Dekker. "There's still some members that are still playing from that time and some have only been with us for a couple years, so the lineup of the band is always changing. People are always sort of drifting in and out."

The current touring lineup includes Erik Arnesen, Julie Fader, Bret Higgins and Greg Millson.

The songs Dekker writes for Great Lake Swimmers are known for their rustic, folk influence and the band's music has been compared to that of Neil Young and Iron and Wine. Dekker attributes the folk leanings of his writing to his rural upbringing in a small farming community in southern Ontario and its limited music exposure.

"The local radio was what I guess you would consider an old school country and western am radio station, and that's sort of the music that I grew up with," he says. "Having to really be dependent on your surroundings and understand them has given me insight into the natural world and those are the things that seem to come up the most in my writing."

Though one wouldn't guess it from listening to Dekker's work with Great Lake Swimmers — the band's music is so naturalistic and mellow that an *All Music Guide* reviewer deemed the band "pine-gazers" — Dekker says punk music and its do-it-yourself attitude also had a heavy impact on his approach to writing and playing the music he does now.

"In later years, my entry into



SUPPLIED  
Great Lake Swimmers is set to perform March 11 in Halifax.

music was through playing in punk bands and scruffy art-rock bands so it took me a while to come back around to those old folk and country-western records," Dekker says. "(I) was coming at it again from sort of the other side of the musical spectrum and looking at this great, old country music and folk music from the lens of indie music and punk rock."

He's not the only one coming back to folk music: 2008 was a banner year for indie folk, with Fleet Foxes topping *Pitchfork's* year-end "best of" list and playing *Saturday Night Live*, and with Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) going from a lonely dude in a Wisconsin cabin to an indie music power player.

"It sort of speaks to a larger idea that people are being more and more drawn towards organic sounding music, especially in light of the so-called 'digital age,'" Dekker says. "What we're doing is using those old tools to tell our own stories in a new way and also infusing it with a new indie spirit."

For most of next year, Great Lake Swimmers will be touring and promoting *Lost Channels*, but after that's out of the way, Dekker hopes to collaborate with photographer Ian Coristine to set some of Coristine's

films and photographs to music.

Coristine is a fan of Great Lake Swimmers who's known for his work photographing the Thousand Islands along Ontario's St. Lawrence River. He invited the band members to the region and arranged for them to record parts of the album in various locations within the area, including Singer Castle on Dark Island, one of the region's historical landmarks. As was the case with the Arcade Fire's *Neon Bible* and Feist's *The Reminder*, the unorthodox environment in which it was recorded likely contributed to the album's distinguishable organic vibe.

*Lost Channels'* title, a reference to a passage on the St. Lawrence where a reconnaissance boat from a British warship went missing in 1760, seems only too perfect a fit for the music of Great Lake Swimmers. Like the lost channels, its aesthetic is one of astonishing natural beauty, but below the surface lies something haunting and mysterious.

*Great Lake Swimmers* will be performing March 11 at St. Matthew's United Church with Kate Maki. Tickets are \$20 advance and \$25 at the door. Show starts at 7 p.m.



LAURA DAWE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Former Halifax café owner Tobin Belanger poses with his dog, Epic, in Belanger's new space in Montreal, Opera.

## Missing the Muse

Where has Halifax's café culture gone?

LAURA DAWE  
ARTS COLUMNIST

It may not sound like news now, but in 2004, this city ruled for coffee. Like Montreal's Mile End or Vancouver's Commercial drive, there was an actual café culture here. You could go to the Danube on Spring Garden Road and spend six hours writing in your journal, slurping Americanos and thinking about Leonard Cohen. In the North End, you could go to Salvation and pretend it was night in the middle of the day. Best of all, you could go to the Bella Muse at the corner of Charles and Agricola. There you could run into 10 people you already knew and five you didn't. You could suck back cappuccinos and feel yourself at one with the great bohemian continuum of hanging out and talking shit about life under the pretenses of making great art.

The Bella Muse was inspirational. It was huge in every sense. The space was huge, the ideas were huge and the owner was the best-looking, most charismatic man I had set my eyes on. His name was, and continues to be, Tobin Belanger. He built and ran incredible cafés and venues in this city from 2000 until 2005. Then he moved to Montreal, where I interviewed him over reading week in his new space, Opera.

This month, Ginger's Pub and Blue Moon Bistro both tumble into the sucking hole of places we once had. I hope they're comfortable alongside The Marquee and the Tickle Trunk. Now, more than ever, Haligonians need to look to Belanger for inspiration. We need to look back to our glamorous past to help us look forward to our glorious future.

Belanger got his start in Halifax with a little place called And in the building that now houses the excellent thrift enterprise known as Lost and Found. After studying at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Belanger intended to build a dark room, but people kept showing up to help with the renovations and before he knew it, his dark room turned into a café.

"It was doing really, really well," says Belanger. "A local landowner came to me and asked if I wanted to go bigger."

The landowner was in possession of a bathtub factory at Charles and Agricola, the building that now houses Local Source and Creative Crossing. The space encompassed an epic 6,000 square feet. With help from the Resource Recovery Fund, Belanger did what he estimates to be \$300,000 in renovations. If he had used new materials, he says "it would be, like, a half a million dollars."

Belanger installed all the plumbing and electrical wiring himself. There was a band room and a dark room. The front café had booths from a Subway restaurant. The floor was made of 129 ash palettes from the liquor store. The walls were made of freezer panels. There was a room with walls of storm windows that Belanger had rescued from the garbage.

"I put in a staircase, a spiral staircase that was made completely out of ralley frames," recalls Belanger. "So I had a staircase made of bicycles."

