

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868

Gazette

WHITE PAPER
Local newspapers show racialized people in two categories: celebrities or criminal. Hillary Beaumont talks to Halifax writers and editors for reasons, and solutions.



DSU accomplishments, failures and hopes for next year. Pg 4
Chicken ban ruffles feathers. Pg 16
Olympic opening ceremonies celebrate culture. Pg 21



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

DSU Executive Office Hours (Sexton Campus)

Shannon Zimmermen - <i>President</i>	Tuesday	9:00am – 12:00pm
Mark Hobbs - <i>Vice President, Internal</i>	Monday	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Rob Leforte - <i>Vice President, Education</i>	Wednesday	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Doyle Bond - <i>Vice President, Finance</i>	Monday	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Kris Osmond - <i>Vice President, Student Life</i>	By Appointment	

CASA Conference

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), your federal lobbying organization, will be hosting its annual lobby conference in Ottawa from March 6-12th. Rob LeForte and Shannon Zimmerman will be out of the office during this time as they will be attending the conference. Both Rob and Shannon would be glad to receive any feedback, suggestions, or concerns you may have leading up to the conference.

Please contact dsuved@dal.ca

Your DSU, Your Voice

Reminder that nominations are due on Friday February 19th by 6pm! This is your chance to have your say and to get involved in student politics. More information can be found on the DSU website under Campus Life, Facebook: DSU Elections 2010 and on twitter: DSUElection2010

Seeking Student Input

The **DSU Sustainability Office** is seeking student input for the formulation of the DSU Sustainability Policy. If you have any suggestions regarding the scope or depth of the policy, methods of enforcement, areas of focus or any other topic for the please email Emily Rideout at dsu.sustain@dal.ca or fill out a survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T9MBHPX>. Responses must be submitted by Friday February 19.

Accused of Plagiarism? Failed a Course?

The Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS) assists students with academic appeal and discipline matters. All inquiries are confidential. DSAS is located in room 310 of the SUB. Phone: (902) 494-2205 Fax: (902) 494-6647

Walking home after dark?

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.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive

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



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THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year. Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

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- 3 BASIA BULAT / HEART OF MY OWN / SECRET CITY
- 4 WOODHANDS / REMORSECAPE / PAPER BAG
- 5 GYPSOPHILIA / SA-BA-DA-OW! / SELF RELEASED
- 6 COUSINS / OUT ON TOWN / YOUTH CLUB
- 7 OROMOCTO DIAMOND / LE CHOC DU FUTUR / P572
- 8 K-OS / THE TRILL: A JOURNEY SO FAR / EMI
- 9 RUTH MINNIKIN AND HER BANDWAGON / DEPEND ON THIS / SONG MILL
- 10 MENDELSON JOE / MENDELSON JOE LIVE AT SIXTY FIVE / OLD BOLD RECORDS

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Radio Payam: Tune in to the only radio program in Farsi on the east coast. *listen live:* Sundays, 10:30am-12pm

Editorial

THE TRUTH AS I FOUND IT

Hilary Beaumont
Copy Editor

Truth isn't good or bad. Truth doesn't rely on conflict. News is good or bad. News relies on conflict.

This contradiction is one reason Daniel Paul, the Aboriginal author and historian quoted in "White Paper" (page 8) doesn't see himself reflected in Halifax's newspapers. Those pervasive 'good' and 'bad' lenses combined with a lack of diverse faces in the media, are the reasons local newspapers misrepresent 'racialized people'.

The local media misrepresent Halifax's population. Newspapers print stories involving White people more often than stories involving Black or Aboriginal people. As a result, publications warp racialized people to a greater degree than White people. A lack of historical context, and a lack of racially diverse reporters in newsrooms, further contributes to this problem.

The feature aims to offer evidence of this problem, and solutions. My goal in publishing it is to continue the discussion the *Daily News* started. The feature does not aim to label any one newspaper, journalist or editor as 'racist'. Though individuals make decisions daily that may contribute to this problem, the feature finds fault in structures and systemic ideologies rather than people.

In a survey of the *Herald's* news photos, I found disturbing numbers. However, I do not intend to present the survey as a scientific analysis. It is not.

In the feature, I use several terms that may not be immediately recognizable. 'Racialized people' is a more current, less offensive term for 'racial minority' or 'people of colour'. Equating the word 'minority' to any racial group is inaccurate on a global scale (four-fifths of the people in the world are racially diverse), and if you happen to be in North Preston (the Black population makes up 60 per cent of the community). 'Minority' can also be offensive because it lowers the status of a subject, while 'majority' places the subject on a higher pedestal. For these reasons, I use the terms 'racialized people' and 'racialized groups' throughout the feature. The words 'Black' and 'White' are capital-

ized to reflect their political connotations. 'Racism' according to the definition used by Frances Henry and Carol Tator in *Discourses of Domination*, is apparent in ideologies and institutional policies, but can also be attributed to

If it's the right thing to do, do it."

- Daniel Paul

individuals. "(Racism) manifests itself in euphemisms, metaphors, and omissions that support given ideologies and policies. It is reflected in the collective belief systems of the dominant (White) culture, and it is woven into the laws, languages, rules, and norms of Canadian society."

In addition, I do not intend to misrepresent or offend any group or person by publishing this feature. Unfortunately, I am working within the same system and prevalent ideology that I criticize. I am also working with a limited word count, as every journalist does. Ironic as

that may be, I remember what Daniel Paul said: "If it's the right thing to do, do it." He was referring to a White woman who found out the racist history of Nova Scotia while researching her genealogy. She published a book that shamed

her family's name, and she told the truth.

The truth is the local media do not accurately reflect the racial reality of Halifax. When the media do tell stories that involved racialized people, we do so in a tokenized way. The racialized people we *do* represent can be split into two categories: prominent public figure or criminal.

However, every year for one month, that polarization is replaced by positive, and sometimes empowering, coverage of Black people. February is Black History Month. It is also a media anomaly. Do reporters

and editors need Black History Month as an excuse to cover stories about Black people? There is no good reason reporters can't seek out the same under-represented sources and stories every day of the year.

Instead of anomalies, newspapers should aim to cover racialized populations as part of an overarching news philosophy. Tell stories about 'us', meaning humanity, not 'them', meaning 'the other'. We have a collective history of racism and segregation. We have collective stories, though we all have differing points of view. Newspapers, and other media outlets, should aim to collect those different views as sources, and employ people who hold different views as reporters. If we become aware of our biases, and strive to correct them, we'll have newspapers that show a flock of diverse truths rather than a dominant, White ideology.

Please continue the discussion by sending your comments, criticisms and/or stories to copy@dalgazette.com, or editor@dalgazette.com.

Vote!

✓ Gazette elections are coming up!
On March 3 at 6 p.m. come vote for next year's Gazette staff!
The room number will be listed on our website after Spring Break.

✓ The drill:

You must be a Dal student to vote. If you've contributed to The Gazette a minimum of three times over three separate issues, you can run for an editorial position. Candidates must submit cover letter, resume and clippings 24 hours in advance of the election. Snacks! Yum!
Questions? E-mail info@dalgazette.com or visit our office in the SUB, room 312.



News

News

News

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



Lucy Scholey, News Editor
news@dalgazette.com

DSU: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Achievements, promises and anticipations

Lucy Scholey, News Editor | Laura Parlee, Assistant News Editor



President
Shannon Zimmerman

What she promised:

- An improved DSU website
- A strategic five-year plan
- More DSU visibility across all Dalhousie University campuses

What she did:

- Started working with full-time staff to develop a strategic plan
- Listened to student response during Brains for Change
- Developed more concrete office hours for DSU executive members across campuses
- Attended more events on other campuses
- Hired a society co-ordinator to manage societies across campuses

What she says needs to improve:

- The strategic plan is ongoing and will need more work



Vice President (Student Life)
Kris Osmond

What he promised:

- To hold seminars for societies in event planning
- Increased visibility on all campuses
- Improved system for buying tickets for school events

What he did:

- Ran Orientation Week, Dal Fest, Fall Festival, Winter Carnival and the Munro Day ski trip and is planning future events such as Student Appreciation Night and the Residence Charity Hockey Game
- Created Dalhousie's Got Talent
- Worked with student societies to help run their events
- Organized fundraisers such as Shinerama
- Started Storm, a pilot project for an event magazine (Osmond says the project ended up being too much work, but he is trying to find a company to run the magazine)

What he says needs to improve:

- The ticket system hasn't been much of an issue this year according to Osmond, but a policy could be drawn up to make tickets more accessible for students on other campuses
- An equipment rental policy should be written to keep societies accountable when they rent Student Union equipment
- There should be a better way to promote Dal Athletics
- There needs to be a new hired position to plan events
- Osmond suggested there should be a better way to advertise events



Vice President (Internal)
Mark Hobbs

What he promised:

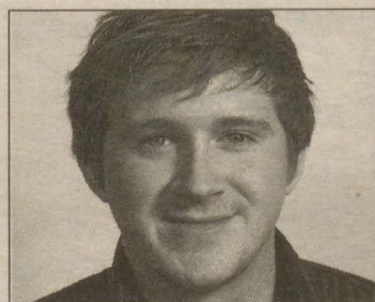
- An improved DSU website with regular updates and a web-savvy individual to monitor it
- The ability for students and societies to apply for grants online
- To bring back a 24-hour study space

What he did:

- Contacted different firms about managing the website, asked different campus groups for input and hired Think Digital Media to run the website (Hobbs says he expects website to be running by mid-March)
- Updates the website a couple of times a week
- No 24-hour study space

What he says needs to improve:

- All projects in progress need to be completed
- Needs to be a better way to advertise events
- Need to fast-track the society ratification process



Vice President (Education)
Rob LeForte

What he promised:

- To get the provincial government to match

infrastructure funding (This happened soon after LeForte was elected)

- To create an education policy committee (The DSU already had an education policy committee in place)

What he did:

- Ran academic integrity events for international students during orientation week
- Pushed for the Killam Library stay open to 3 a.m. during exam time
- Worked on changes to the academic study principals to allow for a fall study day (Students will have Nov. 12 off next year)
- Tried to make the information from student course evaluations accessible to all students (The proposal is currently in the Senate)
- Met with the Premier and Minister of Education to push for a comprehensive review of Post Secondary Education (The province commissioned the review on Jan. 22)

What he says needs to improve:

- The agreement between the Nova Scotian government and universities – the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will need to be re-negotiated next year
- Promote academic integrity among international students
- Student ratings should be public



Board of Governors Representatives
Janet Conrad and Adam Harris

What they promised:

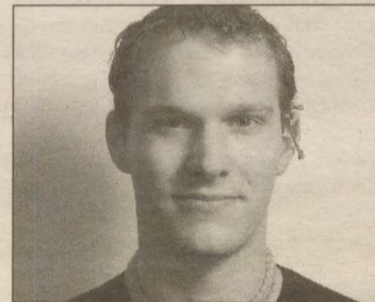
- To improve student apathy
- To decrease divides between campuses
- To increase the number of student services on Sexton Campus
- To work on constitutional reform
- Complete job descriptions for all paid positions on Council
- To address deferred maintenance projects, and to get funding from the government and through private donations
- To upgrade fitness equipment and get sheltered biking spaces around campus

What they did:

- Worked on making academic evaluations accessible online
- Advocated for savings from Dalhousie's ban on tuition payments via credit card to go toward student benefits
- Addressed deferred maintenance and got federal funding to improve the Dalplex, Health Professions building and the Sexton Campus

What they say needs to improve:

- Make it easier for societies to ratify and advertise events
- Get renewal referendums for societies



Senate Representative
Glenn Blake

What he promised:

- Wanted students to have a say in planning university infrastructure

What he did:

- Kept a blog about the DSU council meetings
- Wasn't on the planning committee, so couldn't do much about infrastructure

What he says needs to improve:

- Communication within the DSU
- All required readings should be available to students on reserve at the library
- Secret contracts need to be available to students
- There should be a welcoming group for students at the airport
- More healthy food options on campus



Senate Representative
Meredith Evans

What she promised:

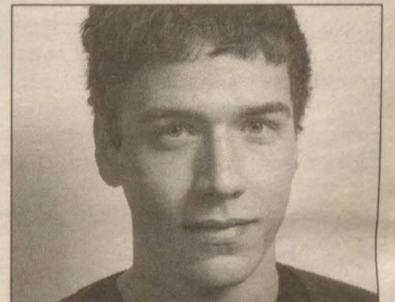
- A uniform grading system across faculties (Making sure an "A" grade is the same percentage in all faculties)
- To work with faculties to make students more aware of plagiarism

What she did:

- Didn't follow up on grading system because she says people stopped talking about it
- Worked on making academic evaluation forms available to students
- Joined the Committee of Learning and Teaching
- Worked to communicate more with international students about academic integrity (She says they can be more vulnerable to committing plagiarism)

What she says needs to improve:

- More work on educating students about plagiarism
- Better wireless Internet access on-campus
- Bring back 24-hour study space



Senate Representative
Shane Simms

What he promised:

- To focus more on the environment
- To ask students for input on making Dal more environmentally sustainable
- To improve the disciplinary process

What he did:

- Other than buying a reusable mug and printing on both sides of the paper, he says he didn't focus on the environment (But the senate committee on the environment also disbanded last year)

What he says needs to improve:

- Should be a committee that focuses on the environment
- More focus on welcoming international students in to the university community
- The senate needs to push for student access to academic evaluation forms
- Bring back 24-hour study space
- Improving Internet service on campus
- Levied societies need to be held accountable



DALHOUSIE
STUDENT
UNION

First Nations students optimistic about future despite funding cuts

'Nothing positive' about permanent end of federal funding says student rep

Ashley Gaboury
CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Despite provincial and federal funding cuts of \$12 million and counting, students at the First Nations University of Canada are optimistic about the institution's future, said student Cadmus Delorme.

"Number one, we will not let our institution close. What the students wanted from day one was accountability and transparency. We got that," said Delorme, commenting on the recent appointment of an interim board of governors at FNU, Canada's only aboriginal-run university. Delorme, the FNU Student's Association vice-president, said students rallied the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) — the organization that controls the university — to let "experts" form an interim board of governors.

The school's board of governors was dissolved earlier this month. "I'm ready to go back to school. I feel a lot better ... There are experts making decisions and I mean experts that have been through this institution," said Delorme.

He described the new board members as experts "that have graduated and have moved on and got the experience of working within the economy. Now they are bringing that back with ideas to improve us."

The school became embroiled in controversy after its former chief financial officer Murray Westerlund made claims of mispending at the Regina-based institution; both upper levels of government have begun to withdraw their funding from the school, and possibly may do so for good.

Although Delorme said he was disappointed to learn of funding cuts to the university, he is pleased that discussions are taking place to redirect FNU funding through another institution.

According to Rob Norris, Saskatchewan's minister of advanced education, the province will no longer fund FNU, but there is a possibility funding dollars could be directed to the University of Regina to benefit the school's students.

"What we've said is there will be no provincial public dollars invested in the foreseeable future in the First Nations University."

"That being said ... if there is a partnership agreement — a new deal — be-

tween the University of Regina and First Nations University that ensures far greater accountability, ensuring that we'll never go back to where we've been as far as the allegations and challenges over the last five years, then we would look at that option," said Norris.

Delorme said he would like to see funding channelled through the University of Regina.

"We have a lot of history with the University of Regina. We have always been a little-brother institution to the University of Regina. The history of University of Regina and First Nations education goes way back."

As for Indian Affairs Minister Chuck

to undermine the aboriginal control of education," said Crowder. "What the federal government would really like to do is throw all responsibility of post-secondary education to the provinces and wash its hands of it."

Despite funding cuts, Norris said that students will be able to complete their degrees, and that his primary concern at the moment is to ensure that students will be able to do so uninterrupted.

"What we've said is we want to make sure the students will have smooth completion of their semester and through the summer. We'll ensure that through until the end of August, so that takes care of interes-

"We've got to educate the public on how important this institution is to First Nations people, to non-First Nations people, to the province of Saskatchewan and to the country of Canada."

Strahl's announcement that the federal government would end its \$7.3 million in annual funding to the school, Delorme said the decision is "outrageous."

"It's wrong. I have nothing positive about what they're doing right now," said Delorme.

Jean Crowder, the federal NDP aboriginal affairs critic, is also disappointed with Strahl's decision to cut funding to the university, having recently sent a letter to the minister concerning his decision to pull federal funding.

"First of all, I think that the federal minister should have intervened sooner. The problems at the First Nations University are not new ... I think if the minister had recognized that there were some challenges (and) had stepped in earlier ... that would have been preferable to yanking funding," said Crowder.

According to Crowder, the federal government is backing away from its education responsibilities at a time when many First Nations people believe there is still an established treaty right regarding education — an issue, she said, that has yet to be sorted out.

"The federal government continues

sion and summer session," said Norris.

"We don't want to, in any way, disrupt students."

The sentiment was echoed by Barbara Pollock, vice-president external for the University of Regina, of which FNU is already considered a federated college.

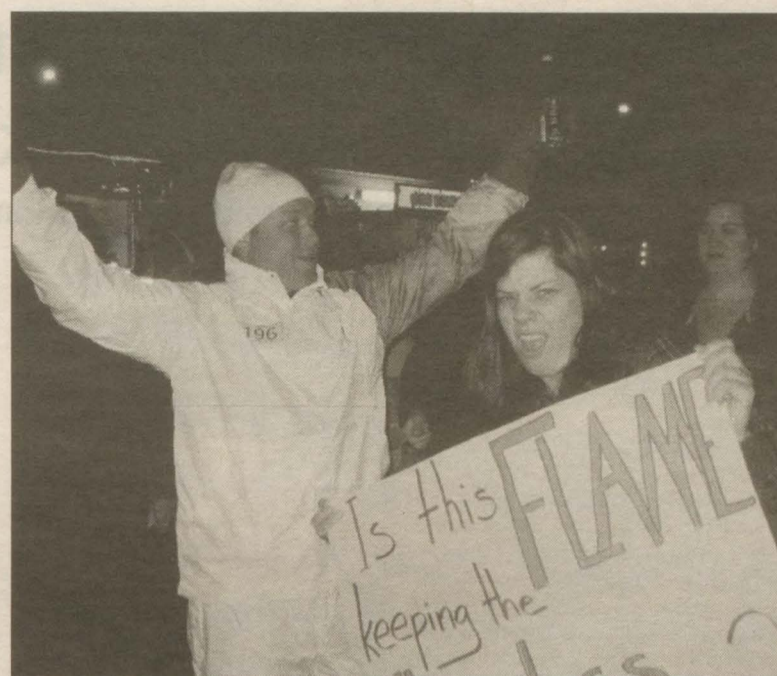
"Our primary obligation is to our students ... We will be putting in place measures that make sure that students who are currently registered in our degree programs will indeed complete them, even if they are in year one or two," said Pollock.

Norris said the fate of FNU remains a topic of important discussion for the provincial government, FSIN and the University of Regina as well as other stakeholders.

"This chapter has come to a close. The next chapter is in the making."

As for the students, Delorme said the next step is to educate the public on the university's importance.

"Right now ... we've got to educate the public on how important this institution is to First Nations people, to non-First Nations people, to the province of Saskatchewan and to the country of Canada," said Delorme.



UBC student Kim Larson protests in front of an Olympic torchbearer at the Torch Relay Celebration in Kelowna. | Photo by Lauren Gaudet

Olympic protests draw first-time activists

Not all protesters can be painted with the same brush says ORN spokesperson

Andrew Bates
CUP Western Bureau Chief

KELOWNA, B.C. (CUP) — "There's nothing I can possibly do as one person to stop the Olympics from happening," said Kim Larson, a UBC Okanagan student who protested the torch relay in Kelowna a month ago.

"I wanted the people who went ... to see the torch to think about the people who might have to sleep in that park that night."

Larson is one of a growing number of protesters of Olympic events that are getting involved for the first time, according to Chris Shaw, a leading anti-games protester and temporary spokesperson for the Olympic Resistance Network.

