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Editorial

REPO KEMPT Editor-In-Chief


This week's cover is our annual effort to raise awareness of the problem of violence against women in conjunction with the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. I know what you are thinking - what does a small child in a field have to do with anything?

No candles, no female symbols, no shocking pictures of abused women, no photos of the thirteen victims of the tragedy, no purple ribbons - just a little girl standing alone.

We spent the past week looking at the past covers we had used for this issue and the covers of other newspapers across the country. They were all the same. We didn't want to shock you with graphic photos and we didn't want to bombard you with statistics. Every day we are hit with images of the horrors of war and swamped with a multitude of statistics that quickly lose all meaning. The women who died in Montreal were much more than statistics. They were mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and at one point in their life, they were much like the little girl on our cover. We wanted to do something meaningful in their honour that would challenge our readers in a different way.

The little girl on the cover is about ten years old. Unfortunately, there is a good chance that she will experience domestic violence in the next ten years of her life. However, it doesn't have to be this way. Many of the students at this university can barely remember the horror of December 6th, 1989, and we felt that this day represents much more than a tribute to the thirteen innocent women who were senselessly killed. This is a day to look forward to the future by making change today.

Is it not too much to hope that we can eliminate violence against women by the time this girl enters university? Look at the girl on the cover and think of the young women in your life and how you can protect them from violence. Together, through awareness, education and support, we can end violence against women forever.




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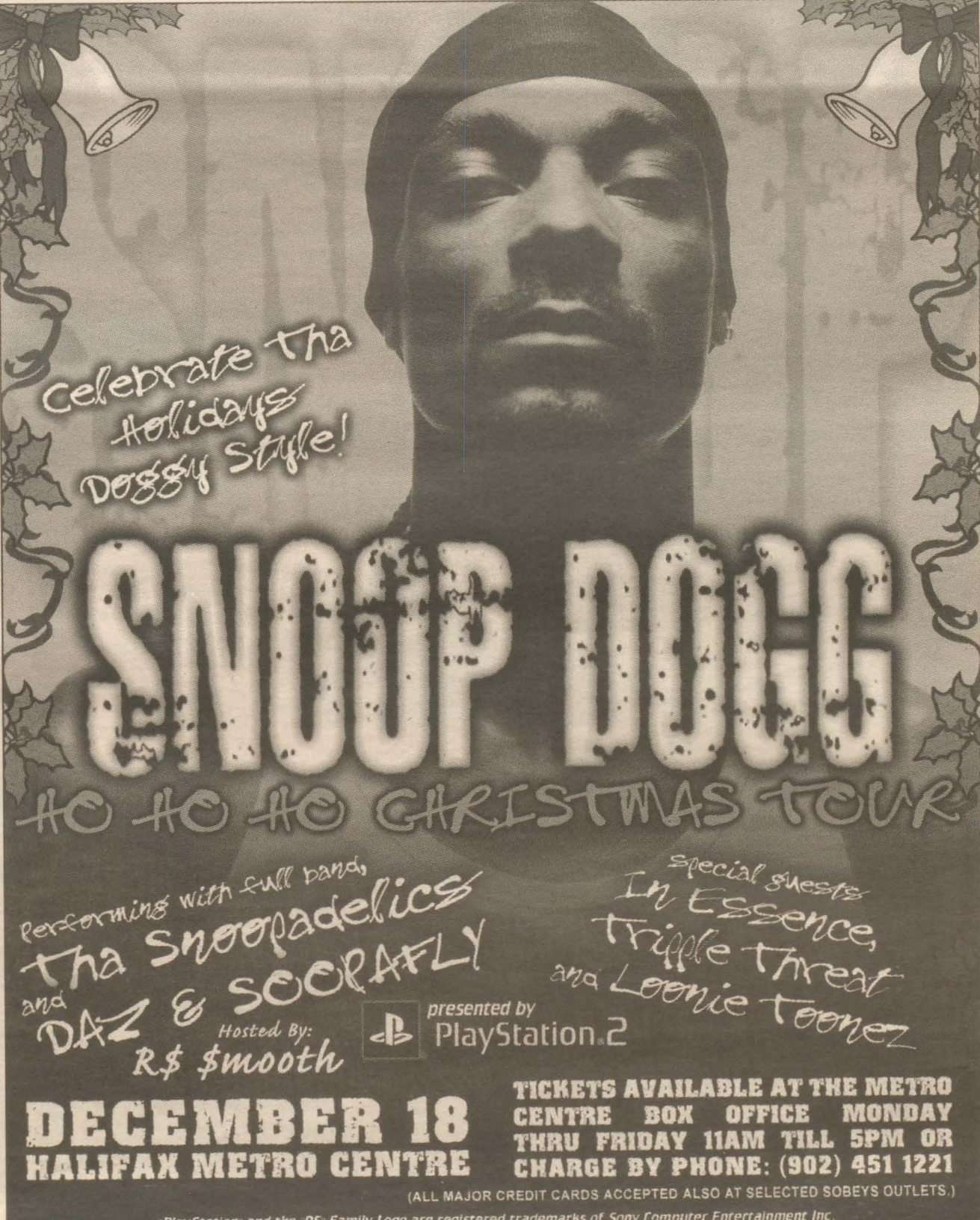
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Gazette

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04 News

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Keeping the Fun in Gambling

LAURIE BELL with MICHAEL GORMAN

Student gambling problems arise all too often. The thrill and excitement that comes from getting a chance to cash in big time can be addictive. Many students have engaged in lotteries or other types of gambling, only to see a winning streak quickly turn sour. While students may win on the odd ticket or bet, the odds are stacked against them. Some people thrive on the thrill that comes from gambling, from imagining an entirely different life when the win comes in—the friends, the money and the things they will buy. But there's the whole other side of the coin that needs to be considered.

Most people gamble at least once. The key is moderation—knowing when to stop and knowing how to reduce the risks.

Statistics show that the prevalence of problem gambling is the highest among 18-24-year-olds, with seven out of every 100 likely to develop gambling problems. That's almost double the odds of any other age group. Alcohol and smoking problems have also been associated with problem gambling behaviour. The numbers also show that people aged 18 to 24 are more likely to believe that a win is sure to follow a losing streak or that winning big is possible if you only have a system. Unfortunately, they're wrong on both counts.

The Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) knows that going out with a group of friends to the local casino for a night of entertainment is part and parcel of campus life for many of today's students. Most students gamble as a form of entertainment, not as a way to make money or to "chase" losses. Gambling can be fun from both a social and entertainment point of view, as long as it's kept in check.

Some individuals, however, gamble for different reasons. They may use gambling as a way to decrease their loneliness or isolation. They could use it as a way to forget about their problems or as a way to alleviate boredom.

The RGC has several suggestions for ways to decrease the risks involved with gambling. They recommend setting

a financial limit and sticking to it—setting a limit before you go out will prevent you from risking more money than you intended. Setting time limits and taking frequent breaks can also help. Some people get caught up in the excitement of gambling and forget about the time or the amount of money going into the machines. Setting time limits and taking small breaks makes it easier to step back and re-think your actions. Make it a rule not to borrow money (from family or friends) so that you don't end up in a negative situation, and be sure to tell everyone so that if you slip up they won't lend you any money. Other tips include using disposable income, balancing gambling activities with other activities and leaving credit cards at home.

Gambling activities can run the gamut. A common misconception is that playing the lottery or buying raffle tickets doesn't constitute gambling behaviour. The fact is that there are many different types of gambling activities. These include lotteries, raffles, arcade games, games of skill, card games, sporting events, bingo and casino activities, like slot machines. Even the Internet can at times act as a casino. But whether it's playing the casino slots or taking part in the department football pool, gambling is gambling. It all comes down to why you play the game.

If you think you or someone you know has a gambling problem, then there are lots of places to turn to for help. Students can visit their campus counselling centre, or they can call a gambling help line. The good news is that most individuals who find themselves caught up in gambling problems can turn their habits around and go on to lead happy, fulfilling lives. Losing a pay cheque can certainly be a disheartening and somewhat frightening experience. It's also an early warning sign that indicates you should act now before you get in too deeply.

Laurie Bell is the Director of Prevention Programs for the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC). She may be reached directly at tel: 416-499-9800, ext. 225 or at laurieb@rgco.org

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Dal's Noise Policy: Taking a Quieter Approach

MICHAEL GORMAN *Acting News Editor*

Dal's University Hall was filled to the brim last week as people living in nearby neighbourhoods came to hear what members of the Dal administration had to say about the growing concerns and problems regarding student noise. Members of the audience, which included Councillor Sue Uteck, Liberal Party leader Danny Graham and members of the HRM police department, listened as Dalhousie President Tom Traves, VP of Student Affairs Eric McKee, DSU President Kevin Waskco, and VP External Dale Godsoe each gave brief speeches on what they thought of the issue. The purpose of the meeting, according to Godsoe, was "to provide an opportunity for information exchange."

McKee admitted that it had been "a challenging fall for Dal." He made reference to the problems and successes associated with the school's new no-smoking policy, saying that as a way to counteract reports of late night noise by smokers outside Howe Hall, the university had obtained the services of paid off-duty police officers. He also made mention of the letters the school sent to houses deemed "trouble addresses." These letters have been the subject of great controversy, as many of the addresses were given to Dal by HRM police—an act that is outside their jurisdiction and that has garnered the police their fair share of criticism. McKee also admitted that while student feedback regarding the letters had been very negative, community members as well as staff living in the area have reacted more favourably.

President Traves talked about the importance of community and the way people's behaviour affects others. "We all have to be self-aware of [our] rights and responsibilities," he said. "99 point something per cent of those students behave responsibly...a very tiny number behave badly from time to time. [The university has] an obligation to deal with those people," he said.

The president also made sure he addressed the common response of many that the school and people in the communities were forgetting what it is like to be students. "All of us were first young adults, and I think it's important we have that perspective," he said. He added that living in an area so close to a university, people must be prepared to accept levels of over-activity to a certain point.

Traves called for the establishment of a Dalhousie community committee that would incorporate members of the HRM council, university representatives, neighbours, students and police. The purpose of the committee would be to promote the exchange of ideas and problems, receive complaints and concerns, seek advice to resolve problems and consider emerging issues. And, while Traves admitted that "town and gown relations can sometimes become a little frayed," he hoped that the committee would help to create a community that is better connected and understood.

DSU President Kevin Waskco reiterated the fact that the DSU doesn't condone the behaviour of

the students in question, but feels Dal is out of bounds getting involved. "It is not the university's role to step up and police the neighbourhood," he said. Waskco liked the idea of the proposed committee. "This committee could be a powerful vehicle and a lot could come from it," he said. He also made reference to the letters sent by the university to various student addresses. "The letters, frankly, were inappropriate." He thinks the university needs to do a better job educating its students about the problems taking place off-campus, a sentiment that was met with great support by students in attendance.

Following presentations from the panel, members of the audience had a chance to ask questions and voice concerns. The majority of the audience was comprised of non-students, and the few students who stood at the back of the room were quick to point out that while the university went out of its way to inform them of the letters sent out to trouble addresses, as well as the possible sanctions they could face—sanctions the university has since softened—they didn't seem to feel it as important to invite students to a meeting that largely concerned them.

Many felt that if student packages included detailed notes on noise bylaws as well as various other laws in HRM, many of these problems could be avoided. Students who were at the meeting were also given the chance to hear

some of the concerns of their non-student neighbours. Incidents involving destruction to property, threatening confrontations and lack of response from the university and local police were all problems many living the surrounding areas have had to face in the past months.

At the closing of the meeting, the panel was given a chance to comment on the evening. Waskco felt it had been a "great opportunity for students to hear first-hand of problems throughout HRM." He also stressed the importance of communication and education regarding the problem, two points President Traves also stressed. Touching on the subject of Dal getting involved in off campus issues, Traves assured the crowd that Dal would do its best to be constructive in how it deals with problems. However, he took issue with the notion the university had no place getting involved, reminding people that Dal had been told the same thing when it dealt with issues surrounding racism and sexism. "The world is more complicated and complex," he said. "It's easy to throw it over to the police and courts. This is not a ham-fisted puritanical way of dealing with things," he said. Traves again stressed the value of the community council, saying he believes that "this is a solvable problem."