"I kept on tempting the inspectors with different creations," he adds.

Belanger lived in a loft suspended high above Bella Muse, looking down on the huge back room that housed dance, burlesque, life drawing or movie shoots, depending on the night. The Bella Muse is where I first saw the Unicorns play. Sarah Harmer also played there, as did Sixtoo, Wintersleep ("like a million times"), and any band that was considered to be any good in Halifax at the time.

And then a hurricane ripped the roof off.

"I could see the stars from inside," says Belanger. The heating costs jumped up to \$60 or \$70 per day. Belanger threw parties to make money. His rapport with his benefactor landlord eroded.

"He showed me photographs where he had somebody sneak into one of the parties where I maybe sold some alcohol illegally," says Belanger. "So I didn't have a leg to stand on at the point."

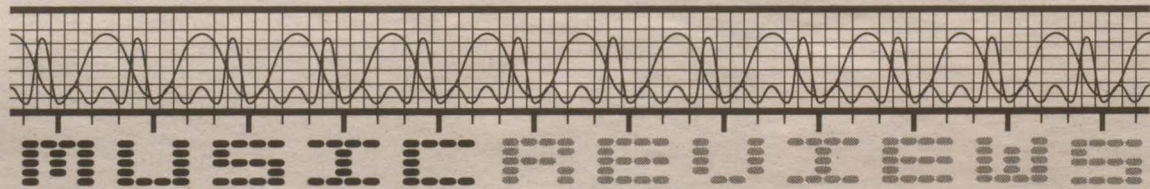
And so the café the Toronto Star once called the best venue East of Montreal got shut down.

"The night I lost Bella Muse," he laughs, "I took one of my Samurai swords and cut a fridge in half."

After the communal effort that went into building that amazing space, a lot of its patrons felt like taking similar action to express their disappointment, but they were maybe not as well equipped with swords. Or fridges.

It was the beginning of the end. The end of the end came in 2007 with the closure of One World Café on West and Agricola.

But it's not as if there are no coffee shops here. More often than not, I finish my articles in Java Blend on North Street. There's Just Us downtown, there's Backpackers and Good Food on Gottingen. I guess Fred counts. But none of these places are designed to hang out in all day. They are restaurants that happen to sell coffee, or in the cases of Java Blend and Just Us, they are the 10:15 a.m. break rooms for local office workers. They are not the Bella Muse.

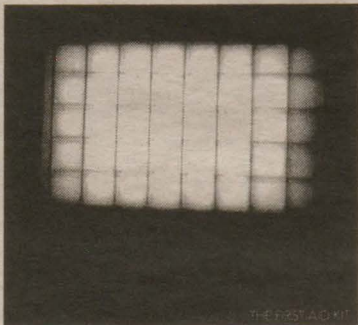


## The First Aid Kit: Still Standing

ALEX FOUNTAIN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The First Aid Kit may just be a pop genius. With its new EP, *Still Standing*, the band channels the Boss while managing to maintain its own unique modern rock sensibilities.

The songs on *Still Standing* use structures similar to Bruce Springsteen's "Thunder Road" whose "skeleton frames of burned out Chevrolets" are tastefully ripped off on this record along with, if you'll let me use a more punk example, Hot Water Music's 1998 anthem "Moments Pass." These songs take your ears on an adventure every time you hear them, and upon first listen, you can never really predict where they're going. Certain melodies and chord progressions are undoubtedly repeated, but because the lyrics rarely are, it's hard to pin down the formula of these songs unless you actually sit down with a gui-



tar and try to figure them out.

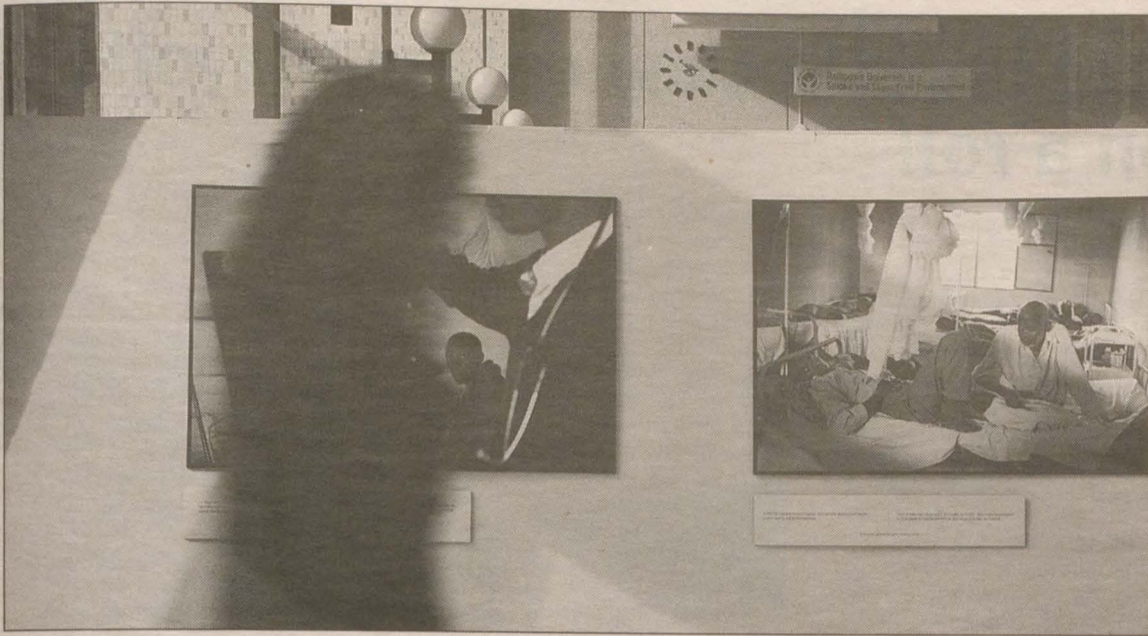
The late German musicologist Theodor Adorno called this manner of hiding the same old ideas within new forms and styles of music "pseudo-individualization," and believed popular music's use of it dulled people's senses and forced them to consume. Maybe that's so, but this shit's still a lot better than that atonal "serious music" crap he thought would awaken everybody's

senses to reality.

