



The Dalhousie Gazette
The Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

**LABOUR UNREST!
WORKERS
TAKE
ACTION**

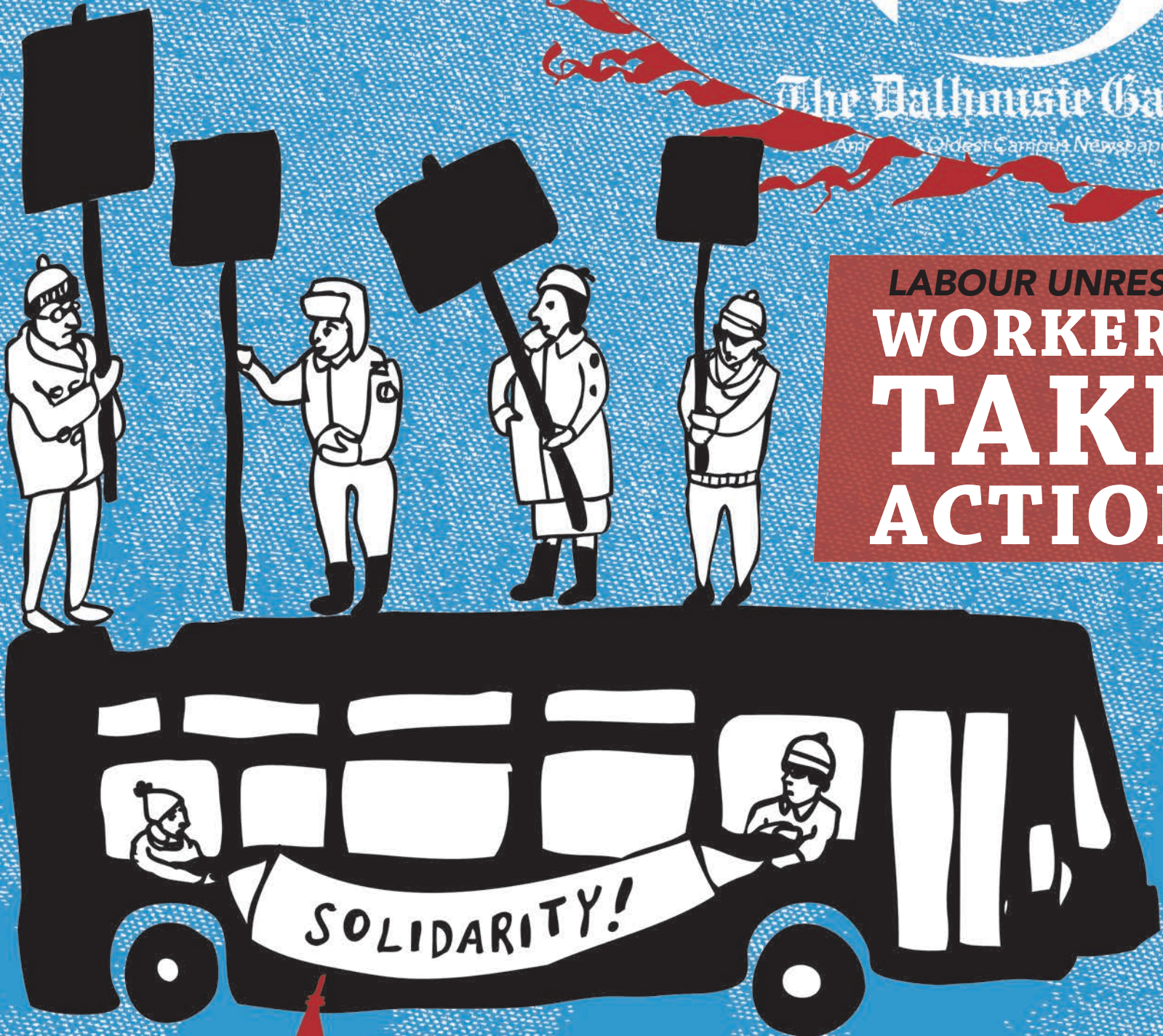


Illustration by Emily Davidson

**BLACK
RABBIT**



*a month long
fundraiser for
white rabbit*

INDOOR ARTS FESTIVAL

CELEBRATE ART & COMMUNITY
FEBRUARY AT **EYELEVEL** GALLERY
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**DALHOUSIE
STUDENT
UNION**

WEEKLY DISPATCH

Here is a list of upcoming events that you will want to mark your calendars for:

The Bigger Picture

Friday, February 3

Ben Barry, the brains behind Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty, will talk with students and the community about his experience as a young entrepreneur. If you are interested in the DSU's new Innovation Program, this is the event for you! The event is free and open to all! Refreshments will be provided

The event will take place in room 2600 of the Killam from 11:00am -1:00pm"

Please contact Sarah Bouchard at DSUVPED@Dal.ca or Evan Price at DSUVPFO@DAL.CA for more information

DSU Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

Time: 6:30pm (Doors open at 6pm)

Location: Room 303 of the SUB

Only individuals who are verified as Dalhousie students will be permitted to vote
All media should contact Lindsay Dowling at dsupolcy@dal.ca by Monday, February 6, 2012 to make arrangements to attend

For more information please contact Jonathon via email at dsuchair@dal.ca

This is YOUR Union – be sure to have YOUR voice heard

Pizza and refreshments will be provided!

We will also be updating students on the status of DSU Food Services

Attendance includes complimentary admittance to Post-AGM Reception in the Grawood Lounge with Food and Beverages

There will also be door prizes!!!!!!

Campus Copy

Are you in need of printing or binding services? For affordable prices, friendly staff and service while you wait, visit Campus Copy today on the lower level of the Student Union Building. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Did you know Campus Copy has new hours? It is now open on Sunday!

The new hours will be:

Monday to Thursday – 8:30am to 7pm

Friday - 8:30am to 5pm

Sunday – 12pm to 4pm

Saturday - CLOSED

The hours of operation for exam periods and Reading Week will be:

Monday to Friday – 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Other News

There will be \$8.00 Empire Theatre movie tickets available at the Info Desk in the SUB all year long. They are good for any night and any show. So it's cheap night for students all year long!

Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter

Facebook: Group and Page – Dalhousie Student Union

Twitter: www.twitter.com/dalstudentunion

February 3 - February 9, 2012 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. 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. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, Overheard 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 The Gazette's writers or staff.

This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

Koo-E Nami

Royale Grill

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Smell and Taste*

Vibrant • Delicious • Traditional

Mon-Sat 11:30am - 11:00pm
Sun 4:30pm - 11:00pm

1535 Dresden Row Unit R-17
B3J 3T1, Halifax, NS

Korean Table Grill BBQ!
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Students 10% off on any menu item



Torey Ellis Assistant News Editor



Faculty strike rumours explained

Strike vote up next if conciliation fails

Torey Ellis
Assistant News Editor
with files from Katrina Pyne

Nissim Mannathukkaren says he might support a faculty strike. Fellow professor Lorn Sheehan says he might not.

By the end of next month, both of them may have some tough decisions to make.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) has been negotiating with Dal administration for eight months. If the next stage of negotiations doesn't work out, the DFA will have to decide whether or not their problems are worth striking for.

Carrie Dawson, a former president of the DFA, is not part of the negotiating team but says the possibility that all faculty members could stop working sometime this term has not been ruled out.

"It's entirely possible. We're certainly hoping for a resolution. We're working around the clock to try and get one, but it's entirely possible," she says.

The main issue is their pension, which is insolvent—meaning it doesn't have enough money to work as it should—and issues of salaries and non-financial rights such as child care and maternity leave are also on the table.

Throughout February the DFA and Dal administration will meet for three full days with a conciliator,

a third party appointed by the province, to try to come up with a compromise.

The last of those meetings is Feb. 15. A media blackout will be in effect from Feb. 1-15. All interviews in this article took place in the weeks prior to the blackout.

The conciliator will prepare a report on a solution he thinks would work. From that point the DFA and administration have two weeks to decide if the compromise is acceptable.

.....
"It depends on the final package, on what's coming out of the negotiations."
.....

If it is, the story ends there. If not, a vote concerning a strike is next up.

As for whether or not it will come to that, it all depends on what happens during those three meetings. Mannathukkaren, the chair of the IDS department, is one faculty member who is on the fence.

"It depends on the final package, on what's coming out of the negotiations," he says. "If something is being

taken away that I think is vital, then I will be willing to go to a strike for that and to pay the price. But if it is a minor, adjustable thing that can be sorted out, or which can be ceded, then that's not a problem."

For Mannathukkaren, it's all about democracy.

"It's a question of democratically coming to an agreement," he says. "Obviously no one wants to support a strike if there's a minor ceding of rights. But if it is a major one, many people—even I—would support a strike."

Sheehan, associate director of Dal's school of business, is less supportive.

"Us as faculty members do not want to be in a strike position," he says. "We don't receive pay during the strike time and it disrupts all the students who we are trying to teach; they do not complete their degrees on time."

He also says the issue of salaries isn't one that at this point can realistically be solved.

"That money has to come from somewhere, and the university doesn't have a bottomless pool of money," he says. "It only gets what the government gives them plus what tuition raises, so it really is a zero sum game."

Sheehan says he knows the negotiations have been largely ineffective so far, but has hope for this next phase.

"This is the first attempt to try to essentially bring the two negotiating

teams together in a serious and concentrated way," he says. "Certainly what I'm looking for as a faculty member is to see more effort being made at the table to reach an agreement."

A brief the DFA sent to the Ministry of Labour and Advanced Education on Jan. 19 emphasizes that faculty haven't ruled out paying more toward their pension each month. They are also looking for a provincial exemption from a solvency test, which would give them more time before the millions of dollars needed to pay the pension is due.


Mannathukkaren says any agreement needs to be about more than just the faculty and their monetary issues.

"My interest is seeing that it is equitable, it is just, and it's not just benefiting the faculty as a union," he says. "It's also about benefiting the students, the community as a whole, and the university as an employer."

And he worries about the effect of a strike on the wider community.

"The students would face the brunt of it," he says. "That's why I'm saying that I sincerely hope it doesn't come to that, and that no one is put through such difficulties." ☹

A strike if necessary, but not necessarily a strike. ••• Photo by Calum Agnew



ACROSS THE QUAD: King's teaching fellows looking for contract

While Dalhousie faculty negotiate with administration for pension, salary and non-monetary rights, a different kind of fight is happening less than a block away.

The only union at the University of King's College, the Teaching Fellows Union, is in the process of negotiating their first contract.

Cory Stockwell, president of the union, says the negotiations are beneficial to both sides.

"Prior to this there hasn't been a contract," he says. "We want to get a set of conditions down on paper, which would be mutually beneficial in terms of setting down the terms of our employment."

The union represents all non-professional faculty and has only existed since the labour board decision on July 7, 2011.

"A union, as you know, gives us the power to negotiate our contracts instead of accepting them," Stockwell says. He says the union notified King's administration last summer but was told administration was not ready to negotiate.

Now that the proceedings are underway, Stockwell says he can't comment on how negotiations are going or what specific conditions are being sought because of restrictions on "public negotiations" as opposed to negotiating at the table.

—Torey Ellis

STRIKE UPDATES: METRO TRANSIT & DFA AT DALGAZETTE.COM

THE FRIENDLY FACE OF EDUCATION

FILLING THE GAPS FINANCIALLY STRETCHED UNIVERSITIES



Christina Lord is a TA in *Biology 2004: Diversity II Microorganisms and Plants*.
••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

Emma Drudge
News Contributor

Christina Lord is nothing short of a teaching assistant all-star. After completing an undergraduate degree, master's and PhD at Dalhousie, the fast-talking and articulate biologist knows how to get people excited about science.

