

FREE

141-23 / Mar. 19, 2009

# GAZETTE

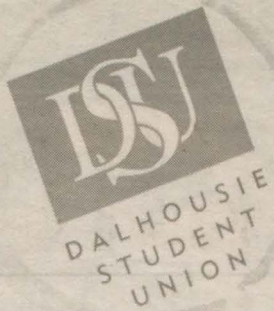


*Back to the  
drawing  
board*

Local artist Peter Diamond  
exhibits a more personal side p. 13

Illustration: Peter Diamond





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

**DSU Election Results @ The Grawood**  
Thursday, March 19th, 8:00pm

**Open Mic @ The T-Room**  
Thursday March 19th, 9:00pm

**The Novaks live @ The T-Room**  
Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
Tickets \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door

**Sloan Live @ The Grawood**  
Friday March 27th, 8:00pm  
Tickets \$15  
Open to DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests

**Year-end "Engibeering" @ Sexton field**  
Friday April 3rd, 8:00pm

**Last-Class Bash @ The Grawood**  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

## DSU Annual General Meeting – April 1<sup>st</sup>

The DSU AGM will continue on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the McInnes room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. A valid Dalhousie student I.D. will be required for admittance. Visit [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for more information.

## DSU Elections

Voting has ended, and the results of the DSU election will be announced at an election party in The Grawood on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Thanks to all candidates and volunteers for their hard work this year! Visit [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for official election results.

## 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!

## Legal Services

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

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Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



# GAZETTE...STAFF



Thanks a lot to Peter Diamond for drawing us this awesome cover of himself. It's fucking awesome.

-John, the photo editor

## WE SCREWED UP!

An editing error in "Dallaire pushes for more Canadian involvement" (March 12) made it appear that 100 people showed up to hear Romeo Dallaire speak. In fact, 1,000 people attended. The Gazette regrets the error.

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*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](mailto: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.

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# AGM is for accountability

JOHN PACKMAN  
PHOTO EDITOR

Watching the new student government change hands year after year is like watching little political idealists grow up into paranoid, curmudgeonly politicians.

They're happy to talk about anything at first but they'll try to avoid answering simple questions once they're elected.

Since I've started at the paper, I've seen one Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president refuse interviews with *The Gazette* until he got a personal apology from a news editor and I've also seen a president pose with a tiara and a magic wand for our cover.

This year, the executive had the idea to ban the press, along with non-Dal students, from the DSU Annual General Meeting (AGM), a controversial affair that took place on March 11.

Two days before the AGM, DSU vice-president (finance) Matt Golding told our news editors they couldn't come to the AGM because they were King's students.

But last year, then-news editor Katie May - also a King's student - showed up at the AGM without any hassle and waited for DSU members to bribe enough people with free pizza to reach quorum of 75 Dal students.

When I heard about the rule change banning non-Dal students, I went down to the DSU office to ask our current president for an explanation.

I told Courtney Larkin it's unacceptable for the DSU to keep the press out of its annual general meeting. She told me she was busy but that she would think about it and tell *Gazette* staff her final decision at 3 p.m. on March 11, a few hours before the meeting.

To put things into perspective, I interviewed her for a profile only a year ago, right after she won the presi-



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Raise your hand if you think it's fitting to have AGM part two on April Fool's Day.

dential race, asking her questions like "What was your childhood nickname?" (Shortney.)

They grow up so fast.

It seemed the student union wanted to run this year's AGM like a private company runs a shareholders meeting.

At 3 p.m. on the dot, we got an e-mail from Larkin.

"I have decided that I will make an exception, to all meeting attendees being Dalhousie students, for student media for the event," she wrote.

While I won't commend her on her desire to keep mainstream media out, I'll commend her for her punctuality.

She wrote that she'd let in two *Ga-*

*zette* reporters who are King's students as long as they got there early "to protect the integrity of the voting which will be taking place tonight."

Now, I've dealt with a lot of public relations people, pushy sources and overzealous ushers in my time as a student journalist, but I've got to say, it's really disrespectful when you're suggesting we'd try to sabotage the AGM by voting.

Last year, when non-Dal students had no problem attending the AGM, our news editor could have voted on the DSU constitution. Surrounded by DSU insiders and a rare few regular Dal students, she could have raised her hand and had her vote counted along

with the rest. But she didn't, because, as journalists, if we're going to cover something objectively, we can't get involved.

I'm sure I would take better pictures if I ran onto a basketball court to get a close up of a dunk, for example, but I know it would disrupt the game, so I don't.

Our opinions editor, Bethany Horne, caused a scene because of the new rules.

The DSU exec wanted her to leave, but she wanted to cover the AGM for a journalism class. Eventually, the cops kicked her out. She explains herself on page 8. Since it seems our current executives are adding "public relations

manager" to their portfolios, I've got to tell them: if you want to be accountable and let students know what you're up to, you've got to let in the press.

And not just the student press. If CTV or the *Chronicle-Herald* want to show up, you should give them a seat. They reach a bigger audience than *The Gazette*, CKDU and student bloggers do.

Students aren't the only ones interested in what happens within the DSU. Professors, university administration and the larger Halifax community care too. Strange, but true.

If DSU execs want to make suggestions to the city about how it should run transit or hold municipal elections, they should make it possible for municipal officials to know how the DSU works.

At the next general meeting on April 1, the student union needs to allow and encourage not only Dal students, but media and community members to come. They don't have to have speaking rights but they should be able to attend as observers. If you're afraid they'll vote, make a separate section for them to sit in.

All Dal students can't fit into one room to attend the AGM and not everybody has more than four hours to sit through an unproductive one. It's the job of the press to be there for those who can't and to tell everyone what happened.

Shutting out non-Dal students and media because of an unfounded paranoia they will seek the Dal-student-only privilege to vote will keep students and the community at large from knowing or caring about student government.

So many student politicians preach accountability, transparency and open-communication when they're campaigning. They've got to live up to those promises once they're elected.



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Visit the **Spotlight On** section of [CanLearn.ca](http://CanLearn.ca) for details.

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Si tu crois que tu pourrais avoir de la difficulté à rembourser tes prêts d'études, des programmes fédéraux et provinciaux s'offrent à toi afin de t'aider à maintenir le cap.

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Pour plus de détails, visite la section **En vedette** du site [cibleétudes.ca](http://cibleétudes.ca).

Canada

# Voting, Dal-only decision prompts subsequent AGM

Annual meeting draws roughly 150 students

MELISSA DI COSTANZO  
NEWS EDITOR

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executive chose to make its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 11 only open to Dalhousie students, sparking outrage among audience members inside the McInnes Room.

Student Jane Kirby moved to amend the agenda earlier in the night to add a motion that would allow non-Dal students - such as those from the board of CKDU, the board of the Women's Centre and staff members of Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), who were waiting outside the McInnes Room, to enter the meeting.

"All of them are societies under the DSU but they are not students. However, they do have interests in the decisions made at this meeting and they also have a unique perspective on some of the motions being debated on the grounds they deal with Dal students every day," Kirby said. "So, I think that's a very good reason for them being in the room and I'm unsure of why they were excluded."

Kirby noted in the DSU constitution, under the section titled "general meetings," there is nothing that states non-Dal students should be excluded. She also said at council meetings, non-council members are allowed admission, including non-Dal students.

The motion failed, with a difference of 13 votes.

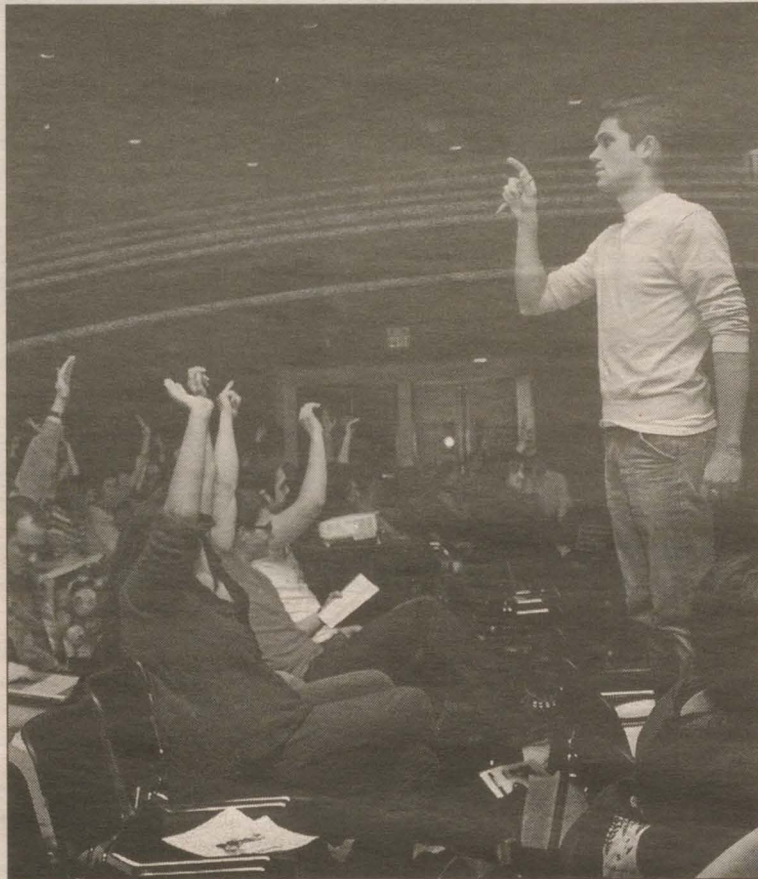
The admission of only Dal students didn't occur at last year's AGM.

Mark Coffin, DSU vice-president (education) said the decision to open the AGM to Dal students only was a collective one between the executives and the chair of council. He also said there is no note under the constitution that states whether or not non-Dal students are allowed in the meeting.

"We obviously knew that this AGM would be far more interesting and there were motions that were far more serious to the future of the union on the agenda," he said two days after the AGM, referring to the seven motions added to the agenda by Students Mobilizing for Action on Campus (SMAC): an apology motion, advertisement motion, military motion, anti-war motion, a Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) motion, a Turnitin.com motion and a contract motion.

The advertisement motion, regarding corporate sponsorship on campus, and the contract motion, regarding food services contracts, were both struck from the agenda before the meeting's end.

"Ultimately, it just comes down to



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

DSU council chair Mat Brechtel was challenged at the AGM to allow non-Dal students to enter.

the (council) chair and that we needed to protect the integrity of the vote and the ballot by ensuring that only Dal students were in the room and that students such as *Gazette* reporters who were not Dal students would have to be recognized well in advance so that we could accommodate and recognize who the non-Dal students are," Coffin said.

Council chair Mat Brechtel was challenged at the meeting to allow non-Dal students to enter the McInnes Room in the Student Union Building (SUB). Debate took place, and then a vote and the membership decided with the chair that it was "inappropriate" for non-Dal students to be in the room.

Coffin said the DSU anticipated a backlash from students, but added the members were prepared for it.

A member of *The Gazette* - who is King's student - was removed from the premises by police officers, and NSPIRG community members, including the campaign co-ordinator, were not allowed in.

Former DSU President Ezra Edelstein was in the McInnes Room before the meeting began and left once staff realized he was no longer a Dal student

and asked him to leave.

Ryan McNutt, a reporter with *Dal News*, was in the room and was allowed to remain because he contacted the DSU in advance and asked to be allowed in the room for media purposes.

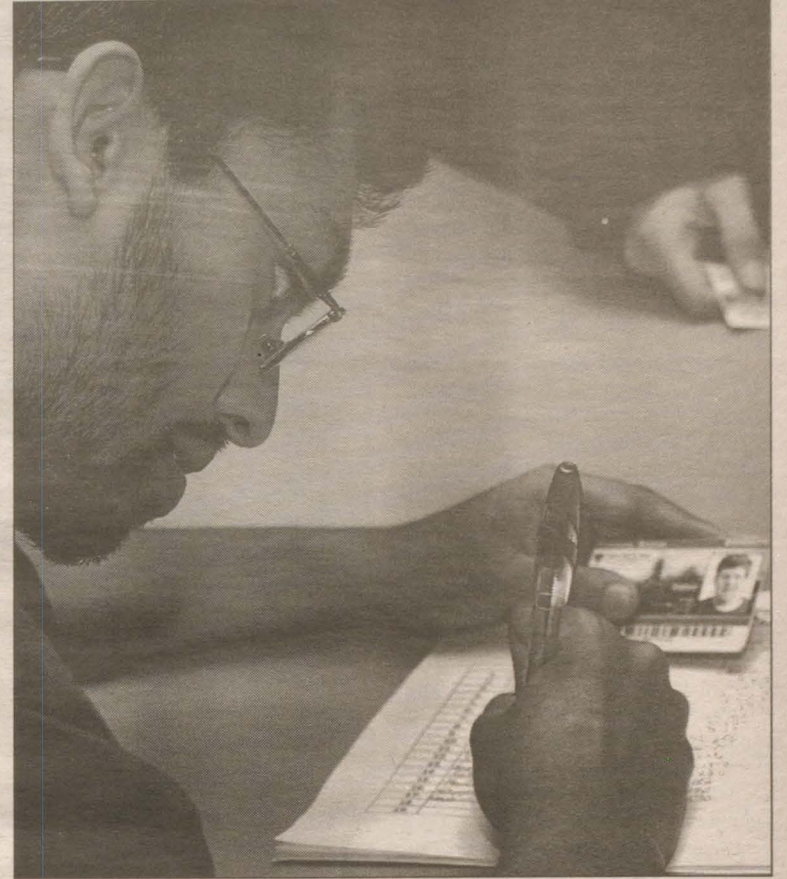
The meeting got underway at 7:15 p.m., 45 minutes after the intended start time, because security was checking student IDs at the door.

The motion to approve the agenda passed at 10:20 p.m. DSU President Courtney Larkin - who was not available for comment for this article - delivered her president's annual report around 10:30 p.m.

The AGM ended at 10:45 p.m. due to the 11 p.m. closing time of the SUB, with vice-president (internal) Daniel Boyle rushing through his report.

A second AGM is scheduled for April 1. Coffin said the executive is hearing reports that everyone who was at the March 11 AGM is coming back to the next one and bringing all of their friends.

"The capacity of the room is about 600 to 700 with the seating we have plus standing room, so it's doubtful that we're able to accommodate for any non-Dal students," he said. "The media ... are the



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Fahid Kabir checks Brenton Cousins' Dalhousie ID card at the door of the AGM.

only ones we'll be able to accommodate for."

He said the executive is taking a few days to sort out its options, such as doing a live-feed into the Grawood. He said they would probably have something figured out by March 20.

"Right now, we're only going to make considerations for campus media."

Media presence on March 11 included the editor-in-chief and contributors from *The Gazette*, as well as a reporter from CKDU and McNutt from *Dal News*.

"Generally, (there was) a very well-rounded media presence, so it wasn't so much a concern that we weren't allowing media into the room," he said. "We made every effort to make it as open to the media as possible without compromising the integrity of the votes."

Voting methods were also an issue at the AGM.

Student Daniel Pink moved that NSPIRG offer an official apology to Dal students by April 1 for wasting their money.

"NSPIRG's latest display at the job fair in February (in protest of arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin's presence) was a total embarrassment to

the union, its members and the university and many Dalhousie students felt ashamed to say they give them \$4," he said. "NSPIRG does a terrible job in announcing the opt-out period for students to come to collect their \$4."

Students voted on whether or not to add Pink's motion to the agenda. Students voted by raising their hands while seated.

The chair recounted the votes because there has to be a two-third's majority for a motion to pass. The motion failed, and DSU vice-president (finance and operations) Matt Golding, moved for a ballot vote.

There was a scramble to collect paper ballots; members filled out their ballots in their seats. The chair counted the ballots and announced there were eight more ballots counted than handed out, meaning students had to vote again.

During the second paper vote, Brechtel asked students to leave their seats, lined them up and then collected their ballots.

The motion passed with a 67 per cent majority, with more than an hour spent on voting.

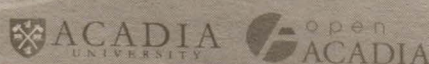
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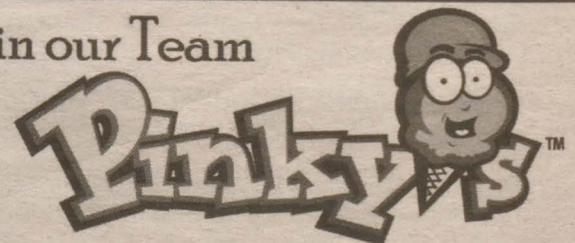
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# Leaders highlight N.S. obstacles to sustainability

LUCY SCHOLEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The economy is a hot topic in most political conversations, including at an environmental panel last week at Dalhousie.

The panel - Building a Sustainable and Prosperous Nova Scotia - was one of Dal's first Green Week events on March 9. Progressive Conservative candidate Ted Larsen, Liberal environment critic Keith Colwell, N.S. Green Party leader Ryan Watson and NDP Conserve Nova Scotia critic Howard Epstein discussed sustainable policy ideas. About 50 people gathered in the McInnes Room of the Student Union Building to hear the panelists answer questions about this province's sustainability policies. The discussion focused on energy, transportation and green jobs and leaned toward the province's poor use of its renewable resources and lack of environmental incentives. Richard Zurawski, the panel's moderator, said N.S. uses 12 per cent of its energy from renewable sources, but the other 88 per cent comes from carbon-based fuels. He also mentioned a lack of government transportation funding and asked whether each party has a plan to create more green jobs.

