



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Friday, April 9

Last Class Bash featuring *Signal Hill*

Be sure to come out and celebrate the last day of classes for the semester at **The Grawood!** Festivities begin at 2:00pm with food and drink specials throughout the day!

The event is 19+ so be sure to bring your ID!

DSU Accessibility Bursary Applications

Applications for the DSU Accessibility Bursary are available online at www.dsu.ca. Applications can be submitted to the Society Administrator in room 222 of the SUB. For more information please contact Mark Hobbs at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

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.

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	

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

SUB Hours of Operation

- Monday-Wednesday: 7:30am to 11pm
- Thursday & Friday: 7:30am to 12am
- Saturday: 9am to 12am
- Sunday: 11:30am to 9pm

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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THIS IS JUST TO SAY

We wrote about the issue that made you super mad.

We printed the word "cunt" in context, once.

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Editorial

'Boyter. Just Boyter.'

Joshua Boyter
Editor-in-Chief

I have worked at the Gazette for four years and I still don't know how to write a bloody editorial. It is not that I don't know how to write – I write all of the time for class. But this space on the third page for all of Halifax to read still baffles me.

I know why I am still a little shaky with my editorials. It feels like yesterday putting together our first issue: 10 a.m. in the morning sitting in my designer's office, beer in hand, attempting anything to calm my nerves in order to deal with the calamity in front of me. Our largest issue ever, weighing in at 36 pages and due to print in only four hours, was still missing about 60 per cent of its photos and half of its cutlines, and we didn't have time to double check our work. That issue almost did not come out. I had to fold thousands of issues by hand the next day because the printer did not fold it. My hands were stained black with ink. Since then I have constantly felt as if I were holding a grenade with the pin pulled, fist clenched trying to contain the blast and the fallout.

I had the unfortunate circumstance of holding four positions at the paper this year: Editor-in-Chief, Business Manager, Office Manager and Web Editor. It was not so much by choice as by necessity. Two positions were full time. The other two were part time. One job at the Gazette is hard enough. There's not much time left over to work on writing either.

Last March, I was elected into this position that I have come to

was excited for the challenge and eager to implement the ideas I had developed over the years. I felt poised to make an impact. But now, as I reflect on my year, I know it was a struggle, with highs and lows, accomplishments and failures.

I received the Gazette in a state of neglect. I rebuilt the paper from the ground up in four long months. My greatest accomplishment. Needless to say I did not have much of a summer last year between classes and endless hours toiling in my office. After numerous plant tours, three months of meetings, and watching countless paper whirr through the printing presses, I moved the Gazette to a more environmentally-friendly format and a new print facility. While the size of our paper diminished, our content did not. We created theme issues to tackle topics that mattered to a wide range of students. From mental health to sex to sexual assault, no issue was too controversial or menial for our coverage. We never underestimated the impact our reporting could have on these matters.

We also won numerous awards this year. These included four John H. Macdonald awards for student journalism, including two first-place finishes. I am proud to say they came from our newsroom.

After watching the most intense debates and yelling matches over how we delivered our paper last production year, I overhauled our distribution. Insert more paper work, scouting, meetings and sleepless nights. It was worth it. This work reflected a more progressive approach in our delivery system. We carefully counted leftover papers this year to maximize

pickup and minimize waste. By combining the south end and north end routes and deploying all-weather boxes in strategic locations, we bolstered our presence.

A newspaper is as good as its website, but judging by our broken site at the beginning of the year, you would think we were a pretty shitty newspaper. As other media outlets continued to evolve online so too did the Gazette. We developed a website with a new design and a user-friendly interface. In order to ease the burden of our overworked staff, we developed a virtual office allowing for remote filing, further collaboration and the ability to move production seamlessly around the country and the world. Even when I was in Asia for two weeks, our copy editor, Hilary, was in Turkey for five weeks and our designer, Sue, was in Ottawa for three weeks, every issue of the paper came out on time.

There is only so much an editor can accomplish in a year: I learned this the hard way. Though I rebuilt the paper, key issues still need to be addressed. It is my hope that our hard work this year does not fall flat in years to come. Many decisions were made with the best interest of the paper and our readership in mind. There are three points I believe that next year's staff must work on.

Student apathy and involvement in campus media needs to be addressed. Every student has a stake in the paper through the levy they pay. We are a forum in which to debate issues and discuss ideas. I attempted to tackle this issue through a guerilla media campaign known as "312". I believe our of-

fice, room 312 in the Student Union Building, is the epicenter for university life. This campaign reflected that belief. Time constraints and lack of resources prevented me from ever getting the materials off of the bookcase in my office.

While we developed a new website, our presence online was never fully developed. I loathed working on the site. Hampered mainly by the lack of a trained web editor, our website suffered from spam comments and untimely updates. A professional web editor must be hired to work on the site closely and constantly. A more co-ordinated effort of social media platforms must be made. It is my hope that the Gazette will be able to offer these services in the near future.

One of the greatest legacies inherited by this year's Gazette staff was our financial situation. The Gazette, like many other publications, has struggled in recent years to balance our books. One of my main priorities this year was to balance the budget. After slashing tens of thousands of dollars from the budget and dashing my dreams of new couches and the workload of a normal Editor-in-Chief, I made strides to accomplish this. The Gazette is poised to next year break even with the aid of strategic capital investments made this year. These include the website and new print design, which do not need to be changed for some years to come.

I have sacrificed everything for this paper. It took a toll on my health – both mental and physical. My social life suffered even further. When I was Photo Editor during my second year at the

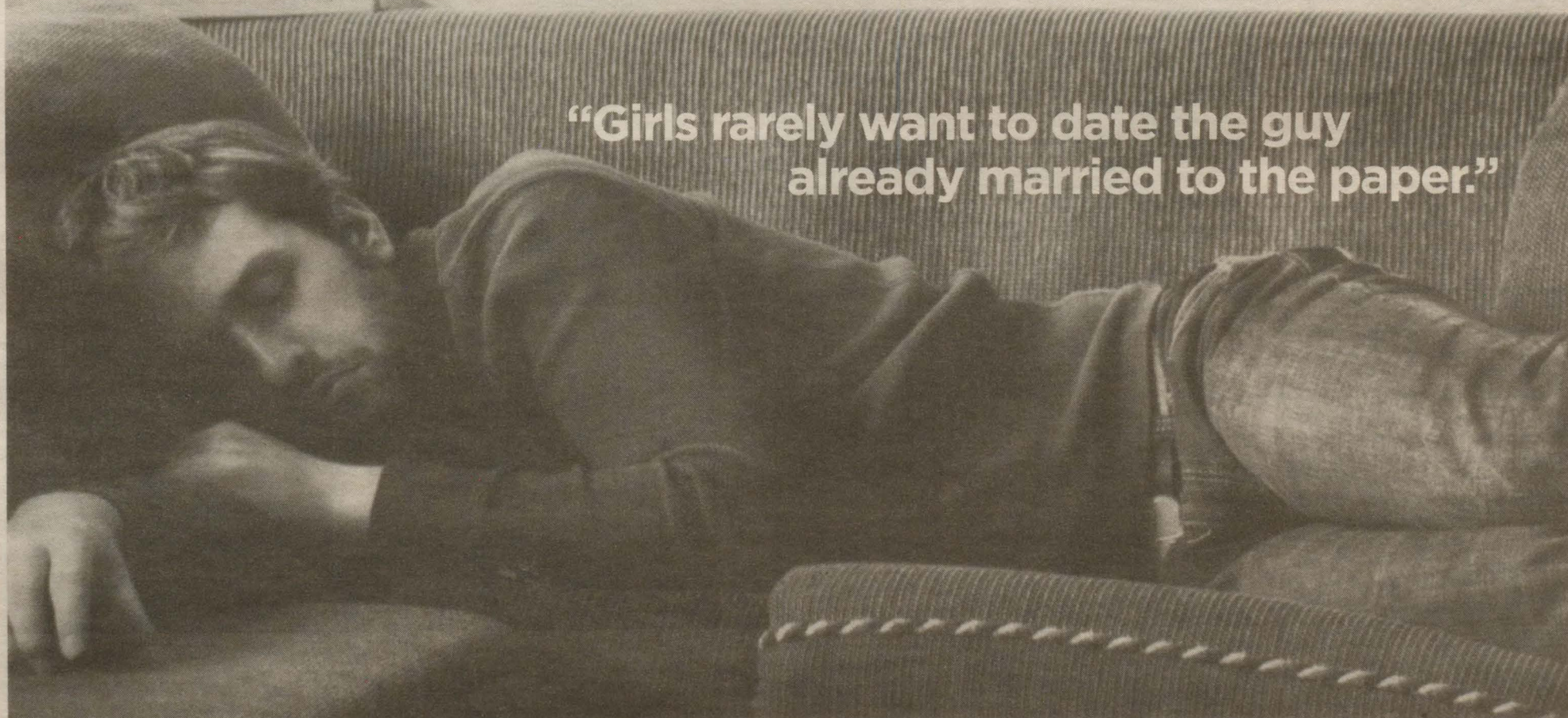
paper, I could not go on a date without getting frantic phone calls from section editors for photos to be shot in only 10 minutes. Girls rarely want to date the guy already married to the paper.

My academics have suffered over the years. As I apply for masters programs, I am feeling the full brunt of my dedication to the Gazette. I feel that my academic future has been stolen from all those hours toiling over the paper. It is hard to perform in class when you are sleep deprived from putting the paper together until two in the morning. It is also hard to focus on assignments when you have payroll to deliver, people yelling at you about last week's development-related article, and printers threatening not to print you if you don't pay your invoices. Next year's editors should be prepared for all of these things, and more.

The Gazette is a crash course in how hopes and dreams fail. This may seem bitter but it is a harsh reality that exists. I have changed as an individual from my years here. While I do have regrets, I would change few decisions I have made here – most importantly, the decision to walk through those blue doors on the third floor of the SUB that crisp September evening four years ago.

Good luck to next year's staff!

Copy editor's note: During the Gazette elections last year, an eager editor asked Josh Boyter to summarize himself in one headline. "Boyter," he replied. "Just Boyter."



"Girls rarely want to date the guy
already married to the paper."

News

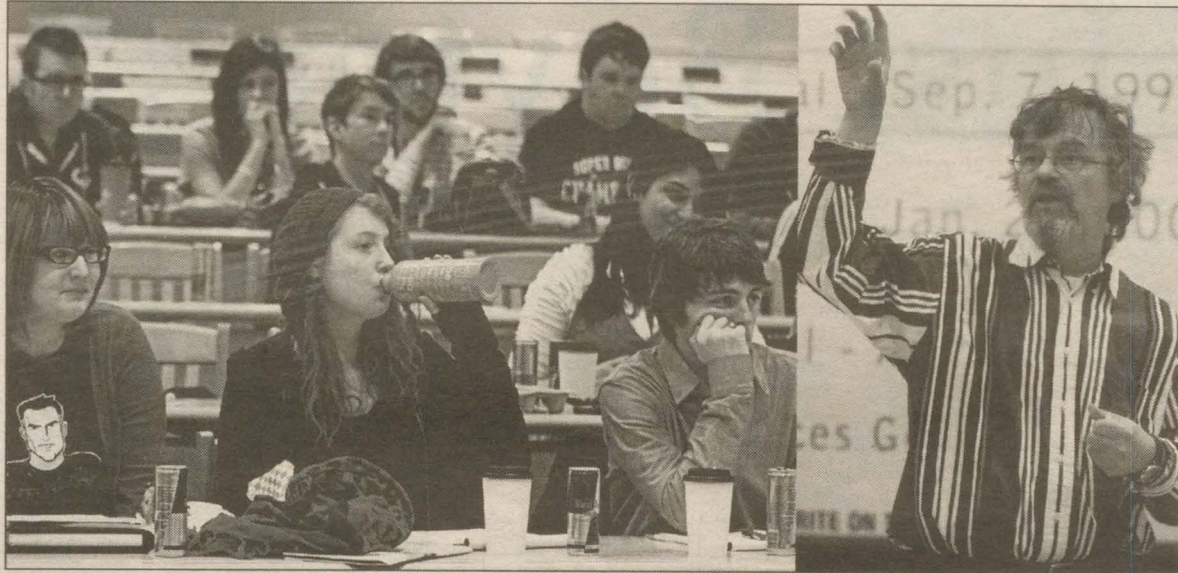
News

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
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Bruce Wark looks nothing like Karl Marx. | Photo by Pau Balite

ARCUP from end to beginning The Gazette and the Watch co-hosted Atlantic conference

Hilary Beaumont
Copy Editor

Kevin Ward clicked. He clicked again. The damn computer wasn't working. The irony of this wasn't lost on the 40 or so students sitting, mostly in the upper rows, of King's College's Alumni Hall. Ward was poised to give a presentation about multimedia reporting for online journalism. Tech support, a third-year journalism student with flowing red locks, responded to Ward's calm request. As the techie murmured into his cell phone, the Atlantic Bureau Chief for the Canadian Press remained composed.

Over the last two years, he explained, CP had struggled with technological problems. In the news agency's switch to online journalism, many reporters had to retrain their brains to handle a work routine that literally required them to juggle audio recorders and cameras along with traditional journalistic tasks. To illustrate this struggle, Ward showed the video diary of a CP sports reporter.

Contrary to popular worry among soon-to-be-journalism-grads, he emphasized that more media outlets want to hire reporters who are eager to pick up a video camera or do a live hit, not only those who already have multimedia skills.

If you think you lack a multimedia routine, consider this: Our generation already connects to news online through social networking, blogs and video sites. It is exactly those skills that have recently become valuable to established media outlets. Ward put it nicely: "To remain relevant, you have to be able to do that kind of reporting as well as the bread and butter kind of stories."

They didn't arrive until an hour after registration had begun last Friday, March 26. Though we expected 70, seven of them walked through the doors of the King's New Academic Building, among them a girl with curly red and pink hair, a quiet

guy wearing a purple beanie. Others followed, maybe 30 of them; young and keen, but tired – definitely tired.

Bruce Wark reminds me of my father. He's got wild hair and a sharp mind. But Chris Beaumont looks strikingly like Karl Marx while Wark resembles a retired journalism professor who spent two decades producing radio. His speech echoed those years of experience; his voice was musical, sinusoidal. He's also a vibrant hand-talker.

The always-ethical Wark disclosed his bias, then launched into a structured presentation full of archived CBC video – proof that Peter Mansbridge was once young(er). He argued that the CBC's television coverage of the Ipperwash protests, leading up to the killing of a first nations man by police, was biased not because of reporter ignorance or malicious intent but because of structural problems in the way journalists are expected to gather news. Routine will be the downfall of our best intentions.

Solutions? Be aware of structural bias. Tell your audience about the past and the future, not just the present.

These were the faces to match recognizable names from the Canadian University Press wire service. These people were the next generation of Atlantic Canadian journalists. We handed them bags of Dalhousie propaganda and free condoms.

In small groups they flew and drove last Friday afternoon from Newfoundland and New Brunswick. They came to absorb knowledge from the journalism teachers upstairs, and the brains in the basement offices below their feet. And, let's be real: they also came for the beer.

Kelly Toughill tossed her curly hair. The assistant professor easily has the best posture in the King's Journalism school, and the fiercest reputation. When she speaks, stay sharp. "What kinds of records do you regu-

larly check?" she asked.

"Court documents," a girl wearing thick-framed glasses and a mod dress answered.

"You're after my own heart," Toughill quipped.

The award-winning prof issued a cliché warning and told the gathering to reach for "low hanging fruit": reports on faculty-student ratios, student union minutes, senate documents, annual university reports, annual plagiarism reports, research funding documents and reports that show gender ratios in different faculties. Not the sweetest fruit at first glance, perhaps, but boy did she prove that notion wrong.

Eight per cent, she wrote in chalk, illustrating the number Dalhousie must cut from next year's budget. Is that a story, she wondered. No, maybe, students replied.

If maintenance and salaries are considered static, and those costs make up nearly 90 per cent of the budget, what's left? An eight per cent cut looks much more dire stacked up against the 10 per cent left, Toughill pointed out. What services would the university cut? Student assistance? Scholarships? Libraries? Do we care yet? Is this a story?

Three days later, they left with more neuronal connections between their ears than the alcohol could have killed. The Atlantic Regional Canadian University Press (ARCUP) conference offered practical and theoretical guidance pre-packaged and sweetened for its journey back to the campus anthill. Our guest speakers encouraged the next wave of soon-to-graduate student journalists to take multimedia risks, to consider our biases and those within institutional structures, to flip through that daunting annual report in search of an untold story.

Full disclosure: The author considers Bruce Wark to be her adoptive journalism parent and mentor.

ARCUP Twitter highlights (March 27)

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

Geoff Turnbull, King's Ethics Professor: "Journalism will die if the ethical string of journalism is not strengthened." Aye aye! 9:16 a.m.

Going through ethical principles: seek truth, act independently, minimize harm and be accountable. 9:20 a.m.

"You cannot be a good writer unless you're willing to open your heart and your mind." 9:38

We shouldn't have paid any attention to Ann Coulter last week. 9:41 a.m.

It's hard to not report on something when it's making a buzz. But why would we report on Ann Coulter? 9:41 a.m.

Sue Carter Flinn, Arts Editor of the Coast, is up next to talk about arts reporting. 10:13 a.m.

