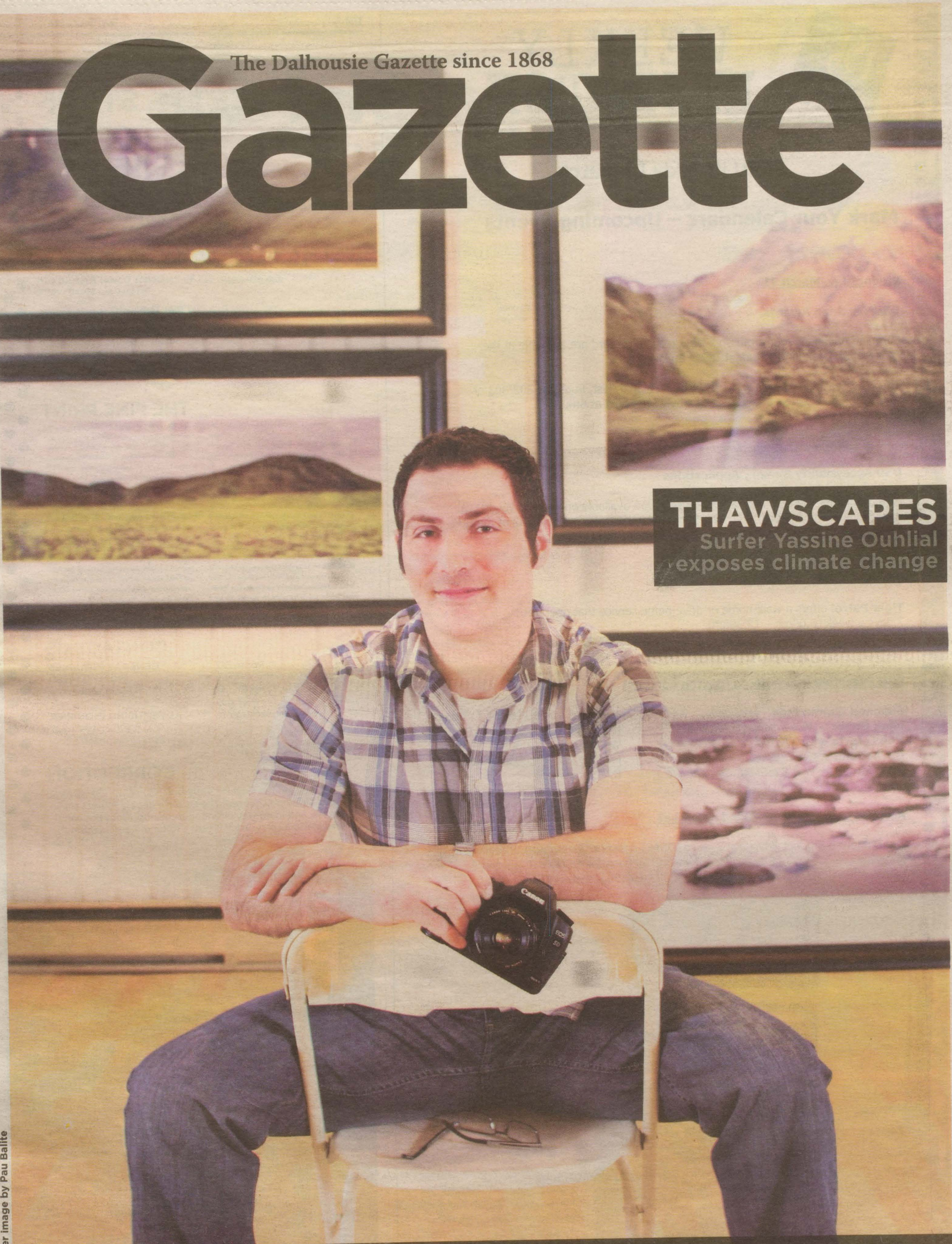


March 26 - April 1, 2010

Gazette 142-24 FREE

# The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868 Gazette



## THAWSCAPES

Surfer Yassine Ouhial  
exposes climate change

Cover image by Pau Balite

2010 DSU election results Pg 4 | Nintendo fans rejoice Pg 15 | Night at the Coliseum Pg 17





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## DSU Weekly Dispatch

### Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

#### Wednesday, March 31

##### DSU Teaching Awards

Forms to nominate your professors for a teaching award are available at the Information Desk in the Student Union Building.

The DSU Teaching Awards will take place on March 31st, in rooms 302/303 of the SUB. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm (time subject to change)

##### DSU Accessibility Bursary Applications

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

##### Walking home after dark?

**Tiger Patrol** offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am). Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> for more details.

##### DSU Executive Office Hours (Sexton Campus)

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

##### Accused of Plagiarism? Failed a Course?

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

##### SUB Hours of Operation

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

Sincerely,  
*Your DSU Executive*

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



## GAZETTE STAFF

- Josh Boyter, Editor in Chief  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)
- Hilary Beaumont, Copy Editor  
[copy@dalgazette.com](mailto:copy@dalgazette.com)
- Lucy Scholey, News Editor  
[news@dalgazette.com](mailto:news@dalgazette.com)
- Tim Mitchell, Features Editor  
[features@dalgazette.com](mailto:features@dalgazette.com)
- Kaley Kennedy, Opinions Editor  
[opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com)
- Laura Dawe, Arts Editor  
[arts@dalgazette.com](mailto:arts@dalgazette.com)
- Joel Tichinoff, Sports Editor  
[sports@dalgazette.com](mailto:sports@dalgazette.com)
- Susan Maroun, Art Director  
[design@dalgazette.com](mailto:design@dalgazette.com)
- Pau Balite, Photo Editor  
[photo@dalgazette.com](mailto:photo@dalgazette.com)

### THE FINE PRINT

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

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

### CONTACT US

Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2  
[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-1280  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-6532  
[advertising@dalgazette.com](mailto:advertising@dalgazette.com)

### CORRECTION

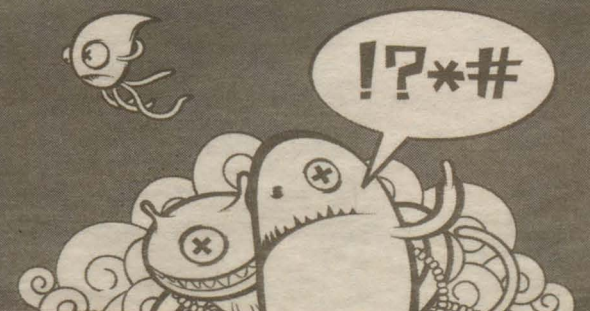
Last week in the Gazette's election issue (142-23), several candidates were misquoted. The Gazette deeply regrets these mistakes, and in no way intended to misrepresent the candidates. We are sorry. We will strive to be more diligent in the future.

# FIGHT THE POWER!

OR DON'T.

BUT... WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

Contributor Meetings are held each  
Monday @ 5:30 pm  
in room 312 S.U.B.





# Letters to the Editor

## Thrush Hermit article debatable

To the Editor,

There were a number of statements in Matthew Ritchie's article "Out from hiding" (issue 142-23) that I found particularly irritating.

First of all, the comparison between Pavement and Thrush Hermit is irrelevant. The similarities between them end at the years in which they were active. The members of Pavement were in their late 20s when they got started and were already mature, polished and entering the prime of their musical relevance. They are from California and found modest success with world tours, MTV airtime and large festival appearances. Further, they are now recognized around the world as one of the hidden gems of the '90s. Stephen Malkmus, although he has found more celebrity than his former band-mates, will never come close to touching in quality or recognition the level that Pavement achieved.

Thrush Hermit, in contrast, formed among high school friends playing local venues and exploded thanks to their youthful enthusiasm and thrashing guitars. They were very young when they released their first few albums and it shows in their songwriting topics and overall coherence. You can hear them get better with every album. *Clayton Park* is my personal favourite and I doubt many people would argue it is not their best. It has

some insane guitar dueling, pounding drums, balls-to-the-wall jam kicking, a few jaw-dropping interludes and many thought-provoking lyrics. Clayton Park makes their previous work appear amateur in its adolescent gripping and basic song structure (although there are exceptions).

There are not many people beyond Eastern Canada who know who Thrush Hermit are. Joel Plaskett, in his solo career, has exceeded by far the fame found by his former group, and in many cases they are known only in passing as "Joel Plaskett's first band." Why waste half an article on a band as rich and storied as Thrush Hermit by making superfluous comparisons to another band? Would anyone stray so far off topic and discuss Thrush Hermit while writing a story about Pavement?

Secondly, Ritchie made a number of unqualified statements that I feel should be addressed. It is highly debatable that Pavement's best work came at the end of their career. I personally find *Terror Twilight* dull and uninspired, particularly when compared to *Crooked Rain* or *Slanted and Enchanted*. It is not my intent to suggest that one is inherently better than the other, or to knock Ritchie's personal taste. I just want to mention that it is a hotly debated topic among Pavement aficionados, and highly subjective.

It is also arguable that Joel Plaskett was Thrush Hermit's front man. They alternated singing and songwriting duties through the years and one of

their strengths was the depth and variation that was afforded by that rotation.

Perhaps the most aggravating statement I have read in a long, long time is this: "Pavement is undoubtedly the best band of their decade next to Radiohead." Undoubtedly? Get real. Which decade? The '90s? Anyone who talks about the great bands of the 1990s without any mention of Nirvana is either a fool or too young to remember. Sure, it is a cliché to say so, and their reputation has been dragged through the mud by the batshit crazy antics of Courtney Love, Dave Grohl's continuing mediocrity with the Foo Fighters, and the grotesque capitalization by all sorts of squee, but they were truly a wonder when Kurt Cobain was alive.

Radiohead isn't really a '90s band anyway. Admittedly, *Ok Computer* is one of the better albums of that decade, and *The Bends* has some fine moments. But *Pablo Honey* is mediocre at best and the rest of their work was released after 2000. Other bands debatably as good or better than Pavement or Radiohead in the 1990s include Pearl Jam, Sonic Youth, REM, Ween, Fugazi and the Beastie Boys. Of course, this is all highly subjective, but still, irresponsible assertions like that should be more closely monitored. Thirdly, anyone who wonders why Thrush Hermit has reunited for a short tour probably shouldn't be writing about them. Lastly, Thrush Hermit is probably not the best '90s Canadian rock band that

doesn't start with the name Sloan". I think it is important in responsible journalism for words to say what they mean.

On a lighter note, the Friday show was outstanding. The band tore through a set of songs that included a good mix from the band's catalogue. They were tight, composed, and obviously enjoying themselves. The drums were driving and heavy throughout, and the grooving bass hit you right in the chest. A great show, and a pleasant evening all around.

-- Andrew Smith

## Sexual assault dialogue overdue

To the Editor,

Thank you so much for your articles addressing the issues of sexual assault on university campuses. I think it is extremely important that we raise awareness and create opportunities for people to talk about these issues. Jaclyn Friedman's lecture, Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape, along with Mike Domitz's visit to campus last month, lecturing on Relationships, Dating and Sexual Assault Prevention, the Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Fair and other events, opened the doors wider to much needed dialogue

on these issues.

I was concerned about the meaning and the validity of your sub-headline: "Majority of female undergrads sexually assaulted on campus." According to police reports the majority are sexually assaulted downtown or where they live (date rape/acquaintance assault). The more recent stats I've seen haven't placed numbers anywhere near the assault rate of female undergraduate students quoted in your article.

That said, no matter what the statistic, and they are hard to come by due to a lack of reporting, sexual assault is a societal problem and university-aged females are vulnerable. Dalhousie takes the reporting of this issue seriously and supports the complainant's right to choose the complaint process most appropriate in the circumstances. Raising awareness, educating and speaking out about this topic are long overdue. Thank you for providing the space for this important issue.

-- Gaye Wishart, advisor, Harassment Prevention/Conflict Management

*Editor's note: The sub-headline was intended to reflect the 1993 statistic in the feature article that four out of five female undergrads were assaulted on campus. The Gazette apologizes for what we now see was a misleading mistake.*

## Teach English Abroad



### TESOL/TEFL Teacher Training Certification Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- ESL Skills Development
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Interactive Teaching Practicum
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money-Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

### OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719/416-924-3240  
www.oxfordseminars.ca

## Grande Prairie Regional College Residence has

**Single furnished rooms available from May 3 to August 15.** The common areas are all shared with up to 5 people. Rent is monthly and all utilities are included. Internet is included in most bedrooms as well. Rent ranges from \$340.00 to \$495.00 /bedroom /month. Coin operated laundry facilities included as well. Perfect accommodations for seasonal workers or students. Damage Deposit and references required

# ready for the freedom of living on your own?

RENT

PURCHASE

## dreaming of a condo in Toronto?

Avenue Realty can help! Whether you're ready to purchase your first home, or prefer the carefree renter's lifestyle, your options are endless and we can make it happen.

**Andrew Perito** SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
905-737-6060 | aperito@avenurealty.com



www.dalgazette.com



News

# News

News

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



Lucy Scholey, News Editor  
news@dalgazette.com

## Pro-life debate heats up at SMU

### Women's centre opposes group ratification

Laura Conrad  
Staff Contributor

Members of the Saint Mary's Women's Centre say women on their campus are at risk of harassment because of a newly ratified society.

Last week, members of the women's centre objected when they found out the Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) had ratified a pro-life group. Caitlin Blennerhassett, who is on the women's centre's board of directors, says groups who work for the removal of women's legal rights to abortion should not be allowed on campus.

"It goes against creating a safe space for women," says Blennerhassett.

The women's centre found out about the ratification at the beginning of the month and called on SMU students to oppose the decision because they believe pro-life groups may harass women or create an unsafe campus environment.

But the SMUSA board of directors upheld the ratification at a March 12 meeting.

SMUSA President Matt Anderson says it's important to represent different views on campus.

"If I decided not to ratify this group, that's like saying we're taking a position," he says, adding that he doesn't feel the group will be threatening to other students.

"We wouldn't tolerate any group bullying other students on campus," he says. "We have nothing to act on yet. They haven't done anything wrong."

Mike Mercer, vice president of university affairs for SMUSA, says the students' association decided to ratify the group because of their right to free speech. He says the group is free to get together and talk about these issues, as long as they aren't imposing their views on anyone.

"It's well within their rights," he says. "We have to represent every student on campus. They met the required criteria to form a society, so what right do we have to stop them?"

Members of the women's centre are also concerned about the way the group was ratified. Blennerhassett says SMUSA ratified the group without consulting the women's centre.

"I'm opposed to the way they were ratified," she says. "We weren't notified until after the decision was made. They made no effort to engage the campus community."

Mercer says the women's centre was not informed of their decision to ratify the society out of fairness and equality.

"One particular society doesn't have an 'in' to promote or go against other societies," he says.

According to Sidarth Tikoo, SMUSA's society co-ordinator, a society can be ratified if it fills out the society ratifica-

tion form and gets at least 20 signatures from members. The board of directors, SMUSA's president and the society co-ordinator decide if the society should be ratified based on whether the group is low-risk, and if it benefits the community.

The group, called Students for Life, says its purpose is: "To promote a culture of respect for human life, with a focus on education and charity."

"We don't see any high, physical risk involvement in it," says Tikoo, in response to the group's statement of purpose.

Blennerhassett says the group's statement is intentionally vague.

"Apart from that (statement), we don't know very much about them," she says.

The students who organized a talk last year called "Echoes of the Holocaust" were the same students who started the pro-life group, Blennerhassett says. To her, the talk had elements of sexism, racism and hatred.

"The Echoes of the Holocaust event incited violence and was very disturbing for a lot of people," she says.

The women's centre believes the Holocaust event foreshadows the activities this group will plan.

The DSU ratified a similar society in 2006: Dal Alive. However, the society hasn't been visibly active on campus in the past few years.



Yves Engler, author of *Canada and Israel: Building Apartheid*, spoke at the University of King's College on March 16. | Photo by Pau Balite

## Canada's support of Israel one-sided says Yves Engler

### Author spoke seven years after Israeli bulldozer killed protester

Katrina Pyne  
Staff Contributor

We hear about it on the news. We see the images of destruction and violence. We learn about it in class. But according to Yves Engler, author of *Canada and Israel: Building Apartheid*, it's about time we critically analyze Canada's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Engler visited the University of King's College on March 16 to propose that Canada's support of Israeli policy in the Israel-Palestine conflict is one-sided. More than 100 Haligonians gathered in Alumni Hall to hear Engler's views.

The event started seven years after Rachel Corrie, a college student from Washington, was killed by an Israeli bulldozer while acting as a human shield to prevent the Israeli demolition of a Palestinian house.

The evening lecture quickly became a heated debate over the controversial issue.

Dr. Ismail Zayid, former medicine professor at Dalhousie University, lost his hometown, Beit Nuba, on June 6, 1967 when Israel violently occupied three of Palestine's former villages. These villages were home to over 10,000 people.

"We brag here as Canadians that our country supports human rights and international law," says Zayid. "Yet destroying people's homes like this is a war crime."