Larsen brought up the economy early in the discussion.

"Today, we know in a way we did not know before that the environment and the economy cannot be separated," he said, adding the province needs an "economically feasible" approach to sustainability.

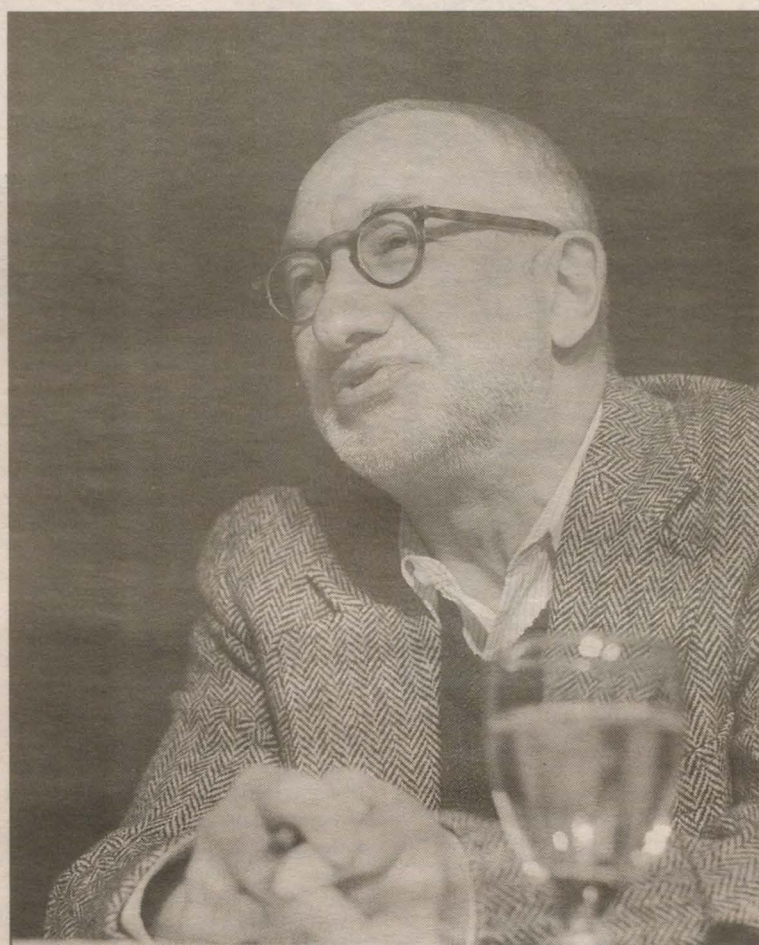
Larsen said the Environmental Goals and Sustainability Act is an affordable approach to creating a cleaner environment. The act's regulations aim to improve sustainability by 2020. Such regulations include caps on emissions, increasing energy efficiency and using renewable resources to generate electricity.

But the regulations outlined in this legislation aren't enough, according to Colwell. He said the province must give businesses an incentive to create green jobs. This means creating the right tax structure and special loans for businesses who want to make green investments.

"You have to have the policy in place to move forward and create these jobs long-term," said Colwell. "Sustainable jobs that pay very well help us not only in the green environment, but help us economically."

For Watson, the economy plays a crucial role in the sustainability debate.

"The real challenge is an economic challenge," he said. "I believe that our environmental crisis is an economic crisis. It's our economic system that has brought us into this developing disaster and it's through working with our economic system that we can actually heal this and create success out of



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
Howard Epstein, MLA for Halifax-Chebucto, and NDP Critic for Conserve Nova Scotia, said the province's transportation policies show flawed decision-making.

a very challenging situation."

Like Colwell, Watson said creating fair prices for renewable energy producers is the key to creating sustainability. He says this method has proven to work in other countries and Nova Scotia should do the same, especially with the province's capacity to generate wind energy.

Epstein took a different perspective on the economy's role in sustainability.

"The cause of our economic woes has not yet been because of problems with sustainability," he said, "but the next crisis will be, and one of the things about the economic crisis that we find ourselves in now is that it should remind us just how fundamentally flawed is the picture not just of economic life, but of reality that is held by those in positions of so-called responsible decision-making."

Epstein said the province's transportation policies are one example of flawed decision-making. He cited widening roads, adding a third harbour tunnel or bridge and paving railroad tracks as three specific examples. He added that the province should engage with the city to plan better transportation policies.

Ecology Action Centre volunteer Ruth Gamberg said she attended the discussion because she's "terrified about climate change."

"You know, this is the world we're in and how can we be saying, 'oh my god, the economy, the economy, the economy?' Yeah, the economy's in bad shape and people are losing jobs," she said, adding environmental jobs are the solution to economic troubles. "Why can't we put people to work making wind turbines?"

Environmental law student Frederic Perron-Welch offered another angle on the environment.

"Although climate change is a major problem, there are also a lot of other environmental problems that are coming up on the radar and that haven't really been addressed," he said.

"The climate crisis is becoming so overwhelming in public discourse that it's simply overwhelming a lot of other environmental problems at the same time," he added, mentioning the potential danger of the fisheries collapsing.

The discussion also left him with other doubts.

"It was a very politically oriented discussion, which is what makes it really hard to swallow sometimes," he said. "It was very much a repeating of political standpoints from across the spectrum."

Perron-Welch added "powerful voices" are needed to address environmental issues, especially with a provincial election expected this spring.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
Anke Kungl, right, sold watermelon radishes at Dal's March 11 farmer's market.

## SUB hosts farmers' market

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ARTS EDITOR

The Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB) was transformed into a farmers' market March 11 to raise awareness about incorporating more local food into contracts with Dal's food service provider, Sodexo Canada, formerly Sodexo.

Jason Pelley, a Dal graduate, organized the event. Pelley had tried to put together a similar market at Dal during his time as an undergraduate student, but was unsuccessful in gaining support for the cause. Now, he says, local food has become a hot topic and students and student union executives are open to hearing about food service alternatives.

"So much is happening around food in this city right now that I had to put the idea out there, and the resistance that was there years ago just wasn't there," says Pelley.

Pelley now works in sustainability development and regularly consults with companies and municipalities on how to become more sustainable. With the DSU's contract with Sodexo up in 2011, Pelley hopes raising awareness about the importance of supporting local farmers and food producers will create the push for the union to include larger quotas of locally grown food in its new contract.

"Dalhousie is looking to be a leader and this is where they can show a leadership role," Pelley says.

Sodexo now provides food in the SUB, separate from the university's contract with food services provider Aramark. Aramark provides meals in the dining halls of Dal's residences, as well as on many other locations on campus. Between January and April 2008, 32 per cent of the food brought in by Aramark came from local producers. While Sodexo has also made an effort to bring in more locally grown food, with their contract expiration date coming up in July 2011, Pelley says now is the time to make clear that students want to make local food a priority.

"As much as people detract from capitalist systems or consumer systems, they are highly reactive. If you tell the people who are providing you with food that this is what you want and this is what you'll pay for, then that is what they'll get," he says. "If you look at your consumer dollars with the same importance as you do your vote and make your decision based on balanced and informed criteria, you're doing the right thing."

Aaron Short, a fellow organizer of the SUB farmers' market, has seen a similar situation between students advocating for local produce and Sodexo as an undergraduate student Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. When the Sodexo contract expired at Mount Allison, the community advo-

cated for a minimum of 40 per cent local produce from the new food service provider had offer. In the end, Aramark fit the bill.

In the past few years, the environment movement and the local food movement have become an important issue for many Haligonians, says Short, and the city's universities can serve as models for other businesses.

"The local food movement is definitely growing in Halifax and we want to make sure that Dal is on the forefront," says Short. "It's ridiculous how far we've let our food systems slip."

Short says he hopes the SUB farmers' market will serve as a reminder of the quality of food we put into our bodies and make people think twice when they shop at the supermarket.

"We're not eating seasonally anymore, we just eat whatever (is available) - the tomato that has been sprayed with pesticides in Mexico that's shipped on the American shipping company up to our grocery store where it's gassed so it's red and then put out on the shelves," he says.

The market itself was complete with vendors selling everything from jams, potted plants, vegetables, hand-crafted jewellery and hand-embroidered clothing, all to the sounds of lively fiddle music.

Austin Mennette, a local farmer from the Chezzetcook/Porter's lake area whose family has been selling its wares at the Halifax farmers' market since 1872, was one of the vendors in attendance. After Pelley approached him, Mennette was happy to participate and sell his potted plants, jams and jellies to Dal students.

"Students are a large base of the farmers' market clientele, it just made good sense to come down and join it," says Mennette.

Another vendor, Anke Kungl, 22, sold vegetables from Selwood Organic Farm in Hants County. One of the highlights of her produce was the watermelon radish - an item patrons are unlikely to find in their average supermarket.

"It's a beautiful variety of radish that most people don't know exist. It's just sweet and crunchy and a great addition to salads, stir-frys and roasts," says Kungl. "It's just an example of what there is locally and it stores all winter."

In the end, Pelley was happy with the market's success. It was well-attended between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. when it was open, with 10 to 15 students strolling through the vendors' booths at any given time. He says all the vendors turned a profit and it is a step in the right direction.

"The thing about sustainability is that it's not about building a new super energy efficient building, it's about changing the lights," he says. "It's small steps."

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## Local Facebook users weigh in on new terms of service

TIM MITCHELL  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

You can sign up free and anyone can join. Just type in your full name, sex, date of birth, provide an e-mail address, password and with the simple click of a button - no signature required, no lawyer consultation needed - the Facebook Corporation owns your life.

At least that's what hundreds of thousands of users of the popular social-networking website "Facebook" feared in early February when the company made a few modifications to its Terms of Service:

"You hereby grant Facebook an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, transferable, fully paid, worldwide license (with the right to sublicense) to (a) use, copy, publish, stream, store, retain, publicly perform or display, transmit, scan, reformat, modify, edit, frame, translate, excerpt, adapt, create derivative works and distribute (through multiple tiers), any User Content you (i) Post on or in connection with the Facebook Service or the promotion thereof subject only to your privacy settings or (ii) enable a user to Post, including by offering a Share Link on your website and (b) to use your name, likeness and image for any purpose, including commercial or advertising, each of (a) and (b) on or in connection with the Facebook Service or the promotion thereof."

Facebook's changes made it so any user content uploaded to the site (your photos, your videos, your personal e-mails) became the sole property of Facebook Inc. - giving the company the right to reproduce, sell or even alter user content.

Lindsay Graham, 32, a Halifax resident and Facebook user since December 2007, was upset with the changes.

"It makes the corporation untrustworthy, suspect and not worthy of my use."

Graham has 117 photos uploaded to her Facebook profile. Most of them are of her, her friends and her family. She has 187 Facebook friends she messages regularly using the site.

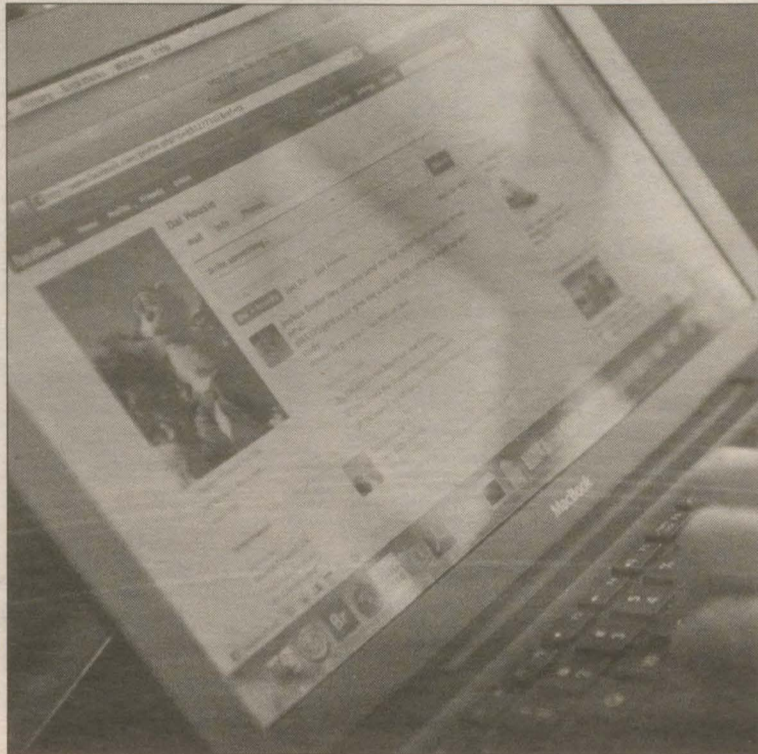
She tried to delete her Facebook account when she thought her privacy rights were being infringed upon, but she ran into an unexpected error.

"I hadn't read the Terms of Service and was upset to find out that I could only deactivate my account and not terminate it."

Graham sent an e-mail to the Facebook staff and received an automated message that sent her back to the Terms of Service page.

By clicking "Signup," Facebook assumed Graham had read and agreed to its Terms of Service, which aren't on the sign-up page, but are footnoted as a link on the bottom of the screen. Part of the agreement is that she can't leave Facebook. She can deactivate her account, but Facebook makes copies of all of her information and content uploaded by her and about her. And all of that information stays on Facebook forever.

The old Terms of Service, posted September 23, 2008, stated if you deactivate your account, the agreement in the Terms of Service is terminated, but this isn't the case with the updated



JOSH BOYTER/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Facebook is offering users the chance to vote on its new Terms of Service.

version. It applies to all users, new and old, as Facebook doesn't have to notify its users of changes to its Terms of Service. If users agree to them once, they also agree to any changes Facebook decides to make.

"If they had any integrity they would post changes to their Terms of Service (on) our homepage," said Graham. "It's not fair that they can randomly do what they please with our information and the Terms of Service, but we are subject to provide accurate information and update our information."

Facebook has more than 175 million active users - users who have returned to the web site within 30 days - with an average of 850 million photos and five million videos being uploaded to the web site each month, according to its website.

"I'm not comfortable with the fact that any of my information can be manipulated without my consent or knowledge because they could make me out to be something I'm not. Basically it could completely misrepresent me," said Graham. "I think we live in a time where privacy rights and laws are heavily infringed upon."

Graham wasn't the only person upset with the new terms of service. Several Facebook groups were created in protest, including one called "People Against the New Terms of Service," which has more than 140,000 members.

The users won.

Facebook listened to the complaints, and, on Feb. 19, reverted back to its old Terms of Service.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Facebook Inc., tried to quell fears and clarified the changes with a post on the website.

"In reality, we wouldn't share your information in a way you wouldn't want. The trust you place in us as a safe place to share information is the most important part of what makes Facebook work," he wrote. "Our goal

is to build great products and to communicate clearly to help people share more information in this trusted environment."

He wrote Facebook needs to own the rights to user content in order to operate and share the information with other users. He said the new terms of service were meant to make this clearer. But similar websites such as MySpace, YouTube and Google do not claim any ownership of user content and state it is the sole property of the user.

Benjamin Stawitz, 21, a Haligonian Facebook user since fall 2005, isn't too bothered by the changes to Facebook's Terms of Service.

"It's not really a big deal unless they use my information and cause me problems. If they want to know my name and if I am single or not that's fine," he said. "The only issue I have would be if they use it against me. I guess it's kind of creepy that they are allowed to do whatever they want with (my information), but I don't see it as a benefit for them to use it in a bad way. I would prefer them not being able to do things with my pictures just in case, though."

Because of the Terms of Service crash, Facebook has now gone a step further and is offering users the chance to vote on its new Terms of Service. If more than 30 per cent of Facebook users vote, Facebook will accept the results.

"That's a good idea if it's legit," said Stawitz. "Power to the people,"

But Graham doesn't think this redeems Facebook's actions. She said from now on, she will read the Terms of Service before clicking her life away.

"I'm still bothered that they won't post changes to the Terms of Service in our homepage," she said. "I don't think any better of Facebook. I think about closing my account, but what's the point? They already have all my information."

## Dal partakes in new ocean research project

ROSIE JACOBS  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University is now part of a new chapter of ocean study as the Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (CHONe) begins research that aims to improve the monitoring and management of marine life and biodiversity.

Anna Metaxas, a Dal oceanography professor and a team leader in the research division of population connectivity of CHONe, says oceans are in danger.

"It is critical that Canada takes a step forward and an active role, considering how much ocean we have, to promote this kind of research both in terms of our local needs, but also at an international level," says Metaxas.

She says evidence of this danger can be found locally: the cod market collapse in Newfoundland due to overexploitation of cod, destructive practices found in our fisheries - such as dragger techniques - and the rise of the sea level due to climate change in the Arctic.

CHONe is a nationwide interdisciplinary network that unites Canada's marine research projects at universities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other government laboratories. Its headquarters is at Memorial University in Newfoundland. The network will unite 15 universities across Canada and 65 Canadian researchers, including 10 researchers from Dal.

The formation of this network dates back to the early 2000s, around the creation of the Census of Marine Life in the U.S. in early 2001. The census was the first international project to measure biodiversity in the oceans; it expires in 2010.

CHONe was formed to continue the collaborative effort of Canadian marine research capabilities. Unlike the census, CHONe focuses solely on Canadian marine capabilities to improve Canadian infrastructure, although the researchers hope the network can become a model for marine study networks internationally.

"There are 45 university researcher in this project and a total of 65 collaborators," says Metaxas. "So there are a lot of things that are going on."