Celebrity gossip is not arts journalism, but it's often clumped in that category. 10:18 a.m.

Weird AI apparently makes for a terrible interview. 10:20 a.m.

Arts journalism probably won't pay you. 10:27 a.m.

...But don't do it for free, unless you're putting it on your own blog or website. 10:28 a.m.

You should be critical of an artist, but will that burn bridges? It happens. C'est la vie. 10:40 a.m.

There isn't a culture of criticism in Halifax. 10:40 a.m.

Laura Dawe: "It's a really cheerlead-y city." 10:41 a.m.

Conflicts of interest are hard to avoid in such a small city with a close-knit arts community. 10:45 a.m.

Assign a story with a conflict of interest

to someone else or disclose, disclose, disclose. 10:46 a.m.

Doug Kirkaldy, Professor at King's College, is up next to talk about radio reporting. 10:52 a.m.

We all work in newspapers here, but maybe we'll have to do a live hit someday. We need to be familiar with other platforms. 11:03 a.m.

Radio is a "background medium," so you have to make it captivating. 11:05 a.m.

"We can't talk to a million people, but we can talk to one person." We need to write as if we're speaking to that one person. 11:44 a.m.

Kelly Toughill from King's College is up to talk about numbers/research. 1:09 p.m.

Go to those boring three-hour meetings. Just five minutes of conversation might make a great story. 1:23 p.m.

Bruce Wark, former journalism professor and contributor to the Coast, up next to talk about institutional bias in the media. 1:58 p.m.

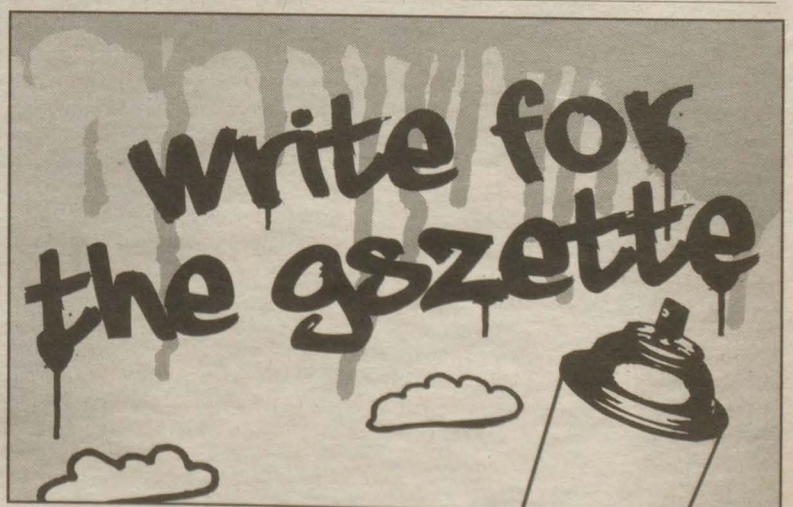
Those with power, privilege and money are generally better treated in mainstream media. 2:03 p.m.

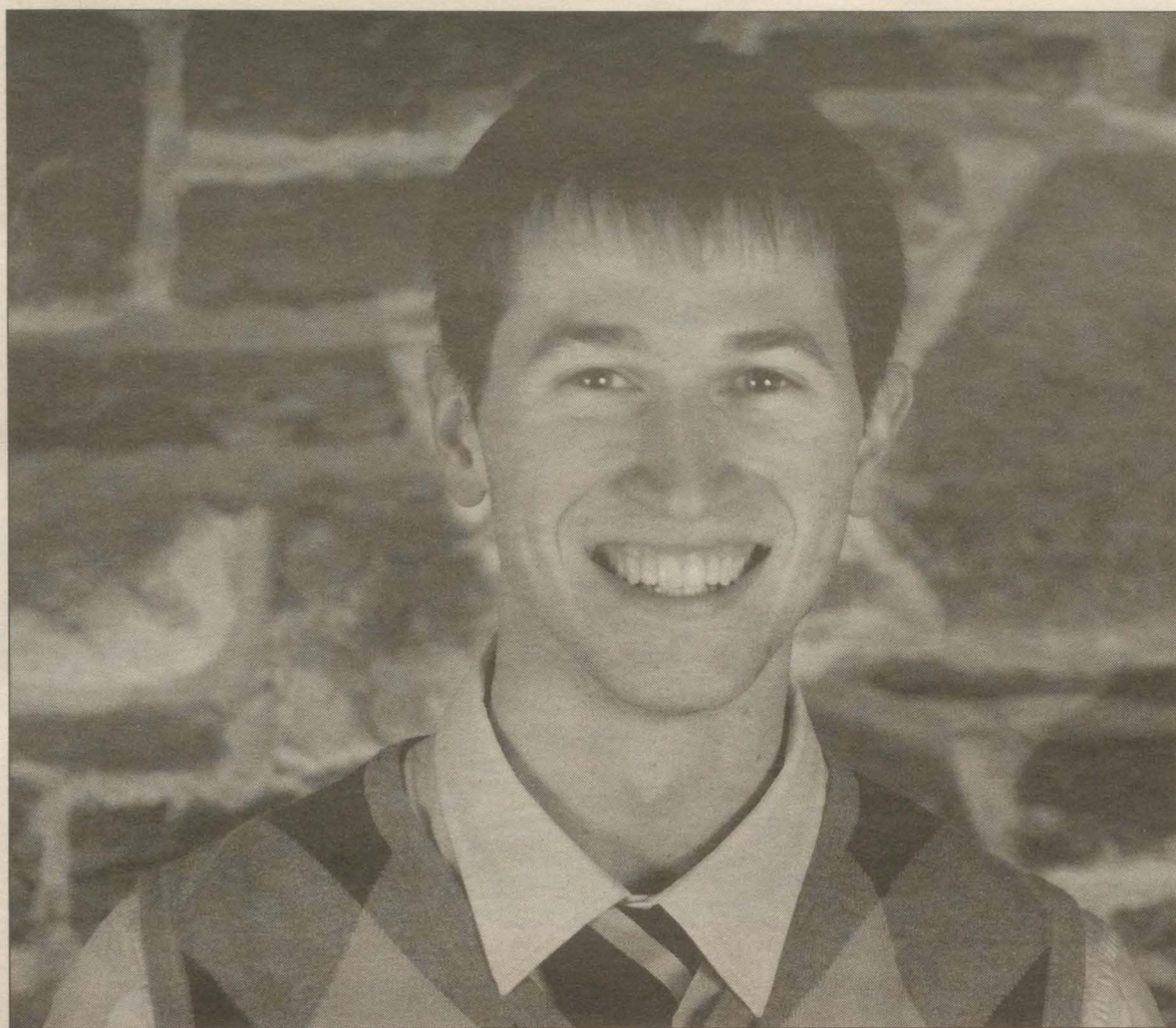
Kevin Ward, Atlantic Bureau Chief of the Canadian Press, is up next to talk about web journalism. 3:35 p.m.

Says one of the best things CP has done was to add "did we get it right?" button to the website. Great for feedback. 4:05 p.m.

"We usually ask our audience to trust us; our audience is now asking us to trust them." 4:03 p.m.

Younger people are just as inclined to watch video on the web as they are to text. 4:05 p.m.





DSU president-elect Chris Saulnier lives up to commitments, such as wearing an argyle sweater vest on "sweater vest Friday." | Photo by Miguel Cortel

He's about people, not numbers

DSU votes engineering student Chris Saulnier as new president

Katrina Pyne
Staff Contributor

He can build robots, and juggle fire. He believes in making leaders and building opportunities. He was once a webmaster. And yes, he's your Dalhousie Student Union president for 2010-2011.

We're in the Killam. Chris Saulnier sits

"Being a leader is like giving a car a little gas: you keep the car moving."

across from me with a big grin. He's wearing a pink argyle sweater vest because apparently it's another "sweater vest Friday" in the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society. He's exhausted from 10 days of campaigning, but is still upbeat.

He says he wasn't a born leader – he was socially awkward, growing up in Dartmouth.

"I actually taught myself how to program in grade five, and in grade six I taught teachers at my school computer courses," he says with a laugh. "I was actually webmaster for a couple of organizations."

Yet, when Saulnier was in high school he started getting involved in extra-curriculars. When he was in grade 11 he even ran for president of his student council.

"I lost horribly," says Saulnier. "That was

my introduction into student politics."

After that he became vice president of the Nova Scotia Secondary Schools Students' Association, a student-run organization that puts on leadership conferences throughout the province. He says he learned a lot about working with people.

Then in university he decided to give the president position another shot. Saulnier says leadership is something you learn.

"Being a leader is like giving a car a little gas: you keep the car moving."

After his presidency, Saulnier will be finishing his engineering degree.

"I am in a professional program," he says. "I could end up an engineer. But I have a feeling I am not going to end up being one."

For Saulnier, people are more interesting than numbers. He says that is something he has learned in his time at Dal.

"I think my life is about to take a turn down a slightly different path," says Saulnier.

Last summer was a big turning point for Saulnier. During a design-project course, one of the hardest semesters for engineering, he realized he wasn't doing the things he loved as much as he should be.

"I took a step back and then decided I would run for DSU president. I realized

it was somewhere I could make a real difference."

Saulnier's best advice for new students is to get involved.

"As a new student, sometimes it can be nerve racking," he says. "But I am convinced there's an event or society for every student at Dal. Find something you want to do, go to a meeting and get involved with it."

Saulnier says he loves that the DSU supports so many societies. He says people with the same interests get a chance to do things they are passionate about together.

"Your years in university are so much about the people you spend them with."

Saulnier has put a lot into Dalhousie in the past three years. During orientation week, he painted himself purple, and then stayed purple for a week.

"Let's just say I went through a lot of rubbing alcohol."

In his second year at Dal, Saulnier was living in Risley.

"It was President's Cup and there was a boat building competition. Three of us stayed up all night building an incredible boat out of duct tape and cardboard."

Saulnier has grown a lot during his time at Dal. When asked about his greatest fear, he says it's not heights or public speaking; it's failure.

"I take a lot of pride in the work that I do and I want this year to be really successful, I want us to do a good job."

News Briefs

Laura Parlee | Assistant News Editor

Flasher caught

A man who allegedly exposed himself to a Dalhousie woman two weeks ago has been arrested. Dalhousie security reported that the male in his early 20s, approximately six feet tall with an athletic build and short brown hair exposed himself to the woman last Sunday night then drove off in a teal car. The woman was walking alone through the Dunn Building parking lot at the time. Six other similar incidents occurred in Halifax's south end last week. The 26-year-old Bedford man was arrested for seven counts of indecent exposure. He has been released until his court appearance in April.

New Grad House

While exact dates have not been set, president of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Kyle DeYoung has revealed more about the new Grad House. According to DalNews, the bar will be bigger with a more modern look inside. The Grad House will serve Coors Light, Canadian and several Rickard's and Garrison brands from light-up beer taps, and students can enjoy the sunshine through large windows or while lounging on the new patio furniture. The DalNews story has more than 20 comments from students debating the benefits of the old versus new Grad House, and discussing the quality of the on-tap selection. There's only one thing we can all agree on: we want those doors open!

Bye bye, Bubbles

Bar, club and eatery Bubbles Mansion closed its doors last Wednesday. The Prince Street landmark was partly owned by Michael Smith who plays Bubbles on the hit Maritime TV show, the Trailer Park Boys. According to management, the bar couldn't compete after the government passed the minimum drink prices legislation. Bubbles was formerly able to serve 'dollar drinks,' a huge draw for the student population of Halifax. Now they have to charge at least \$2.50. The increase of minimum wage and lack of taxi service downtown were also factors in the bar's demise. Smith and his co-owners will now focus on keeping their other bar, the Toothy Moose, afloat. The Argyle Street bar lost its liquor license for five days in April because of overcrowding and serving alcohol past its 2 a.m. closing time.

TRAVEL CUTS

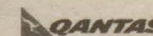


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News

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The DSU executive at the AGM on March 23. | Photo by Pau Balite

Student apathy at all-time high

15.4 per cent DSU voter turnout and quorum called at AGM

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

Students slowly trickled into the McInnis Room. Some sat in the rows of chairs facing the front wall. Others lingered around the table where piles of pizza boxes sat. They texted their friends to come join.

It seemed more like a pizza party than an annual general meeting (AGM).

On a campus of about 16,000 students, it took about 40 minutes to meet the 75-person quorum. The slow start was normal for an AGM, says Dalhousie Student Union President Shannon Zimmerman.

But five DSU executive reports, a few constitutional amendments and several slices of vegan pizza later, students slowly trickled out. Someone walked up to the microphone and pointed to the nearly 50 students left. He called quorum. The March 23 meeting adjourned two hours in and with barely half the constitutional amendments passed.

"From what I remember, quorum has never been called at an Annual General Meeting," says Zimmerman, speaking from her five years of experience at the university.

Students at Dal, like on many campuses across the country, are not politically engaged in their student union. According to Maclean's, the highest voter turnout for a

student union election was about 60 per cent at St. Francis Xavier University in 2009. Other student unions, such as the student union at the University of New Brunswick, banked as low as seven per cent last March.

The voter turnout at this year's DSU elections was 15.4 per cent. That's slightly lower than last year's 15.9 per cent.

Chief Returning Officer Anne-Marie Dubois says that's still much lower than the 17 per cent mark she wanted to meet.

"I was disappointed," says Dubois, whose role is to manage the elec-

"They'd probably rather be writing a paper," she says. "You're really only going to have so many students that are interested in student politics and in having their voices heard that they'll come out and take part in it."

DSU council chair, Matt Kelly, says the AGM is not advertised well enough. Usually, the DSU gets the word out only two weeks before the event.

"One of the things that I'd like to see happen is to increase student awareness, increase student involvement,"

"Students didn't even know what the DSU meant or what it stood for."

tion process and get students to vote. Such a low voter turnout is frightening, she adds, especially when students don't know anything about their school's politics.

"Students didn't even know what the DSU meant or what it stood for," she says, after hearing from students at the voting table.

Although the sudden spurt of cold, rainy weather could have kept students from walking to the polls, Dubois says apathy was the problem. The same is true of the AGM, she says. But it's also held at a difficult time of year for students.

says Kelly, who was hoping for at least 80 people show up for the AGM.

"It's something that the new council (and) new executive should be working on next year."

Zimmerman says the postponement of the AGM will not affect societies.

"It's just more of an inconvenience now," she says. "Our constitution isn't missing anything. The bylaws aren't missing anything. They're just not as updated as we needed them to be."

As of last Sunday, the DSU was planning another date for the AGM.

Judge clears Guelph to vote on CFS membership

National and Ontario federations played defence as Guelph pushed for referendums

Danielle Webb
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

GUELPH, Ont. (CUP) — After taking the Canadian Federation of Students to court on Tuesday, the University of Guelph has been given the go-ahead by a judge to hold referendums on its membership in both the federal and provincial wings of the federation.

Both the CFS and CFS-Ontario had to defend themselves in court this week over allegations that they purposefully delayed referendums on the University of Guelph's continued membership in their organizations.

Justice O'Connor of the Ontario Superior Court gave a decision without reason on Wednesday night to hold the membership referendums, speeding up the process to allow sufficient time for pro- and anti-membership campaigns to be put together. The referendums will be held April 7 to April 9.

The student lobby groups appeared before the judge on March 23 to address claims that they showed bad faith and acted in self-interest when they denied a petition seeking a membership referendum involving the Guelph Central Students' Association.

Because the CFS and CFS-Ontario are separate, though related, federations, petitions must be presented to both the federal and provincial organizations, each with their own set of requirements. In this case, the different stipulations led to different concerns from the two components regarding the petitions that were submitted.

But lawyers representing the CSA argued that it was a basic



Curtis Batuszkin, University of Guelph petition organizer. | Photo by William Wolfe-Wylie (CUP)

right for students to be able to vote on their national representation, and sought to uphold that right.

"Membership is the only opportunity in (CFS) bylaws where students have individual opportunity to effect

change," argued Sandra Barton, one of the lawyers representing the CSA.

Barton further argued that all other actions within the CFS and CFS-O may only be undertaken by the executive members of local student associations.

But the crux of the federations' arguments against holding the referendum is that the original petition, compiled by Curtis Batuszkin, wasn't completed properly in the first place. CFS-Ontario also argued that the petition for a referendum from the provincial arm wasn't submitted on time.

According to lawyers on both sides, this is where it gets complicated.

Lawyers for the CFS argued that the right to determine the process used to verify the names on the petition lies solely with the national executive. Their primary complaint is that they were not made part of this process and were asked to accept a verification of the names that was provided by Guelph University after the petition had already been completed.

"The fact that we have been shut out of the verification process and are now being told that we have to accept the verification process without our input is, in fact, bad faith on the part of the applicants," said Gordon Douglas, a lawyer for the CFS.

According to the CSA, though, the process undertaken by the university had been previously accepted by the CFS at other universities. Citing Concordia University as an example, they argued should make it acceptable in this case as well.

Barton argued that it was in bad faith to impose new verification criteria on the petition, especially criteria that had not been outlined in CFS bylaws. She argued that hiding the criteria made it nearly impossible for any petition organizer to meet them.

A petition with the necessary amount of signatures was also sent to the CFS-

Ontario office by process server on Sept. 29, 2009, and by email on Sept. 30. According to the CFS-Ontario affidavit, though, they didn't receive the petition at all until Nov. 6 when a third copy of it arrived by registered mail.

