



The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

Spirituality

.....
DSU DECISION
.....

NO TO DAL PG. 4



**DALHOUSIE
STUDENT
UNION**

DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

Dalhousie Student Union Food Bank

The food bank is located in the basement of the SUB in the health plan office and is open to all students, faculty, staff and members of the Dalhousie Community.

The food bank is a service offered by YOUR Student Union that is aimed to help those living with food insecurity in our community. Anyone is welcome to use the food bank. Whether money is tight while waiting for student loans or lines of credit to come in, or whether you need long term assistance, please use the DSU food bank.

The food bank is open from 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday with extended hours until 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings.

For more information visit www.dsu.ca

Grawood News & Specials

Open Every Monday thru Friday for lunch at 11:30-1:30pm

Join us for Wing Nights every Wednesday night from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Wings are only 30 cents!!!

Come try our Burger, Fries and a Draft special for just \$5.95 every Thursday from 5:00pm - 9:00pm. Why not stay for Trivia night? The Grawood hosts an exciting game of Trivia every Thursday starting at 9:00pm, so come out and test your knowledge!

Join us on Facebook at The **GRAWOOD** Campus Pub

Dal Tigers Varsity Christmas Party

Friday, December 3

Varsity Council is hosting a party for all students, faculty and staff at the Grawood who are 19+. There will be a \$3.00 cover charge that will be donated to a charity of their choice. DJ Psycho Sykes will be playing and of course there will be power hours from 9:00 -10:00 and 11:00 - 12:00.

Last Class Bash

Tuesday, December 7

Looking for one last hurrah before you start buckling down for finals? You won't want to miss Signal Hill at the Grawood! The show starts at 9:00pm and cover is only \$5.00. You may want to come early though as this promises to be a huge event! The kitchen will be open all day starting at 11:30am with 30cent wings specials beginning at 1:30pm. And of course there will be power hours from 1:00 -2:00, 9:00 - 10:00 and 11:00 - 12:00!!!!

Tiger Patrol

DSU encourages all students, faculty and staff not to walk home alone! Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm - 12:30am). Check out this site for full details: http://fm.dal.ca/tiger_patrol.htm

Check us out on the web
www.dsu.ca

December 3 - December 31, 2010 •

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The Dalhousie Gazette

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the fine print.

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

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LAST CLASS BASH TUE DEC 7

SIGNAL HILL PERFORMING LIVE

**\$5 COVER / 19+
9:00PM**

**KITCHEN OPEN
ALL DAY
BEGINNING
AT 11:30AM**

**30c WINGS
START AT
1:30PM**

**POWER
HOURS
1PM-2PM
9PM-10PM
11PM-12AM**

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from the editor.

from the editor

E-mail Joel at editor@dalgazette.com

Joel Tichinoff Editor-in-Chief



Sagging spirituality? ••• Photo by Joel Tichinoff

Interview: Dr. Wayne Hankey

Joel Tichinoff: What is spirituality?

Wayne Hankey: Spirituality is a very vague word. I think it's the practiced way that individuals and groups relate themselves to everything and are related to everything; to themselves, to others, to nature, to spirits.

JT: Does spirituality, as a means of relation to everything, require a belief in the divine?

WH: No. No I don't think that spirituality, although it usually has, needs the divine. It doesn't have to have a god, the practice has generally had gods, but there very highly developed spiritualities that don't have a god; one thinks of Buddhism and Confucianism and so on. One could even say, at least in the present time, there can be an enmity between the divine and a developed spirituality. There's a way in which people can just have 'god' and, in virtue of that, they don't have the 'practiced relation to the world.' For them that 'having god' somehow counts as spirituality and they don't have to work out all the relations. Many of the spiritual exercises that are practiced, even in the West, don't need god, they just generally have had a god in them. Many types of spirituality also don't need soul or have differing understandings of soul.

JT: Spirituality then is also separate from religion?

WH: There are many spiritualities even within religions so there isn't an equation between religion and spirituality. Religions generally include spirituality. If one were to explore the number of spiritualities that are cultivated let us say in something as gigantic as the Roman Catholic Church the difference between the spiritualities of the Jesuits and the Dominicans and the Franciscans is enormous. Nor does religion imply the sacred or divine. In the religion our geographically and temporally limited portion of human history and activity has adopted, let's call it for a moment secular humanism, everything has been desecrated and 'the gods' have fled. I think what's most interesting at the present time is that, for a great part of the 19th and 20th centuries the elites expected that things would move ever-more towards religion in this sense, with the 'old' spiritualities becoming peripheral and private. But the burst of flames in New York City on 9/11 announced that something different was taking place and that this was as a public and real fact. To some extent we are, along with the United States and some others, making war with this re-birth of certain kinds of traditional spiritualities which make a demand of the whole of life and find that the modernity to which we have attached ourselves is desecrating what is most fundamental to them. One can speak of the many types of spiritualities but one that people really thought would disappear is now not only clearly coming back but is coming back demanding that religion in a traditional sense is a public power and fact.

JT: Does spirituality require a certain specific form of knowledge?

WH: It would be very rare and unusual for a human spirituality to not involve knowing. It's certainly very important. Although, one has to be very careful about that. There are forms of spirituality that are fundamentally about knowing, but not all by any means. One may look at the spiritualities of the various schools in antiquity, some of which continue down to the present time, as having a developed spirituality of knowing. The developed spirituality of an Aristotelian is to be what we call a scientist; to develop the theoretical life and to know things and to know things thoroughly, to be satisfied with the knowing of reality and to find that the highest form of life and happiness. There are in the present day those, even if they don't think about it that way and even if they don't think about god (and Aristotle did think about god a lot by the way), who follow the discipline of science.

JT: Is the University, as a space dedicated to acquisition of knowledge, a spiritual place?

WH: I hope there are quite a number of spiritualities in a University. I think as a whole the University has bought into perhaps one of the most destructive spiritualities which is to say the tying of theory to technology for the sake of the conquest of nature, both human and external. That appears to be the current dominant relationship practiced, but there are others within it, some of which appear to be running in the clear opposite direction. Although I think one of the terrifying things about contemporary universities is the degree to which all of the other alternatives are more and more sucked into the fundamental tying of theory to technology for the sake of economic domination. In the present time I think in our world there is an enormous spiritual illiteracy. The practices that were developed even throughout our own history, beginning with the practices in the philosophical schools by which one learned to discipline the self, care for the self, to direct the self, and so on, as a means of development, with sometimes a very self-conscious relationship to god or not. At any rate a whole series of spiritual techniques were developed which were then taken up by the Christian church, Islam and Judaism as well. What's interesting in our world is how little of this is known, how few directors there are, and, I think, in many ways, how much it is sought. Yes, but, there is just an enormous kind of basic illiteracy about how one would begin to care for the self.

JT: Is that illiteracy a bad thing?

WH: That illiteracy is definitely a bad thing. It's a very bad thing. It's really as bad as all the other illiteracies we have. The illiteracy we have about, well given the state of our private and public education systems, about natural science, literature, scripture, or about most everything. There's an enormous illiteracy and of course the current dominant spirituality is of mass culture which is primarily about forms of distraction. Facebook, the awful things people stick next to their heads in order to develop brain cancer, producing weird commotions

with their thumbs all the time, these are all the kinds of distraction where no one can even come close to even the initial forms of spirituality that lie at the heart of our culture, which depend upon silence, a capacity to be alone, to acquire depth. You might say that the first element of spirituality in the old, and I think, good sense, is the capacity to pay attention. To attend, to listen, to see, to find poise, and you might say that currently the form of life in the cave manipulated by the powers that be which are generally economic powers, are precisely to prevent any kind of this attentive, inward reflection, and, I think, freedom. The dominant spirituality, which goes with the contemporary illiteracy, is one which prevents freedom.

JT: Why prevent freedom?

WH: Well, to serve our economic priorities. The last thing our economic system wants is for us to be free; and what is so extraordinary is we have a dominant, though fading, world power with a faith which happens to identify freedom with economic freedom and that has come to be identified with a certain kind of consumer choosing. I don't have to tell you about all the troubles with that experiment. But the last thing that the people who profit from this, and they are getting to be a smaller and smaller group who are getting richer and richer, want is any kind of attentiveness or freedom, or to use the Platonic language, conversion; the capacity for people to break out of what they are trapped into and to turn around. It's not at all uninteresting that the people who were occupying the Red Mosque in Islamabad about a year ago were reading Adam Smith. Because it let them see the spirituality of the western world which they were opposing, that there the economic was the primary reality, that it didn't need to be held within the political and the religious. There's no question that in the current western ideologies there is a worship of the economic.

JT: If spirituality is a practice which people can devote themselves to at differing levels of commitment, does that mean that there will always be a 'spiritual elite'?

WH: Yes it does. That of course is one of the reasons there was in modernity a turn against the old spiritualities because they all did depend upon the development of elites: people who are more highly developed in the practice who then become guides and exemplars. I don't see how it can be avoided.

JT: Do we need spirituality?

WH: It is not a question of do we need it, it's inevitable.

—JT

Dr. Wayne Hankey is the Carnegie Professor of Classics and Chair of the Classics department. He has studied Classics, philosophy and theology at King's, Oxford and UofT, has held research positions at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Boston College and was founding director of the King's Foundation Year Programme.

corrections.

• In last week's Gazette (142-12), the article "Two Dal profs passionate about spinal chord research" was incorrectly attributed to writer Samantha Ostrov. In fact, fellow News writer Samantha Chown authored that profile of grant-winning Dal researchers. We deeply regret failing to acknowledge Chown's excellent work in putting together that story.

• In the Nov. 26 edition, the Sports article about the Cross country championships carried an incorrect headline. "Belliveau 15th, Gorman 17th at cross-country nationals" was only half right. Gorman in fact finished 46th, and the men's team overall finished 17th.

• In Sport, the story "One pretty win" by Natasha White incorrectly stated that the women's basketball game between UPEI and Dalhousie took place in PEI. In fact, it took place right here in the DalPlex.

The Gazette regrets these and future errors

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news

news covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Samantha at news@dalgazette.com

Samantha Durnford News Editor



DSU turns down joint food offer

Approves exploring a self operated food service

Samantha Durnford
News Editor

The Dalhousie Student Union has voted against accepting the university's proposal to join food contracts. Only one council member voted in favour of the merger. Instead, President Chris Saulnier suggests exploring a self-operated food service.

"I'm proposing that over the next year we enter an extensive student consultation," he says. "And come up with a business plan for if we do food service ourselves, how would we do it in regards to quality and type of food, SUB hours, franchises we want, etc."

He says, however, that since services are currently run under an exclusive contract, the DSU can't "jump into" a self-operated food service in time for June 2011.

Therefore, he proposed a motion to extend the current Sodexho contract for another year while the DSU works out the kinks of running their own food services.

Michael Kennedy, of the Dalhousie Liberty Society was at the meeting and says he's glad the DSU didn't approve the joint food service agreement.

"I think the agreement wouldn't have benefited us," he says. "What we'd like to see is a food-court style, like an

open market, with all kinds of food service providers and could compete for renting space. Students would have more choice."

He says he's optimistic that the DSU can manage the food services.

"What we'd like to see is a food-court style, like an open market, with all kinds of food service providers."

"Chris Saulnier is pretty passionate about food service reforms, and the cards are aligning in our favour in terms of this contract ending and a lot of council and student support to really get the food services re-evaluated to the benefit of the students."

Dustin Griffin, the council representative for Law students, was the only recorded vote in favour of joint food services.

"Given the potential for a greatly expanded student space ... this would be our one best opportunity to do capital investment outside the walls of the current situation," he said at the meeting. "We feel the food services would be best managed by the university and the DSU doesn't have the opportunity to manage the food on the level that students need."

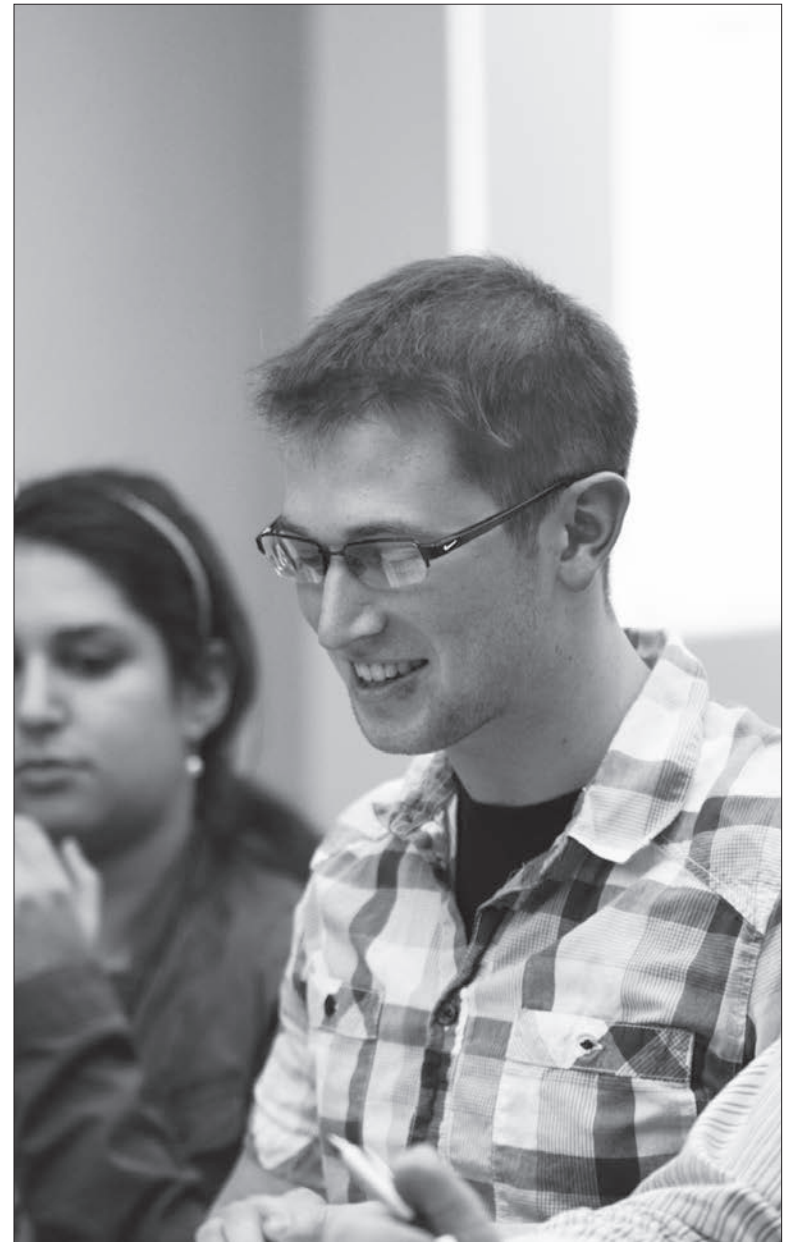
"The university is not some evil group trying to take students for all they're worth. We feel they do have the students' best interests in mind," he added.

Aaron Beale, a member of the food advocacy group the Loaded Ladle, asked if the Sodexho contract could be amended, so that come June student run operations, such as his group would be allowed to operate in the SUB.

Saulnier says, "we could maybe change some of the things in their contract, it'd make things complicated, but (Sodexho) has been very flexible in the past."

He says the DSU will continue to support the Loaded Ladle's pilot efforts to create an at-cost, fresh, student-run food service in the SUB.

Council voted and supported extending the Sodexho contract for one year so the DSU can look into self-operated options. ☺



DSU President Chris Saulnier gets his way. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

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Dal pension in trouble vote needed to implement a payment plan

Olivia Schneider
Staff Contributor

The repayment period for the Dalhousie University pension plan will be granted an extension by the province of Nova Scotia, as long as no more than one-third of the plan members object.

A pension is an accumulation of funds which employees and employers both contribute to.

Approval by plan members means that Dalhousie can implement a solvency relief plan. This means the university would have 10 years instead of five to pay off the current deficit in its pension plan.

Ken Burt, Dalhousie's vice-president of finance and administration, says "if this fails," meaning over one-third of the plan members vote against the extension, the university has a problem. Burt adds, "We haven't budgeted for this."

Pension plans are commonly evaluated using a periodic test called a solvency test. This test includes a number of measures to determine whether the plan is able to meet its obligations to retirees and employees about to retire.

Essentially, the solvency test determines whether or not the institution could provide employees what their pension promises them if the institution were to close.

These tests are administered by the province where the business or corporation is located.

Ken Burt says that Dalhousie University objects to this solvency test, since its underlying assumption is flawed.

"It starts from a faulty premise that we're going to wind up," he says, "an assumption that we're going to close the doors of the university."

He says this makes no sense, since "Dalhousie has been around longer than the province of Nova Scotia." The university is a 200-year-old institution that, Burt says, obviously isn't going anywhere. Therefore, he believes the university should be exempt from the solvency test. For example, in Alberta, universities do not have to pass a pension plan solvency test.

According to Kevin Grundy, the pension representative for the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), and a member of the chemistry faculty, the principle of the solvency test is to ensure that should a company close there will

be enough money in the plan to protect employees' pensions.

The solvency relief, Grundy said, "returns the pension to a healthy state as soon as possible." However, he adds that with a stable institution such as Dalhousie, there isn't the same urgency.

Should the plan members vote against the solvency relief the university would be required to make up the pension plan deficit in five years, not 10.

A payment of \$12.4 million would be due in March 2011, with the same annual payment due in the next five years. Burt says this money would have to come from the overall budget used to run the university.

"It's a big number," Burt says, and would dramatically impact the university's service quality. Burt says over the past seven years, \$30 million has been redirected from the university's operating budget to be reinvested in new programs. These include the new environmental sustainability program and new student financial aid funding. There has also been a big push for "fixing all the broken parts of the buildings" that needs repairs, says Burt.

According to him, this redistribution of money is part of the university president's

strategic focus.

