

FREE

February 23rd to March 2nd, 2006

ISSUE 138-20

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

## PUTTING OUR FOOT DOWN

**Student union stands up to Budget Advisory Committee**

**Elections Makeover**  
pg. 5

**Farewell to Hamm**  
pg. 10

**The Joey Ryba Special**  
pg. 12

**Festival on the Fringe**  
pg. 13

**Tigers, swimming!**  
pg. 18

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
Inspiring minds

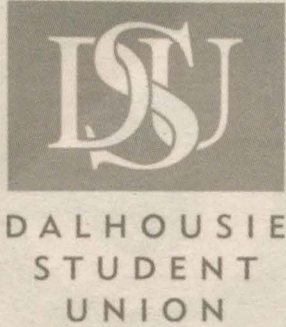
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REPORT XXXII

A DISCUSSION PAPER ON  
OPERATING BUDGET SCENARIOS  
FOR 2006-07

January 2006



This is a weekly communication about happenings around the DSU.  
Check it out, right here every week.



## First Munro Cup Goes To...

### Munro Cup:

In the tradition of the Burmac hockey game at Saint Francis Xavier University, Howe Hall faced off against Risley Hall in the first Munro Cup, Saturday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. The Dalhousie Arena was packed with students that came out to support their team. Risley took home the Munro cup with a 6 to 3 win over Howe. Both teams played extremely well throughout the entire game, but Howe just could not get much by Jake Martell, Risley's Goalie, who won best player of the game for Risley. The best player of the game for Howe, was forward Chris Hunt. Congratulations to both teams for a great game and to the organizers for a very well planned event. I look forward to next year's game.

### Winter Carnival:

The Battle of the Bands on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We had five bands participate: The Man Eating Giant, The Bears, Absentia, The Tyler Shea Band and The Chronicles. A panel of judges made up of Michael Catano from CKDU, John Mullane from In-Flight Safety, and Marcel Cloutier from Talent Source, selected Absentia and Chronicles to move on to the semi-finals on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be another competition of five bands on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The winner of the finals will be heading to Saint Francis Xavier University to compete against the winners from the other Atlantic schools.

Friday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, the DSU hosted its annual Charity Ball. The evening was fantastic and the auction raised over \$1600 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Thank you to the auctioneer Jeff Green, the volunteers that helped to organize the event, and students for making this year's Charity Ball a great success.

### Concrete Toboggan:

Since the beginning of January twelve engineering students have been busily building a concrete toboggan. Last week they went to Montreal and competed against 23 other schools from across the country in the Great Northern Concrete



Toboggan Race held at Gray Rocks Resort on Mont Tremblanc. The Dalhousie "East Coasters" were the first team from the Maritimes to participate in this race in its 32 year history and ranked 5<sup>th</sup> overall. The DSU is proud to have been a sponsor of the "East Coasters."

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in Room 15C-1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the Tupper building.  
All are welcome.

### Jazz Nights:

The DSU, the Dalhousie Jazz Ensemble, and PARTY have teamed up to offer free live Jazz music every Thursday evening from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the Union Market area of the SUB. Stop by any Thursday night during the month of March for some fantastic music.

### Varsity Basketball:

On Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, the mens basketball team will be playing against SMU at 7:00 pm at the Dalplex. Entrance for Dal students is free, so come out and support your varsity athletes as they play against that 'other' university up the road.

We also have a number of exciting events coming up at the Grawood. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Second Battle of the Bands will take place at 9 pm, cover is \$2. March 2<sup>nd</sup> we have Tony Lee XXX Hypnotist coming in again, and March 8<sup>th</sup> we have the Grawood's 34<sup>th</sup> Birthday with Signal Hill. March 9<sup>th</sup>, as always there is trivia, but we will also be announcing the results of the DSU Elections.

See you around campus, stop by, or call anytime,

Ezra Edelstein  
DSU President  
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[dsupres@dal.ca](mailto:dsupres@dal.ca)  
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If you're high, you can't drive.





# Advertising the Olympics

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI  
Managing Editor

For as long as I can remember, the Olympics has been a special time in my life. My brother and I would sit in front of the TV for hours, taking in the great spectacle that only happened every two years. We watched, transfixed, as elite athletes, some no older than ourselves, battled for gold, silver and bronze. We winced at painful falls, cheered when our favorite won and scoffed when the judges 'incorrectly' scored an event. We pestered our parents with questions about this and that. Our father would tell us about our nation's legacy in various events and expound — at great length — on the history of the Olympic Games.

During the Olympics we would marvel at what people could do. We were often astounded by the athletes' achievements, and stunned at the sheer willpower they could muster. There was nothing there that would lessen the greatness of these events.

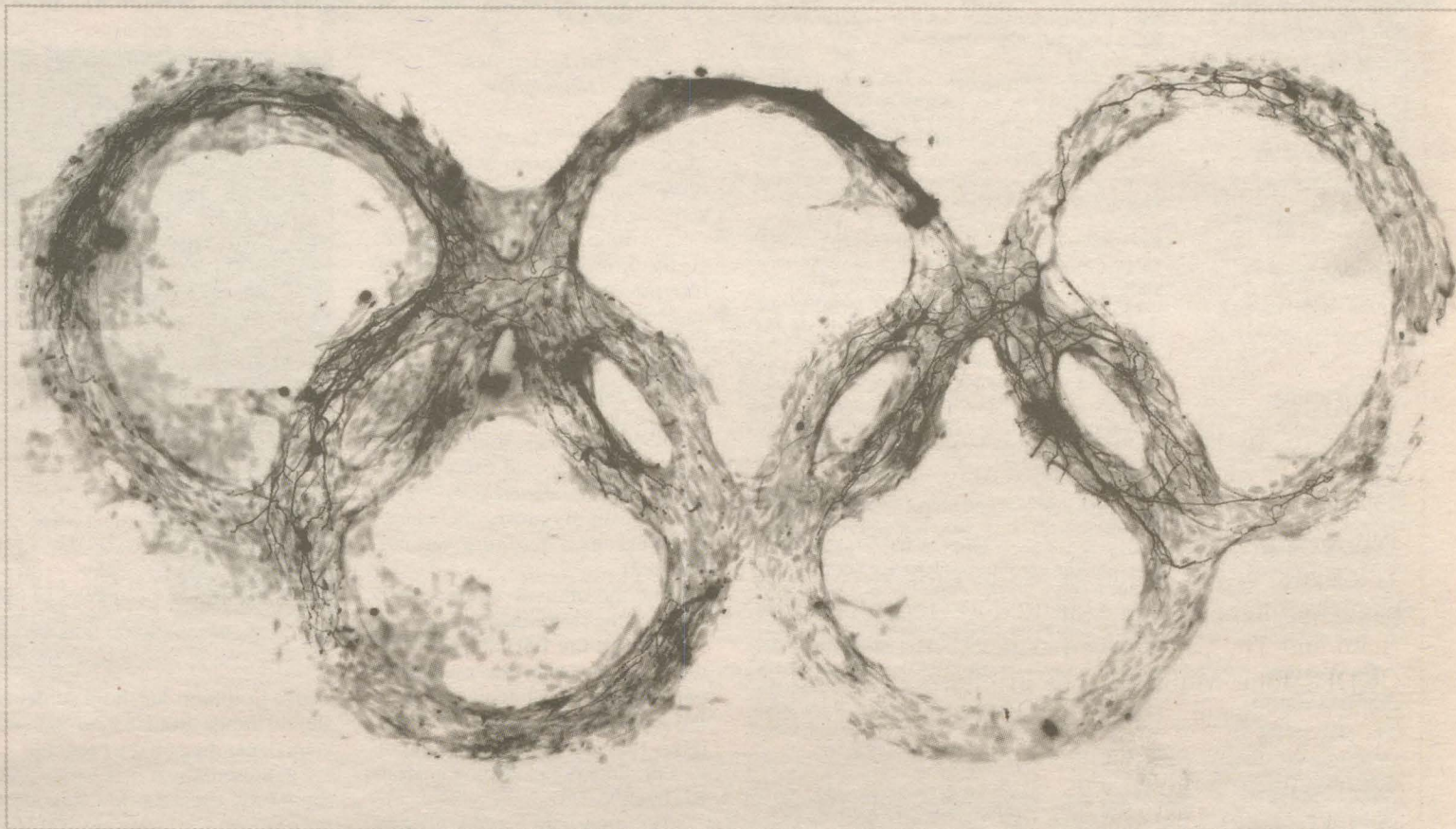
But now, as I browse the TV guide, I am aghast at the sparse coverage the Olympics receive. And the prevalent and obvious advertising throughout.

There are 15 events in this year's Winter Olympics: biathlon, bobsled, curling, ice hockey, figure-skating, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined, luge, speed skating, short track, alpine skiing, freestyle skiing, ski jumping, skeleton and snowboarding.

But whenever I check the TV guide to see what's on, it's dominated by two events: hockey and curling. And the coverage of these two is usually limited to games Canada is involved in. Or the U.S., if it's an American network.

In all fairness, I should point out that these two sports dominate the day-to-day events in Turin. Hockey is not played on only one day, in contrast to, say, skeleton, which is only a two-day event.

And these two events, hockey and curling, no doubt draw in the largest audience as well. Not only are these events the longest-running ones, they are also the most popular with the people that really



matter — the viewers. It's not the result or the competition that draws in advertising but popularity. That again. I thought I left the popularity contest in high school.

Perhaps it is only now that I notice this in the coverage. Maybe they've always been there and I was simply too excited by the magnificent display of the Games to notice.

But I remember there being almost no other programming on the main TV stations when the Olympics were on. There was skeleton to watch (looks like a rush, but also absolutely insane), figure-skating (sometimes this makes sense), biathlon (they should really use heavier-calibre rifles) and luge (this has got to be fun!)

You could start watching the Olympics in the wee hours of the morning and continue late into the night. During this year's Olympics, and the coverage on TV, it would seem that private programming has taken precedence over what is ostensibly the world's oldest interna-

tional tradition.

And this has me worried.

If we cannot celebrate and showcase the world coming together at international competitions because there is more money to be made from private programming, what happens to all the events that do not draw in the largest audience? Do we ignore anything that is unpopular?

Countless organizations are working towards making the world a better place for those less fortunate. Rich governments support poor ones. Celebrities adopt orphaned children and plead with the masses to do the same.

But when the whole world comes together to celebrate human achievement during the Olympic Games, the media favor private programming that will not cost them anything in production and draw in advertiser money.

Of course, there is advertising in the Olympics. As you watch skiers plummet down the slopes, ever wonder if that large [insert corpo-

“ There are logos and advertisements and promotions for everything from T-shirts to French fries to cars. They're on billboards, bus-stops, benches, even garbage cans. The world is turning into one big ad campaign and even ancient traditions are being dragged into the muck.

rate sponsor here] logo really makes a difference? Or perhaps it's the Carlsberg [logo]?

There are logos and advertisements and promotions for everything from T-shirts to French fries to cars. They're on billboards, bus-stops, benches, even garbage cans. The world is turning into one big ad campaign and even ancient traditions are being dragged into the muck.

How long will it be before advertisements are everywhere? How long

will it take for us to forget the names of things but remember the brand names? Before we no longer buy a pen but a Bic, don't get an operating system but Windows, don't use a word-processor but Word, don't have an mp3 player but an iPod?

When will everyday items no longer be known as coffee, sweater or chair?

Perhaps I'll just bundle up in Woolrich, grab a SecondCup and relax in the La-Z-Boy while I contemplate this issue.

## Student Employment Centre

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Employers continue to contact us with full time graduate and summer opportunities. Here are two exciting examples:

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#### On-Campus Summer

• Conference Services positions - apply by March 8

To access job postings and view the Career Events Calendar visit the logged-in section of [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

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[www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

### Upcoming Employer Information Sessions

#### NOVA Group (Teaching Overseas)

Date: March 2

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: Council Chambers  
2nd Floor, SUB

#### Dal Alumni Fast Track Their Careers with Moulding & Millwork And You Can Too!

Date: March 6

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Location: Council Chambers,  
2nd Floor, SUB

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# Gazette

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## THE FINE PRINT

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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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 Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, 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. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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

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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

## Gazette: News

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# DSU opposes proposed budget, suggests equal tuition increases

REID SOUTHWICK  
News Editor

The DSU wants the university to impose the same tuition fee hikes for all students during the 2006/2007 academic year.

The union says the Budget Advisory Committee's proposals to increase tuition for international students and those in professional programs are "unjustified" and "inequitable."

In its preliminary budget released in January, the BAC proposed two scenarios where tuition fees for these students would rise over and above the general increase of 3.9 per cent to help the university balance its books in a response released March 21.

But the student union largely contests the recommendations.

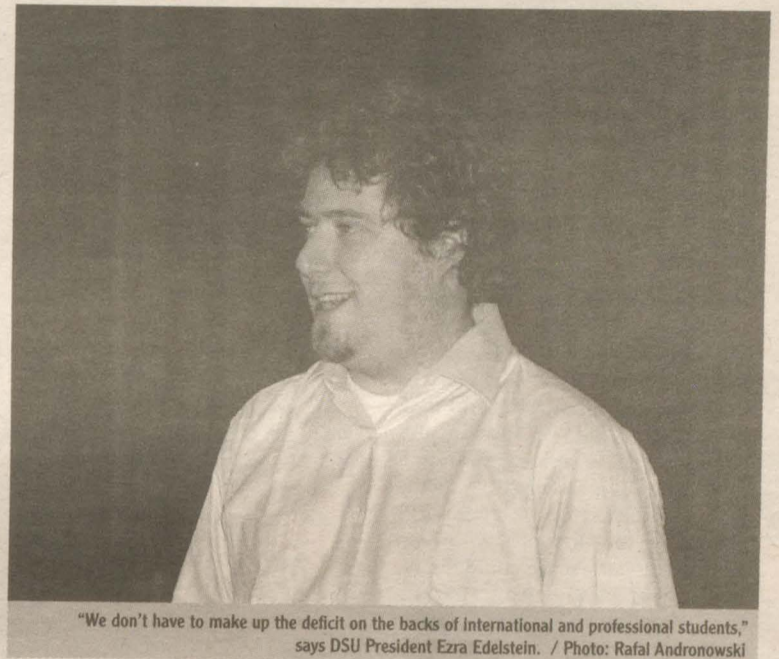
Instead, the DSU suggests that the university cap increases at 3.9 per cent for all students. To cover the loss of revenue, the DSU proposes that Dal reduce spending on its enrollment management strategy by \$300,000.