"There's a lot of people showing up and talking about showing up who have never held a protest in their life," Shaw told the Canadian University Press. "The Olympics have done that thing they claim they are very good at; they've united a lot of people."

Larson, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work, doesn't identify as an activist. "I am one of those people who has sat around drinking coffee with people, and said, 'you know what sucks about the world?'"

"I often share my opinions, but I never do anything about it."

"The newcomers are not the traditional leftist groups that you would associate with this sort of protest," said Shaw, a professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at UBC Vancouver.

According to Shaw, the Olympic protest movement includes everyone from taxpayers' advocates to businesspeople to simply interested citizens. "There are some single moms and single dads," he said. "We have soccer moms and soccer dads."

He said that this leads to some surprises when it comes to the protesters that arrive. "Some people are showing up for reasons that are more fiscal than poverty related," he said. "There are ... Russians who are coming out to protest the (2014 Olympic) Sochi Games. I have no idea what their politics are."

The public image of protesters varies,

Shaw said. "There are a lot of people who follow the mainstream media (portrayal) that all of the protesters are bunch of black-clad, hoodie wearing, face-scarved hooligans who are intent on breaking windows and creating mayhem. I don't think I fit into the black-hoodie brick-throwing type, but the police would like to pretend that we all do."

Protesters have been cast as the party creating conflict, according to David Jeffers, assistant professor of cultural studies at UBC Okanagan. "From the media representation, the focus is on the event of the disruption, and not necessarily the context, not necessarily ... the way the protesters figure within the conflict."

Larson said she is proud of the Olympics, but wants to raise awareness of homelessness in Vancouver and abroad. She's doing a practicum for her degree at the Kelowna Drop-In and Information Centre, which helps the homeless and other individuals in her community. It may have to shut its doors at the end of March, however, due to funding cuts.

At the Kelowna torch relay celebration, Larson brought a sign that read, "Is this flame keeping the homeless warm?" and held it up right in front of the stage.

"There was about a chorus of fifty people telling me in not a nice way to take my sign down," she said. "The police even came by and asked if I would like to move to the back." According to Larson, they did not pressure her when she refused.

Shaw maintains that it is the issues that are bringing people together. "They're doing that for a variety of reasons ... A lot of people just don't like how things have gone," he said. "They didn't sign up for this."

Larson is happy with her protest, despite the disapproving looks. She found that a lot of people, including Kelowna mayor Sharon Shepherd, came up to talk to her and discuss those issues.

"A few homeless people that are clients of the Drop-In Centre came to talk to me, and that was the most touching thing," she said. "Then (B.C. premier) Gordon Campbell drove by, and gave me a big disapproving look as he was in his limo and read what my sign said ... so that was funny."

Vote!

Want Free Snacks?
Come to the Gazette
Elections March 3 at 6 p.m.

The room number will be
posted on our website
after Spring Break. ★

News

Student employment numbers slowly crawling back

January marks first significant employment increase since fall 2008

Emma Godmere
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief and

OTTAWA (CUP) — Richard Mah would guess he sent out about 300 resumé last summer and didn't get a job.

He was on the wrong side of an unfortunate statistic. In July 2009, Statistics Canada recorded its highest youth unemployment rate ever, as one in five young people found themselves jobless.

But Mah is now part of more optimistic statistic — he was one of 29,000 Canadian students who found employment in January. Not only did he accept a placement in the University of Ottawa's work-study program, but he is also expecting several job offers to be awaiting after graduation this spring.

But the road to that job was hard. "Everyone was screwed last summer," said Mah, a fourth-year biomedical sciences student at the University of Ottawa.

"I guess I would have started (applying for work) around March or April ... I applied to everything that I could find," he explained. He applied through his school, to the government, and to retail jobs. And nothing came up.

"I would send away 20-30 resumes at a time, being like, 'Let's see if I get anything this time,' and for the most part, I really didn't hear anything back at all."

After sending hundreds of resumes, he said he only got three or four interviews. "I felt really defeated — I mean, I wasted how many months of sending things out, pounding the pavement? And I had nothing to show for it."

Luckily, many students have found work since last summer's high rates of unemployment, according to a Statistics Canada report released last week.

The Feb. 5 Labour Force Survey release indicated the student jobless rate is now sitting at 15.1 per cent, down from the 16 per cent reported at the end of 2009 — making this the most significant increase in youth employment since fall 2008.

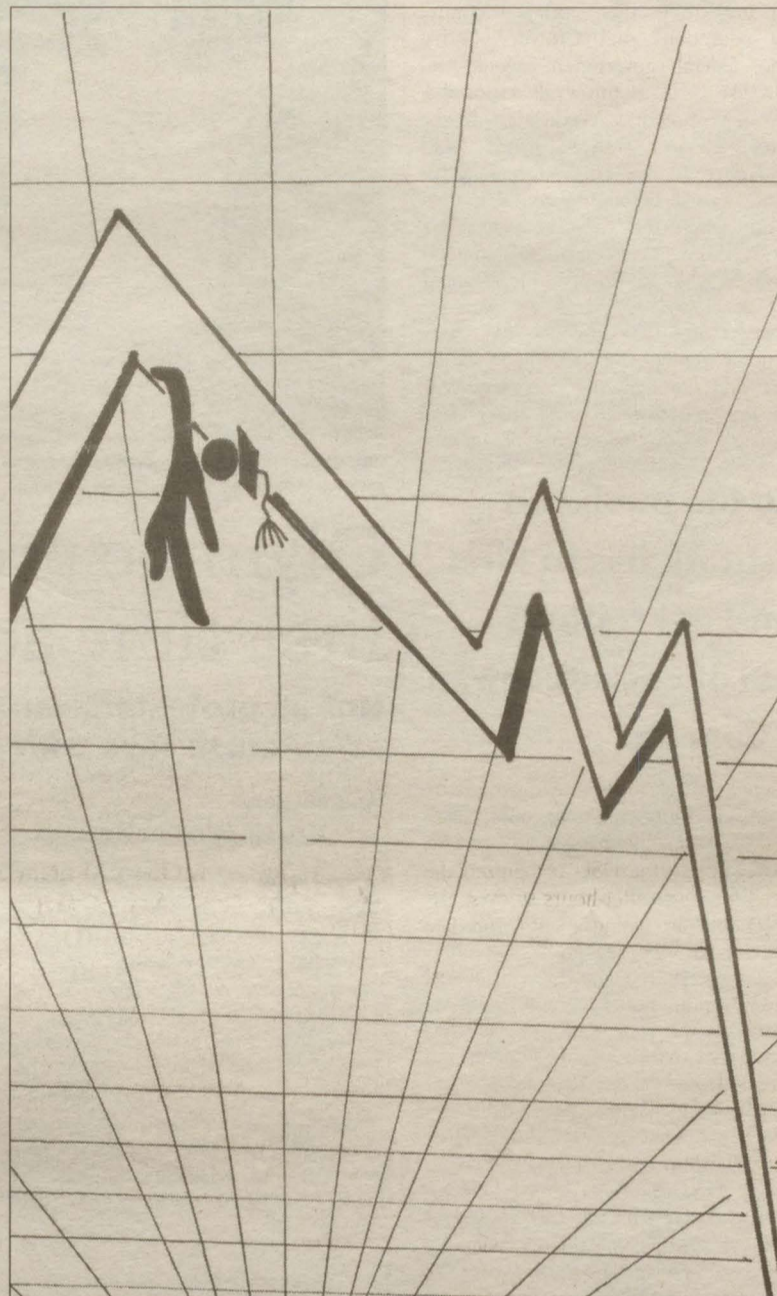
"Right now, the way to characterize the state of the labour market is (that) we're in a holding pattern," said Miles Corak, a professor specializing in labour economics, unemployment, and poverty with the University of Ottawa's graduate school of public and international affairs.

"The economy is starting to turn around (and) there's growth in production, but it's going to take a longer time for that to feed into the labour market and to lower unemployment rates," he continued. "A lot of people got discouraged by the (poor employment) situation of last year and have stopped looking for work — they might start coming back into the market (now)."

Few Canadian students have forgotten about the discouragement they faced last year, when unemployment rates among youth hit 20.9 per cent.

Mah, originally from a small town in Saskatchewan, explained that the extensive and unsuccessful search for employment even took a toll on his personal life.

"It's hard living away from home ... There (are) a lot of people who live close to home (who) can go home whenever they need to — I'm kind of stuck out here on my own, and it was really stressful for even me and my fam-



The way down isn't this daunting anymore for students. | Illustration by Alex Martin — The Fulcrum

ily," he said, adding that his parents felt the unemployment issue was his fault. Can other Canadian students expect

"The economy is starting to turn around (and) there's growth in production, but it's going to take a longer time for that to feed into the labour market and to lower unemployment rates."

the employment increases to continue? "You're not going to see a huge spike in employment—there (are) going to be steady gains that incrementally build up," offered Corak. "Things will be better than they were last year, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to be as good as they were two summers ago." Canada is still out 280,000 jobs com-

pared to the start of the economic recession in October 2008, and not all corners of the country experienced an increase

in employment — Nova Scotians lost 5,000 jobs in January and are now facing a 9.8 per cent unemployment rate. Regardless, Corak maintained that it is just a matter of time before Canadians hear of better news. "We're moving in the right direction — but how fast we move, I think (that) is where you might have some disputes."



"A politician can talk in the House of Commons until she's blue in the face, but if the community's not behind her nothing will get done." | Photo by Pau Ballte

Megan Leslie says you count

NDP MP Megan Leslie wants Dal students to stay involved with politics

Scott Beed
Staff Contributor

New Democrat MP Megan Leslie is using her time off from the House of Commons to re-connect with her riding this week. On Feb. 9, Leslie talked to a group of 30 students and community members about youth involvement in politics. The Dalhousie Political Science Society hosted the event.

According to a Statistics Canada report, Canadian voter turnout has dropped nearly 20 per cent in the last 20 years. It dropped below 60 per cent for the first time in the 2008 election.

Dr. Kristin Good, a political science professor at Dalhousie, says voter deference is to blame for the most part. In four years, Canadians have gone to the polls for three separate federal elections. In the same time period, there have also been two provincial elections and two municipal elections. With frequencies this high, many Nova Scotians have cast ballots more often than they've gone to the dentist.

Voter turnout is not the only thing in decline. Participation in all aspects of formal politics has dropped. The population hit hardest by the political apathy bug seem to be the youth. But Leslie says that dwindling voter turnout numbers can be misleading.

"Just because you're not volunteering with the liberals, or a card holding NDP member, or you're not involved with electoral politics doesn't mean you are not involved in politics. Student government, community engagement, and activism are all important parts of political culture," she says.

Many Dalhousie students are involved in student groups such as Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC) and Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), which both have mandates to help promote grassroots politics and to develop political, social and cultural awareness on campus.

SMAC and NSPIRG have recently been working with other campus groups such as Campus Action on Food (CAF) to provide alternative food options to students.

Sébastien Poissant Labelle is a member of NSPIRG. He says that last year's "Stop NSPIRG" campaign dealt a serious blow to the activist movement on campus.

"What freedom do students groups have to be critical of student-run political institutions if what they say puts their group or some other group at financial risk?" asks Labelle.

One of NSPIRG's goals is to maintain accountability between the students of Dalhousie. Labelle says they can't perform that job to the best of their ability if the future of their budget is unclear. To maintain a healthy and vibrant student activist community at Dal, he believes NSPIRG needs to be able to act freely.

Jennifer Chisholm, president of the Dalhousie Political Science Society, says these interest groups have undeniable value on campus because they bring political discussion outside of the classroom and into a more social setting, which automatically makes politics more accessible to students.

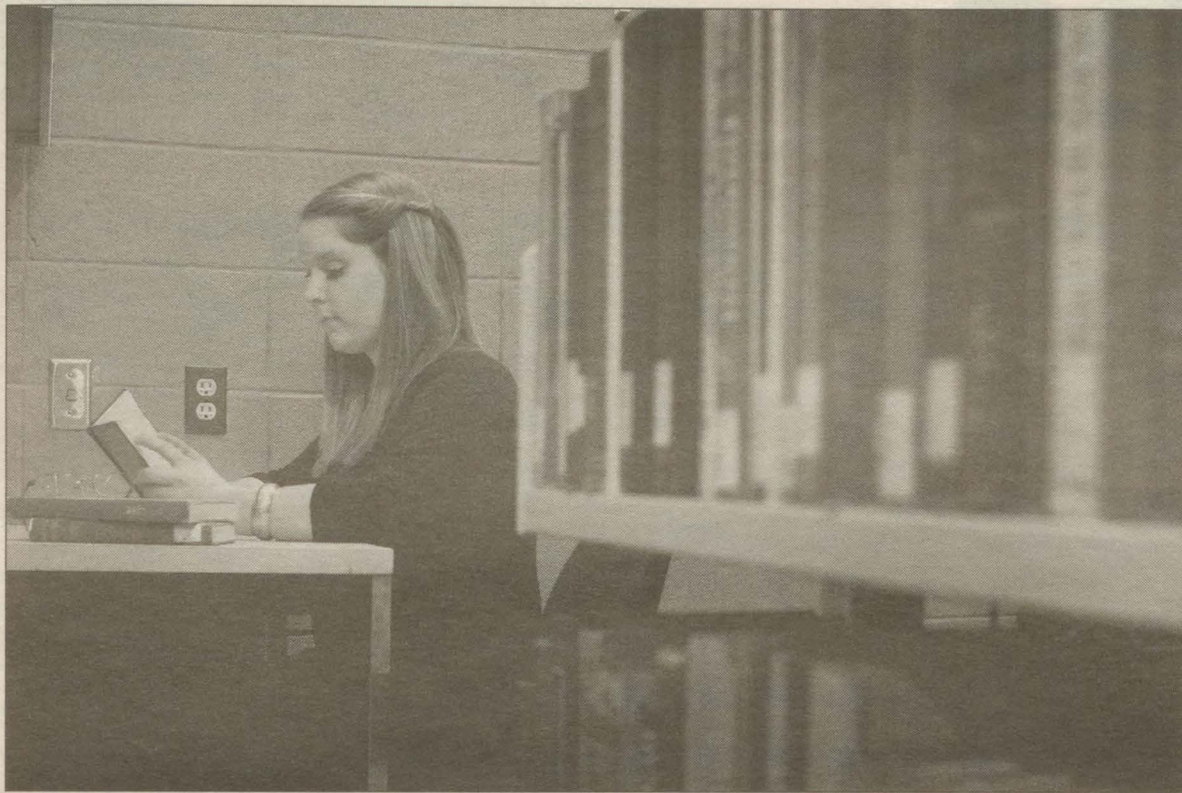
Leslie also stressed that community matters.

"A politician can talk in the house of commons until she's blue in the face but if the community's not behind her, nothing will get done. And the same goes in the community: They can get behind an issue but if the MP doesn't then their voice won't be heard," she says. "Don't assume that your MP knows the issue and is purposely ignoring it. He (or she) could just be ignorant on the matter."

She says if the politician doesn't know the facts, it's the constituents' job to inform him or her.

Leslie is still concerned with the growing mantra that one vote won't change anything.

"I really believe that every vote does count. I really believe that every letter to an MP counts. I really believe that every community meeting counts."



Students will be able to spend more time studying at the Killam Library. | Photo by Pau Balite

Killam to stay open until 3 a.m. Still no 24-hour study space on campus

Meriha Beaton
News Contributor

Dalhousie students will soon have a new place to study late at night. For exam preparation time, the Killam Library will be open until 3 a.m.

"After the loss of the Computer Science building as a late night study space, most students had no option for a late night study space facility," says Rob LeForte, vice president (education) of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). "We took this feedback very seriously and lobbied the university administration on the issue." Dal Student Services proposed extended study hours last fall, and facility management laid out the project's cost. The university is working on installing Dal card readers and other security measures.

"The advantage is simple to see for students," LeForte wrote in an e-mail. "If a student needs a place on campus to study late at night or get together to do group work, it will be there."

The DSU argued that students had no safe place to study past midnight. Students who work late hours with a part-time job need a place to go afterwards to study. The Killam also provides free Internet access for students who don't have wireless at home.

When she heard about the ex-

tended hours, second-year Dal student Mira Karasik was pleased.

"People have different schedules, so I think it is important that the library's resources are accessible whenever they need it," says Karasik. "Especially during midterms and exams, because people do tend to stay up past 12."

LeForte admits that there are a few concerns surrounding these changes, but says they are minor compared to the advantages. For instance, there's the danger of students walking home alone at night, along with the health concern that later hours of operation will advocate unhealthy sleeping patterns.

"We did identify that a potential disadvantage could be dangers associated with walking home after a late night of school work, but have considered this around discussions of implementation," says LeForte. "I think it is important to note that health concerns associated with staying up late to finish schoolwork were a component to the decision to eliminate a 24-hour study space."

Up until two years ago, the Computer Science Building offered a 24-hour study space. But Jeff Lamb, assistant vice president for Facilities Management, said in a DalNews article that only a few students stayed in the building until the wee hours of the morning. That was not enough to

maintain an overnight employee and the university didn't want to encourage late-night study habits, he said at the time.

Regardless, the DSU recognized the need for a safe after-hours study space.

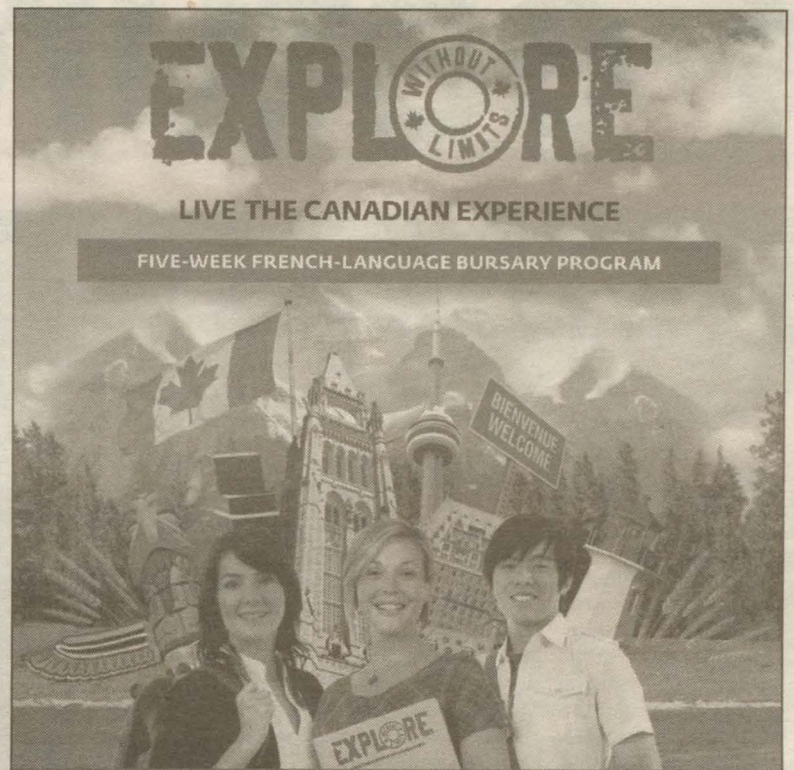
"People are going to stay up late anyway, and if they go back to, lets say, their homes or the (residence) rooms, that's not a very good study space all the time," says Karasik. "It's important to have quiet computers, if you don't have one, and books."

To ensure maximum safety, the university will install security cameras in the Killam's atrium and Learning Commons.

"To keep the facility open late, security has been top priority," says LeForte. "Security cameras will enable monitoring and give peace of mind to those using the space."

The exact date for these changes is yet to be announced, but they should be implemented in time for exam period. If more students use the late-night space, the administration will consider making the changes permanent. Although more time and money will be needed to make these transformations last year round, they will benefit the students in the long run.

"If students need to stay up late to study and do their work, they have a safe and convenient place to do it," says LeForte.



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WHITE PAPER

Local newspapers fail to reflect racial reality

Hilary Beaumont
Copy Editor

Radio reporter Asaf Rashid believes a community member without a voice in the local media is like a journalist stripped of free speech. So last June when his co-worker proposed a new publication to expose racism in Halifax, Rashid didn't hesitate to help. Called *Racism in Perspective*, the new magazine funded by the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is scheduled to debut as early as this spring.