After the 1967 war, the Jewish National Fund of Canada raised \$15 million to build Canada Park on territory captured in the West Bank. Zayid says he finds it painful to watch families have picnics and barbecues on the ruins of his homeland.

Zayid also says mainstream media have not effectively represented both sides of the issue. He says it's difficult

to write about Palestinian apartheid in Canadian newspapers.

Engler proposes that Canada has supported Israel in the form of one-sided diplomacy and massive private donations from Canada's Zionist population.

According to Engler, Canada has a fairly substantial Zionist population, which is what prompts Canada's support of Israel in politics. Zionism is based on historical ties and religious traditions linking the Jewish people to the Land of Israel.

Engler says hundreds of millions of dollars are sent to Israeli charities, and end up going towards the expansion of Israeli settlements. He is repulsed by the fact that Canadians can even receive tax rebates from "money sent to an occupied charity."

"There's a tremendous amount of emotional connection to the Israel-Palestine issue," says El-Ali, a master's student at Dal who organized Israeli apartheid week in Truro earlier in March.

El-Ali had his own run-in with hostility during a movie that addressed "the Palestinian ethnic cleansing." El-Ali says several men used biblical references to say, "Palestine is the land of the Jews," and, "There is no such thing as a Palestinian."

"If we continue having a space for reasonable open dialogue on this issue, people's sense of outrage for what's happening in Israel will naturally flow," says El-Ali.

Engler himself says he has run into controversy while touring for his book across Canada, but he says Tuesday's event remained in a healthy state of debate.

"I thought there were some critical questions but that's the way it should be," says Engler. "I think we shouldn't be afraid to talk back and forth as much as possible."

"We need to be open for radical thinking," he adds. "We must be. If we crush that, we crush the spirit of this country."

## 2010 DSU election results

### President: Chris Saulnier

After Greg Debogorski was eliminated at 9.2 per cent, the vote went to a second ballot. With spoiled ballots removed, Chris Saulnier won with 58 per cent. Neil Bailey had 42 per cent.

### Vice president (internal): Kayla Kurin

The vote went to a third ballot when Glenn Blake and Tim Hiltz were eliminated. Once spoiled ballots were taken out of the equation, Kayla Kurin won with 61 per cent of the vote. Henry Whitfield had 39 per cent.

### Vice president (education): Rob LeForte

Rob LeForte was the clear winner early on in the count with 63.9 per cent of the vote. Evan Price garnered 17.8 per cent. Karl Dempsey had 9.2 per cent. Spoiled 9.1 per cent.

### Vice president (student life): Hannah Dahn

In a yes/no vote, Hannah Dahn had 85 per cent in favour, 15 per cent against.

### Senate representatives (undergraduate): Maggie Lovett, Ben Wedge and Carly Nicholson

With four candidates, this was a plurality vote with no elimination. Maggie Lovett had 27.1 per cent, Ben Wedge had 24.9 per cent, Carly Nicholson had 22.6 per cent and Christian Browne was eliminated with a close 21 per cent. Spoiled 4.4 per cent.

### Voter turnout: 15.4 per cent

Chief Returning Officer Anne-Marie Dubois blamed the rainy weather.



# News Briefs

Lucy Scholey | News Editor  
Hilary Beaumont | Copy Editor

## Man flashed female student

On March 21 at about 6:50 p.m., a man, who was standing alone next to a teal-coloured vehicle, exposed himself to a female student. The woman described the flasher as a white male in his early 20s, about six feet tall with an athletic build and short, brown hair. The Halifax Regional Police have confirmed three similar events were reported the same night.

These four events follow another attack on a female student by a man – all in less than one week. On St. Patrick's Day, a man grabbed a female from behind and pulled her into a driveway on South Street.

Dalhousie Security asks anyone who may have seen these events, or knows any relevant information, to call the Halifax Regional Police (490-5020), Dal Security (494-6400) or Crime Stoppers (1-800-222-8477).

-- HB

## Scottish university called 'anti-English'

Private schools in the U.K. are deterring students from applying to the University of Edinburgh because they say it's "xenophobic," the Guardian reports. The school states: "Local students are not prevented from studying their chosen subject because of the pressure on popular subject areas. ... For that reason, local applicants are afforded a small weighting in the admissions selection process."

A university spokesperson said in some competitive programs the chance for non-local admittance may be as low as 11 per cent.

Teachers at some U.K. private schools are upset about the matter.

"This year it has been improbably hard for our boys to get offers," Richard Cairns, a teacher at Brighton College told the Guardian. "We will obviously say to them not to try for Edinburgh until the university adopts a less xenophobic and anti-English admissions policy."

-- LS

## India could attract foreign universities

Eventually you might be able to study at a U.S. university – in India. The Indian cabinet approved a bill that will allow foreign universities to build campuses on its soil. The decision stems from an increasing demand for university-educated youth, a New York Times article reported. Nearly 50 per cent of India's population is under 25 years old. Universities in the U.S. attract nearly 100,000 Indian students a year – more than from any other country, the article stated.

Several U.S. universities have already expressed an interest in setting up shop in India.

The bill, which would make sure universities spend at least \$11 million, has yet to pass through parliament.

-- LS

## Canadian MBA rankings confused

When it comes to Canada's Masters of Business Administration programs, rankings are unclear. The Globe and Mail reports that most schools use different methodologies and survey tools. Sometimes, this means certain schools are ranked higher on some lists, while others are ranked lower. So while Business Week ranks Queen's University as the top MBA school outside the U.S., the Financial Times doesn't consider the school a top contender.

University of Alberta business professor Cheryl McWatters questioned whether ranking systems are reliable or just a marketing tool.

"It's a matter of image and of branding," she told the Globe and Mail. "It's not a matter of quality."

-- LS

# Mental health watch

## University of Alberta implementing a program to keep eye on "at-risk" individuals

Simon Yackulic  
The Gateway

EDMONTON (CUP) — The University of Alberta is working to implement a policy to watch for "individuals at risk" as a way to proactively prevent violence on campus, such as the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech.

The new policy encourages individuals on campus to report on students or professors who they feel are exhibiting "at-risk behaviour." Under this initiative, reports would be collected and analyzed by a case team who would attempt to connect isolated incidents and determine

initially had some concerns with the proposed program – largely over the issue of peer reporting and its effects on campus spirit. She said, however, that the university was taking their concerns into consideration in the final plan.

"We've worked through some of those," Trueblood said. "Those conversations are ongoing. I think we're sympathetic to the units on campus that want to be able to report – that want to be able to take care of each other and want to be able to protect their students. But also, we want to live in a community where people don't feel like they're getting reported on."

Nick Dehod, vice-president of stu-

versity that some students are facing."

Robinson said he takes student concerns seriously, and that even with budget cuts threatening resources, it's "loud and clear" to him that the school needs more student counsellors.

A greater number of counsellors will only solve half the problem, he said, which is why the school would also need a program to "connect the dots" for students who don't realize that they need to seek help.

Files collected from the individuals-at-risk program will be deleted four years from the date of a person's last activity, said Brad Hamdon, legal counsel for the University of Alberta. This, he said, helps the program be sensitive to privacy.

The files themselves will only be seen by the case team unless subject to a successful Freedom of Information request, a possibility that Hamdon dismisses as unlikely, asserting that in "most cases, if not all cases, we could protect the information."

He said that the policy is essential as it is about helping, not punishing, and as such would not carry disciplinary power.

"There (are) lots of ways to discipline people and force them to do things," Hamdon said. "You've got the Code of Student Behaviour and all that, but what we felt we needed to be able to do better was connect the dots and identify where someone was at risk and then show them the ways and opportunities they had to get help."

It is anticipated that the program will be implemented later in 2010 after an education campaign to explain the scope of the initiative to students and staff.

## "I'm convinced that after what I've seen here we have to help students a bit more – I'm talking about suicide."

if intervention or assistance is necessary. Frank Robinson, dean of students at the University of Alberta, argued that the policy is a needed tool to help undergrads.

"There are times in the university year when students seem to sense some desperation and do the wrong thing," Robinson said. "Sometimes students have signs that they're under stress. Sometimes those signs aren't received. Contacts don't know what to do with those signs."

"I'm convinced that after what I've seen here we have to help students a bit more – I'm talking about suicide."

Leah Trueblood, vice-president academic of the University of Alberta Students' Union, said the union executive

dent life with the students' union, said the union appreciates the steps the university is taking toward students who are having problems, but that they'd like to see more initiatives to ensure students don't have problems to become "at-risk" in the first place.

The school's counselling services is one major area of concern, he said, noting a lack of resources and poor counsellor-to-student ratio.

"Certainly there are financial pressures on the university right now, but it is definitely something that, all things considered, I'd think would be more prioritized – especially given some of the potential increases to the cost of uni-





**When in England, it's probably you who's driving on the wrong side of the road.**

**Save \$100 on any flight to Europe**  
with Transat Holidays.



Europe for less, ISIC student discounts only at Travel CUTS.

Visit your local Travel CUTS or book online at [travelcuts.com](http://travelcuts.com)  
Dalhousie University, SUB Lower Level, 902.494.2054

Save \$50 per person, per segment (max. \$100) on new bookings made until Mar 30, 2010. Travel period from Apr 1 to Oct 31, 2010. Promotion for students only (ISIC card required). Cannot be combined with any other promotion. Not applicable on child rates, last minute bookings (bookings made 21 days prior to departure). See [travelcuts.com](http://travelcuts.com) for full details and gateways. 800-361-4499/556-4499/312 | BC-331213/4799/34799 | QC-7002238 | Canadian owned

# www.dalgazette.com



News

# CASA supports 'federal co-operation' of student lobby groups

## Group passes motion to endorse anonymous letter to student leaders

**Emma Godmere**  
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

**O**TTAWA (CUP) — The creation of a united, national student movement may not be that far off, if the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has their way.

Student leaders from CASA schools across the country passed a motion three weeks ago supporting some of the principles outlined in the anonymously written, widely circulated "Open Letter to Canada's Student Leaders," which has called for a "new model for student representation to the federal government."

The letter (posted at studentlead-eropenletter.wordpress.com), allegedly written by former CASA and Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) members, promotes the idea of a unified federation that would allow provincial associations to work independently to develop policy, while being able to come together on a national level to lobby the federal government.

CFS is the largest student lobbying organization in Canada, representing over 80 student associations. CASA is the second-largest, representing about 25 student groups.

The motion to endorse some of the letter's concepts was presented to CASA members by the University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society (UFVSUS). UFVSUS president Jack Brown explained that they were motivated not only by the open letter, but also what they consider as a lack of a strong provincial student organization in B.C., where only the British Columbia component of the CFS currently exists.

"We were never really interested in joining that group for a variety of reasons. We joined CASA, (and) we like it more or less, but we think it could be something more," said Brown.

"We think that the best way to move

forward is to unify the student movement in a way that is federal and respectful of each distinct (province's) needs that arise," Brown continued, adding that CASA members were "overwhelmingly" in favour of the idea. Beverly Eastham, vice-president exter-

**"We think that the best way to move forward is to unify the student movement in a way that is federal and respectful of each distinct (province's) needs."**

nal of the University of Alberta Students' Union, was one of several supporters of the motion and indicated that other student groups have also endorsed the idea.

"The fact that this is really just put out as an open letter — as a set of ideas and not a set of ideas with anyone's name on it — makes it a little bit easier for everyone to sort of look at it as just a set of ideas, and think about what that means to the student movement in Canada," said Eastham, who is also the chair of the Council of Alberta University Students, a provincial lobby group that recently passed a motion similar to CASA's.

Timothy Cullen, president of University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union, also voted in favour of the motion but noted that the open letter still presented some issues.

"We are not, by having passed the motion, endorsing 100 per cent of what is said in the letter," he said. "Certainly there (are) a lot of negative things that are said about CFS and our organization, and we don't necessarily agree with the characterizations of some of the other student groups that are part of the movement."

"But if we don't recognize that (this is) a discussion that's going to be happening, it's going to go on and it's going

to happen without us, and we would rather be a part of it."

CASA chair Tina Robichaud indicated that while no specific timelines or dates for meetings and discussions have been set up yet, CASA hopes to meet with partners later in June, around the time

this summer, will also offer members the opportunity to elect a new national director. The organization announced March 15 that current national director Arati Sharma will not be seeking a second term and will be stepping down April 1.

Some concerns have been raised over potential effects her departure may have on the organization, including that the McMaster Students' Union (MSU) — with which Sharma previously held an executive position — is rumoured to be considering leaving CASA. Post-secondary blogger Joey Coleman alluded to a connection between the resignation and the MSU's concerns on his blog, [www.joeycoleman.ca](http://www.joeycoleman.ca).

MSU vice-president education Chris Martin denied the reports, but said that the union remains concerned over

CASA's operations.

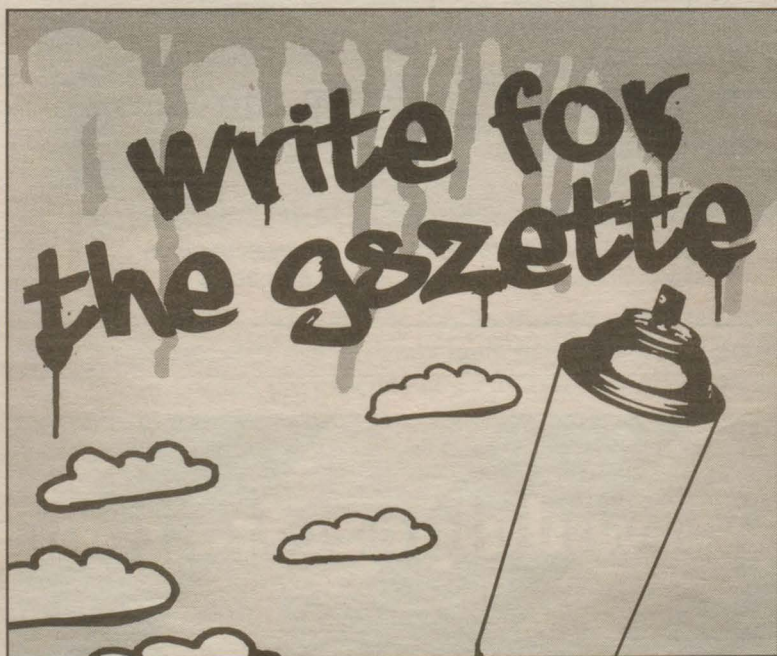
"We've had some long-standing issues with the organization. ... They have to do with the fee structure, they have to do with the voting structure, and most often, they have to do with the attitudes of the member schools around the table," Martin said.

"There are changes that we would need to see before we would consider an upgrade to full membership, as we are only associate members right now," he continued.

Martin further indicated there was no connection between the MSU's current feelings toward CASA and Sharma's resignation, and explained they will continue their associate membership into next year. Associate members pay half the fees of full members, but do not have voting rights within the organization.

of the organization's next conference. The next CASA conference, to be held at the University of Prince Edward Island

Here's a  
**bright  
idea**  
we'll give you  
credit for...



**Shine at McGill  
this summer.**

[www.mcgill.ca/summer](http://www.mcgill.ca/summer)  
[summer.studies@mcgill.ca](mailto:summer.studies@mcgill.ca)  
514-398-5212



# Features

## Features

Gazette Features publishes one long feature or two short features every week. E-mail Tim at features@dalgazette.com to pitch an idea.



Tim Mitchell **Features Editor**  
features@dalgazette.com

# HIGH-TECH HARASSMENT

## Eleanor says she's been 'group stalked' by strangers for over a decade

Tim Mitchell  
Features Editor

An older lady, in her 60s, sat on a park bench in Hamilton, Ontario. An avid wildlife enthusiast, she ventured to the park quite often. The birds, the squirrels, the chipmunks – she loved them all. On this quiet day in the park, when she was alone, a stranger approached her. This person, who she had never seen before, walked straight up to her, muttered “pedophile” to her face, then kept walking.

Eleanor, who did not want her last name used, wasn't sure what to make of this. She says she was no pedophile. She says she barely has any criminal record of any kind.

“Two parking tickets, both paid on time. That's it,” says Eleanor, in a raspy voice.

She ignored the insulting person. But it wasn't an isolated event. Several other people approached her on separate occasions, each calling her a pedophile.

“You can well imagine when some people have put out the word around your neighbourhood that you're a pedophile, this is the kind of stuff that will follow,” she says. “There's no question about it.”

Eleanor says her reputation had been tarnished. She'd been labelled a sex criminal, and for no apparent reason that she could see.

This wasn't the only strange thing to happen to Eleanor. For years, she'd notice things constantly going wrong in her life. Little things. Things she couldn't explain.

Though she lives alone, she noticed food disappeared from her home. New clothes she bought were ripped up the next day. The Velcro on her shoes stopped working. Screws came loose from her chair at the office – where she worked as a computer engineer – and her chair fell apart. Her chair, no one else's, every time. Her computer and printer stopped working, and had to be replaced. Again. And again. And again.

