

Nov. 27 - Dec. 3, 2009.

Gazette 142-13 FREE

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868

Gazette

Funny
Bitches



Trans toilets pg 6 | Wonders of the wang pg 8 | Winning women lack fans and finances pg 16

Cover Image by Jared Dalziel



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Events:

Friday December 4th

T-Room's Last Trivia Night of 2009!

Monday, December 7

Last Class Bash with Signal Hill @ The Grawood

Come out to the Grawood's legendary end of term party. You don't want to miss it!

Extended Exam Hours

Need to Study Late for Exams? The SUB Lobby will be open until 2am beginning December 8th and running until December 15th. Good luck on your Exams!

If you are studying late don't walk home alone!

Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am).

Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> for more details.

Grawood Exam Hours

From Tuesday Dec 8th to Dec 16th, the Grawood will be open only for lunch 11:30am-1:30pm.

Society News

Please make sure that if you are holding a society event that you fill out a Risk Management Form at http://fm.dal.ca/event_book.php. Any questions can be directed towards your Society Coordinator @ society.coordinator@dal.ca

Charity Ball

Each year the DSU hosts an annual Charity Ball dinner and auction in support of a select charity. This event is one of the social highlights of the year and is an amazing fundraising opportunity. The DSU is now accepting proposals from students and societies to help decide which charity this years proceeds will go to. Proposals can be as long or as short as you like so get creative! The only guideline is that you provide us with solid reasoning as to why we should select your charity. This is always a very difficult decision as there as so many worthy causes so make sure you sell yourself and your charity.

Submissions are due on Monday, December 7th and can be dropped off at the information desk in the Student Union Building or emailed to dsuvpsl@dal.ca (with the subject title "Charity Ball Proposal"). The Events Committee will review all proposals and announce the charity of choice on Friday, December 11th.

Sincerely,
Your DSU Executive

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at www.dsu.ca



Happy Holidays from
your DSU Executive

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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 Streetier feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

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Editorial

TURKISH WOMEN SHAME 'MALE STATE'

Hilary Beaumont
Copy Editor

About 30 women wearing purple and red lined the tiled main street of Taksim, Istanbul on Nov. 25. They smiled for the few reporters who showed up, and ignored the male police in full riot gear standing across the tram tracks. Their posters showed headshots of other women, and photos of coffins. Scrawled in red lipstick on a mirror between two protesters were the words "erkek devlet" – in English: "male state".

They chanted against honour killings, a customary practice in which one family member murders another because he or she is believed to have shamed their family name. Perceived 'shame' can range from improper clothing at one end of the spectrum, to sexual or

marital relations deemed unacceptable at the other. Female rape victims are common targets of family 'cleansing'.

There is now one victim of an honour killing each week in Istanbul, according to a recent government report. The same report estimated there have been 1,000 of these murders in the city in the last five years. Women are most often the victims. They are usually killed by male relatives, or pressured into committing suicide.

In one such case, Sait Kina stabbed his 13-year-old daughter Dilber to death, the Washington Post reported in 2001. He did it because she spoke to boys and ran away from home on several occasions. He said he had carried out his duty.

Two weeks ago, I left Canada with the impression that women were systemically undervalued. I touched down in Turkey.

Turkish social values place a large emphasis on women dressing and

acting modestly. Females often wear headscarves and long sleeves. In more extreme cases, they are expected to avoid interacting with men who are not their relatives. These expectations stem from conservative Muslim values (98 per cent of Turkish people identify with Islam). But in 1923, Turkey was established as a secular state. And now, many young women no longer want to carry on modest lifestyles. This leads to a clash of values within families.

While booking bus tickets from Eskisehir to Izmir earlier this week, my male travel companion noted a map of our bus that showed where men and women were seated. The interactive map gives women the option to sit by another female. The helpful diagram would not let us sit together on the bus.

Next week, we fly to Cairo. Though we didn't come across any seating problems,

we did find this jarring travel advisory:

"Women should cover their arms and legs if travelling alone, and covering your hair may help to keep away unwanted attention ... Egyptian women, even those who wear the full hijab, are often subjected to sexual harassment, including cat calls. You may find that completely covering up does not make a huge difference, with regards to harassment, versus wearing a top with shorter sleeves. In regards to harassment, it's also important how you act ... the best thing to do is ignore men who give you unwanted attention. They want to get some reaction out of you."

"I didn't see a single woman on the streets when I was there," my travel buddy told me, remembering Cairo seven years ago.

Honour killings also take place prevalently in Egypt. The United Nations esti-

mates 5,000 people are victims of honour killings globally each year. These murders happen all over the world: in Pakistan, England, Germany, the U.S. and, yes, even in Canada. The difference is the level at which they are tolerated socially.

Ironically, I've realized I should be grateful for the level of inequality between men and women in Canada. I may still experience sexism, but at least I can speak to a man without fearing death.

The brave protesters in Istanbul made it clear they wouldn't stomach violence 'justified' by shame. They wore pictures of their sisters and the colour of the first women's shelter in Istanbul: the Purple Roof. It has housed women who fled from their families for actions Western women do daily without a second thought.

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News

News

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Bethany or Lucy at news@dalgazette.com



Bethany Horne **News Editor**
news@dalgazette.com

A call to action, 20 years later

Ending violence against women is a community effort

Julie Ireland
News Contributor

The day of the Montreal Massacre, our country changed. Organizers of this year's remembrance events in Halifax are conscious that current students are living a generation after the Dec. 6, 1989 shootings. They also know that the time that has passed since then hasn't made the lessons of that day any easier to learn.

On that day, Marc Lepine gunned down female engineering students at Montreal's École Polytechnique, after saying to a class full of people: "I hate feminists." He killed 14 women, and injured about a dozen others. The horrific event shook people into realizing that not enough was being done to end violence against women. In 1991, the Government of Canada declared Dec. 6 a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

This year, the Halifax Women's Community, with the support of many local organizations and business, launched the 20 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women. All proceeds from the events are going to the Purple Ribbon Campaign – a project of the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia. The events connected local, national and international efforts to end violence against women, and lead up to a candlelight vigil on Sexton campus, Dalhousie's own engineering campus, to be held on Dec. 6 in memory of the 14 victims.

Emily Krehm, Oxfam Canada Outreach and Policy Intern, says the Montreal Massacre may not be fresh in



Veronica Ngwerume says violence against women can take many forms in different cultures.
Photo Pau Balite

people's minds, but remembering it is necessary in order to move forward.

"Violence against women is still pertinent," she says. "There is still a lot of work to be done, as we are still living in a culture of silence. Many of the victims don't speak out, and many of the crimes remain unreported."

According to the YWCA Canada website, more than 50 per cent of Canadian women will experience violence in their lives.

The days of action began on Monday, Nov. 16 with a screening of "Polytechnique," a dramatization of the Montreal Massacre, directed by Denis Villeneuve, at Empire Theatres. Also on this day, the Rose Campaign launched. The campaign takes its name from the rose button created 20 years ago to commemorate the 14 young women who lost their lives. This year, they printed postcards people can pick up at the YMCA and send to Prime Minister

Stephen Harper to ask him to take action.

On Nov. 25, Veronica Ngwerume spoke about violence against women in the form of the HIV and AIDS crisis in Zimbabwe. To coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Dalhousie Women's Centre hosted "Changing the River's Flow: Zimbabwean stories of 'best practice' in mitigating the HIV crisis."

Ngwerume, the executive director of a rural health care organization in Zim-

babwe spoke on ending violence against women by changing cultural practices through education and communication.

Currently in southern Africa, approximately 58 per cent of all people living with HIV and AIDS are women. Many of the cultural practices don't allow women to have full control over their bodies. She said that, even if these women are not being physically abused, their situation is still an act of violence towards women.

Ngwerume's program educates through cultural dialogues, as well as by encouraging women to speak out and to get tested, and to ask their partners to get tested. Her programs also heavily promote condom use.

But her work does not stop at women, and in this lesson, she spoke to one of the greater themes the Days of Action hoped to convey.

"[It's] not just a women's issue; it's a gender issue, and a community issue."

The organizers of the 20 Days of Action want this message to spread into Canadian culture, as well.

Krehm says that ending violence against women is "not just a women's issue; it's a gender issue, and a community issue."

"Everyone needs to be engaged," she says.

The 20 Days of Action will draw to a close this Sunday, Dec. 6, with several events including the "Not So Silent" Candlelight Vigil at 5:30 p.m. on the Halifax Public Library lawn, and will be followed by a potluck at St. Matthew's Church, 1479 Barrington St. There is also a memorial vigil at Sexton in the Alumni Lounge at 6 p.m.

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Former Afghan MP calls end to war

Malalai Joya spoke outside the International Security Forum

Laura Conrad
Staff Contributor

Speaking through a megaphone to a crowd of over 100 people outside the Westin Hotel, former Afghanistan MP Malalai Joya made her anti-war message clear.

"The U.S. and allies occupied Afghanistan under the name of 'war on terror,' but today they themselves are terrorizing Afghan people, and have deep hidden deals with terrorist groups," she told the crowd Nov. 21. "We Afghans can't expect freedom to be donated to us by the U.S., which itself is the biggest terrorist country in the world, and has imposed war, destruction and mass-killing in countless countries since the Second World War. Afghanistan and Iraq are just two of the most recent examples."

Joya, who was called the "bravest woman in the world" by the BBC, was suspended from the Afghan parliament in 2007 because she was accused of insulting other representatives. She's known for speaking out at political meetings and opposing other members. Her controversial position has received a lot of international attention and criticism. Joya has survived four assassination attempts and travels in Afghanistan with body guards.

Joya stopped in Halifax during the middle of her tour across the nation. She gave public talks on freedom, democracy and peace, while promoting her new memoir, *A Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice*.

Joya happened to arrive in Halifax on the same weekend of the International Security Forum. The forum included discussions of Canada's future role in the Afghanistan mission, piracy and Arctic security. Some of the speakers who attended the conference included Canadian Minister of Defence Peter Mackay, U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates and Republican Senator John McCain.

Joya was denied an invitation to attend the conference. In response, she addressed the public protest outside the Westin Hotel where the conference was being held. Joya explained her reasons for op-



Former Afghan MP Malalai Joya addresses the anti-war protest outside the Westin Hotel. She wasn't allowed inside to the International Security Forum. | Photo by Pau Balite

posing NATO's mission in Afghanistan, which are also outlined in her book.

"A glance to the history of U.S. government involvements in different poor countries in the past shows that this country has only overthrown democracies and supported dictators and oppressors," she said. "The Western governments not only betray Afghan people but their own people too. They are wasting tax-

payer's money and their soldiers' blood for a war which only safeguards the interests of the big corporations. Not only did it not defeat terrorists but made them more powerful, and today the world is more dangerous than it was in 2001."

"It is the duty of our own people to fight for their liberation, even if it will require a hard, long and decisive struggle. Let our people decide about the future."

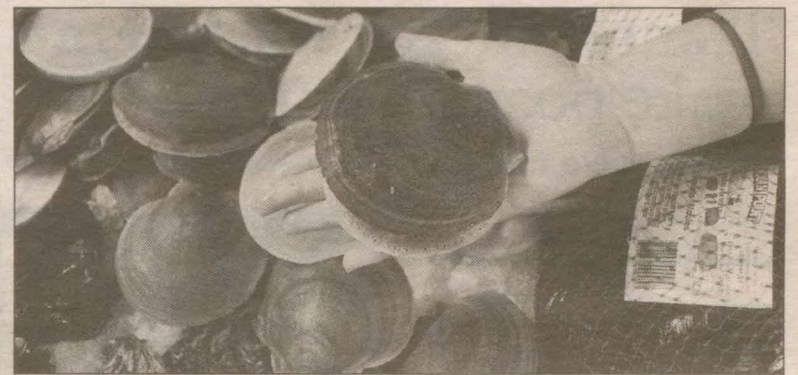
There was little information about the future of the NATO mission released from the International Security Forum. Joya said the mission is doing more harm than good.

"We call on the withdrawal of all troops from Afghanistan because they are making the situation more complicated day by day. It is the duty of our own people to

other governments involved in Afghanistan, and the support and sympathies of justice-loving people of these countries."

Joya's book launch tour ended Nov. 27, the day after she gave her last speech in Ottawa. Despite uncertainty about the mission's future, Joya said she would continue to oppose it.

"I will never stop to say again and again that no nation can liberate another nation. History has no such example. My people throughout history have fought for their independence, and are now on the verge of rising up against the U.S. and NATO."



One manager says sustainably caught scallops are still too expensive to serve at his restaurant. | Photo by Andrew McCurdy

Students gone fishin'

...For better seafood choices

Laura Parlee
News Contributor

Four Dalhousie University students are making a difference in how Halifax look at their fish and chips.

Marine biology students Jesse Kelly, Ainsley Hill, Tammy Wilson and Kandace O'Brien, working with some like-minded organizations, put together a website to centralize research and reviews about sustainable seafood available at restaurants in Halifax.

The students say they were inspired by the documentary "At the End of the Line."

"The information was presented in such a significant way that we all knew we have the information, we had the time, so we should try and make a difference," says Kelly.

Rob Johnson, from Seachoice, one of their partners, says consumer choices can protect ocean ecosystems.

"Sustainable seafood is fish and shellfish that's caught or farmed in a manner that can be sustained over the long term without compromising the health of the ecosystems," he says.

While many larger fishing companies use cost saving and high-yielding measures such as bottom trawling and dragging at the expense of ecosystems, sustainable fishing works to preserve and protect the environment of the targeted catch.

Johnson says sustainable seafood is harvested with more direct techniques that protect the ocean floor and avoid over-fishing.

"It's important for people to become informed on these issues," he says.

The students agreed, and their project is meant to be a practical tool to create this information.

The site includes reviews of various restaurants around the city that serve dishes made with sustainable seafood.

"We thought it would be a good resource for Halifax for tourists," says Wilson. She says the site presents better options to those who "come here to eat fish."

But working with restaurants was sometimes a challenge.

"Collecting the information was sometimes hard because restaurant managers and chefs are really busy and it's hard to get all the information at once," Hill says.

The Wooden Monkey is one of the restaurants profiled on the site. The Grafton Street establishment is known for its environmentally conscious cuisine.

Matt Gass, general manager of the Wooden Monkey, says the issue is important to him. The restaurant took halibut off the menu when they found out it was a vulnerable species. They have always offered sustainable seafood products such as hook

and line haddock, lobster and mussels.