The deadline for objections to the extension is Dec. 6, regardless if members agree by a two-thirds majority to the extension or not. Burt says the university's next step will be creating a more sustainable pension plan to avoid deficits in the future.

As one part of the creation to a sustainable plan, Burt says Dalhousie may alter the balance between employee and university contributions. Currently, the contribution from employees is a fixed amount. Burt says this may have to change as part of a long-term solution to the pension plan deficit.

"I think it is a shared problem between employee and employer," he comments. Burt says other Canadian universities have formatted pension contributions more equally and thinks Dalhousie should follow suit.

In addition to the outside media covering this issue, Burt notes there has been a great deal of discussion about the issue within the university community. He believes this is a good thing, calling it "the front edge of creating awareness" about a matter that is important to all Dalhousie employees. ☺

Skeptical of NS student assistance Discussion suggestions will be sent to the Ministry



Natasha Karzyzewski, Nick Stark, Elise Graham and Kaley Kennedy speak for students at the consultation. ••• Photo by Katrina Pyne

Katrina Pyne
Staff Contributor

More than fifty students, parents, teachers and others who are concerned with Nova Scotia's student assistance programs came together Monday night to discuss possible solutions to the student debt crisis.

This event was one of seven consultations held in the wake of the O'Neill Report. The cumulative findings of the sessions will be taken to the Minister of Education for further investigation.

Some of the discussion topics included the possibility of implementing a debt cap, parental financial support, support means for under-represented groups seeking access to post-secondary education, and unmet needs.

"Scrap of all this stuff and listen to the people here," says a man in the third row.

On several points, there was a clear distinction between the topics on the board and the message students wanted to convey.

"Our student financial assistance program should reduce the debt burden, not the ability to manage debt,"

says Kaley Kennedy, a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Scotia. The CFS also proposes non-repayable needs-based grants.

"We are building ourselves as Canada's university capital," says Natasha Karzyzewski, president of the NSCAD Student Union. "To keep students in Nova Scotia we need to lower tuition fees."

David Etherington, who is a Board of Governors representative for the King's Students' Union, says "student assistance needs to focus on getting the (debt) cap down to zero dollars."

He says the goal, should ultimately be for students to graduate without massive student debt.

Other suggestions were also proposed. Anna Pearce, a grad student at Dalhousie, and her husband Don attended. They plan to leave Nova Scotia for a province with lower tuition fees. They suggested a model of student assistance in which the student would only pay for what they couldn't earn over the culmination of summer months in their university degree. Don is currently being forced to acquire student debt to pay for his medical needs. The financial pressure, they say, is ridiculous.

A range of ideas were put forward

from students paying for only their living expenses, to a rewards-based program, to a mathematical ratio based on the proposed debt cap, net incomes, and other factors.

"My parents suck at saving money" says one girl. Another man proposes that assistance should deal with the students directly, as adults, not the families.

"Students are only allowed to receive a certain amount of money (from scholarships) before it will impact their student loan," said Dalhousie's financial registrar who was also in attendance. "I suggest that cap be raised."

Nick Stark, a second-year King's student says that even with increased financial assistance, students would still have those financial barriers initially, forcing them to work jobs during the school year. He says this is a problem when students sacrifice their academics to work three jobs to pay for their education.

"We've wasted so much time getting data and I suspect we're going to waste more time mining that data," says Etherington. "These responses are the same ones we've been getting from these discussions three years ago. What we need now is action." ☎

'One-meter rule' likely to become law

Meagan Philpott
News Contributor

A new bill brought to the House of Assembly this month will likely keep cyclist safer in Nova Scotia.

Known informally as the 'one meter rule', vehicles won't be allowed to drive within one meter of cyclists when passing them. Drivers going over 80 kilometers an hour must stay at least one and a half meters away.

Dartmouth East MLA Andrew Younger brought forth this bill in early November. The bill went through the first, of three, readings in the House.

Most recently, transportation minister Bill Estabrooks said that he will make this change to the law as a government bill, as an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act.

Younger, who committed to this bill during Bike Week in June, says this is about more than cycling safely. The one meter rule is something that the province's cycling community, including the members of Dal's Campus Bike Centre, has been lobbying for for some time.

"It's a safety issue, but what it actually

does is, in the case of an accident it actually does set the rules of the road for who's liable," says Younger. "It's a clarification for legal purposes more than anything else."

Younger hears a lot of cyclists report that cars sideswipe them and says a lot of motorists complain about cyclists.

Daniel Brown admits he's not a model commuter. He says that he often makes some poor choices as a cyclist, but he agrees that this law will give more credibility to bikers on the road.

"Even if it doesn't keep the (accident) rates down, it will give legal weight and authority to a biker as they were invisible before," says Brown.

Fellow biker, Jill Manderson, enjoys biking to campus from her home about two kilometers away.

"Sometimes when (cars) do come close, they're almost making a point that we shouldn't be on the road," she says.

Manderson agrees that this rule is as good for justice as it is for safety. "I try to visualize when it would be the cyclist's fault. If a car hits a bike going by, how could they if they aren't within a meter?"

Under the new law, Estabrooks also said that parking in bike lanes will



Parking in bike lanes will be illegal.
••• Photo by theJWDban via Flickr

be illegal.

Younger says this is an obvious next move for the Act.

"The reason you can't be ticketed for parking in a bike lane at the moment is because the laws haven't been updated to reflect that bike lanes exist," he said. "You're dealing with a motor vehicle act that's 30 years old. People weren't commuting by bicycle back then."

Younger thinks the one meter rule will be law before people take their bikes out the garage this coming spring. ☎

O'Neill takes the heat Students tell economist what's on their minds

Samantha Durnford
News Editor

Tim O'Neill finally faced the fire. In a discussion with students last week, O'Neill explained the recommendations in his report about post-secondary education in the province.

Students asked him questions, made statements, argued with him, walked out, and one even demanded an apology.

"I do think you owe students an apology for saying they wouldn't be interested in policy," said David Etherington, the Board of Governors representative for the King's Students' Union. "For suggesting we don't have alternatives for the way post-secondary education is run," he said. "I can assure you sir, that my constituents have many opinions. Please, come speak to students, come talk to us. We'll give you our two cents."

In a one on one interview after the event, O'Neill says he expected to be confronted.

"I wasn't remotely surprised with what happened tonight. If I were in the students' position, as I once was, I would probably be passionately advocating for lowering tuition fees. I understand that," said O'Neill.

However, he is not sympathetic to students' views.

"My job, my mandate, was not to sympathize with students or empathize with tax-payers," he said. "It was to say:

what does the evidence suggest should be done with tuition fees' policy, and what would be the consequences if you change the policy."

The two and a half hour discussion was more of a chance for students to say what's on their mind to O'Neill. No changes will be made to his report.

One student asked, "Is this a way for you to hear students and revise your report or is this just a show so we feel we've had our say?"

"You've had ample opportunity to have your views known," O'Neill replied. "I've looked at the evidence and looked at reports and had ample opportunity to see your viewpoints but you and I and the students here differ on the conclusions I've come to but there is no logic suggesting I need to change my report."

Students in the crowd were visibly upset when O'Neill made a statement that students were more interested in tuition fees than the restructuring of universities.

"I didn't think I was being arrogant in suggesting that students would be most interested in the tuition fee issue, but I certainly didn't mean to insult anybody by suggesting that students wouldn't have a wider range of interest than just tuition fees," said O'Neill.

Overall, O'Neill left the McCain auditorium in one piece.

"I can't say it was the most fun of my life," he said. "But, it was far from being the most difficult." ☎

news briefs

New research opportunities

Dalhousie signed an affiliation agreement with the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) on Nov. 22, opening a new door for the school's scientific researchers.

The CDRD's mission, according to cdrd.ca, is "to be a global leader in translating academic discoveries into new medicines". The organization is funded by the Canadian government, several universities and other institutions, and unites members ranging from co-op students to scientists and technicians to further drug research and development.

Joining alongside five other affiliated universities, Dal now has access to the CDRD's capital and human resources, and vice versa. The opportunity will "augment (the) strengths" of "our world-class researchers," Kevin Dunn, Acting Executive Director of Industry Liaison and Innovation at Dal told the CDRD.

Urban farm downtown?

Halifax may see agriculture in place of the unused, former Queen Elizabeth high school on Robie Street — at least temporarily.

A forum was held at the Atlantica Hotel on Nov. 21 to discuss the possibility of using the space of the building, set to be torn down in spring 2011, as an interim urban farm site.

Capital Health sees this as an opportunity to "make a bold statement toward promoting healthy food choices," Brian Rankin of Capital Health's Partners for Care program told CBC.

Capital District Health Authority has yet to make a long-term decision about the site.

Ignatieff in town

Federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff joined the controversial convention centre debate in Halifax on Nov. 25, though he didn't contribute much.

A town hall meeting was held concerning the provincial government's \$160 million project proposal to replace the current World Trade and Convention Centre. As opposition leader, Ignatieff was asked his opinion on federal funding for the project.

He played it safe by saying that he would need business plan details and consideration of similar proposals across the country before casting his opinion, according to the Chronicle Herald. The federal government may take a similar approach, though the NS government is still waiting for a response.

Universities forced to open their books

Nova Scotia Finance Minister Graham Steele introduced the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act on Nov. 26, which will mean a broader look at what happens with provincial taxpayers' money.

The new act will allow for information on universities and other private institutions that receive funding from the government. Salaries of civil servants in these areas that are \$100,000 or more will be publicly disclosed. Some employees at universities may even fall under the legislation, for example doctors employed at Dal's medical school. The first report under the act is set for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

—Samantha Ostrov
Staff Contributor

Back from Guantanamo

Dal Alum Alex Neve back from watching Khadr trial



Alex Neve says its disgraceful for a country not to go to bat for a child soldier. ••• Photos by Abram Gutscher

Samantha Durnford
News Editor

Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International and a graduate of Dalhousie Faculty of Law, came to Halifax to speak about the trial of Omar Khadr. He observed the trial in Guantanamo Bay and returned on Oct. 29.

Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen, recently plead guilty to five war crimes and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. His lawyers hope he can serve his sentence in Canada. He has been held at Guantanamo Bay since 2002, at 15-years-old.

Neve blogged for Amnesty International while watching the court proceedings and feels strongly about the Khadr case.

The Gazette: What's the motivation behind coming to speak in Halifax?

Alex Neve: I'm a Dal law grad, so I was invited here. Dalhousie is where I first became involved with Amnesty International and attended monthly meetings over in the Student Union Building. So it's always sort of nostalgic and easy to accept any invitation to come and speak.

G: What was your role at Guantanamo?

AN: As an observer, on behalf of Amnesty International globally, to watch

what was going on in the trial of Omar Khadr. Amnesty International, at the global level, has been a very strong voice and concern and criticism with respect to Guantanamo in general, and Khadr's case being one of the many concerns. And we have, when possible, tried to have observers present when significant legal proceedings are under way to be the eyes and ears of the international community, to document the concerns of what is happening in the trials and use that information in our advocacy and campaigning. To improve. And we say 'improvement' means closing Guantanamo Bay, and with respect to Khadr's case, to inform and strengthen the campaigning targeting the Canadian government. There have been serious disgraceful concerns about Canada's total unwillingness to get involved in this case.

G: Why do you say 'disgraceful'?

AN: This is disgraceful because there are significant human rights concerns at stake in his case. Not only are those that all the Guantanamo detainees have faced: unlawful detention, arbitrary arrest, unfair trials. In his case, there's the added very significant fact that when he was first apprehended by U.S. forces back in July 2002 on the battlefield in Afghanistan, he was only 15 years old. Under international law that means,

no doubt, he is a child soldier. There are very important human rights standards that, therefore govern and should be protected and safeguarded in his case.

Not only has the U.S. government refused to accord him that status, the Canadian government—the very government that lead, only a decade ago, international efforts to create those strengthened standards to protect child soldiers—has similarly refused to recognize him as a child soldier and intervene to protect his rights on that basis. It would be disgraceful for any country to not go to bat for one of their own citizens who is a child soldier. It's particularly disgraceful for Canada who had been a champion for those very standards.

G: Why do you think are they ignoring the fact that he's a child soldier?

AN: I think there are many reasons why the Canadian government hasn't intervened and one significant reason is because of his family. They're notoriously known in Canada and have very unpopular views and have publicly stated that they're fans of Bin Laden and support Al Qaeda. That clearly does not build any sympathy for the family, and therefore politicians may want to stay away.

G: Do you think the media is at fault?

AN: I think we've seen a mixture of

the media reporting and some of it has done him no favours, loves to put the word "terrorist" in the headlines when they write about him, but there has been some remarkable Canadian media attention as well, such as Michelle Shephard from the *Toronto Star*.

G: Do you think if he was of a different background the issue would be the same?

AN: There's this whole issue of second-class citizenship, and [Khadr's] is not the only case that's happened in recent years in Canada that has raised this sort of concern. Arabs, or more broadly, Muslims, first-generation and not born in Canada, are more susceptible to being given this kind of second-class citizenship, not having their rights taken seriously by the Canadian government.

It is of no surprise, and therefore should be of concern to Canadians, that many citizens that are of a Muslim background are worried that somehow their rights don't matter as much as their fellow citizens and that can never be what our country stands for.

G: Do you think that the Canadian Government is hesitant to push the U.S. government?

AN: I think there are many reasons why Canada has failed to intervene with U.S. authorities. One, being the Khadr family, but yes—another is the dynamics of the

Canada-U.S. security relationship. We know, within the United States, there are many who love to point their finger at the Northern border and say "Aha! That's the weak link on the war on terror; it's because of Canada, that's where all the terrorists come from!"

It's a political dynamic that exists and Canadian politicians are therefore often very fearful to do anything that would feed that commentary in the U.S., and I think that some have felt that intervening on behalf of Omar Khadr would be something those critics would love to see and so have stayed away from the case.

G: Do you feel personally invested in Khadr's case?

AN: I do. You can't help but feel personally gripped to this story after three trips to Guantanamo Bay.

G: Do you have a goal with what you're doing in regards to Khadr's case?

AN: I want to make sure Canadians realize that Omar Khadr's journey through justice has not come to an end, and Canadians should take action to ensure his journey does come to an end. Firstly, because his rights do matter and should be protected and secondly, because the ongoing failure to accord him his rights speaks poorly of us as a nation. **G**



FICTION ISSUE

600 WORD SHORT FICTION

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submissions by Jan. 3, 2011

BREAKING NEWS

Dal
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Frank by name, Frank by nature

David Bentley's 50 years of NS press

Sasha Downer
News Contributor

The year was 1966. At the age of 23, David Bentley had journeyed from England to Halifax, arriving at a barren rental home.

Fellow journalist, Linden MacIntyre, recalls the first time he met Bentley. "I looked across the street and saw a lonely looking guy sitting on the doorstep, (so) I went over and introduced myself. His house was empty, and he had no furniture ... but he had a bottle of Scotch and two teacups."

With only two years of experience as a working journalist, Bentley decided it was time to leave the north of England. He sent letters to countless newspapers in the U.S and Canada before receiving two responses: one from the *Wichita Beacon* in Kansas, the other from *The Halifax Herald Limited*. Maybe it was his admitted poor geographic sense, maybe it was his desire to wear a lumberjack shirt in public, but Bentley gravitated towards the colder climate.

Even as a boy, Bentley knew what he wanted to do. As a man in his late 60s, he's still doing it. In July of 2010, friends and family gathered at Halifax's Midtown Tavern to celebrate Bentley's 50th year as a journalist. Throughout his long career Bentley has started a handful of outlets, including *The Bedford Sackville News*, *The Halifax Daily News*, *Frank Magazine*, *Ottawa Frank*, and *Allnovascotia.com*. Despite these accomplishments, Bentley manages to keep both feet on the ground.

"He's humble, actually, which people will find funny, but he truly is," said Kevin Cox, managing editor at *Allnovascotia.com*. "He will rarely take credit for anything and he dismisses compliments," said Cox.

Bentley is a product of his time. Linden MacIntyre says, "he comes from a generation that valued modesty and a low key personality ... in those days, the best of reporters were the people who were hardly ever noticed. You slipped into a room and found out what was going on without making a big show of being media ... Bentley's very much of

that tradition."

But his humility hasn't hindered his passion, Cox says. "When you look at his age, he's still got that drive and enthusiasm ... the story is still everything. That's a dying breed."

Bentley tends to play coy, but he has a spine made of steel. In 1968 he boldly resigned from his job at the *Herald*, when they refused to publish a story about a government scandal in Sackville. About a year later with the help of Barry Conrod, he launched *Fleur*, a women's fashion magazine that died after only a few issues. So, with his wife and three children in mind, Bentley swallowed his pride and returned to the *Herald*, where he was promptly sentenced to work in Port Hawkesbury, which he called "Siberia."

"Halifax and Nova Scotia is a fabulous place to do journalism. Everybody knows everybody and they desperately want to know what's going on."

Bentley is resilient. He already had another publication in mind. "He was working for the *Herald*, saving money furiously, and really cutting corners on living costs because he was gonna have another go at it," says MacIntyre. "I visited him one weekend in 1970 and he showed me a few things he had squirreled away in a back room ... printing gizmos that he had been quietly buying second hand and storing for his new beginning."

A few years later in 1975, *The Bedford-Sackville News* hit the presses. "He worked like hell to make it happen, and he never looked back. He just clawed his way up into a position where he could take it downtown." With a little help from his friends, the once weekly publication went daily and became known as *The Daily News*. Its circulation grew to 20,000, becoming a staple in many Maritimers' mornings. Bentley later sold his share of *The Daily News*, signing a

non-competition clause preventing him from selling advertising space in future publications. Intrigued by the prospect of creating a publication that prospered without the help of any advertisement, he set his sights on the next big thing: *Frank Magazine*.