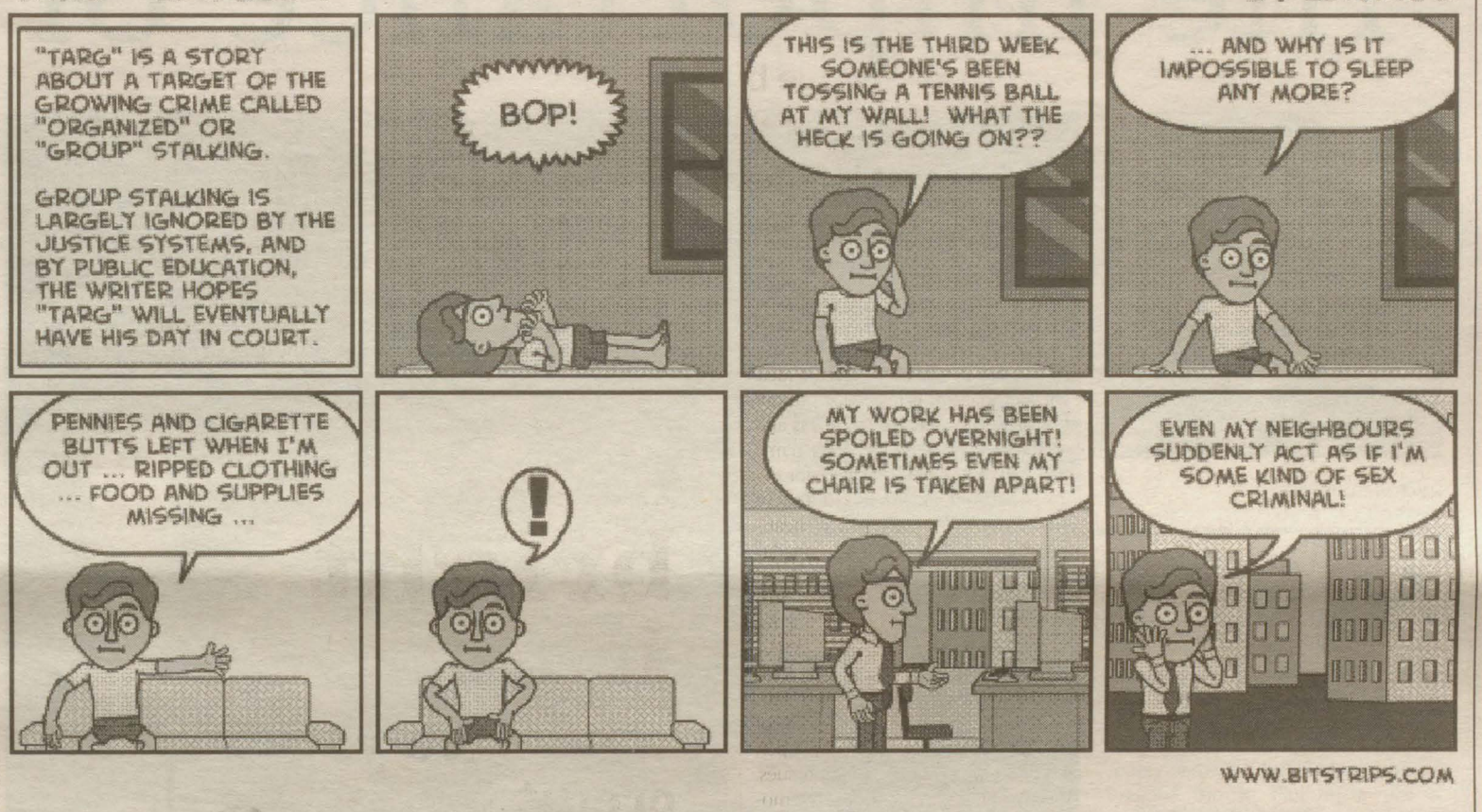
Perhaps the worst part was that Eleanor couldn't sleep. Every night, she'd wake up every hour, on the hour, roll over and look at the clock: 2 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m. She says she was suffering from constant sleep deprivation.

Once, while at work, she says she was so tired that she forgot to backup important files on the computer mainframe, and she screwed up a whole day's worth of sales, costing the company she worked for over \$1 million. She says she resigned on the spot.

These strange coincidences and minor annoyances were happening every day, and continued for years. Then one day, in 1996, she found her explanation.

On the Internet, Eleanor found a document called “Microwave Harassment and Mind-Control Experimentation.” The author was Julianne McKinney, director of the electronic surveillance project for the

### TARG - EPISODE 1



Eleanor has made comic strips to show the dangers of “organized stalking”. | Image supplied

Association of National Security Alumni.

The 1992 document “investigates cases of suspected electronic surveillance and testing on human subjects using directed-energy technologies, possibly involving the CIA.” It also examines overt and covert methodologies, harassment objectives, and the ‘stalker’ phenomenon, using non-conventional secret military weapons, such as beam and wave technologies,

ment” recognized as a real phenomenon by the public. She manages a website called multistalkervictims.org as an informational tool and support group for people who feel victimized by stalking.

“I've probably talked to a couple thousand (people who believe they are being stalked) by way of the Internet,” says Eleanor. “Actually it's been about 14 years since I've become involved.”

**“Often they do little signature things like leaving pennies or cigarette butts around, or they'll urinate in your toilet and leave it un-flushed.”**

and bio-effects of microwave radiation.

Eleanor says she knew that this was what was happening to her. She believed she was the victim of an elaborate “group stalking” initiative. The document, which she believes was written by a former army intelligence officer, described all the things that were happening to her, and how they could have been done.

“That's when I found out it was integrated, international and widespread, and networked,” says Eleanor.

She says she doesn't know who's doing it, and she doesn't know why they've chosen her, but she knows she's not alone.

So she pioneered a campaign to have “organized stalking and electronic harass-

ment” recognized as a real phenomenon by the public. She manages a website called multistalkervictims.org as an informational tool and support group for people who feel victimized by stalking.

“It's given me a very heavy-duty chore, which is to try and find ways to educate the public about it, because it appears that the only way we're going to get justice is when the public understands what's going on. Until the public knows about it, officials can keep blowing us off.”

She says she went to police once in

the late '90s with evidence that she was being stalked by a large group of people.

“It isn't happening” – that's what they say. I think personally they do know what's happening, but that's what they tell you,” says Eleanor. “They won't take reports.”

How far could this conspiracy go? Who's behind it all? The CIA? The FBI? CSIS? And why would they spend so much time targeting a poor elderly

being stalked in her new apartment.

“Often they do little signature things like leaving pennies or cigarette butts around, or they'll urinate in your toilet and leave it un-flushed.”

She says she's never caught anyone trying to break into her apartment, but she says they do it when she's out, or asleep.

Eleanor says you can't escape the group of stalkers by moving, even to another country.

“This is a worldwide integrated phenomenon.”

She says she's talked to friends and family members about her campaign to get organized stalking recognized as a phenomenon – to little avail.

“The typical response from family members is that they don't want to hear about it, or, they urge the target to ‘see a good psychiatrist,’” says Eleanor. “I have mentioned the (organized stalking and electronic harassment) crime very briefly and let it drop to my few family members. They expressed no further interest, so I don't talk about it anymore to them.”

She says she's talked to a psychiatrist before to get a psychiatric evaluation. “(The psychiatrist) said, ‘I don't know what's happening to you, but I don't find you have any signs of mental illness.’”

Eleanor is going to continue her campaign to get organized stalking recognized as a real phenomenon by the public, and the justice system so that she, and other people who are victimized by stalking, can find closure.



Opinions

# Opinions

Opinions

Gazette Opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. E-mail Kaley at [opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com) to contribute.



Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**  
[opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com)

## The Healthy Student The importance of play



Rachel Sunter  
Health Columnist

As popular as Avatar-bashing is these days (oh, you blessed anti-mainstreamers), one particular line from that movie has spurred a revolution of thought with regards to our bodies, and how we use them.

Fear is an invaluable instinct that keeps us uninjured and alive. This is indisputable. But to what extent is fear a product of our society?

When I was little, I loved jumping from boulder to boulder pretending I was a wolf. Sure I scraped my shins, got a few white scars. It's not that I was young and naive. I believe constant exposure to challenging situations helped me build and maintain trust with my body.

I didn't stop taking physical risks because I got hurt too many times; I got older, so I stopped taking risks. Summers mean full-time work, instead of adventuring. University means city life, and city life means sidewalks, computers, cars and bars.

As circumstance distanced me from creatively engaging with the world around me, I've become increasingly unfamiliar with unbarred heights, and all situations where my physical safety isn't more or less guaranteed.

A profound mistrust for our bodies' abilities isn't a natural, evolutionary safety mechanism; it's an affliction specific to a society in which ergonomics rule design and technology.

Ergonomics serve a healthy function. Keyboards are designed to avoid carpal-tunnel syndrome, and chairs moulded and cushioned to prevent back stress and injury. These are good things.

But at some point, ease and efficiency mean no longer using our bodies the way we once did. We're



Go climb a tree. | Photo by Rachel Sunter and Kayti Bates

seeing the health consequences today; general inactivity and prolonged periods of stillness have proven health consequences in the long

ning, indoors, on machines. And they are paying money to do it. It's not that there's anything wrong with gyms, per se. I've had a mem-

We expend unsustainable amounts of energy instead of using our own energy. Olympians and Cirque-du-Soleil acrobats become the freaks in a 'nor-

**“Remembering how to play the old-fashioned way isn't simply childish – it's forward-thinking.”**

run. Obesity is a growing phenomenon that is actually killing people.

The solution in our consumerist society is to make money off peoples' desire for physical exertion by providing expensive gyms, fancy machines and hiring personal trainers.

Think, for example, of how strange it is that as the sky glows an amber sunrise in the morning, dozens of men and women are run-

nership for years. What Avatar highlighted for me was how our modern obsession with ease and efficiency is both a cause and symptom of our destructive relationship with the earth.

The ground is uneven, so we pave it. We want to get there faster, so we drive.

We microwave to avoid cooking, and deep-freeze to avoid going to the grocery store.

mal' society of people who fear heights and can't do monkey-bars anymore.

Tigers have claws, elephants have trunks, and we masterful humans have brains. We use our brains to make machines do fancy things for us. You would think this would give us more time to love and laugh, to experience the world. But our machines let us spend more time working. Were our lifestyles environmentally

sustainable, I'd have no qualms here. I'd say do your own thing. But our inactive prerogatives, are destroying this planet's fruitfulness at an awesome rate.

“Change” is a scary word, especially when you look at the discrepancy between how quickly we're burning up planetary resources, and how many resources are left.

It is hard to stop doing something without starting something to replace it. If we're going to stop depending so much on unsustainable materials and technologies, we're going to have to start being more active and physically engaged with the world.

Cycling, long-boarding and roll-erblading are simple technologies that increase physical activity and decrease auto usage. When a Dutch friend of mine took me on a Google Earth tour of his hometown, Amsterdam, I was stunned by the number of bicycles that appeared in every shot. That's one city that's on the right track.

But more than finding alternative ways to work and travel, I think it's important to find alternative ways to play.

Without carpooling, it's hard to get out to hiking trails and lakes. Fortunately there are a surprising number of urban playgrounds in Halifax.

Just the other day, a friend and I found that at low tide, underneath the harbour docks, there exists a jungle-gym of pillars, beams and rocks above the rippling water. I climbed and reached until my hands were numb, pushing myself past self-invented physical limits to get from one side of the dock to another. Ironically, my packed gym-bag sat unopened by the docks while we explored. (Sorry, Nubodys.)

Tree-climbing, tossing Frisbees and kicking a soccer ball are all healthy ways to enjoy the outdoors, get fit and socialize with minimal impact on the environment. On St. Patrick's day, the party I went to arranged a huge tug-of-war in the empty lot out back, followed by a rock-tossing competition.

Remembering how to play the old-fashioned way isn't simply childish – it's forward-thinking.

Building a new relationship with this planet is an ominous task. I think by addressing our relationships with our bodies, we're on a path to better path to understanding our humanity, and how we can live in harmony with a sustainable environment.



# Sex Ed

## The joys of anal play



Katie Toth  
Sex Columnist

The bum. It's been getting quite a reputation lately. From the cultural phenomenon of saddle-backing and the availability of raunchy internet pornography featuring fierce anal sex, anal play seems to be working every angle: from a religious cop-out to an animalistic act.

But how much do you actually know about sex in the ass?

Anal play can start out with some-

**“What you like people to do to your bum does not make you straight, gay or anything in between.”**

thing as simple as a finger gently stroking the perineum or the anus during other forms of sex. It can include licking the bum (also known as a rim job), and it can include penetrating it – whether that be with dildo, vibrator, beads or cock.

All of these forms of anal play are enjoyed by all sorts of people. What you like people to do to your bum does not make you straight, gay or anything in between. Your anal play preferences do not define your position in your relationships. After all, the anus is a gender-neutral space. Everyone has one!

Experimenting with ass play means that you can consider what penetration or other sensations feel like on yourself before you try to give those experiences to others. Experimenting with ass play on yourself should be mandatory for those engaging in it with someone else.

If you want to engage in anal sex with your partner, it is both responsible and courteous to understand

how that's going to feel for him or her, so that you can make it a positive and pleasurable experience for him or her. Your partner's anus is not your pocket-pussy. It is attached to a human being.

Anal play shouldn't be about ramming junk into an unprepared orifice. The anus, just like every sexual area of our body, needs to be warmed up. When engaging in anal penetration, start small and constantly check in. Remember the three cardinal rules of anal: communication, lube and relaxation.

Communication and relaxation go hand in hand. In order to open the sphincter muscles, you need to be relaxed. A great way to relax is to make sure you have a partner who you trust, who is listening to you and who moves slowly. I must iterate the importance of respect when it comes to butt play. Check in with your partner. If they find anal penetration uncomfortable, ramming it in there one more time will not change this. Pulling out, slowing down or applying more lube, however, might help. If you can't listen to your partner, you shouldn't be having sex with them.

Because of the sensitivity and dryness of the anus, you should use a thicker lube that has more staying power. A representative of Venus Envy told me that silicone lubes, such as Gun Oil, are more popular for anal play, compared to the lighter lubes many prefer to use during vaginal stimulation. Some people are allergic to silicone – in that case, look at a thick water-based gel, such as the Sliquid Organics Natural Gel. Also, if you are playing with a cock, consider squeezing a drop of lube into your condom before you slip it on. This should add to your slip-tastic levels of sensation.

Latex (or polyurethane) plays an essential role in the realm of anal. Although you can't get pregnant from anal sex, you can get AIDS. So use a condom. Also, by using condoms, gloves and dental dams, you can easily switch from anal play to other kinds of sex without worrying about infections, STIs or minute traces of poop cramping your style. For example, if you've just had your lubricated, gloved finger playing with someone's bum, and now you want to give them a blow job, you can just rip off that glove, throw it away and touch their penis without accidentally putting shit in your mouth.

Another great thing about condoms is that they can make it easier to clean your toys. Just pulling the condom off the toy will take off all the fluids you would have been in contact with it. (Still clean the toy afterward, however, just to be extra safe.)

Also, did you know that silicone-based lubes cannot be used with silicone-based toys? They create a chemical reaction that will cause your silicone toy to wither and change shape right in front of you, according to the New York sexperts at Toys In Babeland. By putting a condom on that silicone toy, you can use all the silicone lube you like, because there's now a protective barrier between one and the other.

Finally, remember everything you put up your bum needs to be pulled out easily. Your rectal muscles can contract around what's there, pulling the item into your colon. Anything used for anal play needs to have a flanged base (the part you're not entering into your body needs to be significantly bigger so that it will not get accidentally stuck) on it. You do not want to come to the slow realization that you have lost your grip on your can of shaving cream, and that only an X-ray technician at the QEII will be able to find it for you.

If you're giving someone a rim job, communication plays the same role it does in any other form of oral sex. It makes you better at getting people off. Isn't that a great feeling?

Another key element of relaxation is warming up the anus one step at a time. Start by playing with a condom on your finger and a little bit of lube around the anus and perineum. If that's pleasurable for your partner, move towards insertion. Only after they're enjoying one finger up their ass should you increase the girth of what you're putting inside.

Lube is absolutely the key to safe anal play. The anus is not self-lubricating!

Keep in mind that the vaginal walls have about 80 layers of mucous membrane; the walls of the anus have one. You're simply not dealing with the same stretchy, self-repairing and elastic tissue that you can find in the vagina or mouth. A tear could happen at any moment, and the butt never forgets.