"We can't keep destroying our oceans. Mother Nature has spent many thousands of years creating a balance, and we're really messing it up."

But Gass says they're still a 'business and sometimes the options for sustainable dishes just aren't available.

"The one most embarrassing part of the restaurant is the scallops that we get. They're just regular Digby scallops, and they are dragged. There's just such a demand for them," he says. "There's not a whole lot of dive scallops out there, and so the price is just unbelievable. It really wouldn't be cost effective at all for us to get those scallops."

He says they are working with the EAC on finding better options, but in the meantime are upfront about the origin of their scallops.

Gass says he is proud to be featured on websites such as www.yourchoicehalifax.ca.

"It's hard on a daily basis to choose sustainable seafood," he says. "It's wonderful that we have links to these websites."

Currently, the website has eight reviews of restaurants and organizations around the Halifax Regional Municipality that support sustainable seafood – a small portion of the many seafood serving establishments in Halifax.

The team hopes to continue to expand the site beyond the municipality, or even form partnerships with environmental groups in other cities.

"We're definitely not the first, there's a number ... this idea is spreading."

O'Brien has already graduated from Dal, and the other three students aren't far behind – graduating within the next year. But they hope to keep the site up even after they go their separate ways.

"We're hoping over the Christmas break to write up articles on related issues and get those posted, and we'd like to add a general comment section," said Kelly.

And they're still meeting with restaurants around town to develop a larger list of sustainable options.

"If you're concerned for the future for your children you should try to make these sustainable choices," Gass says. "The power of the consumer is just a powerful thing."

The students don't plan to encourage boycotts by highlighting restaurants that don't use sustainable products.

"We're hoping to keep it more positive," says Hill.

But they do hope the website will increase demand for sustainable seafood. They hope restaurants that don't offer it now will scramble to make the list.

"Hopefully they'll come to us ... and want to change," says Kelly.

World AIDS Day Event

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

A gathering featuring youth performances, local speakers and a keynote address from Lois Chingandu, Executive Director, SAMADS, Zambabwe, highlighting the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls both locally and around the world.

An announcement of the youth poster contest winners.

Where: Italian Cultural Centre
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News

Transgendered washrooms inexpensive, make positive impact

Goal to have more across campus

Scott Beed
Staff Contributor

Gender-neutral bathrooms can be found at different locations on Dalhousie University campus – from the Life Sciences Centre to the Dalplex. But until recently, the Student Union Building was noticeably absent from this list.

Lisa Buchanan former Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ) community representative on Dalhousie Student Union council, says she noticed this lapse.

The concern was that any student, staff member, or member of the general public would have to choose a gender when going into a SUB bathroom. This can be an issue for transgendered people who don't readily identify with one gender or the other.

"I became particularly motivated on the issue as I began to meet more and more trans-folks, all of whom could speak to the issue of gender-designated restrooms. One trans-man living in residence said the co-ed washroom in his residence was saving his life," says Buchanan, who has also held executive positions with DalOUT.

Over the last few years DalOUT has made a goal to better represent and create a more welcoming environment for transgendered students. Buchanan says the group will hopefully have an impact on the broader community and help create awareness.

Buchanan also chaired the Promotion of Diversity on Campus Committee during the 2008-2009 school year. She says this position allowed her to bring the issue to the DSU. At the time, current DSU President Shannon Zimmerman was a committee member and ensured the renovations would be completed between the end of winter semester last year and the resumption of classes this fall.

Buchanan says the DSU was open to the idea of installing gender-neutral restrooms in the SUB. The actual process was simple and inexpensive, and the two original washrooms only underwent minor changes.

"The whole issue is comfort. We want to make these students feel as comfortable as possible and that's why it was important to do it through the union. Also it was an initiative that the



Everyone is welcome. |Photo by Abram Gutscher

union was more than happy to follow through on," says Zimmerman. The older buildings on campus would be difficult to renovate – there would be problems with rerouting plumbing finding a suitable space and construction costs.

"The university needs to keep the issue in mind when moving forward and building new buildings," Zimmerman says.

"One trans-man living in residence said the co-ed washroom in his residence was saving his life."

Unlike at other universities in the United States and United Kingdom, these transgendered restrooms didn't create a lot of controversy.

"Of course there were questions on why we were doing this and what it meant," says the DSU president. "But, it seems that in the Student Union Building it was met with a lot of support."

Located on the third floor of the SUB, the gender-neutral restrooms are not unlike other single-occupancy restrooms at Dal, except that they were created specifically with

transgendered students in mind.

"I'd love to see at least one gender-neutral restroom in all Dal buildings, and I'm happy to report that this issue is on the university administration's radar, so any new buildings should have them," says Buchanan. "It's a small action that can have a big impact for members of the trans community."

Liz Bugbee, DalOUT secretary, says

some people at Dal don't fit the standard description of genders. There are transgendered students who identify with being female but have many of the physical traits commonly associated with being male. For them, just going to the restroom can be stressful. Bugbee is happy to see the DSU taking this issue seriously. Allies at Dal, a group that actively supports students, staff and faculty in the gay community on different issues, has compiled a list of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. The list can be found at dalally.studentservices.dal.ca.

Breaking up the old boys' club

Graham Briggs
The Martlet (University of Victoria)

VICTORIA (CUP) – Corporate Canada is still mostly a man's world.

In 2007, a Catalyst Census survey found that women held only 13 per cent of board positions in Canada's 500 largest firms. The newly formed Canadian Board Diversity Council is hoping to boost that number to 20 per cent over the next four years.

The council, founded by 30 organizations, including some of Canada's largest firms, says that cracking male-dominated networks is one of the biggest challenges facing "board-ready" businesswomen today.

"A lot of the (board) candidates are chosen from the CEO ranks and the corner-suite ranks of major corporations," said Colleen Johnston, chief financial officer of TD Bank Financial Group, one of the council's founding members. "It's the 'who knows who' within that community."

The 2007 Catalyst survey of women directors found that "reliance on informal 'old boys' networks' continues to be a significant factor in how new board directors are recruited."

Johnston said a key goal of the council is "making sure that there is greater awareness of that broader talent pool out there."

Johnston, one of Canada's top female executives, said diversity is increasingly vital to any firm's success.

"You want the widest range of perspectives, whether that's men, women, visible minorities, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or aboriginal employees," she said. "That only makes you a stronger organization, when you can really embrace diversity as a business imperative." Johnston says boosting diversity and creating a "fair and equitable workplace" is a "huge priority" for TD.

"You look at our business – and many

businesses – and we have a large female clientele," she said. "So we have to really make sure that we have all of those perspectives."

Since the pool of graduates from business and professional schools is increasingly diverse, firms that already have well-established cultures of diversity are better able to attract and keep top graduates.

"There's a war on for talent, and you've got to have the best and the brightest people on your team," said Johnston.

But boosting diversity can still be a challenge. Johnston said that while "blatant discrimination" no longer exists, "there are always subtle forms of sexism and discrimination."

"Let's face it – there is subjectivity that comes into decision making around recruiting or promoting people," she said. "There's a human tendency to recruit and promote people that are like you. And I think you have to push back against that tendency and create as much objectivity and fairness as possible."

TD has increased the percentage of women in its senior ranks from 22 per cent in 2005 to 33 per cent in 2009. Five of TD's 18 board members are women – well above the Canadian average.

"John Thompson, the chair of our board (at TD), would say that the job isn't done, but that we're really pleased with our (diversity) programs as well," said Johnston.

Johnston urges aspiring businesswomen – and men – to focus first and foremost on discipline and technical skills, and also to "be demanding of yourself, be demanding of your organization, look for ways to get involved and to be a leader."

"What will ultimately define your success in your career, if you want to progress in your career, is leadership," she said. "It's about people, it's about relationships and it's so important that you focus on developing those skills."

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- 2 CIRCLE VS SQUARE / CIRCLE VS SQUARE / SELF-RELEASED
- 3 A HISTORY OF / ACTION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC / NOYES
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Tim Mitchell **Features Editor**
features@dalgazette.com

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE A WORLD AWAY

Huish concerned about world health crisis, not H1N1

Tim Mitchell
Features Editor

Populations more than double that of Dalhousie University are struck off the map every day because of preventable diseases such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and tuberculosis found in areas of poverty. We don't worry about these things in Canada. It all sounds depressing, and far away.

But Dr. Robert Huish, assistant professor of international development studies at Dalhousie, says we have an obligation to help.

"People wonder: what benefit is there to us in helping others around the world?" Huish says, during a phone interview. "If you consider the severity and lack of healthcare, we shouldn't need to rationalize it to support it."

At the moment, Canadians are mainly interested in H1N1, the dreaded swine flu, rather than preventable disease worldwide. Never in Dal history has there been such a strong response to such a potential threat.

"It's staggering the amount of money we put into H1N1 because of our moral responsibility to act," says Huish. "But if it's not an issue for us, than we don't feel obliged to act."

About 50,000 people die a day from conditions and diseases found in impoverished places, while about 500 die a day from H1N1, according to Huish. Two billion people suffer from poverty globally, while the most recent number of confirmed H1N1 cases is 883,000.

Over the summer, and next September, Huish wants to teach a third-year level class on global health as well as a fourth-year class on poverty and human rights. Dal is still reviewing his proposals. He hopes to have approval by January.

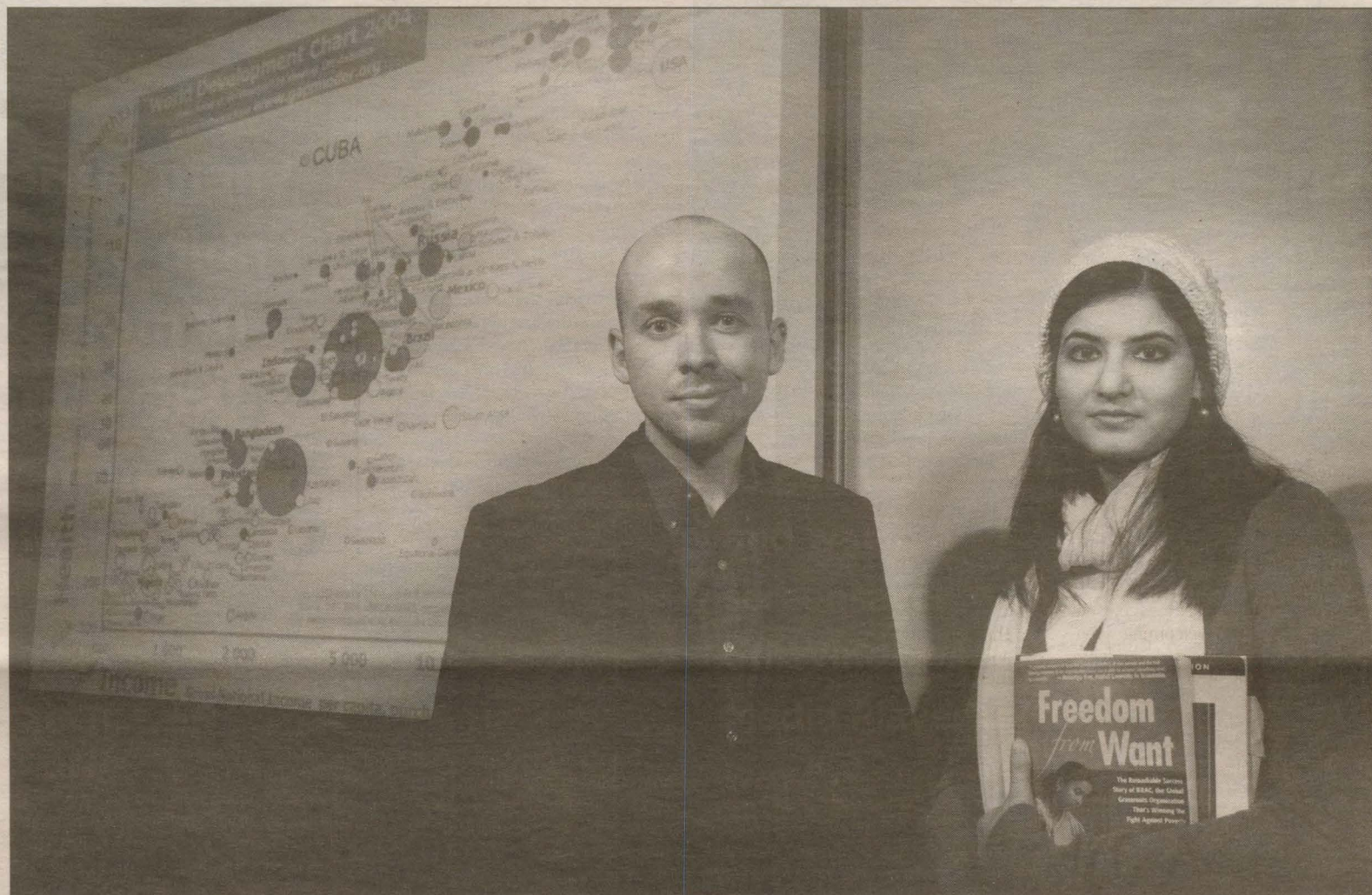
Huish questions the ethics of physicians and healthcare workers in the world who move to more developed areas to make more money. One Dal student is doing just the opposite.

Sunisha Neupane, a fourth-year student in combined international development studies and chemistry, is working hard toward medical school to be a doctor who works in development. Neupane, who moved to Halifax from Nepal three years ago, wants to practice medicine in Canada and return to Nepal every year to help people living in poverty.

"The thing that touched me really early were people dying of diarrhea," says Neupane. "There are reasons why people die, but diarrhea shouldn't be one of them."

In Canada, becoming a doctor is a long road full of non-stop studying that takes about 10 to 12 years, and a lot of dedication. Yet Neupane would rather go through the system here than in Nepal, where she was in her first year of medical school before moving to Halifax.

During her time at school in Nepal, Neupane discovered it could take



Dr. Robert Huish and Sunisha Neupane shed some light on the problems facing the developing world. (Photo John Niven)

around seven years, after becoming a doctor, to get a license to practice in Canada. Nepal was wrapped in grow-

ing turmoil at the time. In a bizarre incident reported by the Western media, a prince of the royal family shot each member of the family, including the king.

"It's staggering the amount of money we put into H1N1 because of our moral responsibility to act," says Huish. "But if it's not an issue for us, than we don't feel obliged to act."

"There were bad things going on," Neupane says. "With the king dead, med school was closed for two months."

That's when her family decided to move to Canada. When she becomes a practicing physician, Neupane wants to work in Canada most of the year. Here she can

have a stable income and learn all the proper skills. But for several months of the year, she plans to go back to the rural

areas of Nepal where she can use those skills to help people living in poverty.