With partners Dulcie Conrad and Lyndon Watkins, Bentley began work on this British inspired publication, which would have to be supported solely from sales. In November of 1987 the first issue of *Frank* magazine hit the stands, coining the slogan "Frank by name, Frank by nature," on its cover. Today, the magazine is alive and thriving in Atlantic Canada and will be releasing its 600th issue. "David is a visionary," said John Williams, who owned and edited *Frank* until recently. "He sees something and

he makes it happen."

In 1989, Bentley met Michael Bate to discuss *Frank's* national possibilities. "Anyone who said they wanted to start a satirical magazine with no advertising and no government grants would have (been deemed) crazy," said Bate. "Our whole business plan was on a napkin ... the timing was just right."

Bate went on to become the editor of *Ottawa Frank*, which didn't last past its 15th birthday, but Bate is thankful to have met Bentley. "I love David. He's one of the great characters in my life, and one of the great influences," said Bate.

At home Bentley enjoys gardening and reading classical literature. "He was just a normal Dad," says daughter Caroline Wood, shrugging.

"(He) has a great balance between life and work," says MacIntyre. "The two are almost seamless."

Despite all this praise, Bentley is far from perfect. For one, Bate says he can't

mix a drink to save his life. "We drank together and he gave (me) this awful rum and orange juice mixture."

Lethal cocktails aside, Bentley has had his fair share of legal battles. In 1999, President of Salter Street Films Limited Paul E. Donovan sued David Bentley, Lyndon Watkins, and Michael Bate for defamation. According to the statement of claim, the trio printed and published eight factual errors "with reckless disregard as to their truth or falsity and with malice." The case was settled outside of court, but Bentley's luck soon ran out.

In 2000 Gordon Earle sued *Frank* for defamation and won. "*Frank Magazine* ran a story that Mr. Earle viewed as slurring him racially, indicating that he was not competent ... and essentially (that) he was hired and occupied a series of positions with the government because he was black, not because he was capable," said Earle's lawyer, David Coles. "I gave *Frank* many chances to apologize and to withdraw their remark, but they refused, so we took it to court," said Earle. Bentley represented himself in court, where Coles says, "he defended his claim vigorously, but the jury concluded that the story was defamatory and ordered that he pay Mr. Earle a not insignificant sum of money," said Coles. \$60,000 later, *Frank* remained *Frank* by name and by nature.

Over the years he's earned himself quite a reputation. "People will tell you that he's legendary for blow-ups, but honestly I haven't seen much of it," said Cox. "The only time David gets really angry is if we miss something."

Bentley is passionate about what he does. "Halifax and Nova Scotia is a fabulous place to do journalism," said Bentley. "Everybody knows everybody and they desperately want to know what's going on."

So who is David Bentley now? Is he the simple man who enjoys gardening and reading classic literature, or the hard-hitting, story-breaking journalist? For MacIntyre the answer is simple: "He's the same David Bentley I met on the doorstep with the bottle of Scotch that Sunday morning. ☺"

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Private member's bill to protect transgender rights

Kailey Willetts

The Martlet
University of Victoria

VICTORIA (CUP) — Canadians may soon see legal protection for transgender individuals.

Bill C-389, a private member's bill that is expected to go through its third reading in the House of Commons in December, would add gender identity and gender expression to the definition of "identifiable group" in the Criminal Code's hate provisions.

The bill also seeks to add gender identity and gender expression to prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

"(The bill would give) explicit legal protections, rather than ones that are implicit," said Meris Colby, a member of the University of Victoria's pride group. Colby is also a member of TransAction Victoria, a collective that advocates for the rights of transgender people.

"Basically, if someone is discriminated against because they're trans or gender-

variant, you don't also have to prove that this is a basis of discrimination because that's there," added Ryan O'Connor, another member of both groups.

"If there is a hate crime committed against you, then (gender expression and identity are) taken into account as an aggravating factor, so it's easier to prove there was a hate crime committed against you and not just someone saying hateful things."

First-year UVic student Katie Fukuda has already shown her support by signing an online petition that sent her MP an email requesting support of Bill C-389.

"I feel like this bill is really important. I wanted to make sure that my rights and the rights of people that I care about very much are protected," she explained. "Everybody has a right to safety and I think this bill would just help enshrine that, and that's really important to me."

"We need to protect the safety of everybody in this country," she added. Fukuda didn't, however, expect a response from Conservative MP LaVar

Payne, who represents her home riding of Medicine Hat, Alta.

"That was actually a surprise when I even heard back from him," said Fukuda.

Although she didn't expect Payne to be in support of Bill C-389, Fukuda says the response she got was shocking.

"I was really sad ... about the response that I got," she said. "I mean, it was expected, but I don't think that I expected to have what was said be so blatantly ignorant of the problem."

Payne's letter reiterated comments he had made during a Parliament debate on May 10.

"We need enough evidence to conclude that there are enough cases of hate propaganda against transgender people," he said at the time.

"That was really what bothered me the most," said Fukuda. "He literally says that he doesn't see there being instances of transphobia and I'm like, 'Can you take a look around?'"

Payne also stated that he believes broadening the Criminal Code's

definition of "identifiable groups" would limit a Canadian's right to free speech.

"That really just makes me wonder whose rights we're protecting in this country," said Fukuda. "To me, free speech isn't hate speech, so I feel like that's really a huge problem."

Requests to Payne for comment were unanswered.

Denise Savoie, the MP for Victoria, however, said the suggestion Bill C-389 would limit free speech is "ridiculous."

"(The bill) doesn't eliminate any existing rights that's held within our constitution. I mean, we checked that out very, very thoroughly," said Savoie. "It simply gives people who are, as I said, marginalized and who do face prejudice and often violence, it gives them a certain protection that doesn't exist now. So I would just say that seems like hogwash to me and an excuse for not supporting the bill."

Savoie also wanted to alleviate concerns she had heard that Bill C-389 would lead to inappropriate conduct in spaces like washrooms.

Tenant Friendly Reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act

The Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) offers little protection to tenants in Nova Scotia. Our Act does not give tenants in Nova Scotia the same rights enjoyed by people who are renting in other provinces—and our provincial government doesn't seem to be interested in changing that fact. A revision of the RTA is currently under way and we need to make sure that our voices are heard and that the provincial government knows that we demand that Nova Scotia be brought in line with other provinces.

The Tenant Alliance of Nova Scotia (TALONS) is lobbying the provincial government for tenant friendly reforms to the RTA. We are one of the few tenant organizations active in Nova Scotia, and we are asking you, as university students, to let the provincial government know that you are tired of not receiving proper protection under the RTA. Students can be especially vulnerable to landlords who don't make repairs, return security deposits, or take advantage of them in

any number of ways.

Some members of TALONS are also volunteers at the Tenant Rights Project at the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service. As one of the few resource centres available to tenants to learn about their rights and receive help in dealing with landlords, our members receive first-hand information about issues that tenants are currently facing and the many pitfalls of the RTA. Many of the calls and drop-ins received by the Tenant Rights Project are made by tenants facing illegal evictions, problems getting landlords to make repairs, and illegally withheld security deposits.

TALONS proposes the following solutions to these serious and, unfortunately, common issues:

Security of Tenure

The current RTA provides landlords with unreasonable powers to choose not to renew a tenant's lease. Landlords who receive complaints, repair requests, or quite simply want to discriminate against a tenant can choose not to renew the lease and the tenant has no recourse even if they have done nothing wrong.

Most provinces have already recognized the importance of this issue and dealt with it by granting security of tenure at the outset of a lease. TALONS suggests that Nova Scotia follow suit and eliminate the five-year period of insecurity.

Repairs

Where a landlord fails or refuses to make repairs, the only option available to a tenant under the current RTA is to pay a fee and file a complaint with the Residential Tenancies Division (RTD). A hearing will then be scheduled and both the tenant and the landlord will be asked to attend. If the tenant is successful at the hearing, the landlord will then be ordered to make the required repairs—but the tenant has no way of enforcing the order. What this means is that the complaint may not fix the tenant's problem at all, or worse, the landlord could decide not to renew the tenant's lease (if they do not have security of tenure—see above) in retaliation. Manitoba has dealt with this issue by establishing an enforcement mechanism that redirects rent payments to the RTD thereby preventing landlords from collecting rent until the repairs are

made. TALONS suggests that Nova Scotia institute a similar mechanism so that orders for repairs can be enforced.

Security Deposits

Most landlords require that a tenant pay a security deposit at the beginning of their lease. While landlords are legally required to return the security deposit at the end of a tenant's lease, in reality, they sometimes withhold the money as it is already in their possession. Tenants are then burdened to pay a fee and file a complaint with the RTD to retrieve what is lawfully theirs. In New Brunswick, security deposits are paid in trust by tenants to the Office of the Rentalsman (their version of the RTD) and not the landlords themselves. This way, the landlord is required to file to keep part or all of a security deposit instead of placing the onus on the tenant who is often unsure of their rights or the process.

TALONS believes that these solutions are modest in scope and will not greatly burden Nova Scotian tax payers. These could be the initial steps taken toward a fair and balanced Act. With the development of the new RTA, we

cannot allow the provincial government to dismiss these solutions and allow further inaction on fundamental issues of security in housing.

We are asking you to cut out the form letter printed here in the Dal Gazette, add your own comments and experiences, and mail it to the Honourable Ramona Jennex. The provincial government needs to know that tenants demand to have more rights under the RTA. Your letter will make a difference.

If you are experiencing problems with your landlord or have any questions about your rights under the RTA, please call the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service's Tenant Info Line at (902) 423-8105. You can visit them online at: tenantrights.legalaid.dal.ca

Also, please help support our cause by "liking" us on Facebook. Simply look up "Tenant Alliance of Nova Scotia" and you'll find our page. You can also read more about our recommendations for the RTA.

—TALONS

Sign the form letter at dalgazette.com

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Katie Toth Opinions Editor

Bagelgate explained

How a rumour of free bagels brought DSU accountability to the forefront

Paige MacPherson
Opinions Contributor

Sometimes, when political events become scandals, they are 'gated.' We saw it with Bill Clinton's 'Nannygate,' the climate science community's 'Climategate,' and by far the most scandalous, Janet Jackson's 'Nipplegate.'

On Friday, Nov. 19, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) faced its own scandal: 'Bagelgate.'

It started when a friend of mine angrily told me that our five union executives — president, VP internal, VP academic and external, VP student life, and VP finance and operations — "get \$20/day from us plus free Tim's bagels." Twenty dollars a day for DSU executives to eat at any of the SUB's Sodexho-run establishments, and free bagels, in addition to their student-funded salaries? Twenty dollars a day for five executives per year is roughly \$35,000 annually. I immediately posted the rumour on Twitter.

The large reaction I received from students on Twitter was, in my accountability-loving mind, fantastic. My account was trending as the second

most popular in Halifax due to all the replies I was getting. Saint Thomas Student Union President Ella Henry wrote, "That's crazy. I'm not at Dal — but when I lived in res. my meal plan for the year was about half that."

"Wouldn't it be illegal not to claim that as a taxable benefit?" asked Kevin Weiner. Shannon Zimmerman, a former DSU President, said on her Twitter account @shannyz that this "was a decision made by Execs/Sodexho 10 years ago," implicitly confirming the benefit. Stephen Taylor, a known Ottawa political pundit, picked up the story and officially labeled it '#bagelgate.'

It was established soon after that DSU executives receive \$20/day to spend on food in the SUB, including bagels, but that, as former DSU exec member Kris Osmond tweeted, "there are not unlimited free bagels for the exec."

Bagelgate, like many other political scandals, was admittedly based on a misconception — my own.

The \$20/day that DSU executives receive is not student money. It's a perk that Sodexho gives them, to 'test the food.' For students who can't afford SUB food, the fact that DSU executives

receive \$20/day for quality monitoring purposes is a little hard to swallow (pun intended). The deal was made years ago, and not by our current executives.

It's impossible to find this agreement anywhere. I only learned about the \$20/day through tweeting and talking 'off the record' to former and current DSU executives.

"If the executives who are making decisions on our behalf are receiving perks—any perks—students should know about them."

The reason students were outraged is that we didn't know about this perk, and technically, we couldn't find it if we tried. Where the money comes from doesn't change this.

This all happened in light of a recent debate regarding the state of our food services on campus. Soon, the DSU will be involved in a negotiation in which they may even hand over control of SUB

food services to the university. In summer 2011, Sodexho's contract with the DSU is up, and an open food services bidding war will begin in the winter term in anticipation of that.

The Gazette's Katie Toth questioned on the @gazetteopinions Twitter account whether DSU executives having these perks from Sodexho poses a conflict of

they wouldn't be the executives on the receiving end of the perk, as new executives would be elected. But in any case, this should all be made transparent for students, so we can know the facts.

But why wouldn't students be privy to this information? It is necessary for the accountability of our union leadership that such contract perks be posted online, and made clearly accessible for all students to see.

With the recent student consultation sessions regarding food services on campus, the DSU executive is definitely moving in the right direction. But many accountability improvements can still be made.

Bagelgate raised the issue of transparency. If the executives who are making decisions on our behalf are receiving perks — any perks — students should know about them.

We must remember that our DSU executives are elected by us, and their job is to represent us. We should be consulted and kept in the loop about financial decisions, and especially about executive perks.

Especially if those perks include free bagels. ☹

Dexter gov't continues to hire Tim O'Neill

Student find their voices silenced at the bargaining table

Mark Coffin
Staff Contributor

"Students need to be invited to the table during the negotiation of the next university funding agreement." This is the message the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) has been sharing with every MLA, minister and public servant we've met with over the past two years. It was one of the guiding principles used to help create the current funding agreement under the leadership of then-Education Minister, and now Progressive Conservative Education Critic, Karen Casey. It is also the same message that Liberal Education Critic Kelly Regan expressed to the Minister of Education, Marilyn More, last Tuesday in the legislature.

So why are students being kept out of discussions about the negotiation of the next funding agreement? It would appear that the government is more interested in working with economist Tim O'Neill than working with students.

Between January and September, stakeholders across the higher-education sector waited patiently for O'Neill to complete his government commissioned review of the universities. The result: a call for unregulated increases in tuition fees alongside equally unpopular proposals for merging schools.

Student groups have spoken out against the recommendations. All of the faculty unions in the province have given the report a failing grade. Even some university administrations, such as those

at Cape Breton University and Mount Saint Vincent University, have expressed opposition to O'Neill's plans for tuition.

Our government said they would listen to stakeholders with genuine interest. Instead, the Dexter government has gone behind our backs and rehired O'Neill to sell the findings from his report to the public, while advising the province on negotiating a new funding agreement with the universities.

"If you don't speak up, they'll think you don't care."

According to a freedom of information request filed by ANSSA, O'Neill's extended contract was signed at the end of July, almost two months prior to the public release of his report—long before stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide feedback. He will continue to receive compensation for his work until mid-December (unless, of course, Premier Darryl Dexter decides to hire him again).

Why is government continuing to seek counsel from the author of a report that was near universally decried?

According to Dexter, it's because he likes what O'Neill has to say. "We value the work that he's done," he noted in the legislature last week. "We hope he will continue to provide the good advice."

Dexter has done anything but distance himself from O'Neill's recommendations on tuition by appointing him as advisor to the team that will set the next number of years worth of tuition policy for the province. O'Neill's continued employment can only be viewed as the government's silent adoption of his recommendation to increase tuition.

O'Neill appears to have taken the spot formerly filled by elected student leaders. For over a year, elected student leaders have been requesting detailed information on how students will be involved in the creation of the next university funding agreement. When asked about the issue in Question Period last Wednesday, Minister More gave no indication that students would be a part of the group negotiating the next agreement. Meanwhile, university presidents have already received their invitation to the discussions.

If you are angry and frustrated with the government's oppositional attitude towards students and its alliance with economists who argue for increased fees, speak out!

Send a pre-written letter to your MLA by visiting ANSSA's campaign site at TappedOut.ca. Phone or visit your MLA. Call the Minister of Education. Most importantly, get in touch with your student union to learn how you can help out with on-the-ground campaigns. If you don't speak up, they'll think you don't care. ☹

Mark Coffin is the Executive Director of the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations.

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Religion: similar to a penis? ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

Hey Mormon brethren! Would you like a free Nietzsche book?

If no, then please leave me alone

Nick Wright
Humorist

I grew up in a backwards hellhole of a province not too far from here known as Prince Edward Island. A short generation ago, animosity between Catholics and Protestants was still part of daily life. My own mother could never tell my great-grandmother that she was a Catholic for fear of retribution. In her own words, though, "that situation worked itself out when she died."

Now, one might easily jump to the conclusion that I think religious segregation is a bad thing. Actually, I believe quite the opposite. As a staunch non-believer and frequent blasphemer, I would love to see the religious—and even worse, the "spiritual"—segregated away from me altogether.

Religious animosities actually gave rise to very positive side effects within Island culture back in the day. We today still enjoy a few of these perks.

The best side effect (one for which I am infinitely grateful) is that it is considered rude to talk about religion with people outside of your church, family or close friends. Friendships or business relations would have been impossible if people were always bickering about their beliefs. So, out of common courtesy, everyone soon learned that it was best to just not talk about these things at all. For the love of God, I wish Halifax would take the hint on that one.

I hate religion, and I will proudly

declare this whenever asked—however, what I hate more than religion is being asked about it, and being thus forced to explain this view. One's choice of faith (or lack thereof) is a personal one which they have most likely put quite a bit of time and energy into. So why the hell—again, to borrow from my painful Judeo-Christian heritage—do people feel the need to pester me about their spiritual views?

Those of you who use sidewalks on a frequent basis know that they are a means of conveyance from one spot to another. Often, when one mounts these sidewalks, one has a set destination and estimated time of arrival in mind.

This is a fairly basic principle of urban life. Yet members of such organizations as the Church of Latter-Day Saints, and the Hare Krishnas, to name two of the worst offenders, just don't seem to understand this concept.