"It's really important," said Rashid, campaign co-ordinator for NSPIRG. "Specifically because of how bad the media coverage has been in general about issues around racism. It's the same type of stereotypes over and over again."

Rashid tacked and stapled posters around Halifax. He sent e-mails calling for poetry, essays, songs, comics, photos and artwork – anything rooted in the idea of 'race'. "We invite you to call it as you see it, and to say it loud and clear," the posters proclaimed.

Rashid felt drawn to the project. Last May he covered community reaction to schoolyard brawls at Cole Harbour and Auburn Drive high schools for CKDU. While interviewing the students and parents involved, he noticed a rift between his sources' stories. The police and school board told one tale while Black parents and children told another. Yet Rashid said the local media did little to represent Black students' stories of police brutality.

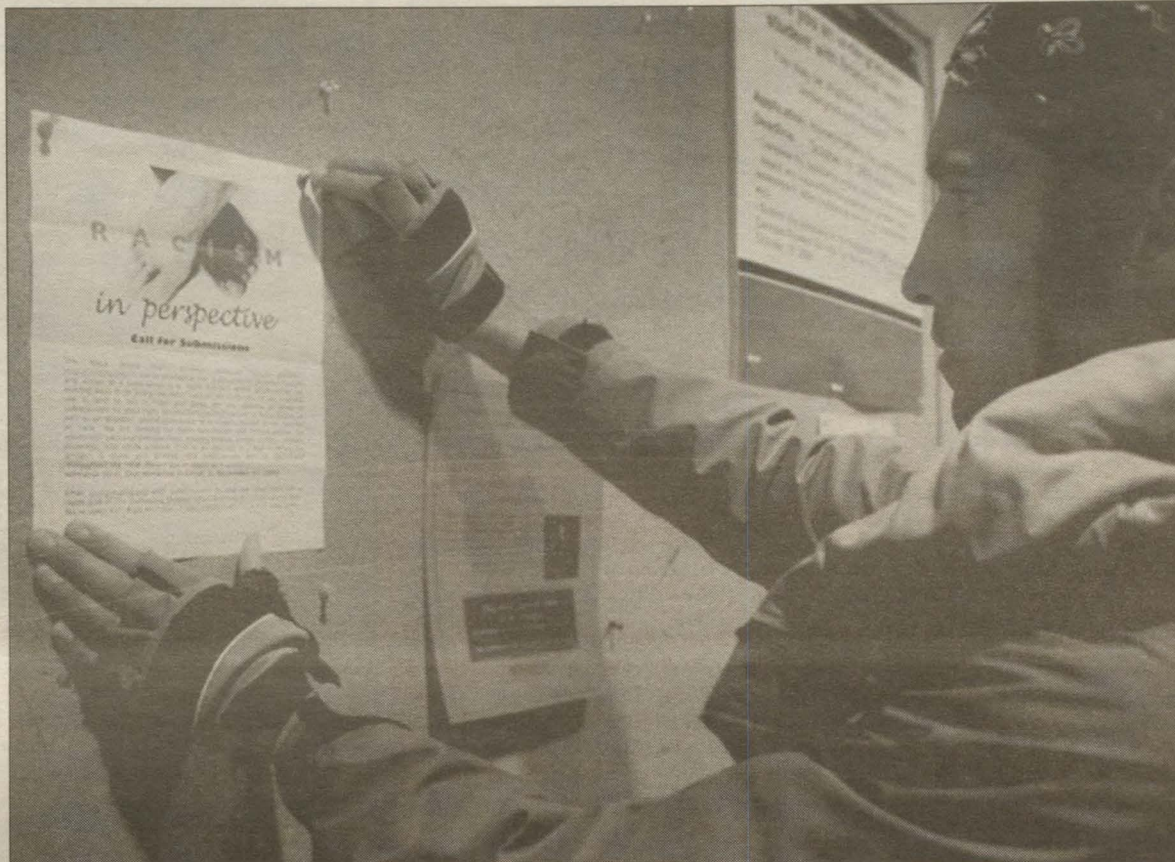
"The problem is a lack of places out there where the voices of the people who are facing these daily assaults and harassments within these marginalized communities (can be heard, and a) lack of space for those stories to come out," he said. "So we want to create that space."

In local newspapers, white faces fill that space. Halifax's print media do not reflect the racial reality of the city, of the province, in an accurate way. We do not tell stories about racism and institutional injustices as part of an overarching news philosophy; instead we talk about race in a tokenized manner. We carelessly misrepresent racialized people as celebrities or criminals. We fail to provide vital historical context for traditionally under-represented communities.

However, opposing views on racial coverage exist in local newsrooms. Some people see White paper. Some people don't.

Newspapers neglect to represent racialized people

On the side streets off of Spring Garden Road, I asked 10 people – all who have lived in Halifax for more than one year and who regularly read the news – the same question: Are racialized people under-represented, equally represented or over-represented in Halifax's print media? Seven people said



Asaf Rashid, campaign co-ordinator for NSPIRG, tacks up a poster in the SUB calling for submissions to a new publication called *Racism in Perspective*. | Photo by Hilary Beaumont

they are under-represented. Two said they are equally represented. One said they are over-represented.

After this informal survey, I decided to look at the *Chronicle Herald* – the most widely read newspaper in Nova Scotia, and the largest independent daily in Atlantic Canada.

It is not possible to determine race

Ninety three per cent of identifiable photos were of White people. Seven per cent showed people from racialized groups.

In an e-mail Dan Leger, director of news content at the *Herald*, said these numbers are not a fair representation of the paper.

"I do not believe that analyzing the content of one section of a newspaper

the cover fell mostly into two categories: prominent public figure or criminal.

In May, Tiger Woods graced the front page twice and pictures of Black youth involved in the same arrests on which Rashid reported made the front page four times. Three crime stories with photos also showed racialized people that month. In October, O.J. Simpson,

"A newspaper's responsibility is to begin to work with society toward improving itself." – Daniel Paul

based on named sources. Instead I analyzed the *Herald's* photos because they superficially reflect the people in the stories they accompany.

I counted the photos in the paper's "A" section (local, national and international news) for one month. Then I categorized the people in the photos by race.

From Aug. 22 to Sept. 22 this year, the *Chronicle Herald* printed 304 photos that showed people. Of these photos, 283 showed White people, 11 showed Black people, four showed Aboriginal people and six showed people from other racial backgrounds.

over a very limited time will provide enough data to properly understand what that paper is doing, for good or ill," he wrote. "As an editor, I would never accept that methodology for a news story. Any conclusions drawn from such a limited sample, which doesn't include coverage of the arts, sports or business, to give a few examples, would be very suspect."

In addition, I surveyed photos from the *Herald's* front pages for three months in 2009. The numbers were similar: one person in every 10 was from a racialized group. I also noted the context of these photos. The racialized people who made

two Black men charged with murder and a Black former child soldier were pictured in front-page photos. In June, Jesse Jackson, Michael Jackson and politician Percy Paris made the cover.

Aboriginal people were by far the most under-represented; over the span of three months only one Aboriginal person appeared on the cover. He danced in a stand-alone photo wearing traditional clothing. The *Herald* did not provide historical context.

Aboriginal author Daniel Paul said he isn't represented in Halifax's print media. Paul, author of *We Weren't the Sav-*

ages, gave a talk at Dalhousie's Student Union Building on Jan. 28. He told students and faculty the true history of Nova Scotia, which he outlines in his book, and pointed to recent examples of racism in the local media.

"For the *Halifax Herald* to have published that little 'today in history' thing where a White man discovered the mouth of the Amazon – that's utter nonsense. The place was discovered for thousands of years before any European ever saw the mouth of the Amazon. But it's a demonstration of White supremacist thinking when these people who edit such things can't see in their minds the people who were there. (We are) victimized by a racism that's so pervasive that it's invisible."

Paul, who wrote for the *Herald* in 1994, said newspapers should start a campaign to eliminate systemic racism from Nova Scotia.

"It needs to be done," he said in a brief interview after his presentation. "Newspapers are the ones that are the dispensers of information. ... When you're looking at television news you get a few paragraphs about something and that's about it. But newspapers can publish stories from the past and revelations, and ask questions. A newspaper's responsibility is to begin to work with society toward improving itself."

Jon Tattie, a freelance writer and author, pitches stories to local print media outlets. He said local newspapers are interested in diverse coverage.

"There's a real hunger for them," he said over the phone last week. "In the current issue of *Halifax Magazine* I've got a story about Seven Sparks healing lodge, part of the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre. It's a program for Aboriginal offenders to rehabilitate themselves through Mi'kmaq culture. And the editor (Trevor Adams) was so excited about it. He was really thrilled from the start that I had pitched it to him, and would run stories like that every edition if he had them."

Since he started freelancing on Feb. 11, 2008 – the day Transcontinental shut down the *Daily News* and dropped Tattie as a copy editor – he has learned to tailor his pitches to each editor's taste. He said local print editors would run stories about racialized people, as long as they had a news hook.

However, he said the local media do not accurately represent Halifax's population.

"It can get slanted. It can get skewed. And I'm sure I have too. But if people don't tell you, and you don't see it in the first place then you'll just never be aware of your own misunderstandings."

In an interview last fall Tim Bousquet, news editor of *The Coast*, said those misunderstandings are common in the local print media. On his blog, Bousquet plays a watchdog role for the media's portrayal of racialized people. He has criticized the *Herald* and the CBC's online publication for unfair representation

of Black people in a criminal context.

"There are some real particulars and the first that comes to mind is crime reporting. The way it works, and I see it all the time in the *Chronicle Herald* – I always call them on it, too – it's: A woman was mugged. Two Black men were seen running away. It's not a description anyone can make anything out of. It just tells you generally to be afraid of Black people."

In an e-mail, Bousquet attached a *Herald* article that described three suspects in a crime as "Black and wore black hoodies and dark pants."

Above the link, he simply wrote: "Who does this help?"

Bousquet said publications under-represent or misrepresent racialized groups because of the types of stories reporters and editors choose.

"We tend to only be interested in those communities when there's a problem, which is the nature of the media."

However, he said there's no easy way to ensure fair representation of racialized groups.

"To some degree, the media reflects the good and the bad attitudes. So the charge is: can't we reflect more than those attitudes? We should have a mission to better represent minorities. By better represent, I mean to give a fuller picture. Not just the Black or White, hero or scum."

How the *Daily News* reacted to allegations of racism

It was nearly midnight and Matthew Byard already felt bored. One down, seven hours to go. On this Friday night in January 2007 few customers shivered through the automatic doors into Sobey's on North Street where Byard, 22 at the time, worked security.

To help pass the time, the former Atlantic Media Institute student tucked into his nightly collection of newspapers and magazines: *Cosmopolitan*, *Frank*, the *Daily News* and the *Herald*.

"They were about to become yesterday's news," remembered the African Nova Scotian, who now works at Dalhousie's Black Student Advisory Centre and the Black Cultural Centre.

He leafed through the pages of the *Daily News* and began reading an article in the Opinions section by Alex J. Walling.

"Paris should stop playing race card," the headline warned.

The small picture above Walling's byline showed a smiling White man with two chins.

"I take exception to the allegations from Waverly-Fall River Beaver Bank MLA Percy Paris on the touchy topic of racism," Walling wrote.

"This was a hot issue that week," remembered Byard as he revisited the article from 2007. "Everybody and their dog had an opinion."

"Here's my point," Walling wrote. "Why is it that every time something seems to go wrong for a Black man, the race card is used?"

"At that point I probably fucking flipped," said Byard, who seldom swears. "To me it came across as racist."

The next day Byard couldn't stop thinking about what he'd read, so he sat down and typed his thoughts. On Monday, Jan. 22, the *Daily News* printed four letters to the editor after responses to Walling's article flooded in over the weekend. Byard's was the first.

"As a 23-year-old Black man who has had things go wrong that I admit have had nothing to do with my race, I take exception to the suggestion that I would have used some sort of 'race card' to explain my misfortune. As a Black man who has been



Matt Byard wrote a letter to the editor of the *Daily News* in response to this column by Alex J. Walling, which he said came across as racist. | Photo by Hilary Beaumont

the victim of both subtle and blatant discrimination, I take exception to his suggestion that my claims would be unfounded ... To pinpoint a clear-cut undeniable list of examples of racism can be strenuous, mind-boggling and stressful to those on the receiving end. As a result, it often goes unmentioned, and frustration builds."

Angry readers led *Daily News* editor Jack Romanelli to a critical crossroads: would he ignore or re-

At one point, the discussion brought tears to the eyes of Wanda Thomas-Bernard, head of Dalhousie's School of Social Work. She challenged the *Daily News* for under-representing and misrepresenting visible minorities.

"You have a responsibility in terms of the education of the wider public," she said. "People read your paper. Common, every-day people who have no exposure to people who don't look like themselves

cept Wanda Thomas-Bernard's challenge. As a first step, we have funded a \$1,000 yearly scholarship, with a guarantee of a summer internship, for an African Nova Scotian in the King's College journalism program. And we have asked members of our advisory panel to regularly review coverage. Now we issue our own challenge to policy- and decision-makers. Join us in a second round table to continue this discussion in the hopes of raising

"We have newsworthy stories; newsworthy experiences; we have a whole history that isn't being taught and isn't getting the kind of exposure it needs." - Wanda Thomas-Bernard

spond to the allegations of racism?

On Thursday, Feb. 1, his decision filled the front page: "Stolen Hopes, Stolen Dreams" the headline declared in caps. "Our Editor's Round Table grapples with Nova Scotia's most highly charged topic – racism."

Coverage of the contentious issue comprised five additional pages that day in reaction to a "firestorm of letters." The *Daily News* hosted, and printed the transcript of, a round table discussion that aimed to answer the question: Is there racism in Nova Scotia? The dialogue was far from positive.

read your paper. So what can you do to educate the public? I want to invite you to critically examine yourselves. You need to do that. And it can't be one or two columns here and there every two weeks or so. You have to offer us something more. We have newsworthy stories; newsworthy experiences; we have a whole history that isn't being taught and isn't getting the kind of exposure it needs."

An editor's note ran below her statement:

"Newspapers, as a famous quote goes, should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. So we are happy to ac-

tolerance and balancing the playing field."

The newspaper hoped to create a starting point for community debate. The round table successfully found the answer to its question about the existence of racism. But it didn't "defuse landmines" as the Feb. 1 editorial suggested.

One year later, Transcontinental shut down the *Daily News*.

Newsrooms lack racially diverse reporters

As a former *Daily News* copy editor, Tattie saw the round table on racism before it went to print. He had the impression

Romanelli genuinely wanted to confront racism to compensate for a lack of balance. Romanelli could not be reached for comment before this article went to print.

"For most reporters, for most journalists, they really do want to see a balanced portrayal," Tattie said.

However, the *Daily News* wasn't able to fully balance its news coverage because, as the former copy editor said, the newsroom was "pretty much a sea of white."

Out of the approximately 100 employees of the *Daily News* at the time, Tattie named three writers who were racially diverse.

A Diversity Watch report by the Ryerson School of Journalism found that newspapers lagged in hiring racialized people, who they called "racial minorities." The study took a census of Canadian newsrooms between 1994 and 2004. In newspapers with circulations of over 100,000, the study found a four per cent representation of racial minorities in newsrooms. In reality, racialized people make up 24 per cent of Canada's population according to Diversity Watch. In Halifax, racialized people make up about 10 per cent of the population according to a Statistics Canada report from 2006.

In addition, Diversity Watch found editors' commitments to hiring racial minorities had dropped. In 1994, 26 per cent of editors said they had a "very strong commitment" to hiring racial minorities. In 2004, just 13 per cent had the same commitment.

When asked to explain the lack of racial minorities in their newsrooms, a large number of editors said, "Minorities just don't apply here."

Currently, 'minorities' don't have a chance if they apply at the *Herald*. Due to the recession, the newspaper has a freeze on hiring.

A recent *Herald* intern who preferred not to be named said, "The newsroom is exclusively white, unless I'm forgetting someone, though it's pretty balanced gender-wise. Most people have been there for at least 10 to 15 years. ... I'd say that a lack of diversity is perhaps a side-affect of a lack of staff turnover. People don't leave and they don't hire."

Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2010 reveals that two per cent of *Herald* employees, and four per cent of managers, are "visible minorities."

The *Coast* and *Metro News* do not employ any reporters or editors who are racialized people.

At the *Gazette*, our photo editor Pau Balite is from the Philippines. However, the rest of us are White.

Tattie said White people don't instinctively see systemic racism, so it ends up in print. When White people make up the majority of newsroom staff, they don't seek out stories from racially diverse communities. Therefore less racial diversity appears in the paper.

Tattie suggested this problem could be remedied if editors hired more journalists from diverse racial backgrounds. As an example, he pointed to a *Daily News* article about the city removing "squatters" such as Eddie Carvery from Seaview Park, the former site of Africville.

"White people, I'm talking about, we wouldn't see the ridiculousness of Walter Fitzgerald saying, 'We can't just let people take our land – we've got to kick them off. Somebody from an Africville background would immediately see that for what it was (Eddie Carvery grew up on that land). A lot of things like that. We would just hear them differently if we were from a different background."

He said students in the King's College journalism school are mostly White, so

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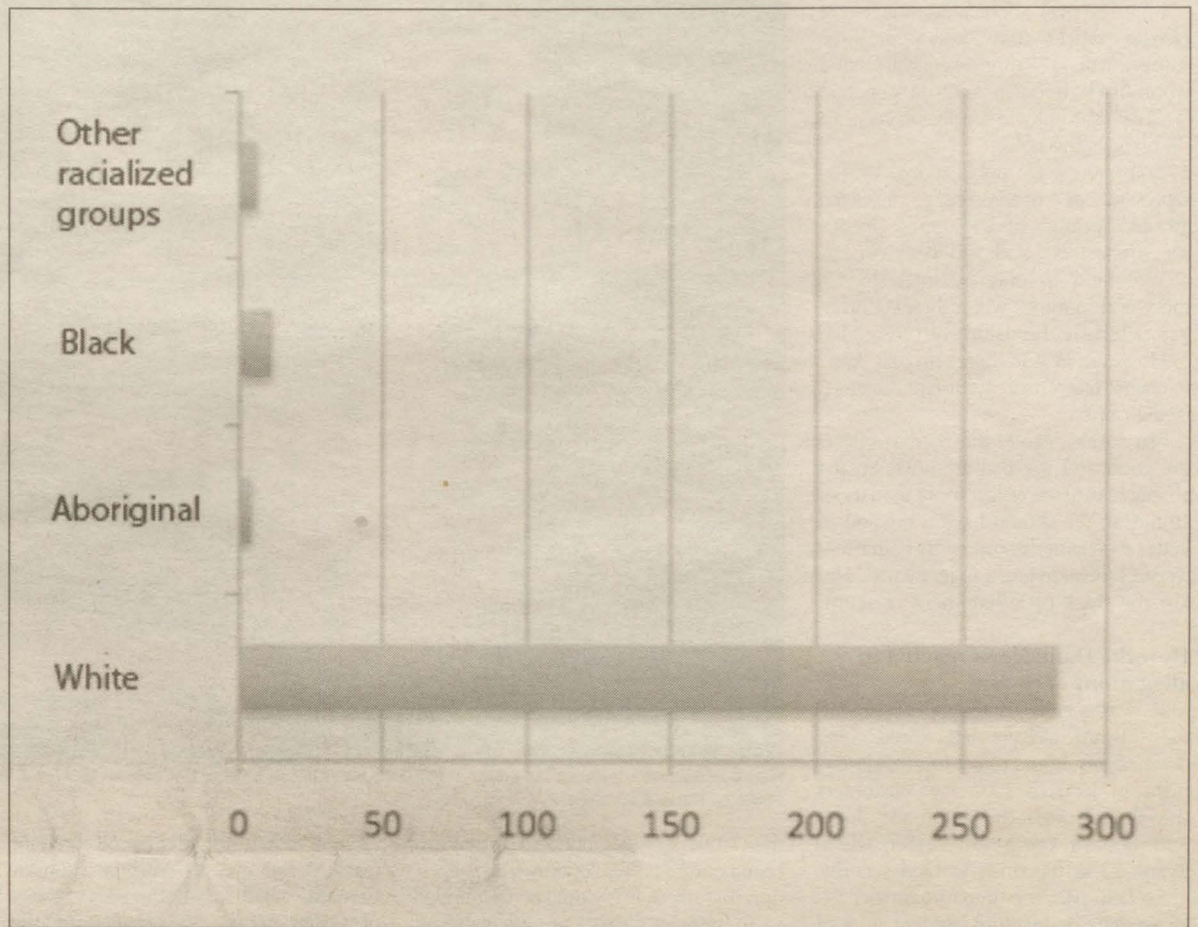
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WHITE PAPER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

RACIALIZED GROUPS IN THE HERALD (AUG. 22 TO SEPT. 22)



the reporters are going to be mostly White. "It's a difficult cycle to get out of given that there aren't reporters coming from different (racial) communities, so (racialized) people don't see that as a career path."