She spends her days in a lab scattered with papers, coffee mugs, bubbling aquariums and a microscope that is monitored 24 hours per day. In this cluttered combination of chaos and organization, Lord knows exactly where to find the file from a meeting last year where she discussed the number of hours each term biology students get one-on-one help from their teaching assistant (TA).

As one of 741 people currently working as a TA at Dal, Lord is part of the group that is filling the gap between the number of faculty and the increasing student population. From the 2005/06 academic year to 2010/11 Dal's student population grew 7.36 per cent, while the number of full-time and permanent part-time faculty grew only 1.77 per cent.

That growth means there is less faculty time available to each student each year.

But Lord and other TAs like her are proof that there is opportunity to be found in this statistic.

Katie Sykes is a TA in the College of Sustainability. "There's come to be more training for TAs and more professionalism," she says.

Sykes also worked as a TA during her master's degree in the early 1990s and says the experience was much different back then. "If you showed up, you got paid," she says. "I think the students really got sold short. I had no idea what I was doing—I didn't care about it."

Now she says her tutorials are planned with care. She attends the class lectures, does the readings, goes

to weekly staff meetings and plans group discussion questions. Sykes, and many other TAs, see the job as an opportunity to develop their academic careers.

Much of their training comes from Suzanne Le-May Sheffield, the associate director (programs) at the Centre for Learning and Teaching. Sheffield offers a diploma program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows interested in jump-starting their teaching careers.

The program, CNLT 5000: Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, and other workshops offered at the centre, help TAs and faculty members develop and practice skills that Sheffield believes can often be overlooked.

The number of Dalhousie students rose an overall 7.36 per cent between 2005 and 2010. The number of full-time and permanent part-time faculty rose an overall 1.77 per cent between 2005 and 2010. Though TA numbers fluctuate over that time period their role has changed to fill the gap between faculty and the growing student population.

"Universities are still more heavily research-focused than teaching-focused," she says.

Lord agrees. "As graduate students we're always so research-focused, it's publish or perish," she says.

"Everyone is so obsessed with writing journal articles and being in a lab." She believes that practising teaching is just as important as practising research and lab techniques.

CNLT 5000 expects participants to design their own academic course, practise delivering lectures and develop their own teaching philosophy.

"Whether it's a faculty member or a graduate student taking the time out to develop their teaching, it definitely improves student learning," says Sheffield. "It really opens up opportunities for what they can do in the classroom which then opens learning possibilities for students."

And the importance of these new learning possibilities grows as the faculty-to-student ratio decreases. TAs are playing an increasingly significant role.

"They're filling in the support for students to get opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't get," says Sheffield.

Lord, who makes herself available to help students at any time, in any class and even with "general guidance for what comes after an undergraduate degree," is a perfect example. Her lab door is always open to students who need extra help, which can make a big difference, especially for those in large introductory courses.

Grace McCaffery is an environmental science and sustainability student who has felt the impact a great TA can have. She says it's easier to approach a TA with basic questions since asking a faculty member in class makes her feel like she's wasting the other students' time. "It's helpful to have someone near your age," she says, "someone who sort of knows what you're going through."

This is the reason Lord makes sure her students feel comfortable approaching her. "I was literally sitting in the exact same seat you are five years ago," she tells her classes at the beginning of each term.

There's a reason Lord won the Biology TA Award in 2010. Not all TAs are like her. In fact, there can be challenges with having TAs as the primary point of contact for students in

large courses.

Todd Bishop, lab instructor and course coordinator for introductory biology, says sometimes they end up hiring graduate students from related departments or undergraduate students to fill the TA positions. "We cannot staff all of our positions from our graduate student pool within the biology department," he says.

Lord says this offers a wide range of expertise that can benefit a course, but "sometimes lack of knowledge is a big problem." She's seen students struggle to grasp concepts that TAs may not fully understand themselves.

This is where faculty members come in. "They're experts," says Lord, a trait not even the best-intentioned TAs can always match.

Another issue that can arise is grade discrepancies when many different TAs are marking the same assignment. Brittany Gingrich is a fourth-year psychology student who has been frustrated by this in the past. Two years ago she did terribly on a lab assignment and compared it to a friend who had scored 30 per cent higher. They found their assignments had almost identical results.

"You can set up mechanisms to control that," says Sykes, "but the fact is that it's subjective unless you're grading a math problem. People aren't going to have exactly the same take, down to the percentage point."

How to grade assignments is just one of the many topics covered in the workshops the Centre for Learning and Teaching offers TAs and faculty members throughout the term.

Training like this is one way universities are responding to quality demands from their high-paying students, says Sykes.

"They're putting more emphasis on teaching that is attractive to students. So now when you apply for an academic job you're expected to show some evidence that you know about teaching."

She and Sheffield agree that this is a shift away from the primary focus on research that has characterized universities for decades.

"Students are paying a lot of money," she says, "so there's an external expectation from government, parents, students—all interest groups—that what goes on in the university needs to be worthwhile."

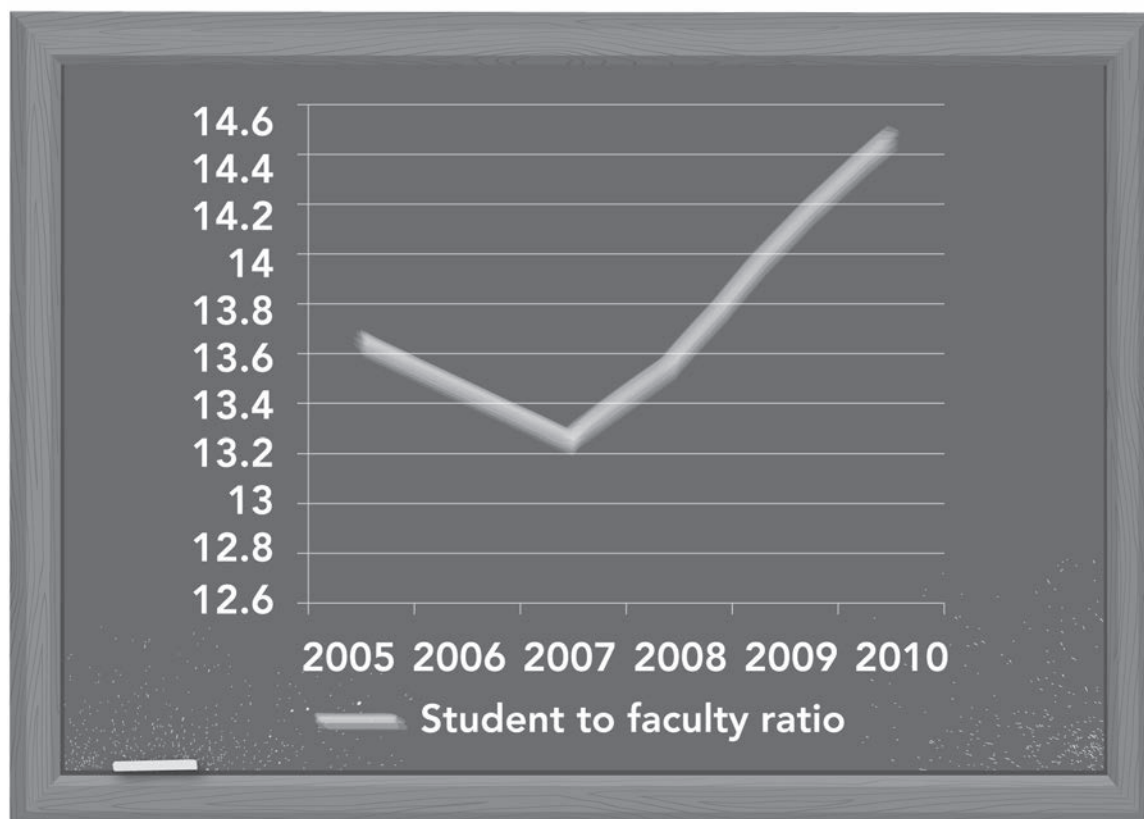
"It would be great if the university had more funding so that there could be more faculty members, but I still think there always needs to be teaching assistants," says Sheffield.

In the same way TAs can't replace the expertise of a faculty member, faculty can't replace the valuable support TAs offer students.

"With 300 kids sitting in an auditorium, that person on that stage feels very inaccessible to you," says Lords. It's important to have someone who knows your name. "You feel very much less like a number." ☺



STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO



Note: Faculty refers to full-time and permanent part-time faculty. It does not include teaching assistants.

Source: Statistics supplied by Human Resources Analysis and Reporting and the Office of Institutional Analysis.

Cursing in Cantonese

New app for swearwords developed by Dal alumni

Steven Ryan
News Contributor

Want to know how to curse somebody's mother in Cantonese? Thanks to the efforts of two Dalhousie alumni, there's now a smartphone app that can teach you.

It's called Swearport. The app features over 1,400 swearwords from more than 50 different languages. Each swearword is accompanied by an English translation and an audio recording of the word said aloud by a native speaker.

The app was created by Lee Gancman, who graduated from Dalhousie with a BA in political science in 2009, and Mark Dennis, a computer science major.

Gancman came up with the idea for the app while living as a graduate student in London, England.

"I was planning on making an app just for travelling around, like a phrasebook app," says Gancman. "But if you're travelling around everyone wants to know the swearwords first, so I thought maybe only the swearwords would be more popular."

To create the app, Gancman got in contact with Dennis, who currently works as a software developer in Ottawa. The two have been friends since meeting at Dal as undergrads.

"From the day it was conceived until the very end, took about four months. Both of us were inexperienced at making apps so we had to figure out stuff along the way," says Gancman.

While Dennis wrote the code, Gancman met with over 50 people who volunteered to swear in different languages while being recorded.

Contributors to Swearport include a Czech squatter who was living in an abandoned building and a group of Vietnamese choristers. "I get to meet all sorts of strange and interesting people," says Gancman.

app has given Gancman new insight into the similarities and differences between curses across cultures.

"The vast majority include sexual references," says Gancman. "Punjabi was surprisingly offensive. The Dutch

"If you're travelling around everyone wants to know the swear words first, so I thought maybe only the swear words would be more popular."

Swearport for the iPhone went on sale Aug. 4, 2011 and was the number one app on the Canadian iTunes entertainment chart from late October until Nov. 30, when it was banned by Apple for offensive content. Since the Apple ban took effect, Gancman and Dennis have developed a version of the app for Android phones. While sales of the Android app have been steady, they have not matched the earlier success of the iPhone version.

"It's a bit of a tougher market ... people are a lot more reluctant to purchase apps. A lot of people want free versions," says Gancman.

While Gancman and Dennis have sought to have the Apple ban overturned, they continue to update the Android version of Swearport with additional swearwords from other languages.

"We've covered all the major languages, so now it's getting into endangered or rare languages," Gancman says.