I would really like to see the statistics of how many people a year have a sudden crisis of faith while rushing to catch the bus. Has anyone ever decided to convert after smelling monastic hippies on the corner of Spring Garden Road? The whole concept of street missionaries just seems ludicrous to me. If I were interested in learning more about Joseph Smith and his magical Technicolor underpants I would buy a book about him. I harbour the same indifference toward the Krishna, although I will concede he is a lot cooler-looking than the god I was encouraged

to worship as a child.

Street witnesses and door-to-door missionaries are not the only people who talk about religion in inappropriate situations. While I was hosting a party this summer, I had the immense displeasure of meeting two young ladies who didn't believe in dinosaurs. Until this rendezvous, I had actually believed that such people were invented by Richard Dawkins as an ingenious marketing ploy to sell antagonistic documentaries.

I pride myself on my skills as a host, so I invited them into my home to partake in my festivities. This, I later found out, was a mistake. About an hour after their arrival, they began what I'm sure they thought was an enlightened spiritual debate. For the record, there has probably never been anything close to enlightened spiritual debate in a room where Jagger-Bombs are being served.

A shouting match soon ensued. I may or may not have said some things which I am or am not very proud of. The end result was a night filled with animosity, where merriment should have taken precedence.

Religious discussion can be great sometimes. Learning about other cultures can be informative and enlightening—provided it happens in the proper venue. But, as a close friend of mine once said, religion is also "very similar to a penis."

"It's ok to have one, and it's great to be proud of it. But please don't whip it out and wave it around in public." ☹

••Point•Counterpoint

Burn the God-Box: Sodales debates the merit of religious belief for belief's sake

Lance Chua
Brendan Martin
Opinions Contributors

POINT (Lance): Human beings have this innate sense of curiosity, wherein people have the desire to understand and explain the world around them. Science has helped us explain the natural world, but even science has failed to explain certain questions that fundamentally define human existence. Questions such as our purpose as beings on this earth and what happens to us when we die have tormented the minds of numerous peoples from countless walks of life. One way that these questions have been answered is by turning to belief in the divine so as to explain human purpose.

Let me posit to you a scenario wherein in your travels, you discover a box. Within this box, you discover incontrovertible evidence that God does not exist, and that this life on this earth is indeed 'it'. You therefore have two options: you can either release the contents of the box to the rest of the world, or you can destroy the box and the evidence contained within. I will argue that you have the responsibility to destroy that box.

By releasing the contents of this box, you commit a grave moral injustice against society. Some people have crafted their existence and identities around their belief or interpretation of the divine. People believe that their

existence is meaningful and that there is a Being who knows who they are and fundamentally cares for them because of who they are. By releasing the contents of this box you remove the sense of importance, worth, and purpose that is felt by many.

COUNTERPOINT (Brendan): It is telling that Lance opens this debate with the shortcomings of science. The problem with arguing from that perspective is that science is a very humble creature indeed. Science knows she doesn't know everything, but that doesn't give you license to fill in the blanks with whatever you want without any burden of proof. Lance's argument fallaciously places religion on par with science. But because it refuses the burden of proof that defines science, the argument becomes dogmatic and ultimately damaging.

To argue that this is unjust because it removes people's purpose is to forget that purpose is fungible; it can be easily replaced. Once the box has been opened, no one will be much bothered about their former beliefs; they will move on. Truth, however, is not so fungible.

It is a moral imperative that humans be allowed to discern truth for themselves; to construct their own meanings not have them be dictated to them. The only way to achieve this is to erase our preconceptions.

Lance: In no way am I saying that religion and science have equal bearing in describing and explaining the universe. Instead I argue that a belief in the divine, due to its very nature, can and does serve as a centerpiece in peoples' moral and ethical understandings.

By releasing the evidence that discredits the existence of god this moral comfort that people feel is essentially yanked away from them. No individual has the right to take that sense of security or moral self-worth (whether it be founded on fact or not) from other people. Releasing the contents of the box fundamentally forces millions (if not billions) of people to undergo an existential crisis, wherein they realize that every sacrifice that they have made or every action that they have done is for naught.

Brendan: You overstate dramatically the affect this will have, because you're acting with a pre-box mindset. If this artefact works as you says it does, people will feel at a bit embarrassed about having, in their new perspective, wasted their lives but they'll adapt. That adaptation is what the box causes. To argue that the transition is traumatic is to forget that by opening the box the transition has been accomplished.

Your nihilism is also for naught; it is a rare person who is capable of sustained despair. The overwhelming majority will find new meaning beyond the

artificial, arbitrary boundaries of religion. Freedom from the threat of eternal damnation will allow people to live their lives how they see fit.

Lance: I don't question the fact that human beings are resilient creatures. However, what we have survived are gradual shifts in the nature of our society. The scenario of the "god box" is such that the shift is so dramatic and so sudden that it would shake people to their very foundations. The very concept of death is bearable for some people because they are able to look forward and believe that they will be with their loved ones in the afterlife. If you remove that sense of comfort, then death becomes a period instead of a comma. That is something that I believe people will have a very difficult time coming to grips with.

Revealing the contents of this box to the world also means that any institution that bases their power upon some "divine right" would be shaken to its foundation. This does not only include theocratic regimes that are found all over the globe but even among democratic states. A key example would be the conception of human rights, particularly in the United States. The US Declaration of Independence states that "All men are created equal". The evident question becomes "created by whom"?

Since there will be no adequate answer to respond to this question then

the very legitimacy of this invaluable document becomes questionable. Society would be thrown into chaos by the information found in this box; it therefore becomes imperative that this box and all its contents be destroyed.

Brendan: Any argument that follows the form "Religion results in x and therefore x is good which therefore means religion is good" (such as the last argument in the previous paragraph) is self-defeating. This is because the argument is only valid if the goodness of x is derived solely from God. If God really doesn't exist, then losing these things won't matter; we've been judging them incorrectly. ☹

Lance Chua and Brendan Martin are both members of Sodales, the debate society of Dalhousie. Debaters are individuals who are at times forced to argue for things that they do not necessarily believe in. Therefore the opinions expressed in Point/Counterpoint are not necessarily those that are held by the aforementioned debaters, Sodales, or the Gazette.

If you are interested (or simply curious) about debating, want an avenue to express and share your opinions and beliefs check out Sodales. Sodales meets every Tuesday and Wednesday at 6pm. Meetings are held at LSC 220.



Set to vibrate. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

Safe phone sex

The Brits are working on cell phone STI tests. What will this mean for us?

Niko Bell
The Sex Collective

The *Guardian* revealed on Nov. 5 that British researchers are close to creating a fast, personal, cell-phone operated STI detector. A small sample of urine or saliva placed on a chip would tell users if they had been infected by herpes, chlamydia or gonorrhea. Best of all, the whole kit could be sold for a dollar out of a vending machine.

That is, if you trust the hype. We have been burned before by promises of instant STI tests, and there is no reason to think that it will all work out this time. Not right away, anyway.

If we ever do get a fast and easy STI test, however, the implications would be dizzying.

The doctors creating the test say that their objective is to help people test themselves easily and privately. The most interesting part of this innovation, however, is the ability to test partners. For the first time ever, one could have some assurance that a sexual partner is clean without taking anybody's word for it. What's more, one could quite reasonably demand such assurance before having sex.

Suddenly, all sorts of situations come to mind. You meet a good looking guy or girl, you like how things are going, so you "swap chips" and see how it goes from there. Swapping chips could become the more personal version of making a relationship Facebook-official.

Honestly, though, I doubt that we will go so far anytime soon. STIs are still too

prickly of a topic to penetrate common conversation. More likely, a test like this one will just enable responsible couples to check each other out before having sex. The real upshot will be more information available to more people at a much faster pace.

"Few things make people less comfortable than knowing about STIs."

And that is where things get interesting. You see, few things make people less comfortable than knowing about STIs.

I was reading in a public study area once while four girls read a copy of *The Coast* across the table from me. They were remarking at an article by Lezlie Lowe. Lowe has written about her own STI several times in a refreshingly open way. "Why," asked one of the girls in horror, "would she admit that?"

"I think," I responded, "she wants to encourage people to talk about these things."

"Well, it doesn't make me want to talk about anything," the girl responded primly. "It just makes me think that she's a hoe bag."

What Lowe's intentions are is a ques-

tion only she can answer. The former attitude towards STIs, however, is terrifyingly common, especially given how out of touch it is with reality.

If the four girls were to represent the general population, three of them would some day be infected by oral herpes, one by genital herpes, and three by HPV. Not to mention anything else. STIs are no longer the domain of the remarkably promiscuous, if they ever were. In fact, being completely free of STIs is the domain of the remarkably unpromiscuous. Even if all four were infected, however, it is likely that only one would know it.

Returning to the new British STI test. What happens when information about the presence and extent of STIs becomes known to everyone? For one thing, my heart sincerely goes out to any of those four girls if—but more likely when—she discovers that she has contracted an STI. It is a tragedy that so many have been taught that STIs should bring shame. That tragedy comes home to roost with the distress of discovering that you are infected (and thus a 'hoe bag').

Perhaps, however, there could be an upside. Perhaps a test like this could flush things out into the open, force us to quit hiding from reality, and face the existence of STIs around us. Perhaps we could be more honest with ourselves, our society, and our partners about the risks and realities. Even better, perhaps we could do all this even if the Brits do not come through with a magic formula. ☺

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- Health promotion programs/strategies
- Drug enforcement/policies
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Rebecca Spence Arts Editor



My bum is on the East Coast Tom Green proves that he can still get us off

Rebecca Spence
Arts Editor



Bubbles, would you like some sausage?
••• Photo by Arielle Figov

Tom Green: artist or freak? If there's anything his world tour is teaching us, it's that this eccentric Canadian comedian encompasses a strange mix of shrewd wit and crude buffoonery. From Green's keen perspectives on the evolution of communication to his ever-popular catchphrase "Daddy, would you like some sausage?" Green is certainly a curious blend.

Green made a stop at the Casino Nova Scotia last week as part of the Maritimes leg of his 2010 world tour. After an elevating opening act from Halifax's own Picnicface, a shadowy

figure suddenly emerged from the back of the room. Greeted with thunderous applause from a pumped up crowd, the totally wired Green ran through the aisles and climbed onstage. After wrestling with the microphone cord and taking a few moments to catch his breath, beads of sweat were already dripping down his forehead.

"I've been on tour for nine months," he announced. "Can you tell?"

Without further ado, Green launched into sharing his acceptance of getting older.

"I'm basically 40," he said. "I'm basically fucking dead." At certain points, the graying Green sounded like a sweet grandfather as he reflected on the good ol' days — the days before Starbucks, Wal-mart, the Black Eyed Peas and "12 new American Idols every year." From the beginning to the end of the 80-minute show Green kept up his high-energy rhythm, barely missing a beat.

Every anecdote had the audience roaring in laughter. Exhibit A: Green's visit to the Kentucky Fried Chicken museum and his attempts to see Col. Sanders' grave, despite 9/11 security restrictions. Exhibit B: Green's reflection on his experience on *The Celebrity Apprentice*, in which Donald Trump screamed at Green for going out drinking with Dennis Rodman the night before a challenge and fired him in the third episode.

But it wasn't long before the poo jokes took their toll.

It all started with an innocent joke at Ellen Degeneres. "She's a funny lady," he said. "I just don't like the same music she likes." The joke became more of a poke (poo + joke = poke) when he added, "Ellen Degeneres likes literal shit for music." Green then proceeded to graphically map out the details and

characteristics of this "literal shit," — most of which probably should not be repeated in print.

But we can all easily forgive Green for getting carried away with his childish ways, because soon he is back on track and articulately expressing his theories on mass media communication.

**"I'm basically 40
... I'm basically
fucking dead."**

"An intimate conversation is something that will never happen again," said Green, who is already beginning to appreciate the more genuine things in life that don't include smart phones, video cameras and Facebook. He essentially believes that 21st century technology revolution is the "conspiracy of our time" that will doom humans to be sucked into a digital vortex. There goes Grandpa Green again—totally off his rocker.

Then came the nostalgia. Green whimsically reminisced about his time spent growing up in Ottawa and the days he would skip stones on the river

solo. The days when people still licked the glue on envelopes and schools still held nuclear bomb drills.

Green showed off his musical side, performing a couple of throwbacks to the early days. Among the old school tunes was "The Tiny Salmon Song" and of course, "The Bum Bum Song."

But despite these moments of arrested development, Green was able to compose himself for an emotional narrative of his battle with testicular cancer.

"My ball hangs directly in the middle," said the uniballer. "But I wouldn't trade my battle with cancer for anything ... except my right testicle."

As a precaution, Green had some of his sperm frozen.

"I'm like the Walt Disney of Jizz," he said. "My friends call me 'Walt Jizz-ney.'" Green expressed how thankful he is to be alive, and proudly announced he still has the ability to ejaculate.

In true East Coast style, Green ended the show with an honourable attempt at singing "Barrett's Privateers," which earned him an almost instantaneous standing ovation. The finale proved that a classic style of humour worked to Green's strengths, earning him a following that won't be able to wait for his next visit to the Maritimes. ☺

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STREETEER

by Katie Toth and Rebecca Spence

What do you want for Christmas?



"A new Mac laptop"

Allistair Kearns
4th year, Commerce



"I want to get some sleep"

Alay Hessian
2nd year, Master's Programme in Health Informatics



"My own private island"

Gillian Hull
4th year, commerce



"I wish that people were more understanding of each other"

Jessica MacKinnon
1st year, kinesiology



"North Korea and South Korea to sort their shit out soon"

Nick Natale
2nd year, IDS



"I want school to be done so I can travel"

Sarah Couce
2nd year, IDS



"I wanna see Santa Claus again"

Andrew Harris
1st year, Corporate Residency MBA



"A happy time"

Catherine Chapman
Programmer, CKDU



"An endless supply of eggnog (and lactate)"

JuJu. Just JuJu
2nd year, social work

OVERHEARD AT DAL

In stats:

"This class is two hours. I'm a child. I can't focus that long"

TEXTS FROM LAST NIGHT:

"FYI, when you wake up, please note: I puked in your shoes because I stubbed my toe, not because I was drunk."

In English:

"I wish girls would use the word uncanny instead of creepy"

Overheard at King's in the Wardroom on drag night:

"I feel like I'm exposing too much cleavage. I mean, if I had cleavage."

In the journalism school:

"I'm going to go get addicted to meth, then write about it."

EAVESDROP/SUBMIT:
OVERHEARD AT DAL
FACEBOOK GROUP



Listings

Theatre

The Asshole Monologues
Where: Plutonium Playhouse (2315 Hunter St.)
When: Fri. Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Dec. 4 & 5, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Invisible Atom
Where: The Bus Stop Theatre (2203 Gottingen St.)
When: Fri. Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Dec. 4, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m., Dec. 5, 2 p.m.

Wizard of Oz
Where: Neptune Studio Theatre (1593 Argyle St.)
When: Through to Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. (2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays)

Music

CKDU On-Air Jam - Come and play what you can!
Where: CKDU in the Dal SUB (6136 University, 4th floor)
When: Friday, Dec. 3, 6-7 p.m.

The Crystal Method, Logan Hudak, Chris Morrison
Where: Paragon Theatre (2037 Gottingen St.)
When: Fri., Dec. 3

Kim Wempe, contemporary Canadian roots singer/songwriter

Where: The Company House (2202 Gottingen St.)
When: Fri., Dec. 3

Laura Peek CD Release
Where: 1313 Hollis St.
When: Fri., Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

Ireland PreParty: A night of Celtic music
Where: Garrison Brewing Co. Cold Beer Store (1149 Marginal Rd.)
When: Sat., Dec. 4, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

Visual Art

Beyond Barriers: Photographs from the front-lines of health
Where: Dalhousie Tupper Building (5850 College St.)
When: Through to Dec. 3

Arboretum
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (1723 Hollis St.)
When: Through to Jan. 8, 2011

Stephen Kelly: WaveUp
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (1723 Hollis St.)
When: Through Jan. 9, 2011

Alex Colville
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (1723 Hollis St.)
When: Through to Feb. 20, 2011

DalGazette.com Website Top 5

1. **Is this what non-violence looks like?**

Paige Macpherson

2. **Editorial: SUB Food Fight**

Joel Tichinoff

3. **DSU Council Members under pressure**

Torey Ellis

4. **Leak: Full text of proposed food agreement between Dal and DSU**

5. **Student Union Building up for grabs**

Bethany Horne

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arts&culture



Young and brighteyed. • • • Photo by Jake Read, supplied by the KTS

A story for the ages

Latest KTS show is wise beyond its years

Heather Ross
Arts Contributor

The King's Theatre Society's production of *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* is a play of mastering ages.

For the actors, this means portraying characters years older or younger than the university range.

Gillian Clark, who plays the precocious 10-year-old Iris, wears wide glasses and a bright blue dress with pockets perfect for hiding things. Her hair is in such an entangled mess that you don't even realize she's wearing braids until the second act. She carries the nasal tone of a child who knows too much and still wants more, crawling over furniture and people alike to find what she's looking for.

Chloe Hung as Iris's mother Sylvia stalks around the house in a tan blouse and a black pencil skirt, her lipstick and hair perfectly fashioned and a bandaged wrist sticking out like a sore thumb. Though Clark is taller than Hung, Hung's superiority is clearly shown through her adult tone and strict stance.

For the characters, it is a matter of acting their own age. Sylvia has the poise of a woman, but avoids confronting her fears by pretending that something is burning in the kitchen. Her husband Owen, played by Michael Beedie,

hasn't worked since the war ended, and can't seem to see the world beyond his passion: geometry. He does each action feebly, afraid of creating any ripples or confronting the idea of having purpose. Miss Rose, a tenant played by Anna Dubinski, acts as though it's "still V-E Day," going out each night and drinking with sailors and war veterans, even though she works at a fish factory. Mr. Lawrence, played by Ames Elser, is a tenant and a madman so lost in his mind that he carries no age or description.

"We can all relate to that alienating feeling of growing up."