The network is organized into three different areas of research, which network members hope will lead to information that can help sustain marine life in the oceans: biodiversity, which looks at marine life in frontier areas, such as the deep ocean or the Arctic; ecosystem functions, which will explore links between biodiversity and ecosystem processes; and population

connectivity, which will measure how various stages of species populations affect one another.

At Dal, professors, researchers and about 12 graduate students from the departments of oceanography, biology and mathematics are involved in CHONe. Undergraduate students have also been hired as field research assistants and lab assistants.

One project, led by biology professor Paul Bentzen, will observe organisms in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and how climate change affects their colonization habits.

"We know that climate is changing rapidly, and that species that currently do not occur in the Arctic, or are very rare there, will likely soon extend their ranges into the Arctic Ocean," he says. "This may re-initiate genetic contact between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Studying how these genetic contacts occurred in the past may give us insights about what will happen in the future."

With climate change drastically mixing things up on land, Bentzen says important changes are likely to occur in oceans that will be important for marine biodiversity in the future.

"We hope our genetic data will provide evidence of genetic adaptation within species to different ocean temperatures," he says. "Since climate and ocean temperatures are expected to change, information about how temperature adaptations vary within species is going to be of value."

The network hopes the data collected from these themes and studies will eventually achieve a fourth purpose.

"Ultimately, what we would like to be able to do, and this is the fourth theme that is going to evolve over the project, which is suppose to be five years, is to come up with the types of information that managers would need to manage biodiversity in the oceans," says Bentzen.

A majority of the research is taking place across Canada in areas such as the Arctic, the St. Lawrence River, the Strait of Georgia and the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Although some preliminary research began last summer, a majority of the projects will be launched this summer.

Metaxas says this network can offer Dal many opportunities to give back and gain from the community. She hopes the network will help attract new students to Dal and give students the opportunity to explore and conduct research across Canada.

"We have a responsibility to fulfill," says Metaxas. "We need to protect our biodiversity."

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Contributor meetings are held every Monday  
5:30pm in room 312 of the sub

## Medical Musings

### Protein equals power



**RACHEL SUNTER**  
HEALTH COLUMNIST

When February's skittish sun starts tickling my cheeks again in March, my tummy bubbles with excitement. Spring. Is. Coming. I close my eyes and inhale spring's first breaths of slushy air, rich with snow moisture, dripping eaves troughs and yipping seagulls from the harbour.

The season alone is enough to give me an energy boost. But more than that, a recent dietary change I've made has transformed my energy levels, food cravings and even my moods. I've increased my protein intake.

The average Canadian doesn't get enough protein in his or her diet. Before consulting a personal trainer last month, I never realized why this could be so detrimental to one's health.

Protein is one of the three essential macronutrients we need to survive, the others being carbohydrates and fats.

When digested, our bodies break down proteins into amino acids. There are nine essential amino acids necessary for a grown human being. They're called "essential" because our bodies cannot create them; we have to get them from outside food sources.

A complete protein refers to a protein-supplying food that contains all of the essential amino acids, maximizing your body's ability to utilize the protein. Animal sources such as eggs, meat and dairy, as well as certain grains, such as quinoa and hempseed, are considered complete proteins.

We need protein to build and repair muscles, blood and other bodily tissues. The problem with not getting enough protein in your diet is that your body doesn't have what it needs to repair and build your bodily tissues, no matter how much sugar you're taking in.

Although I was getting all my vitamins and minerals and varying my diet, my problem was that I was barely skimming my protein needs.

I sought help from a personal trainer at my gym. During a free consultation, she quickly led me through the protein basics.

Each person has individual protein needs. In general, men need more protein than women. The more active you are, the more protein you need. This includes cardio activity, not just bodybuilding.

There are all kinds of calculations you can do to figure out how much protein your body needs. Some are one gram of protein per kilogram of body weight; others are higher or lower. Most of these calculations, however, represent your sedentary protein needs, negating any extra exercise you might do. At the very least, most adults require well more than 40 grams of protein a day. Those with active lifestyles and more muscle mass can require upwards of 100 grams a day.

Before I upped my protein intake, I worked out a lot but I'd no-

ticed I wasn't building muscle easily. Any muscle I seemed to build disappeared within a week or two of missing my workouts.

Since increasing my protein intake to all meals and snacks, my impulsive sugar cravings of the past have seriously died down. My energy feels more balanced throughout the day, regardless of gym workouts.

When I look at nutrition labels, I check out the protein versus the carbohydrate, fat and caloric counts. Instead of focusing on sheer calories, I'm mentally balancing where these calories are coming from, so the calories I eat actually count.

Here are some easy ways to boost your protein intake:

Protein powder transforms pulpy fruit blends into meal-worthy, frothy shakes. Most shopping centres, including Park Lane and Scotia Square, have supplement stores full of protein supplements. Supplement store staff will be able to point out the best powders for flavour, protein quality and customer reviews.

For snacks, pick nuts, beans and cheese. But for all three categories, avoid higher fat choices. Peanuts, garbanzo beans (chickpeas) and old cheddar are higher in calories and fat than almonds, soybeans and low fat string cheese.

I've recently started buying frozen edamame beans — they only take four minutes to boil and with a little salt, they're just as good as from a sushi restaurant.

Other than that, just make sure to include a serious source of protein in every meal. It's easier than you think and, more often than not, makes a meal heartier and satisfying in the long run.

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## OPINIONS...GAZETTE

### An open letter from the Student Coalition Against War

**JANE KIRBY**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Student Coalition Against War (SCAW) to clarify some misconceptions regarding our group's relationship to the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), and to offer our support for NSPIRG as one of the few student societies that supports the concerns of a considerable number of students.

The current campaign against NSPIRG is one based largely on misinformation. NSPIRG did not organize the protests against Lockheed Martin, nor did it organize other recent protests at military recruitment sessions. SCAW organized all these events. While we question the validity of attacks on these actions, those who are opposed to them should direct their criticism to SCAW, not NSPIRG.

SCAW is a working group of NSPIRG and there is certainly overlap in the membership of SCAW and supporters of NSPIRG. This no doubt has contributed to some of the confusion regarding the relationship of the two organizations. While the two organizations support one another, however, they are separate entities with completely autonomous decision-making processes.

An elected board of directors makes the decisions at NSPIRG. Currently, no active members of SCAW sit on the NSPIRG board. A core group of SCAW members, as well as several occasional



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

SCAW received no funding from NSPIRG to hold a controversial protest at the campus career fair earlier this year.

supporters, make SCAW's decisions by consensus at our weekly meetings.

Furthermore, while many contend that NSPIRG is using its funds to support our protests, SCAW has received absolutely no funding from NSPIRG this year.

What SCAW does receive from NSPIRG is organizational support. If someone is interested in being involved, NSPIRG might tell them about SCAW. NSPIRG also helps us book rooms, and assists us in advertising events. We make use of their library, and borrow resources for our educa-

tional events.

NSPIRG's mandate is one of "research in action," and the working groups it supports reflect this. SCAW researches war and our university's support of war. We hold educational events to raise awareness, and, when necessary, we directly challenge instruments of war through protest actions.

Other working groups and projects supported by NSPIRG fulfill their "research in action" mandate in different ways. The Seymour Green Community Garden, for example, allows people to share their knowledge about sustain-

able food production while building community and challenging corporate control of food.

NSPIRG publications such as *The Single Mother's Survival Guide* have been invaluable in distributing research of interest to the community. Campaigns against environmental racism in Lincolnville, N.S., have supported a local community's fight against injustice, while providing environmental studies and IDS students an opportunity to apply theories learned in class to real life organizing efforts.

Many students contend that

NSPIRG does not represent them or their interests, and oppose the existence of a \$4 opt-outable levy to the organization.

However, some of us who are Dal students feel that NSPIRG represents our interests and serves our needs far better than the DSU does, but we are still forced to pay \$59.15 annually to support the operations of the union. This is a fee we cannot opt-out of paying.

Believe it or not, the DSU's decision to allow corporate and military presence on campus is as much a political decision as is our decision to oppose them.

NSPIRG provides the space, resources and support needed for students who do not feel represented by the DSU, which cannot possibly speak for the more than 15,000 students currently attending Dal. NSPIRG's existence is critical to the maintenance of a diverse and vibrant student community where the interests and concerns of all students have a place.

NSPIRG is an invaluable addition to the Dal community, supporting critical research, providing an excellent resource library, sponsoring important events and generally supporting a whole range of student and community initiatives and organizations in the interests of social and environmental justice.

We stand in solidarity with NSPIRG, and will do everything we can to support them during this time.

# Booted from the AGM

Reporter kicked out of student union meeting talks

**BETHANY HORNE**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

On March 11, a ripple of shock went through the students in the McInnes room when they noticed that police officers had arrived at their gathering. Some students were perhaps scared, some confused, but I am writing this article to help explain what happened. The police were, after all, there because of me.

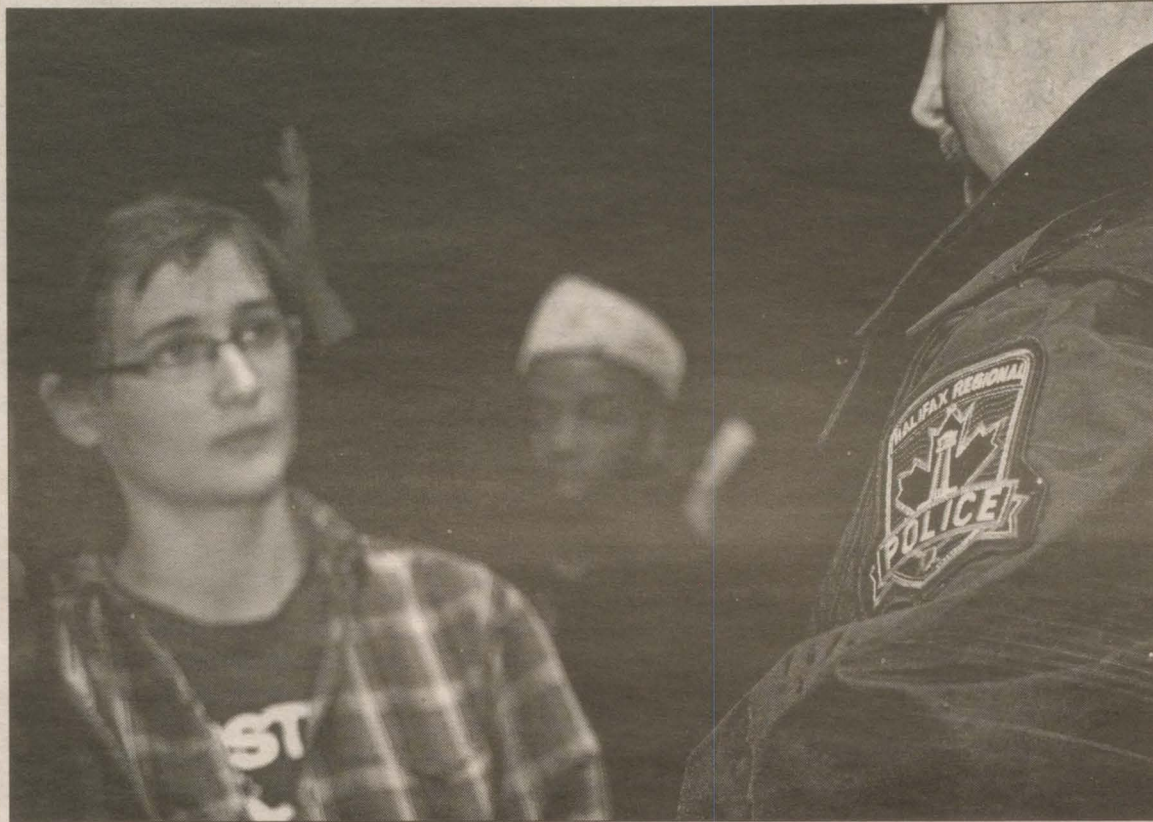
I arrived about half an hour early for the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) annual general meeting and started taking notes. I have habit of writing everything down, like the number of chairs of the colour of the curtains. After capturing as much detail as possible, I left to find *Gazette* assistant news editor Melissa Di Costanzo, and I told her that I had already been inside. We re-entered together.

While I returned to scribbling the descriptions of the men stocking the snack table, DSU President Courtney Larkin and vice-president (finance and operations) Matt Golding approached us. Larkin said that because we are King's students, we would have to sign in as *Gazette* reporters. Larkin said only two people for the *Gazette* who were not Dal students would be allowed in. Di Costanzo was willing sign in, because she was attending the meeting to report on it for *The Gazette*, but I knew that the other news editor, Ruth Mestechkin had already arranged to be the second *Gazette* reporter. I said this limit created a problem, because we needed three people in, not just two. Although I was not planning on writing about the meeting for *The Gazette*, I was covering it for one of my King's journalism classes, and I wanted to attend out of general curiosity.

And this is when the craziness began. Though Larkin could fathom a way to keep two King's reporters in the room during the voting, the idea of having three was apparently too impossible to conceive. Suddenly, King's students influencing the voting process became a possibility. Mass chaos would erupt if three reporters, instead of two, were in attendance!

Golding also tried to negotiate my submission, saying that even if *Chronicle-Herald* reporters showed up, they would not be allowed in. I replied, emphatically, that the student press has a very clear responsibility: to report on the student union.

The decision to exclude non-Dal students from the room was arbitrary in the first place. To further pull the number "two" out of the air, and refuse to go up to three in the face of rational arguments both from myself, and later from *The Gazette's* editor-in-chief, was



Bethany Horne tries in vain to extract a rational explanation as to why she should leave the room.

PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

sheer stubbornness on the part of the DSU.

It doesn't say in the DSU constitution that only Dal students will be allowed in the room. The policy is careful to talk about a "person's" rights at the meeting, and then specifies that "members" have the additional privilege of voting.

In my interpretation, this means that the attendance of non-members, be they press or society executives, should have been allowed. The DSU could have accomplished this simply by setting aside a row of chairs for non-voting attendees, and making a public acknowledgement of their non-member status.

Furthermore, if the press is allowed to report on the event, the organizers should not be allowed to pick and choose which media outlets they want present. That practice would be immediately suspicious to anyone with any journalism training, not to mention members of the public who want unbiased news.

After Larkin failed to convince me to leave, I sat in the front row with my colleagues, and the meeting began. The Student Union Building managers approached me at one point and politely asked me to leave. I politely answered that I wouldn't until I was given a reason that satisfied me. They seemed almost embarrassed to be caught in the middle of the situation. They did not

know the reasons, they only knew they had been asked to enforce the wishes of the DSU executive. I no longer trusted the fancies of the DSU executive. I told the managers I would stay. They fetched Dal security. I told Dal security much the same. It took them a while to decide to do it, but they told me that if I did not leave, they would call the cops. They did.

Beyond my immediate responsibilities to cover the AGM for my journalism class, as the incoming news editor for *The Gazette*, I feel it is important to understand the direction the student union is going in. That is what an AGM is about. To completely miss the meeting would have put me at a tremendous disadvantage next year. I am glad I was able to postpone my departure for as long as I did.

The arrival of the three police officers probably tipped off most of the room that all was not well in the front row. An officer from the Halifax Regional Police, asked me to accompany him to the back of the room. I did.

I spoke with him for a long time. I again asked the officers why they were asking me to leave. Under the Protection of Property Act, the DSU executives have the authority to ask anyone to leave their property. I told the police officers I still didn't think they had a good enough reason to remove me, and that I would stay. I separated my-

self from them while they decided what to do. By this time, several of my contributors, co-workers and friends were at the back of the room with me. I appreciated their support.

Because I was never presented with a good enough reason for leaving, my freedom as a member of the press trumped any explanation I received, however kind-hearted, from security and police personnel. Eventually, the first three police officers who had arrived called in two more. A new officer also wanted to speak to me. He said if I did not agree to leave, they would have to carry me out.

I stalled some more. The meeting was carrying on in raucous disaster before me: a scene most journalists would relish. I wanted to stay. Eventually, the five police officers did escort me out. They then promptly turned back to remove DSU presidential candidate Gregory Debogorski as well.

Honestly, I wish I could say the DSU executives wanted me out of the room because they were repressing the free press. It would be much easier to say my rights were stifled because they didn't want critical witnesses to observe the meeting. But in reality, I think their motives were much more subtle than that.

I think I was singled out because I would not obey. Because my principles demanded me to stay, and because this contradicted a direct order from the

student union executives, they went to extreme measures to enforce my acquiescence.

"Because I said so," has never been a rational enough argument to convince me to do anything, especially not when the authority's say-so is trumped both by my current job description and by my academic obligations as a student completing a class assignment.

I could argue my case using sections of the DSU constitution, the student code of conduct, or any other rarely read, rights-oriented magnum opus, but I won't. Although I believe the constitution is on my side, in the heat of the moment, it wasn't the main reason I stayed put. To use words from the DSU constitution here would be to try to argue within the union's parameters, but I consider myself guided by a different code.

I stayed primarily because I thought it would be morally corrupt to leave. The DSU executives' argument that their word was law set all my alarm bells ringing and hinted at the possibility of further irregularities and authoritarian judgment calls.

I wanted to stay to see what other lengths they would reach to enforce their way. I would have felt as if I were failing more people than just myself if I hadn't remained as a witness.

And so, I don't regret staying. I did witness counter-democratic judgment calls. An environment governed by Robert's Rules and by DSU-specific policies is an environment unfriendly to newcomers and average students.

I believe the student-proposed motions that were suppressed at this meeting, such as the Contract Motion, are the main victims of this meeting: not me. I only had to endure a conversation with some police officers for half an hour. Dal students suffered much worse.