The time spent working on the

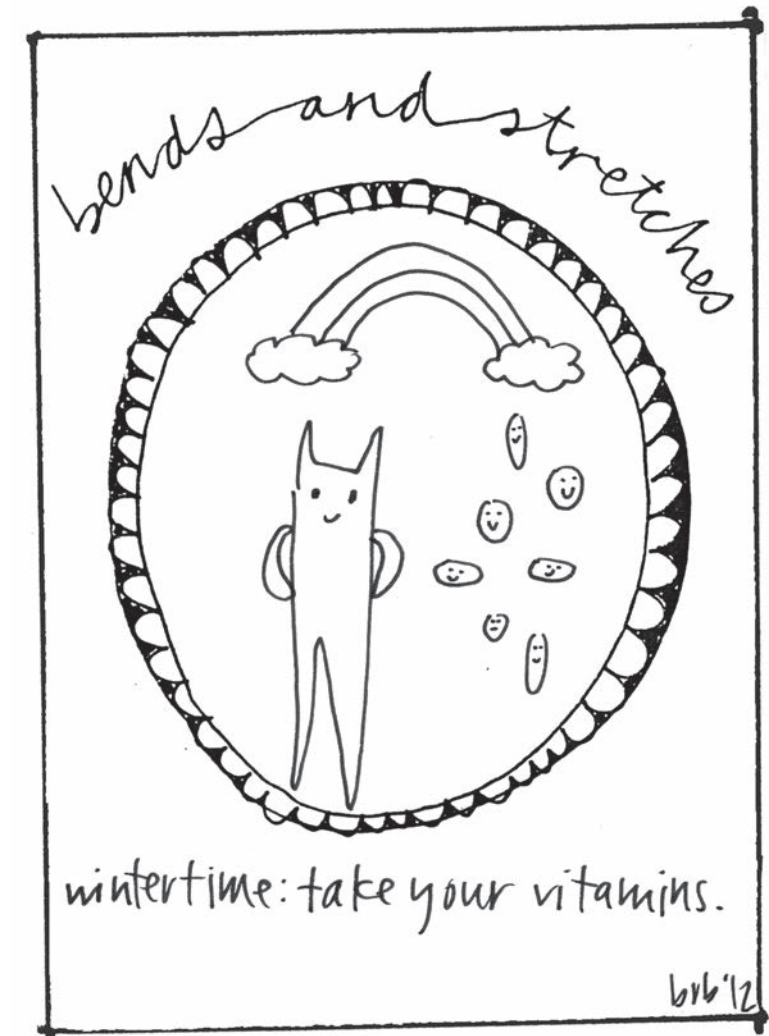
are pretty good ... they use sexual [slang] mixed with diseases. They'll call you a 'cancerwhore'."

What's next for Gancman and Dennis? In the coming weeks, they plan to release an app featuring curses and insults from Shakespeare's plays. "You shake the phone and it will actually say the insults," says Gancman. "It's called Shakes-swear." ☞

App creator Lee Gancman holds up his masterpiece. ••• Photo by Sam Grant



Dal Gazette
CONTRIBUTORS' MEETINGS
MONDAYS, 5:30PM
ROOM 312, The SUB



.....> **DalGazette.com**

news briefs

DSU hosts Diversity Week

The Dalhousie Student Union hosted Dal's annual Diversity Week Jan. 23-28. According to the Facebook event page, the week was full of events celebrating cultural diversity.

All events were held free of charge to students and ranged from a film screening in the Scotiabank Auditorium to a language exchange at The Grad House. In addition to the many scheduled events, live painting and music were held in the SUB every day during the week.

For information about how to get involved next year email DSUVPI@dal.ca.

Dal Security on Twitter

Dalhousie Security Services is now using Twitter to solve crime, starting with a recent tweet about a major hockey stick theft at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena.

Jake MacIsaac, community safety coordinator at Dal, says using social media doesn't mean the incident is a huge deal. "It's just a new medium for Dal Security to work with," he says.

MacIsaac was unable to discuss any internal details about the theft because the investigation was taken to police. However, he was able to confirm the episode was a break and enter. He says in the future Dal Security Services hopes to use Twitter to get information out to students quickly for the protection of

both them and their possessions.

Students with tips can follow Dal Security on Twitter (@dalsecurity), or call (902) 494-6400.

Register for Brains for Change

Brains for Change continues to provide Dal's visionaries with a place to come together and share their big ideas.

According to their website, since their establishment in 2008, they have helped over 500 students develop "big-thinking projects." The forum offers students a number of social and spatial aids to get their ideas off the ground.

Mentorship, office space, networking events and project-funding are available to all students involved. The motivation of Brains for Change comes from the concept of living in a world based on connections, exchange of knowledge and commitment to building a brighter future. Students can register online: Wix.com/BrainsForChange/brainschange2012 or visit the DSU website for more details.

Frankenstein's on trial

The Weldon Literary Moot Society presented their second annual literary moot, "Frankenstein on Trial," Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

The event was held in Alumni Hall at the University of King's College. It was an evening of legal theatre prepared by students from the

Schulich School of Law. This year's performance was based on the literary model of Dr. Frankenstein and his Monster.

Students expressed matters of legality regarding the literature, and challenged the issues with a laughable style. The event also served as a fundraiser for the local charity, Halifax Humanities 101.

Liveblog coverage of the event is available at dalgazette.com.

—Alesia Hebb
Staff Contributor

UBC a place of mind
Thinking of Teaching?
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The Apple doesn't fall far from the tree

Rioting for consumer goods isn't only native to China



Now how am I going to play Angry Birds? ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

•••••
In our supposedly brilliant and technologically advanced modern age, we're expected to be constantly inno-

vating; we are meant to be perpetually critiquing and evaluating new ways of being connected faster, "better" and easier. In a true Shakespearean twist, our valiant struggle towards uniting the world in an easily traversable web of information just seems to

tragically blur the lines between reality and rampant infectious consumerism, slowly alienating ourselves from our own humanity.

Just last month in China, Apple halted the release of its latest technological marvel and immaculate innovation, the iPhone 4S, due to a shortage of the new model at all five authorized Chinese retailers. What ensued was a riot.

Shoppers had been camped out for days awaiting the launch—businessmen and scalpers had even hired homeless people and down-and-out migrant workers to stick it out and secure the product for them. Even before the announcement, violent fights and attempted stabbings had erupted in the line. When the word hit, the backlash was venomous. Volleys of eggs were pelted at the store in Beijing, livid consumers began to chase and berate the mall manager as he tried to intervene and, inevitably, the police were called in to disperse the angered consumers.

The Chinese people cite the reluctance of the Apple corporation to supply enough of its products as a direct cause of the widespread riots that accompany nearly every new product release. Despite an enormous amount of Apple products being fabricated in China and distributed worldwide, Apple ensures that only a minute percentage of said products actually make it into the country's hands. An innocent attempt by Apple to further

play up the "coolness factor" of the iPhone and related ephemera, inevitably incites mass panic, riots and aggravated violence.

The further we spin our tires and adamantly mire ourselves in the ongoing game of pointless overconsumption, the more we ignore the human cost. In the last 16 months, 14 workers have committed suicide at the aforementioned Longhua, China plant due to horrendous, prison-like work conditions and cramped, squalid living quarters. The management team responded by requiring workers to sign a contract assuring they won't kill themselves. This is all so they can get you the newest incarnation of a smartphone that you'll inevitably just chuck out when the next upgrade comes along.

Now, while it's tempting to play off this overblown fetish for electronics as an overseas phenomenon or the ramifications of an overblown technophile culture and just shake our heads, this type of technological gorging and callousness is alive and well in our own backyards.

Every year there is a violent and startling increase in the number of people trampled to death in Black Friday riots. Massive, writhing crowds of people violently swarm through tiny store doors, disregarding anything in their way and using everything from pepper spray and blunt objects to firearms just to get through and save 20 per cent on a television.

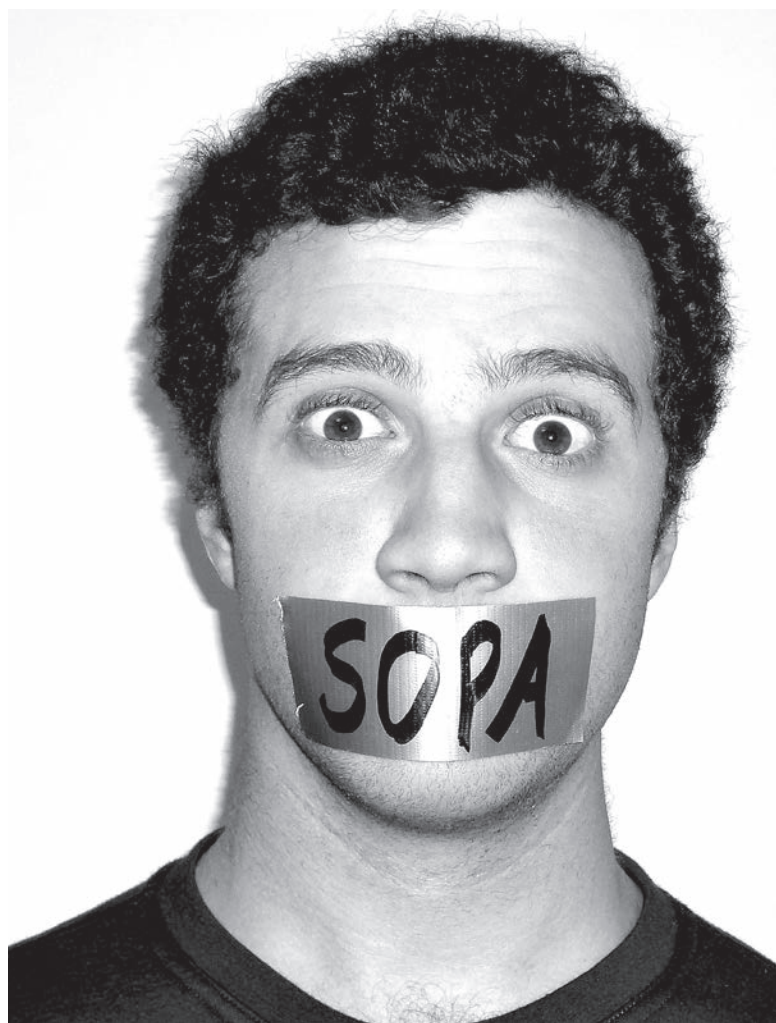
(The last two years have been littered with reported stabbings, shootings, assaults and deaths over grabbing that last Playstation 3).

Even closer, here at Dalhousie I recently overheard a girl lamenting to her two friends about how her "old, ugly non-smartphone" made her a pariah. She exclaimed how she "dies of embarrassment" when she has to pull it out and how her top priority is finding a job so her first paycheck can go towards an iPhone 4S. What's sad is that in less than a year, she'll be bitching about how her WiFi isn't fast enough to steal the newest Lana Del Ray album and that she hates living in the stone age. While that may be an unfair hyperbole, it certainly fits the bill of our penchant to consume all the latest products just because someone's waving them under our noses.

When did we all become so damn cold? We're cutting each other's throats and vying for products we're not even going to give a shit about in a couple of months. While it's tempting to say that this violent, gluttonous binge of material goods is dictated to us by these "evil companies," there's nothing stopping you from saying "No" to a new iPhone, or to Apple if you find their practices to be unethical.

You have a brain. There's no excuse for stomping someone to death for a slightly better WiFi connection and a 10 megapixel camera. ☹

THE END OF THE INTERNET: Anti-piracy bill bad for all



Sam Vlesing
Opinions Contributor

•••••
The United States rigorously promotes liberal methodologies of freedom and equality. But its government's recent decisions (or indecisions, rather) in regards to the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA) are bringing Internet censorship to a whole new level. Although these bills look as if they are specifically going to affect US domestic politics, they will undoubtedly have a significant influence on global Internet policies that transcend international boundaries.