Finally, our lead, Iris, is told that she knows too much, but is also told to stop being a child. The play focuses on her coming of age, which she calls "the last few days of childhood."

Director Sarah Kester says this is why she chose this piece.

"The story is one I think we all can relate to, especially as university students," she


says. "It's about a little girl who's on the cusp of adulthood. And although we're not children anymore, we can relate to that alienating feeling of growing up."

The story is about a little girl who brings home a madman in hopes that he will reconnect her family after the death of her beloved goldfish, which she personally believes was the anchor of her family.

The set includes a bookshelf, a wooden dock, a drawing desk, three chairs, and a table that is covered in different types of alcohol.

"There's no backstage. It's just three little points," says Kester. "There's the little living room area, a drafting table, and then a pier. The idea is that they are fragments of (Iris's) memory, because it's a memory play."

Strong points in the play include a scene where Miss Rose is drugged, where she floats along the stage and gives the audience a limp, hazy grin. Another is when Owen, unsure of himself and his surroundings throughout the entire play, finally decides to be happy; flipping a spatula and catching it with one hand.

Finally, Iris fills the room with laughter by filling her cheeks with air and flapping her hands beside her head to indicate that she thinks Mr. Lawrence is the reincarnation of her goldfish. 

Bling in the holidays

Festive fashions include tuxedos, velvet and plaid

Natasha Hunt
Fashion Columnist

Let's face it: the holidays are stressful. Between having to navigate the awkward reintegration process after a semester of living away from home, preparing a sumptuous holiday meal and catching up with one's friends, thinking about what to wear to that holiday soiree or New Year's Eve bash is enough to fill oneself with a terrifying sense of dread.

You may be tempted to splurge on a brand new frock, or even to jump the shark completely by deciding to wear that awful, awkward holiday sweater to every party.

Before you decide to commit fashion seppuku by putting on that heinous Rudolph pullover, think about all the wonderful alternatives to that particular fashion crime.

Yves St. Laurent struck gold with his tuxedo inspired looks, so why don't you? A tuxedo jacket can effortlessly carry you from day to night. Pair it with skinny, denim jeans for an easy, casual look, or even a baggy pair of silk-twill trousers for a more androgynous look. To make the tuxedo jacket more holiday appropriate, channel 1970s icon Bianca Jagger with a gender-bending three piece suit. Jagger's Studio 54 aesthetic is definitely a departure from the demure little black dress. And besides, you can wear each piece individually after you're done wowing the crowd.

If tuxedo wearing isn't your thing, this season's soft, sensual velvets have been making a comeback. If you're nervous about wearing the fabric, a velvet blazer or shawl is a great place to start. Try a figure-flattering cut, with just a bit

of puffed sleeve for a tailored, almost Victorian look. Blazers can be paired with jeans, or with a sequined mini-dress.


When working with separates for the holiday season, don't be afraid to play with different textures. Velvet can look stunning paired next to laces, and leathers - while wools, and tweeds inject weight if placed with a gauzy, frothier piece.

Hitting the perfect balance between lightness and heaviness is one way to keep them talking at your next shindig.

Another great look for the holidays is incorporating some plaid into your wardrobe. And no, I don't mean grunged-out-King's student plaid. Think more Blair Waldorf, less broke college student. A bright tartan dress paired with statement necklaces, tights and heels is a great way to impress any people that you may need to impress this holiday season.

Plaids with hunter greens and cool reds are a great way to look festive, without looking garish. If colour isn't what you're looking for, an understated monochromatic palette of grays, blacks and whites on a conservative sheath or A-line dress is a wonderful way to look sophisticated.

Want to mix it up? Try layering silk shirts, or basic, jersey turtlenecks underneath plaid dresses. Be sure to play with different collars, or even sleeve types. A cute, school-girl jumper can easily turn into eccentric heiress chic, simply by layering a gunmetal gray, puffed sleeve blouse underneath.

See? The holidays don't have to be horrible. And you don't have to wear the same boring, black dress as everyone else. You can celebrate in style and get the most wear out of these party picks. 



Women in tuxedo inspired looks—dress yourself up for the holidays. • • • Photo by Natasha Hunt

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Bollywood meets Haliwood

Bellydance Superstars shake things up in Halifax



These curves are mesmerizing. ••• Photo by Bruce Meyer, supplied

Erica Newman
Staff Contributor

The Bellydance Superstars' perform their show "Bombay Bollywood" at the Casino Nova Scotia on Nov. 27. The group was formed in 2002 by producer and manager Miles Copeland and in its six years of touring has put on 700 shows in 22 countries. Though the Superstars incorporate several dance forms, this show's particular theme was traditional Indian Bollywood.

The evening brought out an eclectic group of people. From 1950s pin-up inspired girls in sailor dresses, to goths with innumerable tattoos, to middle aged couples; belly dance shows certainly attract an odd but interesting crowd. The show itself was just as diverse with many different styles of dance and a whole lot of shaking.

Belly dance is a celebration of the female form and it is the one type of dance where fat is not only flattering, but a necessity. These belly dancers, however, managed to take the "belly" out of belly dance. Far from full figured, the dancers with their enviably toned tummies and flirty hair flips no doubt made several female audience members wish they hadn't brought their boyfriends.

The dancers proudly put their (toned) curves to work shimmying, gyrating and isolating their way through colourful Bollywood numbers. Sari-esque costumes and Indian music mixes put a modern spin on the classic tradition.

Though there were multiple types of dance active throughout each routine, the underlying Bollywood flare permeated all the numbers and created one fluid dance show. Interspersed between the Indian dances was typical tribal fusion choreography of slow, slinky isolations set to techno-infused music with heavy bass beats.

it is a typically female dance, one male dancer joined in the fun and his flexible hands and arms managed to miraculously take attention away from the ladies' hips for a full number.

The Bellydance Superstars are all the best of the best, but there were a few shining stars that stood out. The drum soloists were quite obviously chosen to

"Far from full figured, the dancers with their enviably toned tummies and flirty hair flips no doubt made several female audience members wish they hadn't brought their boyfriends."

Tribal fusion is a funky, modern form of belly dance that frequently incorporates elements of popping, burlesque and flamenco. A fairly new form of dance, it was created in San Francisco in the 1970s and has spread rapidly since. Halifax itself has a strong and growing tribal fusion scene and it was the first time this show has visited the East Coast.

Spacing out the larger choreographies were traditional belly dance drum solos that consist of a man, a drum, a dancer and unanimous dropping of jaws. The dancer moved her body in seemingly impossible ways to drum beats provided by famous percussionist Issam Houshan, leaving spectators mesmerized. Though

do so for a reason as their talent shook its way across the stage. Another dancer present in most of the Indian themed dances was clearly trained extensively in Bollywood. She encompassed the appeal and look of classic Bollywood and had the whole audience smiling and clapping along.

"Bombay Bollywood" was colourful, fun and seductive. What more could you ask for in a casino show? The Bollywood charm had you happily shimmying out of the casino expecting the intense heat of India. The downside was realizing you're in pre-snow Hali, not sweltering Bali. ☺

Attention all aspiring Creative Writers Writer in Residence Anne Simpson

Anne Simpson lives in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She has written three books of poetry, among them *Loop* (2003) and *Quick* (2007). Her two novels, *Canterbury Beach* (2001) and *Falling* (2008), were followed by a book of essays on poetics and art, *The Marram Grass: Poetry and Otherness* (2009). Her poetry has won various awards, including the Griffin Poetry Prize. Her fiction has been awarded the Journey Prize and the Dartmouth Fiction Award and was long-listed for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. She has been Writer-in-Residence at the University of New Brunswick, Artist-in-Residence at the Medical Humanities Program at Dalhousie University, and, most recently, Writer-in-Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library



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Oh, for the love of C.O.D.

Black Ops beats worldwide video game sales records amid morality complaints

Matthew Ritchie
Staff Contributor

On Nov. 9, *Call of Duty: Black Ops* broke the record for highest sales of a video game in a single day. The game sold more than 5.6 million copies in the U.K and North America.

This is pretty impressive.

But some people aren't as impressed by this figure, as most normal adults don't want video games involving the assassination of world leaders winding up in the hands of their children.

Call of Duty is a series of first person and third person shooter video games with story-lines based around past world wars and modern warfare (although facts are sometimes distorted to create a better story). The game involves strategic planning as you sneak around, battling through campaigns and shooting enemies with a variety of weapons.

So what's the big deal, you say? You've been blowing up your friends with remote mines since 1996 with the release of N64's *Goldeneye 007* (a game that also happens to have a re-release this month). But with the release of *Black Ops*, two main concerns have led to international uproar.

The first has to do with the advertisements. On the television commercial, a number of real life human beings are shown battling each other with various weapons. Images include

business women, a concierge at a hotel, a chef, and comedian Jimmy Kimell launching a grenade at a helicopter. There is also a chubby 10-year-old girl shooting at a door frame, before a hippie wearing sandals kicks it in. Concern was voiced over a little girl shooting a hand gun while looking positively joyful. This was meant to reflect the wide range of video game fans, and to suggest the game's appeal to people of all ages, but some people took the image more seriously than others.

Posts littered the internet from websites and news agencies defaming the advertisement for its content and the tagline "There is a soldier in all of us." A lot of people took offence to this and claimed it promoted violence in youth, even though it is illegal to purchase the game in North America unless you are over the age of 18.

Cuba also voiced some concern with *Black Ops*. Set in the Cold War from the perspective of U.S. troops, one campaign involves the assassination of Fidel Castro. As the *Huffington Post* reports, players run through the streets of Havana before finally gunning down Castro in an attempt to overthrow the spread of communism (it should also be noted that in the storyline Castro has a body double and survives, later torturing captive American soldiers).

The Cuban governmental website Cubadebate.org recently released a post saying that the game is "perverse"

and "glorifies the illegal assassination attempts the United States government planned against the Cuban leader." The post goes on to claim that "it stimulates sociopathic attitudes in North American children and adolescents."

Cuba is a little late to the pity party though, as the assassination of Castro was already a plot for a game in 1993. *Guerilla War* was released by arcade giants SNK for Nintendo, and experienced moderate sales and fanfare. Although the game was set on a remote Caribbean island, it was pretty clear that the main boss was Fidel in military regalia, driving a tank and launching bombs as your all-American army of one took down the rebel forces. But at the time of its release, no one took major offence at this game.

One could argue that this is because *Black Ops*, unlike *Guerilla War*, has a highly realistic playing experience. The graphics are certainly advanced, but this is not the problem.

As *The Christian Science Monitor* reports, the game is actually less violent than its predecessors and has a richer storyline than the previous titles. You can even go into the game's options and cut out the gore and vulgar language for a younger audience.

So, how can a game with less violence, a better storyline, and better controls gain so much controversy?

It goes back to the first day sales. Anything popular will gain



Black Ops' violent nature has raised international concern... ••• Image supplied

criticism, especially when major news organizations like CNN and *The Wall Street Journal* are covering it. Much in the same way that *Avatar* gained controversy for its story of a strong white man rescuing a legion of aboriginals from destruction in their homeland, people have found reasons to hate this game. And everyone seems to be throwing in their two cents.

Is this game violent? Kind of. But for the past seven years teenagers have

been tracking down hookers and cutting them in half with chainsaws in games like *Grand Theft Auto*.

If you like this kind of video game or are a fan of the series, sales and critics alike can safely point you in the direction of *Call of Duty: Black Ops*, this year's smash hit video game.

For the rest of the world: *The Christian Science Monitor* reports its overwhelming approval. If they dig it, anybody can. ☺

tunes.

Girls
Broken Dreams Club

Matthew Ritchie
Staff Contributor

Grade: A

What is there to not love about *Girls*? No, I'm not talking about the far superior gender. I'm talking about the shimmering pop of Christopher Owens, chief songwriter of San Francisco recording duo, *Girls*.

Born into the Children of God cult in the early 1980s, Owens grew up busking on street corners around the world, playing hits by The Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly. Escaping to California when he was sixteen, after leaving his

family behind, he was adopted by a wealthy businessman who became his mentor for the remainder of his youth.

With such a twisted and heartbreaking story, it isn't a stretch to hear the influences behind *Girls*' new EP, *Broken Dreams Club*. Mixing the sounds of Merle Haggard, Randy Newman and Oasis with his own insecurities about relationships and lost love, this album is a depressing smash. When Owens croons "I want piece of mind/ I've got such a heavy heart" over romantic slide guitar and gospel organs, you believe him more than any Elliott Smith wannabe ever could. ☺

tunes.

Kid Cudi—Man on
the Moon Pt. II: The
Legend of Mr. Rager

Matthew Ritchie
Staff Contributor

Grade: C+

Kid Cudi is kind of like the Lou Reed of hip-hop. He raps, talks and sings in an odd sounding baritone, and critics seem to love his music — even though some of it seems like he is trying to sound bad on purpose, which actually makes him sound good.

At the same time, he evokes Parliament/Funkadelic-like stoner rock, while exploring themes of intergalactic travel, introspection, and getting high, which sounds pretty bad. This makes Kid Cudi's second offering in his *Man on the*

Moon series a mixed bag.

His power definitely lies in his schizophrenic rapping. This isn't like *Busdriver*, who literally sounds crazy, but allows Cudi to mix from rapping to singing in different voices without missing a step.

But he really needs to put down the blunt in the studio. *The Legend of Mr. Rager* is filled with atmospheric beats, but you can't really hear them as his vocals overpower the mix, constantly bombarding you until you focus on the lyrics and realize he is ultimately rapping about being stoned.

If you smoke pot, this album will be interesting to you, but sober listeners will ruin it. ☺

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Burlesque

Caroline Elias
Staff Contributor

Grade: C+

Apparently it "takes a legend to make a star."

But what does it take to make a bad movie? *Burlesque* answers that question too: Cher, Christina Aguilera and Kristin Bell.

Burlesque tells the heartfelt story of a girl from small town Iowa who moves to L.A. in hopes of becoming a superstar. Of course, no one's heard of or seen a movie like that in years.

Strangely enough, this movie became a comedy. It's too bad the audience spent most of their time laughing at the actors, not with them. The dialogue was pitiful, and half the scenes in the movie were too awkward to watch.

Being Aguilera's acting debut, no one should expect too much going to see this movie. Just as when any singer moves to acting, Aguilera bursts into song within the first 10 minutes of this movie. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Aguilera can sing. She's released six albums in the past decade, and her first CD went platinum six times. We know she can sing, so there is no need to try and prove it again. What she apparently doesn't know is that she can't act. She should stick to what she is good at.

Cher's role in the movie is cliché: she's the tough club owner who takes care of

her girls when no one else seems to care. She also, very surprisingly, becomes the surrogate mother to Aguilera. Whether Cher was trying to make a comeback to the silver screen is uncertain. But if that was her intention, she really should have picked a different movie.

Only three things saved this movie: the singing and dancing, costumes and Stanley Tucci. The only person that could really act in this movie was Tucci. As always, he plays the gay best friend to the desperate single woman, but he does it well. He provides the movie with its intentional comedic moments, and it's nice to see someone who actually started off as an actor in this movie.

Despite the horrendous acting, it must be said that the dancing and singing were phenomenal. Cher doesn't disappoint and sings two numbers in this film. It's hard not to be reminded of her influence on the world of music. Aguilera wows the club with her set of pipes. The dancing also was spectacular. This, along with the impressive lighting, props and barely-there costumes, makes for an outstanding show. The lights, although sometimes blinding, managed to show off the impressiveness that is a burlesque show.

It's just too bad people want to see an actual movie, with some semblance of a plot and a little character development. Instead, they get music videos strung together with a poor excuse of dialogue and acting. ☹

Let them eat crêpe

Grad House an alternative to Aramark and Sodexo

Samantha Chown
Staff Contributor

Lately there has been a surge of interest surrounding food services at Dalhousie.

First Dal's food services scored a low grade from the Globe & Mail's campus report. Then Dal surveyed students to find out what food they were really interested in eating. And finally, the DSU announced they were considering giving up control of the food services in the Student Union Building.

Meanwhile, Sarah Schwarz of the Crêperie Mobile had been busy experimenting with the menu items at the Grad House Cafe to see what students actually wanted to eat.

In a tiny open-concept kitchen, where customers can see their food prepared for them, Schwarz works alongside another employee making crêpes, sandwiches and pizzas.

"There's no real food on campus: only junk food," she says. Schwarz is a

campaigner for local, healthy options. She says that at least 80 per cent of the ingredients used at the cafe are local and bought at the farmer's market.

Since reopening this fall, the Grad House has signed a contract with Schwarz to provide the bar with food services. This makes the Grad House the only retail food location on campus that isn't run by Aramark or Sodexo. In previous years the old Grad House had food items ranging from a Perks Coffee to Chinese food, but nothing that was a long term fit, says Eric Snow, president of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS).

Snow says many students have complained about the unavailability of any food after 5 p.m. except for Tim Hortons, and says that's why the Cafe provides food until they close and is adjusting their hours to meet student demand.

Another concern for the Cafe was price point. A glimpse of the menu

shows that most of the options cost less than \$5. The Cafe sells a take-away lunch consisting of a sandwich, juice box, piece of fruit and cookie for \$5. A turkey bacon club with a drink and doughnut at Tim's costs more than \$8.

When looking for a new food provider, Snow says DAGS "wanted something with good value and good quality. A good product that you didn't have to pay through your nose for."

Schwarz was selling her crepes at the farmer's market on Lower Water Street — where she still does — before approaching the Grad House's general manager Mark Jurkovic and putting her name forward. Snow says that Schwarz is the perfect fit, filling a void for fresh, local and cheap food that had previously been missing on campus.

Schwarz hopes her push for local real food is a trend that will be echoed on campus.

"Someone had to start it," she says. ☹

Cheesy comfort

This mac 'n' cheese recipe is sure to soothe the soul



Beats KD any day. ••• Photo by Jordana Levine

Jordana Levine
Food Columnist

When I think of spirituality, I immediately think of food in all of its forms. I recall my experiences with food. Whether it's tasting the first ripe tomato from the backyard garden or eating freshly caught octopus on a Greek island, food feeds the soul in different ways. These ways can be exciting and new or simple and familiar.