The lyrics on this EP will never awaken anyone's senses to anything, but they're pretty good. This band's three songwriters seem to constantly strive to write pop anthems that could be completely disposable but are somehow something you'll want to listen to over and over again.

The title track uses some darker progressions to end the record on a really heavy note. One interesting thing about this song is that one of the melodies repeated in it sounds exactly like one used by local math-rock band the Medium Mood.

While this record won't be teaching the listener any higher truth about existence, it's definitely a fun ride. The legions of late-1990s screamo fans who worship Adorno should hear this record; it's completely out of their comfort zone and if fans of popular or serious music gave it a chance, they just might love it.



RYAN HEISE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Visitors at Dal's Sir Charles Tupper Building look at black and white photos of Rwanda's HIV/AIDS pandemic.

## Rwanda photo exhibit haunting

ANNA DEMELLO  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's Charles Tupper medical building recently hosted the *Living With* photo exhibit, which chronicles the Rwandan plight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic over the last decade or so in relation to the genocide that occurred there in 1994.

The exhibit, on display from Feb. 17 to 23, was comprised of 50 black and white photographs. The exhibit itself was an initiative of Photosensitive, a notorious group of Canadian photographers founded by Andrew Stawicki. The group mainly concentrates on chronicling life-threatening issues. In 2007, The Rwanda Initiative brought these photographers to Rwanda through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Rwanda Initiative is a part-

nership between Carleton University's journalism school and the National University of Rwanda. This partnership has sent more than 70 Canadian journalists to Rwanda to teach journalism or work as interns. Along with local photographers and students, the Photosensitive group documented people living with HIV/AIDS. The photos unveil the devastation of prostitution, rape, and HIV as a weapon during the genocide.

Kelly Toughill, an associate professor of journalism at the University of King's College, was the organizer for the Halifax showing of *Living With*. She has worked with the Rwanda Initiative, teaching journalism at the National University of Rwanda in the summer of 2008, and has written about arts in Rwanda for Canadian newspapers.

Toughill was pleased with the

campus' positive response to the exhibit, which aims to humanize AIDS.

"This is about real people. We all know the scope (of the problem), but there is quite a bit of joy and hope also," Toughill said. "Canada is the first country to provide anti-retroviral therapy. There is also focus on prevention. These images help people connect to the issue."

The images were simplistically set up, but intensely engaging.

They depict children orphaned by this devastating disease and women whose lives are now devastated after they were raped and infected with the virus war tactic. The injustices and horrors that occurred at the time of the genocide served to spread the virus, and people must still live with the pain of that time as they combat this life-threatening illness.

## Flight Dreams stays the course

Gallery exhibit explores Canada's aviation contributions

ROSIE JACOBS  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

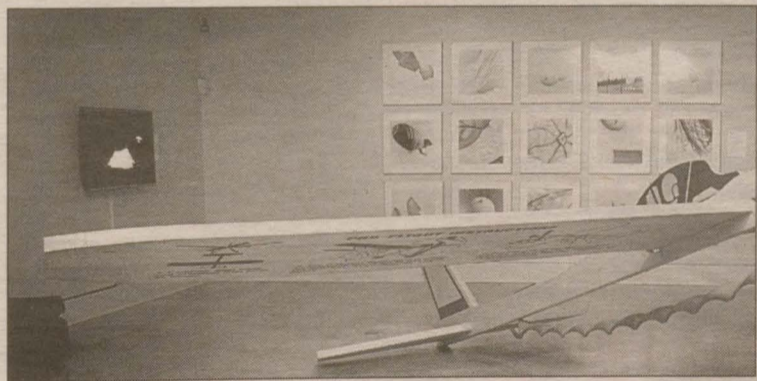
Despite a few instances of turbulence during its showing of *Flight Dreams*, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia continues to create an interesting look at the effects of air travel on the history of Canada.

Inspired by the works of Ken Barnes, an avid sketcher of airplanes who also worked on the Avro Arrow, *Flight Dreams* is a collection of photographs, prototypes, models and blueprints of Canada's innovation and contribution to air travel technology.

What is truly interesting about this exhibit is how it challenges traditional definitions of what constitutes art—even by modern standards. Most of the collection is completely functional and is not simply "art for art's sake." The blueprints, sketches, and prototypes do serve a crucial function in the creation of air technology; however, *Flight Dreams* suggests these prints and models can be considered art because the ideas are innovative and imaginative.

*Flight Dreams* looks back all the way to the 1890s when Alexander Graham Bell started his experiments with the tetrahedral cell designed planes that led to the invention of the Silver Dart. The exhibit looks at both sides of the history of aviation, from the excitement at the creation of the Avro Arrow in the 1950s—an airplane that was considered the fastest and most powerful of its day—to darker themes, such as the use of airplanes to transport native children to the residential schools located far from their communities.

One piece, entitled "Beavers" by artist Frank Shebageget, immediately captures the attention of the room. The work consists of several tiny,



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

This Art Gallery of Nova Scotia exhibit's run is extended despite setbacks due to water leakage.

craved models of Beaver airplanes—airplanes that land on water and are small enough to travel to remote native communities.