SOPA is an American bill aimed to expand the ability of the U.S. government to fight the online trafficking of copyrighted intellectual property and counterfeit goods. Its "sister bill", PIPA, is another proposed law with the stated goal of increasing U.S. ability to curb copyright infringement outside of American borders.

Unlike the contemporary political system, where sovereign states are geographically separated from one another, cyberspace provides users with a borderless vacuum that, until recently, seemed to be infinite.

The U.S. is trying to change that. Luckily for us, the U.S Congress shelved the passing of SOPA and PIPA due to public pressure. But the country is falling deeper into isolation and alienating the public, both inside and outside its borders.

So what exactly does this mean for

Canadians?

Any website with an American domain name (i.e. anything that ends in .org, .com, and .net) will be treated as U.S. jurisdiction and will therefore be subject to American law. Since Canadian and U.S. copyright laws differ drastically, a website could be taken down for breaking U.S. law, even if it is haven't breached any Canadian laws.

Freedom made the Internet great. It provided Wikipedia the ability to become the number one source for anyone, anywhere, to access information on any subject. The Internet's openness and lack of restrictions gave way to video sharing websites such as YouTube and social media websites such as Facebook. It allowed users to connect, communicate and, most importantly, be almost completely free from government constraint.

Similar to George Orwell's prediction in *1984*, the U.S. is trying to implement their own type of "mind police" by monitoring the international cyber arena for what they believe to be illegal acts.

Whatever happened to the Liberal idea of "laissez-faire", which argues for less government restraint and an increase in market freedom?

Global interconnectedness has led to an amount of economic prosperity never before experienced in history. Through SOPA and PIPA, the U.S. is seemingly trying to curb something that has been extremely beneficial for modern society.

Is it even ethical for the U.S. to monitor the Internet outside of its borders? The United Nations established itself on the premise of preserving and protecting individual state sovereignty. Just because the international cyber community is not as well established as the international political state system, it does not mean that the U.S. can exploit and impose their laws and regulations on everyone else who uses it.

Critics question the legitimacy of the two bills. Democratic Senator of Oregon Ron Wyden—a vocal critic of both SOPA and PIPA—criticized the failure of U.S. legislature to "give the public a say over issues that so profoundly affect their lives."

I recently filled out an in-class questionnaire and the first question was: "How many hours a day do you spend online?" That question might have been appropriate in the 1990s, but in today's day and age it would seem more logical to ask: "How many hours a day do you not spend online?"

The Internet has a profound effect on who we are and what we do. Not only do our lives revolve around it, the Internet has a tremendous effect on how our society operates. In my humble opinion, the United States does not have the right to censor something that the entire world benefits from. ☹

Shut the front door.

••• Photo by Sam Vlesing





CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Dal's facelift makes students come undone

While construction on campus is building our future, it's a real hassle now. ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

Alesia Hebb
Staff Contributor

From the classroom to my residence, campus is ravaged with construction. A large backhoe swings beside the Killam Library and “cross-walk closed” signs are hard to miss when rushing around on campus. The diversions around machinery and shortcuts across the lawns have become like stages of an obstacle course. All of these commotion-creating and emission-generating improvements are quickly becoming the norm at Dal.

With the amount we pay for tuition, campus improvements should be expected. So, I'm not about to complain about upgrades being made (I don't want to go to school in a place that is falling down around me), but maybe this isn't the best timing for renovations.

I have early morning and late night classes almost every day of the week, so when I get a chance to sleep in it's a dream come true. However, last fall it felt more like a nightmare. Every time I got a day to rest up, nail guns, cracking concrete and construction workers could be heard composing an ear-burning symphony outside my window.

After deciding that sleep was out of the question, I would sometimes walk to Second Cup in the Killam Library for a cup of my favourite tea.

But they too were under renovations, so my tea had to wait.

As I continued through the library I noticed that a Subway was being built where an attractive study area once stood.

This was not a good start to my day.

Reconstructing Second Cup to look almost exactly like it did before and putting up a Subway when there is one five minutes down the road is not beneficial for students. The money we pay towards our education should go to more significant advancements that will be worthwhile for university students. Erecting a Subway in the library (where I have to wait 30 minutes to get a six-inch sub) is not worth it. Building a new residence to house Dal's growing population is, but sometimes these necessary refurbishments infringe upon student welfare.

This year all of the washing machines have been replaced in my residence. The new washers are an improvement, but it's a huge inconvenience when your clothes hamper is overflowing and the washers are missing in action.

The fire drills were completed at the beginning of the year, but since then the smoke alarm in my room has sounded numerous times due to unplanned maintenance checks. (It has become frequent enough that I no longer pay attention to it and instead patiently wait for the high-

pitched beeping to stop).

Last year I came back from class to find the door to my room was being painted. It looked phenomenal, but I kept forgetting that it was freshly coated and proceeded to decorate myself in splashes of pink paint for the rest of the day.

The lack of privacy is also disconcerting. I've received a number of emails this year confirming that maintenance staff members have permission to enter my room to check lights and detectors at any time on specified dates.

From past experience I've found that the small renovations in my living space are more of a burden than the larger projects going on outside. These tasks have a negative impact on studying and the learning environments at Dal. Loud maintenance workers talking in the hallway and sounding alarms have much more of an influence on my ability to concentrate than the distant revving of heavy equipment.

So while campus construction is inevitable, facelift tasks should occur during the summer break when students aren't dodging pylons to get to class. Student comfort and privacy shouldn't be compromised any time of the year, and we should be asked to give more input in deciding what kind of improvements Dal should make next. ☹





Prepare for some legal tangles when choosing your school, but also moments like this.

••• Photo by Matthew Ritchie

the TRAVEL EXCHANGE

Exchange in the Arctic Circle

Plan ahead when studying abroad

Karin Murray-Bergquist
Travel Columnist

Arriving in Iceland at six in the morning from a plane that took off the night before in Boston is a slightly surreal moment. The howling winds and blowing snow replace the grey-green warmth that was Massachusetts in January. The elaborate customs bureau is now merely a passport check and a sign indicating where new arrivals turn down a corridor if they've got anything to declare. Signs with unfamiliar lettering crowd the hallways.

Outside it is dark, apart from the airport lights and the snow-covered ground. I've worked four months to get here and this cold, alien country is where I plan to pass the next four months. From the initial application process to the frantic rush to get my student visa before my departure, this has been my target. Now that I'm here, it's a little unbelievable.

I'm no stranger to moving around, having moved from Acadia University to Dalhousie University in my second year, and from Ontario to Nova Scotia in the first place. But the newness here is that of a different country, a different language and a different status as a foreigner. In this place with an unfamiliar language, going to the store or setting up a library account is now a new foray fraught with danger, and asking a question requires a sur-

prising amount of explanatory hand gestures. But in the house where I'm staying, the native languages of the other students are Polish, German and Italian, and we're all equally clueless about how to get by in Icelandic.

Being only a few degrees below the Arctic Circle also lends itself to certain unique challenges that are at once exciting and exhausting. Mid-winter is a dark time here, and an eleven o'clock sunrise is baffling to southern sensibilities. It can be difficult to walk to school in the middle of a northern sunrise, as the clouds slowly light up over the lake. There ought to be a warning sign indicating the dangers of the urge to stop and stare. I am convinced that this is one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Of course, it isn't all breathtaking moments. Aside from the language barrier, there is a great shock for me on my third when I walk by a cafe and see a baby carriage—baby within—unattended outside. The girl at the nearby souvenir store clears up all possible confusion; it seems this practice is not uncommon in Reykjavik. Little things, cultural quirks, are the extent of culture clash so far, but it pays to be prepared for any eventuality.

Administrative tangles are one example: obtaining a student permit can be a month-long fiasco. In my case, it took until the eleventh hour—

the day I was leaving—for my permit to be approved, due to unforeseen misunderstandings. Getting the legal matters dealt with as soon as possible can save you many headaches. International Student and Exchange Services at Dalhousie is helpful in terms of finding out information and pointing students in the right direction, but it is ultimately up to the applicant to make sure these documents are sent. And it is worth starting the process of obtaining them the minute the nomination for an exchange arrives in case problems arise.

The process of applying for an exchange begins with an application to the aforementioned office, followed by their nomination and a direct application to the school, and then a few legal matters as each country's student residency laws vary. It is a long road, but made easier by the office's assistance.

With the first two weeks over it's hard to know what to do next. I've got the whole country to explore and much of the city to see, so it's hard to know how I'm going to make time for classes. That is perhaps the ultimate challenge of an exchange student—to try and balance academia and the newly opened opportunity to travel a foreign land. (At least one of my classes has field trips.)

Now, if the paperwork would only sort itself out, I'd be ready for anything. ☺

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Birthday at the Dirty Dome

Hello inebriated youth:
you have all forgotten your
inhibitions
at home on the sticky table-top
next to the red cups and empty shots.

Now here you all are,
by sheer Saturday coincidence
at the same place,
snapshots in the strobing light,
the blaring beat too loud
to hear each other speak.

Exalt in the blindness and
the deafness,
for if you could hear the trash
he whispered
in your close-tucked ear
you wouldn't flirt your hands
across his back or hold him
pressed so near.

And if you could see her through
the blur
of artificial fog and four too
many beers
you wouldn't want to bring her home
or keep your grasp
around her rear.

This is no place to talk,
but to dance, shimmy and shake
yourselves against each other
on a field soiled with spilt drinks,
shattered glass and plastic straws.

Lick the salt
and lose all that you've learned
in lecture to the bitter burn.
Chase with lime.
Here there are only practical lessons:
human sexuality,
lust, anatomy.

The excretion of sweat
and exchange of saliva,
a case study
in the short term effects of alcohol.

And me, I too was subject to
this study,
here for her nineteenth birthday,
dancing dirty, dehydrated,
and exhausted.
I was having fun, but now
what separates all of you from me
is the onset of sobriety.

—Jacob Sandler

Dr. Mihankhah

Dr. Mihankhah's handwriting was far to good for him to be a medical doctor. He pulled his taxi into the drive-way of the VIA Rail Station where two strangers stood one yard apart. A tall, older man stood crookedly while spitting tiny bubbles, slightly puffing his lips. The young girl beside him was watching him with her peripheral vision, her hands wrapped around both straps of her terry-cloth backpack.

Dr. Mihankhah eased his brakes and the older man went quickly to the door. He opened it, threw his blue ruffled knapsack into the back seat and adjusted the beanie on top of his head. His hair was salt and pepper grey but outlining his face were fiery red bristles.

"This car is for Casey," Dr. Mihankhah called out as he lowered his left window. "Who here is Casey?" The girl approached the cab cautiously, looking at the older man and then at Dr. Mihankhah.

"I'm Cassie," she answered. The other man looked at her.

"I'm Lloyd," he said. Lloyd stepped out of the car, parting his bottom lip from the top. "I will call you another car, Lloyd." But Dr. Mihankhah never did call another car for the impatient man, Lloyd, with his sputtering lips. "It all begins with a confession," Dr. Mihankhah said to his passenger. He was from Bahrain, a screenwriter with a PhD. He told her to write. "Never stop writing," he said. But when she got home and she went to her desk, her pencil was broken and she set it down.