## KIT KAT PIZZA

DONAIR-SUBS-SEAFOOD

429-3223 or 425-2229 | 2314 Gottigen St. Halifax

Buy a 16" pizza w/works for \$14.99 get 9" garlic fingers for \$1.99

16" pepperoni pizza for \$9.95 or two for \$18.99

2 med pizzas w/3 toppings \$16.99

3 small donairs for \$8.99 plus tax



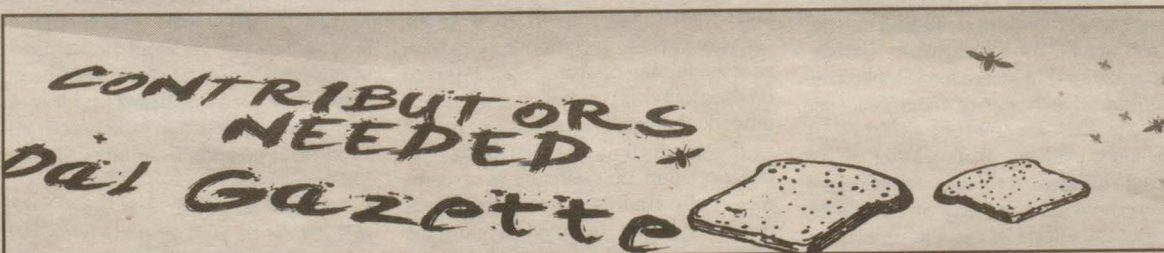
AU student Marc in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Make it happen with transfer credit from Athabasca University.

- At Athabasca University, our transfer credits can help you expand your academic options. • Just ask Marc, who is on track to finish his degree at an Ontario university a year early. He's doing this by taking some AU courses online during the summer while he works full-time, and is applying his AU course credits towards his degree. • AU offers over 700 courses delivered online and at a distance. And our flexible start times mean you can fit your course work into your schedule.
- Transferability. Another reason why AU stands out as a global leader in distance learning excellence.

standout [www.athabascau.ca/standout](http://www.athabascau.ca/standout)  
1-800-788-9041

Athabasca University





Opinions

THIS IS WHAT YOUR TAX REFUND COULD LOOK LIKE:



An average refund with us is \$1,000. We get you an average of \$1,000 on your tax refund, so you can do more of what you want to do. Get It Right.™

Student Tax Prep  
**\$29<sup>95</sup>**  
plus FREE SPC Card\*



H&R BLOCK®

Click, call or come over. | hrblock.ca | 800-HRBLOCK

© 2009 H&R Block Canada, Inc. \*\$29.95 valid for regular student tax preparation only. Student tax preparation with Cash Back option is \$34.95. To qualify for student pricing, student must present either (i) a T2202a documenting 4 or more months of full-time attendance at a college or university during 2009 or (ii) a valid high school identification card. Expires July 31, 2010. Valid only at participating H&R Block locations in Canada.



Dalhousie may be a non-smoking campus, but it also provides ashtrays. | Photo by Pau Balite

# Saving our planet one ashtray at a time

Jenai Lowe, Krysti Campbell, Aviq Malcolm and Paul Ward  
Opinions Contributors

**W**hen we think about the effects of smoking the first thing that usually comes to mind is human health. Too often we forget that humans themselves are not the only victims of the consequences of their activity. Though cigarette smoke directly affects the smoker, it also has detrimental consequence to the environment.

As environmentally-conscious individuals, we recycle, carry reusable containers and partake in Green Week on campus, but we fail to see how an everyday human habit is poisoning our earth.

First let's deal with the smoke produced by the cigarette itself. A concoction of about 4,000 chemicals is released into the environment with each light of a cigarette. According to Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, 21 per cent of Canadians over the age of 15 are smokers, a total of 5.4 million Canadians. That's a lot of smoke being released into the environment every hour of every day of every year.

But the effects of cigarette smoke are not limited to our atmosphere alone.

Ground and water pollution are also a major consequence of smoking. The cigarette butts themselves are hardly ever disposed of properly, stubbed out in a provided ashtray. Instead, smokers often prefer to substitute ashtrays and garbage cans for the ground beneath their feet. With a quick flick of the finger and rub of the toe, forgotten cigarette butts cover concrete sidewalks, dirt tracks and muddy earth spots in droves.

These abandoned cigarette butts are often ingested by animals, such as birds, and can even end up in the lakes and rivers, which as a result are ingested by fish and other animals that inhabit the aquatic habitats.

The chemicals and additives that are in the butts can also be leached into the soil, poisoning local plants. It reportedly takes approximately 25 to 26 years for cigarette filters to decompose. Now visualize the amount of cigarette butts you see on the ground as you walk to class or another destination: Overwhelming, isn't it?

The production, manufacturing and transportation of cigarettes as a commodity also contribute to environmental degradation. The land used to house the tobacco plants as well as to cultivate the

tobacco could be used for the production of food especially in developing countries. The production of cigarettes is also major contributor to deforestation. For example, in Malawi the production of the tobacco plant accounts for 20 per cent of this country's deforestation. About five per cent of all deforestation in Africa is due to tobacco cultivation. Approximately 600 million trees are also destroyed each year to provide fuel to dry tobacco leaves.

Just as we value the organs and tissues of our own body we should value the resources and elements of our natural environment, and recognize when we're doing harm to it. We should be taking the necessary precautions to ensure that we're doing all we can to protect our planet. When it comes to smoking, put cigarettes out in ashtrays or stub them out and put the butt in a garbage can, or make the conscious effort to educate others about the detrimental effects of smoking to the environment.

We only have one planet and it is up to us to do all we can to preserve our environment, no ands, ifs or butts about it.

*Jenai, Krysti, Aviq and Paul wrote this article as part of a class project.*

## Teach English Abroad



TESOL/TESL Teacher Training Certification Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- ESL Skills Development
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Interactive Teaching Practicum
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money-Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

**OXFORD SEMINARS**  
1-800-269-6719/416-924-3240  
www.oxfordseminars.ca

## STRANGE ADVENTURES COMIX & CURIOSITIES

5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
strangeadventures.com

Toys, games, manga & more!



The widest & wisest selection!

www.dalgazette.com



# Arts

## Arts

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



Laura Dawe **Arts Editor**  
arts@dalgazette.com

# THAWSCAPES

## Surfer-photographer aims to spread climate change awareness

**Erica Eades**  
Staff Contributor

Halifax-based photographer Yassine Ouhilal has spent the past decade searching for coastlines that have yet to be surfed. By travelling to unexpected destinations and composing his images in front of unique backdrops, Ouhilal has told numerous stories through his work. But on recent visits to the arctic and sub-arctic regions of the world, he realized his photos told a story of their own.

"I've noticed that those areas are being affected firsthand by the climatic changes we're experiencing," he says. "I was photographing the glaciers and I was literally seeing this thousand-year-old ice just melting before my eyes."

Thawscapes is a collection of photos by Ouhilal that show evidence of global warming. His photos portray the rapidly depleting glaciers and the thawed spaces below that are now being exposed.

"It's a beautiful thing, but it's also a sad thing," says Ouhilal. "If people can get some of the same emotions that I felt when I took those images, I think that'll be a great step."

Ouhilal has already established himself in the niche of surf photography. His photos have been shown in numerous publications such as Outside Magazine, The National Post, GQ and The Australian. He has also been recognized as one of the top five most published surf photographers in the world. But Ouhilal wants to prove he is not just a "one trick pony."

"With surf photography, it's a smaller audience," he says. "It's neat to reach out to other people."

Born in Casablanca, Morocco, Ouhilal moved with his family to Montreal when he was three. His mother was a filmmaker and she allowed him to develop his creativity through his chosen medium: photography. "It seems I've always had a camera in my hand," he says.

Throughout his teens, Ouhilal says his photos often paralleled the things he was going through. As a result, his work could be seen as a clear indicator of the changes he experienced, and the fads he followed. Over time, his inspiration ranged from lightning storms to astrophotography to fashion.

At the age of 16, Ouhilal moved to Hawaii to attend university. It was there that his love of surfing took off.

"I started shooting a lot of surf photography," he says. "It was a way of combining my two passions."

Ouhilal has since defined his craft by travelling to coastlines that are off the beaten path. He feels this gives him an edge over his competition.

"There are a ton of photographers



Yassine Ouhilal's photos show evidence of global climate change. | Photo by Paul Balite

who will shoot in Hawaii or California," he says. "But there are not so many that will go to the places where I've been, which is a little bit harder"

Ouhilal has shot in locations such

as Iceland, Norway, Russia, the Farrell Islands and the Western Sahara.

Working in such remote destinations requires a unique set of skills, which Ouhilal says he has mastered over time. When scouting new spots, he explains that it is necessary to

**"I was literally seeing this thousand-year-old ice just melting before my eyes." – Yassine Ouhilal**

ic and challenging environment to work in. There are so many variables."

On recent trips, Ouhilal began to notice the significant environmental changes that were occurring in the arctic and sub-arctic regions he visited. "It really hit me that everything scien-

tists are talking about is more than true," says Ouhilal.

Because they are receding so rapidly, photos might soon be all that is left of the glaciers. Ouhilal felt this was entirely

worth documenting and sharing with others.

"Our kids and our grandchildren, they probably won't get to see them."

Ouhilal hopes that by doing this exhibit, he can raise awareness about climate change. He believes that im-

ages can affect people in a more active way than simply hearing the statistics.

"I wanted to show an honest portrait of what these changes are and might be," he says. "I think that's the first step, before even thinking of doing something about it, is just to realize what's happening."

Each photo in the exhibit is labelled with the exact GPS co-ordinates of where they were taken. Ouhilal plans to return to each location in five years to see how they have changed. Whether the result is positive or negative, Ouhilal feels the images will provide a powerful message about the progression of global warming along the world's coastlines.

Ouhilal also wants to set an example by using the most sustainable production methods possible. When producing Thawscapes, he worked with all local materials, and ensured they were environmentally-friendly. Ouhilal used pure pigment on watercolour paper and it is therefore all acid-free. Unlike chemical pigment, the pure alternative does not break down over time. This makes it a long-lasting material.

"I want my prints and images to be timeless, so I've made them using the best materials currently available."

The frames used in the exhibit were cut in Peggy's Cove and assembled on Agricola Street in Halifax. The catering on opening night was provided by Local Source, which uses strictly local produce.

"I think that as consumers, we live in a very disposable way," says Ouhilal. "We'll buy a new computer a year from now or a new car five years from now."

Thawscapes provides an important message by first showcasing the negative effects of global warming, and then demonstrating ways to actively work toward a more sustainable world.

As a surfer and outdoor enthusiast, Ouhilal understands the importance of conserving the arctic and sub-arctic regions.

"I spend a lot of time on the world's coastlines," he says. "I feel a natural connection with the environment."

Ouhilal hopes to turn the Thawscapes series into an even larger body of work. This includes publishing a book of his photos. He is also considering working on a short film with the National Film Board. It would build on the same theme as Thawscapes and involve time-lapses of the glaciers moving over time.

"It would be a poetic film about the process – without scientists, without talking," he says. "You would just sort of see it with your own eyes. I think people would respond well to that."

*Yassine Ouhilal's Thawscapes is showing at Argyle Fine Art in Halifax from March 12 to April 6.*



The Coast **BEST OF FOOD** readers' poll

# Jean's

Chinese Restaurant

**YOU'RE INVITED**

to **Vote** for us

February 25 - March 29

You could win \$1000 in Gift Certificates

for Best Chinese Food and Best Server in The Coast's Best of Food Survey.  
Go to [www.jeansrestaurant.ca](http://www.jeansrestaurant.ca) or [thecoast.ca](http://thecoast.ca) to fill out the survey.

**WE WON FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS WITH YOUR SUPPORT**

## OUR DISTINGUISHING QUALITIES

- Our chefs have over 30 years experience using old family recipes.
- We use Grade "A" meats, fresh vegetables and cook every meal to order for any food sensitivity.
- Discounts up to 35% off
- Debit, credit & Dal card available on all day delivery
- We have achieved numerous awards in the last 5 years.
- Large portions with variable add-ons and interchangeable menu items for most orders

5972 Spring Garden Rd. 444-7776

# BOOK BUYBACK

AT THE SUB BOOKSTORE (6136 University Ave)

Bring your used books and receive up to 50% back in CASH and a chance to win some great prizes!

Grand prize - Toshiba Netbook (worth over \$400!)

Second prize - \$100 Bookstore gift card

Daily draws for \$25 Bookstore gift card

April 12<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>


Mon-Fri 9am - 4pm

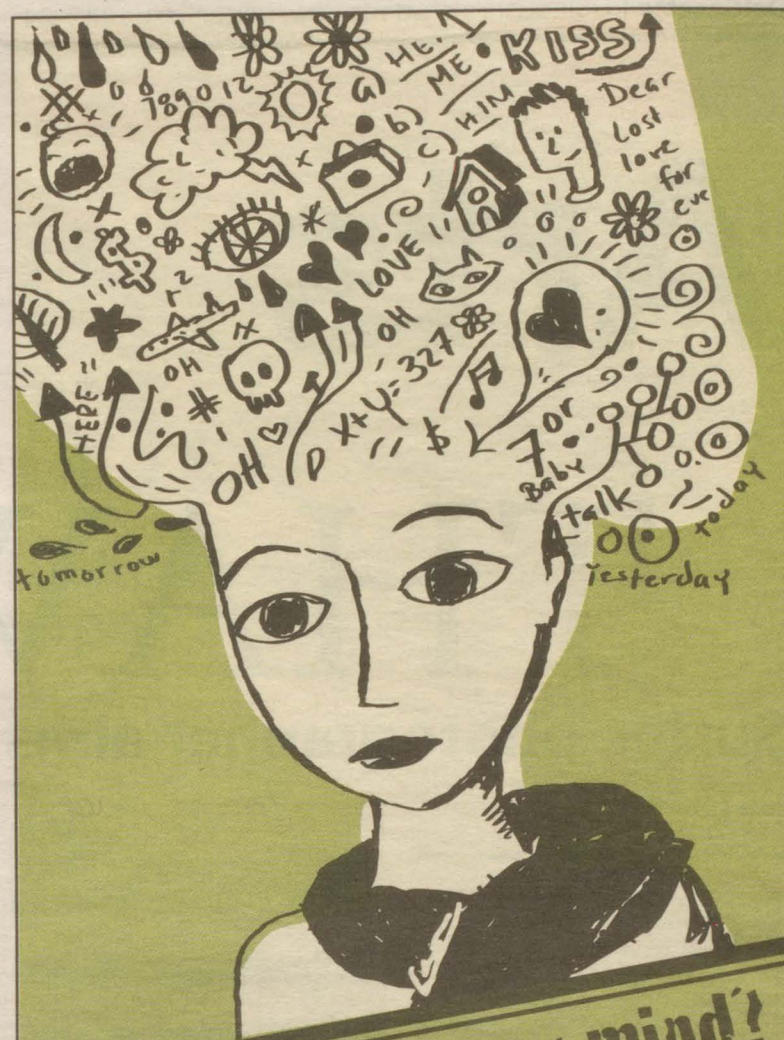
Sat 12pm - 4pm



\* See our website for Netbook specifications

Call 902 494 2460 for more info  
[www.dal.ca/bookstore](http://www.dal.ca/bookstore)

 **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
BOOKSTORES



Got alot on your mind?

# WRITE!

And become a contributor for the Dalhousie Gazette

Contributor Meetings are held each Monday @ 5:30 pm in room 312 S.U.B.

# DANscape

Sunday, March 28, 2010 • 7pm



a Dalhousie Dance Society Production  
Rebecca Cohn Auditorium • Dalhousie Arts Centre  
Tickets \$10 • available at the Rebecca Cohn Box Office





# OVERHEARD AT DAL

**At Split Crow on St. Patrick's Day:**

Girl: "You don't have a girlfriend do you?"  
 Guy: "Not exactly!"  
 Guy (a few minutes later): "I can't kiss you but I can hold your hand!"

**DISP psych:**

Girl: "What exactly was your major?"  
 Academic advisor: "Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll."

**In SUB lobby:**

Guy 1: "You're up before noon?"  
 Guy 2: "It's St. Patrick's Day!"

**In Coburg:**

Guy 1: "Hey ladies, how are you doing tonight?"  
 Guy 2: "Yeah, hey ladies, how are you doing tonight?"  
 Guy 3: "They were doing better, then you talked to them!"

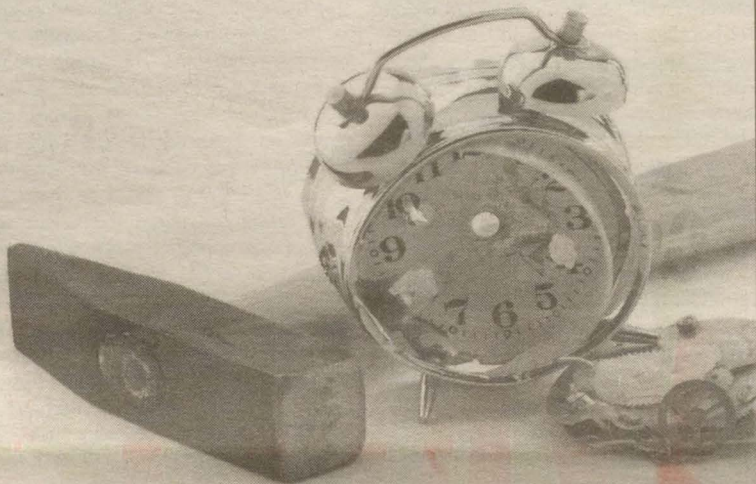
**Outside the Arts Centre:**

Girl 1: "That's one thing I can't do with my tongue."  
 Girl 2: "It took me so long to get the hang of it."  
 Girl 3: "You guys are so gross, like, what are you talking about? Dirty much?"  
 Girl 2: "We were talking about rolling our tongues for a Scottish accent, sicko."