While the pieces presented in *Flight Dreams* dazzle gallery patrons, this exhibit hasn't had a smooth journey.

Since mid-January, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia has had water leaking in to its lower lobby on and off, forcing the gallery to close for three days during this exhibition, says Ray Cronin, the gallery's director.

"We had to take down works that were out in the main lobby area where the water had been coming in," says Cronin. "In the first incident, we also had to take the show apart over the period of a couple of days and then put it back together."

The leak was not substantial, amounting only to some small pooling, but it was enough to affect operations.

The gallery has already had to cancel an exhibition that was scheduled for this spring and cannot be rescheduled. It was called "Lord Dalhousie and the Arts", a collection composed of artifacts from the Na-

tional Gallery of Canada and from private collections.

"We can't ensure the National Gallery that there will be no water issues in the spring and the only responsible thing to do is not put works that are that fragile in that space," says Cronin. "(It) is a pretty serious thing for an art gallery to do, to cancel a major exhibition based on worries that the gallery cannot maintain its integrity as an environment."

Cronin says no artwork has been put at risk, and that fragile items or items that may be affected by humidity have been stored temporarily in the conservation lab. The *Flight Dreams* exhibit has even been extended for a few more weeks, but not because of the leak.

"We decided to extend it because we want to get into the whole idea of the anniversary of the Silver Dart," explains Cronin. "But we are (also) extending *Flight Dreams* because of the cancellation of the Dalhousie exhibit."

*Flight Dreams* runs until March 29 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis St.

The Pilates Studio

1283 South Park Street  
Suite 1  
Halifax, NS

pilates.on.southpark@gmail.com  
www.myspace.com/pilates\_studio  
406.9909

Pay What You Can  
Sundays!!!

If vaginas could speak...

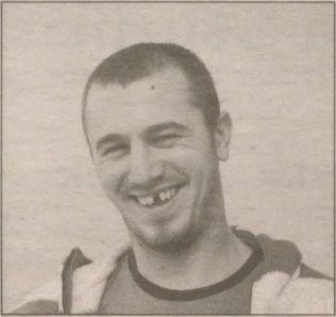


PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal student Candice Cascanette performed in a production of *The Vagina Monologues* in the Student Union Building's McInnes Room on Feb. 17 and 18.

## Sport retort

### Shopping cart races: Not just for bums



TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

I can't recommend anyone follow my advice this week. In fact, I would highly advise against participating in the kind of craziness I'm going to talk about. If any of you get hurt emulating me, it's your own damn fault.

Now, I don't know if anyone went to the film festival here in Halifax last summer, but if you did, one of the can't-miss films was Vancouver native Murray Siple's *Carts of Darkness*. The documentary follows the exploits of North Vancouver's homeless community and its batshit crazy habit of bombing down the steep mountain highways on standard grocery store shopping carts at upwards of 60 kilometres per hour. The film is brilliant, it's set to a great Canadian indie rock soundtrack, and it tackles many of the big issues facing Vancouver's homeless population. But that's not what I want to talk about.

The city of Halifax has a few gnarly hills of its own. If you know where to look, there are an abundance of serious slopes in residential Halifax. Hills that are crazy enough to give you the rush we all crave without the serious side-effect of running headlong into oncoming traffic. Nothing spoils a good day like being hit by a car.

So in the spirit of adventure, and with way too much spring break gusto, I decided shopping cart racing isn't just for bums. It

helps that shopping carts aren't all that hard to find. They hide in strange places, strewn all over the city by careless shoppers and ambitious bottle pickers. Of course, there's always the option to sneak away from the nearest grocery store with one, though I in no way advocate doing so. And besides, those carts have the nasty habit of seizing up outside of the store parking lot. For a sure bet, I recommend a walk down South Park Street to Young Avenue — you can't help but find a cart there under the train bridge.

If you'd been out at the top of Point Pleasant Drive one calm day over reading week, you may have seen me, nervously poised, cart in hand, wondering if my good buddy and I are going to make it out of this one unscathed.

I can't say the ride down was a complete success. I will give myself a half point for making it a good way down, but my busted up cart had a hard left lean that made going as stupid-fast as I was just a little bit nerve-wrecking. I ruined a pair of jeans and thanked God for snow banks. They really help to slow down a fast-rolling, gone-limp-for-safety body.

But one run and one crash wasn't enough to sate my appetite for speed, so back up to the top we went. The second run showed me why those crazy bastards in B.C. get off on this wild excuse for a sport. What an exhilarating feeling it is to be out of control, rushing headlong downwards, having no idea where it will end.

It ended with a head-over-heels crash at the bottom. Entirely worth it.

So if you're looking for a way to spend a cheap night out and your healthcare plan is up to snuff, maybe you should go find a shopping cart and bomb a hill. Maybe it would be a ton of fun, and maybe you might just see me there.

## Women's hockey enters playoffs on a roll

TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's women's hockey team has turned around a short losing streak just in time, picking up three convincing wins in the final games. The Tigers knocked off UPEI 7-4 on Feb. 21, before pounding last place Mount Allison 10-2 on the 22. The Tigers carried the momentum of the wins into Saturday's game, downing the Saint Mary's (SMU) Huskies 3-1 in the last game of the season.

Saturday's game was a closely contested, defensive battle. Dal held SMU to only 19 shots on goal, helping out goaltender Mallory Harris. The Tigers struck first in the wide open first period, with Robin Mullen

scoring eight minutes into the first. A late goal by Dal's Liz Matheson put the Tigers in a good position going into the second stanza.