They had no explanation as to why the first two copies were never received, but argued that they would have violated the terms of the bylaws because they did not arrive by registered mail.

"If procedures aren't followed, you don't have a right to a referendum," CFS-Ontario lawyer Jonathan Davis-Sydor, told the court. "Process server isn't even service by mail and would not be accepted by this court."

They also argued that Nov. 6 was well beyond the Sept. 29 deadline for submission if the CSA intended to hold their referendum on March 29 to March 31. Bylaws require six months between date of petition submission and intended referendum date.

"The fact that the attempted delivery has gone awry lies with Mr. Batuszkin," said Davis-Sydor.

CSA counsel argued that the CFS-Ontario's counter-petition, circulated on Oct. 5, should be considered acknowledgment that they received Batuszkin's petition in the proper timeframe.

Both sides are entitled to appeal the result, though Batuszkin said he's happy with it.

"I am absolutely ecstatic that the students of Guelph will be able to participate in a democratic debate, free of CFS lawyers and CFS interference in our autonomous decision over whether to remain with the CFS or to discontinue relations with an organization with a history of litigiousness with student unions."

\$10 million class-action lawsuit threatened against Ryerson

Students want legal representation and a fairer appeal process when faced with plagiarism charges.

Carys Mills
The Eyeopener (CUP)

TORONTO (CUP) — Ryerson won't settle in the largest lawsuit to ever be threatened against the university — a class-action application that hopes to make the university pay out \$10 million in damages.

The statement of claim alleges Ryerson breaches its own academic conduct policy, which deals with students who are accused of cheating and plagiarism.

"This is just one side, it's one story and you don't have to prove anything to file a statement of claim," said Julia Hanigsberg, Ryerson's general counsel.

The claim was filed on behalf of Chris Avenir, a third-year electrical engineering student who was almost

expelled for running a Facebook group in 2008 for sharing tips on homework.

"Everyone's thinking it's just kind of a cheap shot at Ryerson for damages," Avenir said. "But that's not the main issue here."

"It's not regarding any of the individual cases whatsoever. It's just the procedure we're concerned about."

The statement of claim alleges that Ryerson denies students legal representation before academic misconduct appeals reach the school's senate, where students can be expelled or suspended. It suggests hearings should follow Ontario's Statutory Powers Procedure Act.

The plaintiff maintains the act was violated since students aren't allowed to be represented by lawyers in the earlier stages of misconduct appeals.

Ryerson's online documentation says only senate appeals fall under the act. Currently, the school allows use of students' union advocates if appeals reach the stage of Academic Integrity Council.

"We are confident in our policies and procedures and we know that they're fair," said Hanigsberg, who said she was surprised when she was served on behalf of Ryerson.

Avenir is asking for \$250,000 in punitive damages. The statement of claim alleges he suffered "significant emotional and/or mental distress."

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

"I think we should have somebody to defend us," said a third-year civil engineering student, who dropped an elective class this semester after be-

ing accused of academic misconduct.

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, said he would've appealed if the course was mandatory and would have wanted a lawyer.

"It's important to give the job to someone who is experienced, who knows how to handle the situation," he said.

Liana Salvador, Ryerson Students' Union (RSU) vice-president education, said advocates know the university's procedures well since they work at the school.

But Salvador said there are problems with the appeal process overall.

"It's unclear to me the reason the university is outright denying students access to a lawyer," Salvador said.

A judge needs to determine if the claim can proceed as a class action.

If approved, every student who has gone through Ryerson academic misconduct tribunals since March 2003 could be included.

Avenir's lawyer, John Adair, created the Facebook group "Ryerson University Class Action" for potential classmembers.

He refused to comment on the case.

Determining the class might not be easy, according to Joel Rochon, a partner of Rochon Genova LLP.

"It's always easier to do a case that has been done many times before, but it's not to say that this case does not have merit," said Rochon.

He said the damages could change during the case as well.

Hanigsberg said the university's legal costs, including representation and damages, will be covered by insurance.

Features

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Tim Mitchell **Features Editor**
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SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM

Federal government to ban flavoured tobacco next month

Zane Woodford
Features Contributor

Bubble gum, cotton candy, strawberry. You'd usually expect to see these flavours in ice cream or candy, but lately they've been known to pop up somewhere a little less innocent.

In their dire need to attract new patrons, tobacco companies have been selling cigarillos – also known as little cigars – in a myriad of kid-friendly flavours. The cigars come in singles – packaged in colourful little tubes and called “kiddie packs” by advocates – and in packs of 10 or 20.

Provincial governments have failed to enact any legislation that would effectively ban the little cigars, made by companies such as Primetime, Bulls Eye and Honey Time. In Ontario, a bill was passed that would require tobacco companies to sell the cigars in packs of at least 20 to discourage youth from trying to buy them. However, the bill was never enacted.

Last June, as Stephen Harper promised in his party platform, the federal government introduced Bill C-32, which bans the selling of single little cigars, as well as banning other flavoured tobacco products like blunt wraps in packs of less than 20.

“(The cigars) are training wheels for tobacco addiction,” said Rob Cunningham, senior policy analyst at the Canadian Cancer Society.

On its website, the society has an article praising the federal government for the legislation.

“It is simply wrong to be flavouring tobacco, which is known to be highly addictive and lethal,” said Cunningham in a telephone interview.

He and his colleagues at the Canadian Cancer Society are strong supporters of Bill C-32, and he calls it an extremely important piece of legislation.

Cunningham is sure that the legislation will curtail smoking of the little cigars by young people, and hopes that it will curtail smoking rates in youth all together.

But for some store owners, this legislation is bad news.

“I think it's ridiculous,” said Theresa Dzielak, owner of Daily Sweets convenience on Oxford Street. “If kids are gonna smoke, they're gonna smoke. It doesn't matter if it's flavoured or not.”

Dzielak sees the new legislation as just another step too far by the government when it comes to tobacco law.

These cigars have actually been around for a while, so why are lawmakers suddenly so opposed to them?

Between 2001 and 2007, sales of the little cigars jumped up at a remarkable rate. In 2001, 53 million were sold. By the end of 2007, Canadians had purchased 403 million of the cigars.

The changes in tobacco laws and closing of the abundance of loopholes surrounding them made it difficult for tobacco companies to advertise their products, even in a store where they're sold. In Nova Scotia, vendors have to store cigarettes in drawers or cabinets so customers can't see them.

Well, it turns out one of those loopholes was not closed. When a tobacco company sells a single cigar in a tube, it doesn't need to put the same warnings on the package as they do with a pack of 20 or 25, as is required with cigarettes.

Single cigars, as well as some of the blunt wraps, come in tubes with a different colour for each flavour – pink for strawberry, purple for grape, for example – and can cost as little as \$1.50, the same as a chocolate bar or a sugary beverage.

Activists argue that by selling these single products, tobacco companies are “baiting their prey” – catching kids when they're young, knowing that when they grow older they will switch to cigarettes and likely be-

Also included in the ban are flavoured blunt wraps. The wraps are technically sold as a larger rolling-paper made to be filled with tobacco, but are generally filled with a slightly “wackier” tobacco.

Like other tobacco products, someone looking to buy them has to be at least 19-years-old, and they're usually only sold in specialty shops such as Hemp Heaven on Sackville Drive.

Jean Jabalee, owner and manager of Hemp Heaven, which recently broke off from the Mary Janes franchise, compares flavoured tobacco to alcohol.

“Do you see them doing anything about liquor?” asked Jabalee. “They call (the cigar packages) kiddie packs. Ever seen the little liquor bottles? Kiddie bottles.”

Even though she jokes about it, Jabalee is worried about the effects the ban will have on her business, as well as others.

“It will definitely hurt my business,” she said. “I just don't understand how they can afford to lose the (tax) money with the deficit we have right now.”

However, Dzielak isn't worried.

“The flavoured tobacco probably only makes up 10 per cent of my tobacco sales,” she said. “So I won't lose much business.”

The government doesn't seem to be worried either.

They have made promises to cur-

“If kids are gonna smoke, they're gonna smoke. It doesn't matter if it's flavoured or not.” – Theresa Dzielak, owner of Daily Sweets

come lifelong smokers.

Dzielak disagrees.

“Most of the people who smoke (the cigars) are old enough, and they use them to try to quit smoking,” she said.

Maybe lawmakers are missing the real problem behind tobacco use in youth: how the products are getting into the hands of teens.

Strict laws require those selling tobacco to ask for ID from anyone who looks to be younger than 25, so if kids are getting these cigars, some vendors must be breaking the rules.

“Anyone who comes in here asking for smokes and looks under 25 gets ID-ed,” said Dzielak. “I do it; my employees do it.”

tail the sale and popularity of tobacco among teens, and the banning of flavoured tobacco was their next step.

In Nova Scotia, the laws will begin to come into effect next month. Store owners will have to stop selling the single cigars in April. By July, they will only be able to sell the cigars in packs of at least 20.

It might be bad for business, and it might not keep young Canadians from lighting up, but the legislation will at least make it harder for little cigars – whether bubble gum, cotton candy or strawberry flavoured – to get into little hands.

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Opinions

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

Climate change resistance needs to heat up G8 and G20 countries driving climate catastrophe

Dave Bush
Staff Contributor

It's going to be a hot summer. According to the British-based Positive Weather Solutions, this summer could be the hottest on record. This should surprise no one. Our planet is warming and the cause of this warming is our unsustainable and exploitative economic model.

This is obvious, but what is less evident is how the fight against climate change will play out on the world scene. What will be the political and social repercussions of inaction? What response will timid political steps be met with? How will the powers that be try to ensure their place of economic privilege? In short, who will be the winners and losers of this century?

To answer these questions let's look at the political minefield of this winter's Copenhagen Conference. From the very start of the conference there was a sharp divide between the Global South and North. Those populations that live on the front lines of climate change, such as the island nations of the Pacific Ocean and the indigenous populations of the far north, called for immediate and strong reductions of Greenhouse Gas emissions. They knew full well the cost of inaction was their culture, their communities, and their survival.

The Group of 77, which represents the poorest 77 countries in the world, demanded global warming be kept under 1.5 degrees Celsius, in order to save coastal Africa. The rich nations, on the other hand met in secret and crafted out a last minute take-it or leave-it deal. The deal made a vague promise to keep global temperatures below two degrees Celsius and an equally unclear goal of raising a \$100 billion for the poorest countries.

There were no binding agreements, no details, no plan and no step forward. In fact as Obama was leaving the Copenhagen Summit he made it quite clear to the American press when he said, "We will not be legally bound by anything that took place here today."

If Kyoto was a tragedy because too few attempted to implement its targets then Copenhagen was a farce of international consensus, science and leadership. The rich countries essentially tried to buy off the poor countries while at the same time blaming China and India.

Canada, the United States and the rest of the G8 countries were the major barriers at Copenhagen. They refused not only to commit to binding reductions on greenhouse gas emissions, but also to acknowledge their responsibility in creating the problem in the first place. Seven out of every 10 tonnes of CO₂ that have been emitted since the industrial revolution have come from a handful of wealthy G8 nations.



Climate change could mean this summer will be the hottest on record. | Stock photo

The mode of development pushed by the G8 and Group of 20 (G20) is the major hurdle to averting the coming climate catastrophe. Instead of trying to overcome the collective danger of climate change, the G8/G20 countries

ment of the UN consensus process, stop any binding targets and limit the global temperature rise to around two degrees. It would also not allow poor countries to emit more than 1.44 tonnes of carbon per person by 2050,

opted in full, it showed the stark divide in attitude and actions that exist when it comes to climate change. The attitudes and intransigence of the rich and powerful have engendered a powerful response throughout the world.

climate change without looking at our economic model, our way of living and attitude towards the other and the planet, we will greenwash the problem to the point where climate change is just another bubble for economic exploiters to burst.

However, if we can make the links between social justice and climate justice, if we stay faithful to notions of equality, we may just be able to break through and fight for our planet and lives. When the G8 development ministers come to Halifax, when the G20 comes to Toronto and when world leaders gather in Mexico for the next climate negotiations this summer we must stand together and fight for a just and sustainable world. We need a world that values the earth and fellow human beings above power and money. This summer will be the opening salvo in a war for our collective future. It's going to be a hot summer.

Dave Bush is an organizer for the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition.

"We need a world that values the earth and fellow human beings above power and money."

are trying to best position themselves to take advantage of the new opportunities that climate change will offer.

Just look at the Harper government's bizarre obsession with artic sovereignty. The callousness of the rich countries was made bare when the "Danish Text" was leaked at the conference.

The text called for the abandon-

ment of the UN consensus process, stop any binding targets and limit the global temperature rise to around two degrees. It would also not allow poor countries to emit more than 1.44 tonnes of carbon per person by 2050, while allowing rich countries to emit 2.67 tonnes. And, in possibly the biggest slap in the face to the world's poor, it would hand over control of climate change finances to the World Bank, an institution largely seen in the Global South as playing a key role in exploiting and developing their countries.

While the Danish Text was not ad-

The capitalist mode of development is not working. There is no magic technology; there is no way of buying our way out of this problem. The problem is that very attitude.

We as people need to stop separating environmental issues from notions of social justice and economic exploitation. When we try to address

Opinions

Sex Ed

Five last words of sexy wisdom



Katie Toth
Sex Columnist

Summer approaches quickly, and with the end of school comes a plethora of opportunities to go somewhere exotic and make sweet love to someone named Paolo. Before you all head off into the sunset, I've come up with five fast and easy aphorisms to take with you into the exciting world of summer sex.

1. All sex is sex, and all of it counts.

The consequences of this concept are great: gold-star lesbians are not virgins just because they aren't into cock. Sexual assault is still sexual and still assault even if penetration happens.

The most important result of taking this idea seriously is also the most fun. You no longer have to hook up according to a formula. You don't have to rely on outside perceptions of whether or not what you're doing with someone is "meaningful." Instead, you decide what sex is, what you're having and what it means. That being said...

2. It's also okay not to have sex this summer. Or next.

Sex is not the only way to have a good time and sex does not make you more mature. Remember how I said this last Oc-

tober, and you weren't sure if you believed me? "How could a puppet show possibly be as fun as getting naked?" you asked.

Maybe you thought to yourself that this would be the year of losing your virginity, but didn't get around to it. Maybe you gained infinitely more wisdom from that exchange to Europe or volunteer experience you had than you did from having sex a couple times. Or maybe you had sex for the first time this year and realized that you're still as obnoxious, pretentious and short as you were before.

Whatever happened, I hope that in retrospect you realized how right I am. Sex is great, but it's no substitute for wit, self-esteem or solid relationships.

Have a good time this summer, but don't obsess about meeting some sort of quota for sufficient amounts of Bacchic revelry. If Euripides saw such a thing, he would never stop vomiting.

3. There is never an inappropriate time for lube.

(Actually, there are a few occasions that do not call for such a slippery substance. Do not cover your palms in Astroglide before riding a bicycle, unlocking a door, or shaking hands with your thesis advisor.)

Some people think that their sex is just great without lube. They love their lube-less sex, they say.

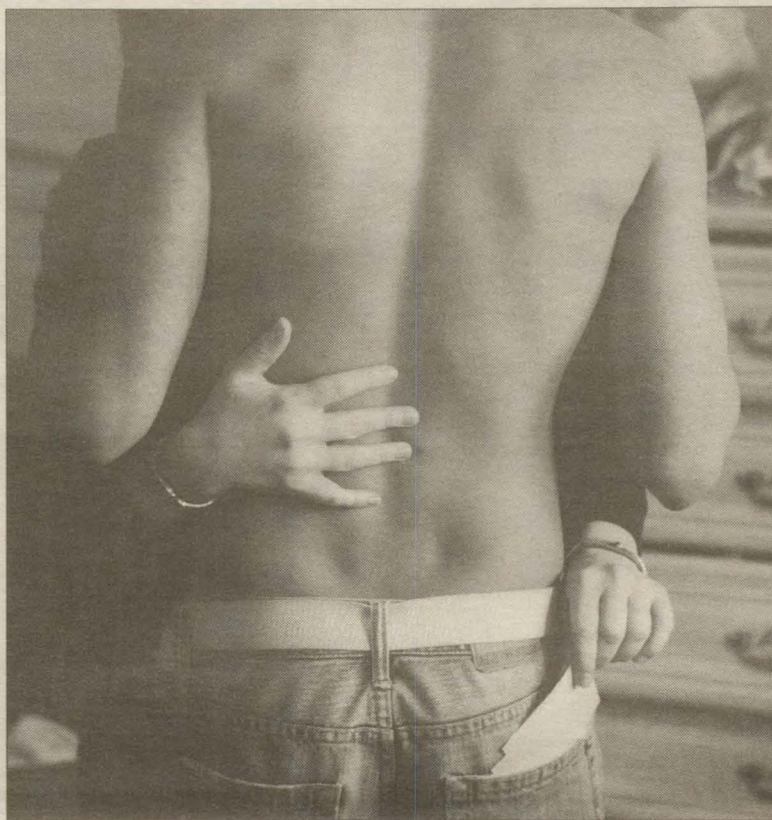
For their sake, I would like to discuss my passion for bagels.

I love bagels. And I've eaten some great plain bagels, without anything on them. However, putting butter and cream cheese on my bagel has never made it worse.

Do not use butter or cream cheese as lube, however. Oil lubricants can lead to yeast infections, and they break down latex.