—Cassie Guinan

DalGazette.com Website Top 5

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Torey Ellis, News
- Dal student for mayor**
Theresa Ketterling, News
- Dalhousie athletic director is out**
Ian Froese and
Kristie Smith, Sports
- Satellite campuses a trend of the future?**
Daniel Boltinsky, News
- Tunes Review:**
Coldplay—Mylo Xyloto
Matthew Ritchie, Arts





Leslie Gallagher Assistant Arts Editor

Rae Spoon on music, literature and pronouns

Leslie Gallagher
Assistant Arts Editor

Rae Spoon is not easily categorized. Their most recent album, *I Can't Keep All of Our Secrets*, is a pop-folk-electronic album exploring the process of grief. Besides touring, they are also involved in putting together a documentary about transgendered people for the National Film Board and writing their first book, "First Spring Grassfire."

Rae Spoon, who is transgendered and prefers to be addressed as "they", also transcends the he-she pronoun binary:

"People often think with transgendered people that you want to have surgery, take hormones, or change your body," they explain. "And I haven't done any of those things, so it always seemed weird, being addressed as this—" they pause, "unfinished project, or something. It also makes room for other kinds of trans-folks, who don't identify as the other gender."

Spoon believes that the best work comes from an emotional attachment to the subject. When asked about the inspiration behind their latest work, they say, "Musically, I wanted to make an electronic album; I didn't want to use physical drums. I was trying to do a bunch of dance stuff but it felt very shallow and unengaged, so I decided to do a pop album about grief, about losing someone. I feel like it's something that doesn't always get addressed by our culture."

But as usual, Spoon doesn't take the traditional approach. While pensive, *I Can't Keep All of Our Secrets* is not the slow, mournful album you may have expected.

"I don't think that's how grief works," Spoon says. "People grieve as they live their lives; there are ups, and there are downs." And the album reflects this sentiment. Starting off with smooth, upbeat vibrations which lead into the more nostalgic and sorrowful, though never pitiful, sound after the initial tracks, Spoon

masters a form that we don't often consider—the emotional electronic album.

"I learned to respect computers as instruments," they say. "The hardest part isn't making it, but making it sound original—that's extremely hard."

With a book release this fall from Arsenal Pulp Press, another thing Spoon worked hard at is their writing. "It's a bit of a risk," they admit. "Writing is so specific. I'm not as confident about it. I find music easy to write, since it's something I've been doing since I was 12. I know if I sit down with my guitar I can write a bunch of songs and that's fine. It's something I'm used to doing. But I don't think I'm a writer because I really hate writing. When you first sit down, it's like when you get to the gym. At first you're just like auuugh—but then you get going, and it's OK! I guess everyone hates it," they laugh lightly.

Spoon wasn't always this comfortable exploring new areas. They spent five years playing country music in small Canadian towns before branching out. "I didn't really talk about being queer, touring the really small towns. So the past three albums I've been writing more queer-positive, open stuff. It fits better with electronic music, too."

"I'm at the point where I feel comfortable and I'm trying new things," Spoon says, and it's a statement obvious to anyone who follows their work. So what's next? "I want to make a rock record," they add, almost as an afterthought. And why not? Rae Spoon's diverse talent, humour and resistance to genre conventions make them an artist truly worthy of admiration. ☺

Rae Spoon will play *The Company House* on Feb. 4 with local Halifax hip-hop artist Nolan Natasha.

Rae performing at the 2011 Folk on the Rocks festival in Yellowknife. Photo by Angela Gzowski



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THEATRE GROUP ON A ROLL: Local students debut new theatre company



Tessa Elliott-Israelson
Arts Contributor

It seems some local theatre students are thinking outside of the box, and it's going to be explosive. This weekend the recently founded wheelwright theatre company is presenting *M is for Drowning* Feb. 2-5 at the Bus Stop Theatre.

Written, directed and produced by Dal and King's theatre students

Bryn McLeod and Patrick Blenkarn, the hour-long performance explores what an explosion of memory would look like through theatre, storytelling, performance, video, music and installation.

"Memory is something abstract we all have and deal with," says McLeod. "This will be interesting for everyone."

M is for Drowning is the inaugural production for Blenkarn and

McLeod's newly formed wheelwright theatre company, a name Blenkarn says takes into account the collective energy of people involved in the project.

Blenkarn wrote an initial script hundreds of pages long that McLeod has transformed through severe editing.

"I edited out the things that didn't move me, and what I cut, stayed cut," says McLeod.

"We are still editing," she continues, "and up until the last day I'm sure we will be cutting stuff. It will continue like that until eight o'clock on opening night."

Blenkarn says: "A big part of the show is that we are asking you to play along; the actors aren't just playing to you, they want to play with you. McLeod adds, "It's completely collaborative. We hope every night will be different; we are asking the audience to be part of the process. We want to make that explicit."

This collaborative feeling permeates every facet of their approach to theatre; these two even finish each other's sentences.

"We liked the idea that there are spokes in the wheel, but it has to be perfectly balanced to roll," continues McLeod. "Also, we can take it on the road," Blenkarn adds suggestively.

Blenkarn and McLeod, who met through the King's Theatrical Society (KTS), are both pursuing theatre degrees at Dal. After co-directing *Hippolytus* at King's during the fall, they shared a desire to experiment with theatre in Halifax.

"The KTS and Dal Theatre were great facilitators, getting us in touch with incredibly talented people, and all the teachers have been really supportive," says Blenkarn.

Working with the KTS made them realize that students can get together and make theatre happen on their own. If they could do it within the society, they could do it on their own.

"There is something about leaving the university's theatre community that seems formalizing; it feels more real," says McLeod.

M is for Drowning features stu-

dents from Dal, King's and NSCAD, as well as local theatre artists.

Blenkarn and McLeod admit that stepping out on their own has been challenging. While they find a lot more freedom in many respects, there are major obstacles, such as raising their own money. They overcame this hurdle in their signature collaborative way, with a successful fundraiser at The Bus Stop Theatre two weeks ago featuring live music from local artists and treats baked by friends.

"There has been so much community support, especially from other local theatre companies and we have such supportive friends and talented musicians- all these people have helped make this happen," says McLeod gratefully.

As for future plans for the company, McLeod will be graduating this year and Blenkarn has one year left. While they have their hands full right now with *M is for Drowning*, they both see this as a step out of university theatre and into the greater theatre world.

"It's going to be a marathon till the end," says Blenkarn, "and we are about to start sprinting."

From Feb. 2-5 at 8 p.m. (doors at 7:30pm), wheelwright theatre will show M is for Drowning at The Bus Stop Theatre. Tickets will be \$15 general/\$10 students. For more information and tickets for the show contact WheelwrightTheatre@gmail.com or call 902-448-7275.

Patrick Blenkarn and Bryn McLeod.

Photo by Gaeby Abrahams

tunes review

John K. Samson—Provincial

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

Provincial, the debut solo album from eloquent, witty and charming Weakerthans frontman John K. Samson is an engrossing, reflective exercise in small-town solipsism and heartbreaking empathy. What began as a 7" series chronicling the roads and highways of his native Manitoba eventually spilled out in a full-length,

cathartic collection of the prairie province's tiny tales and idiosyncratic intricacies.

Samson is at his most poignant and poetic on *Provincial*, his soft-spoken singsong regaling us with stories of downtrodden graduate students, sanatoriums and sarcastic satellites. "Halloween parties / emaciated ghosts hiding in those curtain creases / I'll let you haunt the world, when I write my master's thesis" he

sings in a smirk, sandwiching sincerity between sarcasm and sadness on the wink-and-a-nudge first single "When I Write My Master's Thesis," a witty jab at the anguish of graduate students.

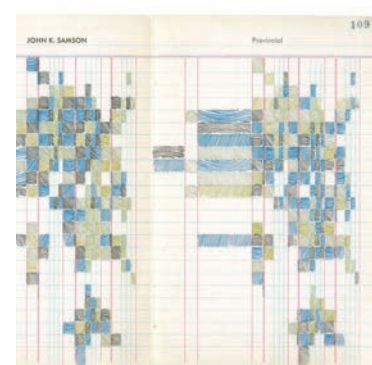
The album is gigantic, blanketing and billowing around you like the very roads and flax fields it eulogizes. Sonically, it's a surprising departure from Samson's work with the Weakerthans. Dense, baroque flavours

intertwined with Samson's trademark hushed fingerpicking and offset by raucous rockers like "Cruise Night," reworked from its embryonic acoustic arrangement on Samson's *Provincial Route 222* single and featuring a salaciously fuzzed out solo by the East Coast's most treasured troubadour Shotgun Jimmie that practically cleaves the track in two.

While half the songs on *Provincial* are re-recordings of tracks on Samson's first two 7"s, *City Route 85* and the aforementioned *Provincial Road 222*, it feels like Samson has a keener, sharper grasp on them, tinkering with them, letting them slowly evolve and unfurl. "Grace General" shifts from a soft and sombre acoustic ballad to a crackling spit and cough of digital sighs and cello. The track tragically crumbles into itself, swells of horns and strings struggling to keep together as Samson quietly and sadly asks "What will I do now?" and our hearts fiercely shatter into pieces.

"Canada's wittiest and most sincere singer-songwriter."

Provincial is wildly diverse, from the floating orchestral opener "Highway 1 East" to the jagged "Longitudinal Center," in which a resentful, snarling Samson surprises the hell



out of us by baring his fangs and his frustrations about prairie isolation with a jarring, dissonant thrash of guitars, spitting fantastic, fed-up lines like "The spring made winter an insulting opening offer". Samson is universally lauded for his gorgeous, intricate wordplay—crafting lines that read more like sorrowful, passionate prose than lyrics—and he's at his best on *Provincial*. Every word clicks in place, leaving you breathless and bewildered as you try and grasp lines like "In another year / I'll be buried or shivering here / coughing at that grey spitoon painted orange by the Harvest Moon" without sobbing.

With *Provincial*, John K. Samson reminds us why it is that he's perpetually proclaimed Canada's wittiest and most sincere singer-songwriter. Even when weaving us a harrowing, heartbreaking opus of desolation, small-town terror and our own frail humanity, he's still shining us that sincere smile and knowing wink, just hoping we'll smile back and sing along.

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STREETEER

CFS NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION Why are YOU out?

by Katrina Pyne



"To lower tuition fees!"
Zhea Qiang
1st-year computer science
Dal



"We stand behind
the student struggle"
Debbie Richardson
HFX-D & District Labour Council



"For greater accessibility
to all students"
Eyo Ewarn
2nd-year CSP—King's



"To experience the
student community"
Darrin Carr
2nd-year theatre—Dal



"Because there's no OSAP here"
Sandy Escobar
3rd-year interdisciplinary arts
NSCAD



"I can't let fees get any higher!"
Laurel Rennie
1st-year general arts
NSCAD



"Because this is bullshit"
Laura Penny
Prof
King's, SMU, MSVU



"Tuition fees don't make sense"
Oliver Burrows
1st-year FYP
King's



"We're feeling pressure on
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Sam Hall
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Breaking down the wall

Symphony NS recreates the music of Pink Floyd



Amanda Joy Saoud

Arts Contributor

So, so you think you can tell / Heaven from Hell / Blue skies from pain.

If you recognized this classic song from iconic English rock group Pink Floyd, you are a true 1960/1970s soul. If you didn't recognize the song, chances are you have at least heard of Pink Floyd.

This weekend at the Rebecca Cohn, Symphony Nova Scotia and Jeans n Classics are coming together for an epic night filled with renditions of Pink Floyd's music—specifically from their album *Dark Side of the Moon*.

There will also be music from contemporaries of Pink Floyd during the first half of the two-hour concert.