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Violence Against Women an Unpleasant Trend in NS

MEGAN YOUNG Staff Contributor

This Saturday, Dec. 6, marks the 14th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, which occurred in 1989. On that day, a man by the name of Marc Lépine entered the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec, and shot 14 female engineering students, before turning the gun on himself.

The date on which the attacks occurred has been declared the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. It will be marked by candlelit vigils, church services, moments of silence and other ceremonies in cities and provinces across the country.

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women has compiled a statistical fact sheet in order to educate the public about violence against women. In Nova Scotia alone, 70 women (including two female infants) have been murdered or died

violently since 1989. As of November 25 this year, two women have died in non-accidental situations.

In total, 61 per cent of all Canadians have known someone who has experienced a form of domestic violence. On one day, it was determined that 57 per cent of the women who were staying in Canadian women's shelters had decided to go there in order to avoid a form of domestic violence. Aboriginal women in Canada are also three times more likely to experience domestic violence, as opposed to their non-aboriginal counterparts.

In Nova Scotia, between the years of 1974 and 2000, the spousal homicide rates for women were over twice as high as they are for men. According to the fact sheet, 9.8 women for every million couples were the victims of spousal homicide, as opposed to 3.7 men for every one million couples. In same-sex

relationships, 32.4 per cent of lesbians admitted that they had been the victims of abuse. And yet few women report domestic abuse to the police. It is estimated that only 36 per cent of all incidents are reported to the police or other appropriate authorities.

The Dalhousie Women's Centre has planned events to commemorate the Montreal Massacre. On Dec. 5 there will be an evening of remembrance and prevention in the McMeachen Auditorium in the Killam Library. The ceremonies begin at 7 p.m., and include short talks, poetry and musical selections. There will also be a short presentation of a video created by the National Film Board detailing how six different women survived domestic abuse. If you have any questions, contact the Dalhousie Women's Centre at 494-2432.

New Award at Dal Gaining Notice

JENN MORRISON Staff Contributor

There are innumerable prizes, bursaries, scholarships and professorships at Dalhousie bearing the names of generous benefactors, yet students are often unaware that many come from the university's endowment. A brand-new award just may change that.

Recently, the Oskar Schindler Humanities Foundation, named after the German factory owner who put over one thousand Jews to work in his plant, thus saving them from the Holocaust, gave \$50,000 US to Dalhousie to create the Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award. The Glovins established the foundation in the

1960s, and are connected to Dalhousie through Dr. George Mencher, a retired faculty member who is Glovin's nephew. Four universities have been given gifts to set up these awards, which will go toward student research regarding "Good Human Conduct."

According to Ann Vessey, the Assistant Director of Donor Relations in Dalhousie's Office of External Relations, the exact details of the award have yet to be worked out. "We would like to see the first scholarship awarded in 2006," she said, adding that the money has been added to the University's Endowment Fund,

which is invested in the market. As for other awards of a similar nature, the value and implementation depend on the time it takes for the funds to mature and reach a particular market value.

Still, there are some guidelines for potential recipients of the first Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award. A committee will select the recipient, who must be in the final year of undergraduate study or a graduate student and have a broad educational background that could support research into "the good" in humanity. The winner will be responsible for reviewing the publications from

(continued on page 11)

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Christmas Memories

JENN MORRISON Staff Contributor

I didn't stop officially believing in Santa Claus until I was 10-years-old, and it's been downhill ever since. Christmas, after all, is a childhood holiday. As I get older, it seems that the season is too much about contemplating old memories and not enough about making new ones. This is a bitter reality to confront and an unwelcome burden of adulthood.

Ever since my grandmother died three years ago, there has been emptiness—because my personal image of Christmas is watching the windows steam from her cooking, wearing colourful paper hats around her dinner table and witnessing her unwavering love for Christmas and her family. Likewise, all the real "grown-ups" I know fall into December depressions, because it is the one time of year to take stock, and amid the swirling snow ask, "who is not here?" Surely, the most melancholy song in the Christmas canon is I'll Be Home for Christmas. The promise has a qualifier: "I'll be home, if only in my dreams."

It happens earlier each year than the last. The decorations go up, the radio stations start playing Christmas pop and the shopping frenzy begins. This regression is more than rampant consumerism and more than a burning desire to celebrate. It is a collective attempt to fill the hollow void where new Christmas memories belong. But ironically, wrapping ourselves in a bubble of seasonal trivialities hinders our opportunity to

create these very memories.

At Rita MacNeil's Christmas concert a couple of weeks ago (I truly love her), she told childhood stories in between carols. With tears in my eyes, I lamented the way we approach Christmas—by focusing so hard on the good old days, we may be too wistful to fill ourselves anew with the Christmas spirit.

I don't mean to sound Grinchian, because there is nothing inherently wrong with finding joy in a long, unedited reminiscence of Christmases past. But we cannot let the memories leave no room for anything else. We have to build upon the layers of childhood experiences, create new traditions, and not succumb to the hype. Christmas, whether you are Christian or not, is about the simple message of faith. All the trimmings are just that—decorations that make our lives richer, to be sure, but often obscure the truth of the time. *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street* are holiday classics because they ask us to suspend our disbelief and step into the shoes of our childhood selves to improve our adult lives. It is perfectly acceptable, and desirable, for grown-ups to believe (officially or not) in Santa Claus.

A little girl named Virginia wrote to the New York Sun in 1897 to ask if there really was a Santa Claus. This is part of the Editor's reply:

"Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world."



Streeter

CATHERINE COOPER Copy Editor
QUENTIN CASEY Her Jolly Elf

Have you been naughty or nice this year, how so?



Nice. I write poetry for my girlfriend.
Ryan Smith, first-year science



Naughty. I've spent the past couple of months looking for a girl. I'll write poetry.
Jeff Mosher, first-year science



Really nice. I did all my homework.
Mariah Williams, fourth-year sociology



Naughty. We've been dealing with too many drugs.
Danielle Robichaud and Tiffany Hodder, third-year pharmacy



Naughty. Can you say public indecency and corruption of minors?
Chris LaRoche, first-year costume studies



Nice. I haven't killed anyone.
Brendan MacMillan, first-year geology



Nice. I haven't done anything naughty.
Ian Howell, first-year arts



Nice I've helped a lot of female frosh adjust to university life.
Costas Lavranos, third-year poli-sci/economics



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Intuition

LINA HUSSAIN Staff Contributor

How many times have you heard "follow your heart," "follow your instinct," "follow your gut," "do what feels right"? Today, a hair colour brand even uses the motto "follow your instincts" to sell their product. I have even been told by my profs to never change my answer on a multiple choice exam because my "first instinct is always right." Ever wondered what it all means?

There have been numerous books written about the phenomenon of intuition. Each author describes it in his or her own way, and may use unfamiliar vocabulary. Words such as "hunch" and "gut feeling" are usually the most popular among people. But how can you explain it? You can't. You just have to trust it.

When carrying on with your daily life, intuition basically means comfort, or doing what you are comfortable with. It's not that complicated. How many times have you said, "I knew it" after something happened? How many times have you felt uncomfortable doing something and later found yourself regretting it and saying, "I knew I shouldn't have done that"? I bet you've wondered what would have happened if you hadn't gone ahead with your decision. This example is the first step to realizing the power of intuition.

Today, my life operates according to what I feel comfortable doing. Before I take a step, whether it's choosing a seat in a lecture hall or calling a friend, I think twice and make sure that I feel comfortable doing it. If I have the slightest voice in the back of my head saying no, or maybe not, then I simply act upon it, and the results are perfect every time. I'm not saying that you should obsess about every tiny detail in your life, just question what you believe will have a future impact.

Every person has different beliefs about intuition. Some don't know it exists, and prefer considering facts more than feelings. Some don't believe in it. Some don't know it exists, yet they unknowingly use it. And some have become slaves to it.

A few weeks ago, on the way to school, the thought of a close friend suddenly popped into my head. I hadn't talked to her in ages, yet I felt something telling me to pick up my phone and call her. And so I did. That's when I knew that my "hunch" was right: having lost my number, she was lost in an unfamiliar area and was wishing I would call and "save" her. Also, a friend once told me she chose her major because something told her to, no more, no less. And now she's more than happy with it.

So, what's the point? The point is that your intuition is there

to guide you, even when the facts are stating the opposite. We have all at one point in our lives said, "I knew I shouldn't have—." Anyone who has ever felt weird doing something knows what I'm talking about.

Don't compete with that voice. Almost everyone I know agrees that going against it will cause you regret in the future, while going along with it will make you a happy person. Try it out. You'll know what I mean.

So what should you start doing to let your intuition guide you to the right places? Simply tune in to your feelings. You have to believe it exists. Be aware that you do have a voice or a "guide" inside you. Turn it on. Tune into your surroundings. What is it all saying? Ask yourself: "Am I comfortable doing this?" If you have a doubt, stop. You might at first not know why you had the doubt, and may even find yourself regretting making a decision that seems pretty irrational. But you will find a reason sooner or later.

Listening to the voice isn't enough. Acting upon it is what gets you results. You have to give yourself up to it and let it guide you. We all have it. It's there. You just have to believe in it.

Loving Visual Art and Not Choosing the Spotlight

ROBYN SHYLIT Staff Contributor

In kindergarten, I sat at the painting table creating art and getting dirty. Naturally, my pictures were filled with glorious colors that awakened the senses and cried to be taped to the refrigerator. One day, these paintings would be worth millions, known as the early works of a contemporary master.

I was going to be an artist. I was going to sell my paintings to the rich and famous and be loved and desired by all. My parents fostered this idea, and led me to believe that I could become the next Picasso, or Warhol. Little did they tell me that the odds of reaching commercial success as an artist are rare, and that I would suffer endless criticism, debt and health

problems caused by inhalation of paint thinner and oil paint.

It can be said that "making it" as a visual artist is more difficult than pursuing a career in music or drama, two of the more well known arts (dancers, you're suffering along with the painters). Can you fathom a television show comparable to *American Idol*, where the contestants painted and sculpted works of visual wonder? How quickly would the votes be cast for the winning artist whose still life was enough to attract millions of viewers? Simply said, art is not as entertaining as watching a perky blond in a micro-mini shake her thang to a pre-recorded track created by the lonely writer back at the studio taking no recognition for the end result.

Pop musicians hit their peak around 20, while visual artists often hit their peak after they die (if at all). It's not until artwork is discontinued that people see the importance of owning an original creation. Most people can't be bothered to go to the local art gallery, as they are quickly deterred by the classical music and formal atmosphere.

Why don't they play Bob Marley at the AGNS, or Beyoncé at the Louvre? Shouldn't the art be enough to keep you entertained? For most, it's captivating for a few minutes when done by a dead Renaissance master. When will you buy the painting by Robyn Shyllit, a university student starving to pay off debt, desperately seeking recognition from art lovers outside of her personal relations?

Now studying art in university, I'm rather proud of my accomplishments. Others, however, are not as impressed. Upon attending a dinner party, much was spoken of future endeavors, and I was asked what I would be doing for my post-secondary education. I proceeded to inform the crowd that I would be attending art school. Yes, I would be getting a degree, and yes, I would take academic classes. No, I didn't want to be an artiste, and no, art school wouldn't close off all future job prospects. Yes, I liked creating art. Yes, I knew how to paint, and no, I would not paint their three-year-old auburn haired son.

They talked to me like I was some alien who didn't know my left from right. Of course, I was thinking with the creative right side of my brain, and no, I would not be unhappy for the rest of my life stuck in a job lacking imagination. Yes, I would "make it," and become an established artist. These people would want to attend my openings, but would not be able to purchase my works. The masterpieces would be in such high demand that only the best would be able to land their hands on my magnificent pieces of art.

When this day comes, so will the Messiah, as the world of a starving artist will miraculously be recognized.