The second period saw both teams tighten up. The teams traded powerplay opportunities until SMU's Zoe Launcelott put the game back in reach for SMU with an unassisted goal at 12:58 of the second.

The teams traded chances in the third until Dal leading scorer Jocelyn LeBlanc restored Dal's two-goal lead with a mid-period powerplay goal. SMU was never able to climb out of the hole and the Tigers took the game 3-1.

The win moves the Tigers record to 12-11-1, good for a final regular season total of 25 points. The Tigers

will enter the playoffs in the fourth-place slot, where they will play SMU and St. Thomas University for the right to play St. Francis Xavier or Moncton in the semi-finals. The playoff favourite has to be Moncton, who enter with a 22-0-2 record, and are undefeated in regulation time.

along with Ashley Stephen of St. E.X. and Kari Everett of Cape Breton. Cape Breton's Hodgeson was named tournament MVP, and was presented with a \$1,000 cheque.

With most of the team returning next year, Dal will again field a strong team. Though there were tears in the eyes of some disappointed Dal players at the end of the tournament, it was a personal success for the Tigers who battled hard until the final buzzer.

## Tigers basketball wins before break

DYLAN MATTHIAS  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It was all about Simon Farine last Thursday when Dalhousie's men's basketball team won over Saint Mary's 69-63.

It's not that the rest of the Tigers men's basketball team didn't play at its Feb. 18 game, but they wouldn't have beaten the Saint Mary's (SMU) Huskies without Farine's second half performance.

Dal's best player had a quiet first half, only picking up eight points. But as SMU started to pull ahead in the third, he sunk basket after basket to give Dal an eventual 69-63 win.

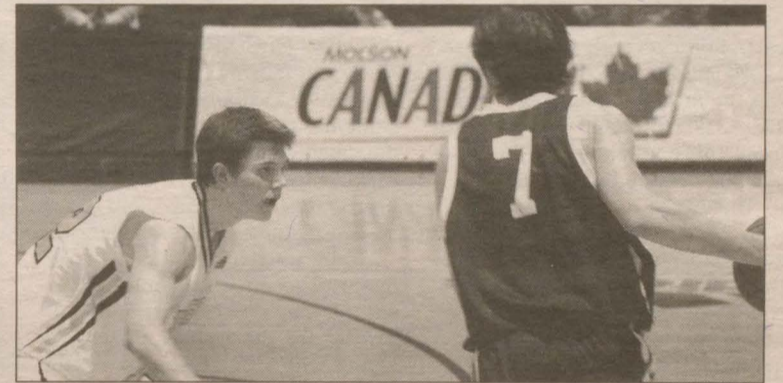
The win was a crucial one, worth four points in the standings and moving Dal into third place moving into next weekend's Atlantic University Sport (AUS) finals.

It was a defensive game, and no player really scored a mountain of points. Joey Heywood, who led SMU's attack, got 28, but no other Husky had more than 10.

Dal managed to maintain the lead—barely—through the first, and led 19-16. SMU took the second 15-13, for a half-time score of 32-31 in favour of Dal. Heywood was excellent in the second for SMU, rushing up and down the floor for smooth, one-motion lay-ups.

Heywood spent a year in the American Am-1 league before coming back to Canada for university.

Farine—who also spent a year south of the border—took over in the



SIMON BENNETTS/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie Tiger Josh Beattie faces off with Saint Mary's Husky Mark McLaughlin (7) during a 69-63 Dal win Feb. 18 at the Dalplex.

third. After SMU took an early lead, Farine tied it at 41, then sunk two very nice three-point shots in quick succession. When he wasn't scoring them, he was setting them up, and Dal ended the third with a healthy 52-43 lead.

Farine then took his first rest of the match, only to be subbed back on two minutes later as teammate Andrew Sullivan picked up a fourth foul. A fifth would have seen him thrown out of the game.

And while Heywood was scoring, Farine was making plays. Halfway through the fourth he fell in a scramble to the floor, but managed to fling a pass from his stomach to Sandy Veit for a basket.

As SMU pulled within four points, Germain Bendegue managed to score for Dal. Then Farine scored five points in a under two minutes to drive Dal to

the close-fought victory.

"You feel energized after a win like that," said Farine after the game. He didn't seem tired at all, despite a 38-minute effort.

"We work harder than I think most CIS teams do. We're in the weight room twice a week, 7 a.m., pre-season, running eight-kilometre runs at six in the morning."

Offensively, he kind of generates the entire offense for us, whether its scoring or play-making ability. He plays a huge role," said head coach John Campbell.

"I try to have a mindset that when it comes down to crunch time, I want the ball in my hands," said Farine. "I'm confident that I can make something happen, either penetrate and pass to a player for an open shot or score myself; I just want the ball in my hands."

VARSIY SEASON IS WRAPPING UP SO CATCH THIS LAST CHANCE FOR TIGER ACTION!

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 5, the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team will take on the Acadia Axemen in the AUS Championship Quarter-final game at the Halifax Metro Centre at 9:15pm. A pre-game party is scheduled for Dal students, fans and friends of the Tigers at Bubbles beginning at 7pm. FREE FLOOR SEATS will be available for the first 100 Dal students who arrive with their student ID's so be sure to wear your black and gold, get creative with your noisemakers and plan to come to the pre-game at Bubbles before heading over to cheer on your Dalhousie Tigers!!