4. Summer flings are generally brief. Don't wear out your welcome in someone's life by giving him or her a gift that keeps on giving.

You are smart. You already know



Cut out this article and keep it on hand for a sexy summer. | Photo by Abram Gutscher

"Keep these five notes in your back pocket, and I guarantee that your summer will be mediocre at worst."

that your responsibility to find your local health clinic and test yourself for STIs every six months does not dissolve into the summer air.

However, don't forget about protecting your partners and friends from less cruel, but equally obnoxious, gifts such as

cold sores, lice and the flu. If you are feeling ill, do not play Spin The Bottle. If your summer camp job gave you hundreds of tiny pets to take home, deal with that before sleeping on someone else's pillow.

Finally, don't forget the exciting, albeit occasionally unexpect-

ed, gift of emotional attachment.

If you fall in love this summer, I congratulate you. Remember that love usually requires at least one other party (Tom Cruise's relationship with himself is an exception to this). Skype, snail mail and frequent visits may help you keep the flame alive even if autumn puts you in different places.

However, if love isn't what you're aiming for, remember...

5. Breaking up with people requires the same courtesies and class you put into wooing them, if not more.

Lots of people break up before the summer starts, or when it comes to a close. This does not mean that your partner will be expecting such a thing. Nor does it mean that they will take it well.

Thus, preparation is essential. Be clear about what you want: are you looking to open up your relationship, take a definitive break or is this meant to be an end?

Listen to your partner carefully. Maybe they want the same thing you do, or something slightly different. See if you can have a summer that involves both of you getting what you want.

That's not always possible, of course. And sometimes breakups make people cry and shake uncontrollably. Have a silk handkerchief on hand so that you can play the gentleman.

If you have been dumped as a result of the changing weather, don't despair. Summer is a good time to experience heartbreak. You can wear sunglasses constantly, thus preventing people from seeing you cry. Ice cream becomes a perfectly acceptable substitute for food. Head to the beach with a friend and revel in your wallowing.

Keep these five notes in your back pocket, and I guarantee that your summer will be mediocre at worst. And you know what they say about mediocrity: it's alright.

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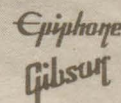
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Change is what you make it

Apathy at Dal a self-fulfilling prophecy

David Berg
Opinions Contributor

I am not sure if all Dalhousie students are aware of this or not, but there was an election last week. With polling stations positioned around campus manned by volunteers in bright turquoise T-shirts, it was easy and quick for students to sit down and take five minutes to influence the makeup of the Dalhousie Student Union next year. Sadly, DSU elections often experience a rather lacklustre turnout.

Students just don't seem to want to give their opinions or feedback.

Recently, I participated in a focus group conducted by fourth-year sociology students and a representative of the library to get student input on the library website. It led me to question the reasons for this lack of interest. I was lured to the focus group by the promise of free pizza,

"If all students get involved, then there will be more changes around Dalhousie."

yet sitting in the room with only seven other students made me realize that it is hard to get students to give feedback. Surely the promise of free food would be enough to attract students' input.

An insider on the DSU voting process, who wished to remain anonymous, cited student pessimism as the main source of apathy.

"Students think the DSU doesn't affect them."

With an election going on at an academic institution, the hallways should have been buzzing with debates and discussion surrounding candidates' policies. However, most people lament on how nothing is going to change.

Speaking with the insider, it became apparent that there is a viscous cycle. A lack of student passion leads to a stagnant process of change, which then becomes a cynical self-fulfilling prophecy. One of the main difficulties for campaigning during the DSU elections is the lack of advertising available. Unlike high school elections, posters cannot be plastered all over the place as it is constrained by Facilities Management.

If enough students voiced their opinion about the need to for advertising space (or perhaps 24-hour study space?) then it is likely there would be change. Some make Dalhousie out to be this big bad corporation that only wants profit, but the reality is that, put eloquently by the insider, "having happy students is profitable."

It is easy for Dal's Facilities Management to resist change if only a few people voice their opinions. If all students get involved, there will be more changes around Dal. The president of the DSU has around \$2 million in funding to dole out, which can make some significant impacts around campus, however if there is no input on how students wish the money to be spent then nothing will change.

Students need to realize that student activism is a good thing, even if that just means you're an active member of a DSU society. Many small societies have brought big change; look at the slack-lining society. If one in every three students joined a society, any society, then that alone would increase the student voice tremendously because each society has a voice in the DSU. Also the DSU is not some closed secret cult; lots of meetings are open to the public and it is made of students who have the same pressures from school and social life as everyone else.

For those of you who are still pessimistic and feel you are here to get a degree and go, realize that the changes you could help affect would be a huge benefit to the new generation of Dalhousie Tigers to come. If you are complaining about the lack of change at Dal, do something about it!

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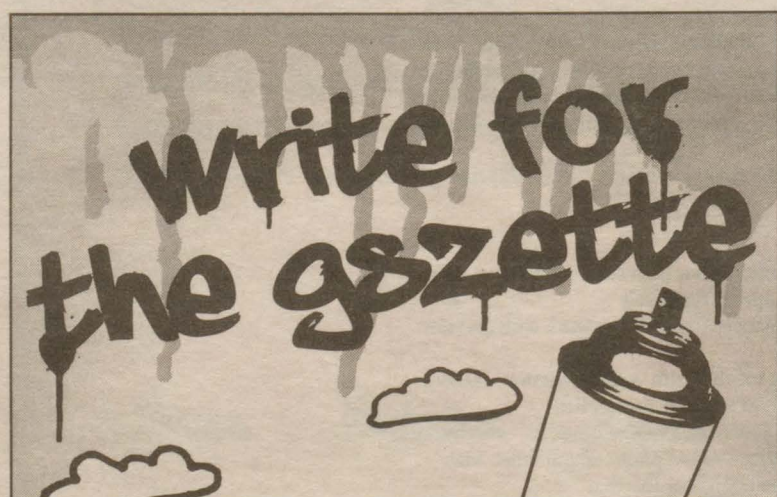
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Keep doin' what you're doin'

Inspired by my junior-high English teacher, Mr. Langille (holla!), I wanted to give back to this year's staff with what he called "ego boosters." Not that we're sensitive, angsty teens, but we all could use some love and recognition. Anonymously, staff members wrote down the qualities they most admired about their co-workers. Here they are, for all of Halifax to read. Pass on the love. --HB



Josh Boyter, Editor-in-Chief

"You are the biggest multi-tasker I know! You also hide my important parcels so no one steals them. You're also friendly even in hard times, which puts everyone at ease."

"You are so dedicated to the paper. I can't get over how much you juggle in a week, or in a day!"

"Of all the people that I have worked with, you are the best at handling people and telling them things in a nice way, while still making sure that the point is driven."

"You carry the Split Crow. Contributors all feel like they know you and can approach you. You're ambitious."

"I would never be able to run this paper. Somehow, you've managed to get us this far. Keep up the good work. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help. I'm here for you."

"Josh, you're a great friend and I trust you completely. I see your influence touch anyone you come in contact with. You're one of those few who will go down in history, just wait!"



Hilary Beaumont, Copy Editor

"You took me under your big, beautiful wing and taught me how to become a quasi-journalist. You're the biggest help in my career thus far."

"Keep being a great listener. No matter how much work you have, you always take time off for others."

"What would my Saturdays and Sundays be without you? You have contributed more to this office than you think. Seriously."

"You're a drunk and I hate you and you smell bad. Oh wait, that's me. I can't think of just one or two good things to say about you. Everything you do impresses me. Also, you always put a smile on my face. How can a person be so pleasant all the time?"



Lucy Scholey, News Editor

"I love your haircut! I think you have a keen writing sense and you do a great job as the winter-time News Editor."

"Great things come in little packages. You have certainly proven that. If the whole team was as dedicated and had the same work ethic as you have, then we would be beating the Coast in no time."

"You are always willing to do work. You are reliable, and you report your stories imaginatively."

"You've got your head on your shoulders. You're a good writer. I don't know you very well, but I got nothin' bad to say, and believe me, I've got bad stuff to say to everyone. Keep up the good work."

"Lucy, you have a smile to light up the darkest Wardroom. You will be in demand once you graduate. Media outlets will fight over you. You're reliable, intelligent and perceptive."



Tim Mitchell, Features Editor

"You are very knowledgeable on a variety of subjects."

"Keep being a fun guy to drink with, AND keep writing great features. Your stories are always interesting."

"Everyone knows that you are a strong writer, and I think a lot of people don't see how great of an editor you are. Just keep on chuggin'."

"Your writing is conversational and engaging. I wish you would write for my section sometime so I could win an editing speed world record."

"Tim, your brain is sexy. You choose your words carefully. You do what you love: act, play music, write. I envy your life philosophy to death."



Kaley Kennedy, Opinions Editor

"You have an extensive knowledge of student union politics and rules, which helps us keep down the man."

"Keep bringing such a critical mind to staff meetings. You always present sides to an issue/theme that I never think of. Thanks for being so helpful and informative!"

"How principled you are and how much you stand by your beliefs is very very admirable. Keep 'em that way."

"You pick up a lot of uneven threads (humour section, columnists, contributors, Ben Wedge), and you tie them all together in a way that comes off cohesively and informatively."

"We're on the same ideological spectrum you and I. You're a very opinionated woman and I can't imagine anyone being better suited for your job. Keep up the good work."



Laura Dawe, Arts Editor

"You keep it real by telling me when I suck and when I rock. This helps further my editing and writing style to its full potential."

"You crack great jokes during staff meetings. You're hilarious!"

"What would Arts be without you? The knowledge, connections and passion that comes with you has changed your section and our paper, and has taken it to another level."

"Your story ideas are bomb and you can pull off some mean last-minute content."

"You're a bitch, but I love you anyway. Arts keeps our paper real. How do you manage to write, paint, go to school and direct a movie, and the million other things you do? Are there actually two of you? I'm pretty sure there are. Cheater. Keep up the good work."

"Laura, you are a creative powerhouse. Your writing amazes me. You see beauty in people. I see beauty in you."



Matt Ritchie, Assistant Arts Editor

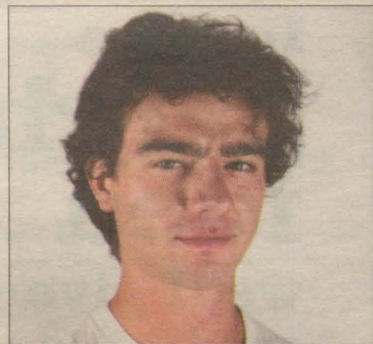
"Keep being so easy-going. Things can get stressful, but you're so level-headed."

"Easy to talk to, always on time and always there to deliver. You just don't know how perfect you are for getting a job as a promoter. You complete the Arts section."

"I like how much time you spend in the office during the week; it is easy for contributors to find you if they need direction."

"Matt, you are that funny, smart, warm-huggin' dude who should have been on Breaker High. You should be so proud of all your accomplishments this year, and I'm proud to point exaggeratedly at you and yell to the masses: 'He's my friend!'"

"I don't know you that well, but you're a funny guy. I like your writing. Keep up the good work."



Joel Tichinoff, Sports Editor

"Your hockey narratives are fantastique. You're a beauty."

"You pull together a great section, even when contributors bail."

"I've always seen you as an all-around guy. Unlike most editors/writers, you can easily adjust to any type of writing, be it News, Opinions, Features or Sports. This team wouldn't be as good without you."

"Your section, contributors, photos and readers benefit from your comprehensive knowledge of your field. No pun intended."

"I see so much potential in you. You have power in your strong writing skills and admirable work ethic."

"Sports are stupid, but you're not. Somehow you've surpassed everyone's expectations with the sports section this year. How do you do it? Keep up the good work."



Bethany Horne, News Editor

"You have an exquisite eye for detail! You also have a charming laugh that puts me at ease."

"Keep being so damn interesting! You have a unique perspective and vision for the paper. It reflects in your bold reporting. Your shoes are hard to fill!"

"You are always unafraid and ready to deliver the story. Just think of all the exposes you can do when you move to a corrupt country. You will be the champion of the masses."

"You're an awesome News Editor. You know what's important, and you know how to get shit done, and get it done right. Keep up the good work."

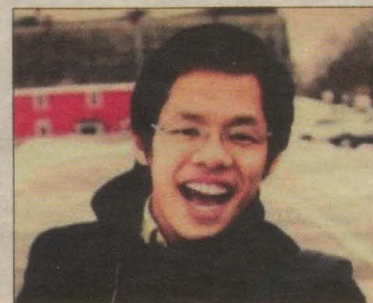
"Bethany, I envy you: your writing style, your poise, your ability to hold powerful people and structures to account. Horne revolution!"



Laura Parlee, Assistant News Editor

"I don't remember much about you from before you stepped in as Assistant News Editor, but that doesn't matter, right? Because now you have certainly become unforgettable to all of us. Short comments, big smile and little rants. I am sure you will be a great addition to any other future paper or industry you work in."

"Laura, you have an incredible level of professionalism, and manners to boot! Your smile puts me at ease. Your writing and editing skills have quickly shot to an impressive level, and I see great things in your future."



Pau Balite, Photo Editor

"Your Photoshop manipulation brings out photos rather than subtracting from them. You also keep your cool under pressure and I appreciate that."

"Keep maintaining a great work/friendship balance. You're fun to work with and fun to party with."

"Pau Pockit, you make my heart warm. You tell the truth with conviction. You're a beauty-seeker. Getting into law school is the least you can accomplish."

"You've got to deal with all of us idiots, and still manage to get pictures for everything. You impress me more and more everyday with your mad photo taking skills. Also, thanks for the fries. Also, how the fuck can you chug beer like that?"

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

Overheard at Dal (and King's)

In Cameron House:

Guy: "OVERHEARD AT DAL! PUT THAT ON OVERHEARD AT DAL! PUT IT ON THERE!"

In Forensic Psych:

Guy: "I don't date - I mate. Wanna mate? I mean date?"

Girl 1: "What's his GPA?"

Girl 2: "Doesn't he take bio at SMU? That like, doesn't even count."

In the Wardroom:

Guy (about a show): "I'm going to go see it, I am. Just to hate it."

Guy: "I keep on forgetting things are illegal."

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in Overheard at Dal are solely those of the contributing writers and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff.

A red graphic with a white door in the center. The door has 'KNOCK BANG THUMP' written on it in yellow and black. To the right of the door, it says 'are popular.' and 'JOIN US!' in large white letters. Below 'JOIN US!' it says 'Write for the Dalhousie Gazette'. There are also some 'RATTLE' sound effects written near the door handle.

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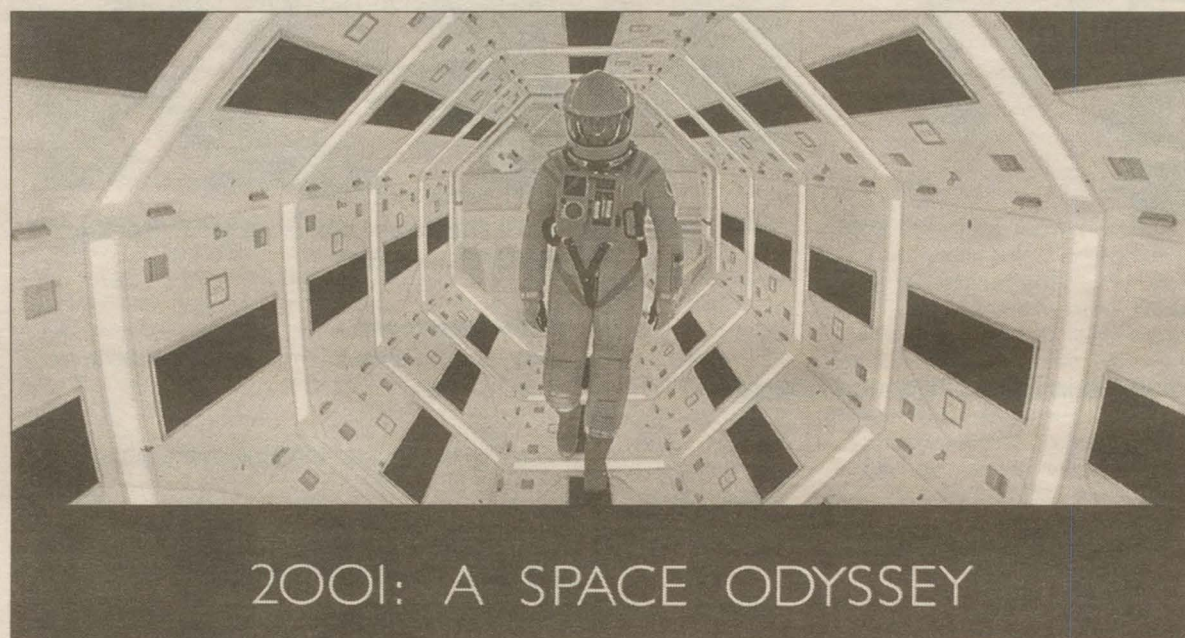
Arts

Arts

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



Laura Dawe Arts Editor
arts@dalgazette.com



2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Kubrick's masterpiece - a Fan Favourite - will likely have the highest attendance since the inception of the series. | Stock photo

Park Lane's favourite films

Local movie theatre delights with classic films at midnight

Erica Eades
Staff Contributor

Whether you're a big-time movie buff with a passion for cult classics, or you're just craving a fun-filled night of nostalgia, Empire Fan Favourites probably has something to satisfy your taste.