Solutions

As a King's journalism student, I see what Tattrie's talking about. My classes are unquestionably filled with White students, and professors.

In *Discourses of Domination* – a book that can be found in the King's Library – Frances Henry and Carol Tator write: "White culture is the hidden norm against which the 'differences' of all other subordinate groups

are evaluated. For those who have inherited its mantle, Whiteness suggests normality, truth, objectivity, and merit."

White journalists must strive to be aware of this ingrained bias when we write, and when we look for story ideas.

As Keith Woods wrote in the Poynter Online article "Reporting on Race Relations," representing race and racism in complex terms – rather than in euphemisms or metaphors – begs for "a strong focus on the fundamental tools of good journalism, along with an investigator's resolve to work through this subject's unique obstacles."

Woods suggested reporters look for unfamiliar ways to frame a story, rather than simple, universal themes of oppression, supremacy, inferiority, conflict, fear, ignorance, love, unity, redemption, hatred, pain or confusion.

"Find a broader range of voices; employ more of those universal elements to tell what is surely going to be a complex story."

Woods said reporters should be sure to include context because it helps their readers understand "why people respond to one another as they do."

But Stephen Kimber, professor and Chair of the King's Journalism department, said reporters aren't given the tools or the time to look deeper.

"There's a kind of catch-22 these days in coverage – that we're reducing the number of reporters out there and we're expecting them to do more to fill the space," he said.

He suggested that because newsroom managers aren't giving reporters enough time, they do not ask deeper questions or find the right sources – real people rather than experts.

"I think the best thing we can do as reporters is to go as deeply as possible into things, but trying to keep our minds open."

When Kimber began writing a feature for *The Coast* about Uniacke Square, he hung out kids in the neighbourhood and listened to them talk.

"The role of a journalist is really to go in and to be a foreign correspondent in your own backyard," he said. "To go in and try and see the world fresh."

Kimber said journalists have less of a problem reporting with fresh eyes and ears in an actual foreign country.

Asaf Rashid hopes copies of *Racism in Perspective* land in the laps of local editors. He wants them to digest it, learn from it.

"It is a lot of effort," Rashid said of reporting stories that involve racialized groups. "You have to find people. You have to talk to one contact. They give you another contact. They give you another contact. Yes it's difficult."

But, he said, "It's totally worth it."

Thank you Fred Vallance Jones and Bruce Wark for your considerable help and advice. This feature was originally intended for publication in the King's Journalism Review. Dan Leger rescinded his comments from an earlier interview because he did not want them to appear in the Gazette.

If you want to take a look at the spreadsheet I compiled to analyze the Herald's photos, please drop by the Gazette office in room 312 of the Student Union Building or e-mail copy@dalgazette.com.

*Full disclosure: Stephen Kimber is my professor this term. Last summer, I freelanced for *The Coast* and interned at Metro News.*

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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

THOSE ANGRY, DIVISIVE AND DUBIOUS WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS



On Tuesday Jan. 26, 2010, The National Post Editorial Board published a ridiculously uninformed, paranoid and almost comedic piece entitled "Women's Studies is still with us." The editorial, to give you a taste, opened like this: "If the reports are to be believed, Women's Studies programs are disappearing at many Canadian universities. Forgive us for being skeptical. We would wave goodbye without shedding a tear, but we are pretty sure these angry, divisive and dubi-

ous programs are simply being renamed to make them appear less controversial." "The radical feminism behind these courses has done untold damage to families, our court systems, labour laws, constitutional freedoms and even the ordinary relations between men and women." When Vanessa Lent, Laura Dawe and Jenner Berger read the piece, they couldn't let it slip by without a response. This photo, readers, is that response.

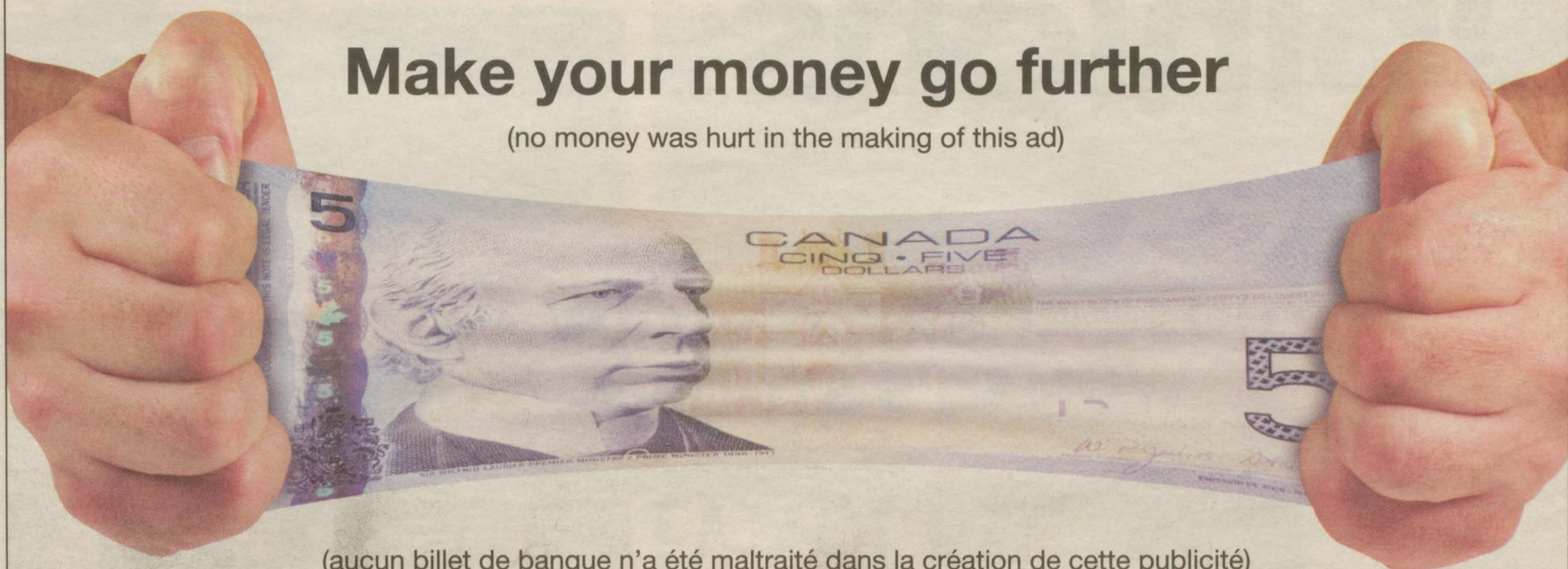


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OVERHEARD AT DAL

Guy 1: "Hey this girl is pretty cute, and she sent me a Facebook valentine, but I don't even know her. Though I am known for stealing girls from their boyfriends."

Guy 2: "Well talk to her on chat and see how you know her."

Guy 1 (After a while of talking to this random girl): "Holy shit! She's only 13!"

Guy 2: "Have fun hitting that up, girlfriend stealer."

In MICI 3118 prof: "It'd be a great gift to ask

for on Valentines Day - the HPV vaccine and not HPV."

In the bookstore: "\$200 for a text book? That's half a PS3!"

In the men's bathroom on the second floor of the Killam:

Written on the toilet paper dispenser: "Bachelor of Arts dispenser."

Outside the Killam:

Girl: "Well, I could have faked the swine flu just like everyone else but I was being honest!"

Girl 1: "I don't get it. All I ever hear is people wanting to give money to this Haiti person. What sort of disaster did she do exactly?"

Girl 2: "I think they're talking about the country."

Guy in Eliza Ritchie:

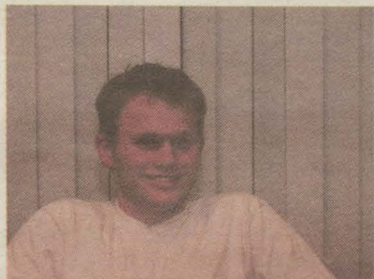
"I love playing Jenga against engineers because it's a challenge."

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Overheard at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. The quotes attributed to Mike MacMillian in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by Mike MacMillian himself, The Gazette and or its staff.

Streeter

Question: What does next year's Dalhousie Student Union need to do?



"More student events."

Ian Whittaker,
second-year kinesiology



"More conference calls. It's a little disorganized sometimes."

Alex Brown,
second-year English



"Focus on sustainability. So much gets wasted in this building."

Andrew Walker,
fourth-year history



"Supporting more grassroots student initiatives on campus. I want the SUB to feel alive and welcoming every day."

Maggie Lovett,
third-year biology



"Make wait times shorter for underage students going to wet/dry events."

Matt Oxford,
first-year commerce



"Work on getting a fall reading week instead of just a single day."

Lloyd Tucker,
first-year chemistry



"More low-cost food options in the SUB."

Janice Johnson,
third-year history



Refill my growler and light my cigarette.

Mike MacMillian,
sixth-year waste of a vote

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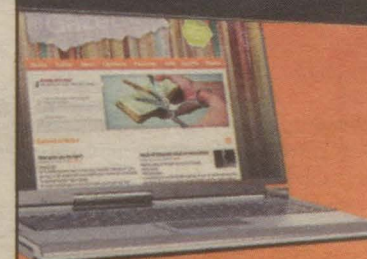
quote: **Bill Spurr, Chronicle Herald**

1st runner up:

"Best of Chinese restaurant 2007, 2008, 2009" the Coast

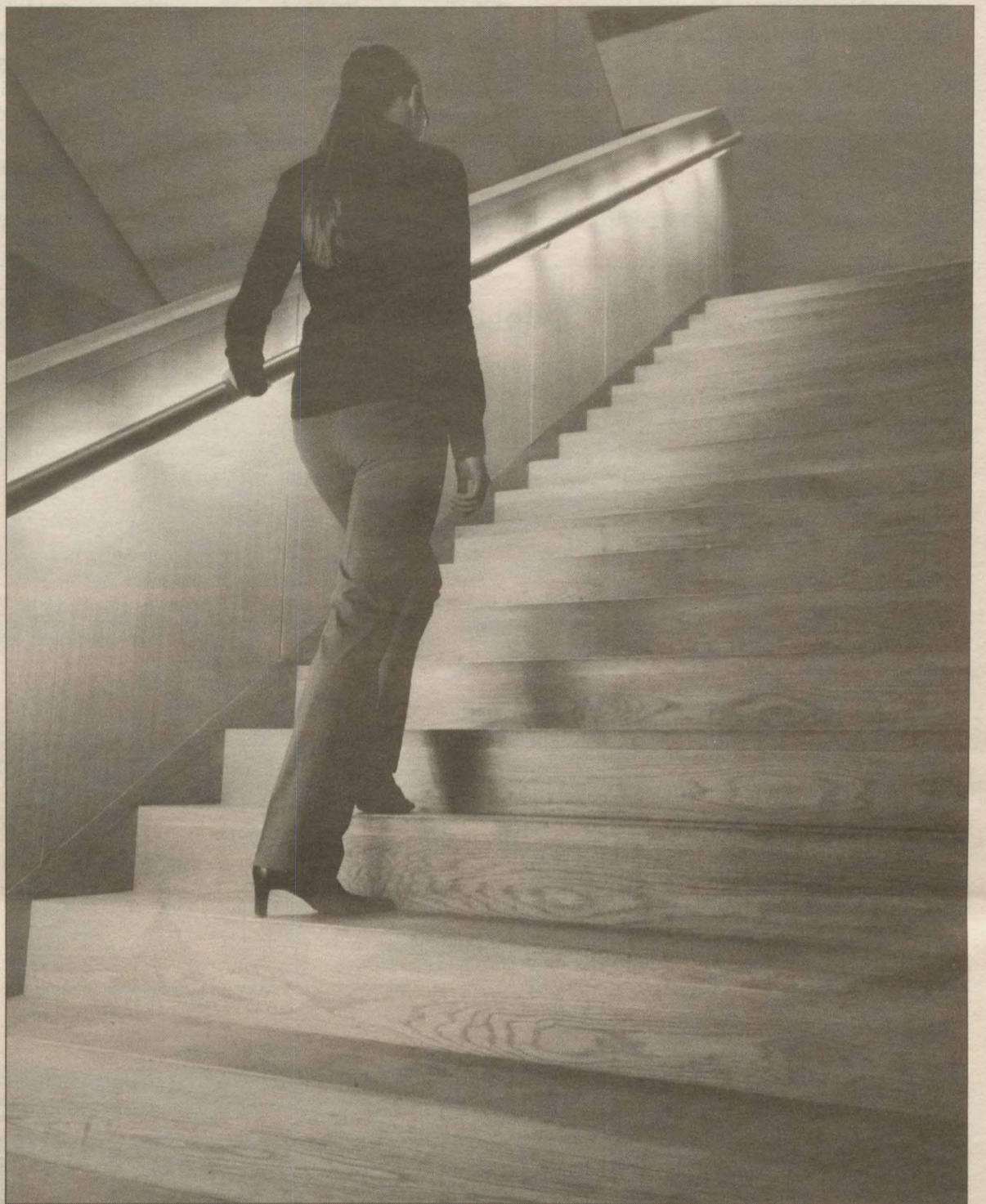
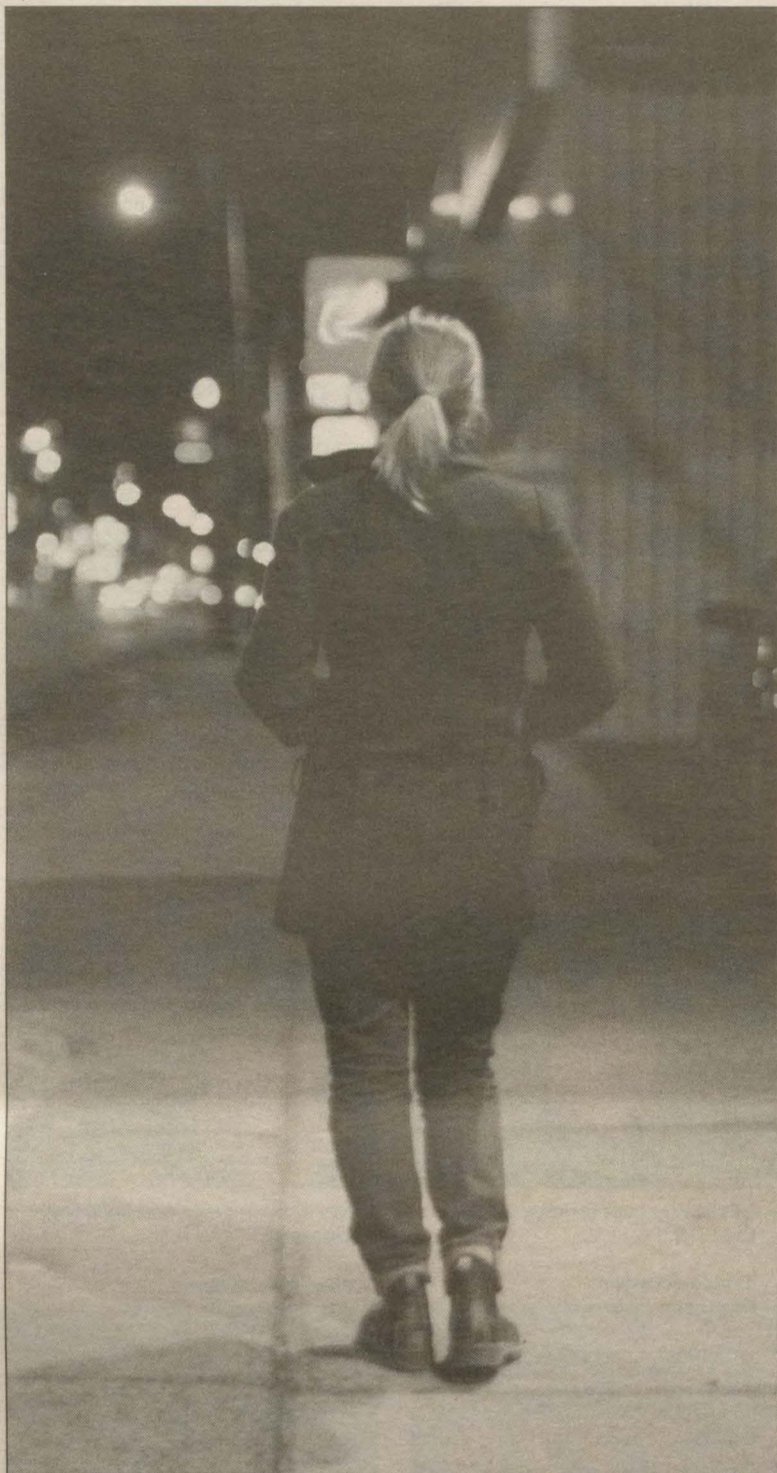
2nd runner up: **Best Server**

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Opinions



While security bulletins remind students to stay alert when walking home alone, sexual assaults are twice as likely to be committed by someone you know than by a stranger. | Photo by Pau Balite, stock photo

STRANGER DANGER

Security bulletins sometime miss the mark

Kaley Kennedy
Opinions Editor

Last week, Dalhousie Security sent students a security bulletin describing a sexual assault against two female students that happened on Feb. 6 in the south end of Halifax. While receiving the odd e-mail reminder to stay alert when walking alone at night, or to make sure I lock my door is somewhat helpful, the stranger-danger approach to campus safety still misses the mark.

Security bulletins are important. They provide important information for students that will help them be aware of some of the risks. These bulletins also have a history of coming out of grassroots initiatives by communities to report events that aren't reported by the media. In the United States, universities are mandated to report crime statistics on campus to staff and students

because of public pressure after a case where a woman was tortured, raped and murdered. The university failed to disclose over 30 other attacks that in the three years preceding this attack.

But security bulletins can't do all the work, and neither can the criminal justice system.

According to Statistics Canada, 88 per cent of sexual assaults are not reported to police. Annually, about 31,000 sexual assaults occur in Nova Scotia. But in 2007, just over 700 were reported to police.

Why are so many sexual assaults unreported? There are several reasons. According to Statistics Canada, reasons range from a desire for privacy, to fear of the perpetrator, to not knowing if what happened was a crime or if they have adequate evidence, to not trusting the police and the courts.

While it would be nice to believe that we live in a world where sexual assault survivors wouldn't face questions such

as "What were you wearing?" or "How much did you have to drink?" or "But, you went home with the accused willingly, didn't you?" the reality is that these questions are common in a court of law, where the survivor is also under a microscope.

What would it look like if there were a security bulletin for every sexual assault that happened on campus?

The picture would be a lot harder to handle. There would be more than just "victims" and "assailants" – there would be friends, classmates, and co-workers on both sides of the line. In two-thirds of the reported sexual assaults in Nova Scotia in 2007 the sexual assault survivor knew the perpetrator.

But there aren't Security Bulletins that say: "Sorry, you're still going to have to sit next to your roommate who wouldn't leave your room unless you went down on him."