Dalhousie Bookstore Food Bank Drive



The Dalhousie Bookstore is having our first annual
Food Drive from
November 10 to December 12.

With every non-perishable food donation, you will
receive a 15% discount coupon for regular priced
general merchandise that can be used in any of the
three Bookstore locations.

Together, we can make someone's Christmas a little
brighter.



Something to Consider

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor

Last week, I attended a meeting held by the university to address the concerns of local neighbours regarding the recent noise controversy. I went fairly certain of what I was going to hear but, to be perfectly honest, I left in total shock. Bottom line: the people of Halifax are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it anymore. I heard absolute horror stories of people's car windshields being smashed out—more than once in some cases. Rocks used for landscaping have been turned into projectiles that were eventually shattered. People dancing on car hoods, peeing on people's lawns, uprooting small trees, aiming and firing air rifles at passers by, and people telling anyone who might have the audacity to question these actions to "fuck off."

News to you? Well, it was news to me. I was absolutely appalled to hear these stories. What is even more frustrating is that 99 per cent of the student population in this city is totally in the dark about these events. The university isn't doing anything to fill us in. Hell, they didn't even send an email informing students of the meeting. I only found out about it because of a flyer I happened to see at a friend's house. So if the university won't do it, I will. I'm here to tell you folks that a few very bad seeds out there are dragging the good name of university students through the mud. These neighbours were spitting mad, and many who spoke sounded as though the only thing that would make them happy was to see all of us thrown in jail.

The fact is, we have fallen victim to the evils of stereotyping and guilt by association. Because many of these people have seen few to no examples of what university students are really like, their dismay has led many of them to believe none of us can contribute positively to the community. While my first reaction to all of this is to point fingers—that would be really easy in this case—I think what is really important here is for all of us in the university community to recognize the enormous problem that surrounds us at this very moment.

I'm not going to waste space here trying to send a message to the people responsible for the aforementioned acts. Rather, I am appealing to the vast majority of you, the ones who hold doors open for people whose hands are full, the ones who say "please" and "thank-you," and the ones who stop to pick something up for someone who in their haste doesn't even realize they've dropped it. Spread the word about what is going on. Tell as many people as you can about the sickening actions of a few, and how they are making things extremely difficult for the rest of us. Word of mouth is a very powerful thing, and no one is giving us any help on this one. Whether that's right or wrong is really beside the point. Use this as an opportunity to show the people of Halifax that we the university students think as little of this behaviour as those now passed their university days.

The Balance of Sexes

LI DONG Staff Contributor

As the Persians were being pummeled by the Greeks for the second time straight at the naval Battle of Eurymedon, a Persian woman by the name of Artemisia bravely crashed her ship into an opponent's vessel kamikaze style. To this courageous action King Xerxes of Persia bitterly said, "My men have become women, my women, men."

Jumping ahead to 15th-century Florence, Machiavelli unflinchingly writes that a prince will be rendered despicable if he is thought of as "effeminate." In other words, no one can respect a man who's acting girly.

Finally, in the year 2003 as I am gazing across a restaurant table at the ravishing Catherine Cooper (our invaluable Copy Editor), she looks up at me with shimmering eyes of angelic origin and says, "When girls start to act like guys in a relationship, guys always start to act like girls."

So what do all of these episodes have in common? It is this: when either gender tries to emulate the roles of the other gender in any given relationship, bad things will happen. Wars are lost, royalty is dethroned and guys get whiny.

Civilization could not be maintained if all the girls in the world began to act out the purely lustful actions characteristic of male behavior. And it would also be unacceptable if all the

men suddenly turned into nerd-burgers who got in touch with their "emotions."



There's a certain equilibrium in society. The balance between men and women is crucial, and violations of these pre-disposed arrangements are hazardous to the social order. Take *The Gazette* for example: my first day here, I met the three guys in charge barely holding this organization together. Upon arriving, Repo (the Editor-in-Chief) looked at me and simply said, "when the girls get here, they help to keep us in check."

In romantic terms, when women begin to act like men in a relationship, there is a vacuum of softness,

tenderness and true love which guys are really, really bad at filling. The whole thing is reminiscent of two puzzles missing the same piece. Neither party will be getting their fill.

In the end, each sex has specific roles to fulfill, the sum of which hopefully leads to some usefulness in the world. The term, "boys will be boys" is useless unless girls are being girls.

Copy-Editor's note: I take no responsibility for the generalizations that I make at dinner.

Fan Mail

Tiger Woods

Dear Mr. Casey,

I am writing in response to the Corporate Branding article that was published in the latest edition of *The Gazette*. In this article, you singled out Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, three of the greatest athletes of our generation, as being selfish and greedy. As a golfer, I was particularly offended by the comments made about Tiger Woods regarding his promotion of Nike. I would first like to point out that Tiger Woods is certainly not alone on the PGA Tour, where every player out there is a walking billboard for one company or another (often several at a time). So to single him out because he gets the most publicity and television air time is unfair to him. I would also like to ask you a question: if a company was going to pay you to wear a hat or shirt with their logo on it or to use their golf clubs would you not accept, considering you would need to wear clothes and

use golf clubs on the golf course anyway? I think not. Also, Tiger Woods comes from a family who could afford to enter him in junior and amateur golf tournaments every week of the summer where the entry fees range from \$150-200 US per tournament. I know this because I played events on the same tour as well as a tour just like it. That doesn't sound like his family was lacking money to me.

Signed,
Cameron McWade

Re: ATV/Elizabeth Chiu

Dear Editor,
As a journalist and a student at King's, I was disgusted by Elizabeth Chiu's botched attempt to make a story about the
(continued on page 10)

If you want to contribute to opinions, visit us in Room 312 in the New Year. Mondays, 4:30

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December 21st - Seeing Christ in the Psalms

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10.00am Morning Prayer (said)
10.30am Choral Communion
5.30pm Evensong
9.00pm Choral Compline

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SCIENCE



Faculty of Science Award for Excellence in Teaching

The award honours Science faculty members who are recognized as having a comprehensive knowledge of their subject and possessing the ability to communicate their knowledge to students in such a way as to lead students to high academic achievement.

Each nomination for this award must be made by two or more sponsors, at least one of whom must be a faculty member appointed halftime or more in the Faculty of Science. Nomination forms and further information are available from Departments and/or the Office of the Dean of Science, LSC Room 829, Biology Building, 494-3540 (Fax: 494-1123). The deadline for eight copies of the nominations to reach the Dean's Office is February 15, 2004.

Fan Mail (con't...)

supposedly "offensive" photo in *The Sextant*, which is now published as part of *The Gazette*. Ever heard of freedom of the press? We have it, and we'll run what we want.

No one found the photo offensive, except ATV's Elizabeth Chiu. It's too bad she didn't drop the story that only existed in her head when she had trouble getting interviews. Instead, she used the schizophrenic logic of relating it to the Ecole Polytechnique massacre, mixed with other vague "anti-feminist" interpretations.

Why did Chiu only get more upset and offended when students told her that they weren't offended? I was offended by the photograph, but only when I saw it make top story on ATV News.

Michael Goodfellow
(former Opinions Editor for *The Gazette*)

Sexist Comedy in The Sextant

(cc'd to ATV News)

Hello,

After viewing your recent feature on the alleged inappropriate material appearing in *The Sextant*, I wanted to help you in exposing these problems. May I suggest you investigate the following television programs:

- The Simpsons
- The Red Green Show
- The Man Show
- Monty Python's Flying Circus
- South Park
- King of the Hill

If you were unaware, each of these shows airs on CTV's sister network, the Comedy Network. I might also suggest investigating the Sopranos, which has aired on your own network in the past.

Was the content in *The Sextant* inappropriate? Possibly, but those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw rocks.

Sincerely,
Shawn Kehoe
Year IV Electrical Engineering
Dalhousie University

Worst Trend I Think Not.

Alright, so lanyards are pretty bad as a trend, and yes, it does scream Frosh. Honestly though, since most Frosh live in residence, this is the most effective way to decrease the number of times an RA has to rescue a locked-out girl in a towel.

There is something worse though, much more hard on the eyes... Anyone noticed the "Toronto Trends" hanging around? Gray sweatpants, white headbands, caked-on makeup, and bed hair screaming "hi, I'm from Toronto and look like every other girl from Toronto". This gory trend has taken over the precious maritime territory.

How is there motivation to have a "pretty" face (ie. putting on so much make-up that Drew Carey might mistake you for Mimi), yet none to dress past the maritime label "SLOB". Come off it and put some fucking effort into the way you look girls...if you want people to see your fake tanned bellies, don't bother rolling your sweatpants down (might as well just gag me), just go streaking.

And what is with the white headbands? You all have them!! Was there a convention before you guys all came to this school or something? Must have been a good sale. Take off the G. D. headbands and wear your hair in something other than a "sloppy-side-pony tail". Individuality is key, dammit.

What do they teach you dummies in the T. Dot?

So ladies, toss the sweatpants and be...daring! Try jeans, or even a skirt if you're feeling really frisky! Sorry to diss, but we Maritimers are easily beyond the laziness of wearing elastic band pants. We've upgraded to a button fly!

I feel like I'm tripping out because you all look the same!

Thanks..not that any of you read the paper either..Yea, the intelligence issue is a whole other story.

Cheers,
a jolly maritimer (aka Emily Key)

Worst Place on Campus

Hey I think that I have found the worst looking place on the Dal campus and it isn't smokers island. The worst looking place on Dal campus sits behind the cafeteria of Howe Hall. This area surrounds Cameron house and is overlooked by both Studley and Henderson house. This parking lot space that hundreds of residence students look out on is seedy

and ugly as sin. It was used as a move in area for hundreds of frosh back in September. I'm quite surprised that parents didn't reload the van and move their kids back home when they saw the looks of the place. There are two huge smelly dumpsters, numerous garbage cans, fourty different colors of paint, ten

different levels of pavement and an orange plastic fence. Not to mention the constant wind blown cardboard all over the place. As if it isn't enough for people in residence to be forced to listen to the Aramark, and garbage trucks backing up at seven every morning there is also sewer pipe construction that has been going on for over two months. We pay soo much money to go here you would think Dal might spruce things up. Can't something be done with this rank, unsightly mess???? Thanks, Kristen Slaunwhite

Classifieds

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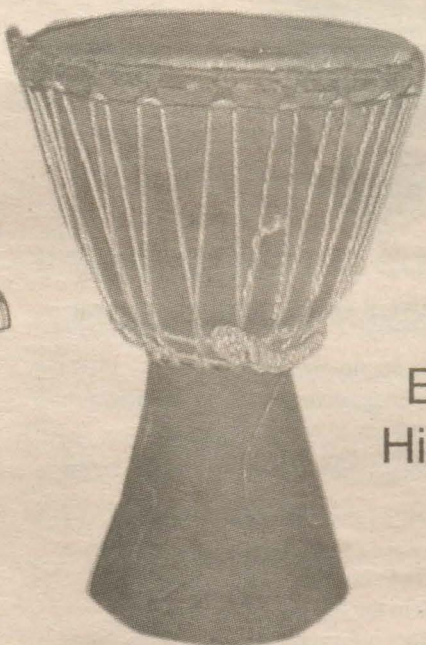
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Starting next Saturday, we will serve breakfast Saturdays and Sundays, starting at 8:00 AM, and closed on Tuesdays.

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New Award at Dal (con't from page 6)

other universities involved, writing a report detailing his/her research and making a public presentation of this research in the fall semester.

The Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award has already begun to attract media and student attention because of its high-profile origins, but Dalhousie had a reputable endowment even before this welcome addition. "According to some of the last information I have, Dalhousie's endowment is sixth largest among Canadian universities," said Vessey. "We have over 900 endowed funds and about 50 per cent of the endowment spending supports the student financial assistance program—scholarships, bursaries, prizes, awards and medals. Just over 30 per cent supports academic positions, and the balance provides spending for the libraries, research, equipment and operating. As of March 31, 2003, the market value of the Dalhousie endowment was \$145 million."