## DISCLAIMER


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

**Textbook:** Still required.  
**Alarm clock:** Not so much.



Get the credits you need and make the most out of summer.

Choose from over *90 online, open-entry courses* and begin studying anywhere, anytime. Credits are fully transferable back to your university.

Register today!  **ACADIA**  
UNIVERSITY

[letsgo.openacadia.ca](http://letsgo.openacadia.ca)

O'Regan's on Robie

**CHEVROLET  
GET MORE  
EVENT**



2010 CHEVROLET AVEO | STARTING FROM \$9,999 | DOWN \$0 | BIWEEKLY \$73



2010 CHEVROLET COBALT | STARTING FROM \$10,489 | DOWN \$0 | BIWEEKLY \$76



**GM**  
160,000 km  
WARRANTY  
5 Year Powertrain



**O'REGAN'S**  
DRIVING HIGHER STANDARDS

CHEVROLET  
CADILLAC

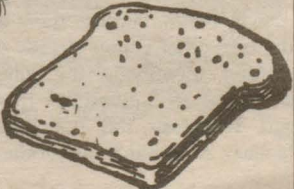
2477 ROBIE STREET HALIFAX 422-8551  
WWW.OREGANSCHEVROLET.COM

\*Includes all factory to dealer incentives, plus freight, fees & tax. Visit O'Regan's Chevrolet for details.

**Contributors** are popular.

**KNOCK BANG THUMP**

**JOIN US!**  
Write for the Dalhousie Gazette

CONTRIBUTORS  
NEEDED  
Dal Gazette 



Opinions



March 10-15, and 17-20  
Show starts at 8pm.  
reservations@dapopo.org  
phone - (902) 579 0506

Garry Williams and the DaPoPo crew. | Photo by Hannah Griffin

# The Ides of March DaPoPo does Julius Caesar

Rebecca Spence  
Staff Contributor

The DaPoPo Theatre Company wrapped up its 10th and final performance of Julius Caesar last Saturday night at the Bus Stop Theatre. Though Shakespeare wrote the tragedy more than 400 years ago about events that occurred more than 2,000 years ago, director Garry Williams succeeded in showing how the text continues to be relevant even in the 21st century.

"One of the things that DaPoPo wants to do is tell stories that are somehow important and political," says Williams, who works as artistic director of the theatre company. "They're about the city. They're about our world."

Although Williams, 36, was born in Halifax (both his parents taught at NSCAD in the '70s), he has been exposed to all kinds of theatre around the globe. Right after graduating from high

school he joined a theatre company in Berlin. After a short stint in New York City, he came back to Canada to get his music degree. He says he loves working in Halifax. Because of the creative opportunities here, he gets to explore new kinds of dramatic techniques. "There's a sense of discovery here, because in larger centers everything has been done," he says. "I probably wouldn't be directing Julius Caesar in New York City or operas in the summer in Berlin, because there are hundreds of other people already doing it."

**"My wish is that every night somebody walks away with a new idea." - Garry Williams**

school he joined a theatre company in Berlin. After a short stint in New York City, he came back to Canada to get his music degree. He says he loves working in Halifax. Because of the creative opportunities here, he gets to explore new kinds of dramatic techniques. "There's a sense of discovery here, because in larger centers everything has been done," he says. "I probably wouldn't be directing Julius Caesar in New York City or operas in the summer in Berlin, because there are hundreds of other people already doing it."

After identifying the Julius Caesar script as "interesting" three years ago, rehearsals did not begin until January 2010. Since the production re-

ceived no funding, the cast and crew were forced to work around each other's schedules. Williams estimates there were only about two or three rehearsals that everyone attended. "People committed so much time and energy," he says. "It was an absolute labour of love." The production proved to be a thoughtful mix of dramatic elements from the past, present and future. The audience was subjected to an old-school style of arena seating, similar to the layout of the Globe Theatre where Shakespeare's masterpieces were first performed. To support one's posterior on the rather uncomfortable bleacher seats, the theatre offered complimentary pillows that come in a variety of colourful designs (a step up from the Globe, where its current proprietors charge \$1 to rent a cushion).

On the modern side of things, Williams decided to incorporate contem-

porary costumes and props into the production, believing that the audience would be able to more easily connect to the play's universal themes.

"By letting the audience hear language that's archaic and see costumes - togas - that are even more archaic would be pointless," says Williams. "Even Shakespeare himself put the play in a modern world."

The best part of Williams' modern twist, though, was his decision to cast female actors in leading male roles, including the parts of Brutus (played by Kim Parkhill) and Marc Anthony (played by Keelin Jack).

"Politics today is not a man's world - it's a very mixed world," he says. "We've

seen so many fascinating women politicians for several decades now."

Going further, Williams experimented with a variety of elements including an illuminated set, silhouette lighting, and drumming beats in between transitions. Possibly one of the most exciting aspects of the experience was the small, intimate theatre space. There was barely any distance between the 40 audience members on the bleachers and the 15 actors on stage.

"You create a sense of immediacy," says Williams. "The audience doesn't get to sit back and flip through the program. You have to be there."

Williams thinks the lack of space forces the audience to become involved as part of the setting. It worked. We became a part of the rejoicing crowd, transformed into an angry mob, and possessed by a driven army - whether we liked it or not.

While the setting opened up a number of staging possibilities, Williams also acknowledges some of the challenges and limitations imposed by the small space.

"How do you maintain the sightline?" he asks. "How do you give actors the sense that they're allowed to turn their back to a whole section of the audience?"

But overall he hopes the Halifax audiences appreciate being able to participate in something so new and different.

"I measure my own theatre-going experiences by how much my expectations were transformed," he says. "My wish is that every night somebody walks away with a new idea."

*The DaPoPo Theatre Company also offers a youth ensemble workshop that runs from May 14 to May 30. It provides a practical, provocative and nurturing training experience for performers ages 16 to 21. E-mail kim@dapopo.org for information and application forms.*

# Prismatic Mornings

## Nicholas Robins creates happy art for a happy life

Laura Dawe  
Arts Editor

The cupcakes are bright, joyful and going fast. So is the art. It's Saturday, March 20, the opening of Nicholas Robins' show Prismatic Mornings at Lost & Found on Agricola Street. Twenty-somethings in good Aztec hoodies, ripped jeans and deck shoes walk around the show, beaming from ear to ear. Most people not only seem to know one another, but seem ecstatic to see and be seen. It could be the red wine being handed out in brightly personalized cups, or emotional residue from the insanely sunny day. Most likely, it's the art.

Robins, who sometimes DJs, and makes art under the name Peer A Mid, seems to be doing experiments in how colour produces joy. You might recognize his work from the zines he's put out in the past year such as Dwellings or Some People. You might also recognize it if you've taken a leak at the Khyber any time in the past three months, where Robins used the left-overs from Gary Neil Kennedy's Windows show to transform the boys and girls' rooms into what looks like the LSD level in a never-released Super Mario game.

Prismatic Mornings is a title taken from Robins' own life. His bedroom and nearly everything in it is stark white. Prisms hang

in his window and when the sun hits them in the morning his room is decorated with rainbows. That's pretty much what his work looks like. Robins describes this series as:

"A collection of expansive, playful bursts made up of smaller ambiguous shapes and basic geometric forms. Vibrant colours set on stark white backgrounds emphasize the exploration of light and colour."

The show is a balance. It is a balance of big pieces and small. The small ones are all in painted white frames. The big ones are mind blowing. Busy jellybean-like masses are balanced by pure white paper. Images that could be overwhelming are in fact calming. Priced so that even other artists can afford them, little red teardrops are appearing beside sold works. People want to take the happiness home.

For those who can't afford the drawing/collages (and those who can) Robins and his partner, Kira Evenson, have created an absolutely beautiful silk-screened zine. It looks like white gel pen on butcher paper - amazingly detailed circles of doodles elevated to the level of art. It took the couple 36 hours to silk-screen the delicate images and the results are at least 36 hours worth of viewing enjoyment.

*Check out Prismatic Mornings all spring at Lost & Found Art and Vintage, 2383 Agricola St. Halifax, N.S.*

**college pro PAINTERS** **SUMMER JOBS**

COLLEGE PRO PAINTERS is presently looking for responsible / hard-working University or College students for:

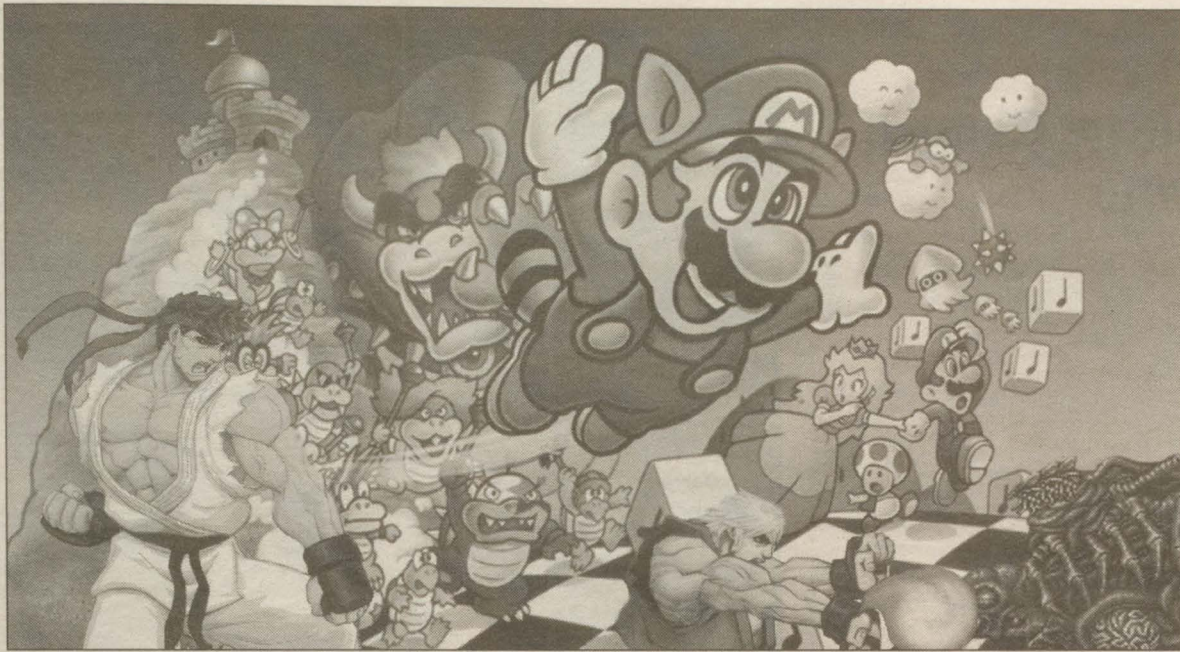
Full-Time Painting Positions  
May - August

No experience required,  
we will train you to paint.

Positions available in your area.  
If interested call 1-888-277-9787  
or apply online at [www.collegepro.com](http://www.collegepro.com)

[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)





The essence of Videogameramma. | Photo illustration by Matthew Ritchie

# Nerd army descends upon Reflections

Band with same name will also play Videogameramma

Matthew Ritchie  
Assistant Arts Editor

Reflections Cabaret plays host to a lot of things: house and techno, cheap drinks and "Rockin' 4 Dollars" on Mondays. But soon the bar will host something else entirely: a battlefield. Well, not technically a battlefield, unless you play Call of Duty.

On March 27 the venue will be turned into an all-out videogame party – maybe even a Mario Party – when the venue hosts its second-ever videogame night. The event is called Videogameramma. The venue is already planning two more in the spring and summer. The event is set to take place at 9 p.m., with happy hour prices the entire night. A videogame competition is fun enough, but a drunk videogame competition? Get ready to hear some vulgarities being thrown around at Mike Tyson's Punch Out!

Videogameramma will feature free-play video and four distinct competitions for four different games. The event organizers appear to be moving away from the usual competitive nature of hardcore games (Halo, Starcraft and Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2). Instead the night will focus on more classic games such as Nintendo 64's Mario Kart (released in 1996) and a Final Fantasy VII Golden Saucer competition.

Videogameramma will also hold a competition for a new game: Street Fighter 4 for X-Box 360.

One of Halifax's virtuoso bands, Nerd Army, will fittingly headline the night. The band, comprised of Reflections event organizer Craig Hamlin and James O'Toole, marks their first performance since August. Some of the band members may even compete in the videogame contests.

One such contest will cap off the night's events in a glorious way when players play not only one of the most widespread nostalgic games of their youth, but an all-around classic as well. Think of it as the Led Zeppelin IV of video games.

"There's going to be a Super Mario Bros 3 speed run," says O'Toole with a smile upon his face. The set up will have five TV screens with players competing in a fashion similar

to the famed scene in childhood '80s film The Wizard, in which Fred Savage's little brother goes to Orlando and battles two other players at the game – magic flutes and all.

"That's probably the one I'd have any chance of being good at," says O'Toole. "That's the one I've done the most homework and have the most experience with."

When referring to homework, O'Toole must be referring to the complexities of the game and its secrets, including two magic flutes that allow the player to skip to the final world in the game. He could also be referring to the jump patterns involved in Bowser's minions stages (the ones with wooden ships that fly, float and drive).

If there were any group of people able to win one of these competitions, it is probably the masterminds in Nerd Army: a band that spends hours upon hours practicing at home and in the studio.

Although most of Nerd Army's songs are made up of short one- to two-minute videogame vignettes, the songs are highly complex to play.

"I guess the guys would have had the challenge of composing music for a certain time frame, but having to not let it get too old too fast," O'Toole says in reference to composers such as Koji Kondo, the composer of the original Mario.

"You're going to be hearing those songs over and over again, so it better be good and somewhat musical."

O'Toole says the composers of the original Nintendo had an entirely blank canvas in the composition process.

"The composers weren't limited to what the chip could do, because the chip could do anything. They could program any number of patterns of notes into the game, no matter how ridiculous."

The songs originally found in the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) pack a punch for its small size. As O'Toole explains, the songs work perfectly for performing in a video game cover band.

"For the NES stuff it works out well because it has four channels for its audio chip," O'Toole says. "So one is drums and one is bass and two other are sine waves, which would essentially be two different leads. So

that works out great for drums, bass and two guitars, which works out great for our set up. When you start getting into newer games from even N64 or Super Nintendo, they started implementing strings or other midi instruments, making it hard to cover those because it's harder to play a xylophone part on a guitar. Even though you can do it, it might not transition quite as well live."

To find the songs that go into making their albums, the band looks to the Internet for help, specifically [www.vgmusic.com](http://www.vgmusic.com) – "An awesome website if you're like 'hey, I remember this song from this game when I was a kid,'" O'Toole says.

Though they focus on a lot of classic NES titles such as Double Dragon or Contra (one of O'Toole's favourites), the band has recently begun looking at some other titles – mostly pre-'90s. In the past, songs such as the Silent Hill theme and Final Fantasy VII boss theme "Still More Fighting" have shown up in their live sets. O'Toole says the latter is probably their most popular.

Recently the band has been delving into the more complex and highly arpeggio-laden arrangements in the form of classic NES Final Fantasy songs.

"Craig plays some of their songs just alone on guitar," says O'Toole.

But practicing the songs in their catalogue takes up a lot of the band's time.

"To learn something like 'A Minute Passage' it may take us a month to get it solid because it's such a complex, tricky thing to play," O'Toole explains about the structured, almost metal-like feel to songs such as the one featured in Final Fantasy.

That said, the band has recently recorded 10 new songs at O'Toole's studio JOT Audio. "It's definitely safe to say sometime it will get released this year," he says.

Until then, you can catch Nerd Army's two sets at Videogameramma while you watch some hard-core gaming competitions as well. But if you do compete, don't use any of the glitches in Super Mario Kart 64. That just isn't cool.

Videogameramma is March 27 at Reflections Cabaret. Cover is \$5.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SUMMER SESSION '10

**EARN SUMMER CREDITS IN TORONTO,  
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY**

Spending the summer in Toronto? Earn transfer credit for U of T courses. Summer courses at U of T fit your schedule so you can work and still enjoy your summer.

Join the thousands of students who take advantage of Summer Session to ease their course load and graduate sooner. Register now!