The university could allocate any remaining funds to softening the blow of budget cuts proposed by the BAC, the union says.

"We don't have to make up the deficit on the backs of international and professional students," says DSU President Ezra Edelstein. "Those students already pay more tuition than undergraduate and graduate students and we don't see why their tuition should be increasing at a greater rate than everyone else."

Sam Scully, chair of the BAC, declined to comment on the DSU's recommendations because he hadn't considered the entire proposal.

Last year, students in professional programs — medicine, dentistry and law — saw a total increase of more than 13 per cent in their tuition. The BAC now proposes that



"We don't have to make up the deficit on the backs of international and professional students," says DSU President Ezra Edelstein. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

a hike in tuition for these students should range from 5.9 to 9.9 per cent, depending on the program.

Representatives of the law school say even the BAC's modest proposal of a 5.9 per cent increase for their faculty is too high. They say the increase would undermine accessibility and discourage prospective students from considering Dal's law program.

"There's a gross perception that law students are a relatively privileged group," says Mike Paris, first-year representative in the law students society. "And it's tough because it just becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Paris says that if the university continues to significantly increase tuition for the law school, only affluent students will be able to afford to enroll. The faculty will consequently no longer have a diverse student body, he says.

The BAC also proposes to boost the international student differen-

tial fee by \$810, in keeping with its plan to increase the fee by the same amount every year until 2010.

But the DSU says Dal doesn't currently offer services to these students that would justify the increase.

"If we had a fantastic ESL service, fantastic housing for international students and all of these support systems then we might be able to justify it. But we just don't," says Jen Bond, DSU Vice President (Education). "I don't think you'll be able to find anyone that's just like, 'oh yeah, we do our international students such a great service.' We totally don't."

"We totally treat them like cash cows and trying to increase their tuition any more is absolutely ludicrous and it's only going to hurt the university."

The BAC will draft a final budget in the coming weeks, taking into consideration the concerns of the DSU and other groups on campus.

# Campaign to give tuition hikes high profile

REID SOUTHWICK  
News Editor

The Dalhousie Student Union plans to launch a public awareness campaign to draw attention to tuition fee increases that limit accessibility to professional degree programs.

Organizers hope the campaign will put pressure on Dal's board of governors to only vote in favour of the university's operating budget if it imposes equal tuition hikes for all students.

But Nick Gaudet, a member of the Dalhousie medical students society (DMSS), says the union might not achieve its goal, at least this year.

"Our plan is to get the word out and hope it has some accumulative effect," says Gaudet, DSU council representative for DMSS. "And eventually [the university] will see they can't keep increasing fees for professional students."

Last year, members of the law, dentistry, medicine and international student societies staged a silent protest outside the room where board members met to vote on the budget.

Participants say their efforts played a large role in both the board's decision to postpone the vote for a month as well as the outcome of the final vote, which was split 10 to 11 in favour of the budget.

But union representatives now

say that since the silent protest card has already been played, the public awareness campaign will put a fresh face on the battle to increase accessibility to Dal's medicine, dentistry and law programs.

The campaign, which is the brainchild of the DMSS and now has the student union's support, is a direct response to the Budget Advisory Committee's recent proposals to increase fees for students in professional programs over and above the 3.9 per cent hike slated for all students.

The suggested hikes range from a total of 5.9 to 9.9 per cent, depending on the program.

"Dalhousie is quickly becoming the most expensive medical school in the country," says Gaudet. "I'm sure Nova Scotians won't be happy if they know that pretty soon it'll be out of reach for people, or that only the richest Nova Scotians can get into medical school."

The DSU's campaign aims to mobilize student representatives to lobby the provincial government and Dal's board of governors at the same time in a public forum. Organizers hope the method will make both sides unable to avoid owning up to their responsibility of ensuring students have equal access to the university's professional programs.

"If we go to the BoG first, they are going to pass the buck to the provincial government, and if we go to the government, they're go-

ing to pass the buck back," says Joey MacDonald, president of DMSS. "We have to go to both bodies at the same time and pin them down so they are the ones getting in the argument."

The campaign will likely feature a blitz of events over the course of a week, including a series of commercials broadcast over major television networks.

The union launched a similar media campaign during the recent Progressive Conservative leadership race when ads boasting the headline, "our universities are crumbling," were broadcast on popular programs such as *The Daily Show* and *Live at Five*.

DSU President Ezra Edelstein says the union is willing to dip into its coffers again and foot the \$3,000 bill for a week of nightly ads about accessibility to Dal's professional programs.

To bring the campaign to a more personal level, the union also plans to hold a series of meetings with individual members of the board.

"It's very easy to vote against a group of people you don't know personally," says MacDonald. "It's a lot harder to vote against somebody that you've sat down face-to-face with and pleaded your case with, and then sits in the room watching you."

The DSU says it will develop a full slate of additional activities over the coming weeks.

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# Union aims for more voters and fewer fights in 2006 election

JESS MCDIARMID  
 Assistant News Editor

The DSU has implemented sweeping changes to elections procedures in an effort to stir up interest in the upcoming campaign, avoid bickering among candidates and increase voter turnout.

The changes in both campaigning and balloting rules come after two years of controversial elections in which a judicial board had to decide who took the presidency of the union.

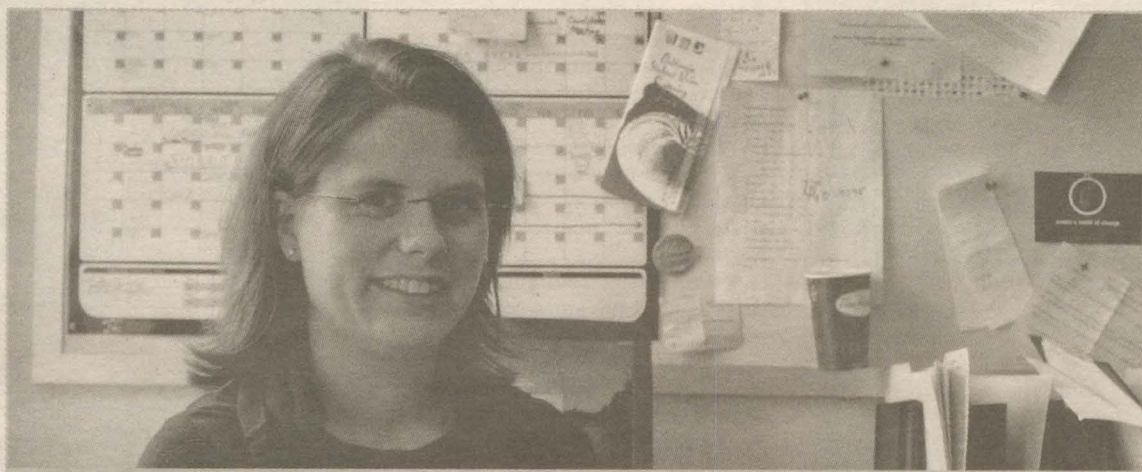
In 2004, president-elect Kevin Wasko was disqualified for campaign violations. Current president Ezra Edelstein was disqualified and later reinstated following the 2005 elections, in which only roughly 18 per cent of the student body voted.

"It's cleaning up the constitution and cleaning up the regulations," says DSU Vice President (Education) Jen Bond. "We've seen in past years that there are a lot of problems with it."

Bond, who also chaired the task force behind the changes, says her "secret hope" for this year is that nothing will go before the judicial board. She says the changes are a step toward a campaigning process that actually works and that the process should continue to evolve in coming years.

Under the new rules, candidates are no longer allowed to put up their own posters. Instead, they'll bring them to the elections committee, which will print and post them in selected areas in campus buildings. Each candidate will receive the same number of posters and the same amount of space.

Chief returning officer Stefanie Butt says the new poster regulations will avoid problems faced by her predecessors — posters were frequently vandalized and buildings



Chief returning officer Stefanie Butt says she's not foreseeing problems with DSU elections this year, but if any come up, she'll "hit them head on." Photo: Rafal Andronowski

were drowned in campaign paper.

"I believe it's going to help a lot, avoid a lot of bickering from candidates," she says.

Last year's CRO, Ann Beringer, says poster disputes in 2005 created a lot of animosity among candidates and drove building administrators "insane." The elections committee ended up issuing nearly \$1,000 in fines in one night alone for poster violations, most of which they later overturned.

"[The new regulation] is going to take the onus off of the elections committee to be this pugnacious body that's there solely to fine candidates and be the bane of everybody's existence, and more into a place where they can actually do their job and regulate things," says Beringer, who also sat on the task force.

With the elections committee assuming responsibility for posting, Bond says she hopes candidates will be encouraged to focus more on classroom talks and other interactive campaign methods. This, she says, will create a "buzz" around the elections, in keeping with the aims of Imagine DSU, the union's plan

to become more connected to students.

"[Candidates] can go out and talk to people, as opposed to this pray and spray approach that happened when I was running, when you could put up as many posters as you wanted," says Bond, who was elected to her position last year.

Candidates will also be able to leave their posters up until the voting period is over this year. In previous years, posters had to be taken down several days before students could cast their ballots. Bond says students assumed elections were over when the posters came down, which may have contributed to the low voter turnout.

Since candidates won't have to pay for their posters, the maximum amount they can spend on their campaign has been reduced from \$400 to \$200, which levels the financial playing field, says Bond.

Candidates can appeal elections committee decisions directly to the committee this year, instead of taking their appeal to the union's judicial board. This will expedite the appeals process. But if the commit-

tee upholds a decision, it can still be brought to the judicial board.

And if the committee disqualifies a candidate during the election, it can't be made public until after voting has closed to ensure that results aren't tainted if the disqualification is overturned.

The elections committee has also done away with paper ballots; the only way to vote will be online. The order in which candidate's names appear on the ballot will be random, and will change each time the webpage is opened.

In last year's election, names appeared alphabetically and the winner of each position was also the first name on the ballot. Bond says changing the order of candidate's names each time someone votes will dispel the "myth" that whoever's first on the ballot wins.

Contenders for all positions except senate and board of governors representatives will be selected by preferential ballot in the 2006 election.

The union didn't, however, make any changes or clarifications to the rules surrounding websites, emails

or other online campaigning methods. Candidates are not allowed to have websites, and can only send out one mass email.

But former CRO Ann Beringer says a lot of technical regulations need clarification because the regulations were written six or seven years ago and computer use has changed so much since then.

"We were asked questions last year that we never in a million years would have expected," she says. Disputes arose over things such as how MSN, blogs and personal websites fit into the restrictions on websites and emails — things that simply didn't exist when the Internet regulations were penned years ago.

But Bond says the restriction on websites ensures fairness for candidates who don't know how to make one. Allowing only one mass email ensures candidates don't rely on computers to win votes.

"We would like this campaign to be more about talking to students and going out on classroom visits," says Bond. "This whole idea of the DSU actually communicating with the student body, that starts when you're actually running."

CRO Stefanie Butt and Bond both say they hope Imagine DSU and the new regulations will lead to a higher voter turnout in this year's elections.

"Fifteen hundred people telling the rest of the university, the other 14,000 people, who should be running the union is a little bit ridiculous," says Bond. "Hopefully this will start this idea that everyone should have a vested interest and everyone should be involved. Hopefully having the candidates out there more will do that."

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette for an in-depth DSU elections handbook.