"With some people, they forget where they come from," says Neupane. "I am not going to be one of them. I remind myself every night of that."

Huish's research shows that Neupane's selfless strategy is the right move.

For him, healthcare ethics is an important part of his work. And one of the world's leaders in health care ethics is Cuba. While Human Rights Watch and

the U.S. Government tend to see Cuba as the devil in disguise, the healthcare system there has exceeded most other countries in the efficient way they treat their sick, keep people healthy, and export doctors or other professionals to areas in need of proper medicine.

One example he uses to show the contrast in the Cuban and Canadian healthcare systems, is of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan that left around four million people in poverty. Three weeks after the earthquake, Canada sent 60 people, among them, six physicians. Their focus there was on water treatment. After working in Pakistan for 15 months, they packed up and left, having treated several hundred thousand people.

Cuba, on the other hand, was on the ground within three days of the earthquake. Right away they started building field hospitals to treat people for a period of six years. Over this time 2,400 health workers treated millions of Pakistanis affected in the disaster. In addition, they flew some Pakistanis to Cuba for more intensive treatment, and some for prosthetic limbs. When the Cuban aid workers left Pakistan, they offered 1,000 scholarships for Pakistanis to attend medical schools in Cuba so they would eventually return to Pakistan and

replenish the need for doctors there.

"We seem to approach everything in a very minimal (way)," says Huish. "In terms of the Cuban scale, we need to figure out how to match it. Why aren't we matching it?"

Lately, he has been following one of the most heated debates in recent U.S. history.

Since January, the American democrats have pushed for healthcare reform. Their proposed policy would cover about 30 million Americans who currently can't afford treatment if they become ill.

While the U.S. is struggling to offer healthcare to its own people, its arch nemesis, Cuba, is able to do so while also training doctors from other countries. Huish has added his input to the American healthcare debate.

"I've written Obama and Biden about it," says Huish, who sent his professional opinion and research to the U.S. president and vice president. "They didn't write back."

"It's something that requires conscious knowledge on the problems," says Huish. "We can give moral and financial support to the development of healthcare. But if these concerns could grow, and if people could get emotional about this topic, than elected officials would need to act."

Opinions

Opinions

Opinions

Gazette Opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. E-mail Kaley at opinions@dalgazette.com to contribute.



Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**
opinions@dalgazette.com

SEX ED Seven wonders of the wang



Katie Toth
Sex Columnist

When I talk about gender, I often get excited about sexism, queer issues, fluidity and feminism. But there's this one thing that is so gendered, so identified with masculinity and with confidence in our society that I just had to investigate it. It's the phallus. The cock. The purple yogurt slinger. It's the penis.

The penis is an amazing part of the human body – it can shrink, grow, urinate, impregnate, give and receive pleasure. Yet it seems like mainstream pornography and movies like American Pie are the only sources where we can find discussion of this magical tool. There are no Penis Monologues, no discussions of how it feels to be small or big, that aren't immediately turned into emasculating jokes.

I spent three days reading about penises this week and got so enthused that I decided to share with you seven fun penis facts. Hopefully those with or without penises can appreciate the wonders of these little guys a bit more, because even if they're not as big as John Holmes, that doesn't mean they're not awesome.

1. The penis can get a pimple.

Just like any part of our bodies with hair follicles and sweat glands, sebum can build up under the skin, get inflamed, and become a zit. If you think you have a pimple or ingrown hair on your shlong, especially if it's in an area of the penis that has a few hairs already, then it might be just that. If your red friend doesn't go away for a few days, though, you should definitely get it checked out. And if you're unsure whether it looks like a pimple or something more suspicious, such as a sore, rash, pustule, wart, rugburn or sunburn, waddle quickly to the local clinic or your trusted physician. And of course, if your penis is burning or itching, and a quick scratch isn't making the sensation go away, you need to get tested.

2. Penises change colour when they get hard.

They can turn red, brown-red or even purple! Don't be afraid if your penis likes to join the rainbow brigade when you become aroused – it just makes your little guy that much more unique.

3. The penis multi-tasks.

Unlike vulvas, which have a separate urethra and vagina – different holes for urinary and reproductive functions, respectively – the penis has one orifice doing all the work. Urine, pre-cum and semen all come out of this same tiny opening at the center of the head of the penis.

4. Penises don't need to be circumcised.

In 1999, the American Pediatric Association made it clear that there is no basis for infant circumcision. While people still continue to circumcise for religious (or occasionally, cosmetic) reasons, doctors no longer push infant circumcision as a method of maintaining hygiene or preventing infection. Hooray!

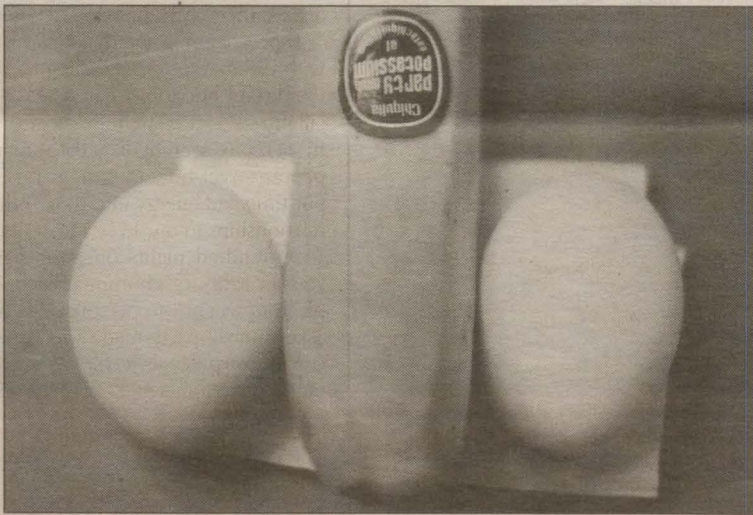
5. Uncircumcised penises gather smegma.

Uncircumcised men can find smegma, a sticky white substance of

masturbating to relieve stress, give their skin a healthy glow, and become a better sexual partner. And according to Dr. Yvonne Fulbright of Fox News, masturbation and solo sexy fun times "may increase a man's virility."

7. The prostate gland actually has a function other than feeling good when touched.

Also known as the "male G-spot," the prostate stores an antacid fluid that mixes with pre-cum and sperm to neutralize the urethra before ejaculation. Remember how I said that the urethra is a transport mechanism for both urine and ejaculate? Well, because sperm are sensitive little fellows, they can be burnt to death by the high acidity in urine. This alkaline fluid lets them swim to their end destination – be it a cervix, an anus or a condom – safely. This gland, about the size of a wal-



Sexpert Toth asks, "When your penis can turn purple who cares about measuring it?" | Photo Pau Balite

nuts, dead skin cells, and moisture, between the foreskin and the head of the penis. Some researchers believe smegma is meant to lubricate the space between the foreskin and head of the penis, making sex more comfortable. Female-bodied peeps also get smegma, between their clitoris and the labia minora (just around the clitoral hood). A little smegma isn't a bad thing, but folks at Planned Parenthood emphasize that you clean under the foreskin regularly (when you take a shower) to prevent its aging buildup against your body, which may lead to infections.

6. It's impossible to have excess sperm build up in your body.

Sperm, which are formed in the testes, wait in the epididymis to mature for up to six weeks. Sperm that are not released get old, die and are reabsorbed into the body. So you don't need to masturbate to prevent a sperm backlog. One could, however, consider

nut, is very sensitive, and many people, whatever their orientation or gender identity, enjoy prostate stimulation. And it can be good for you; prostate stimulation and orgasms may prevent prostate cancer. So, if you're into that sort of thing, get out some lube, wear some gloves, which you should immediately throw out afterward, and reach up for the P-spot!

Those are just a few of the exciting features of the biological cock. You'll notice I didn't even approach issues such as average size, length or girth, because it's really not important. When your penis can turn purple who cares about measuring it?

I just hope that we can enjoy the penis for everything it is, and does, instead of freaking out about what it says about our personalities or how successful in bed we'll be. Love your penis, penis-owners, because it's probably not going anywhere.



Coed dorms could mean less studying, more partying. | Photo Pau Balite

Segregation the solution

Ben Wedge
Staff Contributor

Cameron House, and Howe Hall in general, has a long-standing legacy as being the rowdiest place on campus. Until recently, Cameron House was an all-male residence. Not long ago, all of Howe Hall was single gendered. Now, the last vestige of single-gender dormitories on campus is Newcombe, a section of the once female-only dorm called Sherriff Hall.

I have heard many stories over the years of the glory days of residence at Dal – I know some men, who between them, lived in Howe Hall every year between 1977 and 1986.

Back then, people lived differently in residence.

The year used to start with the first-year men going over to Sherriff to carry the girls' bags upstairs. Afterward, the Sherriff dining hall was used for a big dance party, where dancing and dry humping were two mutually exclusive activities, and everyone would get to know each other. The legal drinking age was 18, like it is in sensible places such as Alberta, Quebec, and Manitoba. At the end of the night, they'd all head home, except the sneakiest of the lot.

Now, things are different. Parents move their student in, and then the students go downtown, or to different events on campus as part of the Dalhousie Student Union's Orientation Week. Though these events are officially "dry," students find ways to consume liquor before, during and after. The drink of choice for many seems to be hard liquor, and at the end of the night, many new couples have hooked up, maybe never to speak again.

A recent study by researchers from the United States that surveyed 500 students at five universities showed that students living in co-ed dorms are 2 ½ times more likely to binge drink on a weekly basis, and twice as likely to have at least three sexual partners in one year.

That's not to say sex is a bad thing – as long as students are responsible about their drinking and sex, there should be no long-term consequences. Sex is vital to human interaction and development.

In a post on The Frisky, a university-focused website, Olivia Alin argues that, despite some intense partying, she didn't want to sleep with freshman guys on campus. "I realized they were mostly slutty," she writes.

Is that what we're here to learn? The Toronto Public School Board is exploring the option of creating all-male schools, citing studies that show single-gender education increasing academic success. At university, we're shifting further and further from this "old" way, and instead dashing headfirst into a fully co-ed scenario.

Maybe the solution isn't full segregation: allow students to make decisions themselves. Co-ed dorms should allow the opposite gender to remain, accompanied, in the dorm at any time. Preserving more floors and wings of our residences may not be the end of the world, in fact, it may just allow us to flourish academically, and provide a clearer divide between studying and partying hours.

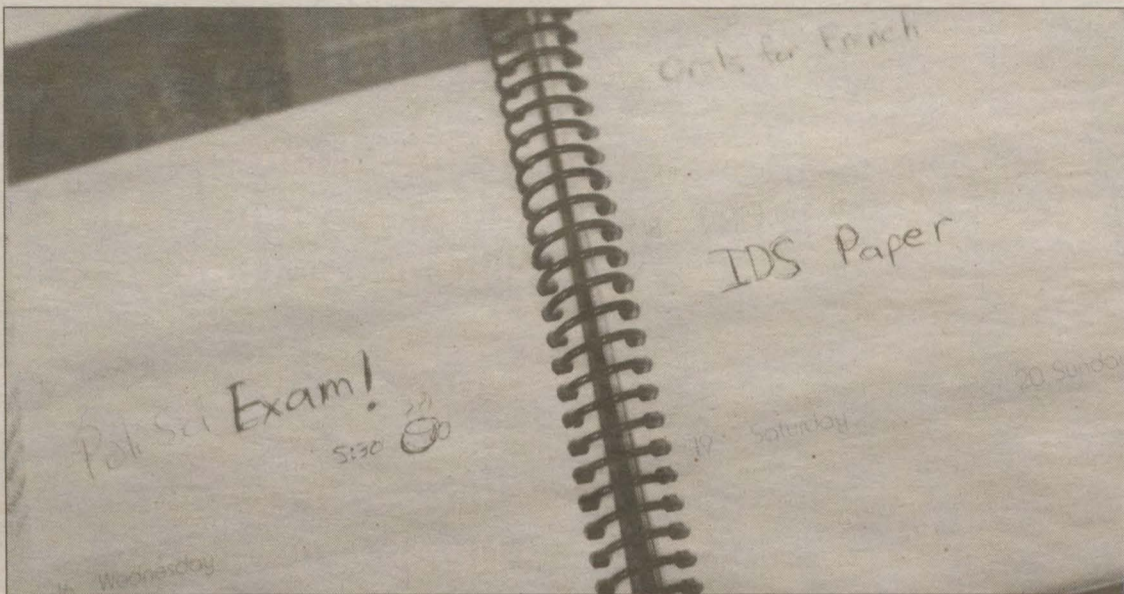
According to Elizabeth McCormack, co-ordinator of the Dal Women's Centre, one in six female undergrads has been a victim of rape, and fewer than one per cent of date rapes are reported to police. These are situations that occur at parties, and at clubs, where drugs can be slipped into drinks, or young people engage in normally unwanted sexual activity.

In an e-mail interview, McCormack explained that much of this is due to peer pressure and the need to fit in with everyone else in residence.

Many of these pressures go away in a single-gender residence situation – the pressure is reduced to certain times, rather than the near-constant partying and liquor-fuelled sex buffet that exists in the co-ed situation.

Both men and women could benefit from some separation in that first year away from home – a chance to study more, but still ample opportunity for partying when wanted. Given the stats, perhaps it is time we look, once again, at single-sex residences, to slow the dropping grades and dangerous party ethic present on modern campuses.

FROSH SURVIVAL GUIDE



Scheduling study time is one way to survive first year exams [Photo Pau Balite]

Exam prep



Katie Ingram
Opinions Columnist

Around early December, students start to fear one word: exams. Although there tends to be a lot of exams in a two-week period, there are ways to ensure you remain relatively stress-free and successful during this trying time.

Get organized

To start, make sure you are caught up on all readings before you even think about studying. Though you have probably tried hard to keep up, you can sometime fall behind due to abundant assignments and midterms. After catching up on all your readings, organize your notes to save time while studying. Once you have everything organized, the next step is to look at marks. Calculate a rough estimate of your academic standing, and then calculate what the exam is worth. Knowing that key number, you'll have a good idea of how well you need to do on the

exam in order to achieve a good mark. So, you've done your readings, you've organized your notes, and you have a goal. Now the studying begins!

Make a schedule

On average, you should read through notes and other supplementary material at least once a day, but this could change depending on the nature of your exams. If you have one exam that is worth 50 per cent and one that is worth 20 per cent, you should put more time into studying for the one that's worth more – unless you're doing worse in the class with the 20 per cent exam.