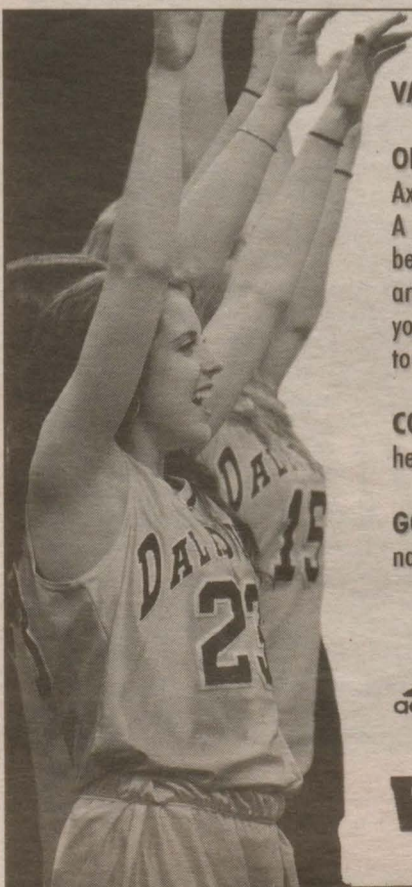
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TIGERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM who played their hearts out in the AUS championship game this past Sunday, falling just shy of a win!

GOOD LUCK TO THE TIGERS TRACK & FIELD TEAMS (AUS Champions!) as they head to nationals next weekend!



GO TIGERS!

WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA



## Upset kills men's volleyball title hopes

TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's bid for men's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) volleyball gold came to an abrupt end on Feb 27. Facing the fourth-ranked University of Brandon Bobcats, the fifth-ranked Tigers fell in five sets 17-25, 26-24, 12-25, 25-21, 15-9 at the University of Alberta's main gym.

The loss continues Dal's string of bad luck at the national level. The team has qualified for the national tournament consecutively for the past 30 years, never taking home the title. The win was huge for the Bobcats, who are making their first appearance at the CIS championships.

Third-year left side Paul Sanderson led the Bobcats. He racked up 20 kills in the win. Sanderson, a CIS first team all-Canadian, showed off a lethal serve, giving Dal fits while picking up three aces.

Sander Ratsep, an Atlantic University Sport (AUS) MVP acted as Dal's own all-star, picking up 17 kills in 31 attempts, adding an ace and five digs in the losing effort. Daniel Murray also put up great numbers in the effort, racking up 16 kills on the way to be named player of the match for Dal.

The Tigers jumped out to an early lead in the first set, eventually working their way to a 25-17 win. The Bobcats rebounded in the second set, pushing the Tigers into overtime, taking the set 26-24. The trend of a huge Dal win and a close loss continued as the Tigers took the third set with a convincing 25-12 score, before again dropping a close one 25-21.

In a nail-biter of a last set, The Tigers were unable to control Brandon's Sanderson, who picked up an ace and a kill in the fifth, moving the Bobcats on to their first ever CIS semi-final. The Bobcats are set to face the tournament hosts, the Alberta Golden Bears, in a rematch of the Canada West final that Alberta won in straight sets last week.

In the other semi-final, second-ranked Laval goes up against third-ranked McMaster University.

Dalhousie will take on AUS rival University of New Brunswick in the consolation match.

Tigers walked all over the two-time defending champions. With a 71-42 lead at the end of the third quarter, the Tigers coasted to an 86-63 win in front of a boisterous home crowd.

The stage was set for an all-Nova Scotia final when first-ranked Cape Breton knocked off fourth-ranked seed St. FX. in the other semi-final.

The Tigers fell behind early in Sunday's final, never seeming to find a solution to Cape Breton star Hodgeson. The Capers rode a 36-point performance by Hodgeson to a 80-75 win, capturing the AUS title for the first time since 2006.

A dominant first half performance by the Capers put them up 31-29 at the half, but the Tigers would not go down easy. A great third quarter by Kaye and Girdwood saw the Tigers claw back into the game, eventually tying the score at 51-51. The Tigers tried valiantly to gain the upper hand, and kept the game close with strong inside scoring from Girdwood and forward Alex Legge.

The push just wasn't enough to slow down the Capers. Hodgeson continued to find the net, and the Tigers attack sputtered in the face of deadly accurate foul shooting from the Capers. In the end Dal came up just short, falling 80-75.

The Capers will now represent the AUS conference in next weekend's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals, hosted by the University of Regina.

Dalhousie had three players named to the tournament all-star team, with Kaye, Donald and Orr getting all-star nods, along with Ashley Stephen of St. FX. and Kari Everett of Cape Breton. Cape Breton's Hodgeson was named tournament MVP, and was presented with a \$1,000 cheque.

With most of the team returning next year, Dal will again field a strong team. Though there were tears in the eyes of some disappointed Dal players at the end of the tournament, it was a personal success for the Tigers who battled hard until the final buzzer.



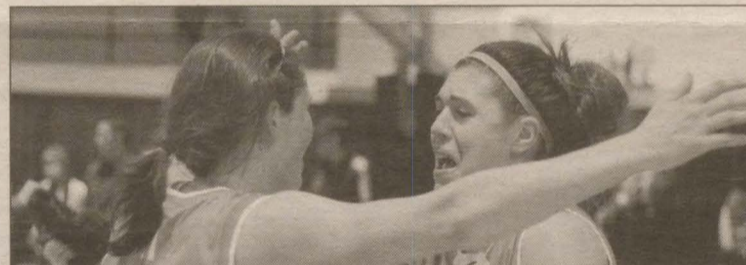
JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Cape Breton Capers fans cheer and hug after their team's 80-75 victory over Dal.