Spirituality also brings to mind elements of comfort—specifically, the soothing quality of comfort food.

Everyone has at least one comfort food. It can be complex or simple. It can be spicy or bland. It can change depending on your mood. But as long as it puts you at ease, it's doing its job.

Comfort food makes me think of Grandma and one of my favourite childhood meals that she makes: macaroni and cheese.

Sure, even Kraft Dinner can be reassuring on these cold, gray Halifax days that have been creeping in during the last month. But I'm talking about a wholesome, gooey, crispy, homemade macaroni.

So I attempted to create a casserole dish full of all the qualities that give me

solace. Here are the basic ingredients:

- 2 cups milk
- 3 tbsp flour
- 4 tbsp (½ stick) butter
- 2 cups macaroni (dry)
- ½ minced onion
- 2 cups shredded cheddar (or other) cheese
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375°F. Boil macaroni in a large pot until it's almost fully cooked—about five minutes; it will cook a little more in the oven. At the same time, put the milk and onion in another pot over low heat for five minutes and stir often.

Set the milk/onion mixture aside and melt the butter over the same low heat. Add the flour once the butter melts and whisk together. Pour the milk in with the flour and butter while whisking and add a pinch or two of salt and pepper. Stir in the cheddar cheese and taste. Add more salt and pepper if you like. Then, pour the sauce over the cooked pasta and mix together. Pour everything into a lightly greased baking dish, about 8x11 inches. Sprinkle breadcrumbs on top, drizzling on a little oil or dabbing some butter on the crumbs if you want them to get really brown. Bake for 35 minutes.

This week, I replaced half the cheddar

cheese with a creamy blue cheese, which I folded into the pasta right before I poured it into the casserole dish. I also sprinkled a quarter-cup of parmesan on top with the breadcrumbs for a salty finish.

You can use pretty much any cheese (and any number of cheeses) in this recipe instead of cheddar as long as it adds up to about two cups. Just make sure to keep the moisture balance even and try not to overload on sharp flavours. For example, use a cup of mild, high-moisture ricotta cheese with a cup of dry, sharp Asiago. Or you could use one-and-a-half cups of smoked Gouda with half a cup of Parmesan.

You could also add herbs or vegetables for a heartier, more colourful dish.

Sticking to the basics can be great, too, but even changing the pasta you use can be fun. I find wagon wheels and shell pasta particularly comforting.

This fun meal can be dressed up for a "grownup" palate, but sometimes all you need is to feel like you're back in Grandma's kitchen.

So cozy up on a rainy day and make a meal with no surprises and a whole lot of comfort in a bowl. ☹

flicks.

Love and Other Drugs

Meriha Beaton
Staff Contributor

Grade: B+

A warning to all the straight ladies about to go watch *Love and Other Drugs*: afterwards you will probably have the urge to make passionate love to any available gentleman. A suggestion to all straight men out there: go stand outside a theatre of *Love and Other Drugs* and wait.

Love and Other Drugs is a romantic comedy with a dramatic twist. Set in the 1990s, Jamie (Jake Gyllenhaal) is a womanizing pharmaceuticals rep who promotes Viagra. His life is a string of one-night stands, and he has no intention of slowing down.

That is, until he meets Maggie. Maggie (Anne Hathaway) is a young woman suffering from Stage I Parkinson's Disease and, like Jamie, isn't looking for anything serious. At first the relationship is just about casual sex. But after a while it becomes something much bigger, which turns out to be exactly what they both needed.

The pairing of Gyllenhaal and Hathaway is superb and much more believable this time around, now that all the gay cowboy stuff is behind them. Their chemistry is lusty and romantic, playful and serious.

But it isn't just your average boy-meets-girl kind of movie. It's set apart

with a massive amount of on-screen nudity and no-holds-barred sex. Unlike most mainstream romantic comedies, where the extent of on screen nudity is a little flash of the bum cheek here and there, *Love and Other Drugs* has Gyllenhaal and Hathaway completely in their birthday suits.

The sex scenes are also not your run of the mill sex scenes. The first rendezvous between Jamie and Maggie is up against her kitchen counter seconds after they get through the door. A large chunk of them getting it on is on camera, with no cutting away.

Of course, all the raunchiness is balanced out by tender moments between Jamie and Maggie. The unfolding of their relationship is natural and un-rushed. They aren't saying, "I love you" 10 minutes after they first meet, so when the proclamations of love do come it is believable.

But, as fun as it is to watch all the steamy love scenes, the movie has a serious undertone. Maggie's illness is the obstacle the two need to overcome. Although the ending is happy, it's apparent the future isn't going to be all sunshine and rainbows.

Love and Other Drugs is a romantic comedy worth watching. It has love, sex, humour, drama and Jake Gyllenhaal naked. And really, what more could you ask for? ☹

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Dylan Matthias Sports Editor

The mighty fall

Number 2 ranked UNB lose 6 – 3 to Dal

Arfa Ayub
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie Tigers head coach Pete Belliveau called it the best game he has seen the Tiger's men's hockey team play in three years. Rookie forward Pierre Alexander Vandall had two goals as the Tigers defeated the country's top ranked AUS team, UNB, 6–3.

"I think the boys came out strong, our game preparation was really good and we battled the whole game against probably one of the best teams in the country," said starting goalie Bobby Nadeau.

Dal's Vandall opened the scoring in the first period to give the Tigers an early 1–0 lead just 4:05 into the first. The first goal came after UNB defenceman Jonathan Harty tripped in the neutral zone, which allowed Dal forward Jacob Johnston to skate into the attacking zone. Johnston made a textbook pass to Vandall who was standing right in front of the crease and shot it high glove side past UNB's starting goalie Derek Yeomans.

"It was a real team effort," said rookie forward Brad McConnell. "I mean Bobby stayed in there when we needed him but we kept most of the shots to the outside and everyone played hard. It was just a solid effort by the team forwards and everyone else."

McConnell, who has been outstanding for the Tigers, said that he is happy with his season thus far.

"I just work hard in practice and try to learn things from the older guys," he said. "It just seems that things are going in right now and kudos to my line-mates. They are doing a great job."

Kyle Bailey replied for UNB midway through the first after firing a wrist shot behind Nadeau who had been out of position. A power-play goal by Chris Culligan gave UNB a 2–1 lead.

"We battled the whole game against probably one of the best teams in the country."

After UNB's second goal it looked like the Tigers were starting to fall apart. That changed when McConnell scored to tie the game up at two. McConnell's goal was a single-handed effort as he dumped the puck down from the defending zone and got past two UNB defenders in front of the crease who seemed to be standing still. The goal came to the surprise of Yeomans, who wasn't sure where the puck had gone until the goal buzzer went off.

Daniel Bartek again, giving Dal the

lead. Forward Ronald Kelly made a great backhand pass to Bartek from behind the net who made no mistake getting it past Yeoman's blocker side.

Shea Kewin scored the first goal of the second period giving the Tigers their first two-goal lead of the game. Vandall would score his second of the game with 6:55 played in the second. Benjamin Breault would follow up to make it 6–2, giving Dal a comfortable four goal lead over the best team in the country.

Joshua Hepditch scored UNB's third goal of the game late in the third.

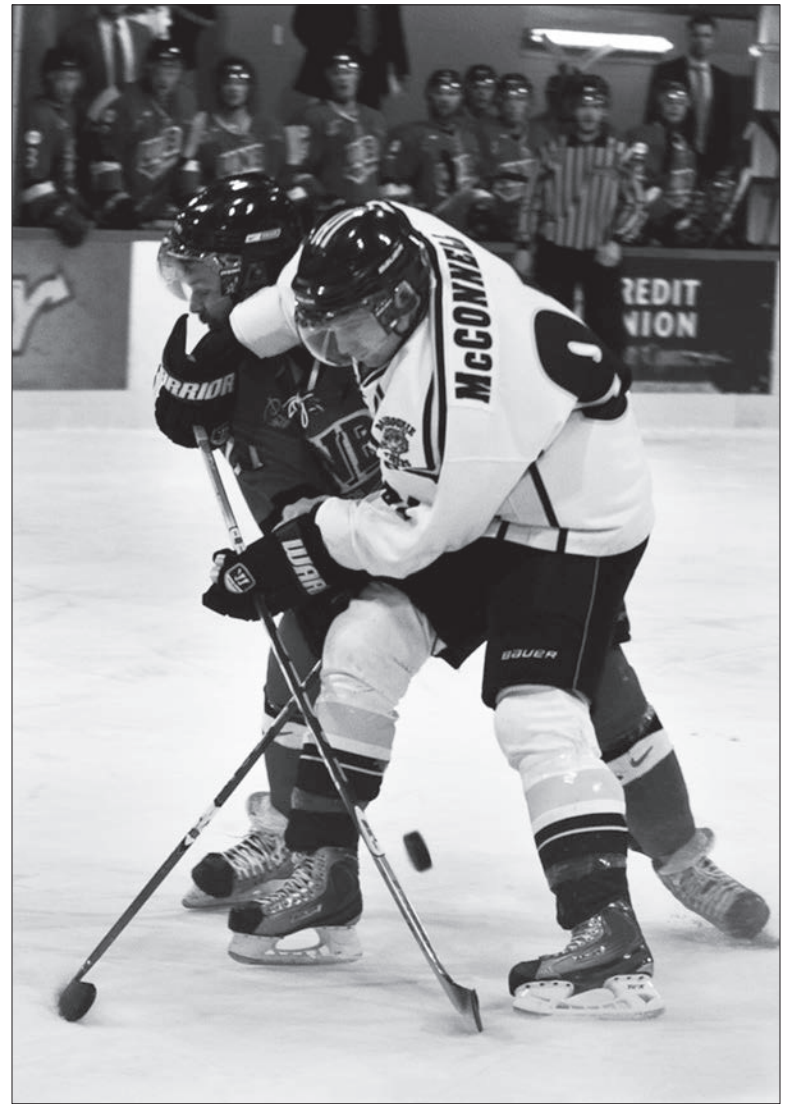
The victory gives the Tigers a fourth-straight win, a feat which hasn't been accomplished by the Tigers men's hockey team as far back as 2003.

"It's amazing. There is nothing better than winning. It's a great feeling and hopefully we can keep it up for a while," said Nadeau.

What makes this win streak even more memorable is that three out of the four victories have come against the top-rated teams in the country including defending University Cup champions Saint Mary's.

Nadeau, who has started in all four of the Tigers wins, said that hard work is what got him back into the line-up.

"Josh Disher played really really well in the beginning of the season. I had maybe some difficulties but I kept working hard in practices and when I had my chance it turned out pretty good for me," he said. ☺



The Tigers are on their first four game win-streak since 2003. Photo by Martina Marien



One win, one loss for men's basketball

Haywood leads SMU over Tigers

"Regardless of the play called, the Tigers are going to have to get some garbage second chance put-back points to come out on top."

Dal ranks second in the AUS going into the holiday break. Photo by Natasha White

Natasha White
Basketball Beat Reporter

Last week's away games against Saint Mary's and the University of New Brunswick closed out the Tigers' 2010 year.

The 92–86 loss to SMU was thanks in large part to a generous Dalhousie defence. The Tigers were giving out inches like treats on Halloween. And inches were all Joey Haywood and his Huskies needed to hit key open-look jump shots. Haywood was top-scorer in the game with 30 points. The Huskies earned their victory in the final five minutes, stealing the game from the Tigers.

Despite a 27-point effort from Tiger Simon Farine, Dalhousie couldn't hold on. Dal was outscored by nine in the second quarter and out-played in the dying minutes. It was SMU who dictated play throughout. With scores reaching triple digits, the Tigers' low scoring defensive-minded game plan was ineffective. The loss to their Halifax rivals should taste especially bitter to the Tigers—Dal goes down 0–1 in the four head-to-head matches against SMU this season.

The final game of 2010 was in Fredericton where Dal faced off against the UNB Varsity Reds. The Reds are currently in a fierce four-way tie for third with St. FX, Acadia, and SMU. Each team has scrapped together six points

so far. Dal, sitting alone in second with 14 points, ended the year off right with a 70–56 win over UNB.

One third of the basketball season is over. The Tigers have earned second spot behind Cape Breton in the AUS. CBU goes into the winter break the only undefeated team in the conference with a seven and zero record. Dal currently sits tenth in CIS national rankings while St. FX is somehow holds on to fourth place in the country. Curiously, X lags back in sixth place in the AUS.

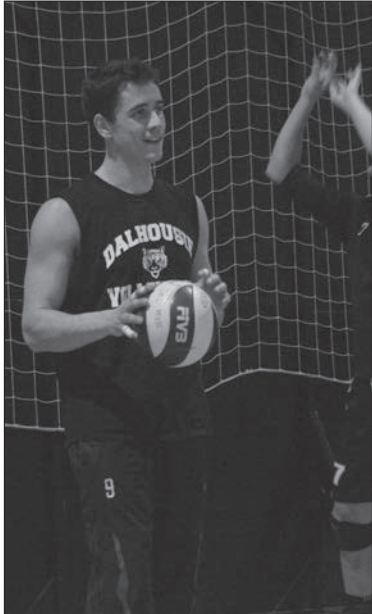
Come January, Dal's defence will need to pay more respect to the pure shooters that abound in the AUS. On offence the Tigers could look to shoot more. Confidence is lacking and hesitation is creeping in. Too often it's Farine left with seven seconds on the clock to force some magic. But, regardless of the play called, the Tigers are going to have to get some garbage second chance put-back points to come out on top.

Regular season starts up with Dal hosting first place CBU Jan 8. ☺

Can't wait until the eighth? Looking to enjoy three solid days of quality ball? The look no further than the men's annual Rod Shoveller Memorial Basketball Tournament. The Tigers host top teams from across the nation Dec 31-Jan 2 at the Dalplex.

The complicated life of a Tiger

Volleyballer Angus Rhuland's path to Dal



Angus Rhuland prepares to set the ball for Dal. ••• Photo by Ian Froese

Ian Froese
Staff Contributor

He confidently grasped the volleyball as he stood behind the serving line. He knew what was expected of him. So did his teammates; so did his coaches; and so did the home crowd. All were watching with bated breath. The Tigers wanted this serve to be the final serve of the match.

To get to this point — match point — wasn't easy. The Tigers and UNB Varsity Reds were trading points in the deciding set. With the score 15 – 14, all that was required was for the home side to get the next point and the Tigers would prevent an upset. This was the type of high-pressure scenario that great athletes hunger for, and one that wasn't envisioned for Angus Rhuland.

Today, Angus is your average student-athlete. He juggles early morning practices, mid-day workouts and evening study sessions. Through hard work and dedication, the 24 year-old setter, in his third year of eligibility, has become a fixture in the starting lineup of the Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team.

He took a few detours along the way to becoming a veteran university athlete. They were diversions that strayed drastically from most aspiring CIS volleyball players. For instance, Angus didn't play on the volleyball team throughout high school like the bulk of his peers.

In fact, Angus Rhuland dropped out of school.

The customary team meal

Minutes ahead of 5 p.m., a few Fridays back, Angus casually strolls into Sheriff Hall for the pre-game meal, three hours preceding the match. The 6'2", 195 lb. Rhuland is built, and looks every bit the university athlete, clad like his teammates in matching black outfits. Sporting a black ball cap, Angus dons a Tigers' track jacket and track pants. The conformity of his black attire clashes with the white earbud leisurely strung from his left ear.

Enough members of the team congregate in the lobby and the sea of black drifts into the meal hall. Most fill their trays with carbohydrate-heavy meals. Lasagna, for example, is always made available to the men's volleyball

team before their games. Angus was one of the pasta recipients, enjoying some noodles along with a burger and a wrap peppered with meat and veggies.

Segregated in the far end of the meal hall, the players were shooting the breeze, exchanging zingers across the table. They were only interrupted by the noise of clinking glasses. This was a team tradition, and the unwitting victim of the buttering of the shoe prank was 'Junior,' Angus Campbell.

The friendly prank, the older Angus explains, involves a player splattering a slab of butter onto the shoe of an unsuspecting party. Once it happens, glasses are rung.

Mischief aside, the team dinner at the meal hall was a stress-free occasion. But what would be a team gathering without some taunting? The guys poked fun at slighter teammates who need more muscle on their frame, and Devon Parkinson's role as an extra in the made-for-TV movie *Sorority Wars* (one can imagine that is a running joke).

The solidarity of this Tigers' outfit is evident right away. They sit together, eat together and laugh together. In high school most of these players likely envisioned this camaraderie when they dreamed of cracking a CIS roster. For Angus, his dream was a bit more particular: he wanted to wear the black and gold. Although he had a knack for volleyball, Rhuland faced more doubters than believers.

School of hard knocks

When Angus was younger he was involved in multiple sports. While volleyball was of most importance, he was equally talented, if not more so, in football and soccer, in which the Halifax-native made the provincial teams. Complementing his sporting resume, Angus played hockey, basketball, badminton, track and field and boxing.

A sporting phenomenon in his community, Angus was turning heads and appeared on his way to bearing a Tigers uniform. The only question was, which sport?

But that question soon lost its importance. The 16 year-old was blindsided with the reality that sports are only a game. He was struck with the news that his grandmother had passed away. Angus took the loss hard. His grandmother had been living with the family for the past 10 years and her sudden death was devastating.

The news changed him, and not for the better. He partied too much and academics lost their importance. Just before his Grade 10 year, he dropped out of school.

"I thank my parents for not turning their back on me," Angus recalled. "They should have."

Rhuland abandoned schooling and high school volleyball, but continued playing on club teams. He still took pleasure in setting up the perfect spike, and he delighted in hitting a football opponent, but since walking away from school he hadn't been as devoted as he should have been. He gained considerable weight, adding 65 pounds in the next few years.