The Contract Motion could have allowed students to have a say in what sort of food services are offered in the SUB. It would have rejected the idea that the only way to have food in the SUB is to sign on to a long-term deal with an all-encompassing food provider like Sodexo. Perhaps healthy competition, or student-run, co-operative businesses could have become a part of our food-scape.

But that motion was struck from the agenda, despite being presented by students two weeks in advance, simply because the DSU executive did not want to have this discussion at this time.

I hope students took a careful look at the other dramas played out at that meeting - the miscounted and recounted votes and the excluded parties - that's where the true crimes against democracy were committed that night.

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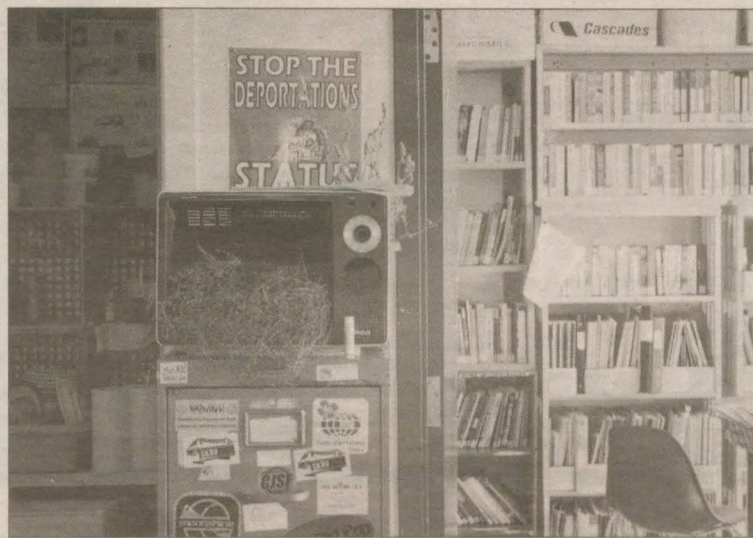
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## WRITE FOR THE DAL GAZETTE

Contributor meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm. in room 312 of the SUB





JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Students shouldn't have to pay NSPIRG's bills.

## NSPIRG out of line, over-priced

RICHARD NORMAN  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The revolution is coming to Dalhousie University. So claims the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), a self-proclaimed research organization that receives \$60,000 of funding from Dal students each year.

NSPIRG's campaigns co-ordinator is not a student. The organization fires off letters against university policies and elected student union officials from a third-floor office in the Student Union Building. Just as your health plan is funded by a direct student levy, so is NSPIRG. The first is essential to your physical well-being and peace of mind, the second is an organization some have probably never heard of.

So what sort of ideas does NSPIRG promote?

For starters, their working group, the Student Coalition Against War (SCAW), claims Dal is being "militarized" by Canadian Forces recruitment on campus. That is an interesting argument. The debate centres around this question: is a career in the Canadian Forces a legitimate, indeed honourable, career path for a Dalhousie University student?

Many would say yes, some would say no. Should Dal students fund an organization that aggressively promotes only one side of this debate? That question has a more obvious answer: No. Although SCAW did not receive any funding from NSPIRG this year, the group still receives institutional support from the NSPIRG office.

It is especially absurd to read on SCAW's website that the group feels its views on this issue have been suppressed and subject to "authoritarian extremes."

Full-time students can opt-out

of paying the \$4 a year they give to NSPIRG through their DSU fees. But why should students have to opt-out of a politicized organization? Shouldn't they opt-in if they believe in its cause?

To generate research, NSPIRG funds what it calls "working groups." Visit their website at [www.nspirg.org](http://www.nspirg.org) to see what you're paying for.

Back to the money issue: How does NSPIRG's funding measure up against other programs paid for by student fees? To put it in perspective, NSPIRG receives two times as much money from students, per term, as does the Sustainability Office (\$15,835). They receive 40 per cent more than the Women's Centre (\$20,684). And they receive virtually the same amount from students as Facility Improvements (\$35,188) per semester. These other programs are essential—NSPIRG is not.

Partisan societies such as the Dal-King's Conservatives, the Dal-King's NDP, and the Dal Liberals do not receive direct-levy funding from students. They work hard to raise their own money and use that money to promote their own causes and politics, which students can choose to subscribe to or to ignore. NSPIRG is different. All students pay for it whether they believe in it or not. That is not only unfair—it is a huge waste of money. Think of the other purposes to which Dal students could put that extra \$60,000: more study space, longer library hours, a larger Women's Centre.

It's time to take a stand against wasteful spending and the NSPIRG. Contact the Dalhousie Student Union to voice your displeasure.

*Richard Norman is a first-year law student.*

# Democracy defiled

KALEIGH TRACE  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I have always understood democracy to mean that all persons are accorded equal rights and should be equally enabled to exercise their voice. With this understanding in mind, I was appalled by the ridiculous process at the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Annual General Meeting on March 11, which defied any norm of democratic process. Voices were actively barred from being heard and people were intentionally inhibited from exercising their rights as community members.

Before the meeting even began, the DSU executive set the tone when it decided, without any constitutional justification and in defiance of the historical precedent set by previous DSU general meetings, that only current Dal students would be able to enter the meeting room.

This meant that all King's students attending classes at Dal were not allowed to be heard or to hear decisions that deeply impacted them as students. Furthermore, staff members of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), as well as board members of CKDU and the Dalhousie Women's Centre, were not allowed to participate, though their organizations fall under the umbrella of the DSU and their work is directly affected by decisions made at general meetings.

The decision to bar non-Dal students also resulted in the removal of *The Gazette's* news editor-elect, and the barring of other members of the press. This draconian move defied the freedom of the press and reflects the undemocratic nature of the meeting in its entirety.

This appalling violation of rights started off the meeting, and an obvious display of an unequal division of power and unfair tactics followed. The meeting was squandered by spending hours simply approving and amending the agenda, so time ran out before any motions could be debated.

It was decided by vote that two motions would be struck from the agenda: the Contract motion, which opposed exclusivity contracts with Pepsi and Sodexo Canada; and the Advertisement motion, which asked the DSU to oppose the presence of corporate advertising throughout campus.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Jenn Anderson receives a text message telling her she can't come into the AGM because she is a non-Dal student.

These items were removed based on a vote. While I accept that the vote was conducted fairly, and that majority ruled, I find it shocking that students would not want to discuss the detestable food served on campus, and the annoying barrage of ads imposed on us every time we enter a bathroom stall to pee.

It was also decided by vote that a motion would be added to the agenda, one called the NSPIRG Motion, which calls for the removal of NSPIRG from the Student Union Building and asks the organization to issue a formal apology to students for conducting "embarrassing" protests at career fairs. The decision to add this motion to the agenda is not only undemocratic but is also misinformed.

Because a staff member of NSPIRG was banned from entering the meeting, he could not speak to this motion, and hence a biased and inaccurate account of the work of NSPIRG was presented to students. The broad and multifaceted work of NSPIRG was reduced to a few actions organized by only one working group among its many.

Also, the vote that added this motion to the agenda was conducted in an extremely questionable fashion. Originally, the vote to add the NSPIRG motion to the agenda did not achieve a two-thirds majority, as required by the DSU constitution. Though up to this point decisions had been made

by show of hands, DSU vice-president (finance and operations) Matt Golding asked that the decision to add the NSPIRG motion to the agenda be brought to a ballot vote.

The decision to arbitrarily change the voting system mid-meeting served as a stalling tactic. While the ballot vote was being organized, new students entered the meeting, shifting the vote and thereby forcing the NSPIRG motion onto the agenda.

The motion to remove NSPIRG from the SUB is an affront on students' ability to engage in social activism. According to its website, the NSPIRG's mandate is to "empower, educate, and inspire action on social justice and environmental issues at Dalhousie University." How can snuffing out an organization that supports students who are thinking critically about our living reality be justified?

A second general meeting will be held on April 1 to further discuss these issues. This meeting may decide whether or not NSPIRG may remain on campus, whether the DSU should oppose military funding to the university, and more. I wonder if this next meeting will fairly allow all persons a voice, or whether this assault on democracy will continue?

*Kaleigh Trace is a member of Students Mobilizing for Action on Campus.*

## Are we investing in genocide?

TARA MACDOUGALL  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Should Dalhousie University invest in companies known to contribute to genocide? While the answer to this question seems simple enough, there are members of the university bureaucracy for whom the response is not clear.

Students Taking Action Now-Darfur (STAND) is a student-based anti-genocide movement with branches all over Canada and the U.S. With a mandate of "making it easy to act against genocide," STAND exists to empower communities here in Canada to act against international human rights abuses. The Dal chapter of STAND has used various campaigns and events to raise community awareness on the situation in Darfur, Sudan.

For the past two years, STAND members have been working to set up a Divestment Campaign. Divestment is based on the concept that when large numbers of international investors remove their holdings from companies

operating in or indirectly supporting the government of a specific region, that government will lose much-needed financial and international political support.

In this way, divestment is an avenue for Canadians to act directly to show their desire for an end to the genocide and civil war in Sudan.

Divestment requires time and energy, and many STAND members have invested heavily in this project. Filling out application forms, holding meetings, and reviewing the processes for gathering this type of information is time consuming and, STAND believes, integral to ensuring Canadians are not indirectly supporting a state that endorses genocide.

Queen's University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Ottawa have all successfully divested from Sudan. These schools were charged a fee of \$30 to access the needed information for proper divestment. Unfortunately, Dal's bureaucracy has been nothing short of unhelpful in the attempts to motivate divestment.

After paying the \$25 provincial

Freedom of Information application fee to the university's Freedom of Information office, STAND was informed the approximately 12-page document would cost a further \$300.

Upon learning this, Kate Varsava, president of STAND Dalhousie, contacted the office of university President Tom Traves, looking to have a meeting to discuss the situation. In return, STAND was greeted with an unsigned, abrasive e-mail from the president's office. The e-mail, in no uncertain terms, made it clear that the university bureaucracy is more interested in its "fiduciary responsibility to its employees," than it is about investing ethically.

The university simply should not withhold this information from students. As such, STAND is collecting a petition to push for the complete and detailed disclosure of all investment holdings under the university. For Dal bureaucrats, the term "freedom of information" has become a slogan without substance.

*Tara MacDougall is a member of STAND and an IDS student.*



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# STREETER

What usually makes you want to quit a job?



“Being treated badly by the boss.”  
Amanda Johnson, first-year arts



“Customers.”  
Jenn Provost, first-year theatre



“The people that I work with.”  
Cristina Mageau, fourth-year law



“The summer's over and it's time to go back to school.”  
Andrew Tidball, second-year master's in public administration



“A mean boss.”  
Daniel Oulton, first-year computer science



“When I say ‘Not in my hair’ but they do it anyways.”  
John Packman, third-year fluid management

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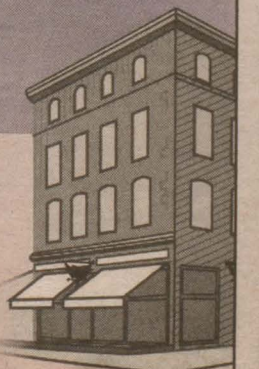
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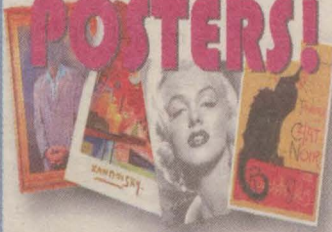
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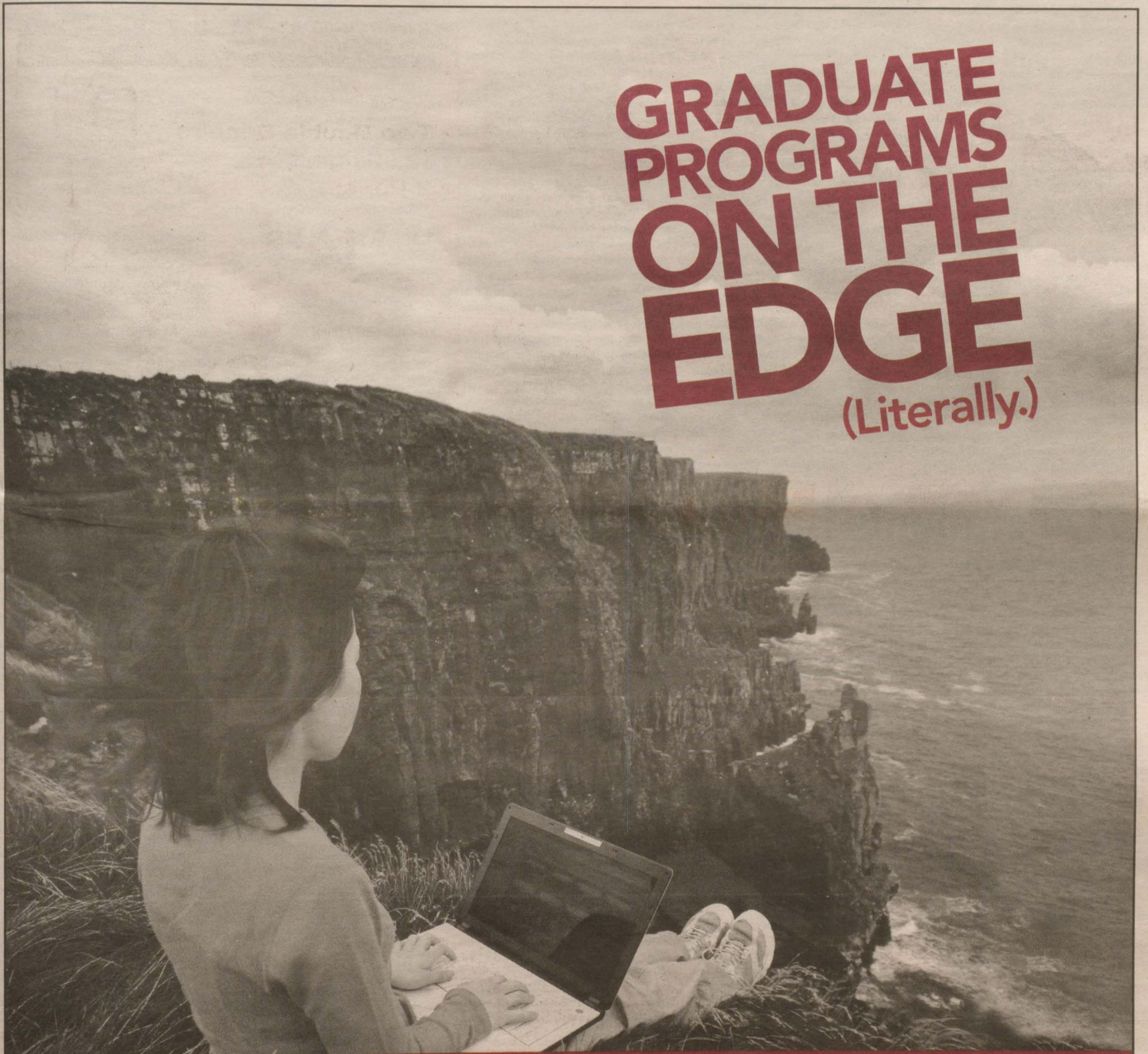
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# Silence the alarm

## SSHRC funding is not abandoning the arts

ADRIA YOUNG  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The recent federal budget has sparked protests in the academic community by distributing extra funding for Canada Graduate Scholarships in the social sciences and humanities fields in favour of students conducting business-related research. A petition, initiated by a Manitoba Member of Parliament (MP) in opposition to the targeting of funding in the 2009 budget for the Social Sciences and Research Humanities Council (SSHRC) has been circulating by e-mail. The petition, the media, and university students across Canada, however, are misconstruing the nature of the SSHRC research budget.

Niki Ashton, MP for Churchill, Manitoba, and Post-Secondary Education (PSE) critic for the NDP, was responsible for the scares about this funding change. On her website, she asks Canadians to petition against the "20 per cent funding increase" in graduate and post-graduate business-related degrees to "ensure that SSHRC funding not be allocated to one specific discipline but to the range of studies in the social sciences and humanities." She says this selective increase in the budget is "backward and insulting to the thousands of Canadian students and researchers" in arts faculties. She promises to present the signatures in Parliament to reverse the federal budget.

On Feb. 5, graduate students from the Dalhousie English department held an "emergency meeting" about the SSHRC funding changes. Several Facebook groups in protest of funding business-related research sprang up

with members in the hundreds. Local media reported on discipline favouritism. But these initiatives are rallying people around weak arguments.

According to its website, SSHRC funded 68,130 university faculty and graduate research projects in Canada this year. SSHRC is an arm's length Parliamentary-appointed council that "promotes and supports university-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences." In the 2007/08 year, SSHRC distributed more than \$300 million to researchers in the social sciences and the humanities. The focus on business-related research for the 20 per cent increase in funding for Canada Graduate Scholarships provoked an uproar in the arts community. This increase, however, will not affect the existing SSHRC structure of research grants.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FASS) Dean of Research, Trevor Ross, issued a letter to the Dalhousie English Graduate program on its online noticeboard. In the letter, Ross clarifies the changes in SSHRC funding. The 20 per cent increase is a temporary measure (expected to be renewed only until 2010/2011) that will result in an extra 500 new grants available in business-related areas within the arts.

Ross reports that SSHRC will try to interpret "business-related degrees" as broadly as possible to include "business-related areas." That means, for instance, that a graduate student in history might receive funding for a thesis on the Canadian coal-mining industry. In addition, the remaining 2,500 grants within the arts will continue to be awarded.