There aren't Security Bulletins that say: "You were drunk, but you

still have the right to feel wronged."

There aren't Security Bulletins that say: "Sexual assault is more than a crime; it's a breach of trust. Educate yourself, protect others."

Security bulletins like that don't exist because we don't always name sexual assault for what it is. Sometimes a response to feeling shitty the morning after is less "You were assaulted and this wasn't your fault," and more "Let's dye your hair – that will make you feel better." Sometimes the story itself is less "I was raped," and more "I said no at first, but he was stubborn. At least he wore a condom."

Campus culture, and the world at large, has trouble naming sexual violence. We live in a world of dichotomies: sluts and virgins, geeks and players, partner material and one-night stands. Sometimes sexual assault resides in the gray area: an area people have trouble naming, even recognizing.

And while the National Post will argue, "Women's Studies courses have taught that all women – or nearly all (sic) – are victims and nearly all men are victimizers," I'm not saying either.

Survivors and perpetrators of sexual assault are people. They are people we know, and we need to be more responsible for that. We know the symptoms of date rape drugs, but do you have someone to call if you need to talk? We know how to call 911, but do we know what we'd do if a friend assaulted someone else? We can understand the weight of the word "no", but are we willing to make communication and consent a cornerstone of our sex lives? We understand that walking someone home might help him or her feel safe, but do we know what to do if the danger is at home?

Maybe instead of our view of campus safety relying on security bulletins and police officers, what if it looked more like looking out for each other?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canada still ahead of China

To the Editor,

I appreciate the overall sentiment in Justin Ling's column, but his opening paragraph featured the line "but what makes Canada so much better (than China on human rights)?"

While the shutting down of needle clinics and the forced exodus of the homeless population is deplorable, come on! This is China versus Canada we're talking about.

Every human rights issue in China makes us look better.

-- Connor Rosine, second-year journalism student at the University of King's College

Dalhousie's fall study day misses the mark

To the Editor,

It was with reservation that I heard that Dalhousie would be adding a fall study day next year. I wasn't aware this was even being considered. I hadn't heard much from fellow students actively desiring such a day, though anecdotally, some of my friends did express a remote desire to have a fall break. The decision was swift, according to Rob LeForte, vice president (education) of the Dalhousie Student Union. While I'm glad we'll have a day to study, my reservations stem from the timing of the fall break.

This year, reading week is arguably too late in the semester, after seven weeks of

classes. Next fall's study break will come nine weeks in, when, at least for engineering students, midterms are long forgotten. That precious day would be well served during the midterm season as a chance to keep pace with the material.

My greatest concern, however, stems from the precise date chosen. Nov. 12 was chosen in order to create a four-day weekend, starting with Remembrance Day. Given the culture of binge-drinking on long weekends and days off in university, I feel that the already abused day off for Remembrance Day will turn into a four-day binge.

This move will encourage some students to forget about the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep you and me free, which is not surprising given that many students already choose to nurse their hangovers into the early afternoon on that important day.

Today's youth are forgetting the important moments of our past. The tragedies of war should not be forgotten, because when they are, we run the risk of returning to a state of world war. Rather than giving the students an extra excuse to drink on that hallowed day, we should be moving the study day a few weeks earlier: Oct. 29, for example. Such a date would be during the busy midterm season, and would provide us with a much-needed break.

Our veterans deserve more than a four-day binge. Our veterans deserve more from today's generation. The timing of the fall break is unfortunate, and I hope next year's crop of Senators will take Remembrance Day into greater consideration when timing future study breaks.

-- Ben Wedge, engineering student at Dalhousie University

FROSH SURVIVAL GUIDE



If you play your cards right, you can have time for studying and partying over the break. | Photo by Pau Balite

Putting the 'break' back in study break



Katie Ingram
Opinions Columnist

After two months of class following the December holidays, Dalhousie gives students a well-deserved February break. We have one week off, but we're expected to do work.

Even if we use this time to take a trip, or spend it at home, there are always assignments that are due the week back. Work prevents break from being a true vacation. Don't fret though. You can keep all or most of the week focused on 'breaking' not studying.

If you are leaving Halifax for break, and you don't want to have to take your work with you, there are two

ways to ensure your suitcase is free of textbooks and notes.

If you know you have an assignment or two due after the break, you should do it whenever you have free time. This will make your workload over the next few days a bit larger, but it will definitely pay off in the end.

Also, try spending an extra hour doing homework each night. If you tend to stop doing work at 9 p.m., change it to 10 p.m. Take the extra hour to work out ideas for that essay, or start the first couple questions on that math assignment.

If you are trying to avoid reading over the break, try reading in class during breaks. Even if you only get a few pages done you'll get a jump start for following week.

If you're the type of person who wants to do work and assignments over the break, but still want to take time off, try dividing your week in two. Use the first half of the week to do work - then take the other half off.

Don't spend the entire time doing work if you don't have to.

Even though the week off is la-

belled a 'study break' you should make sure you have time to yourself that doesn't revolve around assignments, lab reports, studying and essays. If you adopt this plan, you won't feel guilty about taking time off because you will have accomplished something.

If you're one of the unlucky students who have midterms immediately following break, then a solution to your problem becomes slightly trickier.

If you're planning to leave, you can record your notes and listen to them when you're on a plane, or lying on a beach somewhere. If you're not taking a trip during the week, your best bet is to make sure you know what you need to study. That way you can devote at least half the week to studying, even if it's only a couple hours a day.

No matter what you're planning for study break, you don't have to spend the entire time doing work. Get organized and you will start March knowing that you haven't completely slacked off.

Remember, you're a student and any time off is well-deserved!

Gazette elections are coming up! ★

If you're a Dal student you can vote for next year's Gazette editorial staff!

March 3, 6 p.m. Bring your Dal ID.

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Questions?

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Opinions



Fresh eggs are one reason Halifax residents want chickens running around their properties. | Stock Photo

Fair or fowl?

Feathers ruffled over urban chickens

Rebecca Hoffer
Opinions Contributor

Why did the chicken cross the road? The old adage may soon become relevant for city dwellers as citizens rally in support and in protest of a land use bylaw amendment that would allow for people to keep laying hens within the Halifax peninsula.

In early 2008, Louise Hanavan was ordered to relocate the three laying hens she was raising for eggs in the backyard of her west-end Halifax home. Two years later, the debate continues with what may be called a constitutional chicken-coop-d'état as supporters push for policy reform.

On Feb. 10, 2010, the city organized a public information meeting at Halifax Hall, where the public was invited to share their opinions on the issue. Many Halifax Regional Municipal-

chickens, the hens took on political and ecological roles, representing food security, food sovereignty, the move towards more sustainable lifestyles, and the importance of reconnecting with what we eat and how it is produced.

While the majority of those present were in favour of the by-law amendment, not everyone wanted to take a stroll down avian avenue. Several dissenters considered it an unnecessary amendment: if you want local eggs you can buy them at the Farmer's Market without turning the city into a farm-yard. Others found that it created needless controversy and potential harm.

The dominant concern among chicken naysayers was that the feed would attract rats. Several of Hanavan's neighbours reported a marked increase in these rodents that they attribute to her hens, and argue that with urban chickens

between chicken feed and pests does not justify such a poultry prohibition.

With urban chickens, they argued, does not come rats, but rather a community for education, networking, and shared knowledge, that Halifax's already vibrant community would embrace.

Regulations would govern the number of hens permitted, a minimum distance from neighbours, and would prohibit roosters to prevent noise complaints. A minimum lot size might also be enforced, though some worry that this would prevent lower income families from accessing this alternative food source.

On a practical level, the by-law amendment is fairly harmless. I doubt that there will be a rapid influx of chickens into the city, as most people would rather not deal with building a coop or feeding the birds daily.

With proper precautions for those who do – sealed containers and hanging feeders – rats would not be a major concern. Likewise, on their own, a few hens will not fundamentally challenge our reliance on grocery stores, the industrial-food system, or the profound disconnect between producers and consumers.

Rather, it represents an important ideological shift, and it is from here that the controversy arises. It represents change, and a breaking of traditional distinctions and categories – between farm and city, pet and livestock, producer and consumer. It gives us seemingly contradictory terms such as “urban farms”, and now, “urban chickens”.

So maybe the old adage was right all along in asking: Why did the chicken cross the road? Maybe it was on its way to the city. Or maybe, like us, it was trying to get somewhere new. It wanted change.

HRM Planning Services is continuing to accept community feedback. To voice your opinion, email Mackenzie Stonehocker at stonehm@halifax.ca.

Rebecca Hoffer is a member of Campus Action on Food and the Grainery Food Co-op. She is a third-year biology and anthropology student at Dalhousie.

The National Post is still with us

Newspaper's editorial board shows off its ignorance

Devanne O'Brien
The Xaverian Weekly

ANTIGONISH, N.S. (CUP) — Last month, Canada's daily right-wing rag, the National Post, ran an editorial lamenting the perseverance of women's studies programs in universities across the country.

The Jan. 26 editorial “Women's Studies is still with us” offered a skeptical take on reports that women's studies programs are in decline, saying “We would wave goodbye without shedding a tear, but we are pretty sure these angry, divisive and dubious programs are simply being renamed to make them appear less controversial.”

The Post's editorial board seems to be erroneously conflating two important changes to women's studies departments: one, the issue of budget cuts to these already under-funded programs; and two, the trend of altering the title “women's studies” to “gender studies” recently adopted at universities such as Queen's.

So women's studies professors and students are decrying the draining of resources from their departments, but the National Post (in all its wisdom) is claiming there is no real threat to women's studies – although its editorial board would like there to be – because the feminists (re: seekers of equality) have launched a devious plan to seduce (as women are prone to do) more people into taking these courses by – wait, changing the name of the programs to be more inclusive

and exemplary of feminism's third wave?

With a confusing name like “gender studies,” students will never be able to detect that they are being indoctrinated with the extremist views that have “done untold damage to families, our court systems, labour laws, constitutional freedoms and even the ordinary relations between men and women.”

This would be funny if it wasn't so damn important; it would merit no mention if the National Post were some obscure right-wing blog in cyberspace instead of a national daily with a circulation of more than 200,000.

That misogyny of this extent can infiltrate the mainstream media is a testament to why women's studies programs need all the support they can get.

I didn't always know that the terms “gender” and “sex” weren't interchangeable. Nor was I always conscious of the abysmal absence of women in our studies of history, art or politics.

Students who become feminists while at university – and I am certainly one of them – find women's studies courses to be transformational, and we cherish them.

So long as Leave it to Beaver & Co. are running the show at the National Post, ridiculing our demands for fairer labour market policies and childcare, there's a role for women's studies in educating young men and young women on university campuses.

Maybe then we could initiate a mainstream discourse so publications like the National Post couldn't survive.

I know I wouldn't shed a tear.

“Why did the chicken cross the road? Maybe it was on its way to the city.”

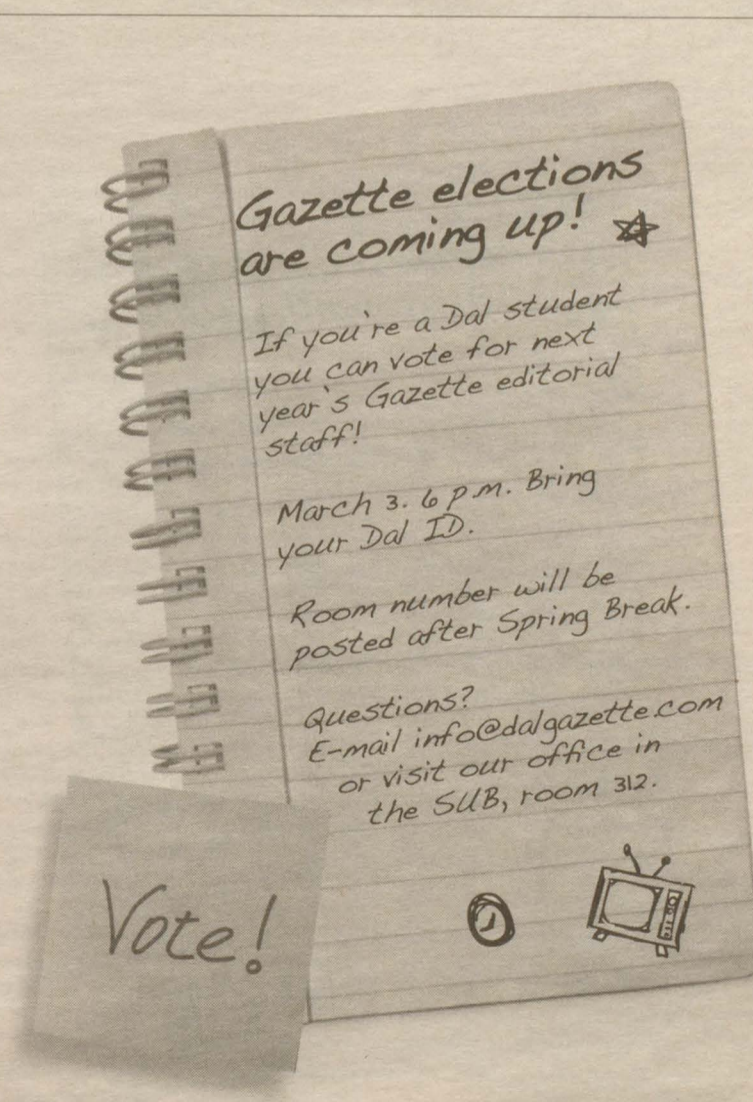
ity residents voiced their support for urban egg-riculture. They want the right to raise and produce their own food, the pleasure of fresh eggs and other benefits from urban gardening.

Chickens can be fed scraps reducing municipal waste, and their manure can be used in composting and to create fertile topsoil, reducing both food and fertilizer miles. Chickens are also known to eat fire ants, providing a chemical-free solution to another pest plaguing the gardens of Halifax.

As other supporters prefaced their comments by explaining that they themselves did not plan on raising

come urban rats. Another concern was that chicken coops would be unsightly, and that they might open the barn doors to demands for goats, horses and pigs. However, the proposed by-law amendment applies exclusively to laying hens.

In response, chicken defendants argued that simple precautionary regulations that keep bird feed in sealed containers and hanging chicken feeders could be enforced. Rodents are a reality in the city, with old infrastructure, mismanagement of garbage and food, and even traditional bird feeders nourishing their populations. But as the real roots of rogue rodents remain lawful, the potential relationship



Arts

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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**
arts@dalgazette.com



Catch some second-hand smoke on March 5 at The Company House. | Photo by John Niven

KING'S BAND STRIKES ROOTSY CHORD

Ben Caplan and the Casual Smokers more than just a party band

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

When Ben Caplan came to the University of King's College five years ago, he thought he was eventually going to get a PhD and become a serious academic. Today his friend and band-mate Emma Morgan-Thorp says she can't see Ben doing anything but music.

"I bet he could get a PhD," she says. "I know he has the brains. But I can't imagine Ben not making music full-time."

"When all you think about is music and all you care about is music, getting a degree in history, as interesting as it is, is hard," says Caplan, 23. "Especially because music is a full time job, at least if you take it seriously."

And when it comes to music, Caplan is a serious man. He spent every day of the week last January sending out e-mails, working on press releases, and trying to book shows for his current project: Ben Caplan and the Casual Smokers.

At the moment, the band is composed of six core members. There's Morgan-Thorp on cello, Neal Read on flute and saxophone, Signe Bone on violin, Asher Nehring on bass and Matt Gallant on drums. And then there's Caplan, who supplies the group's vocals and plays a plethora of instruments including guitar, banjo, melodica, harmonica and organ.

Caplan has seen almost 25 musicians come in and out of the Casual Smokers over the past three years. The

current sextet is a fairly new lineup.

From the charismatic and sometimes crazy bearded guitarist to the poised and sexy violinist, the band represents a wide range of musical traditions – from the purest of classical backgrounds to traditional jazz and reggae.

On the other side of the spectrum, Caplan brings his own completely unique and non-classical perspective. He is entirely self-taught, having only had a couple of guitar lessons when he was about 12 years old.

Morgan-Thorp says the collaboration of musicians from various backgrounds helps work to the band's advantage.

"I think our diversity is completely key," says Morgan-Thorp. "Everyone in the band brings something really different."

Caplan says he likes to experiment with all sorts of different genres, but ultimately he is rooted in a folk, singer-songwriter style, citing influences such as Tom Waits, Bob Dylan and Wilco.

"By the time I could bring a few chords together I was getting up there to perform," he says. "For me, what I'm most interested in is that property of sharing. So the ability of being in front of an audience and sharing that music directly is a powerful experience. I get a big kick out of it."

When he first came to King's he played in the Wardroom in exchange for free drinks in order to learn how to interact with the audience.

"They say you need 100,000 hours of practice to become a virtuoso, and there's no inborn talent," he says. "Before you can be a great performer you've got to pay

your dues and spend that time onstage."

He acknowledges that being a King's student is a great way for him to log those hours in a fairly relaxed and supportive environment.

The band also gives King's credit as being a great way to meet people and develop the band. Caplan estimates that of the handful of musicians that have at one point been a part the Casual Smokers, about half are King's students.

"University has been key in some fate-developing way," says Morgan-Thorp. "I think the way I met Ben was when he heard me talking to someone about my cello in the quad."

"He came up to me – this frightening bearded guy who was like, 'I heard you play the cello. It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me. But that's King's. That's quad-mentality. That's everyone knows everyone.'"

On the other hand, the band's university-education has also hampered their true passions. Four out of the six members are currently in their fourth year of university, so scheduling time to get together has been, according to Caplan, "a nightmare."

"We all love each other and want to spend all our time together and we're all just trying to graduate," says Morgan-Thorp.

Ultimately, though, Caplan says he does not regret his choice to go university. He says it has been a formative experience, and he thinks he has learned a lot about himself and his passions. He has also become much more self-motivated.

"One of the things I've learned at university is that nobody's going to do anything for you," he says on his efforts to further his music career. "You've got to pull your own weight."

Caplan, a native of Hamilton, Ontario, says he intends to remain in Halifax after he graduates. He says the city has been receptive to the band, and has treated them well.

"My plan is to ride this train as far as it will take me," he says.

The Casual Smokers recently performed at the Elephant and Castle. By all measurable qualifiers, the show was a success. About 80 people showed up, there were stellar opening acts, and the venue's management treated the band with nothing but respect.

But for some reason it didn't all come together for them. The six band members weren't communicating well, there was some slight tension, and it was hard to establish a connection with the audience.

"It was a shitty show," says Caplan. "The next night they played a toss-away gig at a kegger for the Jewish Students Association."

"It was thirty people crammed into a little room, but we just played our asses off and they loved it," says Caplan. "Everybody was drunk and merry."

"Sometimes we're just on," says Morgan-Thorp.

Caplan says that one of the best shows he has ever played was when the Casual Smokers were joined by special guest Paul Cram, a Juno-award winning jazz performer. Although the

show took place at the King's Wardroom, which Caplan does not consider an ideal venue, he still considered the performance to be a huge success.

"When it came down to it there was a great energy in the room," he says. "We were all connected."

Caplan believes the best way for a band to share its passion and its music with the audience is by effectively communicating with each other.