The phenomenon began in October, 2008, with a double feature of *Beetlejuice* and *The Shining*. Since then, Empire Fan Favourites at Park Lane has established itself by bringing clas-

ed price. They also offer ticket and concession combos that cost less than admission on a regular night.

While Fan Favourites is predominantly known for showing stand-alone shows, they have recently been toying with the idea of themed nights and months. Last August, they hosted a dance edition that featured films such as *Footloose*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease*. They also held "Freaky February" this year, which involved a series of sci-fi thrillers such as *The Fly* and *The Thing*.

atmosphere, they are adamant about using the original 35mm prints, as opposed to re-mastered DVDs or prints.

"When you're taking in a film from 1978, it's the 1978 scratched, orange film," says Staple.

Staple believes the appeal for this type of show lies in acknowledging the development of the film industry. "It's not that we're blown away with the technology they had," he says. "It's more that we're embracing the fun, because we've come so far in movies."

Empire's Oxford Theatre has taken a different spin on the Fan Favourites idea. Throughout the Oscar season, they featured a Best Picture edition, showing films such as *The Godfather*, *Bridge On The River Kwai*, *Braveheart* and *Schindler's List*. Although they have yet to brand the event, Staple says they will continue showing Best Pictures in the upcoming weeks. They plan to feature older classics such as *Rear Window* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Whatever films they show, Empire Fan Favourites offers a unique movie-going experience for those who interested in seeing long lost gems or blockbusters from the past.

In April, Empire Fan Favourites at Park Lane will feature a tribute to renowned director Stanley Kubrick. The series kicks off this weekend with screenings of *2001: A Space Odyssey* on Friday and Saturday nights at 11:45.

To receive event updates or make a film suggestion, join the Empire Fan Favourites - Park Lane Facebook group.

"When you're taking in a film from 1978, it's the 1978 scratched, orange film." - Jeff Staple

sic films back to the big screen. With titles ranging from *Jaws* to *Footloose*, general manager Jeff Staple says the theatre aims to provide a variety of films that appeal to a wide audience.

"Instead of recycling the films every couple of years, we try to get new ones in from different genres," Staple says.

The event stays true to its name by allowing audiences to choose what films are shown. This was originally done by polls through the theatre's Facebook page. Since then, the co-ordinators have been accepting direct suggestions.

Staple stresses the student demographic is key in this market. To appeal to budget-conscious students, the films are offered at a discount-

Staple says Fan Favourites tries to create the feeling that audiences are at a special event, rather than just taking in a film. By starting with a brief announcement from the organizers, they generate excitement among the crowd. They also give out door prizes such as gift cards, free admission tickets, movie posters and memorabilia.

"In this day and age where you can watch something at home on a big screen with high definition, people aren't getting that social aspect of going to the movies," says Staple.

Fan Favourites tries to emulate the environment that has drawn people to the theatre for generations. To enhance that

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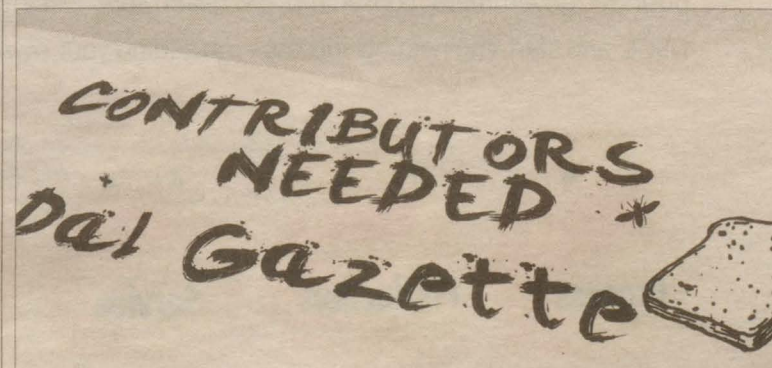
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Daniel, Fred and Julie are inspired by carburetors. And Fred. | Stock photo

Daniel, Fred and Julie

Delia Macpherson
Staff Contributor

Daniel, Fred and Julie recorded an album this past summer. All from the Maritimes, the three-piece band is made up of Daniel Romano, Fred Squire and Julie Doiron.

All three musicians are involved in many other projects.

Doiron is the uncrowned queen of Canadian indie rock. Her back catalogue of prolific solo albums most recently includes *I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day*. She has performed and collaborated with musicians in the past such as Gord Downie and Herman Dune.

Squire plays in three other bands: *Calm Down It's Monday*, the indie rock group *Shotgun and Jaybird*, and he also plays multiple instruments in Julie Doiron's band.

Romano sings and plays guitar in the indie rock band *Attack In Black*. This group of four is a tad pretentious but make up for it in talent. They are worth a MySpace visit. He is also working on his own solo projects.

The album was recorded in Sackville, New Brunswick. Romano apparently took the train to Sackville with a couple of acoustic guitars and folk sound books. The trio recorded in Squire's garage. The songs were put together quickly – most are public domain folk songs. The album has no overdubs or edits.

"It sounds old, but it's not," Romano says of the album. "It's young,

It wasn't supposed to grow up. It was supposed to stay young. But it hasn't."

The album is incredibly beautiful. It's simple, with an emphasis on lyrics and vocals. Two and three part harmonies are on almost every track. It grabs your attention in a very commanding way that makes you want to sit and just listen.

Included in the album are a handful of classics such as the American western folk ballad *Clementine*. Romano says that for the first time in his life he has no real personal attachment to the songs.

"I pulled them out of nowhere, and they mean nothing," says Romano. "But they might mean something to someone."

Included in a list of inspirations for the album are: "Grass, paint, legs, eggs, wigs, Westerns (sandwich) globes, bamboo, bulls, headphones, clean carburetors, oil spills and Fred Squire," Romano said.

Many of the lyrics are dark and sad. The vocals move through the album like a train going through Sackville.

There is a certain, unnamable quality that folk music possesses. Daniel, Fred and Julie obtain that quality through grassroots simplicity, which was found in the original folk movement. They go back to the source: three-piece band, vocals, harmonies, acoustic instruments, story telling. Tragedy meets simplicity.

Daniel, Fred and Julie play the North Street Church on April 9 with Baby Eagle and Laura Peek. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.



Berger decorates Allan Street before the reading with writers Geordie Miller and Shane Beehan. | Photo by Ben Stephenson

Live poet's society

Allan Street poetry readings offer a creative and accepting atmosphere

Cheryl Hann
Staff Contributor

There's something special going on at 6232 Allan St. But don't worry. You're invited!

Jenner Berger, a promising recruit in Dal's creative writing program, has organized the Allan Street Reading Series – a place where local authors can read their work, and local ears can hear it. "I've always liked hosting," Berger says, "whether it's a dinner party or a show at a bar. But this is different."

In a candlelit living room, four writers read to you from their personal portfolios – each offering heaping helpings of humour, guts, wisdom and emotion. Some of the writers are familiar, some unknown. All hide enormous talent under fashionable clothes.

But again, let me squash your fears – this isn't the Bloomsbury Group. If you don't mind coughing up a sample of your writing,

"if only for curatorial purposes," you could be the one perched on a stool reading to all your friends.

"Anyone can get involved; I couldn't really begin to think of any restrictions," says Berger. "I will be approaching writers that I do know, because I want to hear them read. But I also hope I'll be approached by people I don't know and by friends of mine who have been writing in secret." If you are an aspiring author, you'd be hard pressed to find a warmer, more welcoming environment in which to express yourself. A dimly lit room, a sea of eager, glowing faces. "It feels very comfortable, and intimate," Berger says, and that comfort is invaluable if you're intimidated by the "frightened nervousness of reading to a room."

"I want everyone to feel welcome,"

she adds. "Ideally, I'd like the reading series to become known as a place where you can read, or you can listen. You can most definitely feel comfortable just to enjoy literature for yourself and with others who want that too."

The guests of the Allan Street Reading Series want nothing if not to enjoy literature, and to do so supportively.

"Everyone sitting on my living room floor silently encouraged those nervous speakers, and you could really feel that," Berger says. "Everyone's faces are so warm from the space but also with drink, and it just inspires intense reactions to the readings – I've heard some really incredible feedback about the work."

The feeling at 6232 Allan St. is a positive one; readers and listeners alike benefit from the low-

won't care. You'll barely even notice. You'll be too busy getting "punched in the jaw" by a really great poem, or taking a "roundhouse kick to the chest" from a wonderful short story, Berger says.

Whatever it is, you'll enjoy it. And Berger, always the gracious host, wants to make sure that you do.

While the reading series is always free, Berger does ask that you consider making a donation to the jar in her kitchen.

"We need money to bake every month," she says. "Also, once the series' cash envelope starts to fill, our options will increase. I like the idea of making a small publication of past contributors. I think about providing wine for the guests. I want to buy nicer candles for better lighting. Things can only improve."

If you'd like to have a hand in improving things, Berger encourages you to submit a sample of your writing for the next series, which will be happening Thursday, April 15, at 7 p.m.

"I'm really looking forward to connecting people who feel moved by each other," Berger says.

So come. Move and be moved. Read and be read to. Smile and laugh and drink and clap. Here, you'll really mean it.

Writers can send questions or samples of writing (one page) to jennerberger@gmail.com with the subject line: "Allan Street Query". The series will take place at Jenner Berger's apartment, 6232 Allan St.

Full disclosure: Arts Editor Laura Dawe is participating in this event. Jenner Berger writes for the *Gazette*, and she's damn good at it.

"I am an intense subscriber to the importance of atmosphere."

– Jenner Berger

stakes, friendly-get-together-vibe.

"I am an intense subscriber to the importance of atmosphere," says Berger. "I wholeheartedly believe that if four friends read in a huge room with stark lighting, then there would be so fewer pulled heart strings. In my living room with people packed in, drinking the wine they brought – it's like the idea of contagious laughter. The readers are beautiful and funny and then they are contagious."

And that contagion spreads quickly. At the Allan Street Reading Series, you might find yourself sandwiched between two of your best friends or two people you never even dreamed existed. Your knees might touch as you huddle around to hear a diverse mix of poetry and fiction. You may rub shoulders. But, you

www.dalgazette.com

Arts

Don't say 'goodbye', just say 'I love you'

An inappropriate and unprofessional adieu

Laura Dawe
Arts Editor

Show-goers among you might recognize the title of this article as the beautifully scripted piece of graffiti in the middle (and arguably best) stall at Gus' Pub. It perfectly sums up how I am feeling about this, my last issue at the Gazette.

I should probably most definitely be writing some final piece of Arts journalism right now about the incredible opening that graced the Eye Level Gallery tonight: Daniel Espeset and Will van der Meulen have been enjoying the Forgotten Technologies artist residency for the past month. Their project: To bring an ancient off-set press out of the past and into the present. At the opening, the artists moustached the early-comers, took their photo and printed a version of the photo with the press. Voila! Awesome!

I should be describing to you the T-shirts worn by the bands at Gus' Pub tonight. Pastoralia, those Gods of the Divine Joy, sported matching Selwin Sharples originals, which were basically posters for the show. The white and black T-shirts complimented the band's white and black make up. Cold Warps wore high graphic screen-printed tees of one another's faces. Windom Earl can wear whatever they want. The bands' mainly vocal-less musical complexity won the crowd into a



Pastoralia at Gus' on March 27: one of the many topics I should actually be covering. | Photo by Anna DeMello

frenzy, as it has reliably done for years.

I should be writing a guide to arts in Halifax in the summer. I could tell you about the Fuller Street Reading series, which will unfold again this year in a lovely backyard on Fuller Terrace. The series brings hilarious and insightful speakers from home and away to regale the audience with lectures on nearly every topic under the sun (remember the SUN? that's coming to Halifax this summer too!). I should be writing about

the OBEY Convention, which starts May 27 and hosts killer acts this year, such as Slim Twig and Grand Trine. I could be the first to publish news of the Long Live the Queen Festival, which will run May 21 to May 23, and feature acts such as Braids and Cursed Arrows. There is so much good art, comedy, dance, film and music that is going to go down in backyards and other venues in this city all summer long.

Here I am though, using the journal-

istically uncouth "I'm leaving."

Almost graduated, I am leaving Halifax in August. As the school year collapses onto itself in a pile of essays and exams, you probably feel a little like I do right now. Maybe you are graduating and (let's be honest here) going back to Toronto. Maybe you are dropping out to join the circus (let's be hopeful, too). Or, maybe you are just closing the books on another year of

university, of Halifax, of life (let's get nostalgic here for a moment together).

Tonight I should have gone to the Khyber. There I would have hung out in the ballroom, staring up at the No Money Down show with its tall walls of posters and ephemera celebrating 15 years of the Institute. The Atlantic Regional Canadian University Press (ARCUP) conference was relaxing there after a day of amazing speakers. I could have learned a lot about journalism. Instead, I stayed at home scanning tall stacks of my own memorabilia: archiving the weekly arts beat column I wrote for the Gazette last year, and looking back at my year as editor. I re-read my first column, wherein I introduced readers to myself and to Halifax by saying: "There is a lot of creation in this city. This shit is magic like Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel together. This shit is Genesis."

I feel as strongly as ever about the power of art and music and life in this city. I feel even stronger than before that university newspapers, with their freedom and their vibrancy, matter to the structure and sense of a community, of many communities. I want to say, "You're the best," to my fellow editors and to Assistant Arts Editor Matthew Ritchie for a life-changing year. I want to say, "Congratulations and have fun!" to next year's Arts Editors Rebecca Spence and Erica Eades. I want to say thank you to Dalhousie, to the readers, to art and to Halifax. Thank you a very lot.

Fantastic Jurassic

Dinosaur Bones embark on East Coast tour

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

In the past three years, the five-piece that is Dinosaur Bones has created a lot of buzz in the Canadian music scene.

The founding band members, who performed together in a number of musical outfits around downtown Toronto earlier this century, started the band in early 2008 and subsequently released an EP.

The band carries equal influences of The Strokes and early Hot Hot Heat as well as drawing comparisons to atmospheric mood rockers Interpol. This sound has been expanded to form a rich palette of sounds the band employs on recordings and in their live sets that range from pop punk and ska to lesser-known indie rock tunes. In doing so, Dinosaur Bones create an ever-evolving sound that rarely allows the listener to predict what's next.

Their 2008 *Dinosaur Bones* EP gained high praise from critics around southern Ontario, garnering so much attention that they recently travelled down to the annual SXSW music conference to inflict their sound on American ears.

With the recent release of the *Royalty/Ice Hotels* seven-inch, the band seems to be moving forward into an even more dynamic sound. The two-song record (now



The boys in Dinosaur Bones bring their Naughts rock-inspired tunes to Halifax. | Photo supplied

featured on their MySpace page) contains grimy bass and splashy drums as singer Ben Fox rocks a vocal performance similar to Julian Casablancas recent solo work.

The track "Ice Hotels" shows the band experimenting with sonic textures, evoking an almost haunting soundtrack similar to the soundscapes developed by bands such as Sigur Ros and Radiohead.

Following a recent show with East Coast favourites Thrush Hermit on their reunion tour, the band are now set to appear in Halifax for three shows.

With a rampant touring sched-

ule and musical chops to back them up, Dinosaur Bones are by no means a prehistoric rock band.

Dinosaur Bones will play an in-store Taz Records show on April 9 followed by another show at Gus' Pub on April 10. Both shows begin at 8 p.m.

Matthew Ritchie is a childhood acquaintance of Dinosaur Bones drummer Lucas Fredette.

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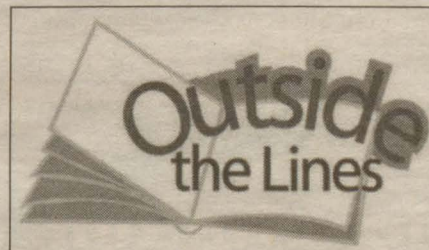
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Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Well, we had quite a time at the Gazette this year. Students young and old had a chance to cover a plethora of stories about the local and international art community. In some cases, they even got to talk to some of the biggest celebrities in Canada.

All these wonderful arts writers turned out one of the best sections ever. Mixing music, film, dance and fine art in a gigantic bouillabaisse of writing, arts has stood out as one of the most topical and in-depth sections in Gazette history.

This couldn't have happened without one important thing. I know what

"I also fell in love with someone during my time as an editor. That person is Lil Wayne (a.k.a Weezy)."

you're thinking: contributors. Sadly, no. I'm not talking about contributors. I am talking about me.

Not only am I one of the most handsome editors to ever grace the newspaper (as well as one of the tallest), I've also written the most of any editor this year. Perhaps even the most of a writer in a single given year. I don't know about this last stat for sure. I could look it up, but I'm too busy writing.

This year I have written around 50 to 65 articles for the Gazette. Some articles I wrote and weren't even pub-

lished. My famed "How to make a Halloween costume for your cat for under \$5", for example, and a timeline of the musical career of Milly Vanilly.

I will be the first to admit that the majority of works you have read by me are likely CD reviews. Some would probably ask, "So what?" To those people I say, "Meet me in the Gazette office at 5 p.m. I'll be the one holding the lead pipe."

On average I write three articles per week for the Gazette as well as attempting to freelance for other publications.