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## DSU Elections 2006

### Timeline

**Campaigning:** Feb. 27th to March 6th.

**Voting period:** March 7th to March 9th.

### Events

**Monday, February 27th** - Forum in the Student Union Building at 12:30pm

**Wednesday, March 1st** - Forum in the Alumni Lounge at 3:00pm

**Friday, March 3rd** - Forum in the Student Union Building at 1:30pm

**Tuesday, February 28th** - VP Internal Candidates Society Roundtable in room 303 of the Student Union Building at 7:00pm

**Thursday, March 2nd** - Candidates Night at the Grawood or Forum in Cameron Room - Howe Hall at 7:00pm

### Candidates

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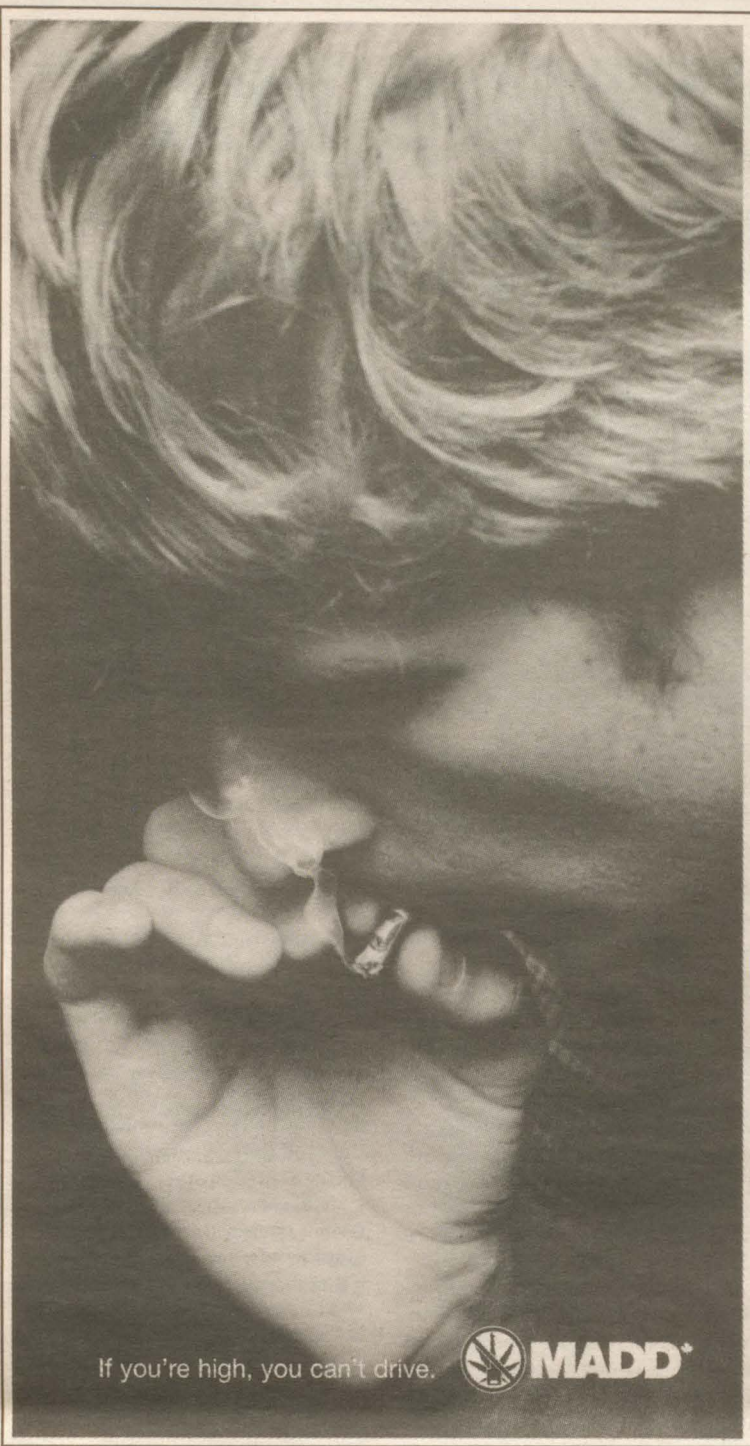
The Gazette is looking for dedicated writers and photographers who want to see "Editor" in their by-lines.

For more info contact us at info@dalgazette.ca

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# On a wing of hope

Jacob Deng returns to his native Sudan after 14 years

LINDSEY HEPBURN  
Staff Contributor

Jacob Deng recently arrived in Halifax after bringing 100 goats to his home village in southern Sudan.

It was his first time back since he fled the village when he was seven years old.

The offering was the first step toward establishing trust and contact with the community of Duk Padiet, where he hopes to eventually build a school.

"With dying communities like that you need something short-term to bring hope to the community, for the people to know and trust that we are there to bring hope, to bring change," says Deng.

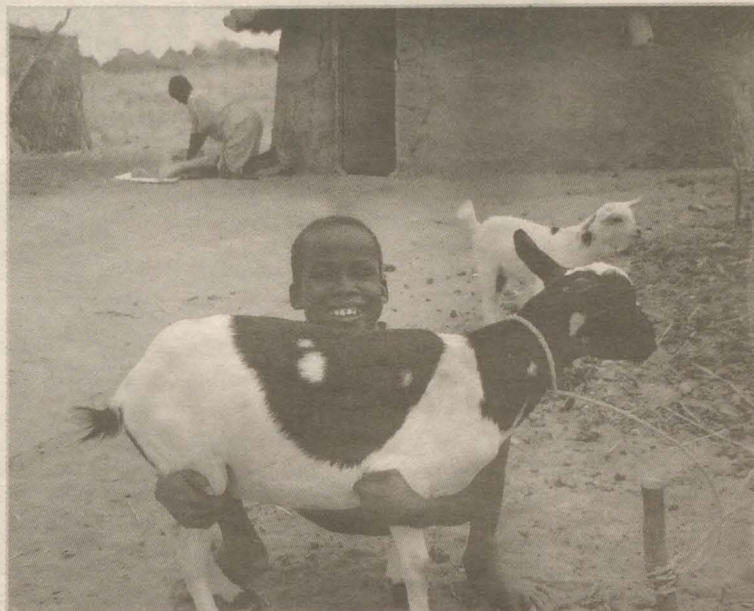
A peace accord signed last year officially ended decades of civil war in Sudan, and hundreds of thousands of families are making the journey home from refugee camps to their villages. These villages, however, lack basic resources, medical facilities and a means of educating a new generation of Sudanese children.

Deng is determined that his project, Wadeng Wings of Hope, will bring much-needed relief to the home he left behind more than a decade ago. Together with Dalhousie's chapter of Wadeng Wings of Hope, Deng raised money to purchase goats during a campaign last fall.

The goats, a valued resource in Sudan, will enable the villagers to take a step toward self-sufficiency.

It was not an easy trip back to southern Sudan for Deng, who, along with volunteer videographer Noah Pink, had to organize last-minute charter flights, and hitchhike from Nairobi, Kenya, all the way to his village. On a stop not far from Duk Padiet, Deng met two of his sisters, whom he hadn't seen for 18 years.

Pink, also from Halifax, caught the whole reunion on film. "We just have no idea what that's like," says Pink. "Those scenes will put meaning to what Jacob's been fighting for,



Just \$35 raised during Wadeng's Goat Campaign brought hope to this little boy. / Photo: Jacob Deng

for the last two-and-a-half years."

Most of the refugees returning to southern Sudan travel by foot, trekking from camps along the Kenyan border. But many are opting to stay in the refugee camps instead of returning to their villages that have no resources or educational opportunities for their children.

"We all grow up knowing we got to go to school, so it was OK to get up in the morning and hate school," says Pink, who hopes to release a documentary about Deng's journey this March. "These kids will go to school with no shoes, no clothes, whatever it takes."

Deng says establishing an educational system is an unquestionable element of rebuilding security. During his visit, he met with community leaders who secured seven kilometres of land for the Wadeng school.

"If there were enough educated people, there could have been a better solution to the war," he says. "When we have education in our country, we will have a better sense of the direction we need to go."

Cheryl Watts, president of Dal's chapter of Wadeng, is a driving force

behind raising awareness of the project. In a fundraiser held at the Gradhouse in November, the society raised \$600 for the Goat Campaign.

Watts came up with the idea of the campaign after concluding that people would be more likely to donate if it was for a tangible item, like a goat.

"People don't want to donate to an idea," says Watts. "The Goat Campaign gave us an important opportunity to raise awareness about the Sudan though, to get people interested in the other issues."

Watts says education is something everyone at university should be able to identify with.

"The issue keeps coming up that Dal lacks a sense of community," says Watts. "The only thing we all have in common is that we are here for an education. We value education. As students, we can see the value of bringing an education to the people."

The next steps for Wadeng Wings of Hope will be the release of Pink's documentary in March and the launch of a campaign to buy bricks to build the school in Duk Padiet.

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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP #2

March 1

- How to apply business principal to your ideas?
- Understand how to critically analysis your ideas financial possibilities?
- Want to build a business out of your education?
- Tired of working for someone else?
- Want to know how to start a business or develop an idea?
- Do you just want to know what an Entrep?
- Got great ideas and no business plan?



I was seldom able to see an opportunity, until it ceased to be one. Mark Twain.

Don't let opportunities pass you by... This workshop focuses on opportunity identification and will reveal how to tell the difference between an "idea" and an "opportunity". Join a panel of student entrepreneurs to hear how they identified their own business opportunities. After the panel, stay for discussion and activities that will help you understand what conditions create opportunities and how to make the most of your own opportunities.

Where: Rowe Building, Second floor Rm 2025

When: MARCH 1, 12:30-2:30

Please send RSVP to Michael Stricker reserve a seat and qualify for a draw, [striker@dal.ca](mailto:striker@dal.ca)

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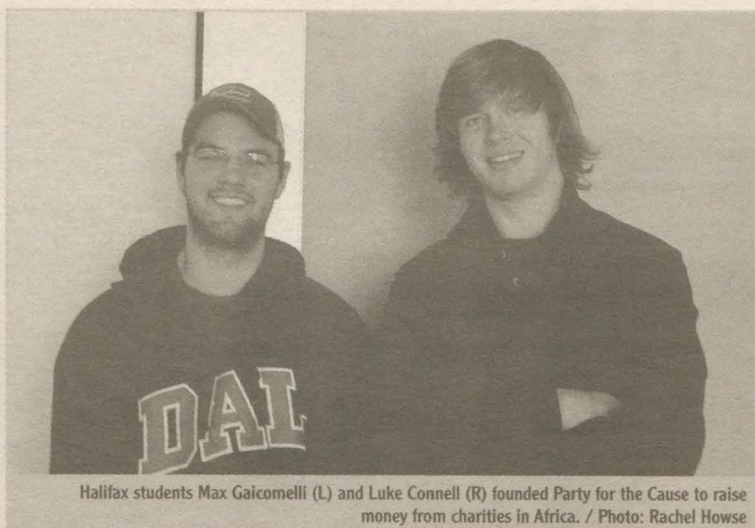
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Halifax students Max Gaicomelli (L) and Luke Connell (R) founded Party for the Cause to raise money from charities in Africa. / Photo: Rachel Howse

## Students plan bash to help children with AIDS

RACHEL HOWSE  
News Contributor

Two Halifax students are going to throw parties to raise money for a charity that helps children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Coordinators of Party for the Cause, Dalhousie student Max Gaicomelli and St. Mary's student Luke Connell, are in the midst of planning a March 24 semi-formal for the two schools.

Party for the Cause is a non-profit group founded by Gaicomelli and Connell, which organizes events to support various African charities. This time, the money raised by bake sales around campus and the end of year semi-formal at the Marquee Club will be donated to the Memory Book Project.

A relatively unknown charity, the Memory Book Project was founded by Beatrice Were, who Connell met during his stay in Uganda.

Were, a native of Uganda, started the project after being diagnosed with HIV five years ago.

The memory books are scrap-books given to children whose parents died of AIDS. In their books, children have pictures to remember their parents, as well as stories and traditions, which were normally passed down orally, eternalized on paper.

After spending six months in

Africa, Connell, 20, says he was inspired to continue helping children who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

"Volunteering in a refugee camp inspired me to start having these parties," says Connell. "I had a first-hand look at which charities were effective and which really needed the money."

Gaicomelli and Connell opted to support the Memory Book because it seemed like a project that made a difference and lacked funding, says Connell.

"I saw a lot of wealthy charities in Africa, but it was the small ones like Memory Book which really got my attention," he says.

Gaicomelli says Party for the Cause isn't going to stop after the semi. He says they're hoping to host a home-coming formal in September.

"Ultimately, we want these parties to become a tradition," says Connell. "In 30 years, I'd come back and they'll be the biggest event of the year."

They're also trying to get some events going in Toronto, he says.

Currently, Party for the Cause has roughly 15 volunteers organizing the semi-formal, which they hope will raise over \$5000.

Tickets are \$30 and include five drinks. Email partyfortheCause@hotmail.com for more info

## Dal grads work toward landmine-free future

BEN SAIFER  
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie graduate Janis Grychowski wants people to know how much landmines devastate communities.

"We need to make sure that the public and the Canadian government are extremely active on this issue until the world is completely mine-free," says Grychowski, who recently returned from the Republic of Georgia, a former Soviet state with a severe landmine problem.

Grychowski spent six months there as an intern with Mines Action Canada, a coalition of Canadian non-governmental organizations working to eliminate the consequences of landmines worldwide.

Now back in Halifax, Grychowski is organizing Canadian Landmine Awareness Week, which runs from Feb. 27 to Mar. 5.

The International Committee to Ban Landmines (ICBL) reports that on average, there are between 15,000 and 20,000 landmine casualties each year — at least two people are killed by a landmine every hour.

But this is only part of the problem, according to the ICBL, because landmines are designed to maim rather than kill. Many land mine survivors live with injuries such as blindness, severe burns, shrapnel wounds and destroyed limbs.

"Landmine survivors need to deal with the depression, stress, and anxiety that comes with the fact that in a single moment, their lives are forever changed," says Grychowski, who graduated in 2004.

Dal grad Michael Warren, who's now a program officer for Mines Action Canada, says the most puzzling aspect of the use of landmines is that they're not considered a useful military tool. Warren says mines are indiscriminate weapons, which don't differentiate between civilians and soldiers, or even between the army that lays them and the army that they target.

"This is why one of the key actors in the American campaign to stop landmines is Vietnam veterans," says Warren. "Because they have experienced the fact that once you lay them down, [the landmines] hurt your army as much as the enemy."



At least two people are killed by a landmine every hour.

Historically, Canadians have played a key role in the movement to create a mine-free world. In 1996, Canadian foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy took up the cause and called for every country in the world to sign a treaty banning the use of landmines within a year.

As a result, in 1997, the Ottawa Convention was signed by 122 countries. It prohibited the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of landmines and also ensured support for de-mining and survivor assistance funds.

Grychowski says the Convention is a step forward, but it won't be enough until every country in the world signs on. Currently, 40 countries have refused to sign the treaty, including big players on the international stage such as India, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States.