What the 20 per cent increase will

stimulate is research in business-related fields and encourage students to keep researching, and subsequently teaching, in business schools rather than entering the workforce. To maintain business education, there have to be business educators.

With the alarmist-bells ringing throughout the country in the media and student-run groups, it should come as no surprise that an NDP MP would capitalize on uninformed disgruntlement to have reason to confront the current Conservative majority, and in effect, make it appear that the budget is unreasonably favouring the business sector. This is politics as usual.

Where there should be alarm, if any, is with the government's decision to specify the basis upon which grants are given for research. This decision has usually been left to scholars, academics, SSHRC, and its 5,200 peer-review consultants. It has a hint of dictatorship with the anticipation of certain results from federal fiscal engineering, what Ross calls a "regrettable" decision. What should be worrying is that the Conservative government made a decision about scholarship in this country at all, but it should not cause protest that a historically under-funded discipline earned a few more bucks.

Given the current economic mess that Canada is in, it will not be a disadvantage to have a few more students engaged in business-related research. This is actually a positive action, all things considered. And with the remaining SSHRC funding, the arts will continue on as usual.

## 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.

### Fuck you, vandals

Carl works at the Killam library. When you leave your garbage on the table, Carl picks it up and puts it in the garbage can. But that's okay. Forgetting about an empty bag of chips after you've spent six hours studying is understandable. Carl can dig that. But Carl fights another war. On our campus lurks the world's most small-minded embarrassment ever to purchase a Sharpie marker. I'm talking about the shitty person who writes "Fuck the DSU" on any clean surface he finds. It happened last Tuesday: Carl had to ride the elevator to the fourth floor, racing the clock as he scrubbed the elevator doors clean of this nonsense. "Fuck the DSU." Really? This is how you choose to vandalize the school your money pays to restore? You scribble this stuff, and Carl has to squeeze in 15 minutes of extra work into his thankless, under-appreciated day to clean it up.

Fuck you.

Tom Howells

### Free thought? I think not

Once again, local humanists have voiced their concern for our collective wellbeing. Metro Transit has become the target of the most recent anti-religious campaign.

A group of atheists has protested that Metro Transit censored them after the transit company refused to display ads on their buses that promote the humanist worldview. One might certainly be led to suppose that Metro Transit has declared itself a bastion of free speech - otherwise, how does this campaign make any sense?

As far as I know, Metro Transit is simply in the business of transporting people from one place to another and is not in the business of providing a medium for religious, anti-religious, political, apolitical, or any other potentially controversial messages. Offending potential bus riders is not an efficient way to ensure buses are filled with riders. And offense is undoubtedly a possible effect of these humanist ads, despite the group's claim that they are promoting "free thought."

There is also the matter of the incoherence of the content of the ad. The first ad they proposed was: "There's probably no god. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." The quality of thought in these sentences seriously calls into doubt the quality of "free thought" to which they would subject us.

In the first place, is there not an equal probability that there is a god? In any case, the onus is on the non-believers to prove there is not, since those who believe need no proof and thus do not care to prove such an existence. In this context, probability is irrelevant and ineffective as a means of persuasion.

Secondly, the proposition in the

ad leaves room for questions. Does the one statement follow from the other? Does anxiety cease when belief in God ceases? Does enjoyment of life become possible when once it was not?

At the very least, this argument would require the conception of a God who makes people worry, but about what? Certainly, the "humanists" would not want people to stop worrying altogether: if no one worries about obeying laws and being fair, then the humanist objectives will not be met - instead, unfairness, lawlessness, and misery would result.

So do worry, but about what? I am not sure what concept of God that these people deny, but it is not that to which the faithful subscribe.

Tim Riggs

### Gazette prints too many newspapers

It has come to my attention in the past year that at most locations around campus, come Wednesday, there are still many copies of The Gazette lying in their designated racks. It appears only one-eighth or less of the printed copies of The Gazette have been taken since they were put out on the previous Thursday.

I am not insulting the quality of The Gazette. I kind of like The Gazette.

This is an environmental problem, though. Dalhousie poses as a "green" institution, but misses out on some of the easiest environmental issues to fix. It doesn't matter that you recycle the old copies. This is not an issue of waste; it's an issue of energy. Last I checked, the amount of energy it takes to print a couple extra hundred or thousand copies of The Gazette was a lot greater than the amount of energy it takes to not print a couple extra hundred or thousand copies.

Could we please do something about this? A possible solution is to keep an eye on how many copies of The Gazette are taken from each location, on average, and only put that many copies there next time, with 20 extra as a buffer. Maybe put out a few extra copies for special issues, like the sex issue, or the first and last editions of the year.

I realize that cutting down on production may affect The Gazette's funding, but, frankly, the issue of sustainability is slightly more important to me, and I think, to most of the rest of the world. The Gazette could be a green leader at Dal. Think of the rallying cries of support from friendly readers like me! What a glorious day for students and editors alike! OK, maybe not, but at least you'll know you made a step in the right direction to make a positive change in the world.

Andrew McRae

## Give students back their voices

GREGORY DEBOGORSKI  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I am tired of seeing councillors and executives constantly pushing personal agendas at meetings of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). Instead pushing for greater unity and involvement amongst the student population, council members and execs seem to act out of a desire for personal glory and social gain. Recently, motions passed at council that could decrease the number of voting members on the DSU council.

How does this make sense in the face of student apathy? The answer consistently given is that it increases political efficiency. Why is political efficiency a concern when a strong illness of student apathy corrupts student politics? In the Gazette's March 5 issue, Eric Snow claimed apathy is a myth. I disagree.

The problem with our current system in our student union is lack of accessibility and lack of student empowerment. Rather than decrease the number of councillors with voting authority, we should increase the number representing students 10-fold! Any councillor can call an issue to question if discussion has gone on for too long.

This call ends all debate and forces an immediate vote.

So how does adding more students to our council make it inefficient? The recent attempt to decrease the number of student votes on council is nothing more than an attempt to consolidate authority within the current DSU political in-crowd and further alienate students from the organization they fund.

If council doesn't increase in size, and create a larger pool of diversified thought and opinion, the union is doomed to a perpetual state of apathy. At the most recent council meeting, several members proposed each faculty should only have one councillor and one vote. Under this model, I believe apathy will increase even further.

How can one student represent the ideologies and intentions of more than 3,000 students? This would be the case if there were only one faculty of arts and social sciences representative. The current executives and councillors already find it extremely difficult to engage students and solicit their opinions. They will have an even greater difficulty if they reduce their number of voting members.

Further, it has been my experience that students who take a particular

issue seriously enough to bring it to council (such as NSPIRG this year, and my own participation concerning possibilities for participatory democracy on campus) are ridiculed and alienated further for their efforts. Reducing the diversity of opinions on council just serves to strengthen the elitism of the council clique, and the culture of unapproachable student union executives. Is this not an obvious root cause of student apathy within our union?

I argued at the meeting that creating a greater number of unpaid voting positions on council would increase both student representation and student involvement. It would do this directly, by multiplying the accessibility of student councillors, and by increasing the number of councillors who can be approached by other students. The more councillors representing more specific populations throughout the various student faculties and social groups, the more likely students will have pre-existing personal relationships with members of there union's council. This will make student-to-council communication easier and will make the council more representative of students.

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# The Devils I Know

Local artist Peter Diamond draws out his personal demons

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ARTS EDITOR

In late February, with blizzard winds rustling the windows of Utility Tattoo and Body piercing studio, Peter Diamond chats with the woman behind the reception counter over the ever-present buzz of a tattoo machine drifting in from a back room.

Diamond is an artist. He is tall, with dark hair and dark eyes and the delicately mangled fingers of a young man who has spent more than two decades holding pencil to paper. As he walks around the tattoo parlour, examining a collection of his art from the last eight years hanging on the walls, it seems appropriate that he is still wearing his black shirt and apron from his day job as a cook at Economy Shoe Shop. At 27, Diamond knows well the balancing act most young artists must deal with between making time to create while still putting food on the table.

"An artist making a living is asking for trouble," he says with a chuckle over the phone a few weeks later.

His collection had been called *An Eye for an Ear* and displayed a variety of illustrated album covers he drew between 2001 and 2008. His work is bright, colourful and clean, the result

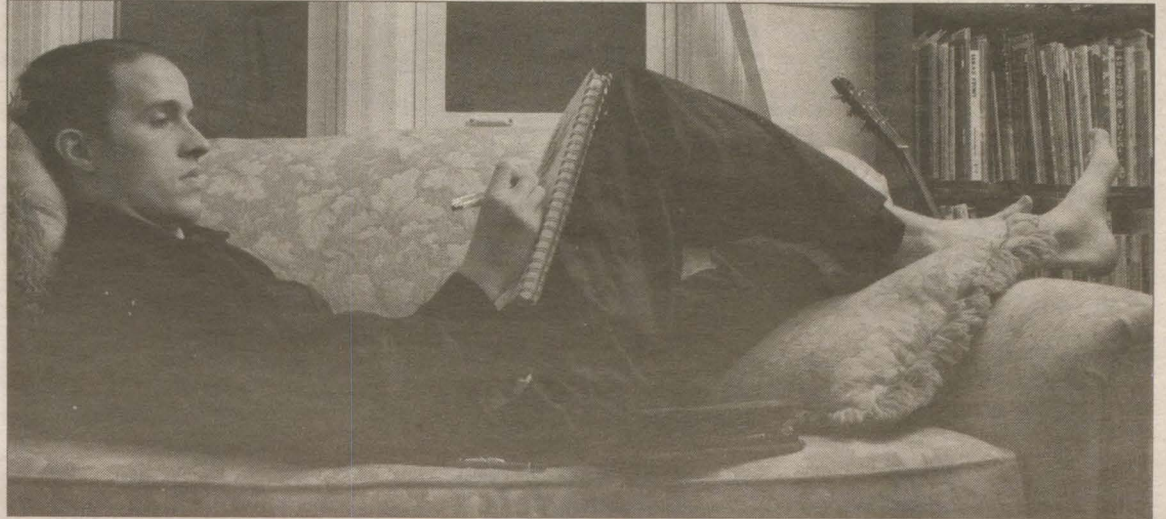
of using ink and digital colour - the use of Photoshop to layer colours onto an image.

Looking back on his work, he says he is happy with what he has accomplished but he knows it is time to move on.

In June, he will be leaving Halifax to move to Vienna, Austria, to be with his girlfriend, Lisa and to take his art in a new direction. It's time, he says, to move away from producing solely for others. He wants to re-focus on his own voice and personal technique.

"I've been working for other people, on other people's ideas, for quite awhile now," he says. "Almost everything I've done has a band name on it; which has been great, but it's a little less fulfilling personally."

Diamond has been drawing since he can remember. His first lessons were from his brother, who showed him how to draw cubes and crosses in three dimensions and how to draw a log in foreshortened perspective. He also spent hours mulling over his father's sketchbooks trying to draw birds the way his father did. As a child, drawing became his principal pastime. As he got older, his mother, who shared his interest in art and art history, would take him to galleries and discuss paintings with him for hours.



Peter Diamond at his home/studio, working on a smaller sketch.

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

In high school, Diamond started drawing show posters for his friends' bands. He switched from pencil to ink as his primary medium so his poster drawings would stand out after repeated photocopying. In 2000, Diamond enrolled at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts. In 2002, his mother died, leaving him with a small inheritance that allowed him to pursue freelance illustration after graduation.

Now, after years of freelancing, producing album cover art and commissions, Diamond says he realizes he has distanced himself from his original voice.

"You run the risk, when doing illustration, of becoming, essentially, a drawing machine where someone simply needs a certain thing drawn in a certain way and you just do it," says Diamond.

He's concerned about the way his art has developed in terms of technique and the use of digital processing.

"I've been drawing since I was really small ... ever since I could. For most of the years of my life I simply did what came naturally to me and I built up a certain voice in all of those formative years," says Diamond.

"When I discovered the digital pro-

cesses and starting preparing things for print or for the web, a whole new set of techniques came into play that I'd never used before and I think basically what happened was that I sort of got carried away with them, sort of fell in love with them. In the end, I kind of put away a lot of the techniques I had been using for such a long time and that were such a big part of my style."

"Looking back on the last few years of work, by and large I'm very happy with it, but, at the same time, I see that it doesn't quite express me that well, it's not really me to be that clean and sharp," he adds.

Before Diamond jets off to Vienna, he is preparing a final show for exhibition at the Argyle Fine Art Gallery April 17. The show, titled *The Devils I Know*, will feature new, original work by Diamond.

"It's coincidental, but I think it's kind of interesting that the first project in years that I'm really doing just for myself is so very personal. I mean it's personal almost to the point of being narcissistic," says Diamond with a little laugh. "The pieces are portraits of my personal demons."

Diamond says that he has also re-focused his technique with the pieces of *The Devils I Know* and will be mov-

ing away from digital colour.

"In the past, I would always clean up the image as much as I could and make all the colours really crisp and I'm going to move away from that because I don't think I was ever 100 per cent comfortably with it," says Diamond. "I'm using a lot more traditional media, so there's a lot more evidence in the drawing of the pencil marks; if the page gets dirty then I let it stay dirty."

Diamond sounds optimistic when he talks about the future and his hope for life in Vienna. He thinks of the place as an art geek's heaven and lists off the collections and paintings that he'll have access to: the world's largest Egon Schiele collection, Gustav Klimt's 'Beethoven Frieze', Egyptian relics in the Natural History museum, his favourite Brueghel paintings. He has plenty to be excited about.

For now, he's looking forward to April. This show has been a long time coming.

"This idea that I've been working on for this show I've had in my head for probably three or four years," says Diamond. "It's just now coming to a point where I can put the time into doing it."

*The Devils I Know* is set to open April 17 at Argyle Fine Art Gallery.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Diamond is moving back to the drawing table, away from digital media.

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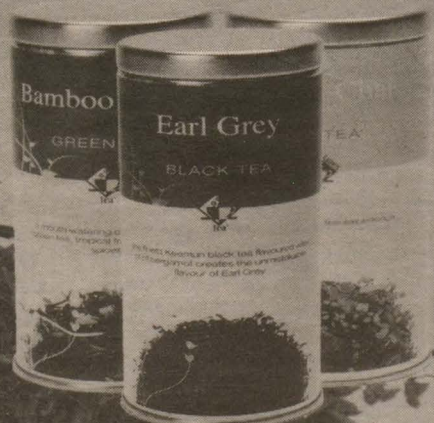
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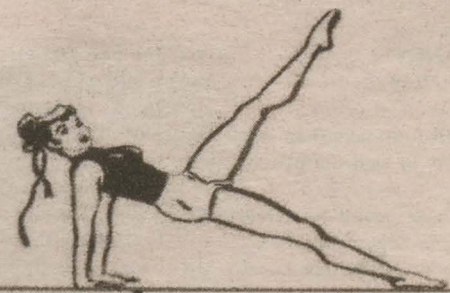
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# The luckiest man in music

LAURA DAWE  
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

Shimon Walt has a way of talking about classical music that makes it come alive to even the most doubting listener.

"The cello, it's (an) extremely sexual instrument," says the musician and teacher. "You hold it close to your body, so you have the vibration of the instrument always next to you."

Walt spoke to Darryl Whetter's Creative Process class on March 5. A quick glance around the room during his talk and following performance showed rapt faces, dropped jaws and misty eyes. The man is charismatic, to say the least. His charisma streams through his fingers, into his obscenely expensive bow, and across the strings of his life partner: the cello. The cello transforms his charm into music that stops or starts the listener's breath, depending on Walt's mood.

"Music keeps me young," he says, and looking at his mischievous, unlined face, one can believe it. Teaching music helps keep 300-year-old songs fresh for him.

"Really I feel like I'm 25 years old," he says. "I just thrive on it."

The calendar in Walt's iPhone is jam-packed with multi-colored blocks that represent the various hats he wears: teaching at Dal, coaching chamber groups, running a booking agency, and playing in Symphony Nova Scotia and in the Rhapsody Quintet.

He got an early start in music.

"Dad was an electrician," Walt says, "and he was working in Russia doing some electrical work for the music school, wiring it or whatever he was doing, and sounds, musical sounds, coming out of the rooms around him were so intriguing that he came home and he told mom 'our kids have to learn to play.'"

Walt began piano lessons, but he wasn't keen on them. His family had just gotten a television, and the set was far from the huge, immobile instrument. Worse, his older brother was already a talented player, leaving Walt in his shadow. His brother redeemed himself though, after he played a concert with an accompanying cellist and suggested the instrument to Shimon, who was in the market for anything



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Musician and teacher Shimon Walt will be playing with Symphony Nova Scotia March 27-28.

portable.

"I did fall in love with it, with the sound of the cello," he says.

So, at 15, which he considers a late age, he started to play.

Walt uses the word "luck" a lot when he recounts his impressive career, though the events he describes as luck sound a lot closer to talent.

"I was very lucky," he says. "Cello was coming to me easy... I did not spend hours and hours and hours studying."

His family moved to Israel. At 16, Walt went on a prolonged tour with the prestigious Israeli Youth Orchestra. He loved travelling, so he took orchestra more seriously. His "luck" soon landed him a principal chair in the Israeli Philharmonic.

"One of the conductors that was frequently coming to the performances was Leonard Bernstein," he says. "It's one of the best orchestras in the world. It's still considered one of the 10 best orchestras in the world."