### A FEW OF OUR FEATURED COURSES:

ENGLISH GRAMMAR  
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL  
INTRODUCTION TO GREEK HISTORY  
THE MAGIC OF PHYSICS  
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MODERNIST EMPIRE  
THE SHORT-STORY COLLECTION  
STARS AND GALAXIES

**VISIT SUMMERSESSION.UTORONTO.CA TO  
REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

## Teach English Abroad



**TESOL/TESL Teacher Training  
Certification Courses**

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- ESL Skills Development
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Interactive Teaching Practicum
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money-Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

**OXFORD SEMINARS**  
1-800-269-6719/416-924-3240  
[www.oxfordseminars.ca](http://www.oxfordseminars.ca)

## STRANGE ADVENTURES COMIX & CURIOSITIES

5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
[strangeadventures.com](http://strangeadventures.com)

Toys, games, manga & more!



The widest  
& wisest  
selection!

[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)



Arts

## HOLY WEEK at King's College Chapel 29 March – 4 April, 2010

**All are welcome**

*Holy Monday*, Holy Communion 5:00PM  
Meditation by Dean Nicholas Hatt  
Music: Stravinsky

*Holy Tuesday*, Holy Communion 5:00PM  
Meditation by Dean Nicholas Hatt  
Music: Tchaikovsky

*Holy Wednesday*, Holy Communion 5:00PM  
Meditation by Dean Nicholas Hatt  
Music: Hymn of Cassia

**The Paschal Triduum**

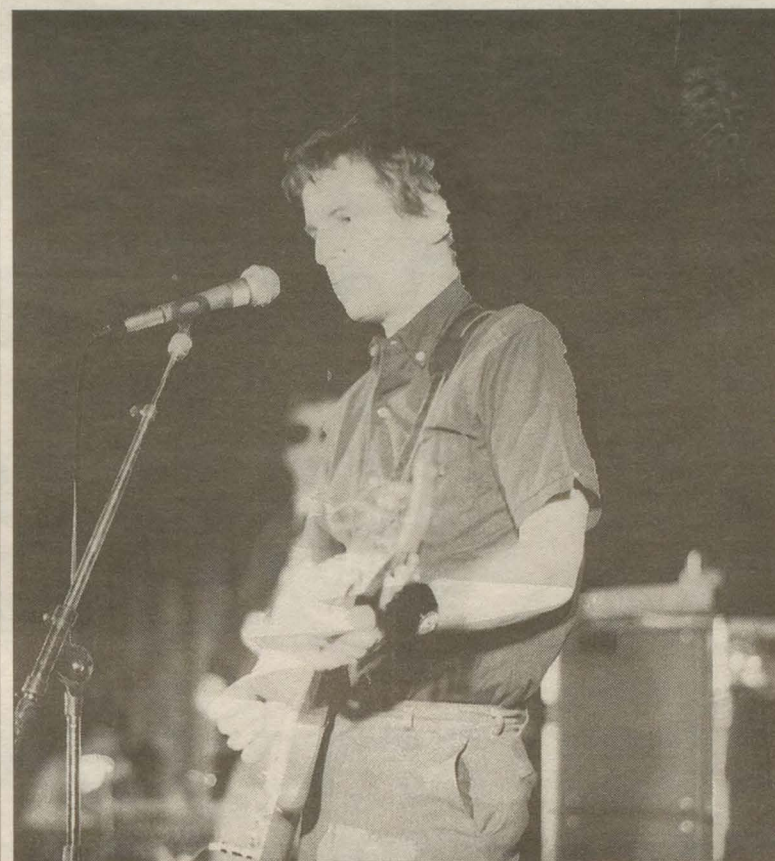
*Maundy Thursday*, Solemn Eucharist & All-Night Vigil 5:00PM  
Sermon by Dean Nicholas Hatt  
Music: Hassler, Tallis, Duruflé

*Good Friday*, Veneration of the Cross 10:00AM  
Sermon by Fr Jim McCorrison  
Music: Allegri, Victoria, Clemens non Papa

*Holy Saturday*, Easter Vigil and Eucharist 11:00PM  
Sermon by Fr Dr Gary Thorne  
Music: Halley, Palestrina, Tavener

*Easter Sunday*, Holy Communion 11:00AM  
Sermon by Fr Dr Tom Curran

Chaplain Canon Dr Gary Thorne | Music Director Paul Halley  
University of King's College Chapel, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax  
www.kingschapel.ca



Big Star's Alex Chilton played his final distorted minor chord on March 17. | Stock photo

# Arts Briefs

Matthew Ritchie | Assistant Arts Editor

**R.I.P. Alex Chilton**

On March 17, Big Star guitarist Alex Chilton passed away in New Orleans at the age of 59. Chilton's pop sensibilities on the guitar influenced a generation of musicians for the past 40 years including Joel Plaskett, Thrush Hermit (who dedicated a song to him at their recent Halifax performance), and the Replacements who named a song after him. Bobby Gillespie commented on his passing, saying: "He just made so many great records, and they were crazy rock 'n' roll records."

**Ex-boyfriend sues Lady Gaga for \$30 million**

Rob Fusari, ex-boyfriend and co-producer on the hit "Paparazzi", is suing musician Lady Gaga for \$30 million according to Rolling Stone Magazine. Fusari is suing her because he says he created the "Gaga" moniker. He is also suing for 20 per cent of the profits from Gaga's companies Team Love Child and Mermaid Music. Lady Gaga is now counter-suing her ex, arguing he tricked her into signing a fake contract.

**Ottawa plans to erect Oscar Peterson statue**

Ottawa is trying to raise \$210,000 to erect a bronze statue in memory of the late, great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. If enough money is raised, the statue will be installed outside of the National Arts Centre, near parliament hill. Stephen Harper and Liberal MP Bob Rae have already donated to the project. Rae said he hopes people will donate to "this wonderful tribute to one of our national treasures."

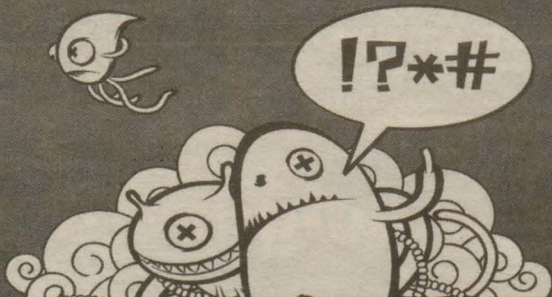
**New record-breaking estimate for Picasso piece**

A portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto, which may have been painted by a young Pablo Picasso, is set to be auctioned off at an estimated £30 to £40 million – the highest of any other work of art sold in Europe. The Andrew Lloyd Webber Art Foundation, which bought the painting in 1995, is auctioning the painting off to benefit arts, culture and heritage in the U.K.

**FIGHT THE  
POWER!**  
OR DON'T.

BUT... WRITE FOR THE GAZETTE!

Contributor Meetings are held each  
Monday @ 5:30 pm  
in room 312 S.U.B.



**Grande Prairie  
Regional College  
Residence has**

**Single furnished rooms  
available from May 3 to  
August 15.** The common

areas are all shared with up to 5 people. Rent is monthly and all utilities are included. Internet is included in most bedrooms as well. Rent ranges from \$340.00 to \$495.00 /bedroom /month. Coin operated laundry facilities included as well. Perfect accommodations for seasonal workers or students. Damage Deposit and references required

Books  
for Critical  
Minds

6265 Quinpool Road  
(902) 422-3544 www.outsidethelinesbooks.com



## Sports

# Sports

**Sports**  
Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. E-mail Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff **Sports Editor**  
sports@dalgazette.com

## Coollest kid in school

**Natasha White**  
Staff Contributor

“It’s minus a billion degrees outside,” the frozen parka-clad TV weatherman reports. Why they insist on shoving the poor guy outside at 7:45 a.m. in the driving snow to tell us what is viciously obvious is beyond my eight year old comprehension. But, his cold, dry humour speaks loudly to a city in the midst of another northern Alberta deep-freeze. We are united, here in Edmonton, by Mother Nature’s cruel brutality. She ravages us for months on end. Winter in Alberta; the words themselves, like ice cubes down my back, make me shiver and cringe with dread.

The walk to school isn’t so far. I can see it from my driveway. No, it’s really not the distance, so much, that grates on my tiny soul; rather, it’s the vast treeless expanse of The Field. How can I explain my deep loathing for The Field in winter? Throughout the year it separates the two stages of my life’s little theatre. In summer, it is the beautiful buffer that keeps away grades and teachers and bells of command. I never step foot on The Field in the summer; it is sacred hallowed ground in July and August. But in winter, in winter... I face my own private barren prairie crossing at the break of each frigid day. Complete with whipping winds and knee high snow, I trudge begrudgingly across The Field.

It’s too early in the morning to be tortured like this.

By the time I reach school I’m drenched in sweat, my eyelashes are like two frozen awnings, my nose has ran a marathon and I’m so frigin’ cold my fingers refuse to separate. I’m just a little kid.

Twice a day I fantasize of a glass-enclosed automated pedway spanning

the cosmic stretch. Ten years we cross that Field, for I know I’m not alone. Ten years and the pedway never appears.

Instead, morning rituals to combat the piercing temperatures repeat house after house, child after child: socks, long johns, extra socks, hot pockets (if you manage to steal them from dad’s secret stash), boots, snow pants, scarf, toque, mitts, coat – all are necessary if one is to survive outside. The order of dress is of utmost importance; the air-tight seal of cotton and polyester is all that stands between you and the merciless ironic

pride. Today I’ll battle the ice-crust-ed Field with vigour. My confidence abounds; today is the greatest day of my life. Today, I’m going to The Game.

So, bring it on, Mother Nature. I can take your snowstorms, your deepfreezes, and your bone chilling cold because I have a fire that’s inextinguishable. And tonight, I’m going to feel it hotter and stronger than in any living room. Tonight is my first trip to the Coliseum: Oil versus Flames. I’m so excited at school that I make myself nauseous and have to stay in at lunch and recess. I beg the nurse

really, how important are elastics on children’s footwear? Another Kmart special. I hustle forward, for I know there’s no stopping once we’ve started the charge. Dad seems to forget his stride is twice as long as mine. I struggle along the icy sidewalks to catch up. He doesn’t look back to see if I’m coming. I take it as a sign of confidence, though I’m starting to panic. His shadowy figure grows smaller and smaller. Both my socks seem determined to escape their imprisonment. I can no longer feel my fingers. One thing I do know

so I’m starting to regain feeling in my extremities. Hundreds crush toward the entrance doors. Body heat, body heat. My core temperature and exhilaration rise with each inch forward. We gain the purgatory of the double door vestibule. So close.

It’s finally my turn. I proudly present my ticket – my passport to the larger-than-life world of NHL hockey. Does the ticket-taker man realize what a momentous occasion this is? I gape at him expectantly, pausing, so that we two previously unknown souls can quietly, reflectively capture this unprecedented event in our united hearts. He, however, does not share my appreciation for the occasion. A perturbed look crosses the old man’s unshaven, yellow smoky face. Dad gives me a shove through the turnstile.

We’re in! It’s a flurry of Edmonton’s working-class finest. We swim in the dark sea of concrete that makes up the Coliseum. The stench is overpowering; popcorn and hotdogs mixed with sweat and what? Feet. Smells like feet. Its bouquet is sweeter than any rose to me. I beg for a hotdog and a drink. I am flatly denied. Apparently I am supposed to be satisfied with the handful of Glosette raisins I’m given. No matter. We’re here. We’re in. I made it. I’m at The Game!

We make our way around the circular maze to find our section: 333. Sounds like great seats to me. I envision Gretzky giving me a wink and nod as he steps out for the warm-up skate. In my mind I can feel the little specks of Mess’s sweat gently douse me like a priest’s holy water blessing. Reality, however, is slightly different. Namely, I discover what the ‘nosebleeds’ are. For that matter, I discover what ‘standing room only’ means.

What do you mean I have no seat? Dad? ...Dad?

**“My confidence abounds; today is the greatest day of my life. Today, I’m going to The Game.”**

burn of frostbite. Mitts before jacket, of course, pose a clear dilemma. One must rely upon an un-mitted co-conspirator to assist in the final, crucial zip-up. This is a position of trust, best left to a stay-at-home parent. If zipped too fast or too reckless there is a strong possibility of catching a scarf, or much worse, a chin, in the interlocking metal teeth. My parents, fighting their own battles of frozen garage doors and faulty extension cords, have long gone to work.

But this day, today, is special – unique. Today my own mitted hands will successfully zip up what can only be described as my yeti-inspired, faux fur, Kmart special winter jacket. Thank you auntie Paulette for picking this baby out. My sister has a matching one. We are miniature sasquatch twins – minus the red hair for her – crossing the barren tundra. Today I’ll face the Wilma Flintstone cat-calls with

not to call my mom. If word gets out, dad might take my brother to the game instead. Besides, I’ve already told everyone in my class where I’ll be tonight. Today, I am the coolest kid in school.

We park so far from the Coliseum I think surely to God we’re making a pit stop before the game. “Why would I give those guys \$5 – \$5! – to park in their lot,” my father bemuses. Um, so maybe I could feel my face sometime tonight, I think as we climb out of the warm car and into the frozen blustery -31°C (with wind-chill) air. We don’t experience Chinooks here in Edmonton like our spoiled neighbours to the south. We experience wind so biting and violent it spans us around like petulant children. But, I’m determined not to complain about anything tonight.

Damn it! Snow right down my boot, and these cheap socks have ridden halfway down my foot. Because

is that I won’t fall; we northerners are blessed with a sixth sense – our mystical winter balance. True, we occasionally, momentarily, lose our footing, jolting the heart like amped defibrillator paddles. But that’s just a wake-up call to rouse us from our cocky slumber.

My mood lightens as we finally turn onto 118th Avenue and join the streaming mass of Oil faithful. Dad grabs my hand so as not to lose my four-foot frame amidst the swelling throng. I’ve never felt so grown up or excited in my life. I’m grinning earmuff to earmuff as I skip, no, run, to keep up with the unspoken understood pace of the mob, my frozen brown cords cracking with each shuffled step.

“It’s hockey. You’re supposed to be cold,” Dad says.

Focus, focus, focus. We’re almost there. The pack has sheltered me from the wind for the last six blocks

**Contributors**  
are popular.

**KNOCK BANG THUMP**

**JOIN US!**  
Write for the Dalhousie Gazette

**RATTLE**

**TICK-TOCK!**

**Now's the time to write for the Dalhousie Gazette**



**Sports**



**Are you looking for a Chiropractor?**

Dr. Brad Lohrenz  
Robie @ Spring Garden  
Chiropractic Clinic

- Stress
- Headaches
- Back / Neck Pain
- Numb Legs / Arms
- Nutritional Questions

**422-[EASY] 3279**

Halifax Professional Centre  
5991 Spring Garden Road  
Main Floor (beside Starbucks)

Close to Dalhousie (1 block to main campus)  
Works with Dal student insurance.  
No referral needed

# Volleyball disappoints at nationals

## Canada's number two team misses at CIS finals

Tim Van Der Kooi  
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie men's volleyball team won a 24th consecutive AUS title this season, but did not lock the elusive CIS championship which has been out of the Tigers grasp for decades. The Tigers have never won a CIS championship. However, this year the Tigers were favoured to make it far into the CIS championship in Kamloops, British Columbia as the second-ranked team in the country. The men lost their quarter-final match to the Calgary Dinos, who went on to win the CIS championship for the first time in 17 years. The Tigers looked like they were going to defeat the fourth-seeded Dinos after narrowly winning the first two sets 25-21 and 26-24. The Dinos fought back and won the last three sets, forcing the Tigers to settle for a consolation match.

The Tigers might have been demoralized after their tough loss to the Dinos, but they went on to lose to ninth-seeded Thomson Rivers in the consolation match in three straight sets, 25-18, 25-15 and 25-16.

Despite the disappointment in Kamloops, it was a great season for the Tigers.

They posted a 16-2 record in the AUS standings, rolling over the competition every weekend. The team was undefeated against their two AUS opponents the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds and the Memorial University Seahawks. Their only two losses were to the Universite de Leval Rouge-et-Or, who were ranked first in the country.

Sander Ratsep was a pivotal piece in the Tigers squad. He led the team in kills per game with 3.79 and posted 26 serving aces over the year. For the past two years Ratsep has won the MVP in the AUS and is slated to win the honour for a third consecutive year. This could be Ratsep's last year with the Tigers since he is in his fourth year of eligibility. Another key player in the same year of eligibility is middle blocker Max Burt. He led the team in blocks with 1.53 per game and was second on the Tigers in kills with 2.89 per game.

It is unclear how many players will be moving on next year, but the Tigers are definitely an older team that will need to recruit and foster the development of their younger players. The team should be greeted by plenty of fresh faces that hope to win the first CIS championship for Dalhousie next year.

### In a Dispute with your Academic Institution?

- Accused of plagiarism when you've done nothing wrong
- Treated unfairly by a professor
- Accused of improper collaboration with others on assignments

Findings of academic dishonesty can adversely affect your academic status and your career goals.