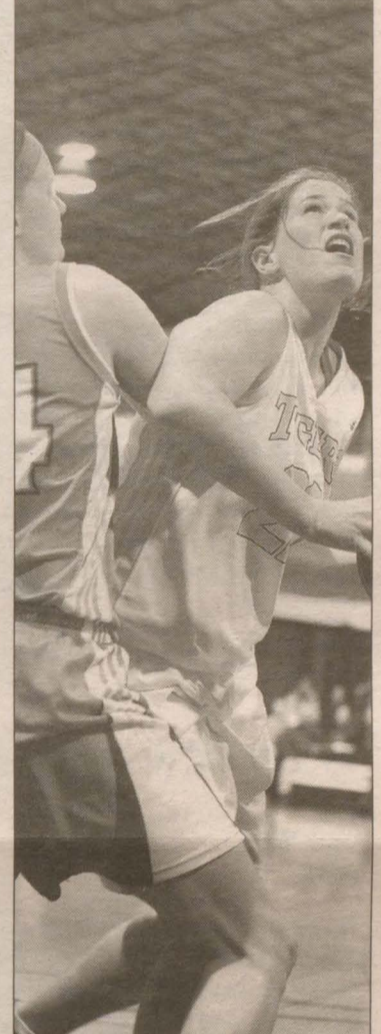
JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Jenna Kaye is blocked in the key by Kelsey Hodgeson of the Cape Breton Capers.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kari Everett hugs a crying Karmen Brown after the Capers won.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Laurie Girdwood goes for a shot while being covered by Stephanie Toxopeus.

## Women fall just short in AUS finals

TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a bittersweet weekend for the Dalhousie Tigers as they managed to reach the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) basketball finals only to fall 80-75 to the heavily favoured Cape Breton Capers. In the end, Cape Breton University star and AUS MVP Kelsey Hodgeson proved to be too much for the Tigers.

Last weekend's AUS finals marked the first time Dal has hosted the event since 2001, which was also the last time the Tigers managed to walk away with AUS gold. The tournament saw the final six AUS teams - Dal, Cape Breton, Memorial University, Acadia, St. Francis Xavier and University of New Brunswick - face off for AUS gold at the Dalplex.

Dal started out the tournament with a 77-68 quarterfinal win against the sixth-ranked Acadia. Attended by a crowd of 250, the Tigers jumped out to an early lead with the outside shooting of fifth-year guards Brianna Orr and Kelly Donald. The Acadia Axewomen clawed back into the game on the work of all-rookie team members Keisha Brown and Sondra Medley, pulling the Axewomen to within two at the end of the first quarter.

Acadia briefly tied the game at 25, but the Tigers gained momentum and never looked back, piling up points on the way to a 41-35 halftime score.

The Tigers continued to shine in the second half, showing off a tough team defence that would endure

throughout the tournament. The Tigers would eventually down the Axewomen 77-68, with Donald named player of the game.

The Tigers then faced the second-ranked Memorial Seahawks in a semi-final game. The teams split the season series 2-2, and the game was expected to be closely contested. It wasn't. Dal walked all over the Seahawks, piling up points fast and early. Dal jumped out to a 31-17 lead in the first quarter, seeming to score at will over Memorial's defence.

Guard Orr picked it up in the second quarter, scoring 14 points by draining multiple threes and pushing Dal to a 50-26 halftime lead.

In the second half, Dal guard Jenna Kaye showed why she was an AUS first team all-star. She played tenacious defence for the Tigers and heated up Dal's offence with well-timed baskets and ball distribution. Kaye, a fourth-year transfer student, was one of two Dal regular season all-stars along with towering forward Laurie Girdwood.

The Seahawks never really got going in their semi-final game and the Tigers walked all over the two-time defending champions. With a 71-42 lead at the end of the third quarter, the Tigers coasted to an 86-63 win in front of a boisterous home crowd.

The stage was set for an all-Nova Scotia final when first-ranked Cape Breton knocked off fourth-ranked seed St. FX. in the other semi-final.

The Tigers fell behind early in Sunday's final, never seeming to find a solution to Cape Breton star Hodgeson.

The Capers rode a 36-point performance by Hodgeson to a 80-75 win, capturing the AUS title for the first time since 2006.

A dominant first half performance by the Capers put them up 31-29 at the half, but the Tigers would not go down easy. A great third quarter by Kaye and Girdwood saw the Tigers claw back into the game, eventually tying the score at 51-51. The Tigers tried valiantly to gain the upper hand, and kept the game close with strong inside scoring from Girdwood and forward Alex Legge.

The push just wasn't enough to slow down the Capers. Hodgeson continued to find the net, and the Tigers attack sputtered in the face of deadly accurate foul shooting from the Capers. In the end Dal came up just short, falling 80-75.

The Capers will now represent the AUS conference in next weekend's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals, hosted by the University of Regina.

Dal had three players named to the tournament all-star team, with Kaye, Donald and Orr getting all-star nods, along with Ashley Stephen of St. FX. and Kari Everett of Cape Breton. Cape Breton's Hodgeson was named tournament MVP, and was presented with a \$1,000 cheque.

With most of the team returning next year, Dal will again field a strong team. Though there were tears in the eyes of some disappointed Dal players at the end of the tournament, it was a personal success for the Tigers who battled hard until the final buzzer.

## NEED CONFIDENTIAL SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES?

Call Halifax Sexual Health Centre at 455-9656 to make an appointment for your pap, STI test, anonymous HIV test, pregnancy test, pregnancy options counselling or to buy affordable birth control or emergency contraception.

We're a friendly, non-judgemental and inclusive health centre.

Love Carefully!



HALIFAX  
SEXUAL HEALTH  
CENTRE

Formerly Planned Parenthood Metro Clinic • www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

FREE FOOD + FREE BOOZE =  
WRITING FOR THE DAL GAZETTE

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



# THE SEXTANT

## AT THE WORKPLACE WITH FRITOLAY CANADA

Lori Baker

A student who comes to work at FritoLay Canada should expect a lot more than just free potato chips. They can expect a very productive work term as a Project Engineer, fully participating in numerous productivity and maintenance projects at varying stages. Students from various engineering disciplines are able to gain a broad range of experiences, including involvement with research and development activities.