When he was 23, Walt toured Europe and North America with the prestigious Jeunesse Musicale. In Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer home, Bernstein conducted them.

"He has a photographic memory. The man is an amazing man," says Walt, remembering Bernstein in Israel. "He just kind of gestured to me to come

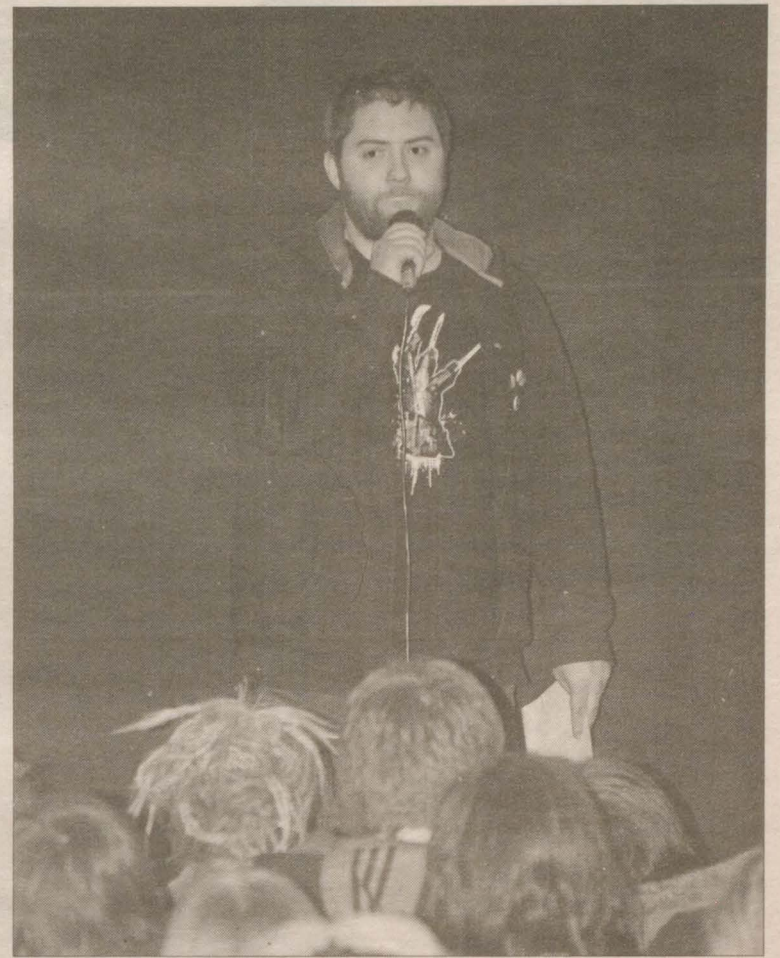
and see him afterwards, which I did."

Bernstein invited Walt to play for his friend Roman Totenberg, a Boston professor. Walt remembers he was terrified.

"These are not real people; these are musical giants," he says. He felt "useless" and warned them he was out of practice. He'd been acting as a medic for six months in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, carrying 200-pound men from the front lines, which made wielding a bow that weighs mere grams challenging. The musical giants told him he could just play them a simple scale.

The next day, when the message light on his hotel phone was flashing, he ran to the security guard who stayed with the Middle Eastern members of the youth orchestra. Walt had never seen an answering machine before and thought it was a bomb. The guard showed him how to retrieve the message: an offer of a three-year scholarship for him to do his master's at Boston University. The terrified young Walt waited until he was at the airport, about to board his flight home, to make his decision. He went to the airport counter and cashed in his ticket: he committed himself to the cello.

On March 27 and 28, Shimon Walt will be playing with Symphony Nova Scotia when it covers all Queen Songs. Come and see his "luck" in action.



GLEN MATTHEWS PHOTO

## Thrillema keeps 35mm alive

KRISTIN SLANEY  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Jason Eisener stands in front of a sold-out audience at a movie theatre in Dartmouth. They have all come to see Jim Henson's *Labyrinth* in 35mm format.

"How many cigarettes does David Bowie smoke every day?" Eisener asks the crowd.

A young man in the front row immediately shouts out "fifty," and then runs to the front to collect his prize.

This is all part of *Thrillema*, an event that happens once or twice a month at Empire 6 Cinemas on Portland Street. Eisener, a local filmmaker whose short film, *Treevenge*, was the only Nova Scotian film featured at this year's Sundance Film Festival, is one of the organizers of *Thrillema*. Adam Perry, from The Last Game Store and Empire Theatres, also helps to put on the event with Eisener.

It started in October 2008, when *Friday the 13th* was playing. Since then there have been screenings of *Army of Darkness*, John Carpenter's *The Thing*, *My Bloody Valentine*, *Clockwork Orange*, and *Robocop*. But *Thrillema* isn't just a movie screening - it's an experience complete with trivia, trailers programmed by Eisener, and die-hard movie fans.

Shelley Thompson, who plays the stepmother of Jennifer Connelly's character in *Labyrinth*, came out as a special guest to officially introduce the film. Thompson, now residing in Halifax, admitted she had never seen the movie, much to the shock of the crowd, who cheered loudly as soon as she came onscreen during the film.

"The idea kind of comes from Austin, Texas, and the Alamo Draffhouse - seeing how they present movies," says Eisener, who has had *Treevenge* and his *Hobo with a Shotgun* trailer screened at the famous theatre. "They treat showing movies as an art. So they would program really cool trailers to the theme of the movie, or they would have the star of an old movie come in. And they would have someone get up and talk about the movie, or talk about the history of this film. I kind of wanted to bring that sort of feel to Dartmouth."

Eisener is from Dartmouth, and says he is happy to be hosting the event

in the place where he grew up.

"I love this city, and I want to give back to it. If we had *Thrillema* in Halifax, people think we could do better there, but I don't know. I think it creates an adventure for some people in Halifax who don't come to Dartmouth too often," says Eisener.

The trip to Dartmouth didn't seem to keep people away from this screening. More than an hour before it was scheduled to start, there were only 65 seats still available in a theatre that holds 287 people. The lineup to get in stretched throughout the lobby.

A few fans even came in costume as characters from the *Labyrinth*, with one of them fully dressed as Bowie's character Jareth, spandex and all.

Eisener says 35mm films might not be around for too much longer, so it's important to get them screened now.

"Soon it's going to get to the point where everything will be digital. You're going to see them not making film prints anymore," he says.

Eisener wants to continue having *Thrillema* events introduced by big fans of the movies. Matt Amyotte helped Eisener emcee *Labyrinth*, telling the crowd that he first saw the film when he was three and it's still his favourite movie. Eisener hopes to find more people like Amyotte.

"If there's anyone out there who has a superman appreciation for one of these films, or has a suggestion, let us know, and we'll try to get it. Then they can present the movie and talk about how it affected them growing up."

The next movie to be featured in *Thrillema* will be *Aliens* on March 26, followed by *Jurassic Park* on April 16. *Aliens* was one of Eisener's earliest encounters with genre film.

"I remember coming down the stairs and my parents were watching *Aliens*, and I snuck down," says Eisener. "I was looking behind the railing, and it was the scene where Sigourney Weaver dreams about having an alien burst through her chest. That scene came on and I saw that, and I freaked out. I ran upstairs, and didn't tell my parents. I had trouble sleeping for days. That kind of always stuck with me."

Tickets are \$6.99 plus tax. More info can be found through the *Thrillema* Facebook group.

## Spare some change for change

KRISTIN SLANEY  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Students will soon take their talents to the streets to feed the people living there.

Gillian Smith, a second-year Dalhousie student, is organizing Busking for the Homeless of Halifax. Local musicians, many of them Dal students, will busk in front of the Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road on Sunday, March 22 to raise money for the Brunswick Street Mission's Saturday morning breakfast program.

"Everybody loves music. It's unifying tool. It grabs people's attention in a positive manner, and it's just going to be a really fun day," says Smith, who's from Toronto.

So far, she has about eight to 10 people confirmed to perform at different times that day, including herself - she'll sing and play guitar. She says there is no set time on how long the group will perform.

"We can do it for as long as we want. We're going to start at 8:30 or 9 in the morning, and I was thinking we'll go until 5, but if there's more people there's no time limit," she says.

Smith is doing this as an action project for her international development studies class, where students have been assigned to address an issue that has come out of neoliberal globalization.

"The past 20 years, there's been a policy shift within governments of the developed world adopting policies that basically shift their power to the private sector," says Smith. "There's a lot of privatization and deregulation and things like that, and so as a result of this, the welfare state of a lot of countries has been really diminished."

Smith says an offshoot of these welfare problems is homelessness.

"It's basically a similar problem across the board, where it's just a lack of affordable housing. When the incomes of workers don't match the increase of expensive living, then you get a population of people that just can't support themselves," says Smith.

"They're not getting funding from the government. They're not getting any support. It's honest people that want work, but they can't. It's pretty much the same nationally."

Smith has arranged to buy groceries for the Saturday morning breakfast on April 4 at the Brunswick Street Mission. She will also be gathering a group of volunteers to cook and distribute the food with her.

Smith has worked at a few of the Saturday morning breakfasts before, and says it is an incredibly positive environment.

"They're great," she says. "You go in, and you sit down with the guys and you talk to them and they tell you their stories. There are some extraordinary people there."

Smith spoke to one man there who lived in an airport hangar for 10 years after he spent his money trying to travel across Canada.

"You talk to a lot of people that will have the opportunity to live in certain places, or shelters, but they're unsafe. A lot of people would rather live on the street than be subject to those kinds of situations," she says.

This will not be the first time Smith has busked for charity.

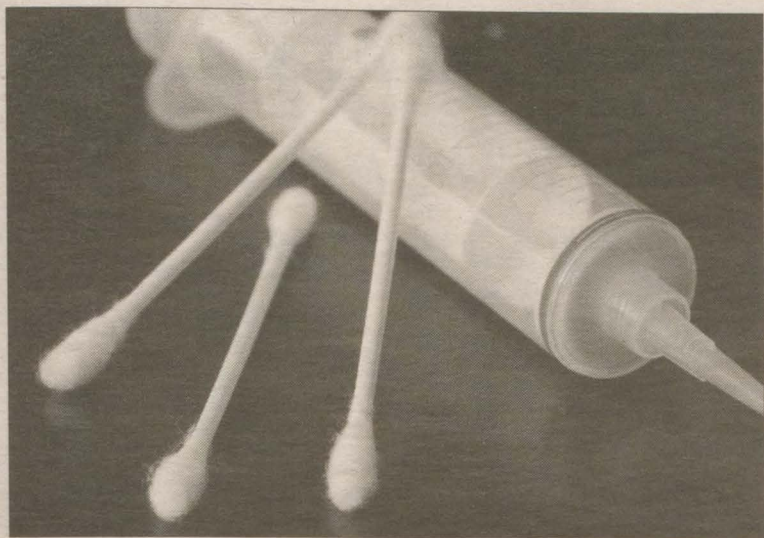
"In October I helped War Child out," says Smith. "They do an event called Busking for Change. So I played for them in front of the SUB (Student Union Building) in October, and it was great. I like to share music with people."

Smith says people will have to change their perceptions of homelessness to work for positive change.

"Many people will walk down the street and think, 'Oh well, they're homeless, it's their fault' or 'Why don't you get a job,' which is completely invalid when you look at it closely. All these people do try to get jobs, but it's a vicious cycle."

"Who's going to hire you when you don't have money, and you don't have a house to mail cheques to?"

Busking for the Homeless of Halifax is set for March 22. Any interested participants can find more information through the event page on Facebook.



JOSH BOYTER/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

"How deep do I have to put it in?"

## Never had I ever: had an STI test

How I learned to stop worrying and love the Q-Tip

MATT RITCHIE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I sat facing my doctor in an uncomfortable stainless steel, slippery polyester chair as she pulled out two sets of cotton swabs. She undid the lid and pulled out one skinny cotton swab that was extremely long, and another that was wider than was comfortable with – much wider. I may be over-exaggerating because I was scared. I was scared because I was about to stick these two items in my penis.

Let's Quentin Tarantino it and figure out how I got into this situation. Well, simply, I fell in love: something I had only experienced once before when I was extremely young, and had never felt since. But this was, and still is, different. Being in love makes you act differently – generally for the better. In this instance, after being sexually active with only two people previously in my life, I decided to be tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), because nothing is scarier than hurting someone you love. Even sticking things inside of yourself.

Paranoia floated in my thoughts as I walked toward the doctor's office. "Do I have AIDS? What if I have AIDS? Oh my god, I have AIDS!"

But I relaxed upon entering the doctor's office when my physician told me we did not need to do a "STI Sweep" as I so cleverly named it, and instead

needed to check for only the main culprits – gonorrhea and chlamydia.

"How deep do I have to put it in?" I asked shyly.

"As far as it can go without hurting," the doctor smiled while leaving the room. I stood there looking at these two cotton swabs, trying to prepare myself for something I never dreamed I'd do.

After dropping my pants, I inserted the smaller cotton swab first, and it felt how I imagined it would: like I was stabbing my penis. This brought me to my first lesson – always start with the large cotton swab first, because after you realize the small cotton swab made your dick feel as if it was on fire, the big one will make it feel like Dante's Peak.

But I did it. I stuck that big one into my penis, put it in a tube, and it turns out I'm STI-free.

I had never been tested before for any form of STI, but if I have to again I don't think I'll be too worried. It's a pretty common procedure and is exactly what you'd expect from it. If you go in imagining you're sticking a cotton swab in your penis, well, that's what you'll get. But if you really care about someone, the way I do, and are getting tested to be safe with each other, you'll get exactly what you imagine as well: peace of mind. As well as the knowledge of what a cotton swab in your penis feels like.

## Constantines talk hardcore

MARC Z. GRUB  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Toronto based alt-rock band Constantines is set to perform with The Weakerthans March 20 at The Palace.

Currently based in Toronto, the five-piece band consists of singer/guitarist Bryan Webb, guitarist Steve Lambke, drummer Doug MacGregor, keyboardist Will Kidman and bassist Dallas Wherle. The band's sound has often been compared to bands like Fugazi and The Replacements, as well as more poetic artists such as Nick Cave and Bruce Springsteen.

The band's latest album, 2008's *Kensington Heights*, marked a more thoughtful and mature direction for the band after building on experimental and studio-based sounds and structures from 2005's *Tournament of Hearts*.

"We've been a band for a long time – made a bunch of records – so you

want to change up some things, you don't want to keep repeating yourself," says Lambke, the guitarist. "This record was just more consciously about a sense of place, you know. We're in Toronto and Kensington Market and ... trying to make a home for (ourselves)."

The slower tempos of *Kensington Heights* also signaled the Constantines' move away from its signature fast, hardcore-influenced sound.

"(We) watched hardcore bands, played in hardcore bands and (were into) sort of all the subculture that went with that so I'm not gonna dismiss that," Lambke says, "even though I don't think we necessarily sound like that."

"It's definitely sort of where a lot of our roots are but we like tons of music and we wanted to play a lot of different things," he adds.

The band is currently on tour with Winnipeg's The Weakerthans. The two bands have toured together before on

the Rolling Tundra Revue tour. The title was a play on Bob Dylan's triumphant 1975-1976 Rolling Thunder Revue tour with Joan Baez and Roger McGuinn). The two bands will be playing in Halifax with openers The Superfantastics.

As for the future of the Constantines, Lambke says the band will likely record more albums, though he says he has no idea where the members will take their sound next.

"That's always sort of exciting," says Lambke. "At this point, we've been together for a long time, so we sort of know what we can do but we're also always trying to push that further."

"We're all sort of like grown men at this point so we (live) our own lives and bring different things back to the band."

*Constantines will be performing March 20 at The Palace with The Weakerthans and The Superfantastics.*

## Dal art gallery screens Agnès Varda films

JORDANA LEVINE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

*The World of Jacques Demy* is a strange and intriguing documentary with a muted, offbeat touch of fantasy. It's part of a film series being presented at the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

The film exposes the life and works of Jacques Demy, a French New Wave filmmaker from the 1960s to the 1980s.

The film, created by Demy's wife, Agnès Varda, is comprised of an eccentric blend of clips with a wide range of film quality and colour. There are fuzzy black and white shots and sharp, super-saturated ones, including clips from a wide range of Demy's films and interviews with his fans, past colleagues and friends.

*The World of Jacques Demy* gives its audience a good idea of the quirky stories and strange ideas in Demy's films. It shows the dark fantasy that Demy portrays in a lot of his movies and his wide range of references to social, political and military issues of his time. There are incestuous children's stories, whimsical and colourful operas, and some works that are just pure comedy – a plot involving a pregnant man, for example.

Although the documentary does not follow a chronological order, Varda makes the work coherent. She starts out with Demy's earlier, less popular films, are proceeds to jump back and forth between his life, his death, his Hollywood fame and his family experiences. The documentary is interesting for fans of

Demy's films; it goes into a lot of depth concerning how he started his career and the creative process behind his movies. The audience can get a good sense of his style, his interactions with the people around him, and his sinister yet light-hearted attitude toward filmmaking.

Varda portrays Demy's works as multi-faceted, mirroring his style through her unique approach of filmmaking. The images that flash across the screen are pleasing to the eye, regardless of the content.

*The World of Jacques Demy is the sixth of nine films in the series "Agnès Varda: A Voice Beyond the New Wave," at the Dalhousie Art Gallery. The next film in the series, The Gleaners and I, will be screened March 25.*

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Great Lake Swimmers rock out at St. Matthew's Church March 11.