Canadian universities are often unfavourably compared to their American counterparts, which have substantially larger endowments. However, Ms. Vessey pointed out that Dalhousie is receiving increasing numbers of private donations. "A great number of people—mostly Dalhousie alumni—donate to the university every year... we are realizing more and more privately donated gifts to the university every year. And the majority come from individuals," she said.

In order for a named endowment account to be established in the benefactor's name, contributions must reach a certain level, determined by the Dalhousie Board of Governors. Furthermore, the amount must be sufficient to achieve the intended purpose (i.e. to further a certain type of research). The terms of endowment funds must be agreed upon by the university and the donor. In this case, the Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award meets all of these criteria.

Dalhousie is the only Canadian university to benefit from the generosity of the Oskar Schindler Humanities Foundation. And while details are being worked out, students can brainstorm research topics on "the good" in the hopes of being the first Dalhousie recipient of the Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award.

Why Study?

When You Can Surf the Internet

www.homestarrunner.com

This website is the biggest waste of time in the universe...and we love it dearly. Watching Strong Bad check his e-mail is the new crack. Warning: it can be difficult to study later when you have songs like "Trogdor the Burninator" and "(I'm Never Gonna Write) Another Song About Sibbie" stuck in your head. I would recommend starting with the titles "Dragon", "Techno" and "Sibbie" before slipping into oblivion.

www.grouphug.us / www.lowbrown.com

These random confessions from anonymous people around the globe will either leave you feeling like you are not alone, like don't get out enough, or like your life really isn't that bad. The layout of Grouphug is much better but the confessions must be approved before they can be posted. Lowbrow, on the other hand, is as twisted and deviant as you can imagine. Three entries in and your reading about a guy who accidentally shit his pants on a first date or a janitor who secretly likes his boss' dog...in a really nasty way.

www.hoogerbrugge.com

Perhaps the most bizarre website I have seen all week. Click on the circle to the left of the screen and search the archives before re-clicking on the man in black. Log on and you will understand...or maybe you won't.

www.happytreefriends.com

Lumpy, Toothy, Giggles, Cuddles and Handy are a preschool cartoon version of Natural Born Killers. A Christmas pageant begins with beauty and wonder but ends with mutilation and destruction. Think we're sick? We aren't alone. The episodes are now on DVD at local retail outlets and I've seen T-shirts with these guys on them. You haven't lived until you've seen a cuddly bear have a Vietnam War flashback at a campfire cookout and proceed to disembowel his animal friends.

daily.rotten.com and www.boners.com

All the news that's not fit to print. This first site is a collection of bizarre, funny and disturbing news articles from around the

world that is updated every day. The Boners link is a collection of regularly updated photos of ridiculous crap that people send in to the site: misspelled ads, drunk people, ugly pets, you name it...

www.viceland.com

The best magazine on the planet is Canadian and they put their whole archives on the web. Fashion Do's and Don'ts, porn reviews that don't mention porn, articles so offensive that they would drive the moral majority right of the deep end if they weren't so funny/true. The new issue features an editorial on Michael Moore that made me laugh so hard that I cried and pissed my pants at the same time. It isn't on their website yet, so you may have to keep checking. Hippies will cry.

www.thesmokinggun.com

This website is a great time-killer with loads of celebrity mug shots and riders of popular artists. Ever wonder what Creed demands for food at a gig? Ever ponder what Yasmine Bleeth looks like after a cocaine binge? Search no more. This is easily at least an hour of entertainment.

www.memepool.com

This site bills itself as "all the news that's fit to cut and paste". It is actually an ever-changing list of links that will lead you to random sites of distraction. While the locations it takes you to may be hit or miss, we are sure you can find something on the journey that peaks your interest.

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Say Hello to The Gazette (extremely randomly chosen)



Chris McClusky



Mr. Adam Somers



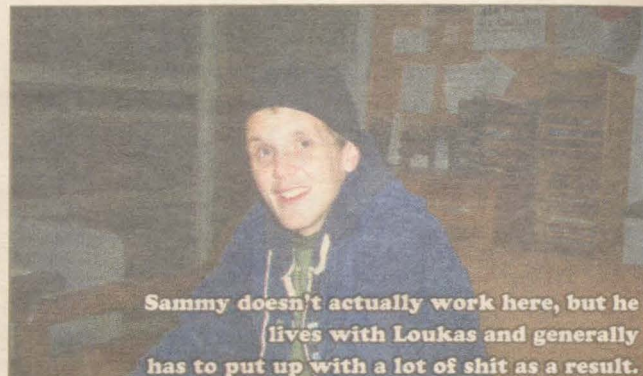
Li Dong!



Arts Editors Extraordinaire



Repo "Zapatista" Kempt



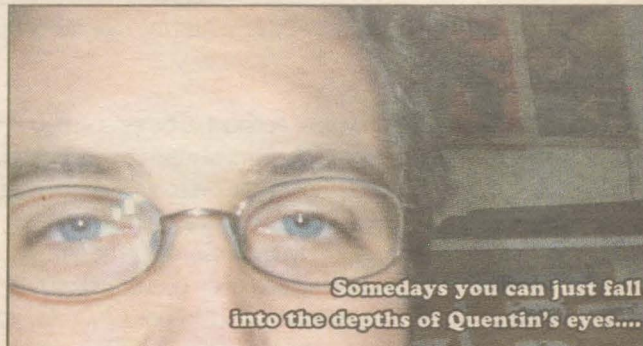
Sammy doesn't actually work here, but he lives with Loukas and generally has to put up with a lot of shit as a result.



Catherine Cooper despises photos being taken of her and is going to freak out when she sees we did this.



Loukas, yup.



Somedays you can just fall into the depths of Quentin's eyes....

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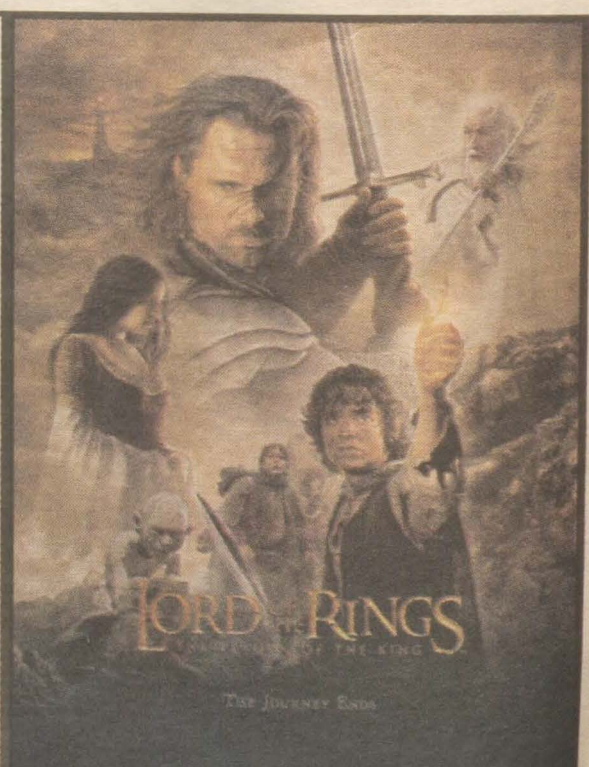
Chris LaRoche puts up with a lot of shit as well, even when he's not here. He's gonne be mad when he gets back from his internship

WIN PASSES!

The Gazette, CKDU, and Pizza Hut/KFC are throwing a Lord of the Rings trivia party! Come to the third floor of the DAL SUB on December 11 at 7 PM to put your mind to the test. Win passes to the Halifax premiere of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King". Prizes are also available to be won, and KFC and Pizza Hut will be served.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" opens in theatres December 17, 2003

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Report Card

Roosevelt Tharpa

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Date: November 27, 2003

Venue: The Marquee

Reporters: Elliot Boswell, Jason Walsh

Stage Presence: A+

Audience Reaction: A-

Sound: B

Effort: A+

Taichichi's Dancing: A+

Kunge 219's Shirt: A+

Despite the fact that both Kunga 219 & Taichichi were battling colds, the duo opening for The Last Emperor managed to put on a great set. Their stage presence is always the element that sets them apart, and this show was no exception—the back and forth style of the group's tracks is ideal for a live setting. The beats (courtesy of Gordski, who is now living in Ottawa) were way above par, which is pretty much always the case with Gordski's break-driven, high-energy production. Overall, Roosevelt Tharpa did a phenomenal job of getting the crowd hyped up.

Much Ado About Much

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

These days, most of us university students are consumed with studying, reading and that annoying carpal tunnel syndrome that keeps flaring up. There were some students last week, however, who Visene-d their eyes to whiteness and got up on stage to show the world that they are animated, they are musically educated, they are articulate and they all want to be the next MuchMusic video jockey (VJ).

The Much cavalry made its way to our meagre Dalhousie SUB to give the East Coast a fair try after scoping out the talent in Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto. Before their stop at Acadia University in Wolfville, they spent a total of 12 hours (six each day) empowering the Halifax 18-plus population with a microphone, and two minutes of dead air and video tape to fill. The unique thing about this particular VJ search is that students had to perform not only in front of an intimidating, blinking camera, but also anybody else who happened to be walking by at the time.

Hannah Sung, a VJ for two years and visitor to Dalhousie on Friday afternoon, said that when she auditioned, there were only a couple of Much representatives in the room with her. "These people are really brave for doing this," she said. Sung, a 26-year-old Torontonionian, was discovered at an open call audition, not an actual VJ search. Rather than televised promos and posters galore, "there was an ad in the newspaper," she said. Instead of two minutes at the mike and dozens of peering peers, she had five minutes alone in front of the camera to charm the producers.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a poll on MuchMusic.com asking what viewers thought was the most important quality a VJ should have. The result of the vote at that time showed that "sense of humor" ranked first. Sung said producers are actually looking for a different attribute in a candidate: "Presence on camera," she said, without hesitation. "There's so many other things that would help you, but the number one thing you have to have is really good presence."

According to Sung, the kind of person who would make a good VJ is "the storyteller at the party. It doesn't matter what your personality is, as long as you can kind of make people stop and think 'oh, that person is really interesting.'"

Even if one is born with the right stuff, it doesn't necessarily mean they are a shoo-in. "Just because you have a natural aptitude towards something does not mean you will a) get the job, or

b) be good at the job," she said. "There's so much hard work involved, and when it comes to doing anything, you just need to practice."

After December 22, when the producers have received all the audition tapes, they will try to narrow their choices down to those with the qualities mentioned by Sung. "The list will get shorter and shorter until they finally get a bunch of people to bring into Toronto for the live kind of face off. Whoever wins is going to be the actual favourite of Canadians."

MuchMusic says on their website that they try to make the VJ search as fair as possible, and Sung testifies to this claim. "It is a very democratic process, because what happens is when the finalists are brought in to MuchMusic, [the viewers] get to have a weekend to get to know each one pretty well. Then [the viewers] phone in and vote."

Many fans watch MuchMusic and see a bunch of 20-somethings goofing around and watching music videos all day, but Sung says it ain't so. "It is really a challenging experience. It was the most ridiculous learning curve of my life." Sung recalled being stressed in the beginning: "My very first day I got to work at 10 in the morning. By 10:30, I was in a press conference for the Junos, and I was interviewing the biggest people in Canada. I didn't know what I was doing. I barely felt comfortable holding the microphone."

"There was a massive learning curve also, because I never went to school for broadcasting. I didn't know what the heck a paper edit was, and they hired me as somebody who would be very self-sufficient."

Sung said she produces and edits her own stories and writes many of her independent journalistic endeavours. "I don't write the headlines when I'm delivering the news, but I give input," she said.