Some of my favourite reviews of this year have consisted of albums by artists such as Corinne Bailey Rae (who I love), Ok Go (who I hate) and Nirvana (who were mislabelled and

ing artists. James O'Toole from Nerd Army helped me understand the music that goes into a Nintendo cartridge's design. Meaghan Smith discussed the whole creative process of being a fine artist, as well as being a fine musician. The Most Serene Republic explained their career from playing the Toronto Island music festival in 2005 to sailing across the galaxy in 2010.

The highlight this year came in the form of Girl Talk, an artist I not only follow extensively, but who was also nice enough to have a follow-up chat with me after his show. Nothing was more rewarding than having a half-hour interview with Gregg Gillis while sitting in my pyjamas eating pizza pockets, and then getting a sweaty bear hug from him in person. Not only is he way smaller than I imagined, but he is also nicer. Having one of my heroes remember our conversation and discuss Kaoss Pads and other synthesizers with me was the highlight of my journalistic career thus far.

I also fell in love with someone during my time as an editor. That person is Lil Wayne (a.k.a Weezy). In my career in journalism post Dalhousie Gazette I hope to possibly meet Lil Wayne one day and discover why he made his latest album *Rebirth*; I have a strong feeling drinking cough syrup had something to do with it.

Either way, thanks for reading. Thank you to all the contributors who helped make the Arts section one of the best I have ever read. Don't forget to keep doing what you're doing and never give up because as Lil Wayne says: "You retire out when you die out."

you probably never read about it).

This year my favourite album was Animal Collective's *Fall Be Kind* EP (the review was in our travel issue). The album received an A+ due to its complex textures and ever-changing sound. It's no secret I love this band (someone once began a webpage mocking my writing due to my mediocre review of their last album.) However, this review was far different. This time I gave it a letter grade.

During my time here, I've also been able to interview a number of amaz-

In an unsentimental mood

Matt Robinson's *Against a Hard Angle* a lackluster book of poetry

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

Grade: C

Celebrated Nova Scotia native and poet Matt Robinson has recently produced a new full-length volume of poetry – his fourth to date – entitled *Against the Hard Angle*. For those that are unfamiliar with Robinson's frantic and disjointedly verbose poetics, this Malahat Review Long Poem and Petra Kenney Internal Poetry prize winner will push you headfirst into a whirlwind of methodically metered vernacular and maritime colloquialisms.

Robinson's book is ultimately composed of two sections: the first is the eponymous long poem, sprawled (quite arbitrarily) across 11 short sections and 26 pages. Robinson's poetry is succinct and emphatic. Lines often contain as few as one word and average four or five. The opening section "Heart", evokes images of ancient grey-blue metals of the Atlantic and blacksmithing with phrases such as: "Whether to take an axe to this loose shutter and its insistent clattering or

not; to draw, perhaps the hammer back and drive the bolt into its place."

The section stumbles somewhat crudely into his next section: "Work Bench." Here we are left to discover whether or not we have been completely removed from the previous narrative or are now trudging on through an awkward and jarring transition through the poetry. While individually the sections evoke the timeless and familial imagery of the past, they fail to produce any discernible cohesiveness; the long poem begins to feel abrasively true to its form.

While Robinson is a master wordsmith, his lofty vocabulary often hinders the connection between the reader and the poem, alienating the audience he is trying to appeal to. Robinson also has an extremely distracting habit of including rather abrupt, bizarre spacing and sparse pages that feel hollow and sad. Some pages contain as few as four lines which result in a messy attempt at conveying emotion that fails to register with the reader due to arbitrary stylistic choices.

The second section, fares even less favourably under the eye of the reader.

While the first section had the saving grace of being a relatively vibrant attempt at translating a certain aesthetic into words, the second section consists of shorter lyrical pieces that lie stagnant and dull on the eyes. Pieces such as "Citadel Hill" and "Rotary; Roundabout" are somewhat arduous reads, coming across as little more than clichéd Haligonian sentiments. Robinson's verbose verbal onslaught combined with the relatively lackluster subject matter comes across sometimes as forced and insincere. Other times it feels almost terribly saccharine and unbearably nostalgic. The latter section reads more like a poetic travel brochure for Halifax than a meaningful tribute.

While Robinson is a critically acclaimed poet who is fiendishly dedicated to his art and possesses a terrifyingly immense arsenal of words, his newest work feels disjointed and frantic. This book of poetry feels like a maelstrom of words and sentiments flung to the wind, unaware of where they're falling. Robinson's attempt is admirable, as well as offering topical subject matter, it fails to stir up and spark any of the frigid coals left unlit in our hearth-stove hearts.

The Ghost Writer

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: B+

Pierce Brosnan, Ewan MacGregor and Kim Cattrall seem more fitting for an adaptation of a Sophie Kinsella novel than the new Roman Polanski. Let the cast not shake your interest in this film, which won Polanski Best Director at the Berlin International Film Festival. Each actor's weaknesses and stereotypes is what reveals him or her to be so perfectly cast.

It's going to be difficult to tell you much about this movie without depriving you of the artful tension that is the experience of watching it. It is, most definitely, a thriller in which each answer provokes another question. In broad strokes, Ewan MacGregor plays a nameless ghostwriter who is hired by former British Prime Minister, Adam Lang, to finish his memoirs after the last ghostwriter mysteriously fell off a ferry and drowned. Much like our

own pro-roguing prime minister, Lang faces accusations that he turned terror suspects over to be tortured. The tortures reveal themselves as a mere skin on top of a deeper body of mystery. McGregor, once in, is in too deep. He presses toward the truth, though it becomes increasingly clear that in doing so he risks suffering the same demise as his predecessor.

The film is beautifully shot. The style is classic and austere, though it relies a little too heavily on blue filters to set the tone. The movie is so blue that during the scenes where the treatment doesn't work as well, it becomes distracting and feels like movie has just been inaccurately colour-corrected. Otherwise, the settings and camera work are quiet and beautiful.

All in all *The Ghostwriter* is a seriously intriguing political thriller with a slow surface and a fast interior. Much like watching the 1990s TV show *Ghostwriter*, it's difficult to find the right moment to get up for more popcorn, because you don't want to miss a revelation that's going to help you solve the great mystery before it is revealed at the end.

Friendly Fires

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: A

Britain's own Friendly Fires may have released their self-titled debut over a year ago, but this hit-making trio have only recently begun to get even the slightest bit of coverage on North American shores.

The band is comprised of three music nerds who grew up together in a wealthy upper-class town outside of London. With what must have been a lavish upbringing, and the ability to get to the music epicenter of Europe, the lads in Friendly Fires have crafted a band that references some of the more unique records in music history, while sounding uniquely their own.

The band cobbles together elements of dance music on their self-titled debut that

recalls Brian Eno, David Byrne, The Talking Heads, The Rapture and The Village People to make a highly danceable listening experience. At the same time, the band experiments with soaring atmospherics that feel close to hits by Coldplay and Elbow, but more shoe gaze influenced.

Hit single "Skeleton Boy" sounds like it could have been made by Passion Pit, if those guys actually made good music that was fun to dance to. "Jump in the Pool" has the youthful exuberance of a blooming summer love with carefree atmospherics. "Lovesick" has the power of a C&C Music Factory hit, but without the pompous attitudes. "In the Hospital" sounds like it could have been on *Remain in Light* and you wouldn't have even noticed it.

By combining many of the best elements of dance music over the past 30 years, with equal parts indie rock and British culture, this Friendly Fires debut is the go-to record for your next dance party.

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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

Top 10 campus skate spots

Where to grind, gap and manual around campus

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

In a city that boasts one of the most impressive skate parks on the East Coast, there are surprisingly few alternative legit skate spots in Halifax. The rails at Scotia Square Mall are knobbed. The marble ledges outside of NSCAD have a shitty run-up. Don't even get me started about trying to ride the wave. The modern skate park has evolved from being simply a training facility for street tricks, into the hub of local skate scene, in Halifax's case. But skateboarding was never meant to be exclusive to artificial, officially-sanctioned skate venues. That said, there are some fun spots around Dalhousie to skate.

First off, it is important to state that I'm not talking about King's campus. King's has virtually no skate spots. Other than the hubba ledges next to the King's library, there is nothing to ride on, and those ledges aren't even waxed.

I'm also not talking about longboarding. Longboarding is a form of skateboarding that developed from surfers trying to recreate carving some waves by riding down embankments. It is true that the majority of skateboarding that takes place on campus is in longboard form, with an estimated ratio of about 20 to one in comparison to short boards. However, the majority of these skaters are mostly of the meathead variety who would rather carve at 10 kilometres per hour listening to Jack Johnson, than shred a stair set with some Black Flag in the background. I am talking about landing tricks; "hanging 10" doesn't count.

With that in mind, here are the Top 10 places to get tricks on campus.

1. Killam Library Side Staircase

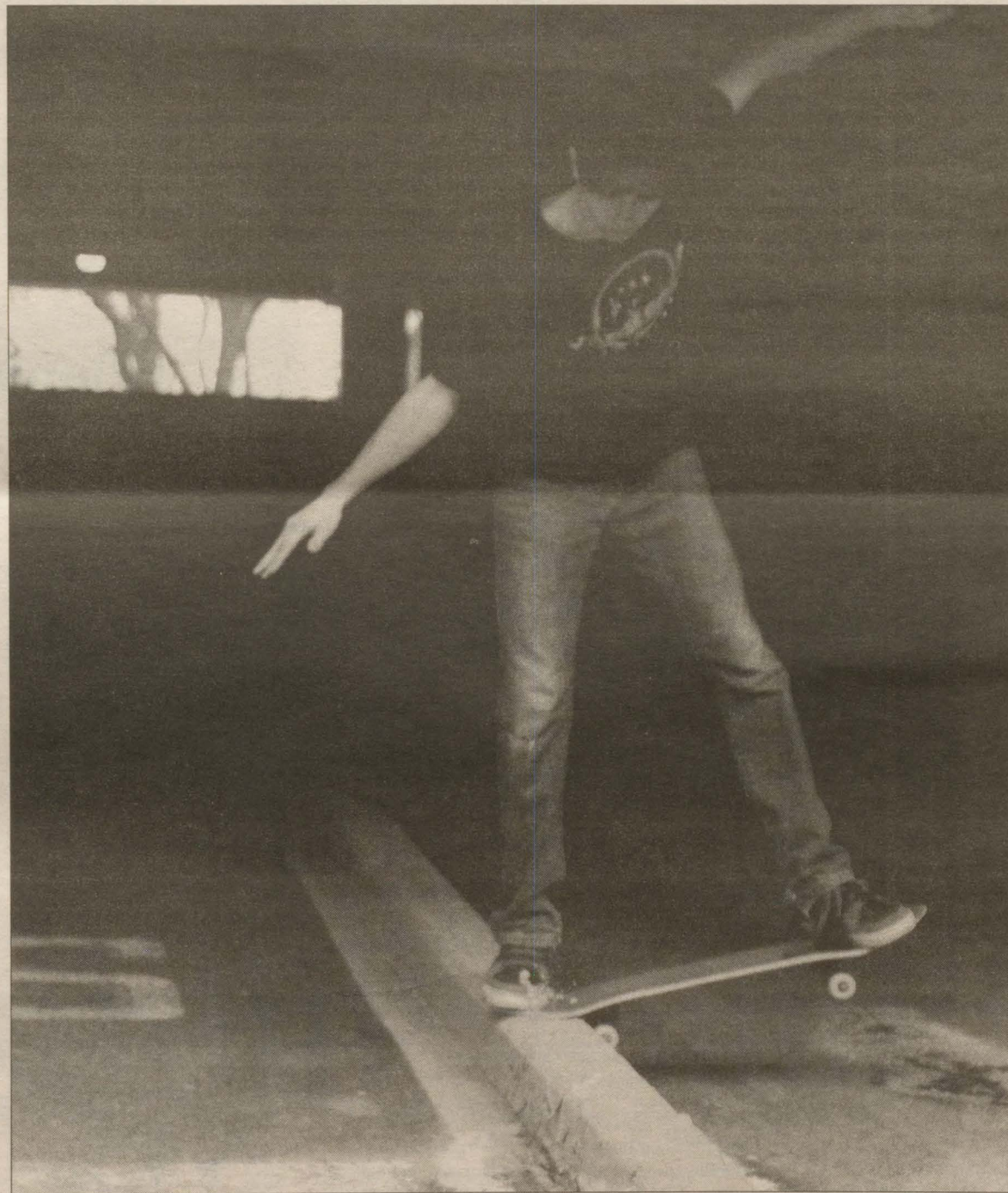
This six-stair set has a sketchy downhill run-up, but has one of the smoother landings on campus. On top of that there is a moderately sized ledge with kinks on the right side, as well as a taller drop off ledge on the left. Add a decent rail in the middle and you have a spot where any number of tricks could go down.

2. Killam Library courtyard

Not much here besides random boulders, but that's what we have come here to skate. It's possible to ollie over some of the longer rocks, and some are even waxed for board slides. Your best bet would be the small manual pad behind the Killam Library sign. Be wary, though: Dalhousie Security is across the street.

3. Henry Hicks stairs

I know what you're thinking: tiles for the run-up, cracks at the bottom and you have to ollie early to clear the last tile before the stairs. However, with a wide



Spencer Burley, the author's friend, takes the paint off Dal -- b/s nose-slide. | Photo by Matt Ritchie

amount of stairs and the picturesque clock tower behind you, this may be the most photogenic place to get tricks.

4. Marion McCain bank

This spot serves three purposes: for intermediate skaters, popping a trick into the bank is pretty legit, or you can gain speed down LeMarchant Street and launch off the ramp and over the root of the tree beside it onto the sidewalk. The best trick (which I have never witnessed) would be to gain speed by flooring it down the back entrance and ollieing the whole thing.

Throw in a Jeremy Wray-esque b/s 180 or f/s 360 and you're a local hero.

5. Dal Arts Centre stairs, a.k.a. 'Club Cohen'

This is by far the most skated spot in the past few years, and is also a popular hangout in the campus stoner scene. This skate spot is located behind the Dal Arts Centre, so it doesn't gain a lot of attention at night, but it's also close enough to Dal Security to make it a little sketchy. The massive five sets are fresh concrete, so if you have the chops to land a trick you better make it happen.

The other stair set is located perpendicular to the first one with a huge run-up, making it ideal to film lines. The best tricks I can remember have been lofty kick-flips and big-spins. Just be wary of slamming: the concrete is pretty solid.

6. Shirreff Hall staircases

Put these in the maybe file. These pristine one-after-the-other staircases are big enough for the professionals, but with a cobblestone run up, almost impossible to ride. Before the recent renovations, skaters used to kick-flip into the cracked asphalt and ride down the

pathway similar to a snake run. Slamming would have resulted in a place in Thrasher's Hall of Meat under the subhead "road rash." However, it seemingly still has the downhill flow to it. Too bad this path is impossible to skate.

7. Shirreff Hall tennis courts

Is ollieing over large objects more your bag? Nothing is better than these three foot-tall nets. I've witnessed a f/s 180 go over it once, but nothing that much bigger. If you've got good pop, this may be the spot for you. The glow of the stadium lights at Wickwire keep the courts relatively well-lit and Dal Security doesn't seem to come at night too often either.

8. Dalhousie quad hill

Once again, brand new cobblestones cause some problems. But getting some speed on a downhill run from the Henry Hicks and then blasting half way over the ramp next to the Killam in the middle of the quad would be pretty cool.

9. Student Union Building ledge

This ledge, next to the Dawgfather, used to be consistently waxed. The height causes some problems, but its rounded edge makes it look fun to lock into slides on. Right across from the Rowe is a smaller curb that was once waxed, but that seems to have changed as well. It could have been a good line in a local video.

10. Dalhousie parking barrier on Seymour Street

Not for the faint of heart, the Dalhousie parking barrier is either your best old-school dream spot or your worst nightmare. The only way to attack this thing is speed (which is why I can't do shit on it).

There are three options for this obstacle. The first is to start from the top, get enough speed to slappy onto the barrier and ride a 50/50 down it. The second, easier option is to ride from the top parallel to the obstacle and pop into a nose-slide. The ceiling of the downhill ramp is about six feet five inches, so any trick involving pop is strictly out of the books here. That's why a b/s nose-slide would work. It would also allow you to lock on for a longer slide, and enough room to pop out and ride over the sketchy landing. If you're really tough, you should definitely try a b/s board-slide. Although it's difficult to balance due to the amount of speed this thing generates, pulling away at the end of this thing would be almost unbeatable.

With this in mind, as an old proverb goes: Skate and destroy!

Kobe vs. the Celtics

Breakdown of the NBA Playoffs

Dave Berg
Sports Contributor

As March Madness enters its final stages, basketball fans can begin to look forward to the NBA playoffs. The NBA, unlike any other sport, really picks up its intensity during the playoffs. This is simply because the majority of NBA players coast through the season. There are certain players who do give it their all during the season, such as Shane Battier, Kobe Bryant or Danny Granger. But the majority of the players are saving up their energy for the four-round best-of-seven playoffs. Just ask Rasheed Wallace.

Let's break down each conference and try to see who truly has a chance and which teams are just pretending, starting with the Eastern Conference.