Warren says there are a variety of reasons why countries don't sign the treaty. He says he believes the U.S., for example, hasn't joined the convention because its military officials are afraid of the power of activism.

"The real reason why they don't sign on is because the anti-landmine movement came from the people," says Warren.

"If you're a General in the Pentagon and you see a whole bunch of women's groups, doctor's groups and journalists changing policy ... that could scare the crap out of you. What if they come back in 10 years to ask to stop nuclear weapons?"

Grychowski and Warren have first-hand experience of landmine survivors' pain and frustration

### Canadian Landmines Awareness Week Events Feb 27 - Mar 5

Mines Action Canada presents...  
**ACT NOW! No Excuses Not to Dance...**  
Tuesday, Feb. 28 @ 8p.m.

A Benefit Show for a Mine-Free World  
featuring Great Plains  
At The Grad House  
Suggested donation of \$3; all proceeds go to Mines Action Canada's domestic and international programming

### Dalhousie International Development Studies Speaker Series

Maria Clara, youth campaigner for the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines will be speaking on the landmine problem in Colombia and their use by non-state actors  
Wednesday, March 1 @ 12 noon

The Canadian Red Cross: Even Wars Have Limits Working Group and Amnesty International presents Turtles Can Fly  
Sunday, March 4 @ Oxford Theatre  
\$6 at the door

when they see foreign governments refusing to sign the Ottawa treaty. But they say they're optimistic that events like Canadian Land Mine Awareness Week will raise the money and awareness needed to someday create a mine-free world.

"Canada has been a leader in this movement since the beginning," says Grychowski. "And we intend to keep this momentum going forward into the future."

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## DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see page 15.

# Prof brings Cuba to Dal

A profile of John Kirk

LINDSEY HEPBURN  
Staff Contributor

Traditional Cuban music fills the room and a Mexican rug cushions the computer monitor. A Cuban flag and a framed portrait of Che Guevara hang from the bookshelves. And on the desk is a picture of Dalhousie professor John Kirk standing beside Fidel Castro.

The Spanish and history prof came to Dal in 1978 on a one-year, non-renewable contract.

Twenty-seven years later, his work with the Spanish department specializing in Cuban and Latin American studies can fill a room with artifacts, and a whole day with stories.

"My work in Cuba all these years has meant that life has never been dull," says Kirk, who will make his 70th visit to the island next year.

Kirk also goes to Latin America about three times each year to do research and work as a consultant for non-government organizations like Oxfam and the United Church.

"These things keep you switched on and make you a better teacher, because you live it," says Kirk.

He founded Dal's exchange program to Cuba. He points out a certificate hanging on the wall of his office — the Cuba semester study abroad program was named the best year abroad program in Canada by Scotiabank.

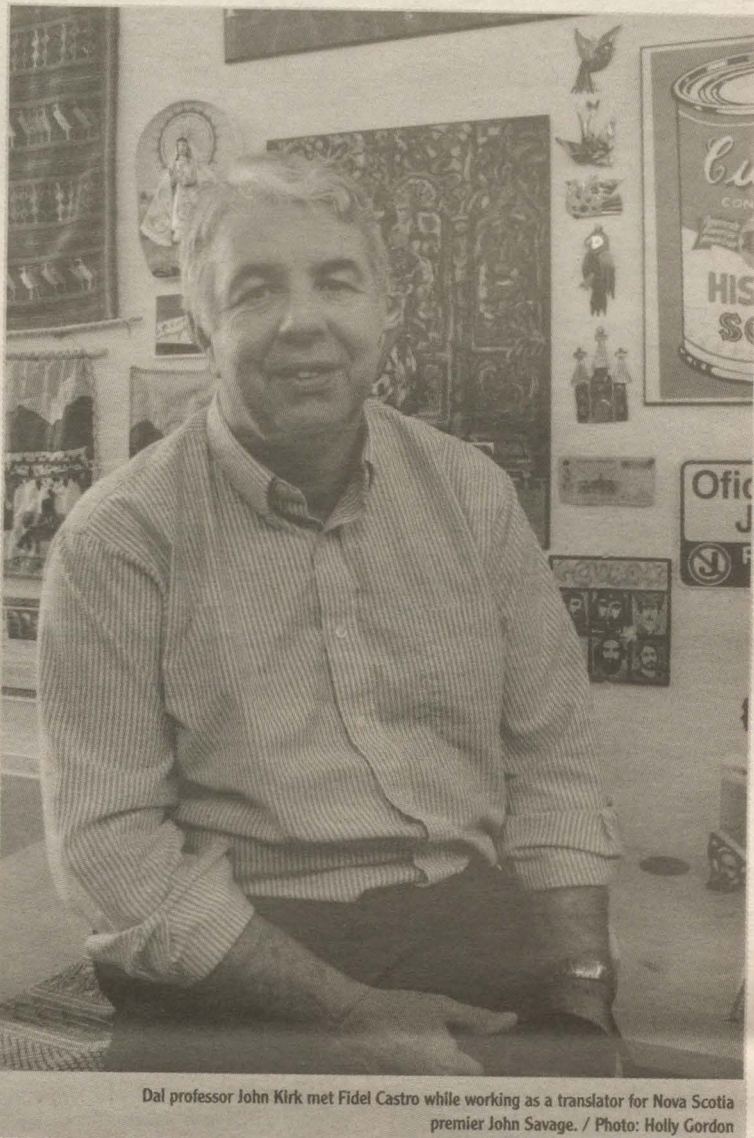
Kirk also worked with the Nova Scotia government on a project that established Campeche, Mexico, as Halifax's Mexican sister city. Six years ago, he founded a study abroad program to Campeche.

Laura Hynes, a third-year history and Spanish major, is a past student of Kirk's. She says his course projects aimed at getting passed the academic perspective to really understand what the people in Cuba felt.

"He so clearly loves what he teaches and he brings so much to it personally that he makes you really want to learn about it," says Hynes, who recently participated in the Campeche trip.

Aside from all of the other projects, Kirk says that through his specialization in Latin America, he's found that his first love is for teaching.

"I love teaching. I love teaching



Dal professor John Kirk met Fidel Castro while working as a translator for Nova Scotia premier John Savage. / Photo: Holly Gordon

Spanish. I love teaching about Mexico and Central America," he says. "If I were to win the lottery tomorrow I would do exactly what I'm doing now."

Throughout his career, Kirk has worked extensively with the media, commentating in Spanish for Radio Canada International, hosting a television series on Latin America for CTV 15 years ago and freelancing for the CBC in Nicaragua during the civil war in the 1980s.

But Kirk says he's an academic, with no pretensions about being a journalist. "I see it as an extension of my role as a communicator," he says. "Like if you are a specialist in the Middle East right now, you are probably doing interviews like cra-

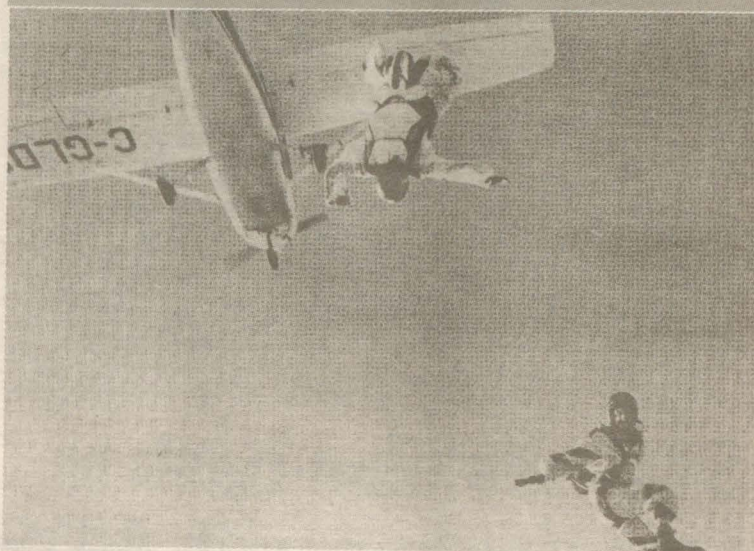
zy."

Serving as an English-Spanish translator has also been a source of many interesting experiences, according to Kirk. His most memorable professional experience was translating meetings between Fidel Castro and Nova Scotia premier John Savage in 1994 and 1996.

Among all of the worldly paraphernalia in his office, a miniature plastic soccer ball stands out, giving away another of Kirk's lifetime passions.

"My one ambition in life is to play professional soccer," he says, his English accent suddenly more noticeable. But Kirk says he's quite happy to settle for playing twice a week with his friends.

## FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES



### In this issue 25 years ago

- Dalhousie's skydiving club geared for a new season. The club planned to use a Cessna 182 to drop members from a height of nearly 1,000 metres each weekend.
- Singer Long John Baldry played Winter Carnival the previous week, but was continually harassed by an inebriated crowd member: "After a liberal dousing with beer and lewd insults, Baldry was provoked into a fight with a rather ill-mannered person in the crowd. 'If he wanted to act like a baby he should have done it at home,' commented Baldry on the beer thrower."
- Gay rights were at the forefront of the week's issue due to several recent incidents. A House of Commons sub-committee voted against including sexual orientation in the proposed Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and Toronto police raided a bathhouse known to be frequented by homosexuals, making 300 arrests. *The Gazette* editorial pushed for specific protection of sexual minority rights, saying, "As long as the law is sufficiently vague on minority rights, the forces of reaction ... will exploit minorities."
- Professor Savannah Williams told a lecture hall that "quiet racism" was at work at Dalhousie, one which mirrored Nova Scotia as a whole. Williams believed it was no accident that there were few people of colour at the school, and said the racism was institutional rather than blatant discrimination. The talk was part of a forum on racism being held at the school.
- Poet Irving Layton visited Dalhousie.

### In this issue 10 years ago

- A faculty strike was averted at Memorial University of Newfoundland. After nine months of bitter labour disputes, administrators and faculty members reached a tentative agreement.
- Letters to the editor objected to a previous week's article about racism and Black History month, especially one titled "Whites are liable." The article had suggested whites pay reparations for incidences of slavery committed by their ancestors.
- "Slavery was a terrible injustice," wrote James Worrall. "But one for which whites today can hardly atone. Should other cultures have to pay Europeans for developing Western medicine? ... Look not at sex, race, religion, or culture, but at the worth of each person individually."
- Caffeine-addicted students were shocked when the Great Taste Coffee shop on Coburg Road (presently, the Coburg Coffee Shop) shut its doors. Employees said mismanagement and poor business practices by the owner had led to the closure. Disagreements between the business owner and the property owner also led to the staff of eight being laid off.
- The Canadian Federation of Students lost another member association in Atlantic Canada when students at the University of Prince Edward Island voted to leave the national lobby group. Since 1989, Dalhousie, St. FX., and UNB also left the group, although Memorial University voted to stay. Six other campuses and schools were expected to hold referendums on membership in the CFS within the following year.

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES is a "semi-regular" feature compiled by Neal Cody as he thumbs through archived issues in The Gazette library.



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St. Patrick's Day  
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draw



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UNI BRIEFS

Dal Briefs

Drug company hands Dal thousands for research

Dalhousie received \$20,000 from a pharmaceutical company to support pain research at the university. Epiteo Analgesics Inc. has contributed \$120,000 to Dr. Jana Sawynok's investigations of peripheral neuropathy treatments so far.

Research in Sawynok's laboratory contributed to the development of the company's lead product, a cream to treat pain associated with various neurological conditions. The cream is up for approval this year.

Dalhousie, Sawynok and colleagues will receive maintenance payments from Epiteo, and as well as royalties once the product is on the market.

Cross Canada Shorts

UofT students \$500K in debt

Student unions at the University of Toronto owe more than a half a million dollars to their national lobbying group, the Canadian Federation of Students.

The CFS recently released a report that shows various student unions in Ontario owe the organization \$1.4 million. The bulk of the debt lies with UofT.

The UofT voted to join the CFS several years ago, but was unable to begin collecting student fees, calculated on a per capita basis, due to administrative delays. And while the unions have begun to receive CFS-bound funds from the university, they're still on the hook for fees due in prior years. They're hoping the CFS will forgive the debt.

Withholding the money owed is unfair to the organization and other member universities, the CFS says, as smaller schools such as Guelph have effectively been subsidizing UofT — the largest student union in the country.

Under CFS rules, a member institution can't leave the federation unless it's paid all its membership dues. It will likely take at least five years for UofT to repay their debt, so students at the school will be forced to remain in the CFS.

CBC exposes prof's fraud at MUN

The CBC has aired a three-part series that reveals a former professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland engaged in academic fraud.

The documentary alleges the university knew Dr. Ranjit Chandra falsified nutrition research results in a paper published in the early 90's but decided not to take action against him. Memorial investigated the charges of scientific misconduct against Chandra at the time, but closed the case when Chandra threatened to sue, accusing the school of bias. Before the CBC released the documentary, a confidentiality agreement kept the matter secret.

The CBC also suggests Chandra faked a paper in 2001 and the university let him retire the next year to cover up the incident. Both of the disputed research papers reported positive results for a particular nutrition brand, from which Chandra stood to profit.

MUN insists it's still looking into the matter.

SFU to privatize recruitment

Simon Fraser University plans

to privatize part of the university by partnering with an Australian school, but the move has drawn criticism from students and faculty who say they weren't informed or consulted about the change.

The plan would see the Australian school set up space on campus and help recruit foreign students to SFU, assisting the university with its goal of achieving a 10 per cent international undergraduate population.

Opponents of the plan say it's just a cash grab for the large differential fees international students are charged. The administration denies this is its motivation, but does admit the project will save money on international recruitment.