SUZANNA DE RIDDER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

## The group of five

Great Lake Swimmers offer up real Canadiana

**MATT RITCHIE**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Stained glass will always look magical. As the light flickers in amongst tree branches and layers of rich colour it is easy to see why a concert at St. Matthew's Church is one to remember.

On Wednesday, March 11, after a normal Halifax evening that consisted of snow flurries turned to ice pellets turned to full-on Nova Scotian rain, scores of people young and old flocked to the historic church to witness the folk music of Great Lake Swimmers with opening act Kate Maki.

With a packed audience on the bottom floor and many people drifting up to the often-overlooked balcony of the church, Maki appeared from the entrance of the church drenched in rain and approached the stage, sopping wet scarf in hand.

The concert started slow as Maki toiled around with her electric guitar to get that all-too-perfect sound, but in the process she ruined the romantic bard-like relationship a guitar and a beautiful voice so often evoke.

Maki made up for it by creating beautiful tones with her minimalist

guitar-playing ability and voice reminiscent of Jenny Lewis' solo efforts. Maki is a good songwriter, crafting pristine and somewhat jarring lyrical counterpoints in her music. She really got the church cooking by stomping on the ground for most of her solo sounds, which perfectly accentuated her guitar within the overtly acoustic church.

Once her backing band of accordionist, drummer, and bass player came out, she showed herself to be an A+ student in the world of onstage banter, making the audience laugh with her stories of driving cross-country and playing rugby while a student at Dal.

"If you played rugby in the late 90s," she laughed, "I probably plowed over you."

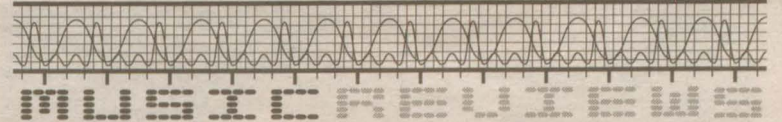
The band helped give more weight to her solo musings, but in some ways it took away the profundity Maki might have achieved on her own. After her lackluster performance of a Neil Young tune, Great Lake Swimmers began setting up on stage - for what seemed like a gruelling amount of time.

Eventually the band hopped onto the stage, greeted Halifax with a warm welcome, and showed true enthusiasm for being back in the historic city.

The band members performed with banjo in tow and sprang through a large chunk of their back catalogue before playing some new songs. The show picked up a strong momentum as it grew from a sombre set of acoustic folksy ballads to the electrified and beat-oriented stomp of the band's new material.

The band took a small break, allowing chief songwriter Tony Dekker to show off his solo ability, including a song commissioned by a firm in Toronto about architecture between the 1950s and 1970s. This led to a more comedic and lighthearted song, in which Dekker sang about "the tallest free-standing building in the world, at least for a little while."

The real highlight of the show was drummer Greg Millson's beats and his attempt at avant-garde sounds. Numerous times throughout the set, Millson would turn his cymbals to make high-pitched, screeching metal sounds that echoed throughout the auditorium. For a split second, it sounded like a picturesque Canadian scene of a train coming to a stop in a northern Ontario mining town, and it was absolutely beautiful.



## MUSIC REVIEWS

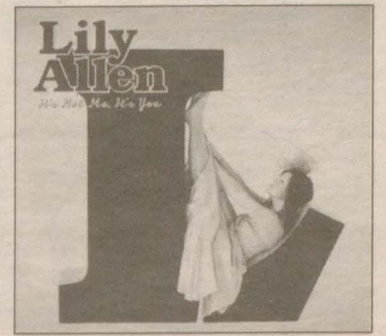
### Lily Allen: *It's Not Me, It's You*

**MATT RITCHIE**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Lily Allen has come a short way in her time as the leading pop starlet with a "fuck you!" demeanor. When Allen burst on the scene in 2007 with her smash album *Alright, Still*, Amy Winehouse wasn't even on the pop culture radar. The idea of a powerful female singer waxing prophetic on boys who can't compete in bed and the pains of trying to look beautiful in a plastic world certainly wasn't a new idea. But it had never sounded so good.

Now two years later, Allen seems less counter-culture and more mainstream pop. One of the most enchanting aspects of her music was the 1960s inspired soulful pop songs with a reggae twist. These are gone. In a world of Amys, Duffys, and, sadly, Joss Stones, the feel-good tambourine and brass section does not appear on this album. Instead, we get the producer Greg Kurstin's electronic sheen. It's hard to decide if this is a logical step forward. Allen used to stand out, but in a musical world filled with copycat artists - Katy Perry, I'm looking at you - this step toward mainstream cleanliness seems a little forced.

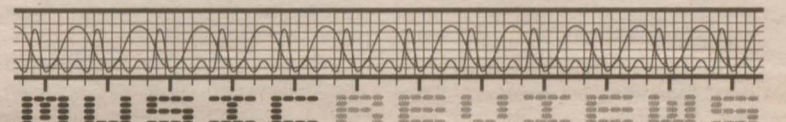
There are some great songs on this album, though. "Not Fair" combines



electronic music with the rhythm of a spaghetti western all set to lyrics that describe a relationship that's perfect, except the sex isn't bang on. "Everyone's At It" contains some odd electronic counterpoint melodies that show a progression from the happy-go-lucky reggae jams of her previous album.

The only problem with this album is the lyrics. They're too predictable. When Allen emerged, she was championed as a great singer for having Mike Skinner-esque musings of everyday life with a sneering attitude. The attitude is still there, but the reasons behind it are blurred.

Allen used to talk about eating disorders and relationships in a candid way, and now she sings about George Bush ("Fuck You") and drug consumption in society ("Everyone's At It"). It's boring, especially for her.



## MUSIC REVIEWS

### The Monster Show: *And in Our Final Days as Archipelagos*

**DELIA MACPHERSON**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The first few tracks on The Monster Show's latest album, *And in Our Final Days as Archipelago*, sound like a brutal combination of Simple Plan and Our Lady Peace. Duncan Nicholls, who sings on the majority of the tracks, has a distracting country twang to his voice. Under different circumstances, the band's multi-instrumentalism might have been an asset, but this album amounts to a confusing combination of songs with almost no cohesion as a record.

These artists are dabbling into too many different genres and doing none of them very well. A mix of indie rock, Canadian country and alternative Celtic influences create chaotic sounds on most of the tracks.

The lack of fluidity in the album distracts the listener from the talent of the musicians. The track "Beer Caps, Friday," is a complete departure from the rest of the album. It sounds a bit like Mobile with funky guitars and a



dance vibe.

The record's title track, "And in Our Final Days as Archipelago" also stands out from the rest. The first minute of the song is made up only of beautiful blending violins and the lyrics are well thought-out and often profound.

Then there's the extensive and elaborate album art. Pinks, blacks and whites depict shadows and cities on the cover, back and inside of the album.

The album art might look cool on your wall but two decent songs aren't worth the purchase price.

## Spring cleaning: fashion edition

**LAURA WALTON**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

When spring weather is on the horizon, there's almost nothing more fun than pretending it is already here. Unpacking the shorts, flip-flops and tank tops of what seems like a lifetime ago brings back great memories and excitement for the future.

With the limited or non-existent closet space that comes with student housing, we need to pack up other items when we unpack our spring clothes. Storing winter knits is one useful way to clear out a wardrobe.

In the times of a trying economy and a lasting green movement, vintage clothing is quickly becoming more and more popular. Savvy spring clearers can capitalize on this growing demand for second-hand gear by selling their unwanted clothing to consignment shops across the city, receiving up to half of the money the used clothes will sell for, and allowing your old clothes to earn you cash for new stuff. Not to mention you'll be supporting local

businesses and contributing to the struggling economy instead of leaving clothes unused in a dusty storage bin.

Alteration is another way to get as much use as possible out of seasonal gear. Either take items to a professional tailor or sweet talk a friend who owns a sewing machine and you can transform oversized sweaters into spring dresses and old T-shirts into one-of-a-kind tops. Being creative, saving money, and conjuring memories of the childhood "something from nothing" story are just a few of the benefits.

One of the most rewarding things to do with unwanted clothing is to donate it. There are countless non-profit organizations that will give the clothes to struggling families and homeless individuals. Numerous shelters across the city also gather goods of all kinds from drop-off boxes for women and children who have had to abandon their possessions when escaping domestic abuse. You can donate for these causes by dropping used clothes into drop-off boxes around the city.

Both the Salvation Army and the

Canadian Diabetes Foundation offer pick up services that will retrieve bags of clothing from your doorstep.

When it comes to those cherished pieces you cannot bear to part with, storage is useful if done properly. A durable, mice-proof bin with a few protective mothballs thrown in should do the trick. Bounce fabric softener sheets are also a great way to keep clothing from smelling musty next November.

Enjoy unloading your favourite outfits from last summer: those everyday sandals and party night shorts. But make sure to keep a few sweaters around the house. After all, you can't dress for spring until it gets here.

Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline Pick Up Service: 1-800-505-5525

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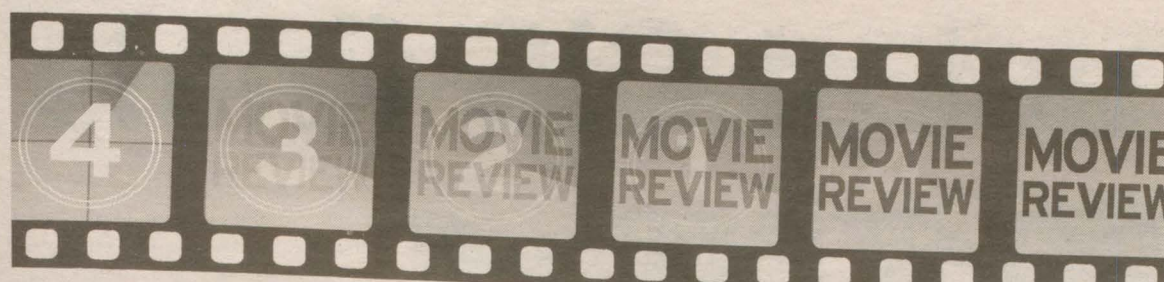
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## Watchmen brilliant, but flawed

MARC Z. GRUB  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Zack Snyder's *Watchmen* is an intelligent, daring, artistic and faithful adaptation of the classic Alan Moore graphic novel. That being said, the film is a flawed one. Too much of the acting is questionable. At times it all feels overly Hollywood and the decision to change the ending will undoubtedly leave a sour taste in the mouths of those who worship the original novel. Could it have been better? Yes. Could it have been worse? Very much so. As it is, it's damn good, but it falls significantly short of a masterpiece.

The story of *Watchmen* is not unlike a really mature and complex version of *The Incredibles*. It explores what the world would be like if superheroes really existed from the 1930s until 1985. Most of the superheroes in the story are just regular people without any special powers who have decided to don costumes and fight crime. The only person with superpowers is the all-blue Dr. Manhattan, who pretty much has most of the same powers as G-d. Eventually, the government - run by a wax-faced Richard Nixon figure in his fourth or fifth term - outlaws superheroes, so they all retire and go their own ways. Years later, someone kills The Comedian, who was one of the first of those to do the whole superhero shtick. Now the trench coat-wearing, oil-blot-masked Rorschach is looking into it, and suspects someone is plotting to take out the group of superheroes once known as the Watchmen.

The film sinks and soars on the strengths and weaknesses of its director, Zack Snyder, who also directed Frank Miller's *300*. With *Watchmen*, Snyder's visual strengths are in full force. The cinematography is phenomenal, often skillfully replicating the panels of the graphic novel and recreating the alternate universe of 1985 perfectly. The fight scenes are all impeccably shot, with fantastic choreography and no shortage of Snyder's beloved slow-motion shots.



Snyder often maintains the brutal, sexy tone of Moore's graphic novel, whereas if he would have compromised just a little here and there he could have easily delivered a PG-13 superhero movie aimed at a younger teen audience. Instead, Snyder leaves in shots of Rorschach repeatedly taking a butcher knife to the head of a murderer, a prisoner sawing off another one's arms and The Comedian beating the shit out of Sally Jupiter. He even tosses in a boob shot during one of the film's many sex scenes.

Snyder makes a strong effort to focus on the superheroes' loneliness and how they realize they need to cherish the strained friendship they have among the other Watchmen. The novel was probably the first to truly examine superheroes as real people with real and debilitating problems, and its treatment of the subject was one of the things that made *Watchmen* such a radical and personal read when it first appeared. Though Snyder doesn't communicate this aspect of the story as well as the novel did, it's not for lack of trying.

The film's acting, however, is a mixed bag. Billy Crudup (Dr. Manhattan) and Patrick Wilson (Night Owl) are both great. Both actors deftly communicate the sadness and loneliness of their characters. Even though Rorschach's narration is bafflingly cheesy - Snyder had the same problem with stupid-sounding narration in *300* - Jackie Earle Haley's performance as

the mad, uncompromising Rorschach, particularly when his mask is off, is one of the film's strong points. Jeffrey Dean Morgan's performance as The Comedian is workable but the role seems like one Robert Downey Jr. was born to play. Downey might not fit the physical requirements of the role, but he would have killed bringing The Comedian's mad, primal nihilism to life.

Matthew Goode's performance as the world's smartest man, multi-gazillionaire Adrian Veidt, is probably the film's greatest flaw, as Goode simply does not have the star power the role so desperately cries for. Though many balked at rumours that Tom Cruise was being offered the role, in hindsight, Cruise would have been a far more suitable choice. Meanwhile, Carla Gugino's performance as Sally Jupiter reeks of bad stage acting.

And why does Dr. Manhattan look like he walked out of an X-Box 360 game? There are parody shorts on YouTube that make him look just as good with only the most basic special effects programs. He honestly would have looked better if they had simply painted Crudup blue.

For all its flaws, *Watchmen* was clearly a labour of love for Snyder and one can't help but admire his reverence and dedication to Alan Moore's original vision. If you can appreciate it for its successes and forgive it its flaws, *Watchmen* is a solid adaption that more or less succeeds.

## Into the Crystal Cave

DELIA MACPHERSON  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

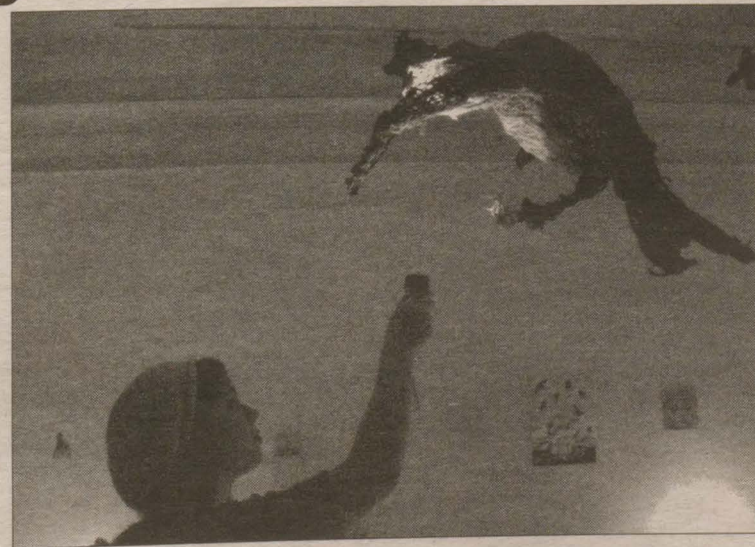
Local art exhibit The Crystal Cave opened March 5 at The Khyber Institute of Contemporary Art, showing more than 30 original works by local artists in and around the Halifax area.

The art is displayed in an unconventional manner, hung in a dark room. Viewers light their way through the cave-like room with a provided flashlight. Other small, coloured lights illuminate chunks of crystal scattered on the floor. Eerie sounds like echoing drips of water and high-pitched noises resonate throughout the Khyber.

As you walk into the room, you pass through an entranceway with black and grey umbrellas fluttering and flapping by themselves above you like bats.

One notable piece in the show is an untitled abstract by Daniel Joyce. Created with vibrant oil paints, a bloody red background offsets thick black spirals, which Joyce created by sticking a paintbrush into a drill. The perfect circles resemble mangled intestines.

"I was more interested in the magic aspect," says Joyce. "There's definitely something surreal about being on crystal meth. I created a forced association between an odd paintbrush and an odd painting. The paintbrush is like a wand."



DELIA MACPHERSON/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
Patrons tour The Khyber's Crystal Cave with flashlights.

There are many interpretations of the title of the show, illustrated by the diversity of the artwork. Examples of the pieces in the exhibit include a large bird hanging from the ceiling, clay masks frozen in screaming expressions with crystals growing on their tongues, and stacked glasses filled with Crystal Light juice. There is even a picture of Tom Cruise dressed in a fat suit.

One of the strangest works on display in the show is an installation by

Susan Wolf that includes two long copper tubes, shaped in different sizes. Entitled "I See Magic, I See Light," the tubes reflect light and create an optical illusion when held up to the eye.

The Khyber show is a must-see for all art lovers seeking an innovative viewing experience.

The Crystal Cave exhibit will be showing at the Khyber Institute of Contemporary Art until March 26.

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### War Child: Heroes Vol. 1

MATT RITCHIE  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

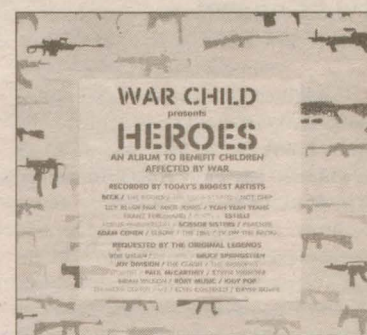
In the age of torrents and other file sharing devices, it's easy for most people to go a whole year without going into a music store. If you are one of those people and need a good excuse to hit the CD racks this year, let it be for the new War Child compilation: *Heroes, Vol. 1*.