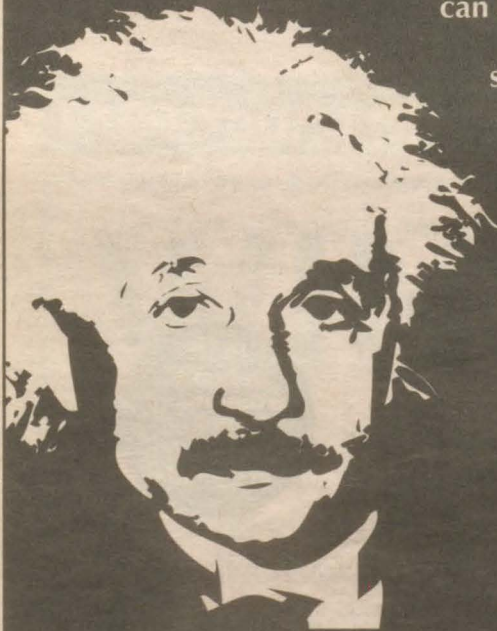
Sung gives credit for much of her success to her producers. "It's a testament to how great the people are at MuchMusic for recognizing the potential in me and giving me a chance. That's really amazing."

Chris Ritchie, a VJ hopeful who auditioned at the SUB on Friday afternoon said that although he was nervous, he had to see what it was like because this has been a dream of his for a long time.

"I think everyone has a force that drives them. It's the reason they get out of bed in the morning. It's the reason they get over their adversity and their problems." For Ritchie, as for so many others who auditioned, that force is the desire to present videos on MuchMusic.

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Artist Profile: Matt Mays

CHRIS McCLUSKY Staff Contributor



Press Photo

He quietly released the album on his own back in 2002, only earning widespread distribution and management through Sonic/Warner this past fall. With his record on Halifax shelves for over a year now, the recipient of Galaxie's Rising Star Award at the 2003 North By North-East Festival has watched his work become acclaimed without any promotion. Matt Mays' music is a pure example of music speaking for itself. With established music reviewers as bewildered about why he hasn't signed a multi-album deal in the states as he is about

his services, so I took him up on it. When Blue Rodeo was in Halifax we were recording, and he came in and played with us, which was great."

After taking the finished product on the road, he returned to play in front of his friends and family on The Marquee Club stage for the first time since his national release this past Saturday night. When he left Halifax in October, the album had been out across the country for less than a week without any mainstream radio or MuchMoreMusic video exposure. "People have been pretty impressed with it since it's been re-released, but I haven't been home in like a month and a half, so I don't know if it's picking up there. My folks tell me it is," he says.

Judging by the size of the crowd, this was their largest turnout for a headlining show in the city to date. Mays and his band appeared to be fatigued from the long journey which they returned from only the day before, but pulled it together to please everyone who without a doubt knew the material much better than when he left in early October. If the success keeps up, Matt Mays will be the next name to put the Halifax music scene in the spotlight.

The first track on Matt Mays' self-titled debut album may be about wanting to get out of the city to see the better part of the country, but following almost two months on the road, one can't help but think that perhaps he is excited to be back in the familiarity of his hometown. The 23-year-old singer/songwriter has been on a cross-Canada promotional tour with Sam Roberts that began October 28 in Vancouver, and has seen him make stops everywhere from a city the size of Calgary to the smaller likes of Thunder Bay. Covering this amount of ground, it's surprising he had even the vaguest idea where he was from day to day. "Sorry for calling too early," Mays apologized when he called in for his phone interview, "we're somewhere in between Thunder Bay and North Bay, and we kind of have limited pay phone time."

On a quick pit stop to fill his stomach full of cracker jacks before heading back out on the Trans-Canada, Mays took time out of his hectic day to talk about the overwhelming response to himself and his band, El Torpedo, on the road. Mays had toured Canada on one previous occasion with The Guthries, but the crowds on this tour seem to be responding even more enthusiastically. "It's been amazing," he said, seemingly humbled and astonished by the reaction. "We played last night in front of 1,600 people, and we had a standing ovation and everything."

The ascent of Mays' popularity has been very gradual.

his own accomplishments, it is refreshing to see an artist grounded enough to question his own success.

"It's been weird. I thought that was sort of it after I released it, so it's doing well across Canada now," said Mays, trying to sum up the whole progression. "In Halifax, it's done moderately well over the past year. But elsewhere it's great to hear it's starting to do better and better everyday you know. It's cool to think there's someone out there in Victoria who's bought it."

The disc can be categorized as alt-country, with a blend of sounds reminiscent of the likes of Tom Petty, Neil Young, and early Blue Rodeo. With moving lyricism inspired by "spontaneity and personal experience," Mays has steadily branched out from his distinction as the lead man for the similar sounding Guthries. Taking a page out of the Halifax band textbook, Mays also enlisted a lot of friends to record with him on the album, including his ex-bandmates from The Guthries, The Super Friendz's Dave Marsh and Charles Austin, and even Blue Rodeo's Bob Egan. "I've known him for awhile. He was a fan of my old band," said Mays of how Egan became involved in the record. "He just offered

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Little Miss Moffat: Working on Her Terms

RYAN POTTER Staff Contributor



Photos: Lindsay Dobbin

A few years ago, Ashley Moffat packed everything she owned into the back of her Volkswagen and left home for Halifax. Drawn to the city by her love of bands like Thrush Hermit and Eric's Trip, Moffat arrived in Halifax knowing no one, but quickly carved a niche in the city's sea of singer/songwriters through tireless self-promotion, a charming demeanour and thoughtful, earnest lyrics.

Now a permanent fixture in Halifax's music scene, Moffat (better known as Little Miss Moffat) is preparing to release her first full-length album. With several quirky and solid EP's already in her discography, she enlisted local indie-rock superstars Joel Plaskett and Charles Austin to help produce her latest offering. *Miss Canada* is a lovely mix of laid-back pop and country, written with the poetic grit of Neil Young, and dripping with the intimacy that lies at the root of every good singer-songwriter's music. When asked about Plaskett's involvement in the new album, Moffat laughs, "It's

still catching up to me." During the album's recording, Plaskett not only helped her focus and concentrate on recording, but also played on all but two of the songs. Moffat credits his and Austin's influence in helping her create what she calls "some of the best music I've written yet."

Lately, when she's not busy with her solo career, Moffat has been performing in The Wilderbeats. Ashley, along with friend and fellow naturalist Joyce Saunders, has been writing and performing songs about nature intended for a family audience. Seen by Moffat as a chance to incorporate her love of nature (she works for the Museum of Natural History in Halifax) with her love of music, the results have been great.

"It's been immediately successful without any effort at all," she says, adding that they haven't booked any of the shows they've had. "People keep calling us up and asking us to play."

Moffat hopes to tour in support of the new album, although making it out of Halifax might be tough, as she sold her car to help pay for the new recordings. Station wagon or not, she wants to play as much as possible as long as it's under the right circumstances. "This is the first time in my life that I've actually felt completely driven and almost possessed," she says with a smile. Moffat is truly happy being able to make music, even happier about her upcoming album, and happiest of all about life right now. Getting to do what you love will have that effect on a person.

Little Miss Moffat's CD release show is December 11, at the Khyber Club.

Burn Baby Burn

The Michael Moore Buttery-Gray Penis Mix Showdown:

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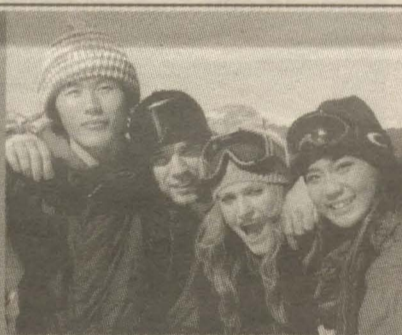
(aka *Old Man Drunk and Asleep on a Chair with Scotch Mix*)

- James Taylor • "Carolina in My Mind"
- Jeff Buckley • "Haljahlleliuahah (cover)"
- Elton John • "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues"
- Leonard Cohen • "Chelsea Hotel"
- Cowboy Junkies • "Sweet Jane (cover)"
- Crowded House • "You're Not The Girl You Think You Are"
- Kate Bush • "Under The Ivy"
- Simon & Garfunkel • "The Only Living Boy In New York"
- Hayden • "Famous Blue Raincoat (cover)"
- Radiohead • "High & Dry"
- Ben Lee • "Pop Queen"
- Coldplay • "Amsterdamn"

LOUKAS' PICKS

(aka *I Hate Deadlines, Get Away from me*)

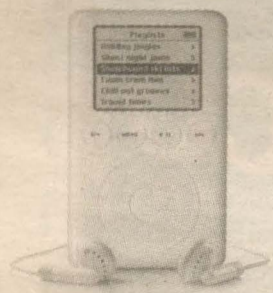
- The Rapture • "Sister Saviour"
- Planes Mistaken for Stars • "End Me in Richmond"
- Vordul • "Never Gonna Hurt Again"
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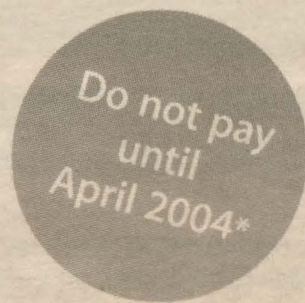


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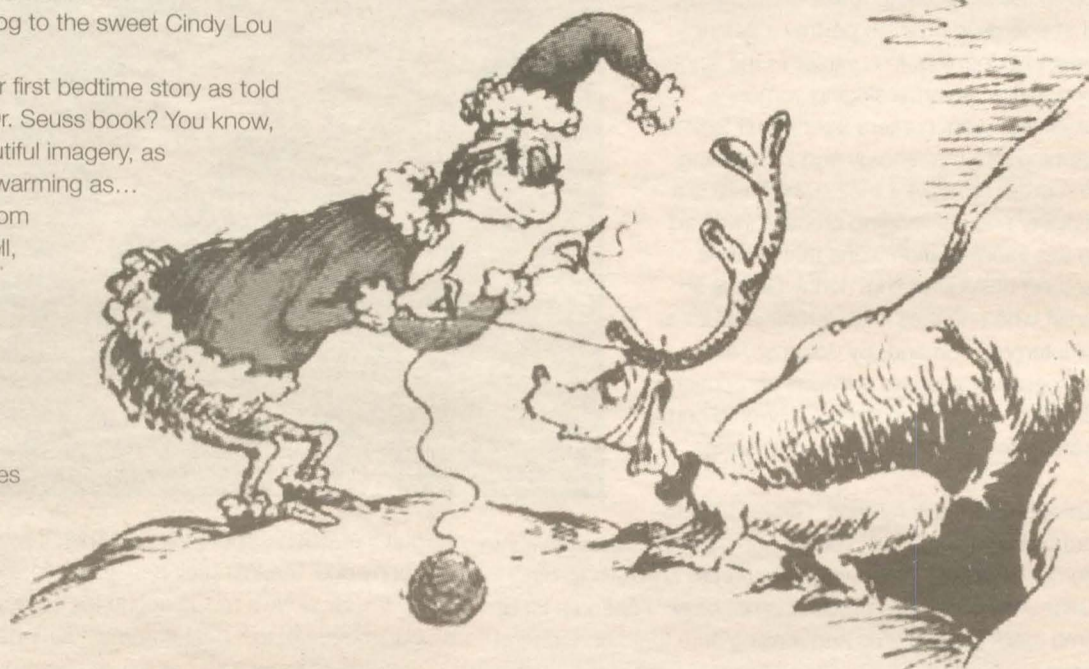
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How the Grinch Stole Halifax

SKYLAR GRAHAM Staff Contributor

An exhibit of work that you might not expect
No bright animated colours to decorate this set
But original drawings trite and true
From that cute little dog to the sweet Cindy Lou

Who could forget their first bedtime story as told from the pages of a Dr. Seuss book? You know, just chock-full of beautiful imagery, as comforting and heartwarming as... the Flying Monkeys from *The Wizard of Oz*. Well, if you have managed to forget any issues you may or may not have had with the illustrations of Seuss, you can now bring all those blissful memories flooding back, and just in time for the holiday season too.



narrated version of the story (not to be confused with the old animated

All kidding aside, the original drawings from the Doctor's timeless classic, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, are now being showcased for your viewing pleasure at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS). The AGNS is delightfully decorated with props and life-sized murals depicting various *Grinch* scenes, not to mention the highlight of the exhibit — the magnificent drawings created by the great doctor himself in 1957.