Bed bugs bite at Wilfred Laurier

Students at Wilfred Laurier University in Kingston, Ont., are fighting a battle against bedroom invaders — bed bugs.

Students reported waking up with red bumps covering their necks, sides, and arms in early September.

Initially misdiagnosed as hives by the school's health clinic, the true culprits were discovered when the bumps spread to other people and students reported seeing the bugs.

"We began finding the bugs in our clothes, shoes, and were waking up with more and more . . . bite marks each day," one student told Wilfred Laurier's student paper, *The Cord*.

Exterminators have already sprayed the infested room five times, but the insects are proving difficult to eliminate. *The Cord* reports there have only been two bed bug infestations at Laurier over the past 30 years.

South of the Border

Students launch hotline to Iraq

Students at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania have found a way to get information on the war in Iraq — straight from Iraqis themselves.

The students host a weekly radio show, *War News Radio*, during which they call random Iraqi phone numbers. Using online telephone software to cut down on long-distance bills, the students chat with ordinary Iraqis about how their lives have changed and how they cope with the war.

The program has interviewed an Iraqi doctor, an aspiring filmmaker in Baghdad, a Sunni politician, and the head of the Iraqi stock exchange, who discussed the state of the country's financial system.

When not conducting interviews, the program frequently critiques American foreign policy and the Bush administration's speeches. Kurt Vonnegut has appeared on the program to deliver commentary.

The students say their goal is to expose people to perspectives that aren't included in traditional news sources and to "rediscover the voices of real people."

*War News Radio* airs Fridays at 9 p.m. AST and can be found at [www.warnewsradio.org](http://www.warnewsradio.org)

— with files from *The Excalibur (York)*, *The Muse (Memorial)*, *The Manitoban (UofM)*, and *The Echo Online (Eastern Michigan University)*

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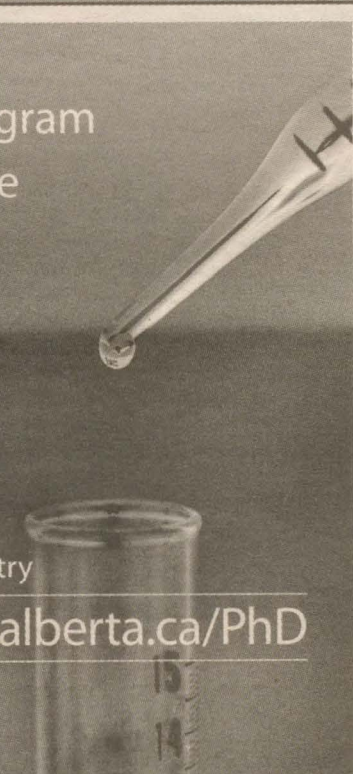
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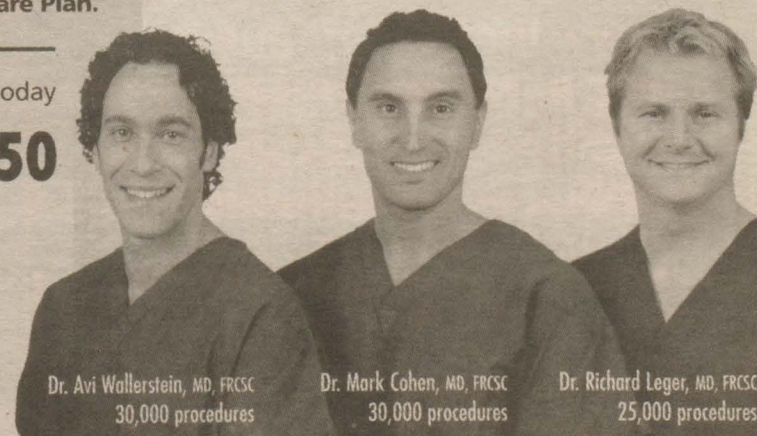
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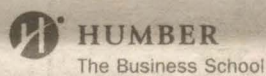
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### VENT: NOT GOING ANYWHERE DURING THE BREAK

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

Every year since grade school, the mid-winter break has been a source of indefatigable envy for me. "March Break," as it was known in my younger days, involved spending two consecutive weeks sitting around the house, watching the snow and slush from a safe distance.

Ten years later, not much has changed.

As usual, prior to this year's spring break, I was forced to hear the excited

musings of many of my acquaintances as they looked forward to spending a week in Cuba or the Dominican Republic or whatever other tropical place they had planned to visit.

"What about you?" they asked.

"What are your plans?"

"I'm going to London," I said, in a bored voice.

Their looks of surprise and excitement betrayed their mistake "No, no,"

I said, "London, Ontario, not London, England." A far cry from Havana, I must say.

I don't know if everyone else has richer parents than me, or if everyone else more willing to go further into debt than I am.

Whatever the cause, I hope all you smug travellers were thinking of your snow-bound friends back in Canada as you basked in the tropical sun.

# Does post-secondary education create lost souls?

JOEL DURLING  
Opinions Contributor

To paraphrase a quotation by the Canadian playwright Joanna Glass, mathematics can be taught, physics can be taught, but talent, however, cannot be taught. Then question I pose to you is this: do our educational institutions provide students with the adequate skills needed not only to progress in their future careers, but in life?

Because of minimal funding from the government, school boards are pumping fewer dollars into music programs, art, family studies, physical education and health education in our public schools. How can we have forgotten these basic aspects of development?

While at school, children, with the exception of what they absorb at home, are primarily socialized through their peers and teachers. Too much focus is put on core subjects. We seem to be raising children

to be inactive, uncultured drones with no life skills.

At the post-secondary level, thousands of students progress through their studies without attaining the skills that could make them employable.

Cooperative education provides some students with the opportunity to gain work experience, but spaces are often limited. Condensed educational programs may be the answer. Those who attend community college, or other such institutions for specialized training, graduate with diplomas that make them immediately employable.

In addition, these students are often offered assistance in finding employment, or are hired by companies where they have done work placements or apprenticeships. Some programs, however, become so focused that students develop limited knowledge and abilities, which are non-transferable internally or across sectors.

What we need to see is a massive overhaul of our entire educational system. I could be wrong. But does it not make sense that most individuals could benefit from a holistic educational approach?

How can we fix this problem? Perhaps with increased funding across the board, especially at the post-secondary level, and better allocation of funds and resources. More cooperative educational opportunities, increased awareness of on-campus career counselling, and tweaking the way in which many courses are taught at a university level could all contribute to more positive results.

It's hard to admit that there are no problems with our educational system when there are so many jobless, lost souls who hold university degrees, or who are working in careers that don't relate to their educational background, or who have rewarding careers without a post-secondary education.

## Nova Scotians bid farewell to John Hamm

DAVE MCEWAN  
Opinions Contributor

The reign of the consummate country doctor, Premier John Hamm, has come to its end. In his place, is Rodney MacDonald. At 34 years old, he's a fresh-faced youngster when compared to the Nova Scotia Conservative faithful.

At the Friday night political gathering, the Metro Centre transformed itself into the focal point of more than 2,000 people, all of whom demonstrated their partisanship with an assortment of plastic hats, different T-shirts and, worst yet, thundersticks. The sight of any person, but particularly elderly people, mashing together two plastic tubes in a manner reminiscent of gleeful preschoolers is a political phenomenon

that must die.

The tribute featured speakers such as former U.S. ambassador Paul Cellucci and our newly-minted Prime Minister, Stephen Harper. In a video presentation, premiers from across Canada voiced their thanks to John Hamm.

The setup was somewhat bizarre, with a massive curtain of stars that changed colours from black to a purplish hue. To the PC faithful, it represented the hope and the infinite possibilities of Nova Scotia. As for myself, I was reminded of junior high video dances.

Paul Cellucci spoke about his personal respect for Premier Hamm and the ties that bind New England and the Maritimes. After years of watching *The Simpsons*, however, I naturally think of Mayor Quimby

whenever I hear that particular Bostonian accent from a politician. I was struck with the urge to ask the former ambassador to say "chowder," but was denied the chance.

Our new prime minister needs to update his stock speech, as the address he gave was little more than his campaign speech combined with some token words for the outgoing premier. But hey, the guy had a tough week.

The premier's speech was a good, if typical, retirement speech and was notable only for its blandness. When the tribute finished, the crowds dispersed to their candidate's hospitality suites to engage in horse trading, politicking and the occasional bout of tomfoolery, fueled by a great open bar. For that alone, thank you, John Hamm.

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# TOP 10

- 1 **CANADA'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WINS GOLD**  
They went with proven talent.
- 2 **DAL MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS AUS**  
Stand tall, boys.
- 3 **CONCERTS AT THE HALIFAX METRO CENTRE**  
Too bad Mötley Crüe and INXS didn't play here 20 years ago.
- 4 **CANADA'S MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM LOSES TO SWITZERLAND**  
At least they showed up.
- 5 **SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT RETURNS AFTER 14 YEAR HIATUS**  
It's better than an SNL repeat.
- 6 **THE GETAWAY SONG ON FM 96.5**  
Yeah, I'm awake at 7:10 a.m.
- 7 **THE HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS LOSE SEVEN STRAIGHT GAMES**  
Was there Moosehead in the water bottles?
- 8 **MARRIED WITH CHILDREN WEEKNIGHTS ON CMT**  
Katey Segal looks better on *Eight Simple Rules* 15 years later.
- 9 **BLAKE NIL RESIGNS AS SMU'S FOOTBALL COACH**  
Maybe now Dal will get a team.
- 10 **WORKING IN THE GAZETTE OFFICE DURING THE BREAK**  
I wish I was in Panama.

# STREETER

What was the best day of your life?



“The one Valentine's Day I had a date.  
John Kimmel, fourth-year philosophy



“Today is the best day of my life.  
Molly Pope, fifth-year history of science and technology



“When I got my pet poodle for my birthday.  
Simone Marchesseau, third-year psychology



“The day my picture got into Streeter.  
Lee Nelson, third-year economics



“When I went to Marineland when I was seven.  
Daren Elakkad, fourth-year French



“I'm still waiting.  
Meaghan Alexander, third-year political science



“The day I met Meaghan.  
Natasha Yuskow, third-year politic science and IDS



“I was at the shopping centre and to impress the guys I farted at the check out and a gopher bashed my undies.  
Joey Ryba, fourth-year urbandictionary.com addict

## HOT

## NOT

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cranking up the intensity    | Taking crank                       |
| Thong of the day             | Fart of the day                    |
| Grinding out a win           | Grinding at the Palace             |
| Canadian women's hockey team | Canadian men's hockey team         |
| Hitting a grand slam         | Slammed with schoolwork            |
| Kenny Rogers "The Gambler"   | Rick Tochetti's illegal enterprise |
| Morning sex                  | Morning breath                     |
| Cover girls                  | Cover bands                        |
| Cheap drinks                 | Being cheap                        |
| Kissing in the coatroom      | Kissing in the street              |

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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# Is Canada's Afghanistan strategy failing?

SALAM NAHZAT  
Opinions Contributor

On Jan. 15, a deadly suicide bomb attack killed a senior Canadian diplomat and critically injured three soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, the headquarters and birthplace of the Taliban. The injured soldiers were airlifted to a military hospital in Germany.

The next day, about 20 Afghans were killed in a separate suicide attack in Kandahar. Also, on Dec. 12, 2005, three Canadian soldiers and a journalist were injured in the same province. According to different media, the insurgency has vowed to commit more such deadly attacks.

Canada is participating in a NATO mission that has mobilized 12,000 troops from 36 countries to Afghanistan. According to the Department of National Defense (DND), Canada currently has 900 members under Task Force Afghanistan (TFA) and plans to increase this number to 2,000 this month, making Canada the largest contributor to the mission after Britain. The US has 20,000 non-NATO troops in the country, but has announced it will recall 3,000 this year.

We must be concerned about the magnitude and kinds of activities Canada is getting involved with in Afghanistan. Why is Canada taking part in a mission that has risked the lives of Canadians, will likely put Canada itself at greater risk of a terrorist attack, and make Afghanistan more insecure and miserable but certainly not peaceful?

Canada has neither the experience nor the capacity to get involved militarily in the most volatile regions of Afghanistan. We are dealing with a rigid geography and rigid attitudes that are different than what we've seen in Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti and Somalia.

I reject the argument that NATO or the Canadian forces are helping Afghanistan on the grounds that NATO's mandate is to protect the security of state members only. NATO is not the UN, nor is it a charity. It's all about protecting the "national in-



It's morally wrong to force Afghan children to see more soldiers, weapons, violence and destruction.

terests" of state members.

History proves this. During the 1992-96 civil war, when tens of thousands of innocent Afghans were killed, hundreds of women raped, and hundreds of thousands more forced to leave the country, the international community, including Canada, remained silent and passive, turned a blind eye to the suffering and referred to the tragedy as "the internal affairs" of Afghanistan that it didn't want to interfere with.

But at the same time, Afghanistan was becoming a time bomb that would explode in other countries and would wake up the international community in horror. Then the so-called international community would rush to Afghanistan with all its power as the nation's "internal affairs" became an element affecting its "national interests." The world underestimated and ignored the advice of Afghans and the UN in the early 1990s that indicated that abandoning Afghanistan would be a grave mistake.

It's morally, ethically, and prin-

cipally wrong for democratic and wealthy nations like Canada to secure the safety of their soil and citizens by putting the citizens and soil of a devastated nation such as Afghanistan at risk, making them vulnerable to more insecurity, destruction and tragedy and then labeling the mission as "peace and reconstruction."