John Mason, a Chemical Engineering student completing his first work term with FritoLay, feels that being so involved with the 'project process' makes it a very positive experience. "I think it's a great work term for students because it gives you so many base skills that you need to get ready for future work terms and eventually your career."

He also thinks problem solving is one of the best parts of the job. This is a skill area that he has been able to develop through activities such as managing contractors, creating troubleshooting lists, scheduling around production, ensuring that the equipment meets company expectations and standards, as well as timeliness.

Jeff Turner, Project Manager / Maintenance Resource, takes personal interest in a student's growth and skills development. He is a firm believer that being good is not necessarily better than demonstrating improvement.

"I try to give feedback about their strengths and opportunities for growth," Jeff says about his co-op students. "I try to help them improve so that when they leave here, they can raise the bar for the next job they start and continue to grow."

John is already doing very well accord-

ing to Jeff's standards - he admits he has to struggle to make sure John has things he knows he can work on to be better.

When asked if students have made significant contributions to the company over the years, Jeff says that every student has a slightly different talent and he tries to take advantage of that. Additionally, he identifies several common skills that help lead to a successful work term.

He looks for students who are able to organize their priorities and to work on their own; someone who is able to pick a path and proceed, knowing that every direction is a learning opportunity.

He looks for a self-starter who doesn't always need a lot of guidance, but still has the necessary communication skills that will allow them to interact with contractors and plant em-

ployees. Students should also take advantage of the opportunity to speak with and gain knowledge from the many professional engineers at the company.

"Everyone is friendly here," John says. "They're all really orientated on work so it's a good environment to work in. It's easy to approach people and ask questions if you need to know anything."

This is the kind of environment where students are able to learn new skills, gain knowledge and make a contribution. Maybe they'll even get a few bags of chips!



## WINTER BLUES

Anna West  
Editor

I would like to know whose smart idea it was to put a rodent in charge of determining whether or not winter will be long or short. What do rodents know about weather conditions? I bet they find it humorous to watch humans suffer the cold long winter without the natural fur coat they themselves always wear. Why couldn't we arrange Groundhog Day to fall on an overcast day, at least once every couple of years, so the darn groundhog doesn't see his shadow? Or maybe someone could slip in and hold an umbrella over the groundhog's burrow - that would teach him! I don't remember when the last time I received good news on Groundhog Day was. Who actually wants six more weeks of winter?! To me, Groundhog Day is a tremendous disappointment every year. I'm sick and tired of winter and I would like to purpose that Halifax find a new winter dictator.

I'm not the only one who's had quite enough. In a recent issue of the Chronicle Herald an article

was written featuring Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is not very well known. The symptoms are generally quite mild and not usually recognized as a disorder. SAD is caused by a lack of sunshine due to the shorter and darker days of winter and how people are generally more prone to staying indoors when it's cold and snowy. They symptoms are generally the same as those of depression. They include lack of energy, increased fatigue, craving of sweets (particularly chocolate) and starches, weight gain, difficulty concentrating, avoidance of social situations and moodiness. Unless severe, there is generally no treatment, but awareness can be half the battle.

To get over, or at least minimize the effect of SAD, those affected are encouraged to maintain a healthy diet through the winter months. I know, this is the last thing I want to do too. Chocolate just makes me feel so much better! But once you start, you just can't stop, so it's better to avoid chocolate all together. It is also suggested that you not let your exercise or physical activities slip

during the frigid days. Getting exercise and being physically active on a regular basis helps to maintain well being. If you think that maybe you are suffering from SAD, make the effort to get outside. The sunshine (even if it seems like it's always behind layers of clouds) is good for you. Finally, make sure to get your required amount of sleep on a daily basis, but don't go overboard. When your alarm goes off in the morning, get up. In general, try not to let your usual lifestyle alter during the winter. These changes affect the hormones and balance of your body and mind. When you let a feeling of lethargy take over, you are giving yourself up to the winter blues.

If you fell into a funk this winter, don't fret. Now that you know the reasoning, you can overcome it next winter. The time changes this weekend allowing more sunlight to enjoy and means that spring is just around the corner!

*Seasonal Affective Disorder.* Accessed March 2, 2009 from [http://www.cmha.ca/BINS/content\\_page.asp?cid=3-86-93](http://www.cmha.ca/BINS/content_page.asp?cid=3-86-93)



Thursday March 5 • DalOut Drag Show  
Friday March 6 • Trivia  
Thursday March 12 • Danger Bees and Park Effects  
Friday March 13 • DEGS vs. MBA Trivia

**DSEUS** dalhousie sexton  
engineering undergraduate society

Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts (New Design!)  
Thursday March 5 • National Engineering Week Barbeque  
Friday March 6 • Pancake Breakfast in Alumni Lounge

## CO-OP CORNER

### Things to Remember:

- Remember to register for the summer 2009 co-op work term on Dal Online.
- If you applied to less than four postings during Round I you must meet with the co-op office before they will release you to PlacePro for Round II.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>
- Remember that students are encouraged to do their own job search as well as to utilize the postings on PlacePro. If you get a job without going through PlacePro, be sure to let the co-op office know so they can designate you as 'placed'.
- Forms are online or at the co-op office for those students who get jobs outside of PlacePro. If you do not fill out this form, then your work term may not be eligible for co-op and may not count as time towards your E.I.T., or professional engineering designation.