The next fall Angus returned to Queen Elizabeth High School, but he still needed an incentive to carry on. His mom, Lois MacGregor, told the school how important it was for her son to have athletics; it gave him a reason to be

there.

And it worked. He went to class and received quality court time. But Angus' same "dumb, distracted" self reappeared and in the second semester, now that school volleyball was over, he attended class sparingly. He obtained a meagre two credits, both from the first semester.

Angus had basically dropped out again. Ambitions of a high school diploma and a university career seemed farfetched, at best. Then, one day, something happened — his perspective changed. He was going to commit to school.

"My mind clicked," Angus said, snapping his fingers as he recalled the enlightening moment. "I was being an idiot."

He took two more years to graduate. In his first year back, he couldn't play on the volleyball team because of a lack of credits. The next year, he was too old. Angus couldn't be dragged away from the court, so he helped coach the team he wasn't permitted to play for.

The former dropout developed into a leader in his high school, and he still is at Dal.

Turning dream into reality

In a classroom at the Dalplex with tables lined up to form a large rectangle sits head coach Dan Ota in front of a projector screen. Players rest in their assigned seats and took out a pen and paper. Angus does the same, removing his hat and placing his Tim Hortons cup within reach.

The room gets quiet as the coach speaks, using prepackaged video footage to show his soldiers the tendencies of the UNB Varsity Reds.

Players jot down notes, but they are already well aware of the night's game plan. They simply have to execute it.

Angus is one of the few to ask a question in the meeting, wondering if Andrew Costa tips the ball. The coach says the Reds' setter is known for it.

Angus and his coach have had a rapport since 2005 when Rhuland was on the provincial team for the Canada Summer Games. Though he only played club volleyball, he was still levels beyond the majority of his peers with more experience.

In Regina that year, the question of Angus' future came up. Rhuland wanted to play for Ota as a Tiger. His coach reacted with a slight smirk and for good reason, too: Angus wasn't a towering player on the floor, he didn't scream 'natural jumper' and wasn't in the best game shape. Sure, he had lost 40 pounds, but Angus would have to commit to the sport even further. But Ota saw the teenager's potential and invited him to the Tigers open tryout next year. The rest is history.

Angus did not see court time at the tournament, but not for volleyball reasons.

One night, after walking from a bar in downtown Halifax looking for a taxi, he came across a fight involving a buddy of his. Rhuland stepped in to interrupt, dragging his friend out of harm's way. When retreating, he peeked behind his shoulder to make sure the aggressor was backing down, but he didn't. He sucker punched Angus. He threw two further punches until Angus tripped over the curb. He was knocked out, suffered a brain contusion and a bruise of the brain. He was in the hospital for 10 days and

was told to avoid sports for a number of months.

Parental influence

A respectable crowd of around 200 were cheering on the women's team before the men's match at the Dalplex. Among them were an older man and woman sitting at the top corner of one of the bleachers wearing jerseys with the number nine on them. Nine is Angus' jersey number.

His dreams of playing for the home side at the Dalplex came from his parents.

MacGregor, Angus' mother, is ingrained in Tigers' lore. She played volleyball in the 1960s and coached the team to a national title in 1982, the sole Atlantic volleyball team to win national gold in either gender. Her achievement was celebrated in 2004 when she was included in the opening class of the Dalhousie Sports Hall of Fame.

His mother — and his father who became a fan watching MacGregor play — never pushed Angus to play volleyball, but their interest in it rubbed off. As a young kid he watched Dal play, particularly his "cool cousin" and first-team CIS all-Canadian Scott Bagnell in the late 1990s.

Volleyball runs in his family, but there must have been other factors that lured him to the sport. He was physically gifted in soccer and football. He doesn't say the same about volleyball. So what made him pursue the court rather than the field? He doesn't have a clear-cut answer.

"I don't know. It's a tough sport to play," he said. "I enjoy challenges."

Orchestrating the offence

The UNB side is confident this evening, but it would be an upset, albeit not a drastic one, if they claimed victory.

The first two sets were decided by two points or less. The Tigers won the first set; the Reds returned the favour.

Angus was a starter this evening. After two seasons on the sidelines as a redshirt and now in his third year on the active roster, officially becoming the undisputed setter this fall was a long time coming.

"He's not the kind of guy that's going to be discouraged from some setbacks," said Ota. "Now he's at the point where he's the starting setter tonight. It's what he's wanted his whole career, the chance to lead our squad on the floor."

The leadership capabilities of Angus and his fellow veterans are needed, particularly in the third set. The team is lifeless out of the gate and they are ineffective, despite numerous timeouts.

The scene plays out repeatedly. The boys circle their coach in silence — a muted pause amongst the rustle of cheers and conversation. The coach's arms are crossed. For a few seconds, his voiceless demeanor speaks for him.

"We shouldn't have to make a mistake to figure it out," says the frustrated coach to his team after a block gone awry. "It should be obvious!"

After receiving a net violation for illegally touching the net with his fingers, the coach swaps his setters, pulling Angus for Justin Kilb. The score was 16 – 10 to the Reds and there is no indication their lead will evaporate. Angus put his track clothing back on and encouraged his teammates from his new position. They would fall in the set, 25 – 19.

When the fourth set arrives, Angus

returns to the floor and his troops recover. The Tigers tied the match at two, winning the fourth set 25 – 18.

The do-or-die scenario certainly thrills Angus, a man who plays with his heart on his sleeve. He angrily scrapes the floor with his sneaker when a play falters, or hides his face with his hands when his mistake proves detrimental. When plays go well, he's ecstatic.

The fears of an upset are revived in the fifth set—the Reds hold an 8 – 5 advantage at the changeover. The picture for the Tigers isn't rosy, but they claw back to even the match 14 – 14.

The Tigers claim a crucial lead when outside Sander Ratsep gets a point and a few chuckles from the crowd. He spikes the ball, slamming an opponent in the face. The score is 15 – 14. The home side has their second attempt to close the match.

It's Angus' chance to serve. To his left are the fans, hanging on the ball's every flight. To his right is his team, surveying the proceedings. In front of him is his intended destination for the ball: the opposing floor.

The serve sails over the net. The ball is volleyed back. Angus launches it for a Ratsep smash from the left side. Two Reds defenders soar to stop it but they can't. The ball doesn't come back this time. A successful block from Aaron Binstock and Kenneth Rauwerda prevents the ball from returning to the Tigers end. The ball would bounce for the final time and the Tigers win the set 16 – 14, and the match 3 – 2.

For a team that has captured an AUS championship for the past 24 seasons (each year of Angus' life), one might think regular season games don't matter to this team. But they do. The elation in the building is contagious. The players and the home crowd raise their arms in approval of the hard-fought victory, including Angus' parents.

Angus himself nearly plunges to the ground. His jubilation propels him to Binstock, his legs driving him off the ground for the embrace. The rest of the squad gathers toward them to celebrate.

Proving naysayers wrong

Angus is exchanging pleasantries in the summer with the mother of a kid he instructs at the Waegwoltic Club off of Coburg Road. He's teaching beach volleyball. Eventually he divulges how he became the man he is today, the setbacks and the triumphs.

"You've really seen and done it all, haven't you?" says the mother. It meant something to Angus. He's been through a lot.

Occasionally, he meets people he hasn't seen in years who are stunned to learn that not only is he on a CIS roster, but that a university accepted him to begin with.

The third-year management student hasn't determined what his future has in store, but he says with a tinge of pride that getting a master's degree or playing pro overseas would permanently silence the doubters of his past.

"They didn't see this coming," he smiles. ☺

Ian Froese is a journalism student at the University of King's College. He covers sports for the Dal Gazette and has been published in the University of Manitoba's student paper, The Manitoban.

sports

Men's hockey get past UPEI

Bartek scores OT winner in rough game

Arfa Ayub
Staff Contributor

Benoit Gervais said that there is a huge rivalry between the UPEI Panthers and the Dalhousie Tigers. That rivalry was clearly evident as the Tigers defeated the Panthers 6-5 in overtime last Friday. The win gives the Tigers a third straight victory.

"It was a real play-off game," said Pete Belliveau, head coach of the Tigers. "We are playing more consistent and we are getting wins, executing the system a lot better."

The win comes a week after the Tigers had defeated the defending CIS champion Saint Mary's Huskies.

"It was a pretty big win against a team like UPEI," said Dal forward Gervais after the game. Last year we only had a point against them. They just destroyed us, it wasn't even funny. Every time we play them it makes for a good game. There is not much love between the two teams. To be able to win this one especially after we dropped the lead is big for us."

Defenceman Brett Theberge scored the first goal of the game after deflecting a slap shot that came from just outside

the left face-off circle, giving the Tigers a 1-0 lead. Brad McConnell scored the second goal of the game, with just under a minute remaining in the first, increasing the lead to 2-0. 19 seconds later, UPEI's Cory Vitarelli scored to get his team on the board.

"We just didn't come out and compete the way we should have, we didn't play our game," said Panthers forward Michael MacIsaac. "We were lucky enough to come out with one point. We will take that one and the next game."

The Tigers regained their two goal lead on a goal by Benjamin Breault to start the second. Starting goalie Bobby Nadeau, who made his third consecutive start after sitting out the last few because of the solid play by back-up Josh Disher, faltered with the puck as he came out to play it, which allowed Panther forward Thomas Waugh to gain the attacking zone. Waugh shot the puck past Nadeau and into the net. Following a flurry of chances for the Tigers, Francois Gauthier finally capitalized on a wrist shot to give the Tigers what seemed like a comfortable 4-2 lead.

"They are a gritty team. They are fast and they move the puck well so we had

to show up and play the way we can but we didn't so we lost points tonight," said MacIsaac.

MacIsaac scored a power play goal for the Panthers, bringing his team back within one goal. After the buzzer went off to end the second Gervais slashed MacIsaac in the face. The two had been going at it the whole game, trash talking and getting on each others nerves.

"He throws himself down," said Gervais, referring to MacIsaac. "That's what he does. He tries to get under people's skin but then sometimes you don't see anything and this time I actually got him pretty bad and did not get to two minutes, so I guess I won that one."

But MacIsaac felt differently. "It's just part of the game," he said. "People battle and to me he is just another player."

Panther's forward Matt Carter opened the scoring in third to tie the game up at four. Breault replied for the Tigers 8:12 into the third. Matt Brenton scored late in the third to tie the game up at five. Dal forward Daniel Bartek would score 4:05 into overtime to give the Tigers the victory. ☺

Laval dominates Vanier Cup

Armaan Ahluwalia
Staff Contributor

Defence wins championships and that point was proven at the 46th Vanier Cup at PEPs Stadium at the Université Laval.

The Rouge et Or defeated the Calgary Dinos winning 29-2.

Laval started out with a bang, scoring 17 points in the first quarter and shutting out the Dinos throughout the game. They began with two quick touchdowns on their first few drives and took control of the game from there.

The Dinos did not manage to score any offensive points in the game, scoring only on a conceded safety by Laval in the first quarter.

Sebastien Levesque had a monster game for the Rouge et Or and was named the player of the game. He ran the ball 30 times for 168 yards and one touchdown. The touchdown came on a 40-yard run on the first offensive drive for Laval. Levesque was also injured many

times during the game, but kept coming back into the game and giving out hard hits to the defenders.

Calgary was never able to get anything going on the offensive side. They had too many dropped catches and their star receivers were unable to handle the slippery ball. The crowd noise and snow where the external factors which made a difference and gave Laval the upper hand over a shaky Calgary team.

Erik Glavic was never able to get anything going and had a terrible game in his final CIS appearance. Despite an amazing career, the two-time Hec Creighton trophy winner ends without a Vanier Cup. ☹

See the liveblog at dalgazette.com/home/category/sports

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Laval	17	9	0	3	29
Calgary	0	2	0	0	2



The Tigers are 0-3 in their last three games heading into the holidays. ••• Photo by Natasha White

sudoku.

7								
	4	1	7		6	9		
	8	9		3				
8	2						3	
4	9				1	6		5
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2			6		3			

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Dalhousie University's Department of Athletics and Recreational Services offers Dal students plenty of opportunities to get active, meet up with friends, show your competitive spirit and take your mind off the books! You can also head to Dalplex with your student ID and unwind while staying healthy.



SATURDAY
December 4

Dal Open Track & Field Meet, 6pm @ Dalplex
FREE for Dal students!



SUNDAY
December 5

Dalplex is on Facebook! Check out our page this month and you could win a great prize!

MONDAY
December 6

Join the Outdoor Adventure Crew's e-mail list to hear all about the fun outdoor recreation activities taking place through Dalplex!

Email hreynold@dal.ca for more info.

TUESDAY
December 7

There is limited availability in the fieldhouse during exams - check out Dalplex's facility schedule online for a detailed schedule.



WEDNESDAY
December 8

NOTE: Fitness classes move to Studley Dance Studio for the exam period, with the exception of AquaFit of course!

9:30-10:30am, Boot Camp
12:00-1:00pm, Step
4:30-5:30pm, Cardio Mixer
6:30-7:30pm, Body Trim

THURSDAY
December 9

Good luck everyone - exams begin today!



FRIDAY
December 3

Don't forget to register for Winter Intramural Leagues before you go home for the holidays!



Mounties spoil matinee

Women's hockey shutout in last game before break



The Tigers couldn't get the puck or a goal against Mount Allison on Nov. 26. ••• Photo by Martina Marien

Ryan Lum
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Tigers were looking to turn things around coming into last Saturday's match against Mount Allison. Instead, they lost 3-0.

Having just returned from a three game road trip that saw them play the league's top three teams and drop all three games by one goal, a game at home, where the Tigers had a 3-1-1 record, against the Mounties, second from last in the AUS, looked like a graspable 2 points.

However, the absence of star centre Jocelyn Leblanc and perhaps the lingering frustration of the Tigers 4-3 loss to the Mounties nearly a month ago, gave Memorial Arena an atmosphere of hesitation.

The opening minutes proved uneventful, with the shots sitting at 4-0 for Dal midway through the first. Things did pick-up somewhat near the end of the period when the Mounties received a two-woman advantage and finally created some scoring opportunities. Mt. A managed to sneak a goal with just two seconds remaining in the period. Forward Jenica Bastarache banged home the rebound off a shot from the streaking Katelyn Morton.

The Mounties struck again within the first minute of the second period after a scramble in front of the Dalhousie net saw Darla Frizell's shot hit a stick and ricochet vertically, sailing over the head of Tigers goalie Ashley Boutlier, who was preoccupied with searching for the puck amidst the pile of skates and sticks, and into the net.

Then at 12:34 of the second, a bad clearing attempt led to an interception

and a point blank shot from Mt. A's Megan Davies. After hitting the post it was shovelled in by Megan Entwistle to make it 3-0.

Dal were able to muster a few scoring chances, including a well executed 2-on-1 that saw Fielding Montgomery hit the crossbar. The lack of productivity made frustration grow and discipline wane, leading the size-advantaged Tigers to start throwing body-checks, resulting in several penalties.

Penalties were the decisive factor in the game, and the officiating far from conservative in its judgements. Mount Allison had 11 power-plays to Dal's one. Despite not allowing Mount Allison to score a single power-play goal, a combined 32 minutes shorthanded kept the Tigers from gaining offensive momentum.

The Tigers looked to be starting a charge midway through the third, but once again a spate of penalties — including a game misconduct to assistant captain Alyssa Hennigar — left the squad without enough time or bodies for goal scoring.

The win moved Mount Allison one spot up in the standings to sit above Saint Mary's and UPEI, and also gave netminder Jenelle Hulan her first shutout of the season and the nod for the defensive player of the game.

The Tigers next matchup will be an exhibition game against the women's team representing Nova Scotia at the Canada Games on Dec. 29 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Their next regular season game will be a rematch against Mount Allison on Jan. 7, 7 p.m. at Dal's Memorial Arena.

King's men survive scare

Kayla lafelice
Staff Contributor

Volleyball-sized craters were left on the gym floor after University of King's College Blue Devils battled Holland College Hurricanes for a first home win by a score of 3-2.

Both men's volleyball teams came to play Saturday as spikes were slammed down from both sides of the net and tensions grew as the match went forward.

It looked like King's was going to win after winning two consecutive sets 26-24 and 25-15, but a spurt of aggression from the Hurricanes quickly turned the game around in the third set.

"I think it was a bit closer then we wanted it to be," said King's leading right-side hitter of the game Alex Bell-Moratto.

The lack of communication and easy mistakes made early on set a slow-pace for the beginning of the match.

Blue Devil's head coach Justin Lynch says the team's advantage for the game would be their height.

"The key to this game is going to be intensity. We've been working all week on intensity with our blocking and our defence."

What was learnt in practice came into play and the intensity picked up when Daniel Strickland, the Blue Devil's 6'7" middle, took the lead in blocking.

By the second set, the Blue Devils were playing together. They were all

very in tune with setter Colin Gaudet and serves were being received with accuracy and precision.

In set three, the Hurricanes turned up the aggression and continued to forcefully return the ball, waking the Blue Devils up from what had been a textbook game.

The Blue Devils lost the lead early in the set, but remained in the game as the lead changed from point to point. Many small mistakes were made and the game shifted from a team game to an individual one. This cost the Blue Devils the third and fourth sets, 27-25 and 25-23.

As both teams entered the fifth set the atmosphere changed. Lynch tried to motivate the boys out of their team rut.

The focus for Lynch was "not getting complacent, not giving up and not accepting mediocrity."

Communication increased, balls were returned and there was an overall hustle from all players on the court.

Several mistakes and an unsportsmanlike conduct call against the Hurricanes provided the Blue Devils with the opportunity to win the set 15-12.

"We've beaten that team pretty easily before. We're really happy we came through in the end and showed a lot of strength," said Moratto post-game.

The Blue Devils play again Jan. 15 against the University of New Brunswick Saint John.