Canada is a peace-loving nation that has some of the most talented and most civilized citizens in the world who wish to play a positive role in Afghanistan — but not in military uniforms. It's morally wrong to force Afghan children to see more soldiers, weapons, violence and destruction. The force strategy won't work in Afghanistan. Force can't enforce peace.

Salam Nahzat is the founder and Program Coordinator of Afghanistan Development Watch (ADW), a non-aligned and non-political organization initiated in Canada that monitors the development process of Afghanistan. [www.afghanwatch.org](http://www.afghanwatch.org)

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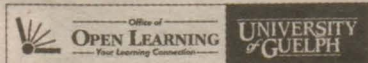
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Dove's latest television advertising campaign features "normal" looking women of varying sizes and ethnicities proudly embracing a different physical "flaw."

When each underwear-clad female laughingly refers to their own body parts

with expressions such as "my Buddha belly," the message is fairly clear: accept your body for what it is, rather than conform to impossible beauty standards.

But I can't help wonder: why do I need these beauty products if I'm sup-

posed to accept the way I look?

I probably wouldn't rule out soap, regardless of how at peace I was with my appearance, but what about the other products the company is selling? The Dove line consists of various skin

and hair products, including a variety of skin-firming lotions that claim to get rid of cellulite.

Advocating a healthy body image, while simultaneously advertising a product to "improve" oneself, is both

contradictory and manipulative. I certainly recognize the need for a change in our society's perception of beauty, but I don't believe that a self-serving advertising campaign is the way to accomplish this.

ARTS HOLE: Dove campaigns for real beauty (so long as you don't have cellulite)

Jodie Shupac / Staff Contributor

## King's Fringe Festival Reviews

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN  
JOHN PACKMAN  
*Theatre Junkies*

### Roxanne

Having not anticipated the overwhelming popularity of *Roxanne*, this reporter barely made it into the filled-to-capacity Pit theatre at King's. Exactly why the show was so keenly attended was understood once the gang of wonderfully talented and scantily clad female performers skipped on stage.

Costumes limited to skivvies were starkly contrasted by a performance that was rich in both enthusiasm and sincerity on the part of both the male and female cast members. The performance, which was all dance and no dialogue, followed the typical *Roxanne* framework set forth in the popular pop hit. *Roxanne* is the leader of a beautiful band of streetwalkers, although the fact that these women are actually prostitutes is just an annoying afterthought. The ladies of the night are constantly having romantic run-ins with a crew of hardy males, until the ritual dance offs turn violent and complications ensue.

Hip hop, tap, ballet and salsa — *Roxanne* showcased them all. And high commendations go to the skillful cast who did not disappoint. - BS

### PUMPKINFACE!

The manic rush toward the classroom doors on the second floor of the Kings' New Academic Building signaled just how excited the dozens and dozens of gatherers were to see the PUMPKINFACE! improv team perform.

The styling of the evening was of the "Domino" variety, meaning that the troop's Kyle Dooley, Evany Rosen and Mark Little put on alternating scenes and monologues for close to an hour and a half.

The show kicked off with Mark asking an audience member for a word, which turned out to be "hair." From that cue, skits involving pugs being loved inappropriately, hats made of plate glass, and tight, striped shirts unable to withstand the power of clubbing followed. Uncontrollable laughter was contagious in an audience that hung on every off-the-cuff word of Dooley, Rosen and Little's performances.

Each member of the trio knew exactly what shtick to take from each scene and run with. This comedic foresight delighted the audience and proved PUMPKINFACE! To be an incredibly astute improvised act. - BS

### Ignorant Tyrant

After defeating the Greeks in battle, the triumphant Trojans are presented with a gift from the gods.

A magnificent wooden horse... but did it just cough?

Mocking the myth of the Trojan Horse, *Ignorant Tyrant* presents what is a wonderfully FYP-ish play. It deals with an ancient Greek myth, but is extremely funny and very modern. Writer/director Joel Langis plays with the absurdity of accepting a giant wooden horse as a sign from the gods, since this idea is difficult to swallow for a modern audience.

With a set consisting of only a one-by-two-metre board with part of a horse drawn on its side, and actors in some Greek-looking robes, the poor production value is firmly overshadowed by Langis's strong script.

The play consists mostly of the Priest telling the King of Troy that the horse is a sign from the gods, while the increasingly desperate General argues otherwise. The conversation becomes funnier and more ridiculous when the soldiers inside the giant horse accidentally become known, and claim to be the God "Zeupollo," after they blurt out the names of separate gods at once. The discourse only gets more humorous as the priest becomes more convinced and the General more frustrated.

Despite a lack of resolution, the play uses its time and production constraints well with a hilarious script as a strong backbone. - JP

### Death is a Salesman

He sells vacuum cleaners and life insurance and solicits door-to-door. He wears a gray wool suit. He has a Scottish accent and he's the grim spectre of death.

Written, directed and partially preformed by Ken Thompson, *Death is a Salesman* follows the Grim Reaper as he brings about death and hawks his cheap wears. Also dispensing love advice and a fair amount of foreshadowing, the play later focuses on the fated relationship of a couple of love-struck geeks.

After receiving the advice of "Mr. Grim," Warren, who has never kissed a girl, and Sandra, who has long admired Warren from across the hall, attempt a relationship. This ends, as do nearly all the scenes in the play, with death — after Warren tries a little too hard for what he's "saving for marriage."

Abounding with lamenting monologues of how Warren desperately wants to "make the jiggy" and Sandra's childhood as an ugly girl, the play thrives on the faux melodrama.

Mixing death, sexuality and awkwardness, *Death is a Salesman* is quite funny, if somewhat unpolished in its blocking and acting. - JP

## SuperSex in the SuperCity

Your sex questions answered

DAVE WENTWORTH  
*Sexpert*

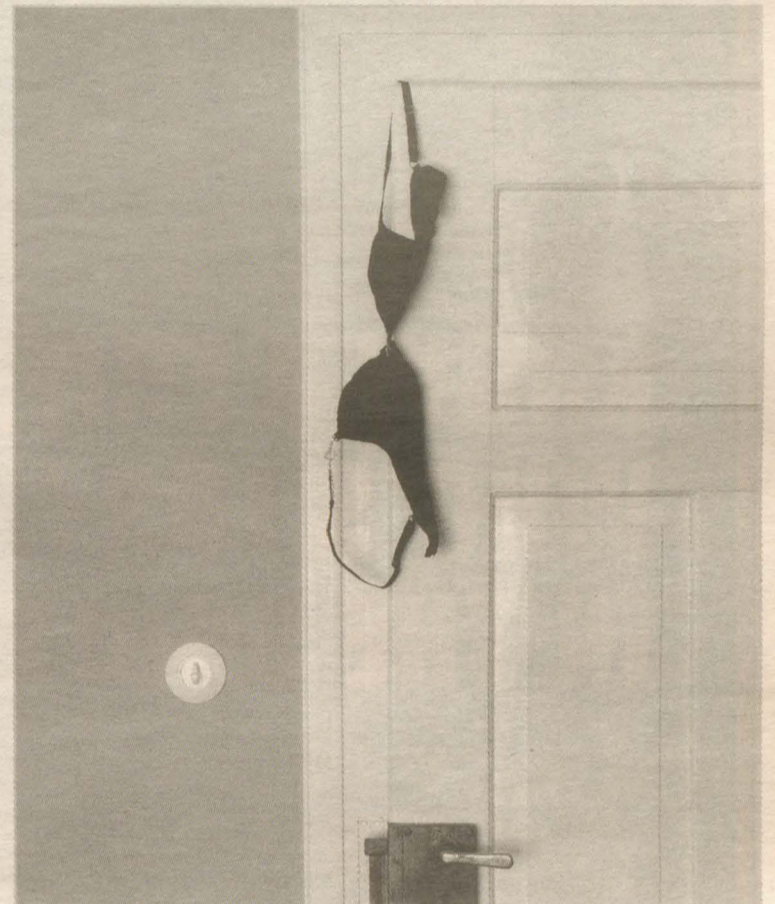
**Q:** I want to know what the average amount of times a couple has sex in a week. My boyfriend wants it twice a day, and I only want it twice a week. Sometimes I have sex because he tells me he needs it, and sometimes he thinks that he doesn't turn me on enough. Do you have any advice for us?

**A:** There is no real average number for frequency. The amount of sexual activity experienced by each couple will vary on a number of factors. It's also normal for a couple to start off having sex very frequently, perhaps even daily, during a honeymoon phase. This period of time can last anywhere from a few weeks to a few months.

Go with the flow and have sex as much or as little as it suits your tastes and desires. Everybody has their own mood. If your boyfriend is upset he'll get over it. After all, it's not like he can't take matters into his own hands if he's that worked up. Also, it's important to reassure him that you're preoccupied, and not in the mood for sex.

**Q:** My balls itch a lot. At first I went to my doctor, they checked to see if there was any lice or crabs, and there wasn't. I was glad about that but my nuts still itch all the time. Is this a sign that I am oversexed?

**A:** This is no doubt an uncomfortable and distracting problem. It's good that you can rule out anything having to do with pubic crabs or lice. While I cannot say for sure what is causing your itchiness, you may want to try a new soap or laundry detergent. Perhaps you are getting a bad reaction from your clothing. Also, maybe switching from boxers to briefs may help make the area less heated and airless.



Go with the flow and have sex as much or as little as it suits your tastes and desires.

**Q:** I have a question that is really embarrassing for me. Whenever I have sex with my girlfriend I end up cumming too quickly and cannot get an erection again. My girlfriend really turns me on and I am so excited when we have sex. How can I slow myself down so I can enjoy the moment longer?

**A:** If you find it easy enough to climax twice in one evening, I would suggest masturbating before you're on a date with your girlfriend. This way, you'll be able to relax and not feel the urge to have sex so abruptly. Also, if your girlfriend does

something to you that takes you close to climax, such as performing oral sex, wait until the end of your sex play to get into it. When you're getting started, focus on ways to warm up, and don't forget to focus on her sexual needs and happiness, too.

If you're in a new relationship, you will also find that it's easier to have sex for longer periods of time as the relationship matures. In fact, most couples report that the sex they experience after being together for even a few months is often longer-lasting, and more satisfying on a deeper level.

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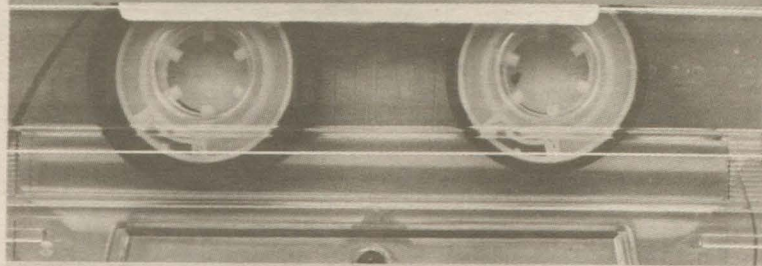
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## Burn Baby Burn



### Unintentionally funny songs

**SIDE A: Sarah Feldman / Staff Contributor**

Neutral Milk Hotel's classic album, *In an Aeroplane Over the Sea*, contains several weird, random allusions to Anne Frank. My favourite occurs in "Oh Comely." In the midst of what seems to be a straight-ahead (albeit kind of perverse) seduction song, Jeff Magnum suddenly starts singing about his crush on Frank and his hope of rescuing her in "some sort of time machine." It's an awful line, but somehow that doesn't seem to matter — maybe because one of Magnum's great charms as a lyricist is his ability to slide from the brilliant to the are-you-stoned with a straight face.

Most of Neutral Milk Hotel's songs I've chosen, like "Oh Comely," seem to be unintentionally funny. They contain mounds of clichés, nonsense, or melodrama that somehow amount to something — or at least make you love a songwriter all the more for his terrible decisions. But at least a few of those decisions (the swing band that accompanies Paul Westerberg's I-hate-myself-and-I-want-to-die fest in "Can't Hardly Wait") seem intended precisely to leave the song suspended between brain-fart kitsch and ironic genius.

This is the terrifying thing about pop, at least for those of us who like our art in colour-coordinated cubbyholes — it's impossible to distinguish what makes a song work from what makes it laughable. Take, for instance, the moment in "Sunday Morning" when Reed sings, "Watch out! The world's behind you!" with wondering breathiness. Is that good music? Would it still be good if it was used in the theme for a children's show, juxtaposed, say, with the image of a kid flying through the clouds on the back of a happy dragon?

These things keep me up at night.

- "Oh Comely" - Neutral Milk Hotel
- "I Luv the Valley Oh" - Xiu Xiu
- "Water and Air" - Cat Power
- "You Don't Know How It Feels" - Tom Petty
- "I'm a Wheel" - Wilco
- "Black-Eyed Dog" - Nick Drake
- "Dress Rehearsal Rag" - Leonard Cohen
- "Centre of the World" - Bright Eyes
- "Can't Hardly Wait" - The Replacements
- "Sunday Morning" - Velvet Underground

**SIDE B: Hillary Titley / Staff Contributor**

These songs make me laugh because of the memories they conjure up. They are basically a play list for a high school, Niner-Minor dance of the late 90s, which brings me back to a time before interest and good taste in music got a hold on me.

These are manufactured pop hits meant to capitalize on the teen angst market, but my laughter stems from my genuine emotional connection to them. What is funnier than a 14-year-old girl in a twin-set and cargo pants feeling the lyrics of Limp Bizkit? Hey, I didn't know any better, and my embarrassment is certainly not worth tears, so I might as well listen and laugh.