Be mindful of the exam schedule, and order your studying accordingly. One strategy is to make a calendar of when your exams are and then a schedule of how long you'll be studying for a subject to ensure that you devote enough time to each course instead of cramming the night before.

Study in a group

Besides pouring over books day after day, another good technique is group studying. Get together with a group of people from class at least once before the exam. This will not only allow you to discuss ideas and possible ways to answer questions, you can also talk about specific information that seems more important than others. Also, if you are in a class that allows cheat

sheets, working with others will allow you to work together on the sheet in case you forget something important.

Take breaks

You should make sure you do two important things: sleep and relax. You will retain more information if you get adequate sleep. Make sure you take breaks during studying as well. Try to have at least a five to 10 minute break every two hours.

After you've finished an exam, take a couple hours off to relax as it will give your brain time to rest before you start studying again.

Lastly, don't forget the details. Triple check the time and location of your exam, bring a couple pens or pencils, and give yourself plenty of time.

If after all of this, you are still worried about exams, or want some extra help, Dalhousie Student Services offer a free program called Studying for Success. This program will not only help you with exam prep problems, such as time management and how to write exam essays, but can also help you with studying issues that have recurred throughout the term.

For more information visit the website: <http://sfs.studentservices.dal.ca/index.php>

HEALTHY STUDENT Date your friends



Rachel Sunter
Health Columnist

Recently a number of friends have recently come to me in various states of unhappiness. Some of them are in relationships, some are single. A thick common thread I've found between them, however, is their lack of quality time spent with friends.

After moving out and dunking our heads in the Halifax drinking scene, it's amazing how months can fly by and few meaningful connections are really sustained. Each year, we get bigger workloads at school, have to start paying student debts, and watch as new friends and old roommates are whisked out of Halifax as their lives unfold elsewhere.

Especially in our early adult years, with the marital chase sailing across the distant horizon, it can be easy to fall into the romantic fulfillment trap. In perilous search of a date, many people forget how important it is to put time and energy into those other relationships in our lives: our friends.

A hundred nights out may build you an army of chummy Facebook pics, but when your personal life goes askew, those party-made friendships can feel surprisingly feeble. It's important to remember that all good relationships – not just the sexual ones – need quality time to build feelings of trust, compassion and acceptance.

In high school, everyone was forced to hang out every day, so best friends seemed to happen naturally. In the adult world, it can take a conscious effort to set aside time for friend-making. That's no indication of you being less appealing or fun; it's the reality of everyone having a unique schedule.

Quality time means time spent with someone in which you have each other's complete attention, whether directly, or by mutually sharing in an enjoyable activity. Drugs and alcohol

compromise your attention, and detract from true quality time. Because of this, it's no surprise that joining groups or teams, and volunteering will bring you closer to people with whom you could share quality time.

If that sounds like too much, you can still strengthen acquaintances into better friends. Pick your targets, and set up some friend-dates. Just like romantic dates, if you want to get closer to your friends, don't just wait for it to happen – make it happen. If you're not feeling comfortable enough to invite a friend one-on-one, think up a group activity to bring people together where you can share in a mutual interest.

There are several different types of friend-dates you can have in Halifax. Trivia nights are great for bringing different friends together and bonding over common or obscure knowledge. Check out campus and downtown bars for different weekly nights.

Picnics or tobogganing, weather permitting, can be a good way to get outside. Being outdoors entices freedom and laughter to all. Citadel Hill is great for bonding in any season.

Hockey, football, Ultimate Fighting Championship nights and watching real life sports in the city can be good group activities. This is particularly helpful if you're actually into the sport or teams you're watching. Come winter, we'll get the Olympics too. In live action sports, there's less conversation, and more cheering – but it's still quality time. Campus games are also a good low-cost option.

Karaoke, dinner parties, playing sports and making crafts are all ways to hang out with new people and have fun.

When you've been off your friend-game for a while, it can be hard to get back into the scene. Just remember that there is no shame in friend-dating; you'll both have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

All friendships are open relationships, so you don't have to worry about cheating or changing your relationship status. And the real best part: according to studies in longevity, spending quality time with friends has been correlated to better health and longer life. Try getting by with a little help from your friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Dec. 6 two decades later

Twenty years ago, 14 women lost their lives in a classroom on the campus of L'Ecole Polytechnique, an engineering school in Montreal. While this specific act of hatred and violence was horrific what was more tragic was the realization that, despite overcoming many obstacles, violence against women was, and

still is, a threat that looms large for many.

Also upsetting is the fact that many acts of violence against women do not come from unknown attackers as we are often led to believe. The stories of survivors and statistics show that abusers are often trusted friends, family members, lovers and partners.

This year will be the second year that the December Sixth Organizing Committee, a coalition of individuals

and women's organizations throughout Halifax Regional Municipality, have come together to plan events raising awareness about violence against women and empowering community members to get involved and speak out.

This year, a 20-day campaign was launched on Nov. 16 with a screening of the docu-drama "Polytechnique" and will conclude with the Not So Silent Vigil and Community Pot Luck on Sunday, Dec. 6

– the 20th anniversary of the massacre.

The campaign will allow people to reflect on the massacre, while also focusing broadly on issues of violence against women and explore the possibilities to move forward so that violence against women is no longer a reality for future generations of young girls. According to UNIFEM, one out of every three women around the world are abused and the Canadian Women's

Foundation reports that 51 per cent of women have experienced one incident of violence since the age of 16.

Halifax community members must remember the women we have lost from our community. Please come out and join us to remember and move forward.

--Jordan Roberts, member of the December Sixth Organizing Committee



SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

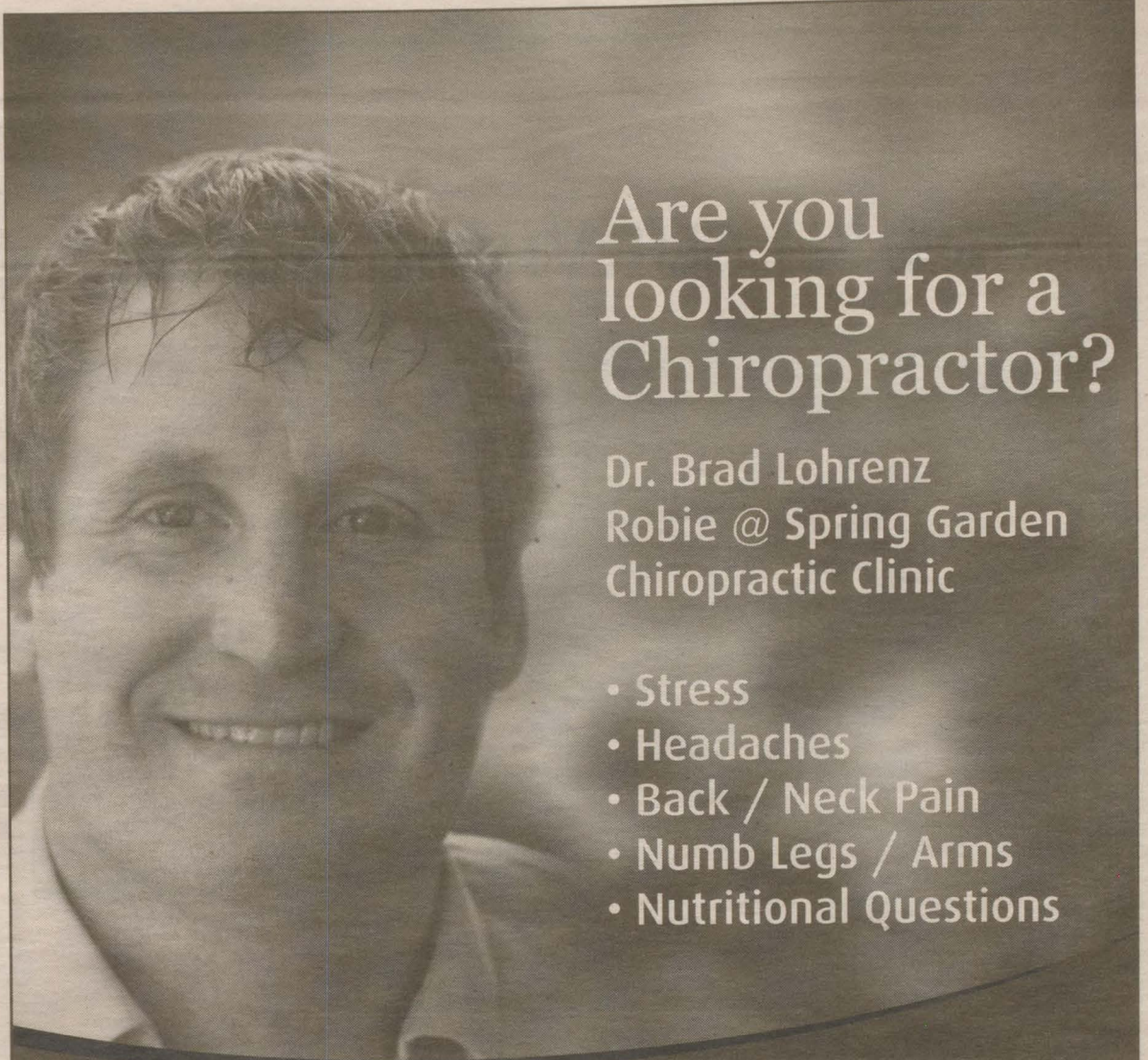
CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches, and instructors June 19 - August 14.

Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board and travel allowance. Information meeting at SMU during late January early February.

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Arts

Arts

Funny bitches

I'm sorry, did you say women? In comedy?

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

Evany Rosen and Cheryl Hann serve as living proof that women can be smart, beautiful and funny. They have it all, and it's hard not to be jealous of their success. Those bitches.

But in all seriousness, we're talking about a pair of hilarious ladies. They act, they write, they do stand-up, and they balance schedules that include at least two performances a week with full-time university classes. Between sketches with their eight-person improv group Picnicface at Yuk Yuk's on Tuesdays, and Joker's on Sundays, there is little time to spend writing philosophy papers and studying for English exams.

But the balancing act is worth the effort. "There's nothing else like making a whole group of people laugh," says Hann, 23, who is working toward a double major in English and philosophy. "It's just the best."

These wonder women are inspirational. They represent a new wave in female comedy that constantly strives to shatter stereotypes and break boundaries. Both Hann and Rosen acknowledge the long-lasting struggle that women have endured within the arts, and try to thoughtfully explain the foolish yet common attitude that "women can't be funny" or that "women are not as funny as men."

"Comedy is a younger art form in general, and women always get let into any art form later – whether it takes decades or centuries," says Rosen, 22, who moved from Toronto to Halifax for the King's Foundation Year Program. "There's going to be a whole lot of skepticism about whether or not women will succeed at it, which I assume they will, as they have in every other attempt they've tried in the last 2,000 years. But we'll see what happens."

Hann calls that type of close-minded attitude "nonsense."

"All of the people that I've always found funniest have been women," she says. "All of the reasons I wanted to get into comedy were all female."

For Hann and Rosen, these reasons range from Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino in *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* to Jane Lynch and Jennifer Coolidge in *Best in Show* to "Saturday Night Live" cast members such as Molly Shannon, Ana Gasteyer, Maya Rudolph, Rachel Dratch and Kristen Wiig. And then, of course, there's Tina Fey.

"To me, Tina Fey opened doors that didn't really exist for women," says Rosen. "In creating *30 Rock* she created the first comedic item developed by a woman that isn't for women. It's not a sketch for women, it's not a show for women,

it's not an idea for women, it's not about women. It's just funny and a woman did it. That's a game changer in a huge way."

Hann and Rosen are also thankful to Sarah Silverman for doing the same thing for stand-up that Tina Fey did for television.

"The first time I saw her do stand-up, it changed something for me," says Rosen. "I would say she inspired me, even if I don't love her jokes."

Hann, although not a fan of Silverman, grants that she is an important and influential personality.

Hann and Rosen are also heavily influenced by each other's wits.

"I think Evan is so funny," says Hann. "I think Cheryl is so funny," says Rosen.

Fortunately, both Hann and Rosen have never felt they had to work harder than the guys in Picnicface to feel appreciated. They feel as though opportunities are always made available to them.

"Especially because the comedy scene

But it's not all sunshine and rainbows for these two. Both Hann and Rosen claim to have bombed on occasion in front of a crowd. Hann recalls a show in front of a group of 50-year-old women in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

"I told a joke about transformers and they were like, what is a robot?" says Hann. "It was painful, but expected."

Rosen brings up a show in Somserset, P.E.I., as being "the worst show I've ever done."

"My opener at the time was about Jewish," she says. "They were like what are you doing? Get off the stage!"

Halifax, on the other hand, has always had a "wonderful audience."

"We've always been very lucky here," says Rosen.

Looking toward the future, both are somewhat unsure about what place comedy and acting will have in their lives. Although Rosen loves performing, she hopes to move more towards writing,

"Because the comedy scene in Halifax is so small to begin with, it would be silly if it were a boys' club. It would be, like, a five-person club."

in Halifax is so small to begin with. It would be silly if it were a boys' club," says Hann. "It would be, like, a five-person club."

Even within their own comedy troupe, Hann and Rosen are able to play around with gender roles.

"You would think that Evany and I would have to take on all the female roles in the sketches," says Hann. "But more often than not you see Bill (Wood) in a wig and me in a mustache, which is good, because I really enjoy wearing a mustache."

The pair even performed a show at The Paragon while wearing as much facial hair as they could, covering their faces and bodies in mustaches. "It was a feminist statement," jokes Hann.

and hopes she and Hann will be able to get to work together more on their own.

Hann, who wants to go to grad school, and ultimately become a professor, believes that performing stand-up is training her to speak in front of hundreds of university-aged students.

"They'll think I'm hip," she jokes. "They'll think I'm with it."

Picnicface performs every Tuesday at Yuk Yuk's at 8:30 p.m. and every Sunday at Joker's Comedy Club on Spring Garden Road at 8 p.m. Cover for both shows is \$5.