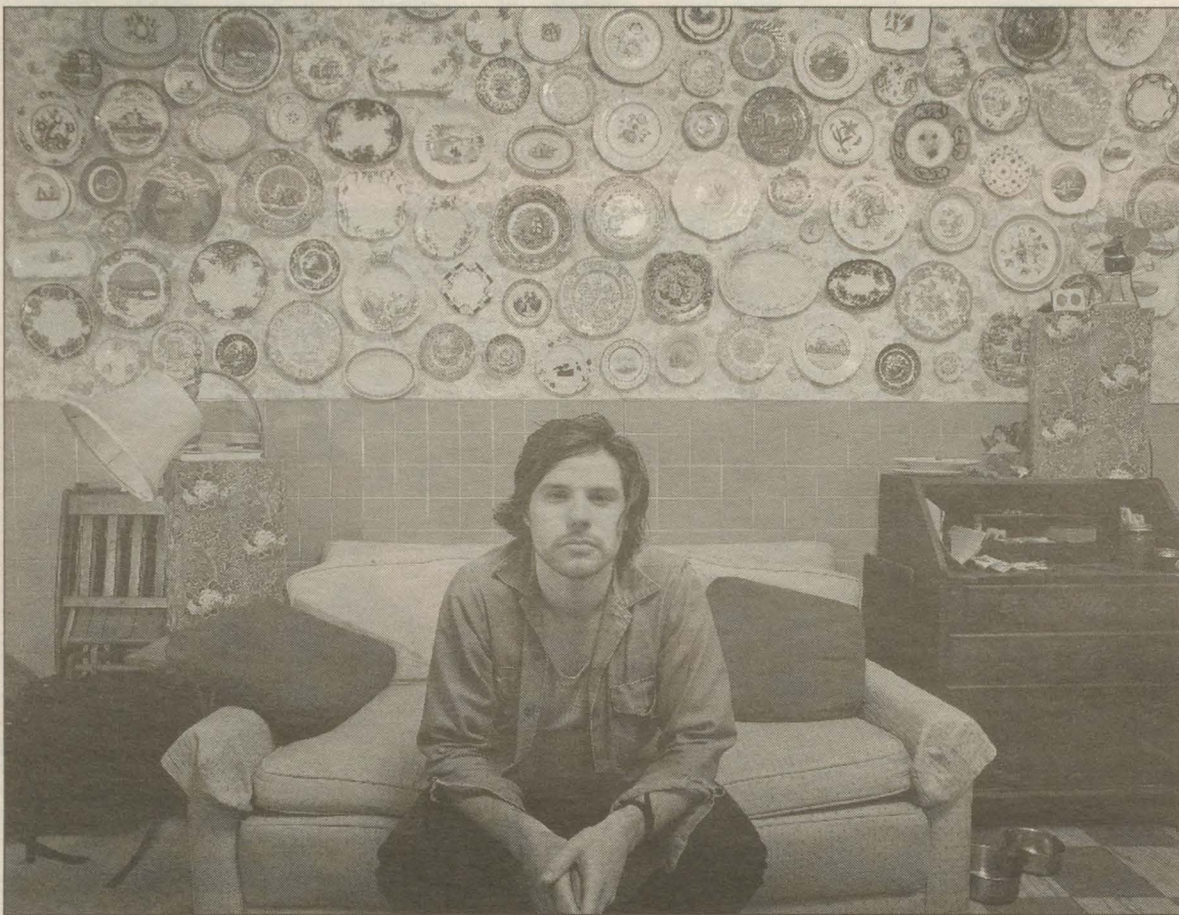
"The more we play together the more we grow into a unit," says Morgan-Thorp. "The more we play together, the more we trust each other, and the personal friendships in the band deeply contribute to what happens on stage."

The Casual Smokers' next show is this Saturday at Gus' Pub, where Blown Gasket Orchestra will be opening. Caplan says the performance will be complete with horns, strings and passionate melodies.

"It's gonna be wild," says Caplan. "Our shows are nothing if not full of energy. We don't just walk up on stage, sing our songs then walk off. We haven't done our job unless the audience is drunk, engaged, dancing and singing along."

Check out Ben Caplan and the Casual Smokers this Saturday at Gus' Pub (2605 Agricola St.). Doors open at 8 p.m. Or, if you're out of town for the break, catch them on Friday, March 5, at The Company House (2202 Gottingen St.). Doors open at 9 p.m. Cover is \$8.

Arts



That is a lot of plates. | Photo by Dave Gillespie

Bahamas in Halifax

Ubiquitous Canadian opens for Wilco

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

Afie Jurvanen is an omnipresent force in the realm of Canadian indie-rock and one to be reckoned with, but the majority of people aren't even aware they know him. Jurvanen began in the band Paso Mino who eventually became the backing band for Jason Collett. From Collett he went on to play piano and guitar for the likes of Feist and Amy Millan. Then he enjoyed a stint with the Great Lake Swimmers, among others.

After coming off a two year tour with Feist, he decided to shift his focus to something he'd been neglecting for the better part of his career: himself.

"I had been playing other people's music for years," remarks Jurvanen. "After I got off the tour with Feist, I said to myself, 'You're not taking on any other commitments,' and I decided to pursue my own thing for a while."

Jurvanen, better known by his stage name Bahamas, released his debut *Pink Strat* in July of 2009.

"The songs had been kicking around in the back of my head for years," explains Jurvanen. "We got off the Feist tour and had all of the gear and it was kind of a 'What are we going to do?' situation, so I said, 'Well, I've got some songs.'"

Jurvanen passed the days in a cabin with friends, recording songs between bouts of barbecuing and swimming. "After about three or four days I realized, 'Hey, I think we're making a record.' The process was just so comfortable I thought, 'Why not?'" says Jurvanen.

"It all seemed so effortless," he remarks, looking a bit bewildered by it all. "I think it was the lack of a typical studio and all the pressures of money and time. I just got people to come down and play on my songs, people whose instincts I trusted. It's that spontaneity that art-

ists like Bob Dylan and Neil Young were famous for in studio; it was all very unpracticed ... usually first or second takes."

The album is a cross-section of Jurvanen's experiences and influences, and goes as far as featuring friends and collaborators Feist and Jason Collett. The sound is honest, ranging from alt-country to soulful indie with everything in between. Songs such as the single "Already Yours" are exercises in baring a broken heart while others such as "Hockey Teeth" are light-hearted, humorous pokes at life that still manage to gleam with that sparkle of a down-trodden, humble soul.

The last song on the album, a cover of Wreckless Eric's "Whole Wide World," was a spontaneous addition at the

admits the experience is alien compared to touring and playing someone else's music.

"I felt so rejuvenated from making the record (that) I've just been on tour since. I'm not tired or burnt out. I'm just enjoying the novelty of it. It's an amazing thing to be able to travel and share your music with others."

While on tour, Bahamas is usually a fairly low-key affair. While playing at the recent In The Dead of Winter Festival in Halifax, Bahamas consisted of only Jurvanen and his famous dry, sarcastic wit. Regularly though, he's backed by a drummer and a friend or two.

Like the guitar, the album *Pink Strat* possesses an aesthetic that is truly romantic, hearkening back to a simpler time. "I'm really stuck on mu-

"I just got people to come down and play on my songs, people whose instincts I trusted. ... It was all very unpracticed."

last minute at request of the engineer. "We were setting up the cabin for recording and he told me to play a song, just (to) test it out. For some reason, I sat down and played that song. When we were getting ready to solidify the tracklist, he asked me, 'What about that first song you played?' He just loved it so much (that) I put it on the record."

The album shares its namesake with Jurvanen's trusted sidekick: his Pink Fender Stratocaster. "Nobody plays Stratocasters anymore," he says. "Whenever I'm on tour I always feel awkward because I'm the only one with a Stratocaster. Plus, mine is pink."

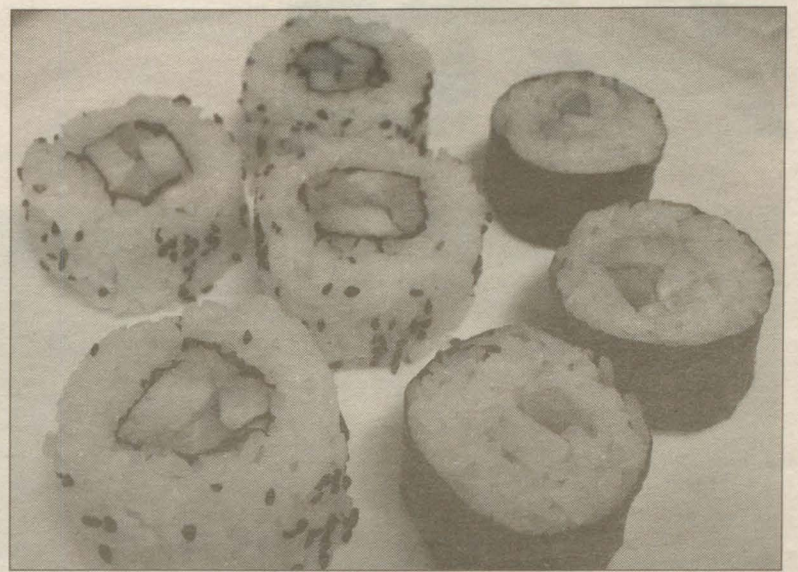
Jurvanen, as Bahamas, has been touring in support of the album since its release and

sic before 1970," says Jurvanen.

He says that's why the risk of starting a solo career and releasing an album in this climate of music never entered into the equation.

"There's this romantic vision of how music should be for me. I have this vision of people consuming music as art, as an elevation of culture. If people come to a show and they have a great time, that's all I can ask for - that connection with the audience. I believe a lot of people out there are still looking at music as art."

You can catch Bahamas on March 3 at the Halifax Forum with Wilco. He will embark on a "Huge, monster Bruce Springsteen style tour" with old pals Jason Collett and Zeus.



Doraku sushi tastes better than this looks. | Stock Photo

Doraku

Hannah Griffin
Staff Contributor

Grade: A-

I have a sushi itch that it seems only Doraku can scratch. With its intimate décor, great lunch deals and amazingly satisfying sushi, Doraku without a doubt beats out its sushi competitors.

Doraku is located at 1579 Dresden Row. Despite the distinctive anime-style cat hanging below the sign, the entrance to the restaurant is surprisingly difficult to find. It is worth traversing a narrow, somewhat sketchy alley for the sushi experience inside.

The small restaurant has three different seating options: standard tables, booths or comfy cushions behind a partition. If you can, go for the cozy booths, but all three are suited to the intimate and quiet atmosphere of Doraku, making it a great date place.

I began with miso soup. My friend ordered a salad. The miso soup was the perfect amount of saltiness, with generous helpings of seaweed and tofu. The salad was topped with corn, various sliced veg-

gies and savoury ginger dressing. It was an inventive departure from the standard house salad most sushi restaurants serve.

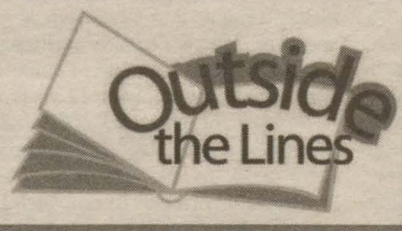
Next we ordered our entrees. The sweet potato tempura roll was crispy and delicious. The shrimp tempura roll, despite being fresh, kept falling apart, so the majority of the rice fell into the soy sauce dish.

The highlight of the meal was the unagi (eel roll). It was slightly grilled and had a sweet aftertaste. The salmon and tuna rolls at Doraku are good, but are extremely tiny (about the size of a quarter). All of the rolls were served on slightly warm rice, making everything taste extra fresh.

The lunch deals at Doraku make it an affordable place to eat. Specials run at about \$10 for two rolls and a soup or salad, but even if you order outside of the deals you can still have a hearty lunch for about \$13 dollars.

Our server was attentive and polite, but be warned: Doraku runs a significant take-out business, so if you go at night, be prepared to wait a while for your food.

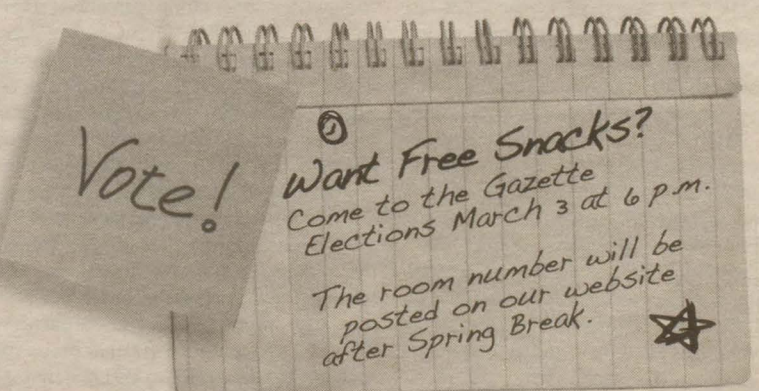
I left Doraku full of rice, fish and satisfaction. I hope you do, too



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Dalai Lama book makes you happy

The Art of Happiness in a Troubled World teaches compassion

Matthew Ritchie
Staff Contributor

With the recent release of *The Art of Happiness in a Troubled World*, the sequel to the very popular *The Art of Happiness* book, Howard Cutler and the Dalai Lama plan to create a more compassionate world.

The book asks a simple question: How is it possible for the average person to be happy in a world that seems increasingly difficult and fraught with problems. The answer, according to the Dalai Lama and Cutler, is by training your mind so that you can see the positive sides to all situations and maintain peace of mind. As opposed to ignoring life's problems and pretending everything is alright, Cutler and the Dalai Lama prescribe that to gain peace of mind is to accept life's big problems. In doing so, peace of mind can be reached and a logical mind will come forward to help fix these problems.

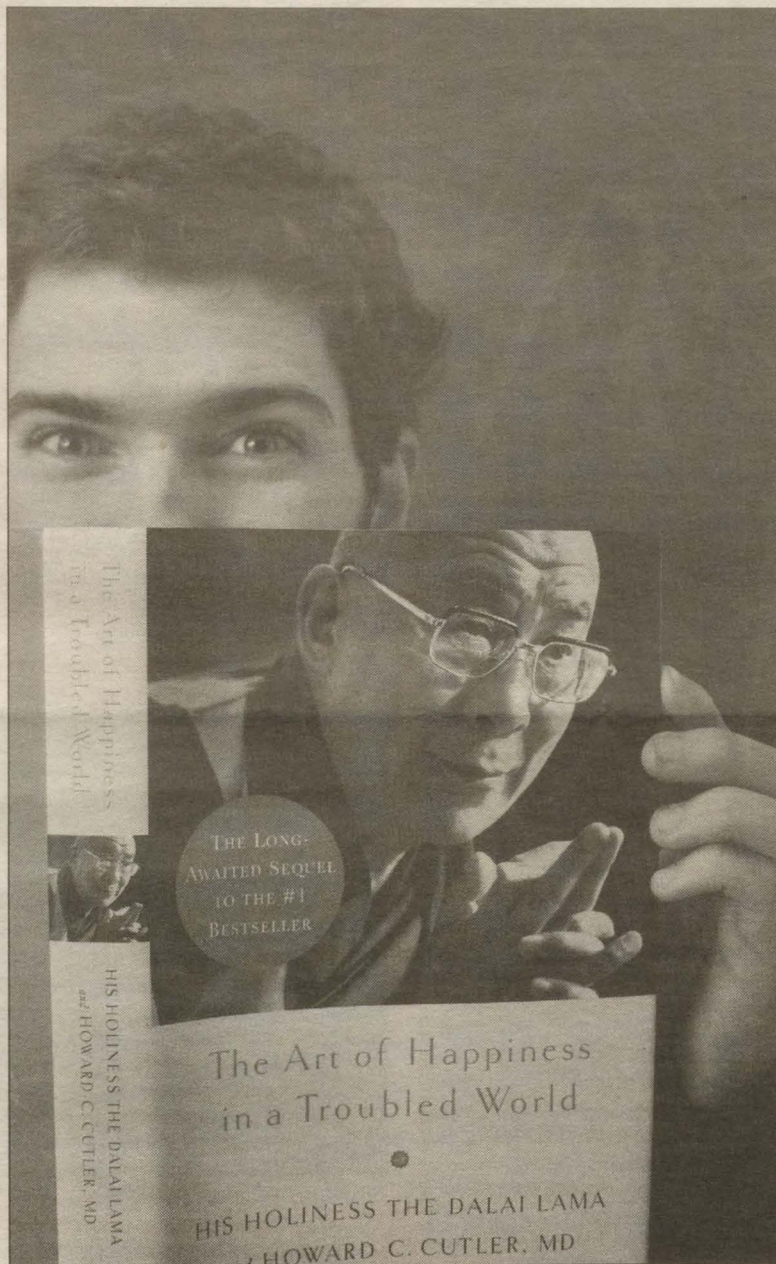
One issue that some may have upon picking up this book is that it isn't strictly a Dalai Lama book. Instead you get Cutler, a trained psychologist and practitioner under the Dalai Lama, guiding you through the teachings of Buddhism and applying them to a Westernized and primarily American viewpoint. Cutler does the primary speaking in the book, drawing from a variety of psychological studies to demonstrate the helpfulness of the Dalai Lama's teaching in Western society.

Cutler breaks up the process of training your mind in a number of easy to understand chapters that focus on the issues at hand and the ways to fix them.

The book is split up into three sections: "I, Us, and Them," "Violence Versus Dialogue" and "Happiness in a Troubled World." The sections deal with subjects such as prejudice, violence and extreme nationalism. The book then suggests ways to overcome these problems.

The book is structured so that anytime Cutler and the Dalai Lama address one issue, the following chapter addresses how to fix it. In this way the book has a practical way of dealing with these problems one at a time. The book can even be used as a manual in the process of meditating on these thoughts after the book has been read.

The Art of Happiness in a Troubled World is a helpful and empowering work, but fault can be found in the authors' word choice and style. One issue is Cutler's focus on the hardships of the American world. Most of the Phoenix resident's hypothetical situations derive from an entirely American centre on issues of prejudice and fear. Cutler mentions the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks repeat-



This book can make anyone smile. | Photo by Paul Ballte

edly in an attempt to focus on the fear and resulting prejudice during the aftermath of these events. The first book, *The Art of Happiness*, claimed to reach audiences all over the world, but Cutler's American focus doesn't seem like it would be a selling point in non-American countries.

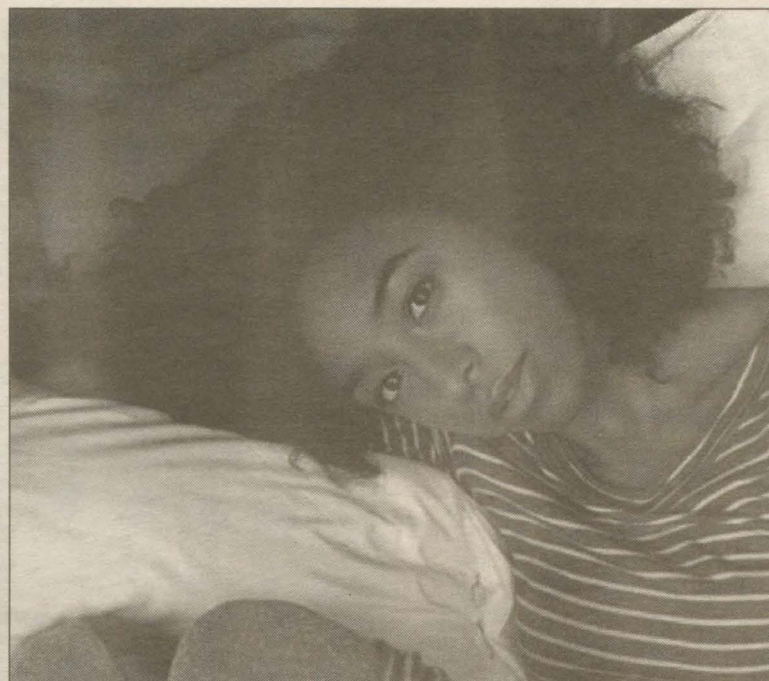
Cutler also has the habit of creating over-exaggerated tear-jerking hypothetical situations to get his point across. In a newscast Cutler witnessed, a reporter on a Saudi Arabian TV station interviews a Muslim girl who professes her hatred for the world's Jewish population.

"It's doesn't take much of a stretch of the imagination to imagine Basmalah at 17 years old, bomb strapped to

her chest," says Cutler. "Filled with rusty nails and screws, walking into an elementary school in ... perhaps America ... blowing herself up with as many innocent Jewish children as she can."

Cutler is trying to force his point by creating a truly fearful situation. This only reinforces the idea that America is a nation filled with fear.

Lapses in writing skill aside, Cutler does bring useful ideas to the table with the help of the Dalai Lama's teaching. The overall message in the book is that humanity's natural emotional state is compassion.