Peter Brennan is the man behind the music. He arranged all the music for both the orchestra and his group, Jeans n Classics, which is made up of 30 people who play along with orchestras. Some are vocalists, while others are guitarists and keyboardists.

Already performing 45 shows across Canada and the United States, Jeans n Classics has done similar concerts covering bands such as The Beatles and Queen. Although this concept is fairly unique, Brennan laughingly states, "We already have events booked for the summer of 2013".


Arranging these beautiful renditions is easier said than done. Brennan has already spent months working on these pieces. He says it was hard to capture all the elements of

Pink Floyd's music into an orchestra. The sensory and mystic style that was characteristic of Pink Floyd does not make the process easier. "You have to show a great deal of respect to the band, as well as try to balance in the orchestra, allowing them to be a part of it, not just in the background, holding whole notes."

Although the pieces won't sound the exact same, several important elements from Pink Floyd concerts will be incorporated into the actual music. This includes the long guitar solos, the lighting scheme and that spacey sound produced by vintage keyboards. They will also be using sound effects such as clocks ticking to encompass that 60s feel.

"I hope that the music washes over the people and allows them to get lost in it, and that they come away with a good feeling", says Brennan of what he wants the audience to feel coming out of the concert.

This concert is an opportunity that should not be missed. It will balance a band with the unique orchestra sound, blending together elements of old and new.

So get yourselves down the yellow brick road to the Rebecca Cohn next weekend to enjoy firsthand what happens when two musical worlds collide to pay tribute to a legendary band. 

Peter Brennan is the man behind the music. ••• Photo supplied

THE NEW PRINCE OF HIP-HOP Shad plays to sold-out crowd at the Grawood



Frances Dorenbaum

Arts Contributor

The Grawood's background music was still playing as Canadian hip-hop Shad walked casually onto the stage, teasing last Friday's energetic crowd of students as he had a private chat behind the turntables with his DJ, T-Lo.

The bar was packed for the sold-out show. Excitement was building and everyone was getting restless to see the main act. After several minutes, a voice on the floor began to chant "Shad! Shad! Shad!" and soon the whole bar was inviting him to begin his set. Shad and T-Lo, still talking, grinned at each other.

Suddenly, the background music cut out and T-Lo blasted a beat that was accompanied by the ecstatic screams of the crowd. Hands flew up in the air and Shad skipped around the table and burst into a flaring rhyme.

Before giving Halifax one of the most exciting nights of the year, the artist behind three albums, two Polaris Music Prize nominations and the Juno for Rap Recording of the Year in 2011 graciously spoke with the *Gazette* about his experiences in the music world and other recent projects.

G: In past interviews, you have called Canada's music community "small," but "diverse." Did this small, diverse music community limit or expand your music taste growing up? And did this influence your choice to learn guitar and not just rap?

Shad: As far as learning guitar, it

definitely did. I mean rapping while playing guitar is only something I did much later. I learnt guitar because I liked Weezer, Hayden and Sloan—rock bands. Growing up in Canada, I was exposed to a lot of music that wasn't just hip-hop, and I liked different kinds of music. I'm probably a product of the Canadian music scene in that sense.

G: You were growing up as hip-hop was too. Did you look to American hip-hoppers for influence, or Canadian, or both?

Shad: I'd say both. I mean, the bulk of the hip-hop that we had here was American, but of course there were a lot of Canadian artists that I loved too. I think in general while growing up most of the music that I knew was American. We are just inundated with American culture all over the world.

Once I got into music and started my career in Canada, I was even more exposed to Canadian music. On the touring level, these artists are your peers in Canadian music. You get to know more of them, and you get to know them more intimately as opposed to when you just watch TV and it's maybe 80 per cent American.

G: You recently finished off a master's in liberal arts. You often joke in interviews that both music and your degree are not practical. If the degree wasn't practical, why'd you do it?

Shad: I hate money or something (laughs). It was just to broaden my horizons and to keep doors open. I mean, fortunately my career has con-

tinued to develop, so school could become something for just pure enjoyment after that, and it was great. You never know where stuff might come in handy down the road. And it has already opened up some opportunities like writing some op-eds.

G: Are writing op-eds and rapping your ways of opening people's eyes? Is there a difference between rapping and writing articles?

Shad: To me, there's something that's just fun about rapping, not that writing isn't fun, but it's a little bit more serious just in nature, whereas music can be totally frivolous and irreverent if you want it to be.

I do use both as an outlet. I think I just stumbled into music and that's where I've sort of found a bit of a voice. I don't know if I've necessarily done that yet in writing.

G: You say you're a fan first. What are your all-time and current favourite albums?

Shad: Now, in all of music: Kanye West and Bon Iver. I'll limit it there for now or else I'd just get into a million people. In high school, definitely Common and Lauryn Hill. Outkast was huge too.

G: What's next?

Shad: I just started working on a new album and it'll hopefully be out in the fall.

This is only a teaser!
Read the full interview at
DalGazette.com



Ian Froese Sports Editor

The new face of the Dalhousie Tigers

Long-term associate Karen Moore takes over top job

Ian Froese
Sports Editor

Karen Moore is no stranger to Dalhousie Athletics.

Behind the office chair of the school's newly-minted Director, Varsity Athletics, are three photos of what is undoubtedly among Moore's most cherished memories: her 1982 women's volleyball national championship. One image shows her Tigers of yesteryear celebrating their national win at a packed Dalplex. Moore, tucked away to the side, almost isn't visible in the shot, yet she still prominently displays the photo in her office.

Moore hopes other Tigers athletes will have as fond memories of their time at university as she did. Moore now has more power to make that happen, replacing the resigned John MacDonald Jan. 23 as head honcho of the varsity portfolio. She previously worked in a similar capacity as the school's associate director of athletics since 1990.

The two-time Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame inductee sat down with the *Gazette* during her first week on the job.

IF: Let's take a look back, shall we? We're just past the midway point of the season. What are some highlights for you of the Tigers season so far?

Karen Moore: I think the fact the women's soccer team, being as young as they were, were able to win that championship was a huge deal. That was probably the highlight. Now, obviously, we had a cross-country championship as well and they did an incredible job, too, but I think the women's soccer championship was one of those wins that was kind of unexpected.

IF: They certainly peaked at the right time. Very good. Alright, you seem to be experienced for this job. [You are] a former Tigers athlete, coach and an Olympian as well. How do you think that experience will play into this job?

KM: I think, for sure, having been there as a student-athlete, I know how they think a little bit. Obviously, there's a huge generational gap now, but I have been in touch with the students all along in the last, what, 29 years I've been at Dal.

I've coached for awhile, too, so I have seen a change in the way students work and think, but, in a way, having been there as a student-athlete I know what they want, what they like and what they're looking for. As a coach, I know what the coaches need, and that experience of having worked with varsity programs for years and knowing how the university works, I think all of that plays into my role and my transition into the next level, which will be a lot of long-term thinking and always trying to make improvements in the program.

IF: You certainly see a big importance in athletics. What do you see as the value of athletics within universities in general?

KM: I think it's very important. We would really like to make a bigger difference in terms of school spirit. There's a lot of work that needs to be done in that light. I understand that students are incredibly busy themselves. They're either working or they're involved in a lot of activities besides just academics. So, what we would love to create is an atmosphere where students want to come and be a part [of athletics] because it's an exciting event—that we could be one of the contributors to the student life experience. That is something that we're going to have to put further

.....
“What we would love to create is an atmosphere where students want to come and be a part of athletics because it's an exciting event.”
.....

work into.

We've noticed in the last number of years, in some events more than others, that our basketball crowds have really improved in the last couple of years. And part of that is because our men's team has won two of the past three championships, but our women's team is also becoming very exciting. We get almost as many fans for the women's games as we're getting for the men's now.

The school spirit indeed is something that we would like to be more a part of.

IF: You've mentioned some of the challenges you see in this job. Where do you see Dal Athletics in five years?

KM: Well, as I said, I only took over on Monday. (laughing)

IF: Very true.

KM: We have, in the last year and a half, two years, been working on what we're calling a varsity review. We're reviewing all aspects of our programs. We've engaged a number of different shareholders from various areas from within and external to the university. Coaches did presentations so that everybody on that group got a sense of where we are and where we would like to go.

Ultimately, I think varsity sport is

about elite sport. It's not about participation. And one of our biggest challenges has been, obviously, that our budgets haven't grown in forever. The university funding has been level for some years, and it's been a challenge for coaches to maintain a competitive status in the leagues because in order to recruit the best athletes you have to have the resources to attract them.

We would love to see a situation down the road where fundraising wouldn't be so necessary. We'd have to seek out alternative sources of revenue and wherever we have to streamline some of the things we're doing, we have to look at it all.

IF: Is there ever a possibility that we get rid of a team?

KM: Well, that would be heartbreaking for me because obviously I've been here for almost 30 years, and I would hate for that to be my legacy.

I would really like to see us develop our sports into a very high level, always competitive. Right now our strategic plan says we want to be top three in our conference at all times. We want to be competitive nationally in all our sports, and, in order to do that, you need to provide the resources to be competitive.

I can't tell you right now we're going to have 14 programs in five years because that's not all within my control. But that, to me, would be a last resort, cutting programs. Because to me, that's like giving up. But we may be faced with that down the road.

IF: Going back to school spirit and getting students in the door, everyone knows student support needs to be better. I guess, what's the hurdle?

KM: I think we've probably got to get some feedback from students. I think our marketing department is working on that. They've been trying to get in and work with residence people and the student union, and I think there are some bridges being built there. But I think, as you say, there are hurdles to jump over. We've got to get into the students' heads and find out what they want and what they're looking for, and if we can provide that, great.

Right now, I don't disagree with you. Our audience right now is more family-oriented, more alumni and more community. We have definitely been trying to focus on students in the last couple of yrs and it's been a challenge for sure. So, if you have any great suggestions, hey? We're listening.

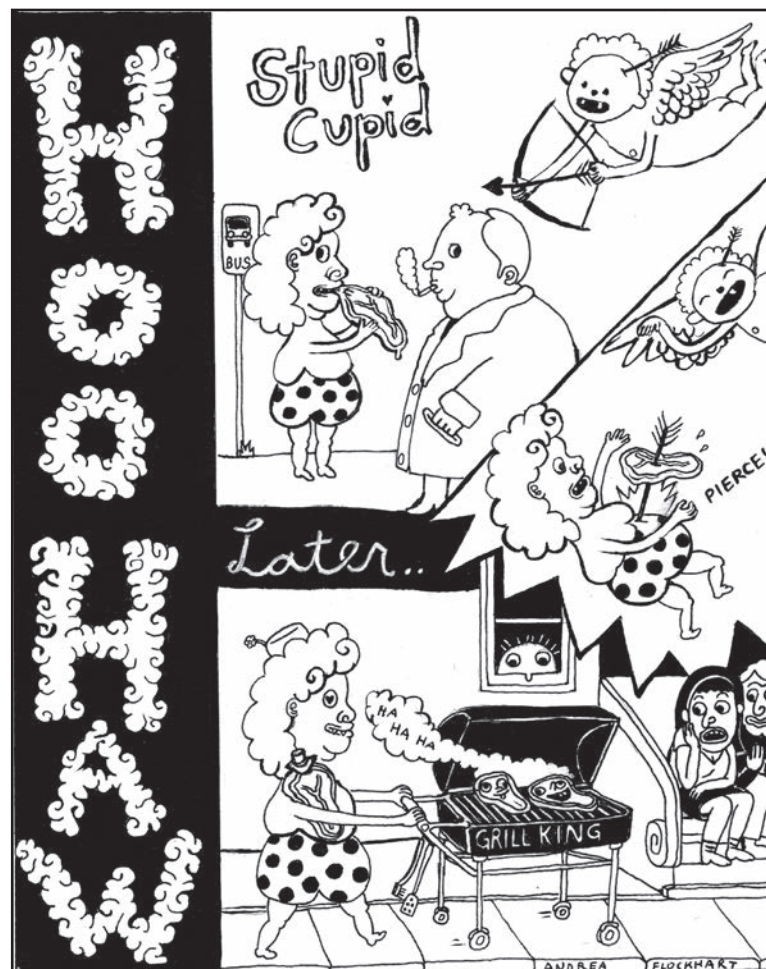
IF: Good answers. Thank you for your time.