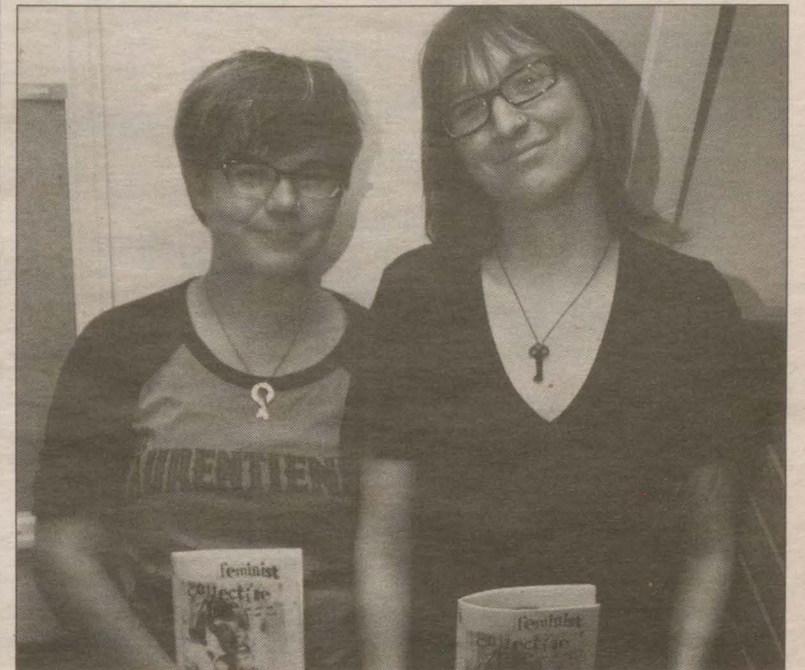
Cheryl Hann is a Staff Contributor for The Gazette. Evany, won't you come aboard?

Arts

Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. E-mail Laura or Matt at arts@dal-gazette.com to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor
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Feminist Collective Zine editors Kate Hazell and Jess Geddes. | Photo by Lucy Scholey

Giving feminism a new perspective

Feminist Collective launches Zine

Lucy Scholey
Assistant News Editor

In the dimly lit Wardroom, among pitchers of beer and endless games of pool, people are slumped in chairs with their noses stuck in a newly launched zine.

Other copies of the Feminist Collective Zine lay in piles around the University of King's College bar while local poets, dancers and musicians – including self-declared feminist singer Jenocide – performed at the event's opening Nov. 24.

The new magazine is the culmination of discussions and ideas from the Feminist Collective, a society new to King's this year.

Emma Morgan-Thorp, gender and women's studies major and self-described "feminist dork," helped initiate the society. She wanted to bring together a group of people to share ideas and viewpoints on feminism. It's a topic that isn't openly discussed on campus, she says.

"Only since the beginning of the Feminist Collective, have I walked into the Wardroom and heard someone say 'feminism' in a conversation over beer," she says.

She wanted a project to encapsulate the ideas brought to the society's weekly meetings. She pitched the zine, and fellow Feminist Collective members Kate Hazell and Jess Geddes took on the role as editors.

The theme for this month's edition is "Sex and the Sex Trade," with roughly 20 submissions from essays, to poetry to photocollages.

"There's a lot of very honest submissions here," Hazell says. "Honest words."

The submissions include articles about prostitution laws in Canada, burlesque dancing and consensual sex.

Fourth-year King's student Simon Ross-Siegel wrote about religious prostitution under Islamic law. For him, feminism is about "getting our culture to the point where women have access to the political sphere, voting, rights, institutional rights."

"I think we've fallen away from it, in a way. You hear arguments, for example,

about how women in Afghanistan are really anti-imperialist, in a way, because they're rejecting media stereotypes. I think this is ridiculous."

For Feminist Collective member and zine contributor Melina Giannelia, feminism is often guided by misperceptions.

"For me, when I was younger and in high school, the word 'feminism' was always a bad word and no one ever wanted to be associated with it," she says.

Since starting university, she says she's gained a new perspective.

"Feminism is not a bunch of scary, bra-burning separatists who think that the world would function only without men. There are so many different ways to express feminism and to be a feminist," she adds. "There are so many different sides and so many different aspects and I think that that's an important part of what the collective is trying to do."

Morgan-Thorp says many people are still misguided when it comes to feminism and feminist issues. Some have questioned the Feminist Collective's philosophy.

"A lot of people have come up to me in the past couple of months and said, 'Well do we really need feminism still? Isn't sexism kind of over?'" she says. "That blows my mind. I can't imagine anybody believing that."

But she thinks the Feminist Collective has opened new discussions across campus. The zine will continue providing an outlet for people who want to discuss feminism and give voice to the different feminist perspectives. "Gender and Violence" is the theme for next month's issue.

"I'm really glad that the term 'feminist' didn't deter people from making submissions," adds Hazell, who says she's pleased with the zine's response and hopes it will spark interest across the city.

"It's crisp now," she adds, holding up the black-and-white zine, "but I hope to see it weathered somewhere months from now in a café or in a library just having been enjoyed by many, many people."

PROF TALK



Professor Corke encourages female students to study more male-oriented forms of history to even the playing field. | Photo by Pau Balite

Dr. Sarah-Jane Corke

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

Your heart is pounding. Your hands are sweaty and trembling. There are butterflies in your stomach. Your professor has just called on you to give your opinion on whether or not Henry Kissinger should be considered a war criminal.

Speaking up in class is some students' worst nightmares. Dr. Sarah-Jane Corke, a Dalhousie history professor, is doing her part to encourage students to confront that nightmare head on through seminar classes and structured debates.

"I know that when I was younger I did not like to talk in class," says Corke, who specializes in American history. "I actually stopped going to seminar classes in my first year because I was so nervous about talking."

After eight years of teaching, Corke says she sees that women tend to be more hesitant to talk in class than men. She believes that her course content – American foreign policy and intelligence history – is linked with the social expectation that men would know more, causing women to hang back. But she also believes their reluctance is perpetuated by cultural barriers.

"Women are taught even today not to cause controversies," she says. "I think women should push the boundaries."

Corke often notices cases where female students are criticized for their strength in their arguments, whereas men are never condemned for being outspoken.

"It's difficult for a young woman to be as vocal and as argumentative – which I think is a good thing – in classes, without being labeled as bitchy or aggressive."

Corke thinks it is tough to find scholarly female role models in fields such as diplomatic history and military history, which could be a con-

tributing factor to this trend. She recalls doing her MA at the University of Guelph, where she wanted to study American foreign policy. She encountered strong encouragement from her male professors to choose social and cultural history, like the rest of her female colleagues. Even while doing her PhD at the University of New Brunswick, Corke had to fight against being pressured to pursue women's history instead.

"I'm not trying to be dismissive of women's history," she says. "It plays a huge role. But at the same time we also need female historians of American foreign relations, we need female military historians, we need female historians of intelligence. Women should be reaching out by going into all fields. I think they have a contribution to make."

Corke serves as an outstanding example for young women interested in studying history at Dal. She constantly goes out of her way to pull female students aside to encourage them – either individually or as a group. She also acknowledges that she's had a number of male students come to see her because they are so nervous about talking in public.

"I think men and women are equally insecure and equally strong," she says. "But I think it's harder for women to make their voice heard."

She always tell students – whether they're male or female – that it is much better to learn how to speak confidently in a second- or third-year seminar class for 20 per cent of their grade with people you will never see again, as opposed to learning the skills in your first real job interview or work presentation.

"If I could encourage even one or two young women to think about being a more active participant in their education, that would be a good thing."

The author interviewed her professor for this article.

FemFest showcases female empowerment through art

Tessa Elliott-Israelson
Arts Contributor

"You run your own pussy let me run mine," shouts El Jones, host of FemFest 2009, which ran last weekend at The Company House on Gottingen Street.

FemFest was a showcase of local female talent that supports and promotes women's artistic endeavours around Halifax. It was hosted by the St. Mary's University Women's Centre, a student-run organization that works to create a woman-friendly campus.

The audience members inside The Company House are mostly women, but there are also a few men (there is an abundance of pixie cuts, as well as a few mullets). Most people seem to be students or people in their early 20s, but there are some older people here as well.

El Jones sets the mood with a powerful slam poem about South African runner Caster Semenya – whose gender is being questioned – followed by a witty piece entitled "Why can't people leave my vagina the fuck alone?"

The rest of the first half of the show includes a couple of up-and-coming singer songwriters who are clearly excited to be there. They have the requisite angst-filled lyrics paired with sweet voices. This contrasts nicely with some well-placed belly dancing.

After a quick intermission the audience seems more vocal, maybe due to the drink specials that include the Butch option "Blue Balls" and the Fem option "Sour Pussy".

Then there is more spoken word poetry and raw acoustic vocalists – a high point being the edgy and soulful Katie Day channelling Janis Joplin – who declares, "There's a shit load of talent here."

The show finishes off with a demonic dance number by Bang Bang Burlesque, followed by a DJ who tops off the night with some Lauryn Hill.

Overall the reception seems good. While the room never gets completely packed at The Company House, more people filter in throughout the show. Most of the audience members seem to know at least one of the performers and cheer wildly for their friends on stage.

FemFest is actually a few "fests" – featuring singer-songwriters, a variety of dancers, and spoken word, as well as a craft fair and story-telling night. All the proceeds of the events go straight back to the artists themselves.

FemFest falls in the middle of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence, which began on Nov. 25 and ends Dec. 6. This is the first time the event has had a weekend of its own.

"I don't want to say it's exclusively for women," says Caitlin Blennerhassett, a student at St. Mary's University and the sole organizer of FemFest 2009. "It's for anybody who wants to celebrate the female community."

Blennerhassett hopes all audiences will join the celebration. She is encouraged by the feedback she received before this year's show from local media, artists, and preview audiences. She explained that she is dou-



Belly dancing at The Company House during FemFest. | Photo by Gaeby Abrahams

bly motivated with strong feelings about both women's issues and the local Halifax music scene.

"Basically my job involves talking to artists, nailing down set lists and locations, directing and stage managing the shows, and promoting it as much as possible."

Blennerhassett got involved with the event when she applied to be a co-ordinator at the St. Mary's University Women's centre.

The shows have been widely promoted all over Halifax. They have relied heavily on online promotion, successfully using social media tools like Facebook to get the word out.

"We wanted to get visibility not just for the show and the artists, but for

the women's centre itself within the community, as a safe space for women on and off the university campuses," she says. "We hope women will keep us in mind if they need something."

Blennerhassett says the purpose of FemFest is to create awareness and spread a positive message about female expression.

"We're celebrating moving forward and taking action. Maybe that's idealistic, but it's a good time."

Here, feminism is definitely not a bad word, but neither are men the scum of the earth.

The message is female empowerment through art.

English

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2009-10, a Review Committee is examining the Department of English. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Tuesday, January 12th between 10:00-12:00 noon, Thursday, January 14th between 10:00-12:00 noon, Friday, January 15th between 10:30-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 19th between 10:00-12:00 noon, Thursday, January 21st between 10:00-12:00n and Friday, January 22nd between 10:30-12:30 in the Marian McCain Building, Room 2186. Please contact Ms. Carole Poirier (494-3387). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

Dr. Krista Kesselring
kjkessel@dal.ca
Chair (English Unit Review Committee)
Department of History
Dalhousie University
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Arts

Editing Modernism in Canada

Resurrecting lost Canadian literature

Amy Donovan
Staff Contributor

Full of books, Macs and light, the McCain building's Editing Modernism in Canada (EMiC) office, overlooks that big red abstract painting just behind the first-floor elevators.

It's an appropriate view for a project aimed at promoting research in the more abstract literature produced during the Canadian modernist period.

"A lot of stuff was published during the modernist period in Canada," says Vanessa Lent, project administrator at the international project's Dal home base, and PhD student specializing in Canadian modernism. "And a lot of it just disappeared."

Modernism, a period characterized by experimentation in form, started in Canada in about 1915 and faded out around the 1960s. For a long time after that, people looked back at the first half of the century saying, "Oh, there was nothing really happening there – just a bunch of fluttering here and there, but nothing substantial," Lent quips.

"There was quite a bit produced that was substantial, and for economic reasons and different political reasons didn't get a fair shot."

Surprise, surprise: many of the authors who didn't get a fair shake from the publishing world were women or gay men. These people were writing in a style that was more abstract and less realist than "this idea of virile masculinity in Canadian modernism that was representative of our pioneering past" – an idea that was important to the public in Canada, if not to all modernists.

It's the abstract, left out, "feminine" style of writing that EMiC editors at Dal are trying to gather before it's lost

forever. At the moment they're mostly working with published, but unpopular works, some rare and some simply unknown. But the project is only in its second year, and will eventually start printing unpublished manuscripts.

Before EMiC's completion in 2015, Lent and her co-researchers hope to have republished many pieces in both scholarly and non-scholarly editions, and to have established a digital research base for academics interested in the subject.

"Surprise, surprise: many of the authors who didn't get a fair shake from the publishing world were women or gay men."

Over the summer, they scoured used-book databases on the Internet and purchased about \$15,000 worth of books.

All of those volumes will be "scanned for posterity" through the Dal libraries, and Lent says EMiC will probably make a couple more large-scale purchases over the next few years. Their grant, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, is approximately \$3 million.

So why were so many of these volumes' authors women, or gay?

Modernism as a movement didn't start in Canada until 10 or 12 years af-

ter it started in Britain and the United States, Lent explains. And by that time, people were afraid of it—afraid of "all this experimentation with form and especially the idea of abstraction; taking a human form and breaking it apart, if you can imagine," she says, citing Picasso's work as a well-known example.

"People started worrying about what this did to the humanity of the piece ... There was this weird alignment of modernist aesthetics and non-realism

with dehumanization and fascism."

It didn't help, she adds, that a lot of modernism's big names, such as Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein, were attracted to fascism at the beginning, before it became a reality. "They backed away from it, but that alignment of modernism with fascism never went away."

So at the time, women and gay, male writers were thought to be fascist.

"The people who did tend towards abstraction were called feminine and were called decadent and were called degenerate," says Lent. "The idea of art as needing to be representative, not abstract, was really important to Canadian modernism."

"As the years went on, the people who were aligned with the masculine camp happened to be the people who started teaching in universities and making the class syllabuses in what was then a really new discipline: Canadian literature."

EMiC aims to show that Canadians "always had a thing to say" about issues such as feminism and gender. It aims to "level the playing field for what was actually being produced" as well as leveling the playing field of research resources in Canadian modernism. "The principal investigator, Dean Irvine, is really focused on changing the structure of who gets access to information," says Lent.

And they're hiring undergrads as research assistants.

"We want to make sure that we don't recreate those weird systems of hierarchical power" with regards to where research money goes, like the ones happening in the publishing industry back in the day.

"That sounds sort of doomsday," Lent says, laughing. "But that's one of the things we've built into the project, to try to work between all these different groups of people, because the more experience you bring into a project, the richer it's going to be."