- "Nookie" - Limp Bizkit
- "American Psycho" - Treble Charger
- "What's my name again?" - Blink 182
- "Without Me" - Eminem
- "Butterfly" - Crazy Town
- "The Bad Touch" - Bloodhound Gang
- "Sweet Dreams" - Marilyn Manson
- "Song 2" - Blur
- "Swallowed" - Bush
- "Walkin' on the Sun" - Smash Mouth



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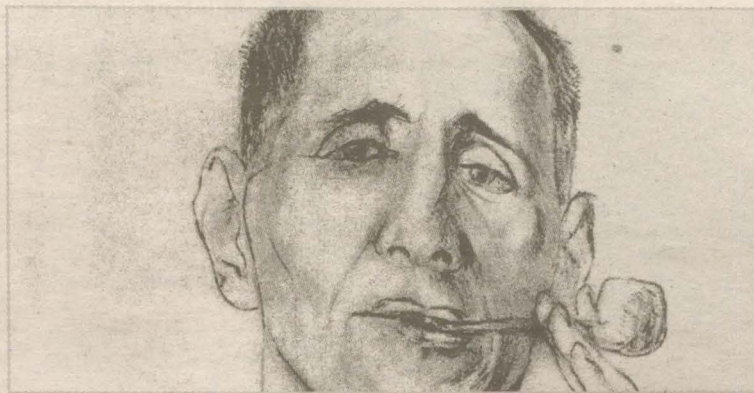
## DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see page 8.

## A professor and a student

### DalTheatre head aids in fostering the dramatic theories of tomorrow

RAY CORKUM  
Staff Contributor



Bertolt Brecht: "The world takes a crazy turn when the teachers themselves are taught to learn."

Playwright Bertolt Brecht once said, "The world takes a crazy turn when the teachers themselves are taught to learn."

An advocate of Epic Theatre, Brecht maintained that the world of the stage should never mollify its audience, that allowing narrative to coddle the crowd's imagination was a failure. He advocated works of action that invoked self-reflection and intellectual awakening.

Dr. David Overton is a student of Brecht's work, citing the German playwright and his contemporary Antonin Artaud as defining influences in his work and world view. The Berkley-educated head of the Dalhousie theatre department describes great stage work as "people in action" used to create "greater human understanding."

The latest DalTheatre season, which is subtitled *Rebels with a Cause*, focuses on societal unrest in works such as *King Ubu*, a play that incited a riot on the night of its 1896 premiere.

Overton hopes that *Rebels* will help in "coming to some understanding of people and how they work within certain situations" and thus force everyone to look at the role they play in the grand scheme of things.

Director of several professionally produced plays — including *Take*

*Twelve, Tales From a Tokyo Verandah* and *Early Bloom* — Overton has always felt a personal conflict in the theatre. As a professor, his responsibility is to teach the theoretical and practical aspects of the stage, based on standardized texts. Critical essays and structural studies are prevalent, but Overton says that completely breaking the creative process into "nuts and bolts" is a mistake.

The dichotomy between the director's chair and the classroom has deeply influenced the professor and, in turn, influenced the program.

The pressures of educating the next generation have worn on the professional careers of professor Overton and his wife, Jennifer Overton, an actress and member of the faculty. It's simple to maintain contact within the industry, but time seems to be a restraining factor for Overton.

"In earlier years, I would direct

all through the summer," says Overton with a look that conveys just how exhausting such endeavours are in combination with his responsibilities at the university. "But now, I'm content to write."

Overton, who's attempting to create a rich experience for DalTheatre students, says he's currently focused on creating progress within the program. Hands-on experience within the theatre community — such as incorporating a "work term" into the curriculum and establishing mentorship systems for graduates in an effort to facilitate their arrival into professional theatre — are ideas in development.

Even though actors, directors and writers are constantly creating cutting-edge approaches to theatre, Overton says such theories are invariably sculpted by the concepts and thinkers of yesterday.

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

## THIS WEEK'S PICKS

Entertainment Pick by Hillary Tittley / Staff Contributor

Podcast personality Karl Pilkington

Ricky Gervais' fans have been aware of his human pet, the colossally obtuse Karl Pilkington, before the free podcast they produce, along with Stephen Merchant, became a Guinness World Record holder for most downloaded podcast.

Gervais and Merchant discovered Pilkington at XFM Radio in London during their pre-*The Office* disc-jockey days when Pilkington was assigned to produce their radio show. What was originally two hours of Gervais and Merchant became two hours of Gervais prying out the opinions of Pilkington. This is, of course, once Gervais discovered those opinions included: Asian people don't age well, *The Elephant Man* is a great movie solely for the freak value, and Rod Stewart's song, "The Killing of George," might never have happened if gay men didn't go out so late.

The *Ricky Gervais Show* podcast was conceived by Gervais and Merchant as a means of showing off Pilkington's thick-headed thought processes and slow, slothful delivery. Everything Pilkington says sounds like it was a struggle to be forming in his head and communicating

through his thick, Manchester accent.

The comedy of the show is derived from Pilkington not knowing what he's saying, as well as Gervais and Merchant badgering his thoughts out of him. Gervais now says that the show title is misleading as listeners are tuning in solely to hear what vaguely off-colour things Pilkington's ignorance will allow him to say.

Now that the podcast has introduced Pilkington to the world, a cottage industry of tribute merchandise and media has been created. Reuters dicked up on a story about a T-shirt and dance track inspired by Pilkington's statement "I could eat a knob at night," and *Wikipedia* posted an entry on him.

Pilkington is a comedy phenomenon thanks to Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant's cajoling and clout in creating the podcasts. It can be assumed that after the unexpected, record-making success of this batch of free podcasts, the next one will be made available for a price — Pilkington can't be that stupid.

Visit *Gervais, Merchant and Pilkington* at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/ricky-gervais> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl\\_Pilkington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Pilkington)

Spin Spin Sugar by Sarah Feldman / Staff Contributor

Xiu Xiu  
*Life and Live*  
Xeng

It would be pointlessly uninformative to call Xiu Xiu's recent live album, *Life and Live*, sparse, since the word applies to just about every Xiu Xiu creation — from the quasi-pop of *Knife Play* to the noise-infused *Fabulous Muscles*.

Xiu Xiu singer/songwriter/guitarist Jamie Stewart has made a career out of bare musical architecture and raw, spastic vocals. But *Life and Live*, recorded during Stewart's 2003 solo tour with Devendra Banhart, takes these minimalists leanings to a new level.

Stripped of the noisy exuberance of his bandmates' contributions, Stewart brings his bi-polar delivery — oscillating from wispy and broken to loud and freaked-out — into even starker relief, if that's possible.

This isn't to say that *Life and Live* is all unrelenting despair and tone-deaf panic; as always with Stewart, these are staples, but the album is also frequently very funny.

If anything, the live Stewart seems to have more comedy going for him than in the studio albums, since in the absence of supporting parts, he's often left pushing his voice to its limits, punctuating songs with psychotic whispers and girlish shrieks.

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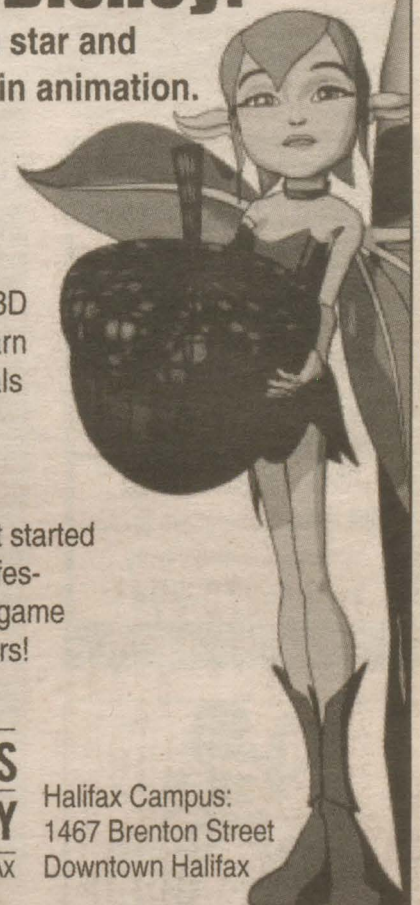
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Report Card

Ermine CD Release Party / The Attic / Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006



Reporter: Hillary Titley  
Photographer: Megan Wennberg  
Stage Presence: A  
Audience Reaction: A-  
Sound: A-  
Get-it-on-Ability: A

Ermine played to an enthusiastic crowd at The Attic to celebrate

the band's new CD, *The Murra*. Heads bobbed in obvious delight to the enthusiastic playing of Matt Belyea, Chuck Teed and Mike Belyea. At the loud show, the players were skillful in not letting their music become a wall of sound, though sometimes the vocals became slightly lost in the mix. Unfortunately, the crowd

thinned slightly as the evening wore on, but I blame the depopulation on lost souls from a pub-crawl repatriating The Dome dance floor. Such patrons, I found, also elevated the Get-it-on-Ability rating to Barry White levels — interesting, since getting-it-on at a hard rock show such as this usually means just givin' 'er head-banging.

Local Crop

John Packman / Staff Contributor

David Court  
A?S?L?

David Court's painting/media installation, *A?S?L?*, presents a group of paintings that are seen through the eye of a web-cam. As such, the faces in the paintings are always the focal point, but are only occasionally centered with imperfect lighting and detail.

In these modern portraits, few of Court's subjects look at the viewer. They may not even know someone is watching them as they stare at unseen screens. These portraits are striking, as the faces are either emotionless or bored and are never looking at the camera.

This leads to an awkward disconnection between the subjects and the

viewer. The idea that the portraits no longer have an interest in existing seems to be the basis of Court's discussion.

Despite the fascinating discourse surrounding the value of pictures in today's digital society, the installation is fairly unimpressive.

There are only a dozen paintings displayed, with a total of 14 different faces. Each subject is unique and interesting. For Court's intended effect, however, it's necessary to overload the audience with these distinct and uninterested people, thereby degrading their individuality.

His works are well painted and certainly worth casually displaying, but as an installation, they don't seem to be substantial enough to make a serious impact.

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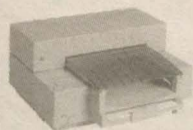


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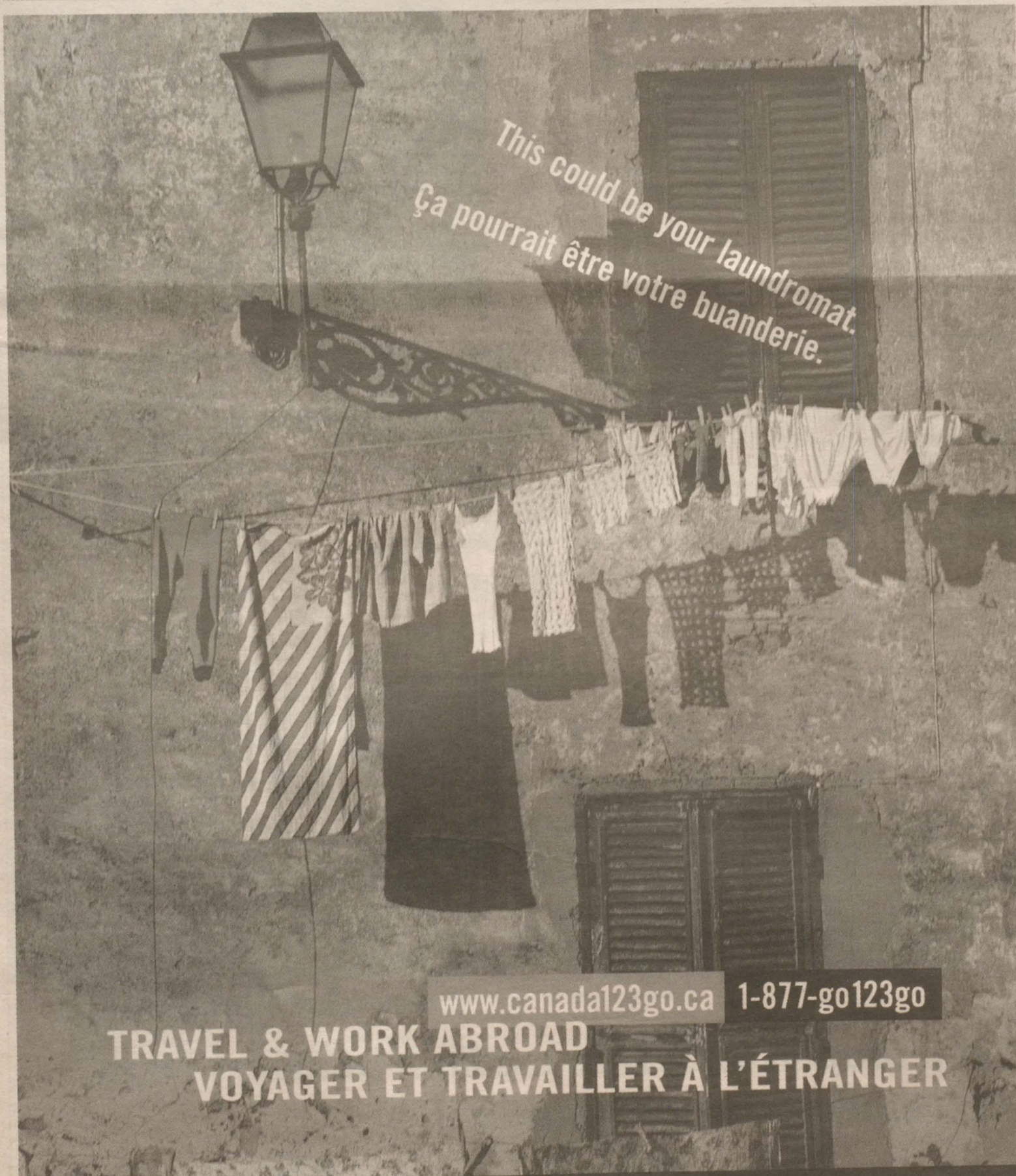
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# Tigers dominate AUS swimming championship

DAVID WILKIE  
Sports Contributor

When the Dalhousie Tigers men's and women's swim teams left for Fredericton, N.B., on Feb. 10 to compete in the 2006 AUS swimming championship, the team did so looking to score one final victory and to stay undefeated for the season.