Generally, compilation records are abysmal, especially when it comes to ones strictly filled with covers. War Child's new effort sets itself apart from the pack by releasing a series of smart tunes penned by famous musicians that are then covered by the even better new crop of singers and bands.

The compilation perfectly mixes songs about war, such as "Straight to Hell" covered by Mick Jones and Lily Allen, with songs that have nothing to do with that subject and just rock, such as Franz Ferdinand's cover of Blondie's "Call Me".

There are no bad songs on this album.

Beck's cover of "Leopard-Skin Pill-Box Hat" is better than anything else on his recent record; the guitars and harmonica sounds on the track are incredible, intertwining until you can't



decipher which instrument is which. Hot Chip also takes it up a notch by doing a cover of Joy Division's "Transmission" that actually sounds better than the original.

The best track by far is The Hold Steady's interpretation of Bruce Springsteen's "Atlantic City". Since the band is constantly compared to "The Boss", this song works well for Hold Steady fans by combining Bruce Hornsby-esque pianos and saxophone while Craig Finn over-emphasizes the famous line "everything dies, that's a fact, but maybe everything that dies someday comes back."

Although this album can't quite do that, it certainly helps the cause.

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**WRITE FOR  
THE DAL GAZETTE**

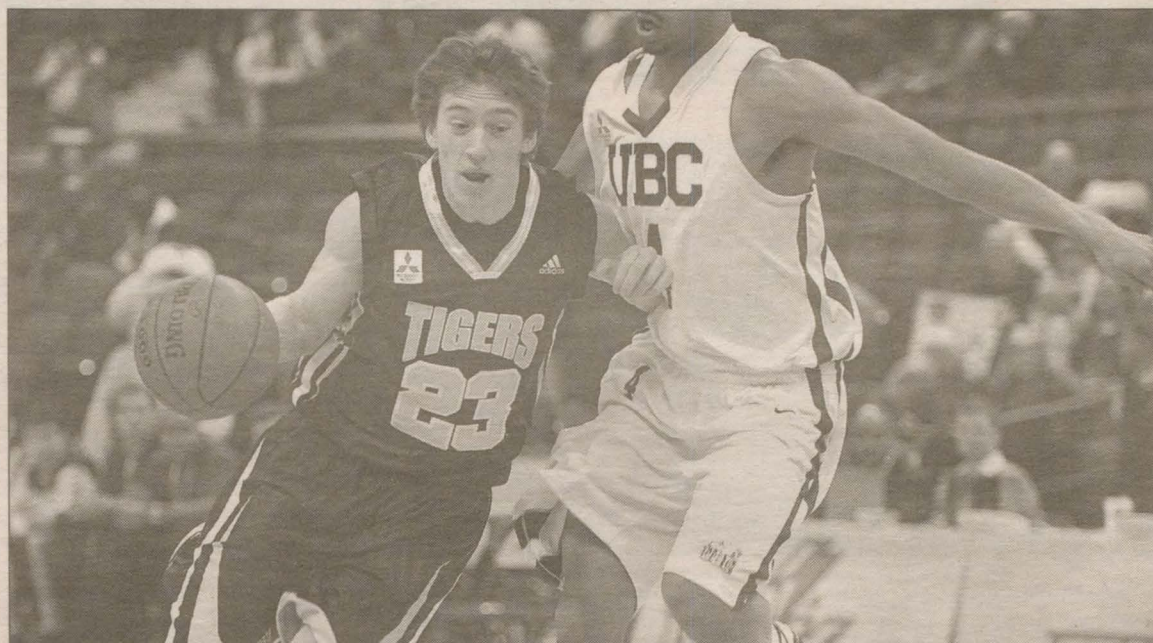
Contributor meetings are held every Monday  
5:30pm in room 312 of the sub

# Tigers lose out at CIS finals

TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's miracle run ended early at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals, held March 13-15 in Ottawa. Facing the second-ranked University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, the Tigers men's basketball team played its second-ever CIS Final 8 appearance. The Thunderbirds proved to be too much for the Tigers, as Dal fell 78-54 in the quarterfinal game, and was relegated to the consolation match. Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league wildcard the St. Francis Xavier X-Men were thumped by the hosting Carleton Ravens 94-57.

The Tigers weren't able to get their game on track in the quarterfinals and UBC outplayed them start to finish. The Thunderbirds dominated the AUS champions in each of the first four quarters, outscoring the Tigers 19-11 in the opening 10 minutes, 19-10 in the second stanza for a 38-21 lead at halftime, and 20-8 in the third frame for a 58-29 advantage after 30 minutes. Though Dal was able to take the final quarter 25-20, it was not nearly enough to topple the Thunderbirds' early lead.



Dalhousie guard Andrew Sullivan drives around UBC Josh Whyte at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa during the CIS Final 8 Men's Basketball Championship Quarter on Friday, March 13.

Last weekend's Tigers heroes, Simon Farine and Josh Beattie, were Dal's top scorers, picking up 11 points each in the loss. Beattie was named Dal MVP.

UBC's Brent Malish was the game's top scorer, picking up 18 points in his team's win. UBC guard Josh Whyte was the player of the game, netting 13

points while grabbing seven rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"We struggled to get second chance opportunities. I think when they held

us right around the 20-point mark for a long time, that was the difference," said Dalhousie head coach John Campbell after the game. "It created a lot of doubt in our kids' minds, it created a lot of confidence for them (UBC)."

Dal entered the consolation round against the seventh-ranked Concordia Stingers. The Quebec champions proved to be too much for the Tigers as well, taking the game 76-67. The loss drops Dal's overall record at the CIS finals to 0-4 in two appearances.

Farine was again Dal's star, scoring almost half of the team's points. His 30 points paced the Tigers, as no other player on the team picked up more than six. The Stingers spread out their scoring, with only two players scoring in the double digits.

The loss eliminated the Tigers from the tournament, bringing to an end a disappointing weekend.

"There's not a lot of positives once we arrived in Ottawa," Campbell said. "I think the positives we are going to take are the ones we had leading up to Ottawa and build on those."

The team can only look back on last week's confidence-building AUS title win, and learn a lesson for future trips to the CIS Final 8.

# Tigers track team brings home bronze from nationals

TYLER BROWN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's track and field team dominated the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) meet from Feb. 28 to March 1, taking home first place, and qualifying 16 athletes for the Canadian Inter-University Sport (CIS) championships, which took place March 12 to 14. At the CIS championships, however, the Tigers were unable to repeat their hometown glory, as hosts the University of Windsor Lancers took home CIS gold.

In the AUS meet 60-metre race, Dal athletes Susan Sobey and Michael Bawol took gold for the Tigers, outpacing the field and qualifying for CIS competition. Sobey's 7.70-second time

was not enough to medal at the CIS, as University de Laval's Genevieve Thibault put together a blistering-fast time of 7.33-seconds to take the Canadian title. On the men's side, it was Sam Effah of Calgary who outsprinted the field, taking home the title with a time of 6.65-seconds.

Dal's Celia Peters took gold in the 300-metre and 600-metre runs at the AUS meet. Peters, an IDS major from New Glasgow, N.S., was named AUS female athlete of the year for her performance. Dal runner Anthony Bernard was the men's 300-metre winner at the same meet, showing incredible poise to come from behind in the meet's most exciting race. Dal's Ueli Albert, a fourth-year kinesiology major and

member of the Swiss National team, came out on top in the men's 600-metre race. Albert showed a veteran's confidence, waiting out Universite de Moncton's Jean Mark Doiron to take home AUS gold.

In the CIS championships, Albert put in a good show, posting a time of 1:20.15 in the 600-metre to finish fifth in the league. He also put up a time of 2:26.75 in the 1,000-metre, good enough for third in the league, and for Dal's only medal at the event. Peters put in a time of 1:34.53, just failing to make the finals. Her time was good enough for seventh in the league.

Caroline Schlosser had convincing wins in the 1,000-metre and 1,500-metre races, along with a 4x800-

metre team victory and a silver in the 3,000-metre. For her efforts, she was awarded the AUS meet MVP.

In the 1,500-metre race, Dal's Dan Gorman was the AUS champion, with a time of 4:00.52. Though he bettered his time at nationals, Gorman was unable to keep up to the lightning fast time of Victoria's Geoff Martinson, who took home the national title with a 3:47.84.

Dal's Russell Christie was the AUS 3,000-metre champ. He placed sixth at nationals with a time of 8:46.10, three seconds slower than his AUS winning time.

Rob McCulloch took the AUS gold in the pentathlon with a score of 3282, very close to the AUS record of 3348. He posted a 3206 at nationals, picking

up a 10th-place finish. University of Windsor's Jamie Adjetej-Nelson won the event, picking up an incredible 4075 points. McCulloch also placed fifth in the individual high jump, while Dal rookie Simon Watts finished in eighth place.

Women's long jumper Mary Frances Lynch took 10th place at the nationals after winning the AUS title.

The CIS event brings to a close yet another successful season for the Tigers track team. With a run of eight consecutive AUS championships and 15 titles in the last 17 years on the men's side and an incredible 20 straight AUS titles on the women's side, Dal's track program looks to be in good shape heading into next year.

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The Tigers would like to thank all the fans who came out to support the teams this season!

WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE

# Howe Hall dominates Risley

TIM VAN DER KOOI  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Hockey and charity combined form a strange concoction known as the Dalhousie Residence Charity Face-Off. Despite the head-hunting body-checks and the contemptuous chants, players and fans were united for a fine cause at the Dal Memorial Area on March 14. The event raised \$10,000 for the IWK Children's Hospital as the Howe Hall Trojans defeated the Risley Hall Bighorns 5-3.

The first period established the rowdy tone for the entire game. Every player on the ice was searching for a bone-crushing hit, while the fans were smacking thunder-sticks together and swinging flags for every puck possession.

The Bighorns jumped out to a quick start. Bighorns forward Julian Perrotta scrambled to score the first goal of the night, six minutes into the first period. The Trojans gained momentum late in the first period, but it was suppressed by a succession of great glove saves by Bighorns goaltender Chris D'Amours.

Penalties were prevalent. In the first period alone, both teams each accumulated six minor penalties.

After scoring two early goals in the second period to establish a 3-0 lead, the Bighorns appeared destined to replicate their 9-2 blowout victory from last year. After the third goal, the Trojans suffered three penalties in two minutes.

The Trojans, nonetheless, made a resilient comeback. They killed the three penalties and scored their first goal after a great individual effort by Andrew Shier. The turning point for the Trojans came after Bighorns forward Charles Amodeo received a four-minute misconduct for smashing his stick over the glass in the penalty box. The Trojans scored one goal on the power-play, and Trojan forward Eric Scholey added two back-to-back goals within the dying minutes of the period, making the score 4-3.

The Trojans kept the momentum rolling into the third period. Forward Marshall Macklin scored one more goal early in the third period to make it 5-3. Trojan fans began to sing "Hey, Hey, Hey, Goodbye" with five minutes left in the game, as the Bighorns struggled to make their own comeback.

The stretched out final two minutes of the game were uneventful for the Bighorns, who were penalized after one of their fans managed to sneak an



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Trojans defeated the Bighorns 5-3 on March 14.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

A Risley Bighorns fan snuck an octopus into the arena during the game.

octopus into the arena - an interesting feat, considering the police were checking backpacks and purses at the entrance - and tossed it onto the ice. Two more penalties were issued after a watermelon emerged from the Risley Hall section and exploded into pieces upon hitting the ice. As a result, the Bighorns were unable to set up any scoring opportunities for the remainder of the game.

Hundreds of Trojan fans counted out loud the last 10 seconds of the game, while the Trojan players poured out onto the ice from the bench.

The player of the game for the Trojans was goaltender Daniel Stein, who shut out the Bighorns for nearly 35 minutes. This was the Trojans second Munro Cup victory out of four in the Residence Charity Face-Off history.

PAUL RUDD JASON SEGEL

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# THE SEXTANT

## AT THE WORKPLACE WITH CANADA POST CORPORATION

**Lori Baker**

One of the reasons cited by employers who do not hire co-op students is that they are simply too busy to hire. Canada Post Corporation does not ascribe to this belief.

On an average day, Canada Post Corporation delivers 37 million pieces of mail to 13 million addresses. That's a lot of mail, which means a lot of busy people working to get the job done. But the company still finds time to hire co-op students.

Alan Barnhill is the Manager of Operations Improvement & Process Excellence at the Halifax office. He knows from experience that finding the time to hire a student is very worthwhile.

"A lot of employers might say they don't have the time to nurture someone to the point of being productive," he explains, "but I don't think it has to be that bad. I think as long as you are clear on what you want then you are going to

gain a lot from this program."

This was the case when he hired third year Industrial Engineering student, Johnna Campbell. "Johnna's project was in that queue of things that we needed to get done," says Alan. "It was a perfect fit with a fairly defined scope so it's easy to give to an individual."

Johnna speaks about her co-op work term with the same enthusiasm, saying it was largely an independent project, which she really appreciated. "The first few weeks I spent getting myself oriented and meeting the people, getting used to the machines, asking questions and just finding out for myself."

Allan appreciated the fact that Johnna took the initiative to learn. He thinks it is better to let a student introduce new ideas into the company instead of bringing someone in and laying the entire project out for them.

"To me, one of the benefits is that I have a fresh pair of eyes walking in

and seeing everything for the first time," he explains. "It's great to have someone coming in and looking at things differently."

This attitude proves very beneficial to the students as well. "Walking onto the floor during my first few days, I started thinking of different methods that we learned and different courses," says Johnna. "I got to thinking, well, if I do it this way will this be better than another way. I got a lot of value out of that."

If a student finds a better way to do things, that adds value from a customer perspective, which is the focus at Canada Post Corporation. "I've got to have value for the money I'm spending," says Alan. "At the end of the day my boss is going to say we spent this much money, what did we get for it. Everything has to have value."

The company is quick to recognize co-op as a valuable way to not only complete necessary projects but as a way to recruit permanent employees. "If you look at the period from hire to retire, you're making a three million dollar decision between salaries, benefits and training," explains Alan.

If you stop to think about it, that's a huge decision, one that justifies and supports spending the resources to hire a co-op student, no matter how busy you are.



Industrial Engineering Student Johnna Campbell and her manager Alan Barnhill at Canada Post Corp.

## NORUZ

**John Bergese**

It is again that time of the year when the piling up work of the semester starts to be noticed.

Assignments are still due religiously, some classes may be writing quizzes, reports are due in twinkling weeks along with laboratory reports, presentations of course are not missed, and on top of all this, some are even battling with the beauties of senior project.

But it is also that time of the year when the aroma in the air changes, caused by the rapid arrival of spring. The yearly waking of Nature, the start of a new year. In the Persian culture, the first day of spring is considered the new year's day; Noruz. Noruz is celebrated in other countries around the region although it is customarily known as an Iranian festive.

Its history is antique and hence slightly vague. Based on your location, a divergent myth of the tradition is known. The more advertised customs followed by

most Iranians involve; Chaharshambe Suri, celebrated on the evening of the last Tuesday before the new year. It is a festival of fire, celebrated by jumping over seven bonfires while singing a traditional melody. A cultural equivalence of the Christmas tree is also set up, known as the Haft Sin. This consists of placing on a table, seven objects which start by the letter 'S' in Farsi; sprouted lentils, garlic, apples, vinegar, sumac, samanu (wheat germ pudding), and senjed (dried elaeagnus fruit). These objects are accompanied with; a clock, coins, candles, a mirror, a goldfish bowl, decorated eggs, a hyacinth plant, and a holy book. Each object has a thrust and various set ups of the Haft Sin is seen in each family's house based on their views. Instead of gifts, a minute monetary endowment is given to every member of the family and all the other members of the family who come visiting in the following weeks.

On the thirteenth of the new year, Sizdeh Bedar, which literally

translates into "get out on the 13<sup>th</sup>", is a day of outdoor activities. This usually consists of family picnics, singing and dancing. It is a way to run away outside from the superstition qualities of the number 13 and wish for a marvelous year. At the end of the day, the sprouted lentil is thrown in flowing water to be taken away, along with all the abysmal events of the previous year.

Traditions vary from location to location, but the spirit of the new year's celebration stay in us. Humans are doomed to be vividly happy and enjoy the cosmic beauties in life. As I lean back and remember the proposed reading I am supposed to read, along with all the other pile of work, I smile to the new year and the end of the semester. A time of change and prospect awaits everyone. Because no matter how little time and how enormous amount of work is there, we will conquer it all as others have done previously.



## CO-OP CORNER

### Important Dates:

- March 19 • Last day of Round II.
- March 20 • Employer rankings and offers posted for Round II.
- March 20 - 23 • Question and Answer days with the Co-op Office.
- March 23 • Student Rankings for Round II must be posted by 2:00pm.
- March 24 • Round III begins. This round has no ranking system.

### Things to Remember:

- 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.
- 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 profes-



The T-ROOM is open for ST. PATTY'S DAY!  
Tuesday March 17 • Tristan and the Irish Rovers

Thursday March 19 • Open Mic  
Friday March 20 • Trivia



Tuesday March 17 • DSEUS General Meeting. Come to the Design Commons for 6:30 to vote on the new DSEUS Council!