First off, the bottom four teams stand zero chance of making it past the second round. The Toronto Raptors, Charlotte Bobcats, Miami Heat and Milwaukee Bucks simply don't have the size or talent to match up with the big three (To-

ronto will beat out the Chicago Bulls for the last spot). The Atlanta Falcons have a puncher's chance of advancing out of the conference, but it is unlikely they will beat the LeBron James-led Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round. Though the Falcons have great depth in the backcourt, they are simply too small up front. Al Hartford is too small for a centre and Josh Smith cannot handle large power forwards. In the off-season, Atlanta may try to acquire a good defensive centre, maybe Joel Pryzbilla.

Of the three other contenders in the east, the contest is between the Boston Celtics or Cleveland. Orlando won the conference title last year but Cleveland has improved significantly this season and Boston has proven itself a serious contender. Orlando's hopes rest in its depth in the front court and big bodies on the wings. But Dwight is too nice a person, and any team that relies on Carter for their success is worthy of scepticism. The Celtics will be the team no one wants to play. Paul Pierce is playing like his old self, KG is starting to get angry and Rondo is prov-

ing he deserves his recent extension. Then consider they have Ray Allen, Kendrick Perkins, Rasheed Wallace, Marquis Daniels, Glen Davis and Nate Robinson to help out and you realize why people don't want to face them.

The Celtics have a versatility in their line-up they did not have when they won the championship, so look for Doc Rivers to play around with match-ups.

Cleveland is obviously dangerous with LeBron. The acquisition of Jamison has proved valuable as he can handle the ball and spread the floor. In order for Cleveland to beat Boston or L.A., they need LeBron to take over and not be so passive. He has a tendency to pass up the ball for the open shot, but LeBron seems to make a shot regardless of him being covered or not. If anyone remembers the Detroit-Cleveland series from a few years ago when LeBron scored 25 of the last 29 points for Cleveland in one game, that is the LeBron they need. Cleveland will also benefit from its added depth (Ilgauskas, Parker, Moon and Hickson) and having the fresh legs of Leon Powe back.

Predict Boston to come out of the east if KG and Perkins can shut down Cleveland's big men. Then watch LeBron skip town and head to his good buddy Jay-Z in Brooklyn to play with John Wall and Brook Lopez.

The west is far more difficult. The L.A. Lakers are obviously a favourite. The Denver Nuggets are a serious threat - remember the trouble they gave L.A.? The San Antonio Spurs are always contenders, but their chances this year rest on point guard Tony Parker's recovery from tendonitis.

With their new additions, the Dallas Mavericks also look like a threat. The other four play-off teams (Utah Jazz, Phoenix Suns, Portland Trailblazers and Oklahoma City Thunder) simply do not have the talent and experience to match up. But watch out for Oklahoma City next year.

San Antonio is going to have difficulty getting out of the west. Tim Duncan is slowly showing his age, but then he was never known for his athleticism. If they are going to make it, it will be behind a re-energized Richard Jefferson and a fresh Tony Parker.

The Nuggets have the ability to be the best team on any night, but George Karl's cancer could be a huge loss. If they are going to win it will be because of Kenyon Martin returning to his prime defensive form and JR Smith learns the difference between a bad shot and a good shot. Fittingly, Dallas is the dark horse of the west; their size,

depth, defence and experience mean no one can rule the Mavs out. Each player on the team knows his role and has accepted it. Even those sceptical of Nowitzki are starting to come around.

Looking at their second unit of Barea, Terry, Stevenson, Thomas and Haywood, one wonders if that is better than most Eastern squads' starting line-ups. If anyone is going to upset L.A. it will be Dallas. Caron Butler, DeShawn Stevenson and Shawn Marion will give Kobe fits as they all have the possibility of defending him.

Upsetting L.A. is not going to be easy. If Bynum can return to his earlier self in time for the second round (he won't be needed in the first round) then I defy anyone to name a better starting five since Michael Jordan's Bulls.

Kobe seems to be on a mission to make everyone forget MJ, and he is doing a damn good job of it. It's difficult to picture any team beating a line up of Fisher, Kobe, Artest, Odom, and Gasol in the fourth quarter. They are all excellent defenders and are all a threat to score. They do the dirty work and enjoy it. As Charles Barkley said last year, Kobe Bryant is a bad man.

I predict Kobe will win the west while the rest of the Lakers make occasional appearances when needed.

A Boston versus L.A. finals again. Who is going to win? Who cares, let's just enjoy watching some of the best players the game has ever seen.



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Stammberger the right fit

Former Olympian alumna solid in first year as Tiger coach

Natasha White
Sports Editor

The 2009-2010 year was a season of transition for coach Anna Stammberger's ladies basketball team. When asked to comment on her inaugural season, Stammberger spoke of "adjustments," "injuries" and "turn-arounds."

It's been 21 years since Stammberger was in the AUS mix. Coaching for eight years in Germany, and more recently as Kensington PEI High School athletic director, gave the former Team Canada national player and Dal Tiger alumna a strong foundation to take over the Dal ladies basketball program. She took over for veteran Tiger coach Dr. Carolyn Savoy who retired from coaching Tiger ball after 32 years of leading the ladies on the hardwood.

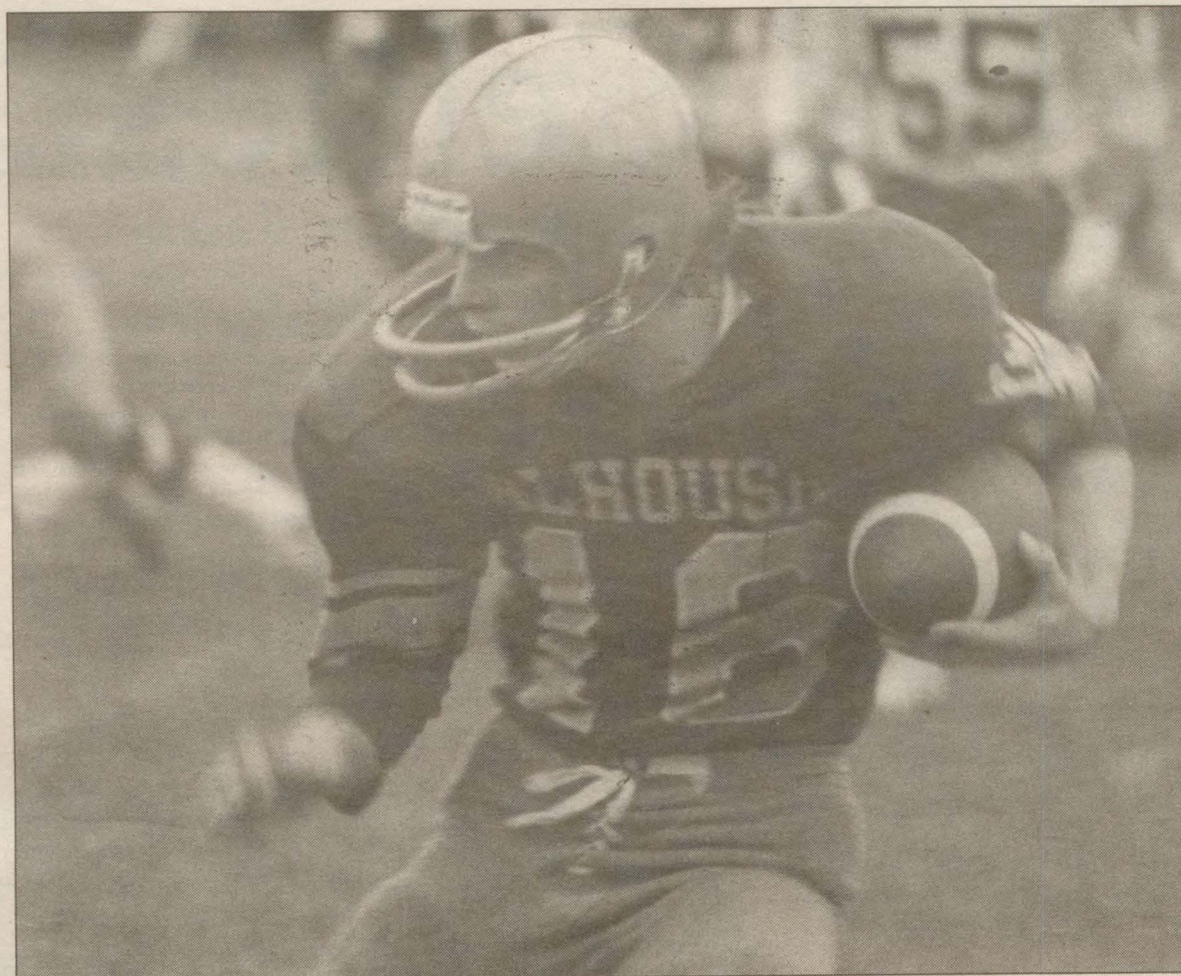
The adjustment for both players and coach will continue into the 2010-2011 season as Stammberger begins to rebuild the Tiger line-up. The loss of four, possibly five, integral Tigers (bigs Crosby and the Girdwoods, and starters Scott and, potentially, Legge) will force major modifications to the look and feel of the Tigers. Heavy recruiting efforts should produce a number of new faces and skill sets for next year.

One skill Coach Stammberger is dili-

gently working on is the pass. Noticeably absent from the Tiger repertoire was a natural passer. It'll be interesting to see who will step up and be the Tiger's on-court decision maker. It will take a confident, cerebral player who is comfortable taking charge in pressured situations, from side-ins to press breaks.

Injuries haunted the Tigers from the outset of the 2009-2010 season with the year starting on a low note - two in fact. Both Alex Legge and Carla Norrad suffered serious ACL injuries, bringing the Tigers to their knees. But Legge's return midway through the season coincided with the turn-around of a potentially dismal season. The Tigers continued to gather momentum, going five for seven before heading into the year-end AUS tourney on a high. Their narrow five-point loss against CBU in the semis proved that Stammberger is the right fit for Dalhousie.

The Women's Basketball team has been selected by the Gazette sports writers as the recipient of the inaugural Dalhousie Gazette Team of the Year award. Congratulations to Anna Stammberger and the team for perseverance and excellence in the face of adversity.



Stock photo

Dalhousie Bengals football club joins AFL Atlantic Football League expands to five teams

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Ottawa's Carleton University, which has debated reviving its long-defunct Ravens football program along the lines of the traditional CIS model, or the highly successful 'Laval model', may have a new option to consider: the Dalhousie model.

Last week's announcement that the Dalhousie Bengals would be joining the Atlantic Football League for 2010 season confirmed that football would return to Dalhousie after a 33-year absence. It's not varsity, and the team receives no funding from the university. The coaching staff are volunteers, and team expenses will be paid by alumni donations and club dues. Team operations will be managed by a student society in consultation with an outside advising group. All equipment will be paid for by the club's financial backers.

The Bengals will play in the 2009 start-up Atlantic Football League against the UNB-Saint John Sea Wolves, the Moncton Raiders, 2009 league-champions the UNB-Fredericton Red Bombers and fellow expansion team UPEI/Holland College Hurricanes.

Team President Jeff Pond confirmed the announcement following a meeting with the AFL on March 20, adding that the club had received 105 applications from potential players as of the Bengals' admission to the league. Thus far the Bengals have players, coaches, funding and a league.

What the Dalhousie Bengals don't have is a field. "Some of the operational procedures are being worked out," Pond said. "Up to this point the focus has been on getting

the green light from the (AFL), which we did. Now the real legwork begins. We're still sorting out our ideal option."

That ideal option can only be Dal's Wickwire Memorial Field. Wickwire replaced the old Studley Field, which was home to Dal's original football team until the 1970s. The current field, which underwent a \$1.8 million renewal in 2008, was designed to serve first and foremost as an all-weather soccer pitch that could accommodate a variety of club, inter-mural and community athletics. The Tarkett Fieldturf currently surfacing the 200-by-90-yard field is the same product used to turf most NFL, MLB and MLS stadiums. The dimensions of a regulation CFL field is 150 by 65 yards. Wickwire's 'feature field' measures 110 by 74 yards with more than enough space on either end for a pair of 20-yard end zones.

According to a 2008 service agreement between HRM and Dalhousie, in which Halifax paid \$300,000 to Dal for access to the field by community groups, Wickwire can accommodate 2,000 spectators with the addition of aluminium bleachers. Yet Wickwire still lacks field lines for football and goalposts. The nearest football-equipped fields are Wanderers' Ground, north of the Public Gardens, and Huskies Stadium at St. Mary's University.

Lack of a proper football field has been cited as a leading cause for the disbanding of the Dal football program in 1976. It was due to the lack of a suitable stadium in Halifax that the 1984 CFL expansion Atlantic Schooners folded. Fields matter in football. It would be one thing to have a Dal football club playing on a random off-campus field — another thing entirely to have football played at the heart of the campus.

Wherever the Bengals find a home, the team's prospects are looking good. Dalhousie will be the only AFL team with 100 per cent student membership (the other teams allow for community participation). With over 100 hopeful players looking to try out next fall, Dalhousians can expect a decent level of talent on the inaugural Bengals roster.

That talent will also be in capable hands; Bengals coach Rick Rivers played quarterback for Dal from 1969 to 1971 and was a former player of the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats. A Nova Scotia Football Hall-of-Famer and former Vice President of Football Canada, Rivers brings 20 years of football coaching experience to the team.

Fellow Hall of Famer and former Dal receiver Mike Tanner will accompany Rivers. Coach Tanner joins the program as the high school football coach with the most wins in Nova Scotian history, having coached 19 provincial championship teams from Citadel High School and Queen Elizabeth High School. Coach Bob Lewington, also of the Citadel High football program, was an AUS MVP and AUS All-Star running back for Dalhousie and Saskatchewan Roughriders draft-pick before returning to Dal football as assistant coach in the mid-70s.

It is safe to say that the Bengals are ready to be a competitive team in next year's AFL. Whether or not returning Dal students will find Wickwire ready for the Bengals is a question that for now remains unanswered.

The Dalhousie Gazette will be offering Bengals coverage and updates online throughout the summer at www.dalgazette.com.

Sexual diversity and sport

Kaley Kennedy
Opinions Editor

At the front of a packed room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building, lawyer Catherine Meade offers \$20 to anyone who can name 10 professional athletes, currently playing their sport, who are openly gay. When 10 proves to be too hard, she asks for just one. No one raises a hand.

"It's really hard to have a sense of yourself if you don't see yourself reflected," says Meade.

In the seven professional leagues in North America, none of the estimated 5,000 male athletes openly identify as gay, she says.

"There's not one. Statistically, it's not possible," Meade says.

According to the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, 2.6 per cent of Americans identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Meade, a former athlete at McMaster University, and Dal alumnus Curtis

"(The team members have) been supportive of both of us, and really treated us like any other teammate when it comes to issues of relationship or sexuality," she says. "Our sexual orientation hasn't been an issue at all on this team, which for me was a huge deal. Coming from a very homophobic high school, I was surprised to find this much support in the athletic community."

Before attending STU, Boucher-Bouchard had experienced homophobia from her teammates as a member of her high school varsity hockey and soccer teams. It was only after leaving high school, that Boucher-Bouchard felt she could speak with the coaches of her high school teams to raise the issue of homophobia. Her efforts, though, have led to an anti-homophobia campaign at the school.

"I was afraid to say or do anything while I was in school and experiencing these problems. Like many students experiencing homophobic actions, I was too afraid to draw attention to myself, or my sexuality," she says.

**"It's really hard to have a sense of yourself if you don't see yourself reflected."
- Catherine Meade**

Cartmill, founder of Loose Ends LGBT recreational curling league and the East Coast Rainbow Softball Association, addressed a group of about 100 students, staff and faculty at a meeting of the Dal allies on March 11 on the topic: "LGBT Athletes: Challenges and Successes."

The meeting is part of a Dal Allies priority to build a stronger relationship with athletics, explains Michael Gillis, peer ally at Dal. This year, Gillis and Gaye Wishart, Dal's Harassment Prevention Officer, did educational presentations on sexual diversity and gender diversity, with all of the staff at Dalplex. Approximately 100 staff participated. Gillis will also be part of an upcoming roundtable on how athletics can be more open to diversity with athletics administration.

For athlete Stefanie Boucher-Bouchard, a first-year student at St. Thomas University (STU) who competes at a provincial and national level with synchronized ice-skating team the UNB Ice Cats, the reactions from her straight teammates and her coach were just as helpful as her gay teammate.

Gillis hopes straight members of the athletics community will see the important role they play in creating a safe space.

"It's important that people who are part of the athletics community as a whole see that the issue of creating a safe and welcoming space for students from the rainbow community is a collective issue," says Gillis. "It's something that needs to be of concern to all people, not just LGBT athletes."

Gillis says after the presentation by Meade and Cartmill, several members of the athletics community approached the Dal Allies steering committee about becoming part of the ally program. Allies at Dal are listed on the Dal website, and are provided with materials such as decals for their office window or door to identify them to students. Becoming an ally involves a 90-minute overview of why Dal Allies is an important part of the Dal community, and an application process.

For Meade, though, plenty of work still needs to get done.

"Ideally, in time ... everywhere we play sports will be a safe space."

Contributors
are popular.

KNOCK
BANG
THUMP

RATTLE
RATTLE

JOIN US!
Write for the Dalhousie Gazette

Batter up!

Major League Baseball 2010-2011

Tim van der Kooi
Staff Contributor

Let's get this out of the way: The Toronto Blue Jays will not make the playoffs. They will not finish with a winning record and before the season is out, they will probably have traded away a few of their good relievers for some prospects. That should be the Jays' season in a nutshell. But let's take a look at the bigger picture.