Every one of the Whos from Who-ville are there, and even that cute little Ru-dog (better known as Max) can be found at the gallery. Visitors are invited to sit down and watch a

one) that basically consists of a page-by-page showing of Seuss's artwork with narrated by actor Walter Matteau. Although this video is not nearly as entertaining as the colourful cartoon we have all come to know and love, it does prevent one from becoming too distracted from the real attraction of the exhibition. By staying true to Seuss's every letter, the exhibition at AGNS is a success simply because it puts what Dr. Seuss himself put it: "Once upon a time, not so long ago." You too can catch the Grinch until January 18, 2004.

Spin Spin Sugar

WE ARE MUSIC SNOBS



Death in Vegas
Scorpio Rising

Self described as a series of "psychedelic love songs," the latest release from duo Death in Vegas is a collaboration of genre-confused tracks. The fusion of instrumental rock, acid house synths and vocal contributions from the likes of Liam Gallagher and ex-Mazzy Starr singer Hope Sandoval makes for an incredibly delicious and intriguing album. With a sound similar to bands like Spiritualized or the Chemical Brothers, Death in Vegas has a sound which at times feels like a psychedelic acid trip and other times as incredibly mellow as "Killing Smile," which features Hope Sandoval. The album unfortunately has only 10 tracks (such a tease), and while you will probably love them all, check out "Hands Around My Throat" and "Scorpio Rising" for some serious musical pleasure. -CT



Rage Against the Machine
Live at the Grand Olympic Auditorium

Just in time for Christmas, Epic has decided to milk the cash cow that is the now defunct RATM one more time. This is one of the best live albums to hit the market in a while. The sound is excellent, with a great balance between the noise of the crowd and the music of one of the highest energy bands of this generation. The passion and emotion that Rage made a trademark of their music is fully captured here and on full display as the band rocks out through 16 of the biggest and baddest tracks in their catalogue. For the casual Rage fan that might already have their albums, hearing live versions of tracks they already own may not be worth the cash. But for the hardcore fan, anyone who has yet to actually pick up a Rage album, or fans of live albums in general, this is a must-have disk to go on your wish list. -MG

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| ☞ Reunions | ☞ Getting Back Together |
| ☞ Monkey Dust | ☞ Spiderman |
| ☞ Snoop in Halifax | ☞ \$50 |
| ☞ New Albums | ☞ Re-Releases |
| ☞ Housecleaning | ☞ Studying |
| ☞ Neon (the band) | ☞ Metric (the band) |
| ☞ Lance Armstrongs | ☞ Village Bicycles |
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Great Lake Swimmers
Great Lake Swimmers

Moving pictures are seductive, harbours offer an uncertain security, the night is serene, days at sea seem lost, and singer/songwriter Tony Dekker (under the name Great Lake Swimmers) offers a gentle swim through these frail harmonies in his debut album, *Great Lake Swimmers*. Recorded in a silo on an abandoned farm near Port Colborne (complete with crickets in the background), Dekker notes that the recording process was just as important as the songs themselves. Infused with an overarching hopelessness, Dekker's lyrics are actualized by the minimal instrumentation, his hauntingly sweet voice, and the yearning sounds resonating within the soundscape. Previously compared to Neil Young, Will Oldham, and a quieter Damien Jurado, Dekker has a stunning way of capturing placid moments that provide insight into human imperfections and frailty. This 10-song collection is a stunning debut from Dekker and should be present in any wanderer's music collection. -LD

Changing Gears: A Unique Spin with Jenny Gear

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor

Every song is infused with energy, and it is up to the musician to make contact with that energy in order to portray a balance when performing. In contrast to the singer/songwriter, an artist singing someone else's song encounters the difficult task of tapping into that energy and interpreting it in order to make it their own. There is a lengthy and challenging process involved in this interpretation—one that centres around understanding. Jenny Gear is an artist who engages in the creative process of interpretation and, by doing so, she successfully shatters previous perceptions that a more pure performance would come from someone singing their own songs.

Through her interpretation, Gear is able to put her own spin on the song, and therefore translate it into something that is her own to hold on to and give to others. Gear admits that this process is not easy. "I spend a lot of time reading the words and making sure that I understand what I'm singing, which is not necessarily what the songwriter meant," she said. "And eventually it's mine—my own understanding."

This process of understanding songs started very early in the 21-year-old singer's life. Her parents started a folk festival 26 years ago in her hometown of Carbonear, Newfoundland, which resulted in musicians always being present in her home. Instead of involving herself with what her peers were doing at the time, Gear would learn songs. "I'd stay home and look over them [and] it was always the most fascinating thing to me," she said.

Noting songwriters Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen as her favourites because they "have significantly impacted the way Canadian music is perceived," her eclectic musical taste stemming from her childhood has helped develop her style into "an elective jazz/contemporary/folk/indie rock fusion."

At the age of 10, Gear began singing with



Photo: Lindsay Dobbin

guitarist Duane Andrews. Together, they form the core of Jenny and The Whiskey Kittens, and have been performing on the St. John's music scene for three years. After a stint on *Canadian Idol* this past summer, Gear has gotten back to her performing roots with her band, and brought her enchanting show to The Planet last Friday.

"My favourite [type of venue to play in] is a soft-seater where everyone's sitting down and listening," she said. Although the Planet is not usually associated with a "soft-seater"-type atmosphere, Jenny and her band (Andrews and fiddler Colin Carrigan) were able to turn that judgment around. They performed a mix ranging from traditional songs to Gershwin's "Summertime" and Cohen's "Tower of Song," to content from their upcoming album. The result was a very engaged crowd.

Jenny and The Whiskey Kittens are anticipating their first full-length release before March, and plan a full Canadian tour post-release. The album will consist of 11 songs showcasing 11 Newfoundland songwriters (Ron Hynes, Mark Bragg, Amelia Curran and Pamela Morgan, to name a few).

Gear believes that the songwriter is the most important ingredient of a song. She views her performance of their songs as a partnership. The enchanting songstress is a firm believer in singing for herself because when it is forced, you cannot communicate to and connect with the audience.

"I take a lot of time to choose the songs I sing [because] it needs to make me feel something," she says. During *Canadian Idol*, she remembers being asked to sing a Shania Twain song and refusing. Because she never did anything on that show that she didn't want to, she feels she can leave it with a sense of pride. "I stood up for myself [and] I made my own choices and I think I'm better for it."

Gear's do-it-for-you attitude is translated into her original style and informs her ability to live within a song. Listening to her, it is difficult to bring to mind musical comparisons. "It doesn't make any sense to build a career on [emulating someone else]. You need something unique and fresh."

After witnessing a captivating performance a week ago, anyone in attendance can say with the utmost confidence that what Jenny and The Whiskey Kittens brought to the stage was unique and fresh. It conjured up the feeling that something amazing was happening, and you couldn't wait for the rest of the world to have the opportunity to hear it.

For more information on Jenny Gear, check out www.deathbrand.com/jenny.

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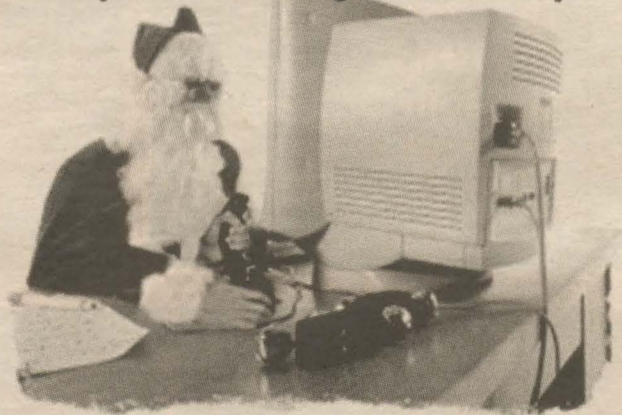
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Battle of the Bands

LYNN CULLEN Staff Contributor



Last Wednesday, the first round of "Battle of the Bands" hit the stage at The Grawood. A pleasing crowd turned up in support of the six acts that performed. The music was diverse and helped make the night pass quickly, with smooth set changes swift enough to keep up both attention and attendance.

This was the first of four qualifying rounds. Each band has to pay a fee of \$25 to participate, and the winner of each round gets \$100 and a chance to compete in the Dal finals. The winner from the final round will then proceed to represent Dal at the COCA Regionals against the winners from other Maritime universities. From that point, the winner (let's cross our fingers for Dal) will be awarded a showcase at the COCA National Conference in June, which is being held in Fredericton. This means that they will get to perform in front of just about every university programmer in the country.

Mike Pope, the organizer for the event, said "it seemed to be a success compared to the past. In the past, the event was done as a one off and was limited to five bands." Pope expressed his excitement for the forthcoming rounds since, "this way we are having four rounds with up to seven bands each time," he said. "It should give everyone that wants to a chance to participate." So, if you missed out last Wednesday, there is most definitely a chance for you to get caught up.

The winning band for the first round was Mantra, who played a much louder, harder set than other competitors. The music is evaluated on four criteria: musical ability, originality, crowd interaction and stage show. Each category holds a value of five points for a total of 20.

I had the chance to have a little chat with participating band Nemesis 66, whose drummer is a full time student at Dal. They revealed that they had never participated in an event like this before. It was their drummer that signed them up without their consent as a bit of an adventure in their band career. They were glad to be there, but they admitted that it was a much different experience than their previous gigs. The tension they felt between the bands was difficult, but they were of course pleased about getting more exposure. They regularly frequent the underage scene, but as those venues are being shut down one by one, they are starting to hit the bar scene.

"Battle of the Bands" part one was a success, so stay tuned for what's to follow in the saga. Better yet, check out the next round, which is apt to take place sooner than later. Look for posters to stay informed about part two.

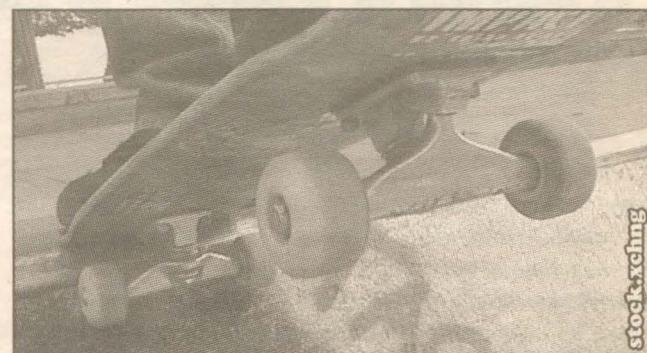
Newest Skate Video from Inferior Media

SKYLAR GRAHAM Staff Contributor

Does the name Inferior Media sound (or, in this case, look) familiar? Perhaps the words: *Lankumentary* (2001) and *Stakes is High* (2002) will help to trigger your memory. That's right, the Halifax based company Inferior Media is back once again with a fresh new skate video hot off the reel (or should I say rail?). Just a few days ago, I was given the pleasure of chatting with Inferior Media co-founder Anthony Cooper, who was pleased to inform me all about the company's latest skate vid-venture entitled *Channel Zero*.


Even as you read this, Anthony Cooper, Craig Boudreau and IMedia newcomer Sam Archibald are probably busy tying up any loose ends in preparation for *Channel Zero's* much anticipated premiere this Friday December 5 (midnight) at the Oxford Theatre. As expected, the film features all ages and levels of local talent ranging from sick to sickest.

"When [Inferior Media] started doing this, this being the fourth [skate video], the first one we did was just us hanging out with our friends," said Cooper. "The next year was kind of half . . . a little bit with our friends and half with some of the younger kids because it's . . . a quick cycle, you know what I



mean? To where it is now . . ."

Channel Zero is scheduled to premiere at midnight, and judging from last year's successful turnout (and long line) it is probably best to arrive slightly early. Even on a channel as low as zero, the verbal frequencies about the premiere can be heard circling the city in blatant anticipation. And if you can't make the scheduled premiere, the video will be available for purchase at your local skate-shop no later than Monday December 8.