KM: No problem.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.



Karen Moore in the same office she held when she was Dal's associate director of athletics. She doesn't expect a change of scenery in her new position as Director, Varsity Athletics. ••• Photo by Rob Grandy



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Men's basketball challenging league's elite

Win has Tigers contending for Top 3

Jason Savoury
Sports Contributor

Entering last Sunday's matchup, Dalhousie's men's basketball team had lost all three games this season against the St. FX X-Men. Well, you know what they say: the fourth time is the charm.

Dal snapped that losing streak with a tight 79 - 68 win at home Jan. 29. The victory was the second in three games for the Tigers, and puts them in fifth place in the league. The win, however, was over third-ranked St. FX, and shows that Dal can hang with the big boys.

Both teams came out shooting in the first quarter, highlighted by two 10-point showings. Third-year guard Casey Fox for the home squad scored 10 of his 16 in the first quarter, and second-year Terry Thomas countered with 10 of his team-high 17 points for the X.

With Dal down 20 - 18 at the end of the first quarter, the game promised

to be a nail-biter. The Tigers were able to take the lead in the second quarter with help from two back-to-back three-pointers by William Yengue.

After going into halftime up 40 - 35, the Tigers came out aggressively, scoring 20 points in the third quarter. Player of the game Robert Nortmann led the way with six of his game-high 21 points, providing an inside presence the X-Men had no answer for.

Defensively, Dal cooled down St. FX, which shot 51 per cent in the first half, by playing hard, but committing no fouls. With the X-Men unable to make up the difference at the free-throw line, the Tigers were able to inflate their lead to 14 points, 60 - 46.

Dal wound up needing every one of those 14 points, however, as St. FX came roaring back in the fourth. The X-Men started the quarter on a 16 - 4 run, dwindling their deficit to two points, 64 - 62. St. FX's run was helped by a meltdown on the defensive end by the Tigers, whose no foul

streak ended when they committed four in less than two minutes.

The final foul was on a three-point attempt by X guard Marquis Clayton, forcing Dal head coach John Campbell to take a timeout to scold his team. Clayton managed to miss two of three subsequent foul shots, giving the Tigers just the breathing room they needed. The X-Men's valiant comeback would come no closer than those two points. Dal forced the visiting squad into foul trouble, riding out the win at the free-throw line.

Nortmann added 14 boards on top of his 21 points, helping Dal win the battle for rebounds in the paint. 🏀

Four points are on the line Feb. 4 when the Tigers visit the UPEI Panthers at 8 p.m.

The X-Men could not contend with Robert Nortmann and the surging Tigers. ••• Photo by Pau Balite



Women's basketball knocks out St. FX

Punishing defence holds visitors to only 42 points

Jason Savoury
Sports Contributor

Sometimes all you need is some home cooking.

Dalhousie's women's basketball team proved that was the case Jan. 29 with a shellacking of the visiting St. FX X-Women, 71 - 42.

The win ends a two-game slide for the Tigers, with both losses on the road against Acadia and Saint Mary's (ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the league, respectively). The bounce back win improves the Tigers' home record to 4 - 1, and an overall AUS record of fifth-place. The loss drops St. FX to seventh in the league, ahead of only UPEI.

The X-Women's 42 points stands as the lowest scoring effort an AUS team has had all season.

For a game that started slowly, it managed to get out of hand almost imperceptibly. A mere five points in total was scored in the first four minutes, and the game seemed doomed to be plagued by sloppy offence. Both teams, however, soon got their sea legs, turning the game into a close contest, albeit for the briefest of moments. After pushing the Tigers to a 13 - 11 score with three minutes left in the first quarter, the X-Women were never that close again. In fact, Dal never relinquished the nine-point lead they achieved by the end of the first quarter of 23 - 14.

The second quarter saw poor shooting from both teams, but the home side managed to increase their lead to 13 points, 37 - 24.

The lone bright spot in the quarter was the play of St. FX's player of the game, second-year guard Kiley DeLong, who scored six of her team-high nine points in the frame. She was also a perfect 4-for-4 from the field. Yes, you read that correctly: DeLong's nine points led her team. The Tigers' suffocating defence did not allow a single double-digit scorer for the opposing squad.

As a team, the X-Women shot a paltry 28 per cent from the floor, demonstrated by making only six field goals in the entire second half. The Tigers took advantage of their opponents' shoddy shooting, though not as easily as the final score would suggest. Dal shot only 35 per cent from the field themselves, a mark even lower than their 37 per cent season average, which ranks them at the bottom of the league.

But on Sunday, it did not matter. The Tigers gave just enough to win, led by second-year guard Courtney Thompson, their player of the game, and her 16 points. Also contributing to the commanding victory was third-year forward Anna von Maltzhan, who added 11 points and 15 rebounds to continue her league domination of the glass. 🏀

The Tigers have a sole opponent this weekend and it is the basement-dwelling UPEI Panthers. The Feb. 4 match at 6 p.m. takes place in Charlottetown.

Guard Keisha Brown helped Dal hold St. FX to a paltry 42 points.

••• Photo by Alice Hebb

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Tigers serve up Huskies' first loss

Nationally ranked women's volleyball adds two wins

Tim Vanderweide
Sports Contributor

Dalhousie's women's volleyball team stunned first-place Saint Mary's Jan. 29 at The Tower, needing four sets to hand the Huskies their first defeat of the season.

The Tigers lost the first set 25 - 14, but quickly improved their play in the next three to win the match with 25 - 9, 25 - 20 and 25 - 22 scorelines.

Raessa Lalani led the Tigers with 13 kills and eight digs. Maggie Li and Louise Facca were offensive powerhouses themselves with 11 and ten kills, respectively. Li boasted a .562 hitting percentage through the four sets.

Hilary Sears and Facca played really strong defensively for the Tigers, each providing eight digs on the day. Sears added 42 assists, setting up Facca, Lalani and Li all afternoon.

Huskies' Ariel Smith and Kerri Smit were strong in the loss, leading their team with 12 and 10 kills, respectively. Between the two of them, they also provided 17 digs.

The CIS No. 10 ranked Tigers have now extended their winning streak to four games, inching within two points of Saint Mary's, the country's second best team, at the top of the table with three games remaining. The Huskies, however, have a game in hand.

Tigers brush aside Axewomen

Before Dal stole two points at The Tower, the Tigers warmed up by overpowering the Acadia Axewomen Jan. 25, coming away with a well-deserved straight set victory at the Dalplex.

Last time out against the Axewomen, the Tigers fell in a surprising straight set loss. Looking to even the season series and grab a stranglehold on second place in the AUS standings, the Tigers knew they could not afford a loss in this one.

Head coach Rick Scott should be pleased as his Tigers never looked out of place. From the first serve on, you could sense the edge in Dal's step over their opposition as the girls in black and gold went on to win 25 - 18, 25 -

20 and 25 - 15.

Strong offence and numerous Acadia errors during the three sets particularly wiped away some of Dal's sloppy defending in the second set.

Outside hitter Louise Facca and middle Maggie Li led Dal throughout, providing some strong attacking prowess with a combined 21 kills.

Li claimed player of the game honours after leading the team with 11 kills on the night. She looked particularly scary in the third set when she slammed the ball down at centre court. As the game's MC, Adam Hotchkiss rightfully pointed out, "Stomp, tromp, kaboom! That was Earth-shaking, maybe even jaw-dropping."

Lauren Smith (15 digs) and Hil-

ary Sears (33 assists) also helped lead the Tigers to their tenth victory of the season.

The Acadia Axewomen played a game riddled with mistakes due to a number of missed serves and a lot of collisions in the back line. The girls in red were led by Meg Rector with six kills and Lauren Cartier's 21 assists.

The Axewomen did not manage a multi-point lead throughout the three sets, and have some improving to do if they hope to hold onto the last playoff position against a challenging Moncton. ☺

Louise Facca, in position for the ball, had 11 kills in Dal's surprising win Jan. 29. ●●● Photo by Shauna Brown

Tigers out-claw Huskies in hockey clash: Matheson's three assists crucial in women's hockey win

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Contributor

It was only a matter of time until the Tigers' offensive domination transitioned into pucks in the back of the opposing net.

The Tigers women's hockey team came out on top in the cross-town rivalry Jan. 29, beating the lowly Huskies 3 - 2. Dal also outshot the league-worst Huskies, too, by a tally of 35 - 19.

This was Dal's second win in their last three games. The Tigers are now 5-3-1 at Memorial Arena this season.

Rebecca Smyth was named player of the game. She scored the Tigers' first goal on the power play in the second to tie the game 1 - 1. Other goal scorers for the Tigers were Cassie Banfield and Sarah Robichaud.

Captain Elizabeth Matheson had a team-high three points with three helpers. Matheson felt that short passes were the key to their success.

"We were able to generate more speed and opportunities, and it allowed us to all move up the ice as a unit," she said.

Backup goalie Zoe Zivolak got the nod for the Tigers. She performed well, stopping 20 of 22 shots for her second win of the season.

The game's first goal came off a turnover at center ice that led to a breakaway by Saint Mary's Jennelle Rogers. The goal was only Saint Mary's third shot on net. The Tigers were down 1 - 0 after the first period.

The second period was a whole other story for the Tigers. They controlled the pace and put two past Huskies' goalie Erin Doerrsam. Dal went into the third confident with a 2 - 1 lead.

The rest of the game was all Zivolak. She stayed composed in the third, only letting in one goal and making a number of key stops.

After the Tigers' 5 - 0 loss to St. FX the night before, head coach Sean

Fraser thought his team was able to successfully put the loss behind them and focus on the Huskies.

"We needed to get back to the basics," he said. "We had to start moving our feet more."

The Huskies' loss extended their losing streak to 16 games. Their only win was way back on Oct. 19 against the Tigers.

The loss was bad in more ways than one for SMU. Huskies' captain Kayla Oakley slammed hard into the boards during a race for the puck in the third period. Oakley did not return back to the match.

Dal is hoping to continue their winning ways Feb. 4 as they take on the struggling Mount Allison Mounties. The Mounties have lost their last two games and four of their last five. The last time these two teams squared off was back in November when the Mounties pulled off an 8 - 4 win. ☺



Tigers and Huskies at the faceoff dot. ●●● Photo by Calum Agnew



TIGER TONING

BOOT CAMPS FOR THE CHEAP

Question? Sports@DalGazette.com

Colin Hebb
Health Columnist

"You recently mentioned some specific boot camps but you didn't elaborate on them any further. Can you recommend one of them for me? I want to give this a whirl."