It's a win-win situation. Ezra Pound would be proud.

Divinus Inferno

A hell to watch

Delia Macpherson
Staff Contributor

Dante's Inferno is a love story that takes place in hell. When you read it, your imagination can't help but form vivid images of ice and mud and blood. The writing is dark and poetic.

Dante's Divinus Inferno was performed this past weekend in the Sir James Dunn Theatre at Dalhousie. But the show wasn't Dante's Inferno at all.

I'm waiting in my chair. The theatre is packed. Lights dim. Curtains open. A cello player sits centre stage, in the middle of a large dome. Two massive screens form a circular shape around him, one in front and one behind. I imagine these screens were supposed to be the highlight of the show: an edgy, interesting way of depicting images of hell.

After minute five, I had completely lost interest in the slightly washed-out looking images of space and the Second World War. It was cool in an "I'm going to get high and watch a screensaver off Windows Media Player" way.

Most of the acting took place behind the first screen, so their faces and bodies were blurred. The intimacy wasn't there.

The post-modern interpretation used familiar characters, such as Beatrice, Virgil and Dante, but it wasn't true to the plot at all. The play only spent about 40 minutes on Dante passing through hell. The only circles shown of nine were the first three.

The production was abstract and fragmented. Every so often, a random scene of a tour guide and group of tourists who were clearly from modern day, would stomp onto the stage in the middle of a scene.

For the majority of the production I had absolutely no idea what was going on.

The show was only about an hour and 10 minutes. The first few minutes included two small children: one riding a bike and the other skipping rope. We didn't see them again until the last minute of the show. I have no idea what significance they had to the plot.

The actors would mostly stand still in one spot, and speak out lengthy and boring monologues about the trinity, god, death, the universe, etc. There was very little movement at all. Mostly Dante and Virgil just stood around talking about themselves and listening to the bubbly tour guide snapping pictures with tourists. Dante was a whiney child, Virgil the uninterested parent.

There were no interesting props that would resemble hell. The stage was black. The lighting was white. The screen images were pale and dull. There were no

demons with body paint that moved with mind-provoking choreography. There were no upside-down crosses or skulls. All those things that could make a play about hell badass were missing.

Jessica Jerome played Charon in one of the few scenes that really captured my interest. She plays the boatman of the Acheron River, one of the four rivers in the underworld. The screens show water swooshing about. The sound of waves and the ocean ring through the theatre. She stands centre stage holding two massive oars sticking out of stage left and right. She wears a plain, ugly, floor-length dress. Her blond hair is down. She begins rowing and moving slightly as she speaks. Her acting is strong and moving. Her voice is dynamic with emotion and volume. All of a sud-

"It was cool in an 'I'm going to get high and watch a screensaver off Windows Media Player' way."

den, white worm-like things start writhing and crawling towards her. There are 10 of them, at least. They are souls swimming in the river of hell. They get closer and closer to her until she starts screaming:

"Spineless creature! Blasted Reptiles! ... We may be in hell but we still have our pride ... a place in hell is still to be earned."

Satan, played by Matthew Peach, was also really well done. He was a small man, neatly tucked into a black suit. He had a metallic silver suitcase and moved with a jump in his step. He spoke with laughter in his voice that was so insincere it gave me goose bumps.

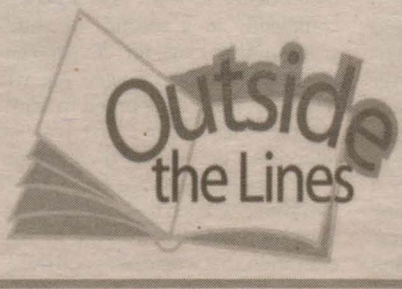
These two scenes were together less than 10 minutes of the show. Most of it was dull and blah. It was neither a classical piece of theatre nor a modern one.

Dante's Divinus Inferno was a failed experiment.

Political Science

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2009-10, a Review Committee is examining the Department of Political Science. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Monday, January 11th between 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 13th between 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 18th between 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, January 20th between 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Room 363. Please contact Ms. Karen Watts (494-2396). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

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Sonic boom

It Might Get Loud revives long lost love for electric guitar

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

It is safe to say that my Ibanez Art Core jazz guitar has too much dust on it. Its sunburst finish is lightly caked with white powder (not the good rock star kind) and its pearl finish looks even more pearl than usual. I've been too busy working, writing, living to touch it much in the past few months.

Working never stopped Jack White from picking up his guitar everyday. While apprenticing as an upholsterer after school every night, Jack White would spend the remainder of his time absorbing all there is to know about the electric guitar.

It is safe to say that Jack White is more the musician than I will ever be, and that's OK, because he really loves the guitar. So much so that in high school his seven-foot-by-seven-foot bedroom had everything but a bed in it. Jamming two drum sets, a reel to reel and a number of axes, a young Jack White had to remove his bed entirely and opted for a small foam pad crammed at an angle between his two bass drums.

I don't know how much of this story is true. This is the man who convinced an entire generation his ex-wife was actually his big sister. But mythology aside, Jack White is a downright guitar nerd.

This is what he is presented as in *It Might Get Loud*, a 2008 documentary focusing on three famous electric guitarists – Jimmy Page and the Edge included – that is in limited release across the country right now.

However, to say this film is merely a guitar documentary takes away from what this film really is: a love story. In no other film will you see three musicians talk so candidly and passionately about something as much as the guitarists discuss their electric guitars in *It Might Get Loud*.

The premise at the start of the film verges on being overtly cheesy. Three guitarists are invited together to discuss their passion for music and exchange anecdotal stories on how they gained a love and appreciation for the guitar. Jimmy Page is presented as an overtly cool guitar wizard; the Edge, a rebel rousing guitarist. Then there is White. When asked what will happen when all three guitarists get in the room together, he responds "Maybe a fist fight."

At the start of the film, White depicts himself as some sort of stereotypi-

cal guitar god, complete with danger (i.e. fistfight). As the film progresses it is clear to see that these three guys are anything but dangerous. When it comes down to it they are all music nerds trying to express themselves through a certain instrument, an instrument that just happens to be bitchin'.

The film does a great job of showing how the artists got to be world renowned through the use of old footage and artistic interpretation of their rise to fame. By showing Jimmy Page at the haunted house they recorded *Led Zepplin 4*, the Edge at the high school where U2 formed, and pictures of Jack White upholstering couches – it is easy to connect with the musicians and their varying pasts.

It Might Get Loud also really digs into the souls of the musicians by gaining intimate stories that get under their guitar hero mythology and expose something deeper. One of those moments is when Jack White, sitting alone in his Tennessee farm house, listens intently to a Son House record before slowly choking up and admitting that it is his favourite song in the whole world. The fact that a second later you see Jack White strolling along the southern countryside in a get-up straight out of the 1940s further demonstrates what this movie really conveys.

It is simple to immediately brush off *It Might Get Loud* as a guitar documentary before witnessing it. However, what the film really does is breakdown the mythology of these characters and shows the passion they all share for their instrument. The film evokes a kind of brotherhood through the electric guitar and it is immediately relatable to any musician.

Although starting off with some overblown cheesiness and slight pretension, it is easy to see that director Davis Guggenheim is trying to bring you into their world as opposed to allowing the viewer to merely witness them from a distance.

At the end of the film, as the set is being torn down and instruments are being packed up, the three guitarists continue to play together as a group continuing to hone their craft. Rehearsing a hit from *The Band*, it looks like something you and your friends would get up to on a Saturday night, minus wearing one of the Edge's ridiculous skull caps.

Never have I felt so similar to a group of celebrities before – let alone the ones who wrote "Stairway to Heaven," "Dead Leaves and the Dirty Ground" and "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" – than while watching *It Might Get Loud*.

Grade: B

Warning: endless tears will occur.

The film opens during the present day with a young geologist named Adrian Helmsley, played by Chiwetel Ejiofor, on a trip to India to meet with an old friend and fellow scientist. They discover that solar bursts from the sun have created a new type of particle. These particles are heating up the earth's core and causing the tectonic plates to shift, leading to massive destruction, giant tsunamis and – the end of the world!

The first chunk of the movie follows the events leading up to the year 2012: mainly a mass cover-up headed by the United States govern-

2012

Samantha Chown | Arts Contributor

ment. Things finally start to go downhill when John Cusack is introduced. He's a little known writer on a camping trip with his two young kids. It's now the year 2012. Yellowstone National Park erupts into volcanic mayhem and the destruction really begins. This is about an hour into the film.

Cusack hustles his kids, his hot ex-wife Amanda Peet and her boyfriend Tom McCarthy out of California, while avoiding the collapse of the entire freeway onto his limo. Yup, he's a limo driver and apparently those things can take turns really well. The group then heads to China to get on some arcs specially designed to withstand the coming apocalypse.

Not only is 2012 a tad unrealistic, it's also a

little too predictable. All the major landmarks in the States take a beating, ashes fall from the sky and somehow giant snow-covered mountains are always involved. And did I mention its way too long? It clocks in at over two and a half hours, so if you need to use the wash-room, rest assured you won't miss a thing.

That being said, 2012 is still emotionally charged and will leave you sobbing uncontrollably about every five minutes. Or you could just save time and money and tears: rent *The Day After Tomorrow*. Either way, you're going to want to call your mom right after and tell her how much you love her. The end of the world can be a depressing thing.

Where the Wild Things Are - Soundtrack

Rebecca Spence | Staff Contributor

Lawrence from *The Raconteurs* all are responsible for contributing to this fine musical endeavor.

Ultimately, the soundtrack owes its success to Karen O's writing and vocals. Her tone and seamless style is entirely necessary for the story's central theme of wild emotions, which carry the film from beginning to end.

Tracks such as "All Is Love," "Rumpus," "Animal" and "Lost Fur" perfectly embody the spirit and soul of the storyline. Without them, the soundtrack would not feel complete. "All Is Love" is an energizing blend of gang chants and whistling, making the song a truly magical anthem. "Rumpus" begins with an excerpt from the film's dialogue, in which the freshly crowned King Max proclaims: "Let the world rumpus start!"

Taking things to a whole new level, you experience the image of the rambunctious, carefree

wild things come to life through song. "Animal" provides you with a jolt of youthful adrenaline and ends with a hailstorm of howls and hollers that send a small shiver down your spine.

While the fun and games sentiment in the film's plot line is conveyed effortlessly in the music, these happy-go-lucky tracks are balanced nicely with others that are deeply melancholic. For instance, the instrumental "Lost Fur" – performed by the Coen brothers' chief scorer Carter Burwell – mellows the pace enough so you can take a well-earned break from all these shenanigans.

Before you know it the mesmerizing 14-chapter story has come to an end and you're ready to experience the entire thing all over again. Hopefully the child inside each of us never grows up.

Wanted and desired

Polanski doc part of Dallery's Looking at Creativity series

Anna DeMello | Staff Contributor

Grade: A

Recently the Dal Art Gallery screened a documentary on Roman Polanski, the famous Polish movie director whose life has been the subject of sheer media frenzy over the years. Roman Polanski's life has been wrought with tragedy, but he has also realized great success.

The documentary was released in 2008 but is probably gaining more recognition now than at that time because Polanski was recently arrested in Europe at a Swiss film festival for a crime he committed in California in the 1970s.

Polanski's parents were killed in concentration camps during the Holocaust, when Polanski was very young. He managed, however, to build a name for himself in cinema and eventually ended up working in Hollywood. He became well known world-wide for films like *Rosemary's Baby*, and worked with very famous actors and film industry big-shots. Polanski managed to accomplish a lot in his career and eventually married the love of his life, Sharon Tate.

He met Sharon while filming a movie in the UK. He cast her as the leading actress and their love affair bloomed from that point forward. It's easy to see the adoration they had for each

other, and to understand the incredible tragedy of what ensued. While Polanski was shooting a movie in Europe, he received the news that his then pregnant wife had been brutally murdered by members of the Manson Family.

Polanski's life would never be the same. It's clear through the interviews conducted with friends of Polanski that he was, in many ways, defeated and ruined by what happened to his wife. Several years later, he would commit a crime surrounded by controversy, and consequently fuel a media circus.

Polanski, while taking pictures of a 13 year-old girl for a photoshoot, would end up having sex with her. The girl's mother had allowed her to go to the shoot, and Polanski and the girl were alone when this took place. He ended up facing numerous sexual assault charges and the case was followed relentlessly by the media.

What we know is that, eventually, Polanski skipped his final sentencing and fled to Europe. He still wanted in America. What the film tells us, though, is that he had no intention of fleeing at all until things later became very unfair.

The lawyers who were involved in the case at the time speak often in the film of the injustices surrounding the trial and the media coverage.

The victim of the alleged assault was equally disgusted by the media frenzy surrounding the case. Judge Rittenband, who presided over the case, seemed to thrive on the media attention and went so far as to hold press conferences in his chambers. He based his sentencing decisions on what the public wanted and played with members of the court like puppets. Polanski and lawyers for both the defence and prosecution became convinced that he was untrustworthy, which fuelled Polanski to depart for Europe rather than receive an additional sentence.

Since that time, he has remarried and has several children. He does, however, remain wanted in the United States. Recently, upon attending a film festival in Switzerland, he was arrested for this crime.

What Polanski did was extremely controversial, but the controversy surrounding the case was perhaps just as shocking. It seems as though the public continues to thrive on the downfalls and mishaps of famous people in particular, which makes it difficult to form a solid opinion...

The final film in the Dallery's Looking at Creativity Series is *Rape of Europa*. It plays for free on December 15 at 5pm.