Corinne Bailey Rae returns. | Stock photo

Corinne Bailey Rae - The Sea

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: A

British songstress Corinne Bailey Rae returns this month with a gorgeous package of 11 songs called *The Sea*. Combining a lyrical tapestry that weaves heartbreak and new beginnings against soul and jazz-inflected songs, *The Sea* marks a strong return for the 30-year-old singer from Leeds.

When she released her debut album in 2006, Bailey Rae had the honour of becoming one of four female musicians who have reached the number one spot on their debut album in British recording history. This commercial acclaim came with good reason; Bailey Rae's soft - almost birdlike - voice mixed perfectly with her mostly self-written neo-soul hits. At a time of Amy Winehouse and Duffy, Bailey Rae's debut album was a jazz-infused masterpiece with no pretensions.

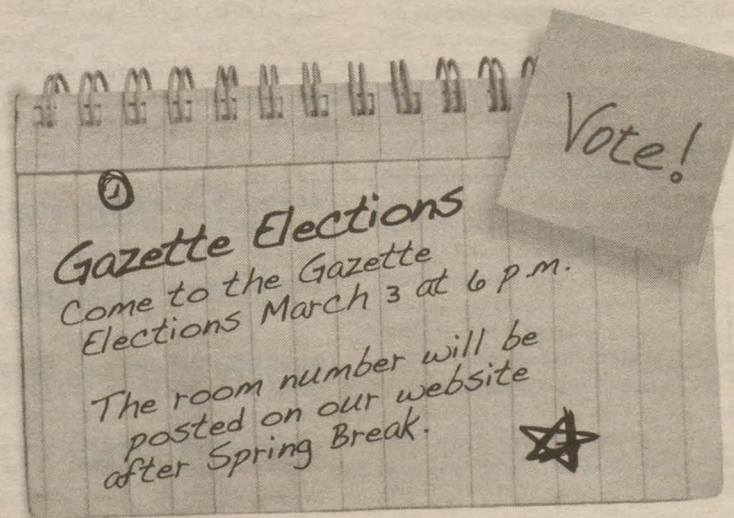
Sadly, following a large amount of success in the years after her debut, tragedy struck when her husband was found

dead from a drug overdose in 2008.

After a two-year hiatus from the music business, and the recording process, *The Sea* is a formidable return from one of England's most promising musicians.

The strongest songs on *The Sea* happen to be the ones that Bailey Rae wrote herself. The majority of those tackle themes of depression and love lost, as well as love found. The songs are beautifully orchestrated and create a rich atmosphere that resembles Coldplay's 2000 release *Parachutes*, known for its relaxed sounds.

Opening track "Are You Here" creates an enticing atmosphere by opening with the gentle plucking of an acoustic guitar and growing into an exercise in minimalism. "Feels Like the First Time" analyzes the excitement of newfound lust while also looking at the regret of love in the past. "Diving for Hearts" and "The Sea" are rich in nautical metaphors, and act together as an ending to the chapter of heartbreak in the singer's life. She sings, "The sea breaks everything, cleans everything, takes everything, from me." And on that sombre note, life and all its beautiful pain is summed up perfectly.



Arts

Cold Warpin' is so hot right now

Cheryl Hann
Staff Contributor

If you've been following the local music scene, chances are you've already heard of the Cold Warps, the bubble-gum punk outfit fronted by Paul Hammond (Sharp Like Knives, Yo Rodeo). The band, which has been garnering a lot of attention for their wonderfully accessible live show, features Dominique Taylor (Juan Love) on guitar, Ryan Allen (XenvisionX) on bass and Lance Purcell (A History Of) on drums.

Born in basements and living rooms, the Cold Warps carry a house party mentality in their back pocket. "We like to try and make every show feel like a house show," says Hammond. "It's more fun if (the band and crowd) can go wild together. Like we're throwing a party, more so than performing a set."

If that's the Cold Warps' mission statement, I feel safe saying mission accomplished. The Cold Warps put on a show that feels like those great parties where you're just drunk enough. That cute girl is there, and she's pointing to a sign that says "Prepare Hips: Shaking Imminent." The Cold Warps' power chord-driven power-punk is like tea with three lumps of sugar: sweet and stimulating.

"(It's) '60s pop, but played like The Ramones," says Hammond. "Fun to listen to, fun to play, fun to watch."

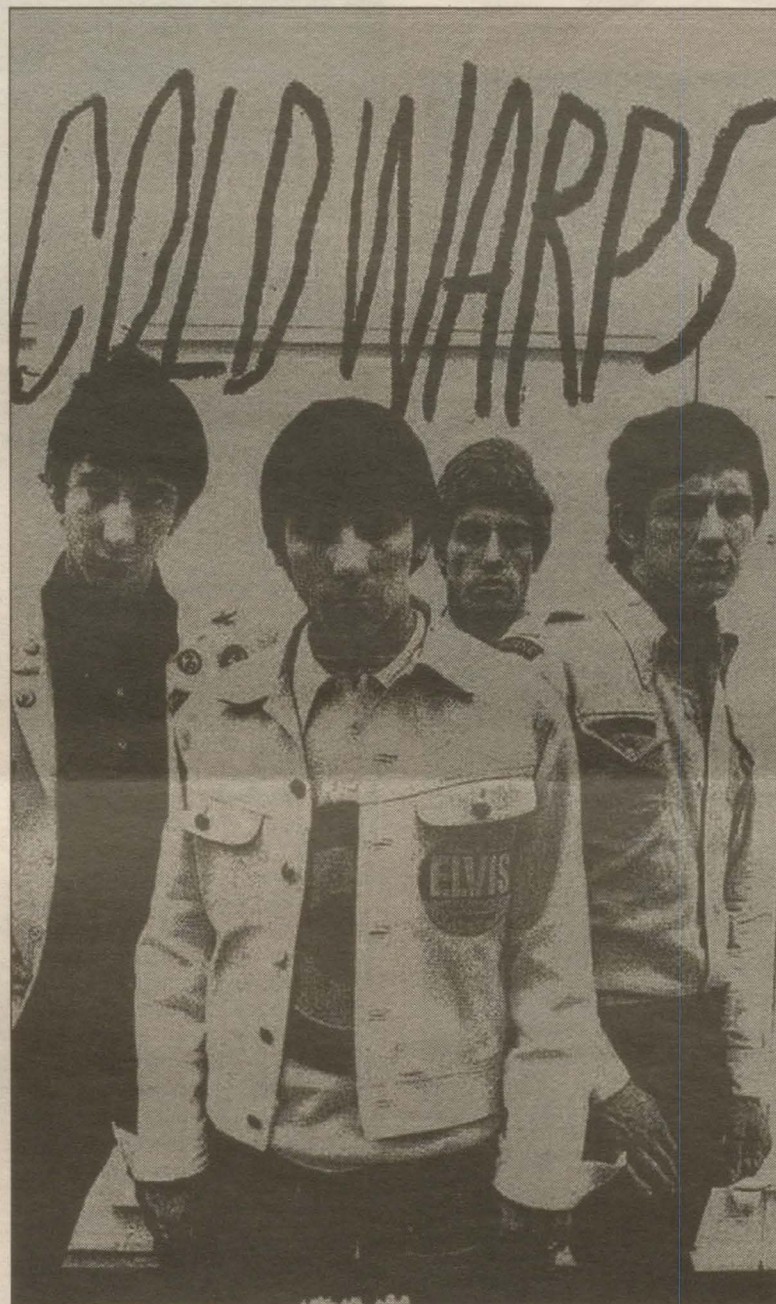
It is for precisely these reasons that the Cold Warps have quickly become one of the most talked about new bands in Halifax. I asked Hammond what he thought of the band's apiarian (bee-like, buzz, get it?) status.

"I think we were all surprised about how much talk we were getting and how well received we were after only playing once or twice," he says. "It really makes you want to push harder, to validate the buzz. It would be pretty crummy to play a few shows, get people really pumped and then just ride that out with the same five songs for a year and a half."

But, if you were stuck listening to five songs for a year and a half, the ones on the Cold Warps' 11-minute debut wouldn't be the worst. The band's first EP, which is the perfect length – just enough time that you can't get sick of it," Hammond jokes – is available on cassette for \$5. Or, if you're broke (see also: lazy), you can download it for free from Hot Money Records.

"We want everyone to hear these songs, so we're encouraging people to just download them and tell their friends to do the same," says Hammond.

The tape may be short, but it definitely packs a punch. It punches with a clenched fist made of Ray Davies chord progressions and Dee Dee Ramone time signatures. Pow! Right in the kisser! The tape opens with "Hang Up On You." A song with a recipe: one part lyrics, two parts hip-swiveling satisfaction – a great way to start the short tape. The next three songs are equally wonderful, but they all build up to "Science Fiction." If your roommate wanders in during this song, I guarantee he or she will



The Cold Warps' cassette cover. Wait – that's The Who! | Photo by Paul Hammond

ask, "Who's this?" followed closely by, "Can we go see them right now?" The song is barely two minutes long, but it's loaded up with the best things. "Werewolves covered in slime," "creatures

ing more songs," Hammond says. "We're going to approach that differently than any of us have ever done before. We'd like to release lots and lots of singles, just a few songs at a time, but hope-

"Cold Warps' power chord-driven power-punk is like tea with three lumps of sugar: sweet and stimulating."

coming out of walls," "dudes with nothing for a face," not to mention at least two separate references to the *X-Files*.

So keep your eyes peeled for the Cold Warps' shows. They're a great place to get hot and sweaty this winter. "Other than that, we're just focusing on writ-

fully frequently. The goal is to just keep people excited, and wanting more."

If you want more, download the Cold Warps' EP at www.hotmoneyrecords.com/songs/coldwarps.zip. Or, check out their MySpace for shows.

Warrior of light Owen Pallett decimates St. Matthew's crowd

Erica Eades
Staff Contributor

Grade: A

Owen Pallett is not your average violinist. As a graduate of the Honours Bachelor of Music for Composition program at the University of Toronto, he knows a thing or two about music. But Pallett's undeniably unique style is something that can't be taught in a lecture hall.

As he walked on to the stage at St. Matthew's church, it was clear Pallett needed no introduction. The noisy, bustling audience grew silent as the musician carefully tuned his instruments and checked his mics. Without saying a word, Pallett broke out in to his first song. The audience responded with an eruption of energy.

Pallett, who is more commonly known by his former stage name, Final Fantasy, has a sound that is truly unmatched in today's musical realm. During his performances, he plays his violin into a sampler that he controls with foot pedals. He then loops back one or more of the previously played tracks, while playing additional parts simultaneously. The resulting sound is that of multiple violins playing at once, as opposed to one lone instrument.

Pallett is also a classically trained vocalist. His voice has a haunting, yet cap-

tivating quality to it that mixes seamlessly with the instrumentation. By combining his soft melodies with occasional bursts of screaming, he creates a sense of anxiety and anticipation; the audience never knows what will come next.

On his current world tour, Pallett has broken away from his standard one man show. For the past year, Thomas Gill has been providing backup vocals, percussion and guitar for Pallett's live shows. In an interview with *Exclaim! Magazine*, Pallett said, "I was lonely on stage by myself, so I wanted somebody else up there with me."

Although the two musicians' on-stage interactions were minimal, Pallett and Gill were totally in sync for the duration of the show. Gill's percussive contributions were often quite subtle, but his guitar riffs had an impressive flair that quickly captured the audience's focus. Together, the two musicians were nothing short of extraordinary.

Pallett has long been recognized for his collaborations with many notable musicians. However, he has stressed in numerous recent interviews that his current goal is to make his own albums, and tour as much as possible. With the release of his latest album, *Heartland*, Pallett has been able to play shows throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. In the interview with *Exclaim!* he explained, "I'm 30 years old and I've got 10 years of touring before it starts getting back-breaking."



Ok Go - Of the Blue Colour of the Sky

Matthew Ritchie
Staff Contributor

Grade: C-

Ok Go just released a new album called *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky* and the majority of it is surprisingly bad.

When the band gained an immense degree of popularity in early 2002 with the hit song "Get Over It," Ok Go quickly one-upped themselves in 2006 with the viral video for "Here it Goes Again." Because they danced on a number of moving treadmills, the kitschy music video shot to stardom – or at least Internet stardom. Of course 15 minutes of fame is short enough, but when that exposure is on the Internet, it's more like 15 seconds.

This month's release from the band shows them fading even further into obscurity. It looks like the members of the Chicago alternative power poppers were given a large amount of

money to produce this album, but the sound of the songs never fully formed.

At the helms of the production side is Dave Fridmann (Flaming Lips, MGMT and Mogwai). His trademark psychedelic atmospheric are all over this album. Fridmann is famous for making the Flaming Lips trippier, MGMT spacier and Mogwai heavier. With Ok Go's new album, he made them sound shittier.

Ok Go has made strong two to three minute power pop songs in the past. None of those appear on this album. Instead the listener gets a bunch of half-assed Spoon and Prince songs. The drums are spacey, and set back from the mix; the guitars are in the foreground and play mediocre riffs. The vocals are truly abysmal. It sounds like the band is trying too hard. All the songs blur together and it becomes impossible to distinguish any real hits from the album.

For Ok Go fans, *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky* is sure to disappoint. Get back to the pop songs, guys.

Sports

Sports

Olympic ceremonies Good enough?

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

When Canadian identity comes up, it's time to flip to the next page. Really, who even cares?

It is hard to give words to the elusive idea of Canada. Searching for Canadian identity can be like looking straight at the sun; any effort to directly examine who or what we are tends to make most Canadians want to look away with the same cringing pain we collectively felt when, as billions watched, the Olympic torch malfunctioned at the climax of the Vancouver Olympics' opening ceremonies.

Yet no matter how hard it may be to see, the idea is up there somewhere – if only because it has to be. The organizers of Vancouver's opening ceremonies made it the theme they explored in front of the world. It was a bold effort to weave a thread of common identity in through the layers of individualistic, pluralist, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Canada. If we can't look at the sun, we can at least take in the landscape lit up by its reflected light.

Olympic opening ceremonies have become a proclamation of a host nation's glory, a celebration of a unique civilization. It didn't help that we were following on the cultural-celebration heels of the Chinese, the Italians and the Americans, and that whatever we did had to live up to upcoming ceremonies from the Russians and Brits.

For a people who aren't even sure they want to be a people, or that they even need a collective identity, it seemed impossible for the Vancouver organizers to say something every Canadian could agree with. Far from being able to say who we are, Canadians have a hard time saying what we're not. Like a lonely teenager filled with big ideas yet unsure of our own worth, we are a country starved for defining moments. True to teenage

"If Canada needs moments that define us, to explain us to the world and ourselves – why not this one?"

insecurity, many viewers caught the awkwardness: the confused presentation of the heads of state, an overly jazzy rendition of "Oh Canada", Nelly Furtado's cheesy singing, the unthinkable embarrassment of the torch-lighting ceremony – corniness in general. And yet what

will be remembered are the moments of sublime human perfection: competing nations joined in mourning the death of a Georgian luger, stunning visual effects transforming the arena floor into ocean waves broken by breaching whales, and a divided world united by candlelight as K.D. Lang sang Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah". If Canada needs moments that define us, to explain us to the world and ourselves – why not this one?

The opening ceremonies did capture something of the Canadian idea and experience even if it was mostly peripheral. The ceremony began with a proud welcome from four Aboriginal nations of the Lower Mainland who were then joined by additional Aboriginal nations from across Canada. Below four welcoming totems, the first people of Canada met together in proud and majestic display before the world.

Bryan Adams and Nelly Furtado performed a song notable for little except the spirit and enthusiasm it conveyed. While stifflingly cheesy, the song succeeded in building a tone of pride, excitement and hospitality.

Next, athletes from across the world were welcomed to the stage to much fanfare. However what was most memorable was the relentless dancing at centre stage by the Aboriginal performers. As the people of nation after nation were welcomed to the stage, they refused to be forgotten, their drums and singing often rising above the cheers and music. They did a series of artistic performances depicting various elements of the Canadian experience – the smallness of humanity in the face of raw nature and the magic our vast, empty land.

Following impressive acrobatic performances interlaced with quotes relating to Canada, the Maritimes received a complimentary nod with a lengthy plaid-clad Celtic dance and fiddle performance. Speeches and songs wrapped up the ceremony. Mounties raised the Olympic flag while a Canadian opera singer delivered a powerful rendition of the Olympic hymn. Gretzky lit the flame. Few of those hearts who watched K.D. Lang's epic rendition of "Hallelujah" were anything less than glowing. The song, by one woman before 60,000 candles, created a moment that was moving, intimate and powerful in a way that seems incapable of replication.

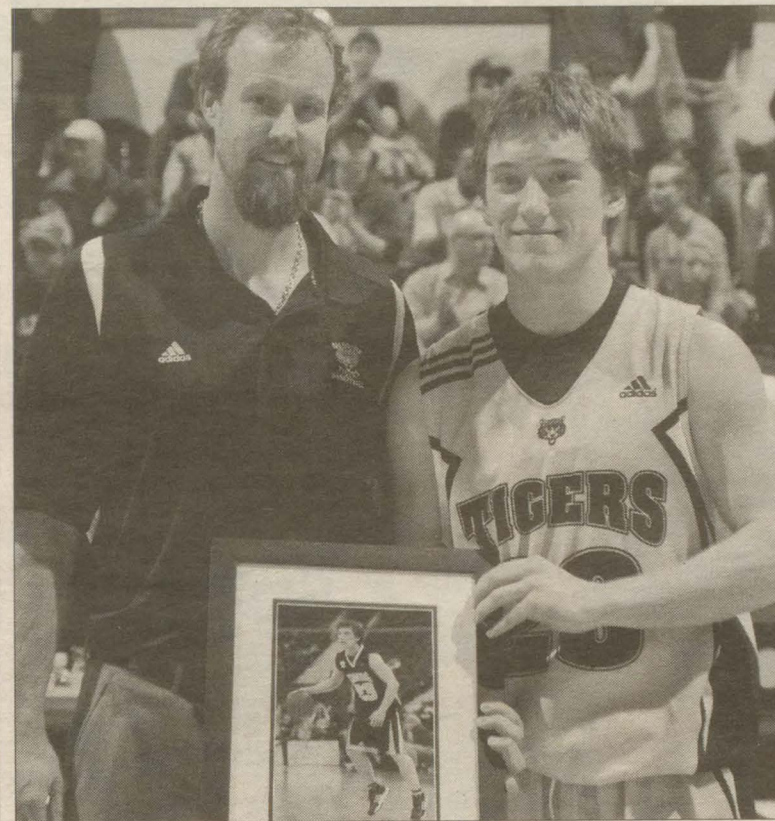
It is impossible to convey the spirit of the ceremonies to those who didn't see them, suffice to say that they were unlike any opening ceremonies to date. Perhaps the overriding message of the Vancouver Olympics will be the idea that we exist and we are more or less who we say we are. A country that is many different things to many different people just said something only we can in a way only we can. Canada has made the Vancouver Olympics an opportunity to tell the world something about our identity, and succeeded in doing so before any medals were handed out. Gold medals or not, no one will want to miss the closing ceremonies.

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



Fifth-year engineering student Andrew Sullivan and Tigers coach John Campbell. | Photo by Andri Lo

Sully's goodbye

Dal Basketball star, Rhodes scholar nominee plays last home game

Natasha White
Staff Contributor

It was electric. It was how it should be. The final three minutes at the Tigers' last home game of the season versus the St. Mary's Huskies was a sports fan's dream. The intense clash between Halifax rivals came down to the wire and the crowd was roaring. Every possession was critical. Every missed free throw would come back to haunt the losing team. Every turn-over, steal, made or missed three single-handedly made the difference in the outcome of this basketball spectacle. Sadly, it would be Dal's misses that had them on the losing end of this passionate effort.

The final score was 70-68. While the referees didn't cause missed threes or free throws, they did do a little missing themselves. In the final minutes of the game, the refs somehow neglected to call a most obvious goal-tending violation by St. Mary's. This gave the Huskies an undeserved two-point advantage, coincidentally reflecting the final margin of victory. However, best not to dwell on what should have been.