—Fitness Fun Seeker

I'd be happy to elaborate on the boot camps article, and I have decided to share my answer with everyone in an impromptu part two to my column two weeks ago!

To get the full scoop on the local boot camp scene, I sat down with fellow Dalhousie master's of kinesiology candidate, Jason Davis, who runs a company that provides some well-received fitness classes on behalf of the Maritime Heart Centre (MHC).

A bit of background: The MHC began offering outdoor boot camps a few years ago as a pilot fundraiser to help raise some additional revenue for the not-for-profit organization. Individuals would sign up for a run of classes and pay either a fee per class or a set amount for the series. As time went on and interest in the classes grew, the MHC decided to shift their focus from offering the classes as a fundraiser to using them to promote health and well-being in the HRM.

To that end, Davis indicated that starting this month classes will be offered on a 'donate what you can' basis. The winter boot camps presently being offered are actually indoors at the St. Andrew's United Church (Robie and Coburg), so no worries about risking hypothermia for good heart health.

With the backstory out of the way, let's get into the nitty gritty of why you, an average Dalhousie student, should take notice. I already talked about the general benefits of boot camps a couple weeks ago, so I asked Davis for his take on them and his classes specifically.

Besides the low cost (free if you can't afford to make a donation)

and the great adjacent location to campus, Davis says these classes are a great way to socialize and to get to know some other folks working towards similar goals as you. One of the quickest ways to lose interest in a fitness plan is to feel like you are doing it on your own. At the MHC boot camps (and many others) you get to know regular class-goers and the group leaders. They all become part of the support group that greatly improves your chances of success.

Davis also said these classes give you a high-quality experience that you may not get at other low-cost boot camps. All of the trainers are kinesiology graduates and have a bevy of experience in fitness instruction. Value-wise, this is probably one of your best opportunities to get elite-level fitness guidance for very little money. Donations you make either go to pay for the cost of the program or to support other MHC initiatives. No one is trying to make a profit off of you—their goal is to see you get healthier.

Davis also stated that this is a great way to kick-start an active lifestyle in an effective way. He said boot camps cater to all fitness levels and offer an encouraging environment where everyone wants to see you succeed.

He said that he just has three rules for participants:

1. You don't get to use the word "can't." Believing in yourself is a key to success.
2. Related to the first rule, you must keep an open mind.
3. Trust your trainer. They know this stuff inside-out. ☺

Check out the MHC boot camps at St. Andrew's United Church on the corner of Robie and Coburg. They occur Mondays (5:15 p.m.), Tuesdays (6 a.m.), Thursdays (6:30 a.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m.). All fitness levels are welcome. You don't even need to sign up—just stop in anytime!



sports brief

Men's hockey's primed for playoff hunt

The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team earned a valuable point this past weekend. A 3 - 2 overtime loss against CIS-ranked UNB Jan. 28 was enough to keep Dal within one point of the sixth and final AUS playoff spot. They were unable to come out with a victory the night before in their previous game, a 4 - 2 defeat at the hands of the UPEI Panthers.

After losing 2 - 1 against Moncton, the St. FX X-Men, who cur-

rently hold the last playoff spot, managed to squeak out a 2 - 1 shootout win against the league-worst St. Thomas to stay ahead in the race by a single point.

No.1 goalie Bobby Nadeau was back in the net during last Friday's match-up for the Tigers after he missed four straight games because he re-injured his groin. An early two-goal lead, however, would not be enough for Dal to get the win Jan 27.

The Tigers have five games remaining on the regular season

schedule. Following rematches against UPEI and UNB at home this weekend, they will face off against St. FX twice, including the season's last game, which could make or break either team's season, and Acadia Feb 10.

— Arfa Ayub
Staff Contributor

Varsity Reds forward Stefan Salituro faces fierce opposition from the Tigers as he crashes the net.

••• Photo by Andrew Meade via The Brunswickian

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February 3rd, 2012
Page 1 of 1

Design at Dal: The Marvelous Motorcycle



Etienne Rouly
MASc Candidate

In anticipation of the first Halifax International Motorcycle show, *The Sextant* begins its coverage of the mechanical horse.

Who rides these beasts? What does it take to design on one? Where do to begin with your first project bike? How does Hunter S. Thompson choose his two wheel companion in the book *Hell's Angels*?

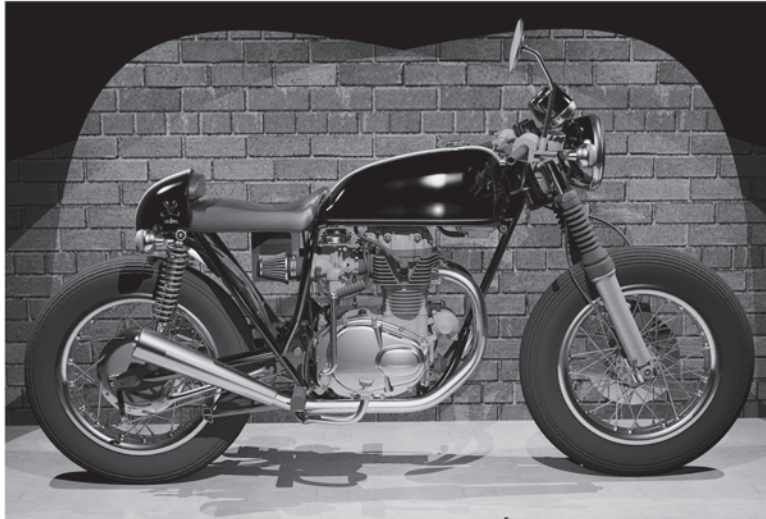
Let us take a closer look at the first three questions.

Etienne's projects exemplify the systematic artistry that is engineering - from conceptual design involving incredibly intricate CAD (Computer Aided Design) modeling to hands on fabrication. In this case, rebuilding beautiful vintage motorcycles. He shares some stories below. -ed.

I had just finished building my very first motorcycle, a 1984 Honda Rebel 250, with my uncle and we

decided to take it for a rip around some farming back-roads in PEI. It was my first group ride, so I was out front and proud as a peacock on the ugly little beast. The exhaust

its own, but my hand-painted gas tank was glossy as glass. After an hour long blast, we pulled back into the driveway and I was casually informed that for most of the



The CAD model of a Honda CB360 Café by Étienne Rouly

was shot so it bleated like a stuck pig, the handlebars were crooked, the tachometer didn't register anything above 1k, the exposed fuse box was held on with twist ties, and the shift lever had a mind of

ride my rear axle nut had been loose. Nobody had said anything. They didn't want to worry me.

I actually modeled the CB360 café racer CAD before starting it as a project bike. It started life as

six separate CB350's and 360's, various years and in various states of decomposition. After two summers of hacking, sanding, welding, and struggling with it in my uncle's shed it was ready for its maiden voyage. I can't say it was my first ride on it-that had occurred well before there was a seat, exhaust, foot pegs or registration, but I won't speak of that frantic midnight fling. Suffice to say the bike was finished and it was a snowy mid-January. The bike was ready to be ridden; what else was I supposed to do, wait until summer? I got suited up with black leathers and a skull-bandana face mask and set out along a deserted stretch of rural PEI, TransCanada highway 2. I managed to avoid all the black ice and gusting snow, but 15 minutes into the ride one of the two cylinders crapped out and I coasted to a graceful stop on the roadside by a field. So there I was, black leather jacket on a black racing motorcycle in mid-winter, sitting alongside three confused men on snowmobiles.



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CO-OP CORNER

Round 1 open now, ends February 13th.



Sexton Events

Friday, February 3rd
The T-Room is closed due to Munro Day.

Thursday, February 9th:
9PM Formula SAE Fundraiser.
Friday, February 10th:
Engineering and trivia.

Buy your Dalhousie Engineering Gear at the DSEUS office (just inside the Design Commons



HALIFAX'S BEST TRIVIA!

Does your society have an event on Sexton Campus? Send an email to sextant@dal.ca and we'll post it here!

The Sextant is published by the Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society and aims to represent all of the students studying and living on Sexton Campus. If you have any concerns about the paper, please email sextant@dal.ca and we'll arrange to meet and discuss them.

Editor-In-Chief: Ben Wedge
Assistant Editor: Damon Surgenor
Treasurer: Sebastian Manchester

What really grinds tickles my CVT



Robert Newcombe
Industrial '13

I'm changing things up a bit this week, as this topic doesn't really grind my gears, rather I find it pretty funny. So... I'm sure by now everyone has noticed and heard the change made by Tim Hortons. Cups are now bigger, or smaller, in any case they've changed. Lids say large, cups are now medium, and many coffee drinkers are getting confused. So what do the people of Tim Horton's do to help customers out? Line up all five different sized cups, upside down, on the front counter, and point to the size after you make your order. In other words, they give you a second chance at ordering the correct size of hot beverage. They don't even have

labels on or in front of the empty cups. Instead of being able to read it yourself, the cashier will point it out for you. I guess we can't discriminate against those who can't read. And have you seen the size of the new XL coffee cups? They're buckets. Hope you don't like eating anything with your coffee, because these cups take two hands. They may as well just hand you the full coffee pot with a cup of cream and sugar and send you on your way.

I applaud Tim Horton's on the change though. They probably made hundreds of thousands of extra dollars this week from Canadians accidentally ordering a size larger. Media has been all over the change, and publicity is never a bad thing. One thing's for sure, unlike farting next to a waterfall, everyone has noticed this change.

Mandatory helmet law ill-conceived

Alex Holgate
Industrial '13

Nova Scotia recently passed a new law which will come into affect this coming November which mandates that skiers and snowboarders of all ages must wear a helmet or face a \$250 dollar fine. Really? Sure, a helmet will reduce the likelihood of sustaining a traumatic head injury on the ski hill; however, shouldn't the choice to wear a helmet or not be left to the individual? This law is in addition to Nova Scotia's mandatory helmet law for all cyclists.

I am not sure how this law was passed, but to me it appears to be nothing more than a brazen cash grab. If the government is committed to improving our safety, why not legislate that all individuals must wear a helmet while walking in public. There is a legitimate risk, albeit small, that I could trip on my walk to campus and suffer a grievous brain injury by hitting my head on a curb. Should it be mandatory that

everyone needs to wear a helmet while walking? It will reduce our risk! I believe most people would argue that they can walk perfectly well and safely without a helmet; so why should skiing or cycling being any different. The decision to wear a helmet or not should be made by the individual, not by the government.

Similar to laws mandating that helmets be worn at all times on bicycles, there is absolutely no need for fines against people who choose not to wear a helmet. Should I choose to cycle several blocks to the corner store, or take an easy green run down one of the town's modest slopes, I would like the choice to decide whether a helmet is necessary, or not; just as I maintain the choice of whether or not to wear a helmet while walking to class. I have a friend, his name is Charles Darwin, and for years he has been handing out 'fines' of his own to those who choose to engage in reckless behavior; when did this stop being adequate?

March 3rd from 8am — 8pm. Teams will pull cars around the loop in the Sexton entrance road to raise money for the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation. Con-

tact engineer@dal.ca for more information on this event or to register your team of five.

The Sextant is looking for articles, please email us if you have any ideas.

News briefs

- Engineers Without Borders is seeking a President for next year. The deadline is Friday February 3rd, and voting takes place at a general meeting on February 14th. Contact dal@ewb.ca for more details.
- DUES is seeking a Chief Returning Officer. Email president@daleng.ca for more information
- Pulling for the Kids will be on

Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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Feb. 15, 2012 @ 7 p.m. in Room 307, the SUB

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