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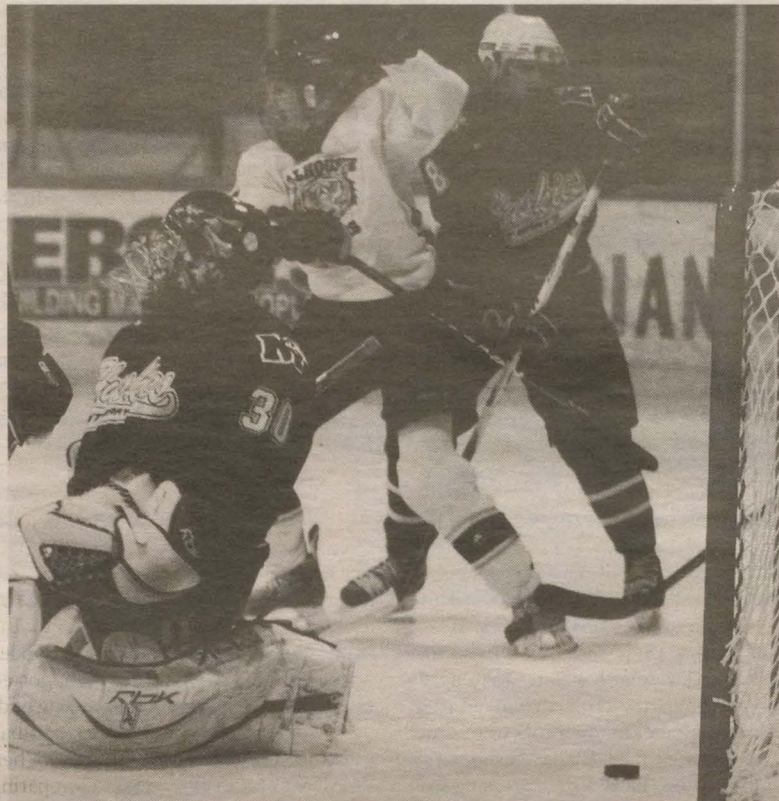
Sports

Sports

Sports
Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. E-mail Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff **Sports Editor**
sports@dalgazette.com



Dal's women's hockey team has made the playoffs 5 years in a row | Photo by Pau Balite



Dal's mens hockey team has missed the playoffs five years in a row | Photo by Pau Balite

Athletics still uneven playing field

Women winning, but lacking support

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Cheerleaders waving pompoms on the sidelines of a football field is the iconic image of the gender role women have long played in sports, particularly when it comes to high-performance athletics at the university and professional level. Great strides have been made in the last 50 years to bring about gender-equality in sports. Yet, compared to society at large, nowhere is there a stronger and more accepted gender inequality than in sports.

Whereas many professional fields traditionally dominated by men have seen at the very least strong positive inroads made by women, sports remains a blatantly male-dominated area. The average NBA (National Basketball Association)

athletes. The CIS defined equity as being achieved when "all persons enjoy the same status regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language, disability, income and other diversities. It means that all persons have equal conditions for realizing their full rights and potential and to benefit from the results."

Eight years later, Dalhousie fields 12 varsity teams, evenly divided between men and women, in six athletics disciplines. There are 121 male athletes at Dalhousie, and 125 women athletes splitting a varsity budget of \$986,000.

The university annually offers its athletes one of the highest amounts of Athletic Financial Awards (AFAs) in Canada, \$304,922. Sixty-one per cent of these awards went to male athletes, who make up 49 per cent of the total number of Dal athletes. The average male

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Average attendance for a women's hockey game is 140, men's attendance averages over 700 per a game.

player's salary is \$4 million dollars. The average annual salary for a player in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) is \$46,000. The only professional sport where male to female earnings are even remotely comparable is tennis. At virtually all levels in every sport, male athletes are regarded faster, stronger and more skilled than their female counterparts and are paid accordingly. Women simply do not have the opportunities men do when it comes to professional sports. For all the value placed on gender equality, there is an uncomfortable and often disregarded perception that, when it comes to athletics, women can't compete at an even level with men.

In university athletics, this perception becomes even more uncomfortable as university sports are essentially an extension of higher education. University athletics are unique in that they pit the intellectual and cultural values of academia against the reality of gender inequality in sports.

In 2001, the CIS (Canadian Inter-university Sport) Annual General Meeting announced an updated gender-equity policy to address concerns about unbalanced opportunities for female student-

athlete at Dalhousie receives \$1534.44 from these awards, while the average female athlete receives \$953.55. In this respect, Dal is hovering around the national average of 60 percent of Athletic Financial Awards going to male athletes versus 40 per cent to female athletes.

Of the 10,000 student athletes who compete in CIS sports events annually across the country, 54 per cent are male, 46 per cent are female. The reason for the disparity in funding is a large chunk of AFA money comes from alumni donations. Most men's sports teams have substantially longer histories, which may contribute to the divide. The Dal men's Hockey team for example has played 81 seasons since 1923, the women's team just 11 in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS), meaning they have larger pool of alumni donating funds to their former programs.

Alumni donations usually come with strings attached: former players want to support their former teams, thus the university has little choice but to give those funds to the specified teams. The alternative is to deny men's sports the alumni donations in order to maintain gender equality.

BEAT THE KIPPER

Questions:

1. Who is the highest scoring left-winger in NHL history?
2. Who was the World Series MVP for the Toronto Blue Jays in 1992?
3. When was the last time that the Dalhousie women's basketball team won an Atlantic Championship?

Answers:
1. Luc Robitaille
2. Pat Borders
3. The 2000-2001 season

Runners remember Heather Saaltink

Zack Wilson
Staff Contributor

This past weekend, Halifax and Cornwall, Ontario played host to the first annual Heather Saaltink Memorial Runs. The charity events – in which dozens of Dalhousie students took part – were organized to raise funds for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

MADD is a nonprofit organization created by Candice Lightner in 1980 after an intoxicated driver killed her teenage daughter. Over the last 29 years, MADD has raised more than \$100 million to improve public awareness and to offer support to families affected by impaired driving accidents.

Heather Saaltink, a fourth-year philosophy student at Lakehead College in Thunder Bay, Ontario was an avid runner herself. She was a member of the Lakehead cross country squad and participated in a number of individual races independently including a sprint triathlon and the 2008 Ottawa marathon.

Last Christmas, while returning with her father and sister from a day of holiday shopping in Ottawa, a drunk driver hit Saaltink, and she died as a result. The intoxicated driver in the other vehicle walked away with only minor injuries. The Saaltink family members were left without their daughter. Heather was only 22 at the time.

Nearly a year later, Saaltink's family workout facility, The Cornwall Multi-sport Club decided to host a charity run. With permission from the Saaltink family, the club set up a memorial in Heather's

name, in hopes of raising funds and awareness for MADD. The facility organized a series of runs, including a kids' two-km run/walk, and five- and 10-km runs.

Heather's sister Emma, a fourth-year Dal Kinesiology student and competitive runner herself, flew home to Cornwall to participate in the fundraiser.

Emma's roommate, Beth Mulvale, also a runner, decided to set up a Halifax leg of the run in hopes of raising money for the cause on the same day as the Cornwall fundraiser. Mulvale and other Dalhousie volunteers organized a five-km run/walk through Point Pleasant Park, ending with a chili dinner for all participants, and prizes awarded to winners.

Despite some light rain, the Halifax leg of the fundraiser went wonderfully. "It's important that students get involved in events such as this so that we can give back to not just the community, but to families such as the Saaltinks," Matthew Mactavish, a fourth-year Biology student who competed, said. "I had a great time today and I think all young people should get involved in events such as this."

Alisa Miller, the women's winner, walked home with a brand-spanking-new pineapple for her efforts. The Halifax run raised several hundred dollars, all of which will be donated directly to MADD Canada.

The fundraiser is ongoing, and charitable receipts can be issued upon request for donations over \$20. Those interested in downloading a pledge sheet are encouraged to visit cornwall-multisportclub.com/hsmemorial.shtml.

French

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2009-10, a Review Committee is examining the Department of French. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Tuesday, January 12th between 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 14th between 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19th between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Thursday, January 21st between 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Marian McCain Building, Room 3060 (Italian Lounge). Please contact Ms. Daniela Niggemeier (494-6816). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

Dr. Ronald Tetreault
Ronald.Tetreault@dal.ca
Chair (French Unit Review Committee)
Department of English
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4H9

Quelle horreur!

Laval to wait for a shot at winning Vanier at home

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Canada's university football team par excellence, are not competing for Vanier in Quebec City.

Even in the hot, schoolwork-free days of August 2009, the Laval Rouge-et-Or's second consecutive Vanier Cup was considered a *fait accompli*. On Aug. 30, Laval hosted the Western Mustangs, Canada's number two ranked team going into the regular season, in a pre-season exhibition game at the Stade PEPS in Quebec City. The Rouge-et-Or obliterated the Mustangs 27-0 before a home crowd of 9,000 (the CFL's Montreal Alouettes average less than twice Laval's average home-game attendance).

Starting quarterback and 2008 league MVP Benoit Groulx didn't even play a full game for Laval, leaving second-stringer Cesar Hernandez-Sanchez to clean up with 152 passing yards and two touchdown passes in the second half. The last time the Mustangs and the Rouge-et-Or had met had been the 2008 Vanier Cup, a game Laval carried 44-21 for their fifth national championship in five appearances, not to mention their fourth Vanier Cup in six years.

Long considered the *crème-de-la-crème* of CIS Football, the Mustangs have been the hallmark team of Canadian university football for nearly four decades; since the inaugural Vanier Cup game in 1965, Western has appeared in the finals a record 12 times with six wins dating back to 1971. In 2009, Laval stood poised to tie Western's six championship titles in only their 14th year as a team. During the regular season, Laval would go on to post a 9-1 record, outscoring opponents 333-61 and averaging 42 points per game. In Quebec University Football League (QUFL) playoffs, Laval outscored opponents Concordia and Montreal by a combined score of 94-8 en route to their seventh-straight Dunsmore Cup.

To date the Laval Rouge-et-Or is the most successful football program in CIS history with a championship success rate of 39 per cent in 14 seasons. By comparison, the New York Yankees have won championship titles in 28 per cent of 96 seasons, the Montreal Canadiens, 24 per cent in 100. So de rigueur was it in CIS circles that Laval was a *piéd-à-terre* for the 2009 Vanier that for only the second time in the trophy's history, the deciding game will be played outside of Ontario, the Stade PEPS sold out weeks in advance of the Vanier game.

Although university football in Canada dates back to 1898, (North American Football grew out of a game played between Harvard and McGill in 1874; the first documented game of 'football' took place at Toronto University College in 1861), Laval's Rouge-et-Or traces its history back to another storied Quebec

sports team: the Quebec Nordiques.

The idea of a football team based at a francophone university had been shopped around the province in the early 1990s. For years, football's popularity had grown out of the provinces high school and CEGEP athletics programs, yet talented francophone players had few options when it came to continuing to play football at the university level. Only three Quebec universities supported football programs at the time – Concordia, Bishop's and McGill – all three Anglophone schools competing in the Ontario-Quebec Intercollegiate Football Conference (O-QIFC). Located in a metropolitan area of 700,000 and with an alumni base of nearly 250,000, Quebec City's Université Laval was a natural choice for experimenting with a francophone university football program.

Despite the arguments in favour of football at Laval, support for the idea was far from universal. A football team is an expensive proposition, as Dalhousians are well aware, and with the national deficit tipping the \$40 billion mark in 1991, a fresh round of funding cuts were already on the way for Canada's cash-strapped universities. Laval itself had already cut its hockey program in order to free up funding for other sports programs. Since the '80s, Laval's sports teams have operated under semi-autonomous non-profit corporations supported in part by fundraising and sponsors from outside the Laval community. With the Nordiques franchise packing their bags for Denver, a consortium of local businessmen, Laval alumni and former Nordiques personnel managed to successfully assemble the necessary investment – much of it from the private-sector – and willpower to convince Laval, a school with no previous connection to football, no stadium and no extra money for sports, to enter a team in the O-QIFC.

The call went out to French-speaking football players across La Belle Province; there wouldn't be a stadium, or training facilities, or a full coaching staff, but they would be able to study in French and play in French for French-speaking fans.

In 1995, the Laval Rouge-et-Or played a season of exhibition games against O-QIFC opponents. Even with strong local support, many viewed the football program with scepticism, questioning if fans and sponsors could withstand the predicted years of winless seasons as the program built itself up from nothing. That first 'exhibition' season, Laval beat 1994 Dunsmore Cup finalists the McGill Redmen at home before 7,000 fans sitting on jerry-rigged bleachers. In 1996 the Rouge-et-Or not only won games, but also posted a win-percentage above .500. They have been above .500 in every season since.

Three years later, Laval celebrated its first Vanier Cup (or Coupe Vanier

as it has often been called) in a 14-10 victory over Atlantic Canada's perennial football powerhouse, the St. Mary's Huskies at the SkyDome. Inspired by Laval's success, the Université de Montréal launched its Carabins football team in 2002, followed by the Université de Sherbrooke Vert-et-Or in 2003. In 14 years, Laval has grown into the force majeure of university football; 27 Laval alumni currently play in the CFL and the Rouge-et-Or attract talent from across Quebec and the world including Africans, Europeans and South Americans.

Ironically, the Nov. 21 upset of Laval in the 2009 Mitchell Bowl by the Queen's Gaels was hailed as a David-and-Goliath match-up. Money flowing into the Rouge-et-Or program from over 40 private sector sponsors combining with season-tickets sales of over 8,000 has created a team bearing more resemblance to an American quasi-pro NCAA football team when compared to the CIS participation-over-results model.

The R-et-O are reportedly supported by a more than \$2 million operating budget compared to the average CIS football team's \$400,000 annual budget. When most CIS football players are preparing for final exams, the Rouge-et-Or are in Florida for spring training. Before each game Laval players are given DVDs tailored to their individual opponents on the field, and receive instruction from a full-time coaching staff of five. Most universities are lucky to have three coaches. Laval players are also aided academically by a supportive study hall and tutor program – presumably another advantage over a smaller-budget team. It is no surprise that as updated scores of the Laval-Queen's game were announced at the Uteck Bowl, both Calgary and St. Mary's fans alike cheered in unison for the Gaels.

For better or worse, Queen's University and the University of Calgary squared off in Quebec City to decide CIS football supremacy. The David-turned-Goliath that is Laval will have to wait until next November for a shot at winning the Vanier at home. With new athletic scholarships meant to compete with those offered south of the border under CIS review, Simon Fraser's defection to the NCAA and Carleton University edging toward reviving their football team under the controversial 'Laval model', there are changes afoot in Canadian university sport. More likely than not, the Rouge-et-Or stand at the vanguard of the new era in the CIS.

With 11 Dunsmore Cup appearances in their 14-year history, it's a safe bet that Laval will be back in the Final Four in 2010, leaving many in the CIS with a sense of déjà vu all over again and money will continue to grow as the eminence grise behind CIS athletic glory.

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Sports

Tigers upset X-men Dinos extinct

Dal climbs out of hockey basement

Tim Pain Van Der Kooi
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team climbed out of the basement position in the AUS standings with a 6-4 upset against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men last Friday night. The Tigers' offence was pivotal in the victory.

Dalhousie forward Jeff MacGregor scored two goals that night, while forward Kenzie Shepherd was named the Tigers player of the game for his two assists. The first period set the offensive pace of the game, highlighted by a lack of defence on both sides of the ice.