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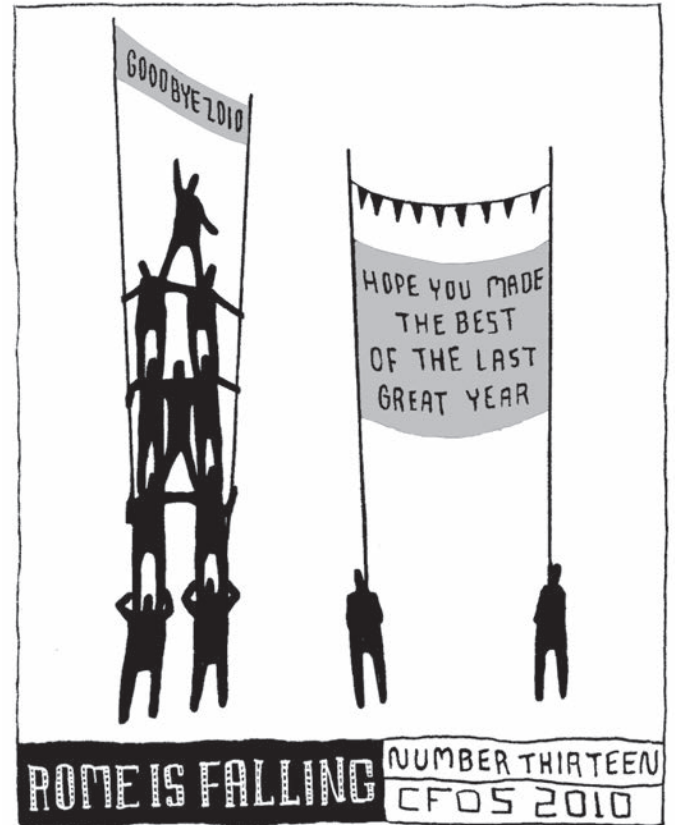
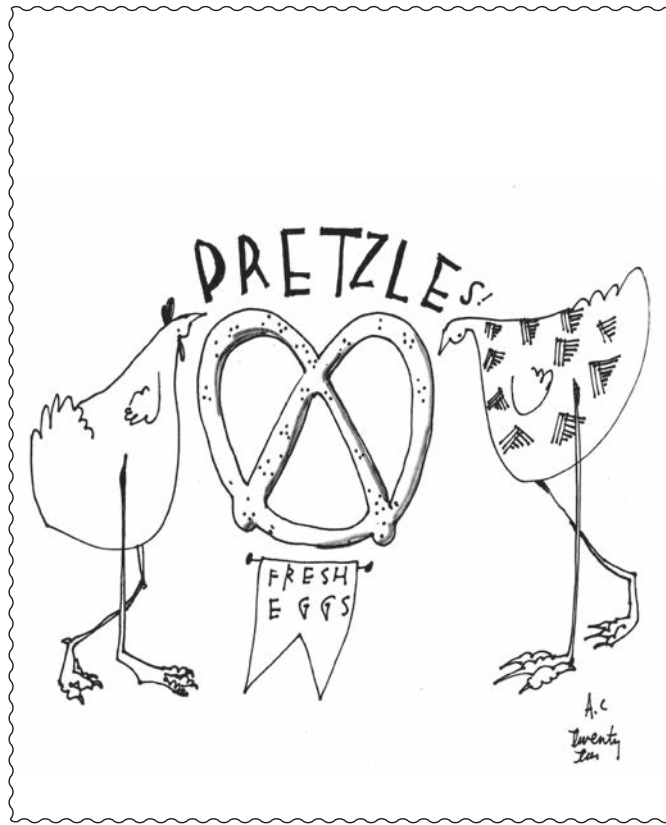
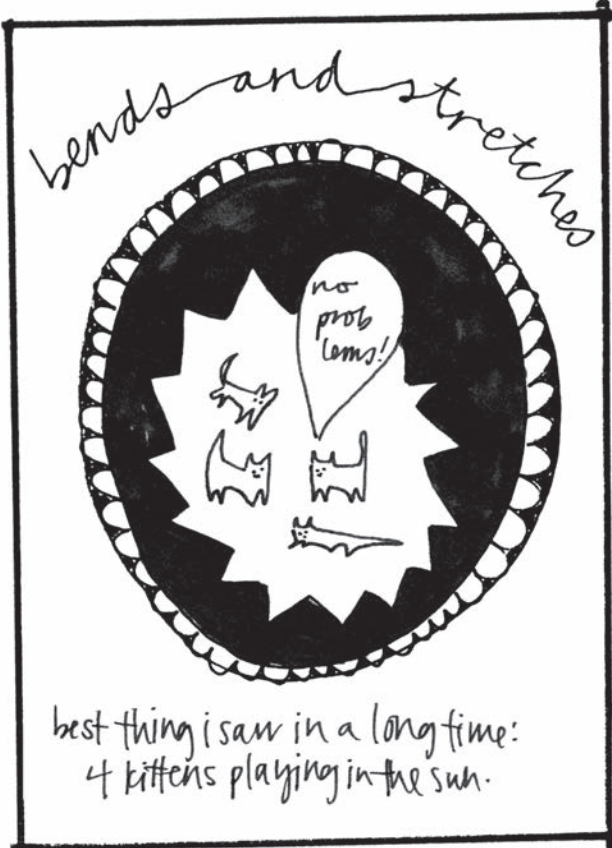
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comics & poetry.



Ed Gein's Girls

He follows your light scent in the town graveyard, with a curled smile on his face, and tools in hand. He finds your stone, pulls your fresh flesh from the ground—he needs new clothing.

Wandering the dark paths, he searches for a place to begin. Stealing carcasses, the freshly buried ones with cool dry skin, is his most cherished game. He takes them all, with certain love and established reason, from churchyard to barn.

He pins them above, eyeing perfection as he works at their delectable skin, prying open flesh and cracking dead ribs. Dressed out like a deer. Crossbar at ankles and ropes at taut wrists, he hangs them upside down. Ripe to the bone.

After he clears the inside, he takes care of the leather skin, and outfits his home with trophies from his winning games. As slip covers and chair seats, nine masks of thin skin, he remembers those days every other day. He will not forget.

He found you, awake, and saw your lively skin. It would make much better clothing, wouldn't rip, and your body can be used for more things too—window-drawstring lips.

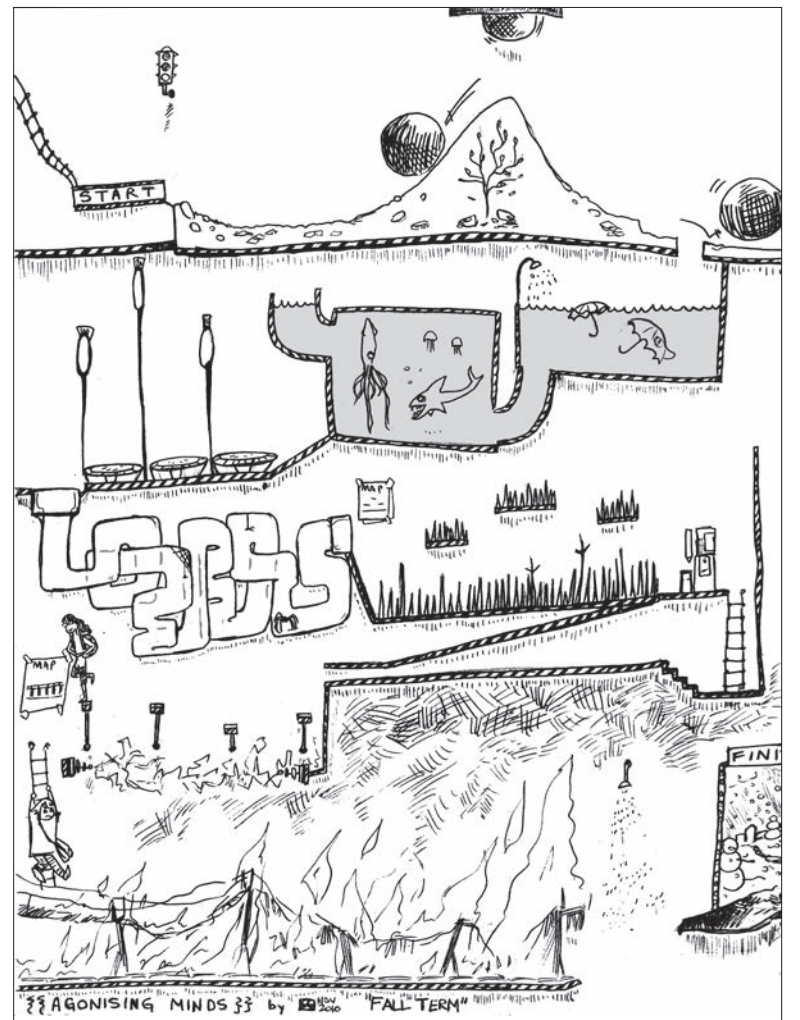
—Jenna Harvie



THE GRAIN ELEVATORS

The Halifax Grain Elevators Limited - Corner of South Bland & Atlantic; Halifax, NS

some context, perhaps. trains — less frequent, we're told — clatter and rumble, nearby. there are ships. nights, passing. and just down from what once was a peeler bar just down the road — torn down now, years back — we have this. industry's crumbling veneer. these cocked, clenched fists — these grain elevators — near assaulting the asphalt, the gravel and lost soul shopping cart mess, that clutters the corner of south bland and atlantic. the atlantic harbouring grudges, beyond. the insensitive heft of it all. massive, each weathered bone column, each concrete finger: all tendon-tensed against impact, near white-knuckled to breakage. time was, you could count on a body or two, an old car.



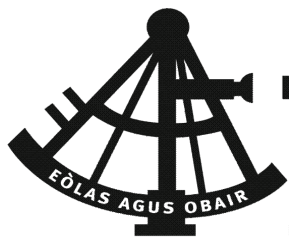
you might say this is not unlike how a love turns — how that looks, over time. how it becomes weathered and pock-marked; a remnant of effort all scribbled and tagged by long nights, passers-by. becomes argument as foundation; becomes all-(it-would-seem)-of a sudden some concrete conundrum. each day a bare-boned utility.

how this all leaves us wearied, worried; stress-fractured and cracked like this dun-dull brute tonnage, new weeds sprung up at our base. silos cemented in place.

so, stuck, we look down: scan the dust and blown trash. we sift through what's fallen, what we guess has been spilt. let it run past our fingers, ghost through the new fissures of loosely cupped hands. all those fine grains salting the air, a coarse grit caught at the back of the throat.

—Matt Robinson

Submit your poetry.
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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Editor in Chief:
Ben Wedge

December 3rd, 2010
Page 1

We've come full circle, or have we? Peace out A-town



Ben Wedge
Industrial '13

When I took the reins of the paper from Anna West (Materials '11) last January, I inherited a growing baby. Despite a history that can be traced back to 1954, what she handed me was an all-new beast. When she took over, there was nothing to take over. Thrust into the position, the computer and almost all paperwork had disappeared. Thankfully, her tireless dedication to rebuilding the Sextant meant that I could concentrate on incremental improvements and developing a long-term plan. What she handed me was a one-page publication with a growing list of contributors.

I started this semester with two ambitious goals: to consistently publish two pages of content, and to get our name heard in the advertising market. In a way, we succeeded at the first goal, but the Gazette quickly crushed our hopes of paying for what we printed. Now,

our business model is up in the air, and we've retreated to one page in print. Luckily, we have a strong, and growing team of contributors, which increases our chances of goal number three, independent publication for the first time in at least five years becoming a reality. Independence has many challenges, but many rewarding benefits for everyone. A vibrant writing community, where our viewpoints are promoted, means we can further develop the profile of this campus. Independence means we no longer have to worry about being lumped in with the Gazette and fear differences in opinion on content.

I hope that I am leaving a strong product and community with my successor, Shani Blankrot (Industrial '11). I know the paper will be in capable hands as I take a four-semester leave of absence. I encourage others to join her team, to both refine and further develop this great publication. What hasn't been lost upon our team is that this paper is about you. While we may share ...



Kaylee Shannon
Civil '11
DSEUS President

After a very quick 8 months I am handing over the reins of the DSEUS. I finish my engineering degree this December so I must give up the glorious position of DSEUS president. As much as I am excited to be done school, I am a little sad to be leaving the DSEUS, and all the wonderful people I have met along the way. In four and half years ago I started my degree at Dalhousie. I was 1 in 15000 students. Coming from a small town it was a big change to say the least. However, I quickly got involved with the engineering society and within a month I was attending my first ever Moosehead's game with the engineers. I immediately felt welcomed by the "old" second year students, and suddenly DAL didn't seem that big anymore.

As the years progressed, I continued my involvement with the societies, first with the Civil Society and now with DSEUS. My involvement has taught me so much more than I

could have ever learned in school. I have learned many lessons that will be valuable for employment and interviews, and just life in general. I am sure that the "soft-skills" such as communication, conflict management, time management, leadership, and more will help me later in life. Above all that, the thing I will take away from my four and half years is the pride I have for Dalhousie Engineering.

I am proud of all of the volunteers. Whether it was organized, or just helping out, there have been so many people who have just helped - no question asked. I have asked for help countless times with various things, from volunteers for events, to help with school, to picking up supplies for Engineering. So I say a big thanks to anyone who has helped me and/or the society over the past years. I am sure I owe a few people drinks at some point!

I am also proud of our focus on charity. Just this term we have raised over 400 dollars to the Canadian Breast Cancer foundation, over 1000 dollars for November, bought 25 angel tree gifts for the Salvation

CO-OP CORNER

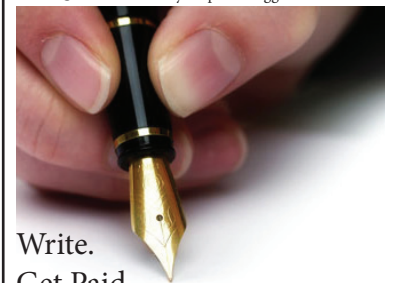
Things to Remember:

- The Co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is engandcompcoop.dal.ca
- Round 2 underway until December 7.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Computer abuse: Due to the constant bombardment of error messages and lack of internet connectivity on Sexton Campus, there has been an increase in computer abuse.

Editors' note: Word of the Week is a humour column based on popular expressions around Sexton Campus. If you have any complaints or suggestions, please email sextant@dal.ca. Obviously we prefer suggestions!



Write.

Get Paid.

Send articles to sextant@dal.ca



HALIFAX'S BEST TRIVIA! SEXTON CAMPUS EVENTS

Looking for something to do? Not spending enough time mingling with other faculties/disciplines? Then check out some of these events.

Friday, December 3rd
Final Trivia of the year! (\$2)

Monday, December 6th
Candlelight vigil, Alumni Lounge, 6pm

Monday, December 20th
Last day of exams

Wednesday, January 5th
First day of class

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

Check out the full issue online by scanning this barcode with your smartphone, or by visiting the website! Some content was not printed, as we've chosen to focus on online content delivery. If you have any concerns, please email us.



December 6th: 21 years later, the pain persists



Alana Robertson
Industrial '11

When I was in my first year of Engineering at Dalhousie, I was given a group assignment to research any topic and present the information found. For whatever

reason, I can't remember anymore, our group of three females and one male chose to research the 'École Polytechnique Massacre' or what is commonly referred to as the 'Montreal Massacre'. I personally did not know much about the topic. I knew there had been a shooting. I knew that people wore purple ribbons in December to stand up against violence towards women, but I didn't know much else.

Our group wanted to do well on

the CBC Archives:

The articles were pretty graphic. Re-reading the details of the event, now, after five years of education on what it means to be an engineer (both inside and outside of the classroom), stirs up even more indescribable emotions of grief, sadness and anger than the first time.

To continue our research on the project, our group decided to visit the Dalhousie Women's Centre. Our lone male member joined us on our trek to the cozy house on South Street. Before anyone could say much of anything, tea was poured for everyone. We sat at the kitchen table, in a house that felt so welcoming and like home that I thought: if anything bad were to ever happen to me, and I felt like I couldn't talk to anyone, this is where I would want to come.

We quickly discovered that our hostess at the Women's Centre had been in Montreal at the time of the shooting, at a neighbouring university. She described how she felt after the shooting, how for the rest of her university career, she always took caution to sit as close to

"Gunman massacres 14 women

Broadcast Date: Dec. 6, 1989

A gunman confronts 60 engineering students during their class at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. He separates the men from the women and tells the men to leave the classroom, threatening them with his .22-calibre rifle. The enraged man begins a shooting rampage that spreads to three floors and several classrooms, jumping from desk to desk while female students cower below. He roams the corridors yelling, "I want women."

Before opening fire in the engineering class, he calls the women "une gang de féministes" and says "J'haïs les féministes [I hate feminists]." One person pleads that they are not feminists, just students taking engineering. But the gunman doesn't listen. He shoots the women and then kills himself. Parents of the Polytechnique students wait outside the school crying and wonder if their daughters are among the 14 dead tonight."

reason, I can't remember anymore, our group of three females and one male chose to research the 'École

this project. My eyes widened as we began reading articles on the Internet like the one below from

Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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thursday
december 2
9US PUB six
deadly hearts
the Lodge darby
audrey and the hall
agents
SLUMLORDS

10
PM

thursday
6 til 8PM dec 2
LOST AND FOUND
all ages
bethany
JENNY GILLESPIE
tradition
craig currie

10
PM

friday
december 3
9US PUB six
glory glory
MAN UNITED
DUZHEKNEW
NO FLYERS
PLEASE
f MONTREAL
QUAKER PARENTS

saturday
december 4
seahorse seven
dollars
writers strike
CURSED ARROWS
the grass
the bad MOTELS
BENCAPLAN

10
PM

EARLY SHOW
saturday december 4
REFLECTIONS five
dollars
COVER SHOW
abba BIKINI KILL
BUZZCOCKS
RAMONES
fire breathing
Sideshow
bake sale

8 til
11PM



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at the shows please contact:
lindsayallain at gmail.com