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Tigers End First Half on Low

JOEY RYBA Staff Contributor

In a rematch of the 2003 Atlantic University Hockey Conference (AUHC) semifinals, the Tigers took on St. F.X. in a tight checking physical affair. The J.F. Perras show played on. In this week's episode, J.F. stopped 37 of 41 St. F.X. shots. Besides Perras, the star for the Tigers was Ross McCain, who led the Tigers with two goals and did a great job on the penalty kill. "Rossy always plays hard for 60 minutes," said Martin Beck. "He may be 5'8, but he plays like he's 6'8." Coach Joseph was also praised McCain: "He trained really hard in the offseason. His improved play is a direct correlation of his training. He was tremendous on the penalty kill, and it was nice to see him score two goals."

Dal got the scoring started in the first on a goal by McCain and took a 1-0 lead to the dressing room. In the second period, Dal captain, Chris Stanley, was called for cross checking. Stanley questioned the call, and the referee, Mr.

Bob Best, assessed Stanley a 10-minute misconduct.

St. F.X. scored on the powerplay deadlocking the game at 1-1 after two periods. Without their captain for the first 10 minutes of the third, Dal fell apart, giving up two goals as St. F.X. took a 3-1 lead. With the return of their captain, the Tigers regrouped. McCain scored to make it 3-2, and then Dominic Noel tied the game at three, sending it to overtime. However, the comeback was short-lived, as the X-men scored in overtime to win 4-3. "I'm happy with the way our guys battled back tonight," said Joseph. "It was tough losing Stanley for 12 minutes. We stepped it up and battled hard. Obviously we'd like the win, but I'm happy that we battled back to get the point."

In the first-half finale on Sunday at the Halifax Forum, the Tigers got away from their game play and suffered a 4-1

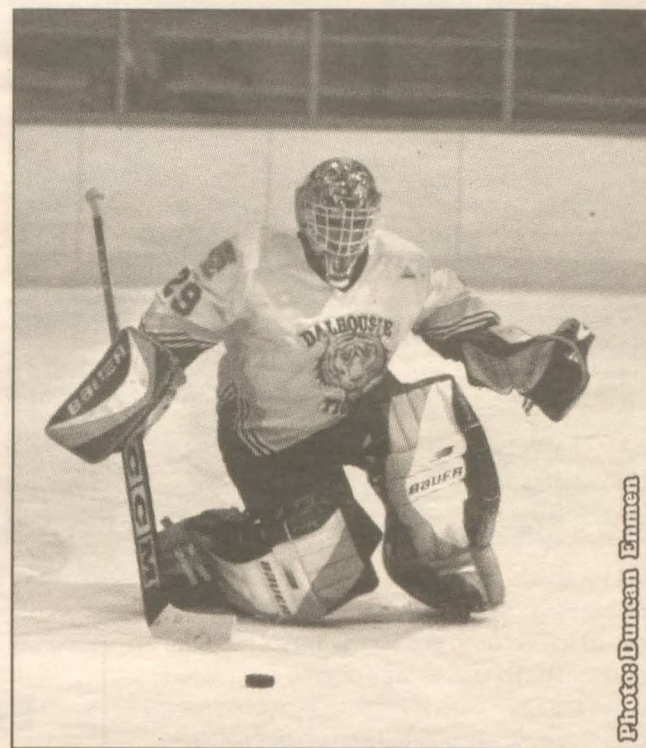


Photo: Duncan Ennen

Athletes Of The Week



Jennifer Ward, Volleyball, Rightside

Jennifer Ward has been named Dalhousie's Female Athlete of the Week. In only her third and fourth matches back with the Tigers, the third-year student has been quick to assert herself, as the Tigers swept Memorial in both matches this weekend. In the first match, Jennifer played in only the final two sets of the Tigers' three set victory, but had such an impact that she was selected as the AUS Player of the Match. She had nine kills, four digs and a stuff block with a powerful presence at the net. On Sunday, it was an even better performance, with Jennifer once again leading the Tigers to a 3-0 sweep of Memorial. Dominating the match, she had a match high of 16 kills, 4 stuff blocks and 3 aces, for 23 points. Twice in a row, she was selected as the Player of the Match, scoring almost 1/3 of Tiger points. Over the weekend, she collected 25 Kills, 8 Stuff blocks and 3 aces, in only 5 sets of action.



Michael Terauds, Swimming

Michael Terauds of the men's swim team has been named Dalhousie's Male Athlete of the Week. Michael was one of nine Tigers who spent the weekend in Quebec City at the Canadian Open Swim Championships. Last weekend, rookie Tiger Andy White broke the oldest AUS record in the 200m butterfly in a time of 2:03.85, and shattered the 24-year-old mark set in 1979 by over half a second. This past weekend, Terauds managed to break this record once again, setting a new AUS record with a time of 2:03.82.

setback against the St. Mary's Huskies. "With the exception of today, our team has played well," said Chris Stanley. "We just have to stick to our game plan, which is what we didn't do today."

"Today we played well on the 5-5 but didn't play well on the special teams. They scored two power play goals and we didn't score any," coach Joseph said.

Despite the loss, Joseph is pleased with his team in the first half. "We've played well so far. We've made some positive strides and it's been a learning experience." For a number of games the Tigers haven't dressed their best lineup. Missing are Darrell Jerrett and Pat Vincent, who both bring a tremendous physical presence, are great on the forecheck and keep the other teams from taking liberties at the Dal net. "We've been missing them a great deal," said Stanley. "They're a big part of our team and bring a huge physical presence. We have guys playing roles they're not used to playing right now, and we need every player back in his original role."

Captain Stanley believes the Tigers will remain near the top in the second. "We have to play well as a team. The first half was a learning experience and we have to bring our A game every night. This league is strong right now and it's going to get stronger. All teams will be that much better, and we're going to have to work hard every night for 60 minutes."

Although Dal has suffered two recent losses, they are in third place with 16 points, one point behind St. F.X. and SMU for second and six points behind league leading UNB.

The Tigers next see action at the Dal Memorial Arena on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17, when they take on UdeM and UNB. Why not come out and see the best hockey in the Maritimes.

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10 Questions with Michael Thomas Gorman

QUESTIONS BY THERESA ANNE SALAH

1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how boring is your hometown? Why?

Yarmouth, N.S. Most days I'd go with nine. Since I haven't been there in a while, I'll say 7.

2) What are you taking at Dal?

English.

3) What's the last thing you do before a game?

Spit in the lane of the person next to me.

4) What's the worst thing you've ever done to a player on the other team?

Put mayonnaise in their shampoo bottle.

5) Who's your favorite athlete and or sports team? Why?

Michael Jordan and the Boston Red Sox. Jordan is very inspiring, and the Red Sox was the name of my little league team.

6) Who's the hottest person in the world? (boyfriends don't count)

Catherine Cooper and Helen Hunt. I've had a crush on Helen Hunt forever.

7) What's your pet peeve?

People who complain about how busy their schedule is.

8) What do you think of the sports editor?

Adam Somers is one of the 10 most handsome people named Adam Somers I've ever met. His grasp on reality isn't always firm. He's also the king of phallic imagery.

9) If you could invent one useless holiday, what and when would it be?

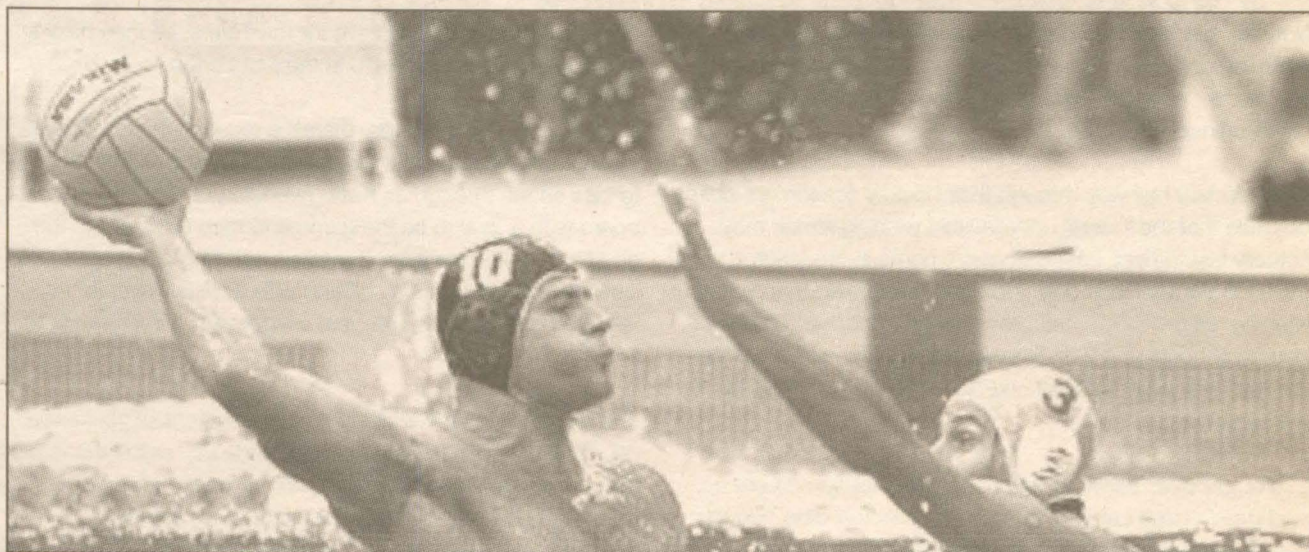
Female Appreciation Day. Everytime you meet a female friend you greet her with a French kiss. This would be held everyday... sigh.

10) What's the sexiest animal in the world?

Angelfish

Violence in the Water

JOSEPH CESCONE Staff Contributor



What full contact sport features few penalties and virtually no protective gear? If you said rugby, nice try, but sorry—no points, not even a drop goal. The sport I'm talking about consists of seven players per team, a ball and two nets. Basketball's out, so the only thing that remains is this little sport they call water polo (pause for outbreak of thunderous laughter). "Water polo's not rough—I play hockey and football," you say? Listen, I'm not saying those aren't rough sports, but if you'll hold back your chuckles long enough for me to explain, maybe you'll reconsider. Remember, I'm not talking about inner-tube water polo here. You can't float around with a pina colada in hand in "real" water polo.

When water polo first began, drowning opponents was permitted, and the game hasn't changed much since. Water polo players are equipped with two things: a suit and a cap. The purpose of the cap is to protect your ears from being ripped off. The suit, on the other hand, does little besides protect your modesty (although Speedos double as excellent costumes for The Palace's Hard Bodies/Sexy Legs competition). The game is divided into seven-minute quarters, with a short break at halftime, which is the only time in the game that there isn't a flurry of action taking place.

Water polo probably gets its bum rep from the fact that untrained spectators don't see all the contact and they miss parts of the action. After

all, unless you're the lifeguard, pools don't exactly provide ideal viewing angles. Underwater cameras change all that, so if you've ever seen polo on TV or played it yourself, you'll be able to wince right along with the players as they receive punishing kidney shots and jarring kicks to the groin (no folks, athletic protectors aren't part of the game). The unwritten rule of water polo, which makes it so fast-paced, is that pretty much anything goes, and everything goes underwater.

Still not convinced? Well then come out and see a game. Action is going on at our very own Dalplex. Water polo is the newest society at Dal, thanks to the hard work of Katiya Shulga and Rhianna Jackiw. Piloted by former Olympic coach Nicolai Shulga, the team practices Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-10 p.m. New people are always welcome regardless of experience. So while you'll have to stay tuned for that game I mentioned, with a dedicated bunch of players already, there's much hope that men's and women's water polo will soon be full-fledged university teams. Of course, even though we'd have funding, we still wouldn't opt for protective gear—it's just not cool in water polo. For information e-mail dalwaterpolo@hotmail.com.

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THERESA ANNE SALAH Staff Contributor

Nothing can last forever, and eventually all good things, including unbeaten streaks, must end—unless of course you're the Dalhousie Tigers and refuse to put any truth to this highly uninspiring cliché.