After three tough days of racing, the lady Tigers outpaced UNB, MUN and Mt. A. to capture Dal's fifth consecutive title and seventh in the last eight seasons.

Kiera Aiken, the female swimmer of the meet, led the women's squad. The Tigers were the class of the pool and defeated rival UNB by a score of 324-106.

Aiken, Melissa Spencer, Ashley Aiken, Magda Gawlik, Lauren Dorrington, Gemma Lawson and Amy Logobardi won their respective events, and the Tigers won 14 of 16 events overall and all three relays.

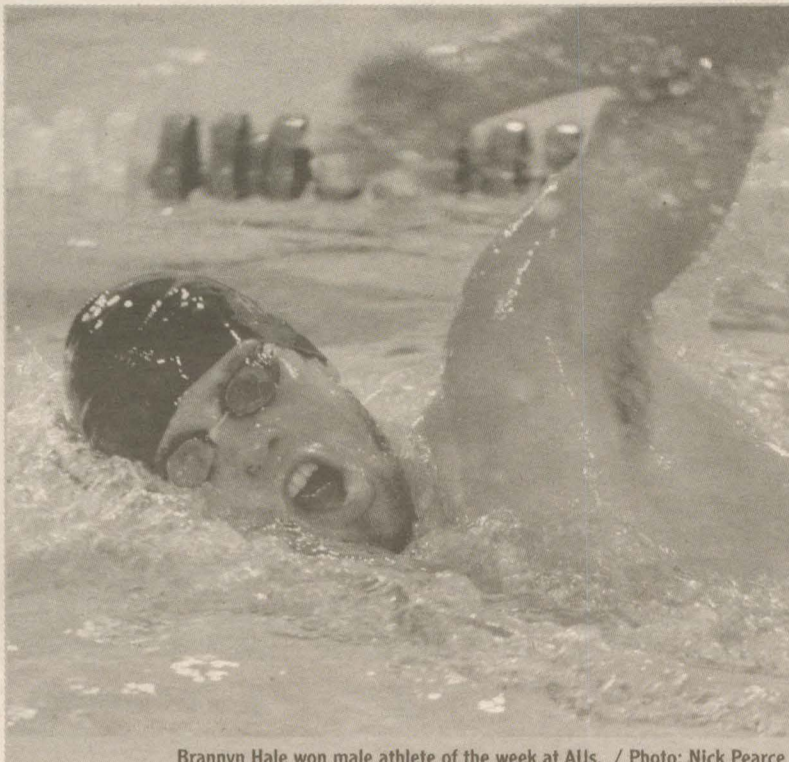
Longobardi won the gold medal in the 200-m butterfly and was awarded female rookie of the meet honours.

On the men's side, Dalhousie, once again asserted its dominance of the AUS and won the conference championship for the eighth consecutive year.

The Tigers swam against a talent-laden UNB squad and scored a number of upset victories en route to a 272-169 win.

Fifth-year swimmer and CIS finalist Andy White led the men with four victories, which included an exciting come-from-behind victory in the 200-m backstroke.

Male rookie of the meet Brannyn Hale was a triple event winner for



Brannyn Hale won male athlete of the week at AUs. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Dal. Bryce Tung, Doug Young, Nate Campbell and Graham Smith also picked up wins for the Tigers.

CIS gold medalist Daniel Monid of UNB won male swimmer of the meet honours for his performances in the sprint freestyle events.

James Mowbray, the captain of the men's team and an Academic All-Canadian, says he was impressed with both teams' accomplishments.

"We were a little apprehensive coming into the competition, because UNB has one of the strongest teams they've had in a long time, but in the end we handled it well," says Mowbray. "I think it came down to

who wanted it more."

Head coach David Fry also says he was impressed with both teams' performances.

"We knew coming into the meet that our women's squad would be tough to beat and that the men would have to pull off a few upsets in order to win the title," says Fry.

"The teams showed great cohesiveness, and really inspired each other to step up and perform. Ultimately I had hoped to see a few more CIS qualifiers, but with many of our top swimmers in their first or second year, the future looks promising for both squads.



Amy Logobardi won the gold medal in the 200-m butterfly. / Photo: Nick Pearce

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# Volleyball setter contributes to Tigers' domination

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

The Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team is ranked sixth in Canada and one player who has helped the team achieve its impressive standing is fourth-year setter Scott Townsend.

Townsend, a Halifax, N.S., native, says he became involved with volleyball through his parents. His mother, a former Dal women's volleyball player, encouraged him to get involved with the game at an early age.

Before he made the jump from high school to university, Townsend suited up for Nova Scotia at the 2001 Canada Games in London, Ont. Townsend says the Canada games were a great experience and he still stays in touch with those teammates.

"Our result wasn't what we wanted it to be, but the experience as a whole was a positive thing," Townsend says.

Because of his roots in Halifax, Townsend says he always aspired to play for the Tigers, but when he was in grade 12, the Dal coaches told him there wasn't going to be an opening at his position at Dal, so he decided to go to the University of Waterloo.

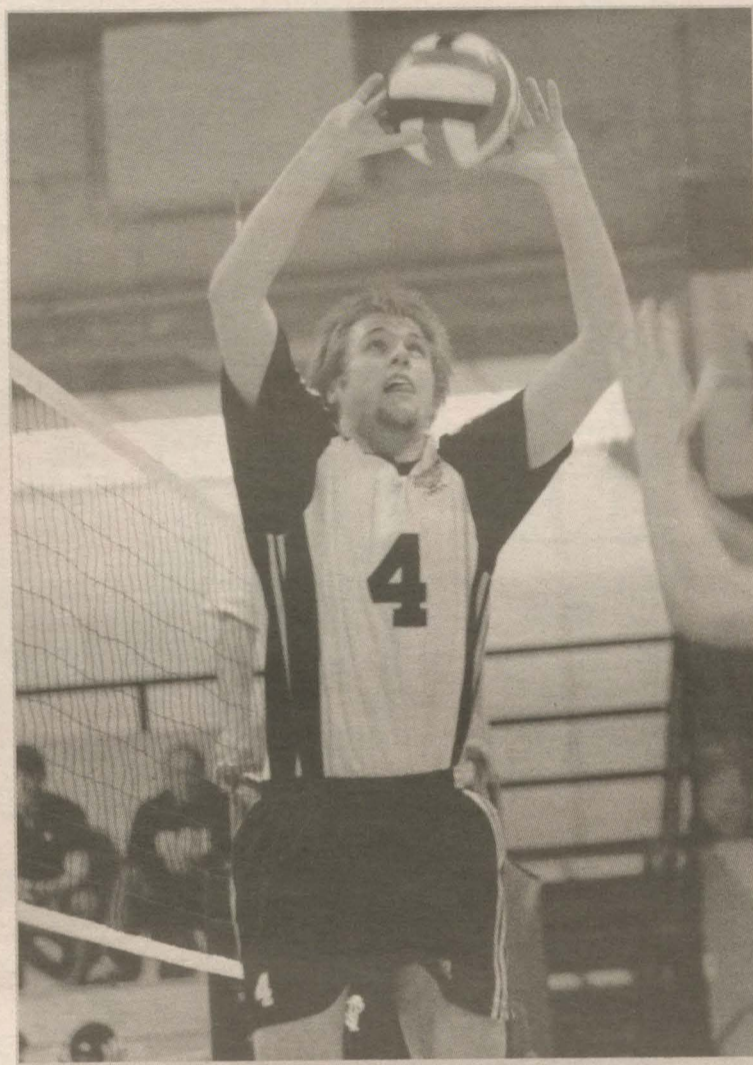
Townsend played for the Waterloo Warriors for two seasons. In his second year, he realized Waterloo's program wasn't for him, and transferred to Dal.

"After being there at one point in my second year, I decided it was time to come back here for many reasons," Townsend says. "I wanted to play for a more competitive volleyball program and that had a lot to do with it."

Townsend came to Dal in September 2003, but had to sit out the entire season because of eligibility rules. To stay sharp, Townsend practiced with the team and filled in wherever he was needed at practices.

Townsend says Dal runs its volleyball program professionally, and his first year in the AUS, 2004/2005, went well. For him, the highlight from that season was an interlock match against Montreal, when the Tigers were losing badly and head coach Dan Ota challenged the team to step up.

"Nik Rademacher was on the service line and he just really executed well," Townsend says. "Our team on



The Tigers are ranked sixth in Canada. / Photo: Nick Pearce

top of that executed as well and we came back and beat them. That was a very special moment."

Tigers' Libero Jeff Weiler says Townsend helps run the team's well-balanced offence.

"He's basically our team's quarterback, bringing extremely high levels of both leadership ability and skill," Weiler says.

"In my eyes he has had an excellent year, but more importantly, he keeps bringing his game to new levels, which is so critical as we approach the CIS championship tournament."

In many cases, athletes learn from their teammates, and Townsend is no exception. Townsend says former Tiger Adam Jones was especially influential because Jones wasn't the most heavily recruited guy. But Jones, nicknamed the Coburg Shocker, always delivered a solid performance each time he repre-

sented Dal.

"When [Jones] showed up he was a lot stronger than people thought he would be," Townsend says. "I really wanted to aspire to be like that and show people how good I could be when I first got to play last September."

Currently, Townsend studies management and hopes to study law in the future. Townsend also plans to stay involved with volleyball after his finishes at Dal. He says he would like to play professional volleyball and later coach.

The CIS playoffs are on the horizon. The team has a lot of positive momentum from its success to this point. Townsend says it's key that the team takes its training sessions seriously.

"It's very important that we push each other in practice every day and show up completely focused on making improvements."

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

FEMALE ATHLETE (Week Ending Feb. 12th)



KIERE AITKEN  
SWIMMING

Kiera Aitken made serious waves at the AUS swimming championship held Feb. 10 to Feb. 12 in Fredericton where she was named female athlete of the meet. She took top spot in all four individual events in which she was entered, and she was part of two relay victories. Aitken won the 50-m, 100-m and 200-m backstroke events as well as the 50-m freestyle. Along with other members of the Tigers swim team, she captured the 400-m freestyle relay and the 400-m medley relay. The team amassed 324 points for an overall victory with its closest competing school, UNB, counting only 106 points.

MALE ATHLETE (Week Ending Feb. 12th)



BRANNYN HALE  
SWIMMING

Brannyn Hale had an outstanding AUS championship debut at the UNB-hosted swimming championship where he swam his way to male rookie of the meet honours. He took first place in the 200-m and 400-m freestyle races and the 100-m butterfly and was fifth in the 1500-m freestyle. Hale was also a member of three relay teams that took top spot in the 800-m freestyle relay and took second place in the 400-m freestyle and 400-m medley relays. Collectively, the Tigers amassed 272 points to win the overall title over second-place UNB with 169 points.

FEMALE ATHLETE (Week Ending Feb. 19th)



JILLIANE GOULET  
VOLLEYBALL

Jilliane Goulet had an excellent championship weekend as Dalhousie hosted the AUS women's volleyball championship. In the semifinal win over the UNB Varsity Reds, Goulet collected 13 kills and hit .308 per cent along with 10 digs and three stuff blocks as the Tigers swept the match 3-0. In Sunday's final against SMU, Goulet was the leading attacker in the match and collected 17 kills in the five-set thriller. She also contributed defensively with one stuff block and 19 digs in the losing cause. She was selected as Dalhousie's player of the game on Sunday and was also named to the championship all-star team.

MALE ATHLETE (Week Ending Feb. 19th)



NIKLAS RADEMACHER  
VOLLEYBALL

Niklas Rademacher was named Dalhousie's player of the game for his outstanding efforts in Sunday's AUS men's volleyball championship final. The Tigers awaited the winner of Saturday's semifinal match between the UNB Varsity Reds and the Memorial Sea-Hawks. On Sunday the team showed it was ready to play by taking down the Varsity Reds in straight sets. Rademacher led the cause for the Tigers with 17 kills and a hitting percentage of 0.412.

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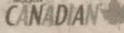

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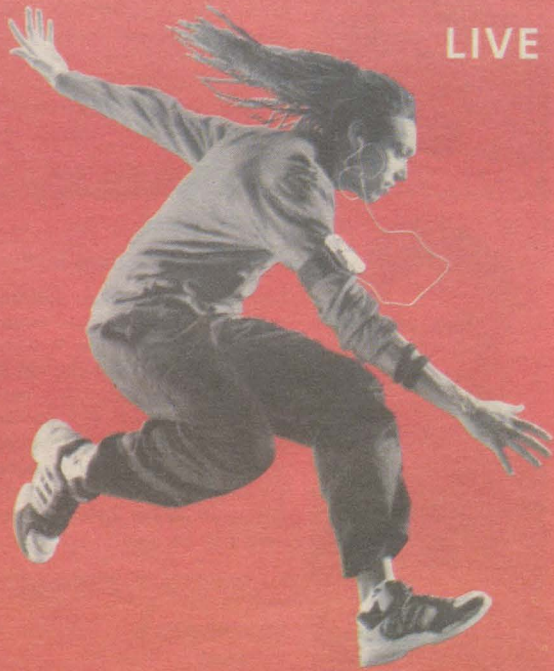
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