The MLB season starts on Sunday, April 4, with a great match-up between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. This game will mark the opening volley between the two teams that have the best chance at locking the AL East and the AL Wildcard respectively.

There won't be too many teams in the American League that can boast the pitching staff of the Red Sox or the Yankees' terrifying batting line-up. Last season the Yankees actually led the MLB in home runs, runs, RBI's and total bases. It wouldn't be surprising if they won the World Series, making them the first team to win back-to-back pennants since, well, the last time the Yankees won back-to-back World Series, between 1998 and 2000.

Elsewhere, the predictions aren't so simple. Let's take a look at some of the top contenders in the rest of the divisions in the MLB.

AL Central

This will be the most interesting division to watch this season. The Minnesota Twins will hope to repeat their narrow Central division title victory, except this year come October they will have to bear the cold Minnesota weather in their new outdoor stadium, Target Field.

In the Windy City, the Chicago White Sox seem poised to make a return to the top rungs of the AL Central. They have a great starting rotation that packs a nice one-two punch of Mark Buehrle and Jake Peavy. Their bullpen should also provide some quality relief if Bobby Jenks and JJ Putz can recover from their last season struggles. If Alex Rios can perform, and Juan Pierre can live up to their potentials, the White Sox offense should be quick and dangerous. They need to play a small-ball type of game to be successful. Expect the White Sox to have a bounce-back season and finish first in the AL Central.

AL West

Will the Angels continue their AL West dominance? Hard to say because they have lost some key players: ace John Lackey, right-fielder Vladimir Guerrero and their speedster Chone Figgins. Figgins didn't go far, leaving for the Seattle Mariners, who look like they could take the division for the first time since 2001, the year slugger Ichiro Suzuki made his MLB debut. Ichiro and Figgins will be able to help the Mariners score a bunch of runs. But

ever Lee may start the season on the disabled list due to side muscle strain, which has been a recurring injury for him since 2003. If Lee isn't healthy, the Mariners might not make it that far. If the Angels don't win it, the Mariners certainly will.

of July and only started 12 games. With former Jays star Roy Halladay in the rotation for a full season, he should be able to win over 20 games for the Phillies to push them even farther from their competition.

Aside from the Phillies, the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves should also be contenders. The Braves, as usual, are anchored by their pitching. That is important to have

in the NL East since every team (with the exception of the Expos, I mean, Nationals) has a power-ful

they have Johan Santana, but the rest of their staff is supported by starters that should be fourth and fifth starters on other teams. And by the looks of their spring training, their ERA will continue to hover around four and five. All in all, it's a no-brainer in the NL East: the Phillies are locking it down.

NL Central

This is probably the weakest division in the MLB. Do not expect any of these teams to win the NL Wild Card. For these teams, it's all or nothing. The St. Louis Cardinals have the best shot at first. Most of the teams in the Central have weak pitching which the Cardinals prey on. Obviously Albert Pujols is a key factor to the Cardinals success, but Matt Holliday will prove to be a great addition to the team's offence. The Cards easily have the best pitching too. They're loaded with big names like Chris Carpenter, Brad Penny and Freddy Garcia. They will be necessary in shutting down the powerful line-ups of the Milwaukee Brewers and the Chicago Cubs. And that is the problem with those two teams; they rely too much on their hitting. The Cardinals have to pitch their way to the top or the other teams will pound them.

NL West

This is a tough division to call. It should be a two-horse race between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Colorado Rockies. The Dodgers line-up is one of the strongest in the league. These guys can drive in a lot of runs quickly at any point in the game. Russell Martin will be out of the line-up for the first couple of games, but should be back in late April. The pitching is shady for the Dodgers. Vicente Padilla leads the staff with Chad Billingsley, who is prone to shakiness as he showed in his performance after the All-Star Break. On the other hand, the Rockies have an exceptional pitching staff. They are a young group of guys that are still in the process of developing. Ubaldo Jimenez and Jorge De La Rosa are good examples of this. They both had winning records and recorded nearly 200 strikeouts each. The line-up hasn't changed much over the past couple of years and they should perform as usual. Tulowitzki is a rising star on this youthful ball club, and he could hit over 40 home runs this year. It'll be a close race, but the Rockies will sneak to the top.



someone has to drive them in; Ken Griffey Jr. and Milton Bradley don't look like prime candidates, but they might be able to get the job done. Seattle's starting rotation is also top-notch. Cliff Lee was acquired from

Toronto in the blockbuster Halladay trade and Felix Hernandez continues to develop into an ace. How-

NL East

The Philadelphia Phillies will win the NL East and possibly the World Series. Remember that Cliff Lee was acquired by the Phillies at the end

line-up. Derek Lowe has proven again and again that he can paint the corners with the best two-seam fastball in the game and Jair Jurrjens is a young talent that should continue to prosper with the Braves. Closer Billy Wagner may not have his 100-mph arm anymore, but as he proved with the Red Sox he can provide clutch relief. The Mets have a strong line-up, but where is their pitching? Sure



THE SEXTANT

APRIL 1, 2010

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

FAREWELL TO SEXTON CAMPUS



Ben Wedge
Industrial '13
Humorist in Chief

This song is a rip-off of "Farewell to Nova Scotia" and reflects on Sexton being shut down over Christmas, and the T-Room nearly being forced to close earlier than a high-school dance, among other perceived infractions against this campus.

Chorus: Farewell to Sexton Campus, the Québec of Dalhousie,
Let your buildings dark and dreary be.
For when I am far away on Studley Campus,
Will you still be there for me?

The sun was setting in the west,
The birds were singing on every tree.
All students seemed inclined to drink
But still there was no beer for me.

Chorus

I grieve to leave my native campus,
I grieve to leave my Engineers,
And my enginerds whom I love so dear,
And the bonnie, bonnie lass that I do adore.

Chorus

The doors they do close and the wars to alarm,
The Dean calls, and I must obey.
So farewell, farewell to Sexton Campus' charms,
For it's early in the morning and I'm stuck on Studley.

Chorus

I have three beers and they are at rest,
This morning, I wrote a hard test.
But a poor simple engineer just like me,
Must be tossed out and driven from the T-Room.

Chorus

ROGUE BIKE GANG TAKES OVER HALIFAX

Bike gangs can be fierce. They go into hiding in the winter, but when summer rolls around, look out! A new one has invaded the city, and is not afraid to get in your way. Blocking traffic is the name of their game. Sometimes, people get hurt. Normally, they stay in hiding, trying to hide amongst traffic. But on the final Friday of every month, the unruly gang meets at Victoria Park at 6PM to unleash their fury on unsuspecting Haligonians. This unruly gang, called Critical Mass, boasts many female members, unlike Sexton Campus and the Hells Angels. Beware of them, as they, and their two-wheeled behemoths spring themselves upon us.

Bike gangs are a threat to humanity's continued existence. Don't let this one eliminate us.



THY LEG!

Aziz Martakoush
Mechanical '10

Oh thy leg, how much I adore thee
With you I stand, with you I walk
Thy leg, thou support me.
I played a game of volley,
And in it, I injured my foot.
I thought I twisted my ankle,
But really, it was broke.
I felt an agonizing pain.
A pain like a paper cut.
I injured my foot falling
As if I fell in bowling!
Thy leg why art thou weak?
I thought I trained you enough.
You embarrassed me in front of my friends,
But surely that was enough.
You made me walk with crutches,
The subject of every person.
I hate thy leg for doing this,
But
I think it is my fault.
I jumped too high not noticing
The ball was heading too my face.
For it was the reason I fell and made me break
my leg
So,
I really blame the person
Who spiked the ball in my face
Thy leg, how much I adore thee
Thy leg, thou support me

Word of the Week: Discharge. A common phenomenon, discharge occurs all around us at all times. Though it involves fluid flowing out of a pipe, you know what the prof just said when a class of fifth year civils fall out of their seats laughing.

Humour Issue:

Disclaimer: This week's Sextant is the Humour Issue. If you find something offensive, let us know, but we do our best to be funny and fair.



We put the rigid member to good use!

Trivia Friday!

WRITE FOR THE SEXTANT! GET MONEY!

Only a few more issues left this year to make your voice heard!

Email: sextant@dal.ca

Sextant will also be looking for involvement next year! We need editors and treasurer.

Get involved! Email us for more info!

Change For Chile

We interrupt this issue of the Sextant for an important public service announcement.

The earthquake in Chile caused some damage, though not quite as much as the one in Haiti. However, there are students who aren't able to get back to school because their money went to rebuilding.

Look for change jars around campus and at events such as Engibeering to donate your last few quarters to a good cause.

[And now, back to our regularly scheduled humour.]



Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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THE SEXTENT

MARCH 26TH, 2010

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

PAGE 2

IE FACULTY MEETS WITH 5TH YEAR STUDENTS



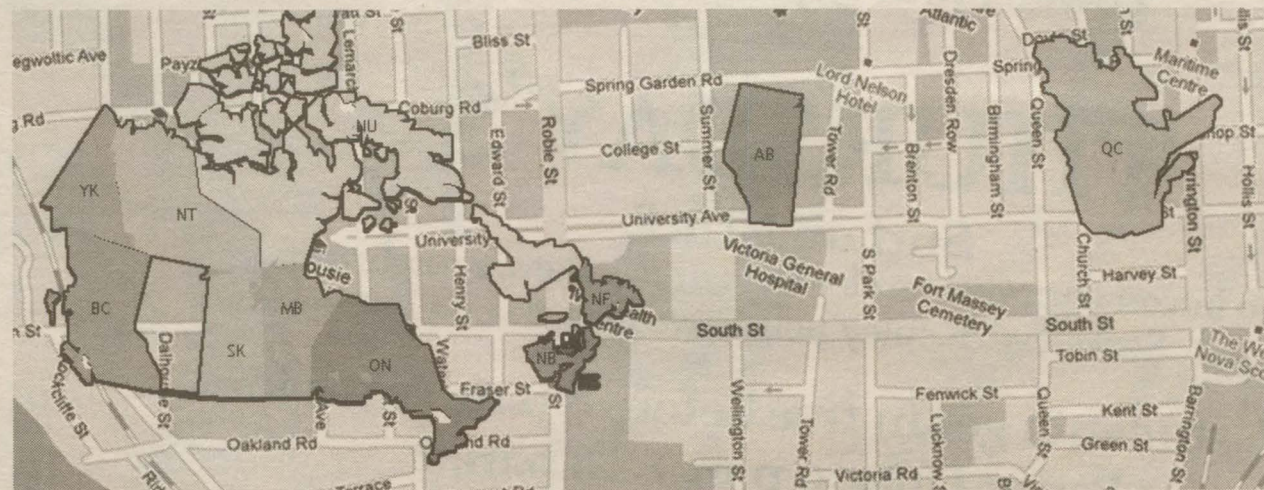
JP Brien
Mechanical '10

Engineers Stage
Coup D'État of the
DSU

On April 1st 2010 the engineering students staged a coup of the Dalhousie Student Union storming the AGM and passing legislation giving engineers 40 more seats. The project dubbed 'Delta' has been in the books since TUNS joined Dalhousie in 1997. Students from Sexton had begun getting increasingly frustrated with the union and with being associated with the rest of Dal in general.

Since the early days of the merger the students of Sexton have long considered themselves the Québec of Dalhousie. This type of mental-

ity and the physical distance between the upper and lower campuses have



both been major factors in the coup. The coup was carried out by swarming the DSU AGM with about 50 engineers and altering the constitution so that 40 new seats were created for engineering students, those votes could be cast in proxy by the DSEUS

President and legislation was also passed preventing this type of thing from happening again. Rumor has it that Shannon Zim-

merman was ecstatic that the DSU was able to meet quorum. Chris Saulnier, the President elect, said that he was 'very impressed with the outcome' and hinted that it would make would make his term a lot easier to manage. Chris was recently revealed on punditry.ca to be a robot from a 13 year-old project of the engineering students. It is not sure yet what role Chris had to play in the coup or if he was simply a contingency plan in case the coup failed. When asked if this changed his plans for the following year Chris replied, "No I still plan on handing out balloons, smiling a lot and doing chalk drawings on sidewalks". There are apparently a few bugs still to work out.

“La Chaise” (Saulnier) as he chaired the DSEUS meetings and trained him in Canadian culture by bringing him to attend the Symphony and plays such as Rabbit Hole. Hagmann had previously failed her deviously friendly take-over of DUES, which is why some suspect she came out in such force against the DSU. When asked about the situation she replied, “The DSU represented a clear and present danger to the students of Sexton Campus”. When we asked several students on the streets, they were quite surprised to find out Dalhousie has a Student Union, but thought the engineers would do a good job managing it. Gregory Debo-gorski, when inquired, managed to sputter “For the Union” before running off.

“I’m quite glad that this has happened”, says Kaylee Shannon, current president of the DSEUS, “I plan on keeping everyone in line next year with fear, fear of this battle station” (indicating B-building). This writer was unaware that Sexton Campus had offensive capabilities and was convinced that civil engineers just built targets while mechanical engineers build weapons.

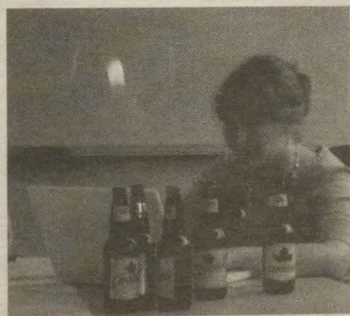
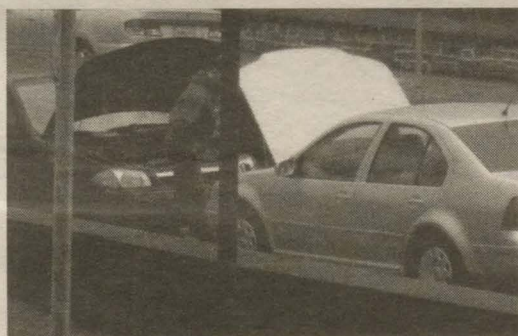
The coup was bought to fruition by Stephanie Hagmann, a.k.a Castro, the past DSEUS president. She personally oversaw the final stages of training of

merman was ecstatic that the DSU was able to meet quorum. Chris Saulnier, the President elect, said that he was 'very impressed with the outcome' and hinted that it would make would make his term a lot easier to manage. Chris was recently revealed on punditry.ca to be a robot from a 13 year-old project of the engineering students. It is not sure yet what role Chris had to play in the coup or if he was simply a contingency plan in case the coup failed. When asked if this changed his plans for the following year Chris replied, "No I still plan on handing out balloons, smiling a lot and doing chalk drawings on sidewalks". There are apparently a few bugs still to work out.

GOSSIP GEEK

Gossip Geek here: your one and only source into the scandalous lives of Sexton's elite.

From the day he announced he was running in the campaign to run for DSU President, we knew he would win. What we didn't know was how down to earth he truly is. Spotted: President-Elect S helping a man in need (Evan Price) on Barrington street. Let's hope he can boost his own energy into this university as well as he can boost a car.



On the topic of presidents, it seems for one newly elected Queen, the pressure is already amounting to too much. Careful K, beer is only available in the Commons on Fridays.

And to finish off a charming Friday afternoon on Sexton campus, a networking event. Unfortunately some

people got the wrong idea and thought they were attending speed dating. Who knows? Maybe love will bloom over the topic of steam power plants. Stranger things have happened.

Until next time.
XOXO Gossip Geek.



BRING BACK DUSCES!

Pronounced (douches)



Down with DSEUS!
(and DUES!)

Joke of the Week:
While(passOut == '0'){
 Drink++;
}

WEDNESDAY'S

Half price pizza, 4:30pm-close. (while quantities last)
Power Hour 9 p.m. - 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S

Surf and Turf.
Twin bacon wrapped tenderloins and a skewer of shrimp.
Served with spicy potato wedges. \$11.95

DAL students get in free before 8 p.m. (with id)
Power Hour 9 p.m. - 10 p.m.

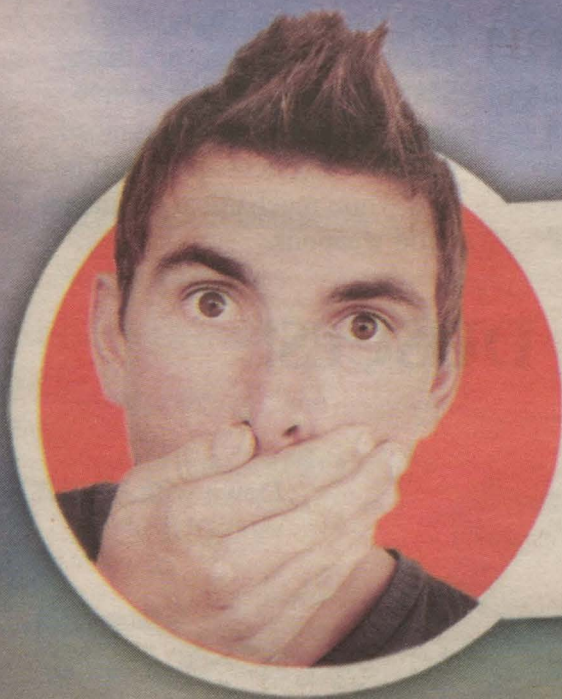
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Your brother's girlfriend ...
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which, **come see us.**

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