You can be found guilty of academic misconduct without intending to do anything wrong.

I provide confidential, experienced legal advice and representation before disciplinary panels at all levels.

**Ann E. Smith, Partner**  
Burchells, LLP  
1801 Hollis Street  
Halifax Nova Scotia  
442-8367;asmith@burchells.ca

**BURCHELLS** LLP

### LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE

#### Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Convenient Weekend Schedule
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Experienced Course Instructors
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Limited Class Size
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

#### OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719  
416-924-3240  
www.oxfordseminars.ca

**STRANGE ADVENTURES**  
COMIX & CURIOSITIES

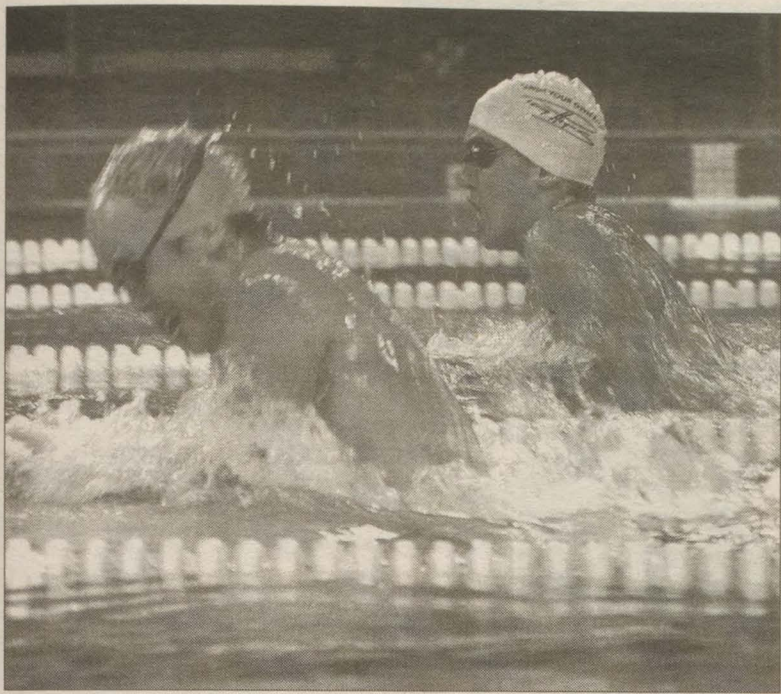
5262 Sackville Street  
downtown Halifax  
Tel. 425-2140  
strangeadventures.com

Toys, games, manga & more!

*The widest & wisest selection!*







The Tigers won four medals at the 2010 CIS championships | Photo by Pau Balite

## Tigers in the water

### Dalhousie leading 'middle power' of CIS swimming

Joel Tichinoff  
Staff Contributor

“The first goal is to qualify, and then to do well,” says Dal swim coach David Fry of the CIS Swimming Championships. Fry, who led the Tiger’s to their 12th consecutive men’s AUS championship and ninth consecutive women’s championship (under Fry the Tigers have won 21 of a possible 22 AUS titles), has won Dalhousie Coach of the Year honours four times, has been named CIS Coach of the Year in both men’s and women’s categories, has coached several Olympian swimmers and holds degrees from Acadia (BA), Queen’s (B.Ed), Lakehead (MA Coaching Science) and a law degree from Dal.

“We’ve had a lot of success at the AUS level, the focus now is on upping the ante at nationals.”

The Dalhousie women’s team finished eighth overall at the 2010 CIS Championships while the men’s team, powered by a four-medal performance from rookie David Sharpe, placed fifth behind the Big Four varsity swimming super-powers: Calgary, Toronto, UBC and Laval.

Until Sharpe’s gold and three silvers in 2010, Dal had gone six years without a CIS medal. The University of Calgary took home 34 medals in the 2010 meet alone. Home to national training centres, the swim teams at universities in Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal benefit from being able to attract the country’s most elite young swimmers.

“One of the unique things about varsity swimming is that most of the top athletes have had exposure at the international level,” says Fry. “Competing against these kids is a daunting task.”

When the disadvantages of not having access to a national training centre nor the top-flight swimmers the centres draw are taken into consideration, the Tiger’s performance at the national level can be put in perspective.

Simply maintaining hegemony in any varsity sport is difficult enough. University teams are completely replaced

every five years; not only does a varsity program have to develop present athletes, there must also be a constant focus on recruiting fresh talent. With eight of 20 women’s team swimmers and four men’s team swimmers graduating, the Dalhousie team’s future relies heavily on continuing to attract the best talent to stay competitive.

“Our swimmers are from all over,” says Fry. “I just got back from dropping off a recruit from Seattle at the airport. A high caliber athlete like (David Sharpe) was recruited everywhere in Canada and the U.S.”

Sharpe was recruited by Dalhousie while training with the Dalplex based Halifax Trojans swim club.

“(Sharpe) could have gone anywhere but he knew this as an environment he could improve in,” says Fry.

Prior to receiving medals at the national meet, Sharpe earned both male rookie of the meet and swimmer of the meet honours at the 2010 AUS championships. The women’s and men’s teams dominated at the AUS championships, the women’s team placed first with 297 points, 179 points ahead of second place New Brunswick and the men’s team placed first with 328 points, second place Memorial had 66 points. It was Dal’s ninth consecutive sweep at the AUS finals – the men entered the nationals ranked fifth in Canada, the women 10th. The fifth place finish – first after the Big Four – though led by Sharpe, belongs to the whole team and speaks to the depth of talent on the Dal team.

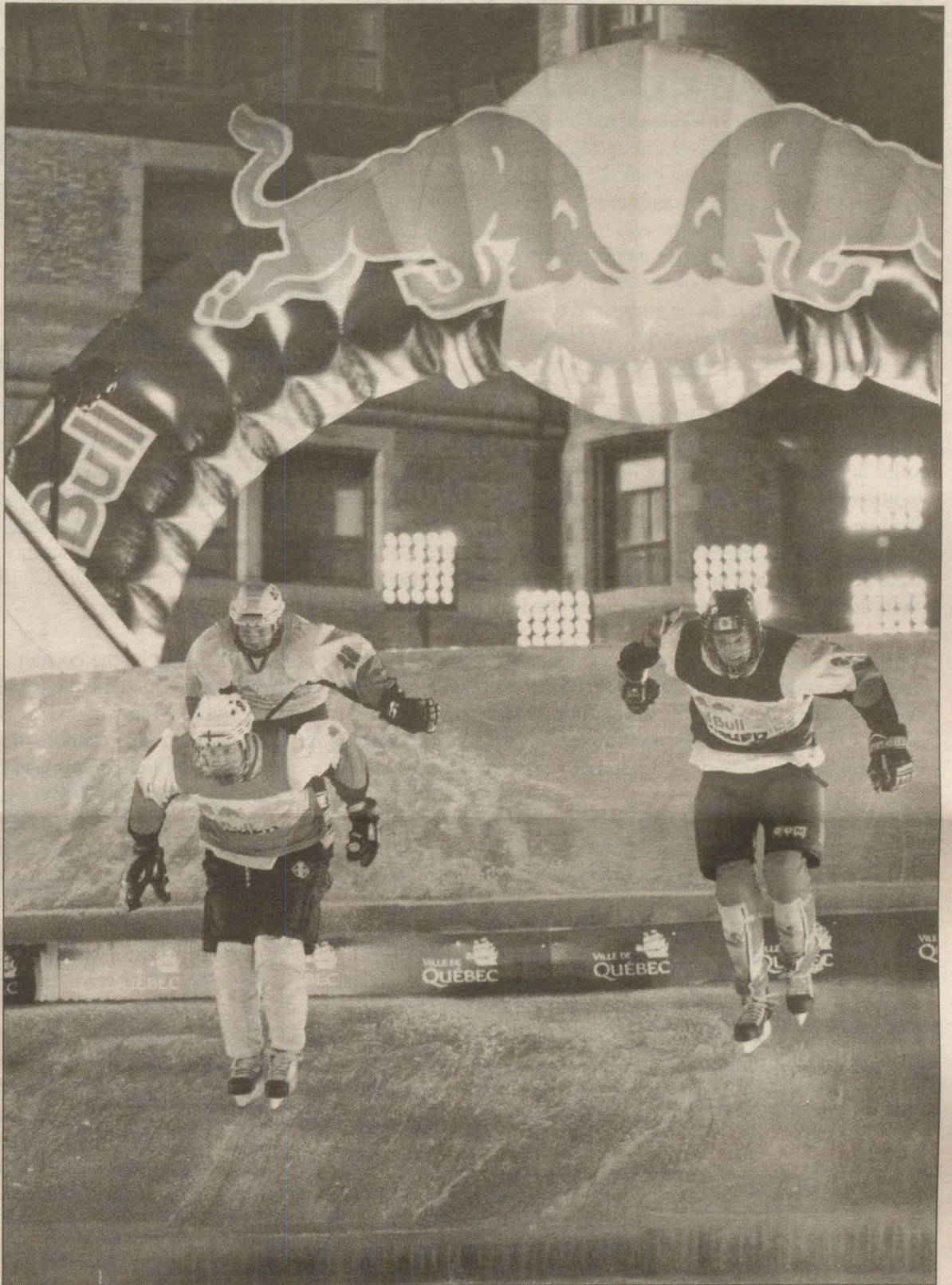
“The whole team had to step up to maintain the fifth place position in the last day and they did,” says Fry.

For now the team is focusing on putting the puzzle pieces together in off-season recruitment.

“The university has a strong reputation as a good option to get a good education and swim,” says Fry.

With a maximum of four years of eligibility remaining for Sharpe and a competitive showing at nationals, Dalhousians can look forward to more success in the pool for years to come.

# Crashed Ice



Red Bull's 2010 Crashed ice event was held in Quebec City. | Photo by Pau Balite

**TICK-TOCK!**

**Now's the time to write for the Dalhousie Gazette**





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MARCH 26TH, 2010

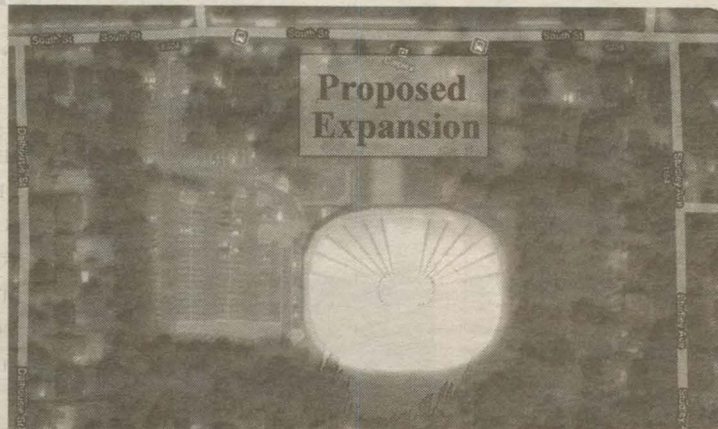
EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

## FUTURE ADDITION TO THE DALPLEX...WHAT IS IN IT FOR SEXTON?

J.P. Brien

Mechanical '10

I recently caught wind of a potential new project at Dalhousie University. Bonnie Neuman, the Vice-President of Student Services at Dal, has begun work on a proposal to build a student-funded extension onto the Dalplex. As I'm sure you are all well aware, the facilities at Dalhousie are aging and have almost reached the end of their useful lives. Furthermore, since the facilities were constructed, the population of Dalhousie has grown considerably. There are three main issues which must be addressed to the project before it should be approved; solidifying the budget, and deciding on the location(s) and the services it will provide.



Aerial View of proposed extension

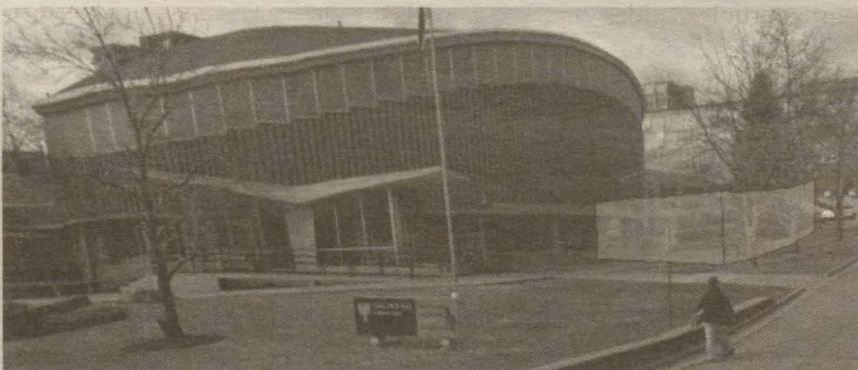
A rate of between \$100 to \$150 increase to student service fees has been proposed for all students (full time or part time) to levy the money for the new Sportsplex. This is not unheard of, as many universities across the country raise funds for student buildings through alumni donations or student service fees. The levy would raise approximately 20 to 32 million dollars (in today's dollar) accounting for both inflation and interest rates on the loan (rudimentary calculation). This is enough money to expand the building on the same level as the \$20 million dollar Keating Center at St.F.X. This center included a hockey arena, a fitness facility, an aerobics room, a café and multiple board rooms. The board of governors passed a motion stating that no fees will be levied until the facilities opens their doors so only students receiving the benefits will pay for them.

Bonnie Neumann has stated that the location of the expanded sports center would be the current location of Eliza Ritchie Hall. This presents several problems for the students of Sexton who rarely, if ever, make the trip up to the other campus. Most students live in the Sexton bubble, where they eat, study, and sleep within a few blocks of the campus. Furthermore, since many students use the Sexton gym during their breaks, they would not be capable of making the trip to the Dalplex during that time. An upgrade to the facilities at Sexton would alleviate this problem and justify the cost to Sexton students. Opening a bike lane on Morris and University would make travelling between campuses far more viable and safer (although this is largely outside Dalhousie's control). Finally, making the Dalplex parking lot open to all parking passes around Dalhousie work help fix a few of these issues.



Aerial View

One of the most important aspects of the new gym is the services that it will provide. To make the project worthwhile to Sexton students, at least 10% of the funds should be allocated to expanding and upgrading the services on Sexton. The Dalplex requires a dedicated space for both the fitness facility and cardio. Several larger aerobics rooms at the Dalplex would also be extremely useful for hosting cardio classes. A room with dedicated floor space for people who wish to do aerobics without a structured class should also be available to the students, and it should be attached to the fitness and cardio spaces. Speaking with Bonnie Neuman, I was unable to ascertain where she planned to spend the student levy as the services she described would not cost \$20 million dollars.



The author's proposed extension to Sexton Gym

services she intends to provide for the students of Sexton and Dalhousie. There is a round house discussion coming up with Neuman, so if you have any input in regards to the Sportsplex please contact your faculty society reps. Sexton students may contact their society at [dseus@dal.ca](mailto:dseus@dal.ca) and for the engineering students on upper campus, your contact is [engineer@dal.ca](mailto:engineer@dal.ca).

## WRITE FOR THE SEXTANT!

### GET MONEY!

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

Email: [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)

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

Get involved! Email us for more info!



Trivia Friday!  
April Fools Trivia April 1st

Want a DSU position on Sexton Campus: Check out the following positions and links!

**Sexton Campus Director:**

<http://dsu.ca/aboutus/sexton-campus-director.pdf>

**Sexton Campus Manager:**

<http://dsu.ca/aboutus/sexton-manger.pdf>

**Sexton Entertainment Director:**

<http://dsu.ca/aboutus/sexton-entertainment-director.pdf>

Other DSU Employment Opportunities Available!

Check out [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)

Deadline March 31st

SEEF APPLICATIONS DUE TODAY!

Email

**Martin Crawley:**  
[mr410668@Dal.Ca](mailto:mr410668@Dal.Ca)

## CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: [www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca](http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca)  
Round 2: Going on now  
Check PlacePro for jobs!

**DSEUS** dalhousiesexton  
engineering undergraduate society

Every Friday Afternoon • EngiBEERing in the Design Commons

Wear a Sweater Vest for a Free Beer!

Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

Questions, Comments and to Contribute [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)



Visit Sexton Campus's Online Resource [dalsexton.ca](http://dalsexton.ca)

[a.dalsextant](http://a.dalsextant)

[www.thesextant.ca](http://www.thesextant.ca)

[facebook.com/dalsextant](http://facebook.com/dalsextant)





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MARCH 26TH, 2010

PAGE 2

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

## IE FACULTY MEETS WITH 5TH YEAR STUDENTS

Zhindra Gillis  
Industrial '10

I have always felt my department cared about my education and now I know it's true. Last week 5 students from the senior industrial engineering class met with the industrial engineering Undergraduate Studies Advisor Dr. Uday Venkatadri and Dr. Corrine MacDonald to discuss the entire flow and effectiveness of the program. Every course from the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> year to the current semester was discussed including all electives offered in the department. The professors were very receptive to criticism of courses and actually were most concerned to hear problems if any with their own courses they had taught.