The Tigers scored first with a goal from Gauthier. After this goal, the X-Men turned up the offensive pressure as the Tigers began to defensively collapse in their own zone. With only minutes left in the first, X-Men forward Brett Morrison

scored on a wide open net after a great set-up from line mate Ryan Sparling.

The Tigers answered with a goal three seconds into the second period with MacGregor's sniping his first goal underneath the arm of X-Men goaltender Bryan Gillis. However, the Tigers resumed their sloppy first period play in the last 10 minutes of the second period. The X-Men scored two goals in the period due to poor defensive plays by the Tigers. X-Men forward Chris Hulit scored the first goal after a Tigers defenseman gave up the puck, to Sparling, behind his own net.

The second goal was a result of the Tigers' defence scrambling to get the puck out of their zone with an out-break pass. The pass landed on the stick of X-Men forward Nick Pageau, who scored and gave St. Francis Xavier their first lead of the night at 3-2.

The second intermission rejuvenated

the Tigers as they scored two quick goals at the beginning of the third period. Shepherd worked hard in the corner to get the puck out to a wide-open Tigers forward Jordan Gagne, who tied the game with a wrist shot. One minute later, Tigers' forward Brendan MacDonald wired the puck with a slap shot to beat Gillis and give the Tigers the lead.

The Tigers didn't look back. The two teams exchanged goals late in the third, but MacGregor eliminated any opportunity by scoring an empty net goal for his second of the night.

Tigers' goaltender Bobby Nadeau made 31 saves in his performance. This game marked the last home game for the men in the 2009 year. The men look to continue their winning ways at home with their next home game on Jan. 9 against cross-town rivals: the St. Mary's Huskies.

Gaels capture Vanier

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

The Queen's University Gaels went into the dressing room at half-time down 25-7 to the University of Calgary Dinos. It was a long road for the Gaels to get to Quebec City and the Vanier Cup game.

Queen's had not won a national football title since 1992. The Gaels narrowly beat the Western Mustangs 43-39 for the Yates Cup in the Ontario league finals and turned out a stunning upset against defending champion Laval in a 33-30 Mitchell Bowl win. The number two ranked Dinos had beaten a strong University of Saskatchewan team to make it to the Uteck Bowl where they stomped Halifax's St. Mary's Huskies 38-14.

The Dinos and Gaels exchanged touchdowns in the first quarter before a sold-out crowd of nearly 19,000 at Stade PEPS, but Calgary stormed into the lead in the second quarter kicking three field goals and forcing a safety. Meanwhile, Dinos two-time Hec Crighton Trophy winning quarterback Eric Galvic added a one-yard touchdown. Queen's exploded in the third quarter with quarterback Danny Brannagan leading his team to the largest second half comeback in Vanier history with three touchdown passes.

Calgary narrowed the gap midway through the fourth when Glavic connected with star-receiver Anthony Parker to make the score 33-31. But Queen's held on for the win, capping off a stunning 11-1 season with a national championship title.

Dalhousie University MSc Clinical Vision Science with concurrent Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology

This professional two-year graduate program offered by Dalhousie University in partnership with the IWK Health Centre offers orthoptics/ophthalmic medical technology education that provides students with unparalleled research opportunities in the vision sciences along with extensive clinical practice to prepare them for the profession of orthoptics/ophthalmic medical technology.

Orthoptists/ophthalmic medical technologists are allied health professionals who perform a wide range of diagnostic and highly technical procedures and, in consultation with an ophthalmologist, plan, implement and monitor treatment of a wide variety of ocular disorders, including disorders of binocular vision and ocular motility. They are engaged in a wide range of activities including research into ocular motility, education of other eye care professionals, patient education and vision screening.

The program involves 7.5 class credits, two extended practica and a thesis in an area of vision research. Students are permitted to exit the program after two years (prior to completing a Master's thesis) with a Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology.

Applications for the MSc (Clinic Vision Science) program beginning in September 2010 are now being accepted. Applicants must hold a four-year bachelor's degree with a minimum B average (GPA 3.0), with at least one undergraduate class in human anatomy and/or physiology, and a class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students may be accepted without these prerequisites on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field is considered an asset.

Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate the ability to participate in a graduate program conducted in English prior to acceptance into the program. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL test is 580 for the written test and 237 for the computer test.

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2010.

Further information is available from our website www.dal.ca/cvs or by contacting
Clinical Vision Science Program
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
PO Box 9700
Halifax, NS B3K 6R8
orthoptics@iwk.nshealth.ca
(902) 470-8959

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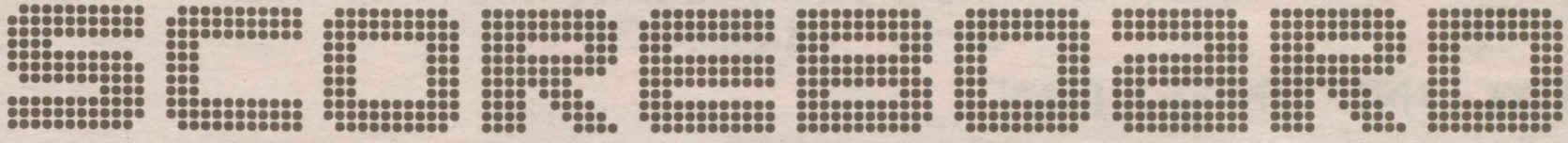
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Sports



Men's Basketball

	GP	4W	2W	L	Pct.	+/-	Pts
Acadia	4	2	2	0	1.000	33	12
St. Mary's	6	1	3	2	0.667	32	10
St.FX	3	2	1	0	1.000	65	10
Dalhousie 4	1	2	1	0	0.750	40	8
Memorial	6	1	0	5	0.167	-53	4
Cape Breton	3	0	2	1	0.667	27	4
New Brunswick	5	0	0	5	0.000	-103	0
UPEI	3	0	0	3	0.000	-41	0

Scoring Leaders

Player	Team	G	FG	3FG	FT	Pts	P/G
Joey Haywood	St. Mary's	6	58	8	12	136	22.7
Christian Upshaw	St.FX	3	23	12	6	64	21.3
Terrance Brown	UPEI	3	21	8	9	59	19.7
Simon Farine	Dalhousie 4	27	2	22	78	19.5	
Casey Fox	Acadia	4	27	7	16	77	19.3

Men's Basketball

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Acadia	4	2	2	0	1.000	33	12
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St.FX	3	2	1	0	1.000	65	10
Dalhousie 4	1	2	1	0	0.750	40	8
Memorial	6	1	0	5	0.167	-53	4
Cape Breton	3	0	2	1	0.667	27	4
New Brunswick	5	0	0	5	0.000	-103	0
UPEI	3	0	0	3	0.000	-41	0

Scoring Leaders

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Terrance Brown	UPEI	3	21	8	9	59	19.7
Simon Farine	Dalhousie 4	27	2	22	78	19.5	
Casey Fox	Acadia	4	27	7	16	77	19.3

Men's Hockey

	GP	W	L	OT	+/-	Pts
New Brunswick	11	11	0	0	44	22
Acadia	12	9	3	0	9	18
St.FX	12	7	2	3	1	17
St. Mary's	11	7	3	1	21	15
UPEI	12	5	5	2	-11	12
St. Thomas	12	3	8	1	-17	7
Dalhousie 12	2	8	2	0	6	
Moncton	12	3	9	0	-26	6

Scoring Leaders

Player - Pos.	Team	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-
Hunter Tremblay - F	New Brunswick	11	12	15	27	14
Cam Fergus - F	St. Mary's	11	8	12	20	5
Marc Rancourt - F	St. Mary's	10	3	16	19	2
Chris Culligan - F	New Brunswick	11	5	14	19	10
Matt Carter - F	UPEI	12	9	10	19	2

Women's Hockey

	GP	W	L	OT	+/-	Pts
St. FX	10	7	2	1	20	15
Moncton	9	6	2	1	10	13
Dalhousie 8	6	2	0	11	12	
St. Mary's	9	6	2	0	2	12
St. Thomas	9	5	3	1	-1	11
UPEI	10	2	7	1	-21	5
Mount Allison	11	1	10	0	-21	2

Scoring Leaders

Player - Pos.	Team	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-
Marieeve Provost - F	Moncton	9	12	6	18	12
Jocelyn LeBlanc - F	Dalhousie 8	5	10	15	10	
Kyla Thurston - F	St. Mary's	8	7	5	12	1
Catie Gavin - F	St. FX	8	3	7	10	2
Jessica Shanahan - F	St. FX	10	5	5	10	7

Men's Swimming

	Pts		Pts
Calgary	507	Alberta	209
Dalhousie 488		UBC	154
Toronto	314	Victoria	136
Laval	281	McGill	119
Guelph	261	Ottawa	115

Women's Swimming

	Pts		Pts
Calgary	508	Western	213
Montreal	305	Laval	163
UBC	298	Guelph	157
Dalhousie 259		Toronto	146
Alberta	227	McMaster	125

Men's Volleyball

	MP	MW	ML	Pts
Dalhousie 8	7	1	14	
New Brunswick	8	5	3	10
Memorial	8	1	7	2

Women's Volleyball

	MP	MW	ML	Pts
Saint Mary's	8	4	4	8
Cape Breton	8	3	5	6
Acadia	7	2	5	4

New Brunswick	6	1	5	2
St. FX	7	1	6	2
Memorial	6	0	6	0
Moncton	8	0	8	0





THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

RECYCLING ON SEXTON

Jean-Pierre Brien
5th Year Mechanical Engineering

A few weeks ago after the EIT talk, I was dismayed to see so many of my peers throwing their recyclable cans in the garbage. Personally it's a pet peeve of mine when I find recyclables in the garbage. When I see this unspeakable act I remove the recyclables from the garbage and place them in the recycling bin, which is usually RIGHT right next to the garbage can. Another of my friends, who shares the same pet peeve, began picking the cans out of the garbage along with me. Normally I don't dumpster dive but when it comes to the

environment I'm willing to get my hands dirty to move a couple of cans to a recycling bin.

I can understand why people complain that in most buildings, the recycling bins are not close by, however, I do not think that this justifies trashing your recyclables. I feel that if someone really has a problem with carrying an empty can down three flights of stairs, they should become more proactive about the situation. Approach the administration and facilities management to have more recycling bins installed throughout the buildings. If it is really too much trouble to carry an empty can

to a recycling bin, then please just leave it on a table. Here it will stand a better chance of being picked up by someone else and put in the PROPER waste receptacle, rather than just thrown in the nearest garbage.

ASCE lists sustainable development and enhancement of the environment in their canons and fundamental principles respectively. It is of my personal opinion that people who cannot be trusted with a little (ahem, a can) should not be trusted with a lot (ahem, an oil refinery).

A big question people are asking now-a-days is whether climate change is really a threat to the environment. A few things are certain; the human population is increasing, our actions are having an effect on the planet and our welfare is intertwined with that of the planet. With that in mind I think the question we should be asking ourselves is not whether the ice caps are melting but what am I willing to do about it?

THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE

Anna West
Editor in Chief, Sextant Publishing Society

As the semester draws to an end, I am excited and nervous (when I actually have time to think about anything other than my million lab reports, assignments, presentations, projects and god forbid... exams) about beginning my co-op term in a new location, meeting new people and learning new skills to bring to an unfamiliar industry.

While co-op interferes with settling into an area, getting involved and keeping friends, it does help students to taste 'the real world', get a possible feel for several industries and localities as well as breaking up the monotony of both the academic world and the working world. If I could readjust the entire engineering curriculum I would have it double in length (to approximately 10 years) alternating four months of school with four months of work. This would allow for students to remain interested in both school and work, by trading off from one to the other after becoming bored of the prior. Students would work harder at

jobs they enjoyed to impress the employer for hopes of being invited back again; students would not feel trapped in jobs they didn't enjoy as the terms are short; students would be more interested in school as more relevance would be found between academics and practicalities as well as knowing that as soon as the term was over, there would be a large break before the next one begins; and finally, alternating work with school would make university far more feasible. University is an expensive adventure, one that many are not able to enjoy due lack of funding. Working between every term would significantly decrease the amount of student loans required and debt obtained.

However, not everyone agrees with me as not everyone is keen to be in school until nearing 30. And really, when you think about it that way, I don't really want to be in school until I'm 30 either. Employers have concerns with not having permanent employees, but rather always training new young students. Others also have concerns with not being able to call any place home,

never being able to maintain active friendships and never being able to get involved in a community or school. Which, brings me to the point of this article: As I am leaving the province for a co-op work term, I am ending my term as Editor in Chief of the Sextant Publishing Society.

The newspaper will be passed over to very capable hands beginning in January 2010. The new Editor in Chief will again be looking for your continued support and articles on a weekly basis. Articles can be on any subject matter and can be any length. Poetry, photography and posters are also welcomed. All submissions need to be emailed to sextant@dal.ca for editing and approval. Students will be paid for all published articles with exception to advertisements for fundraisers or events. The Sextant will provide a medium for free advertisements, but does not pay the writer for such items.

I would like to thank those who gave me assistance throughout my term as well as those who submitted articles for publishing. Special thanks goes to

Zhindra Gillis and all council members of the DSEUS both from this year and last. Zhindra was exceptional in her knowledge of Sexton campus goings-ons, submitted several articles for the publishing and took over as Treasurer for the Sextant Publishing Society last April. I greatly appreciated all that she did. The DSEUS council allowed me a minute or two to speak at every DSEUS meeting, supplied several articles as well as assisting me in getting the paper more public by giving me a booth on O-Day and posting the billboard (made by Zhindra) in the Design Commons all semester.

As I sign off I would like to wish all of the engineering students, both at Studley campus and Sexton campus, as well as all the other readers of The Sextant good luck. Hang in there! If you've made it this far, you can make it to end. A book in one hand (or a calculator) and a beer in the other and you're all set.

WRITE FOR THE SEXTANT!

That's all she wrote.



Thursday December 3 • Open Mic
Friday December 4 • Trivia

Note: The T-Room won Best Trivia and 2nd Best Student Hang Out at the Coast Awards!

DSEUS dalhousie sexton
engineering undergraduate society

Every Friday Afternoon • EngiBEERing in the Design Commons Wear a Sweater Vest for a Free Beer!
Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

CO-OP CORNER

Important Dates:

- October 27 - December 31: Round II

Things to Remember:

- If you have found a job using your own search and not the co-op office, you need to inform the co-op office of this so you are no longer released on PlacePro.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>