What was a much better story. Tiger guards Simone Farine and Andrew Sullivan each marked the game with major milestones. Farine surpassed the 1,000 career point mark Saturday night, joining a select few in Tiger history. Coach Campbell even flashed a rare sideline smile as he congratulated Simon. Despite an extremely concentrated defensive effort by St. Mary's to shut Farine down, he scored 26 points, made seven assisted, and was the top rebounder for

Dal with 10. The battle of the AUS scoring leaders of Huskie guard Joey Hayward sitting number one (averaging 24 per game) and Tiger Simon Farine sitting two (averaging 22 per game), was won by Dal's own. Farine, who played the full 40 minutes, put in his usual outstanding effort, earning once again Player of the Game. Tiger fans should be quite thankful that we haven't seen the last of the six-foot-two-inch co-captain.

Andrew Sullivan however, did play his last home game Saturday night. The fifth-year environmental engineering student epitomized a stellar career with his final effort of the evening. With Dal down by two and 1.6 seconds to go, Sully sacrificed it all as he dove for the ball during St. Mary's final in-bound. He looked like a linebacker on the non-existent football team, as he took out the cushioned divider that thankfully broke his fall.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to gain possession for Dal. But you have to love Sullivan's unfailing heart. Dal loses not only a team leader and co-captain, but the number six assist leader in the AUS and a top 15 steal leader. Sullivan's success extends off the court: he is a five-time academic all-Canadian and Dalhousie nominee for the prestigious Rhodes scholarship.

In a recent interview with Coach Campbell, Sullivan earned high praise for his contributions to the team. Sullivan's quiet confidence and timely threes will be sorely missed. Without a doubt Sully will be remembered as a pivotal piece in the 2009 AUS Championship team, as well as one of the best-rounded students at Dalhousie to don a Tiger uniform.

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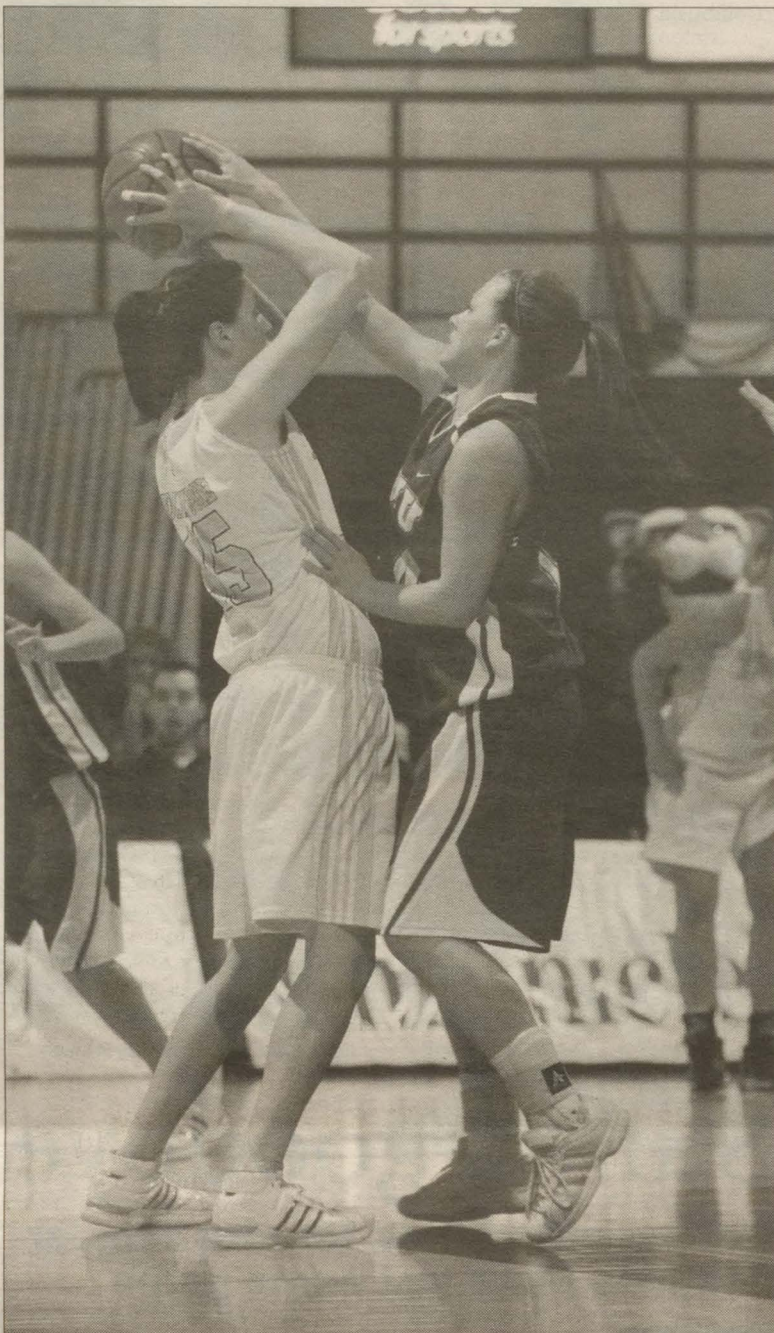
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Sports



The Dal women's team enters playoffs ranked fifth in the AUS. | Photo by Pau Balite

Girdwood twins, April Scott honoured in Tigers home

Basketball playoffs loom

Natasha White
Staff Contributor

The final home game of the hard-court season was a nitty-gritty battle between the Dalhousie ladies and Halifax rivals St. Mary's. Fitting, as it was the last showing at the Dalplex for fifth-year forward twins Laurie and Leah Girdwood and guard April Scott. It was also potentially the last home game for hardworking Alex Legge and top rebounder Cailin Crosby – both in their fourth year at Dal. Legge could possibly return to the team next season if all works out with her med-school admittance.

With these losses, Coach Stammberger is facing a huge hole in her starting line-up for next season. The ladies were honoured in a brief ceremony after the game for their fierce competitiveness and substantial contributions to Dal Tigers' basketball. Let's hope Coach Stammberger's doing some serious recruiting for the 2010/2011 season.

Saturday night's game proved that the Tigers just keep getting better and better. It was a bittersweet pill to swallow, as the ladies succumbed to second-ranked St. Mary's Huskies by a mere three points:

62-65. Coincidentally, three by Huskies' Justine Colley and Robbi Daley killed the Tigers' opportunity for the upset.

St. Mary's outscored Dal from behind the arch, 27 to three. Forty-seven percent at the free throw line by Dal didn't help the cause either. Again, Dal managed to consistently break the full court press, which is a vast improvement from the start of the season. However, the disconnect lay in what to do once the press was broken, and the Tigers found themselves with numbers. Too many two-on-ones weren't taken advantage of, and it's going to take conversion these easy points' opportunities to beat the best.

Thanks in part to St. Mary's proximity, and to both Ladies' and Men's proactive crowd recruiting, attendance at the Dalplex on Friday was its largest for home games of the season. The ladies treated the crowd to an excellent showing. In the final seconds, retiring guard Scott nearly tied the game. The ball took a 360-degree trip around the rim and cruelly decided to come back out.

Alas, it was not meant to be that night. Leah Girdwood, April Scott, Cailin Crosby, Laurie Girdwood and Alex Legge should be proud of their outstanding careers as Dalhousie Tigers.

It's a hockey tournament, eh?

Zack Wilson and Tim Vander Kooi
Staff Contributors

With two games already under their belts, Team Canada's men's Olympic team looks poised to make a deep run in the most anticipated hockey tournament in the history of the game. Despite a roster loaded with names such as Crosby, Iginla and Brodeur, Canada is no shoe-in for the gold.

In recent times, a number of countries have risen to the surface of the hockey world. Twenty years ago a tournament such as this would have been a two-horse race, with Canada and the Soviet Union as the only real contestants. Instead, this year there are seven nations that could hypothetically walk away with gold.

Slovakia, Sweden, Russia, Finland, the Czech Republic or the United States could be crowned Kings of the hockey world and nobody would bat an eye.

Canada will be hard-pressed to find an easy adversary in the tournament from this point on. Neither of their opponents – Switzerland nor Norway – is considered to be a medal contender. From here on in, the big boys will be rearing their ugly heads and coming to play.

Many have referred to this tournament as a competition that has seven main players: the "Big Seven." Here is a list of teams Canada will have to go through if they have any hope of bringing back those ever-coveted gold medals.

Slovakia

Slovakia comes into the tournament with high hopes, although the rest of the world may not echo that same sentiment. They will probably be the dark horse of the tournament. This team could surprise a lot of people. They have a big defensive squad led by Zdeno Chara, Milan Jurcina, and Andrie Mezaros. Jaroslav Halak is a streaky goaltender that could get hot throughout the tournament. Marion Gaborik has proven himself for the New York Rangers this season, so he should do some serious damage alongside Marian Hossa. Slovakia must keep the score low in order to win games.

Sweden

Sweden comes into the tournament as the defending champions and they look poised to repeat their winning ways. Henrik Lundqvist has shown shades of Tommy Soderstrom this season and will surely keep Sweden in any game. It will be interesting to see if Peter Forsberg will make a difference, or be a flop. He needs to perform to help out the younger players around him. Nicklas Lidstrom, in the twilight of his career, should log a great number of minutes if Sweden has any chance of reclaiming the gold.

Russia

To many experts, the Russians look to be the most offensively lethal group of the bunch. Their offence can explode on weak teams, so expect some high-scoring games in the round robin. With the likes of Ovechkin, Semin, Malkin and Datsyuk, this team should have no problem keeping the puck in the opposition's zone. Defence

is a bit of an issue though. Markov and Gonchar are not defensive-minded defencemen. They typically like to jump into the play to make something happen. However, they have strong goaltending with the one-two punch of Nabokov and Varlamov.

Finland

Finland has a fine crop of young players and a group of elder statesmen, but little in between. Names such as Saku Koivu and Teemu Selane litter their forward roster, and a number of personalities around the game agree that these guys may be too old for the young men's game. Finland's defence is adequate but porous. Little to no offence is expected from the back end. Their goaltending may be their saving grace with former Toronto Maple Leaf first rounder turned Boston Bruin Tuukka Rask in net. This year, the young goaltender has had scorching numbers in the National Hockey League and has all but forced last year's Vezina trophy winner Tim Thomas from the net.

The Czech Republic

The Czechs are always a tough team to play. This hockey-crazy nation possesses a number of lethal scoring weapons. North Americans will likely be given their last chance to watch Jaromir Jagr on Canadian soil. Two years after the future Hall of Famer departed from North America for the opportunity to play in Russia's up-

start KHL, the Czech flag bearer returns as team captain. Although still a scorer, Jagr is more likely to be a leader than a sniper.

The team's defence is anchored by Toronto Maple Leaf defenseman Tomas Kaberle and is expected to handle quite the workload as they have been grouped into a pool that includes the likes of Slovakia and Russia. In net the Czechs have turned to Tomas Vokun. Gone are the days when Dominic Hasek patrolled the Czech crease and Vokun will be heavily relied upon.

The United States

For the first time since the 1992 tournament, the United States will be sending a team that is not made up solely of geezers. Up front, names such as New Jersey Devils forward Zach Parise, Maple Leaf's winger Phil Kessel highlight what promises to be an exciting forward contingent. On the blue line, veteran Brian Rafalski will guide a young defensive corps. In net, Ryan Miller (arguably the best goaltender in the NHL this season) will back-stop this young squad, and for his part, hopefully bring home Olympic glory.

Other teams of note in the tournament include the Belarus and the Norwegian. Both have good young crops of players (Norway has three members of their 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship squad in their line up), although these teams will need a number of years to mature and improve their national programs. Neither pose any real threat to the "Big Seven."

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TIGERS HUNT FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Tigers playoff picture

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Men's basketball

Simon Farine will lead the Tigers back into the playoffs hoping to relive last years surprising playoff run, which saw the Tigers win their first AUS Championship since 1996. The competition is stiffer this time round with an undefeated St. FX team and a powerful University of Cape Breton team, both hungry for national championship standing between the Tigers and consecutive AUS title. The Dal team has the talent to go all the way, and is ranked 10th overall in Canada.

Women's basketball

The women's team hasn't clinched a playoff berth yet, but of the two remaining spots, the battle is between the University of New Brunswick and Acadia University. Both trail Dalhousie by six points for the final spot, leaving Dal's postseason all but assured.

Barring any major upsets, Dal will face St. Francis Xavier in the quarter-finals. The two teams have met three times this season with St. FX winning two reasonably close games and Dal coming away with a 73-58 win in January.

Dal will look to veteran stars Cailin Crosby, April Scott and the Girdwood twins to best the X-Women and 2008-2009 defensive player of the year Ashley Stephen. The Tigers have two road games against The University of Prince Edward Island and Acadia to play before heading to Sydney, Cape Breton for the AUS Championships Feb. 26 to Feb. 28.

Men's hockey

The hockey team has missed the playoffs by a single point making 2010 the sixth-straight year the Tigers have missed the postseason, but almost certainly the last. Coach Pete Belliveau continues to stock his roster with talented recruits as he rebuilds the Dal hockey program. Playing in the best varsity hockey league in Canada the ever-improving Tigers are expected to make a big splash in 2010-2011. Students returning next September can look forward to hockey playoffs next spring. Belliveau has taken every team he's coached to a national championship. Dal's time is coming.

Women's hockey

Led by top-scorer Jocelyn LeBlanc, who has 16 goals and 13 assists in 17 games, this season the women's hockey

team is poised to make a solid play-off run in 2010. Team captain Laura Shearer leads all blue-liners in the league with 15 points and goalie Ashley Boutilier holds a respectable .902 save percentage going into the final stretch of the regular season. The women's final home game of the season will be Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m.

Men's volleyball

They've won 23 consecutive AUS titles dating back to 1987 and are ranked second in Canada, but the question surrounding the Dal men's volleyball team is: Can they bring home a National championship? With 23 years of championships in Atlantic Canada, an AUS title in 2010 is not only expected - it's also not good enough.

Women's volleyball

The women's team has snuck into the playoffs with six wins and 11 losses, good enough for a .353 win percentage. The Tigers are going to have to find a way to win, and win consistently, if they have any hope for a significant playoff run. Win or lose, the future is bright for this volleyball team with a roster full of promising talent. 2010 will only be the first of many post-season runs for this team. The pressure for a championship will rise as this team matures.



Men's basketball will defend their 2009 AUS title in 2010. | Photo by Andri Lo

Beat the Kipper

Questions:

- 1) Who was the last Dalhousian to compete at the Olympics?
- 2) When was the last time the Dal men's volleyball team lost the AUS championship?
- 3) Who is third all time in NHL career points?

Answers:

- 1) Adrienne Power, women's 200 metres, Beijing 2008
- 2) The 1985-1986 season
- 3) Gordie Howe: 801 goals, 1049 assists and 1850 points in 1767 career games



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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2010

DAL-ENG, WHERE IS YOUR PRIDE?

Ed: The following was an article received anonymously, but we felt needed to be published!

Dalhousie Engineering is an interesting faculty. If I could personify Dal-Eng, it would be masculine, intelligent, confident, united, and presumptuous. Masculine, because in some classes there is only one girl for every 8 guys, and the entire profession is still a male majority. Intelligent because, well we know a lot of stuff about physics and math! Confident, because we know we are the best undergraduate faculty at Dalhousie University. I can still hear the Arts, Commerce and Nursing faculties crying after losing trivia to us. United, because you are automatically best friends with your fellow engineering students, always studying, and partying together. And finally, presumptuous, because most engineering students assume that their fellow classmates are heterosexual and desire to be the gender that they were born with.

When I talk about Dalhousie Engineering's pride, I'm not talking about chanting the Engineers song, waving the Dal-Eng flag at the Moosehead's games, organizing huge charity events, or telling all the other students at Dal that our program is more challenging and better than theirs. I am talking about pride in sexual and gender diversity. I think that is one thing that Dalhousie Engineering seriously lacks, and everyone has a role to play in this.

Being presumptuous is probably the one thing that really *grinds* my gears. Imagine being a gay guy in first year, you go to the Killam Li-

brary to "study" with your fellow classmates, who are mostly male. One of them says, "Check out that chick down in the Atrium." Then all the other guys begin to chime in commenting on her physical features and probably applying their studies of static forces on rigid members to the situation. The other guys ask you what you think of her, assuming you're not gay, so trying not to go *against the grain* you comment on her physical features too, even though you're actually checking out her boyfriend right beside her. It is very awkward when you comment, because you don't even mean it. It is very awkward because your best friends don't even know you are gay, and that you don't even mean what you say. It wears down on you mentally, and affects your self-confidence.

That was me, in first year, trying to go with the flow, and melting into the Dal Eng lifestyle. It is a hard lifestyle trying to pretend to be something that you are not. You don't really want to stick out because you are afraid of being different. You may have that fear that if your friends ever found out about your true identity, they may ridicule you, or even abandon you. And without friends in engineering, it would be almost impossible to succeed academically. You need the support system!

Lately, I came to my senses and learned that those fears were completely irrational, and even presumptuous! I just presumed that if there were no other *out* gays in engineering,

that engineering students weren't comfortable with gays in their class. I was wrong. Telling your best friends, who are also your classmates, that you're gay is probably the hardest thing to do in life. You may have thought that writing a DE test back in second year was hard, but fortunately if you failed, you could just rewrite it, or retake the course. The first time you tell the people you care and love you are gay is harder than all DE tests combined. Once you say it, you can't redo it. However, I overcame my fears this summer, and started telling the friends I thought should know, and all of them have welcomed it with open arms. Some of them even asked me why I didn't tell them sooner. Maybe after reading this they may understand why I waited so long. Once I said it, I felt like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I am actually closer to my friends now, which I actually didn't think was possible.

My advice to everyone, not just Dal-Eng, is to not assume your friends are always straight, and always comfortable with the gender they were born with. Now don't go around trying to figure out who is gay, bi, straight, lesbian, transgendered, that's not the point. I am just asking you to keep an open mind and not just assume someone is just one way. And for those of you who are gay, bi, lesbian, transgendered, you are not alone!

A Gay Engineering Student
ERTW

Dear Michael,

I am a 23 year-old Sagittarius with excellent dental hygiene, but I lack experience in the ways of love. I was hoping you could use your abilities as a teacher to show me how to use my heart since it is the only muscle I haven't shown off at the T-room.

It is very romantic that you have walked away from a plane crash. I am more interested in boats than airplanes myself. In fact one of my first jobs was a ship designer on the French Shore, but now my career is taking me into seaweed and seaweed accessories.

I really hope you will consider me an acceptable suitor, but I know that you must be getting lots of replies after showing off your sexy dance moves at Techball. I hope I make the cut.

Text me soon, Jean-Pierre Guy Brien

The Sextant is launching a new Sexton-area sublet directory. Go to www.thesextant.ca/forum to post or find a sublet for your next coop or study term!

CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: www.engandcompsscicoop.dal.ca
- Round 2: Going on now Check PlacePro

SPOTTED ON SEXTON- TECHBALL EDITION

Watch out folks, if you hit up the hottest party this weekend you have been spotted! As the Chess Club played the swinging tunes, this keen reporter was keeping a vigilant eye! Don't worry I won't reveal all the secrets..... this time!

Spotted:

- MG picked up some lovely ladies with the help of his personal add. I guess it is true, girls really can't resist the uniform.
- JW celebrated a birthday with the help of the band and about 30 of his closest friends.
- CA was up to his old tricks, as per usual.
- SH wore a red dress, perhaps she will be attending another red dress event later this term?
- BA, JB, JB, SN and RM danced the night away and ended up at a certain bar of local fame.
- AR, FD, MC, NG and BB looked fab as always.
- KS and BW were planning this week's Sextant
- DAL Celebrities SZ and KO enjoyed the entertainment, and not just the band!



Trivia every Friday!

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Exothermic	Endothermic
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Micheal Marchand and Martin Crawley
If you have comments or suggestions about this feature, tell us at sextant@dal.ca

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Kudos to Assistant Editor Kaylee Shannon for this week's issue!