There was discussion of taking components of courses and moving them around and mixing them with other courses to redesign some of

the program. There was also discussion of when would be the most appropriate time to offer certain courses.

From an IE perspective we call this continuous improvement but we also call it just common sense. The two professors we spoke with were appalled when we related horror stories related to us by friends in other departments. Not everyone is as lucky to have their professors listen to them and really break down the effectiveness of the education they are receiving. Some students in some disciplines are afraid to critique a course let alone the entire program. This is the type of frank discussion that should be happening in every department. If you know a professor that will listen or better yet one who will take your ideas and act on them I strongly suggest you talk to them.

## "THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGING"

Ben Wedge  
Industrial '13  
Editor

The masses are coming!

No, I'm not talking about weight divided by gravity, but the second-year engineering students are coming to Sexton Campus next fall. This will mean nearly 300 additional students will be on the campus next year, and the face off Dalhousie Engineering will change forever.

Obviously, there are concerns. There is also a lot of optimism. I investigated on behalf of *The Sextant*. The Deans of both Engineering and Architecture and Planning are supportive of the move, with Dr. Christine Macy of Architecture and Planning saying that her faculty "looks forward to partnering in student life and activities, as well as the academic and extracurricular learning end of things." Dr. Josh Leon of Engineering, who is spearheading the move, felt it will be a positive long-term move for the faculty.

There will be pressures on student space. Classrooms are being redesigned, and retrofitted. Room A103 is going to become a workshop for all engineering students and the Dean's

office is on the move. When we come back next fall, Sexton will be nearly unrecognizable.

What about our gym facilities, already stretched to the max, underfunded, and falling into disrepair? Leon says he's already working on expanded the workout space, but there's no word on timelines. JP Brien has written about the DalPlex in this issue, so I'll leave it alone.

Not everyone is excited for the move. In a vote two weeks ago, the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society, which represents students at upper campus, voted against looking at merging the two engineering societies, a move which shocked several observers, including Stephanie Hagmann, outgoing President of DSEUS. She is still hoping for changes next year.

It's not the end of the road for the merger, however. Hagmann has been in talks with a number of current and former members of DUES, who are supportive of a merger between the societies, arguing that it will unify our voice, make for more effective use of levy money, and make the lines of communication between the other students and the undergraduate

## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD Winner: Dr. Paul Amyotte

Bridget Robinson  
Chemical '10

Dr. Paul Amyotte, professor in the Process Engineering and Applied Science department in the Faculty of Engineering, is the winner of the 2010 Faculty of Engineering Teaching Excellence Award. The Faculty of Engineering Award for Teaching Excellence (formerly TUNS Award for Teaching Excellence) is an annual award given by the Dalhousie Sexton Undergraduate Engineering Society to a faculty member teaching in the Faculty of Engineering who has made outstanding contributions to the education of engineering students. Dr. Amyotte meets this criterion, but not only through his excellent classroom instruction; he is also very supportive of students' involvement outside of the classroom.

Dr. Amyotte teaches several courses in the undergraduate engineering curriculum. His students have found him to be a very enthusiastic professor and very knowledgeable on the course subject matter, most notably in industrial safety and loss management. He presents courses in a well-organized manner, using a variety of media to teach the content. These media include course notes compiled by Dr. Amyotte, which consist of newspaper and academic journal articles, slides, and case studies. He complements the course notes by writing additional notes on the white board and showing videos. He also encour-

ages the students in the class to discuss different elements of the course and gives individual and group assignments to cater to the preferences of different students. Furthermore, he makes a point of learning the names of the students in the class, and he is always willing to make himself available for help outside of lectures and tutorials.

Dr. Amyotte takes a keen interest in his students' activities and has attended many student events. For example, last fall, he attended the student-organized December 6<sup>th</sup> Ceremony held at Sexton Campus to commemorate the Canadian National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In February, he visited Pulling for the Kids, a charity event organized by Dalhousie engineering students whereby two cars were pulled around a track for 12 hours. He stayed, in the cold, for about an hour to talk to the students that were participating. He also brought cookies that his wife had baked for the participants – much needed sustenance while pulling a car! Another example of his support for students is exemplified by his attendance at a fifth-year chemical engineering student's varsity women's hockey game last month. Dr. Amyotte has also assisted students with post-graduation-related decisions, particularly those students contemplating graduate studies.

engineers much clearer. This could begin as early as mid-April.

Another item on the floor is the rumoured renaming of the societies as part of the merger. Goodbye DSEUS and DUES, hello Dalhousie Engineering Undergraduate Society and Dalhousie Diploma of Engineering Society. This would mark the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 13 years that the DSEUS will be renamed. Who said change isn't good?

The IDEA Corridor, the new building for Sexton Campus which has been pushed back more than once, is, according to Dean Leon, moving forward. He hopes that it will open in

2014, which is when the current first years will graduate, if they do coop. In short, we're going to have four years of cramped space, before there's any hope of new space, and none of us will reap the rewards.

This article is not meant to be the end of the discussion. If you have thoughts, we have a comment section on our website, and if you write something for us about the move, we'll pay you. The move may be good. The move may be bad. No matter what happens in September, the face of Sexton will change forever.





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MARCH 26TH, 2010

PAGE 3

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

## FAREWELL TO SEXTON CAMPUS

*Zhindra Gillis  
Industrial '10*

I knew I would have to write this article this year and I have been dreading it. I have been dreading it because how does one say goodbye to a place they call home? That's right Sexton is my home. No I do not sleep here, as long as falling asleep in class doesn't count, but I have spent more time on Sexton in the past 3 years than anywhere else.

I will miss so many things. I will miss never knowing quite what to expect while walking around campus. I will miss dogs playing fetch with robots or people transporting concrete toboggans or cars driving through the hall. I will miss being able to walk into the alumni lounge and see so many friends or even just friendly faces. I will miss engineering, oh how I will miss engineering! I will miss serving a wild group of Miners or Civils despite myself.

It seems like just yesterday I was a second year student terrified of the move to Sexton. Someone had told me there was a void of school spirit when I was in first year and I kind of believed it. That's not true anymore! I will miss working on things like orientation or Techball or the December 6<sup>th</sup> ceremony. But I know the

students who are taking the helm will keep those traditions alive. I trust that everyone will improve on the things I've done.

I can only hope that I have made a difference. I can only hope that I have helped make changes for the better. I can only hope that the things I leave here will carry on and develop and blossom even more as the years go by.

This year at the December 6<sup>th</sup> ceremony a man who used to work at TUNS said "It's hard to believe I planted that tree 20 years ago". I can only hope I can be so lucky as to come back in 20 years and see the seeds of community and school spirit that have been planted on Sexton as something bigger and better and more beautiful than I can imagine.

I was lucky to be able to help out during the 100 years of engineering and meet men and women (mostly men) that had walked these halls as many as 55 years ago, I can only hope I get to do the same. I don't want to leave but I know I must. I know life moves on and so should I.

I hope that all of you who are graduating soon

and even those who are not have enjoyed the ride thus far as much as I have. University is about learning, but it is also about discovering who you are and about forming the friendships that will last a lifetime. I hope that everyone has taken the opportunities to take breaks from their hectic schedule in order to see the wonderful things going on at Sexton and to make those unbelievable connections.

To quote Ferris Bueller "Life moves pretty fast. You don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it"

Enjoy your time as a Sexton student, in fact relish in it! Thank you Sexton for the lifetime's worth of memories and thanks to everyone who has been there with me. I will miss you most of all.

*Ed note: Zhindra has been involved with so many things since she started at Sexton they are hard to list. Her involvement with the DSEUS, and more recently as Sexton Campus Director and Sextant Treasurer (and contributor) will definitely be missed! Thanks for your involvement these past three years!*

## CHECKING OUT

*Stephanie Hagmann DSEUS President  
Mechanical '10*

This year has taken engineering students by storm! It has been a year filled with interesting challenges and lots of fun times!

As an engineering society we've been able to make progress in campus planning, assist in the decision making associated with a curriculum rebuild, we've raised over \$8500 for camp triumph, been involved with Feed Nova Scotia and the Canadian Cancer Society, hosted countless pancake breakfasts, BBQs, T-room parties and much more.

In addition to this engineering students have attended conference and competitions including: Concrete Toboggan, Institute of Industrial Engineering conference, the national conference for women in engineering, national engineering summit, Atlantic Council of Engineering Students' AGM, Canadian Federation of Engineering Students Congress, both the Atlantic and Canadian Engineering Competition and the Canadian Mining Games. Additionally, we hosted the Canadian Mining Games. Students are still expected to attend the Shell Eco-marathon, Formula SAE Race, the ROV International Competition and the ASME Human Powered Vehicle Competition.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Faculty of Engineering, the university administration and the Dalhousie Student Union. Most importantly none of this would have been possible without the keen involvement of engineering students. I would like to thank the DSEUS executive for its hard work; it has certainly been recognized and appreciated. Each of these individuals have shown off their leadership ability and made the society a stronger group as a result of their involvement. I would also like to thank all of the individuals who have gladly volunteered their time to for committees and council and even to do things as basic as flip burgers, set up tables or carry cases of beer.

As a senior student I am excited to have had the opportunity to work with and get to know so many of you. Some highlights for me this year were getting to know people in so many different disciplines, attending various conference and competitions, being involved with the Canadian Mining Games and most of all just having people stop by the office for a chat! One of the biggest lessons I have learned throughout my university career is although academics and school work are important, it is the soft skills you learn by getting involved and the friends you make while

at university that make a great university experience.

It has been a pleasure to be involved with the engineering societies throughout the past year and all of my years on Sexton. Next year will be an exciting year filled with many changes for the engineering students on campus, my hopes are that engineering students will continue to be the most involved students at Dalhousie and will continue to make a name for themselves at conferences and competitions!

As a means of thanking everyone for the great year, I would like to invite everyone to celebrate the success of this year and recognize various groups' and students' accomplishments at the Sexton Student Appreciation night on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the T-room.

Cheers and best of luck in the future!

*Ed note: Stephanie took on the role of DSEUS president last year, and has managed an excellent council and amazing events! She even managed to fit in time to write to the Sextant now and again. Thanks for your enthusiasm and commitment!*





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MARCH 26TH, 2010

PAGE 4

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

## INSTEAD OF WORKING ON PROJECTS OR STUDYING....CHECK THIS OUT!

*(But then go back to work!)*

### QUIZ: HOW BIG OF AN ENGINEERD ARE YOU?

**You see an attractive member of the opposite sex across the library. You:**

- A** "Accidentally" forget your pen and see if they may have a spare. The perfect way to introduce yourself, and maybe find a new study partner.
- B** Stare across the room trying to make eye contact, if they glance up you might muster the courage for a smile.
- C** Follow them until you learn their name, and then start facebook creeping to analyze and interpret their profile to determine if they would make a good life mate.
- D** Lead them to the stacks, and show them a wild time without even caring what their name is.

**Its karaoke night at the T-room, your friends are pressuring you to participate:**

- A** Wait a minute; you're actually at the T-room? No way.
- B** You gather all your friends and belt out Don't Stop Believing by Journey.
- C** Wait a minute; you have friends? No way.
- D** You come up with a rocking dance routine to Britney Spears, and moon everyone at the end of the show.

**You encounter your professor at a keg party:**

- A** You act too cool for school and pretend that you don't even realize they are there.
- B** You strip naked in the bathroom and then show them your mangina.
- C** You strike up conversation about their latest research, and try to earn some brownie points.
- D** You actually don't notice they are there because you are too busy doing keg stands, and then puke all over them.

**You have hooked up with:**

- A** 0 people in engineering, you don't commit engcest.
- B** 3+ people in engineering, you needed some stress relief in the past 5 years.
- C** 1 person in engineering, you met in the CAPA room and it has been love ever since.
- D** There is someone in Engineering you haven't hooked up with?

*Ed note: this article is just for fun, but if you have any comments email sextant@dal.ca. The authors have remained anonymous...but they are out there somewhere laughing about this right now!*

### DID YOU KNOW....

The rumour is that the Sextant used to be written upside down at the back of the Gazette. That way you knew if someone was a Sexton Campus student just by the way they were reading the paper. Everyone who didn't know this just thought all Sexton Students were crazy!

### QUIZ ANSWERS

**Mostly D's: Eng!WILD**  
You have been in school longer than Van Wilder, you keep getting older, and the ladies stay the same age. You can usually be found getting kicked out of the T-room or in the drunk tank. Instead of studying you have christened many surfaces on campus. You have grinded, made out, and puked at the T-room all in the same night.

**Mostly C's: Eng!NERD**  
Conversations are maybe kind of hard for you. You hold doors for people for an awkward eternity. You are brilliantly smart, and are heading straight for your PhD. You remind everyone of Sheldon from the Big Bang Theory.

**Mostly B's: Eng!AVERAGE**  
As far as engineers go, you are pretty cool. You have a lot of engineering friends, and know mostly everyone on campus. Although, sometimes you pull the wrong move (mangina) you know who you are, and are confident with it.

**Mostly A's: Eng!COOL**  
You're not usually seen at school; you have a healthy group of non engineering friends. You're spotted in class occasionally wearing sweatpants and usually hung over. Nobody really knows who you are, and you have lots of game.

### JOKES OF THE WEEK:

Brought to you by The Big Bang Theory

- Q: "Why did the chicken cross the mobius strip?"
- A: "To get to the same side"

A neutron walks into a bar, and asks a bartender for a drink, the bartender gives him his drink, and says "For you...no charge."



### CLEANING HOUSE AT THE CEC

Dalhousie Engineering has made a name for themselves at the Canadian Engineering Competition! The Competition is an annual event for the best and brightest engineering students across Canada. Participants are determined from two previous qualifiers: one at the university level and another at the regional level. Participants compete in one of six categories, relating to design and communication including: Consulting, Communications, Debate, Innovative Design, and Senior and Junior Team Design.

We would like to congratulate all participants and especially the Communications, Consulting and Innovative Design Teams. Braden Murphy, Jean Francois Pelletier, Adam Krajewski, and Brett Dickie placed first in Innovative Design competition, Heather Armstrong placed second in the Communications competition, and Jason Leadbetter, Aziz Martakoush, Shoneth MacInnis and Stephanie Hagmann placed second in the Consulting engineering competition. In addition to this the Innovative Design team was recognized for their superior technical design skills, innovation and attention to detail by winning the W.R. Petri Engineering Design Award from the Sanford Flemming Foundation. This year Dalhousie was the university to win the greatest number of total prizes and awards at the competition. All students represented Dalhousie very well and showed that Dalhousie Engineering students are among the best in Canada. Congratulations to all participants and winners!





# WEDNESDAY'S

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

# THURSDAY'S

Surf and Turf.

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

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

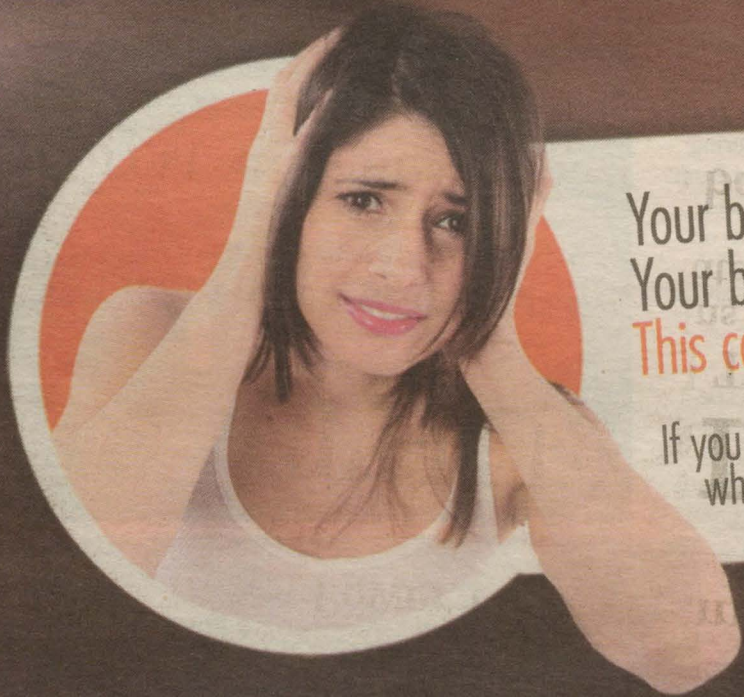
**THE SPLIT CROW PUB**  
Eat. Drink. Be Social.

www.splitcrow.com | 422.4366



**SPLIT CROW  
POWER HOUR**  
\$2.50 draught

Sat: 4:30pm - 5:30pm  
Thurs: 9pm - 10pm  
Wed: 9pm - 10pm



Your boyfriend. Your ex.  
Your brother ...  
**This could get awkward.**

If you can't see which one is  
which, **come see us.**

DoctorsEyeClinic.com | 454.2020

Sackville | Scotia Square Mall | Spryfield | Spring Garden Rd. | Fall River | Truro

Doctors  
**Eye Clinic**  
Doctors of Optometry