Now officially half way through their hockey season, it's quite possible that the Tigers' unbelievable winning streak may actually last forever. Last Saturday's game in Fredericton vs. the UNB Varsity Reds only improved this streak of non-stop winning, as the Tigers stole two perhaps undeserved points from their hosts and won the game 2-1. Of course, despite the win, the game was not one of the Tigers' finer efforts of the season.

"I thought UNB easily could have taken that game from us," said head coach Lesley Jordan. "We definitely didn't do the things we had been doing to get us the six victories in a row."

Things didn't begin very smoothly for Jordan's team last Saturday. Even before the opening face-off, the Tiger's had already managed to find their way into the penalty box after being penalized for a delay of game. "We had a really tough time getting started," said Jordan. "UNB had an aggressive forecheck from the start, and we were really back on our

heels." Things didn't improve for the Tigers, as they quickly found themselves down 1-0 in the first period.

Unfortunately for the Reds, there's a reason why the Tigers have gone unbeaten in their last six games, and their inability to lose shone through as Katie Tweedie got Dal up on the board with a goal to tie the game and then assisted on the go ahead goal. However, Tweedie's amazing play out on the ice was short lived, as a collision with a UNB player in the second period left the first-year winger with a fractured left arm.

The rest of the game was left in the hands of Dal goaltender Jen Smith, who in the third period made key saves that stole the win for the Tigers. "I felt very fortunate to come out of there with two points," said Jordan after the game.

Closing the first half of the season with a 6-1 record, the win placed the Tigers in second place in the AUS standings, two points behind St. F.X., and two points ahead of rivals Saint Mary's.

The Tigers are now on break for the Christmas holidays, but upon returning to the ice in January, revenge will be on their

minds when they come face to face with St. F.X., the only team to defeat the Tigers this season. "We were not satisfied with the 3-0 loss last time, and we definitely have them in our sights for after Christmas," said Jordan.

Luckily for the Tigers, when it comes time to avenge the loss, the girls will have a little bit more help, as Amanda Wintink rejoins the team after taking the term off to work on her Ph.D. "Mandy played on the team last year, and she'll bring a lot of leadership and maturity to the team and will help solidify things up front," said Jordan.

Jordan is hoping that with a win over SMU and another win over St. F.X. to start the second half of the season, the Tigers will be able to earn a bye heading into the playoffs. "I think we are very capable of winning the championship this year," said Jordan, "and as long as we stay focused and keep up the work ethic, then we'll be in that final game on February 22."

Swimming: Men Shine, Women Take a Loss

THOMAS MICHAELS Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie men's swim team is currently ranked first in the country and this past weekend at UNB, they showed why. The men won all but two events and both relays on their way to a dominating win. Event winners included Michael O'Connor (50m butterfly), Adam Ferguson (200m IM), Andy White (200m fly), Mikey Smith (800m free), Doug Young (200m free), David MacDonald (100m free), and Julian Stewart (50m free).

The victorious men's medley relay featured co-captain Mike Gorman, Ferguson, White, and Graham Smith, while the 4x100m freestyle relay saw MacDonald, Smith, Young, and O'Connor take first. Meanwhile, co-captain Mike Terauds was representing the team out of conference at the Canadian Short Course Nationals. Terauds had an excellent meet, the highlight of which was the 200m butterfly. Terauds set a Dal and AUS record on his way to a sixth place finish. This was

the highest finish by a Dalhousie male in an Olympic event in close to 10 years, and currently ranks him second in the CIS.

The women meanwhile had a tougher meet. With half the team missing because of injury or attendance at Nationals, the women dropped their first duel meet in seven years. Andrea Roberts and Heather Crowdis provided the lone highlights, with wins in the 200m breaststroke and 50m butterfly respectively.

The Tigers next competition comes in the New Year. For now they will focus on school and prepare to leave for training camp in Barbados following exams.

Varsity Results

Elsewhere the Tigers played on...

Men's Basketball

Fri. Nov. 28 Dal 54 St.F.X. 70

Women's Basketball

Fri Nov. 28 Dal 66 St.F.X. 58 OT

Men's Volleyball

Sat., Nov. 22 AUS - QSSF Interlock

DAL 3 vs McGill 0 (25-14, 25-20, 25-20)

Sat., Nov. 22 AUS - QSSF Interlock

DAL 1 vs Laval 3 (19-25, 25-22, 21-25, 19-25)

Sun., Nov. 23 AUS - QSSF Interlock

DAL 3 vs Montreal 2 (16-25, 25-22, 25-22, 12-25,

15-13)

Sun., Nov. 23 AUS - QSSF Interlock

DAL 0 vs Sherbrooke 3 (25-17, 26-24, 25-17)

Sat., Nov. 29 DAL 3 @ UNB 1 (14-25, 25-23, 25-19,

27-25)

Women's Volleyball

Sat., Nov. 22 DAL 3 @ ACA 0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-19)

Sat., Nov. 29 DAL 3 @ MUN 0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-21)

Sun., Nov. 30 DAL 3 @ MUN 0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-20)

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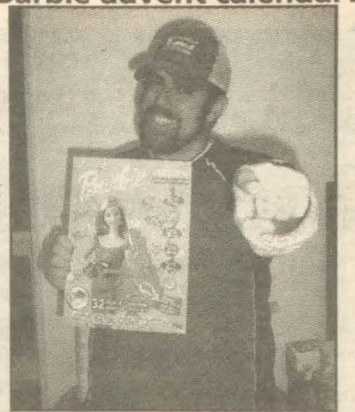
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Purple Ribbon Campaign

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The Purple Ribbon Campaign was initiated by the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia following the December 6, 1989 killing of 14 women in Montreal. The campaign is now being organized by THANS.

The campaign runs each year from November 25 to December 10 to coincide with the international recognition of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. The purpose of the campaign is to:

- remember the 14 women who died in Montreal on December 6, 1989;
- remember all women who have died violently or continue to live with abuse;
- raise awareness of the far-reaching effects of violence against women;
- raise funds for organizations providing direct service to abused women.

If you are interested in supporting the campaign, consider making a donation. Work towards ensuring there is not one more woman who suffers from abuse.

Donations for the Purple Ribbon Campaign can be mailed to

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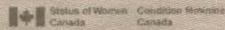
to reflect on violence against women here in Canada and around the world

to think about all the women and girls who live daily with the threat of violence

to remember those whose lives have been affected by violence

to take action to stop it

www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dec6/



Unravelling the Claus

1) No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.

2) There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to the Population Reference Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.

3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 millions stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc.

This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

4) The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.

5) 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion - If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead now. Merry X-mas.

How to Trap a Leprechaun

By: Paddy O'Lantern

Leprechauns are tricky, mischievous sorts of faeries who, if you can succeed in catching one, can bring you oodles of good luck, riches and poteen, an exceedingly potent Irish drink. As defenders of the faerie community and gold, leprechauns are rather antisocial creatures with a fetish for well-crafted practical jokes. They move very fast and make it tricky for other beasts to catch them. Try these tricks to construct a well-disguised trap to catch your very own leprechaun in time for Christmas:

1. You will need: a net, boxes, a clean can, empty containers or an old shoe, plus tin foil and green tissue paper.
2. Paint the trap green and decorate with green items.
3. Add bait. Beer or shiny pennies work best. (N.B. if you don't want to use real coins, you can easily substitute a chocolate gold-wrapped coin, or make your own coins by cutting out circles of cardboard and painting them with gold paint). Note: If you use a box, cover the opening with thin green tissue paper, put some pennies on top, and when the leprechaun sees the coins, he will try to collect them, stepping on the paper in the process, which will break and he will fall in the box - trapped. Jackpot.
4. Rainbows are also good to use in and around your trap.
5. Where to place your trap? Near trees or hedgerows: four-leaf clovers will attract them as

well. Listen for the sounds of rhythmic tapping of a cobbler hammer as the leprechaun goes about his work as a shoemaker. More things to look for: trail of magic dust and a coin or two left behind by the leprechaun.

6. Whatever you do, ensure that no two traps ever look the same, because a leprechaun will get suspicious and never venture near it.

What to do if you catch a leprechaun:

Do not take your eyes off him even for a second or he will vanish whether or not he has granted your wishes.

See the next issue of The Sextant for further details.

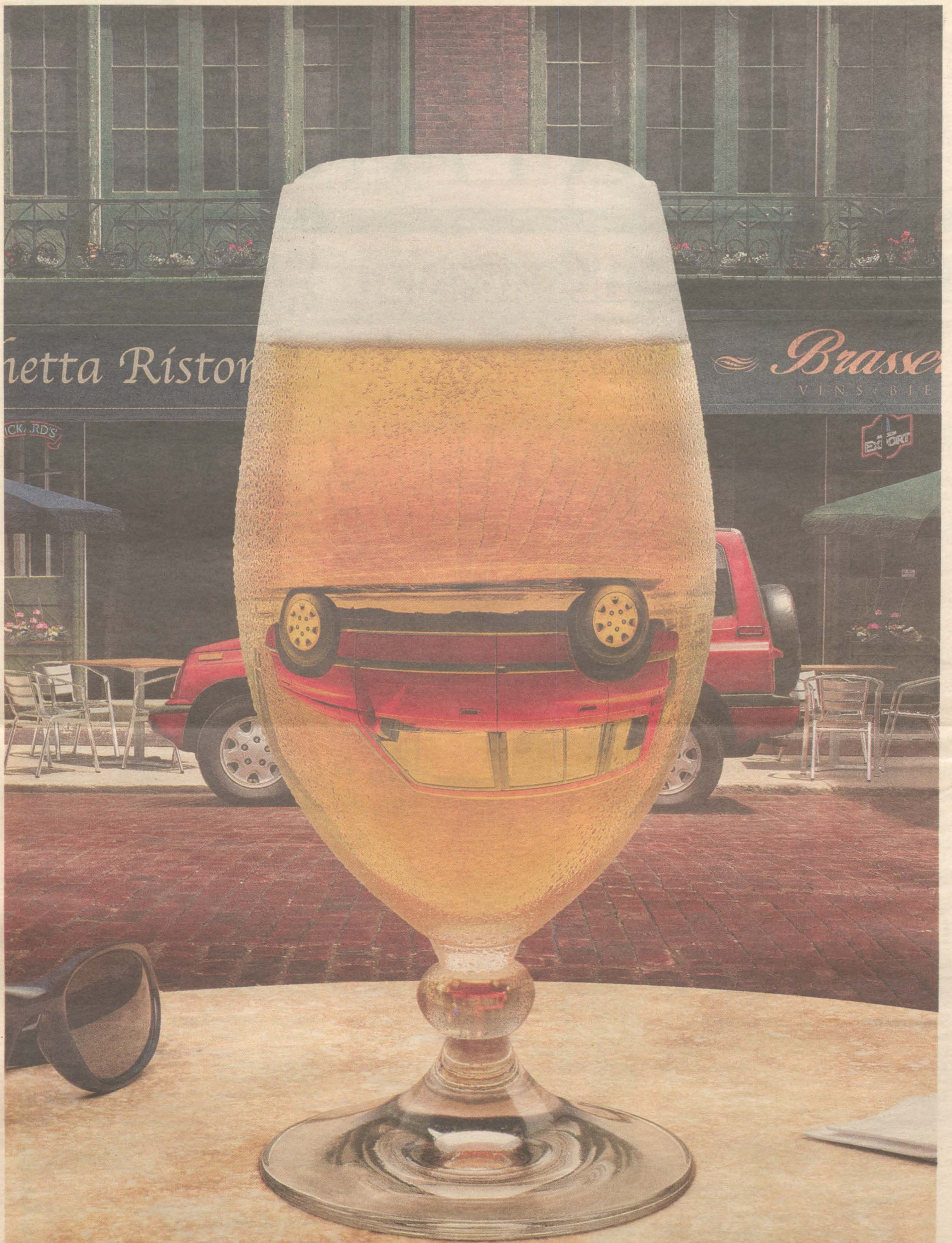
Oh, and there is no such thing as female leprechauns, so Liz Chiu, leave this one alone . . . no one is offended.



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