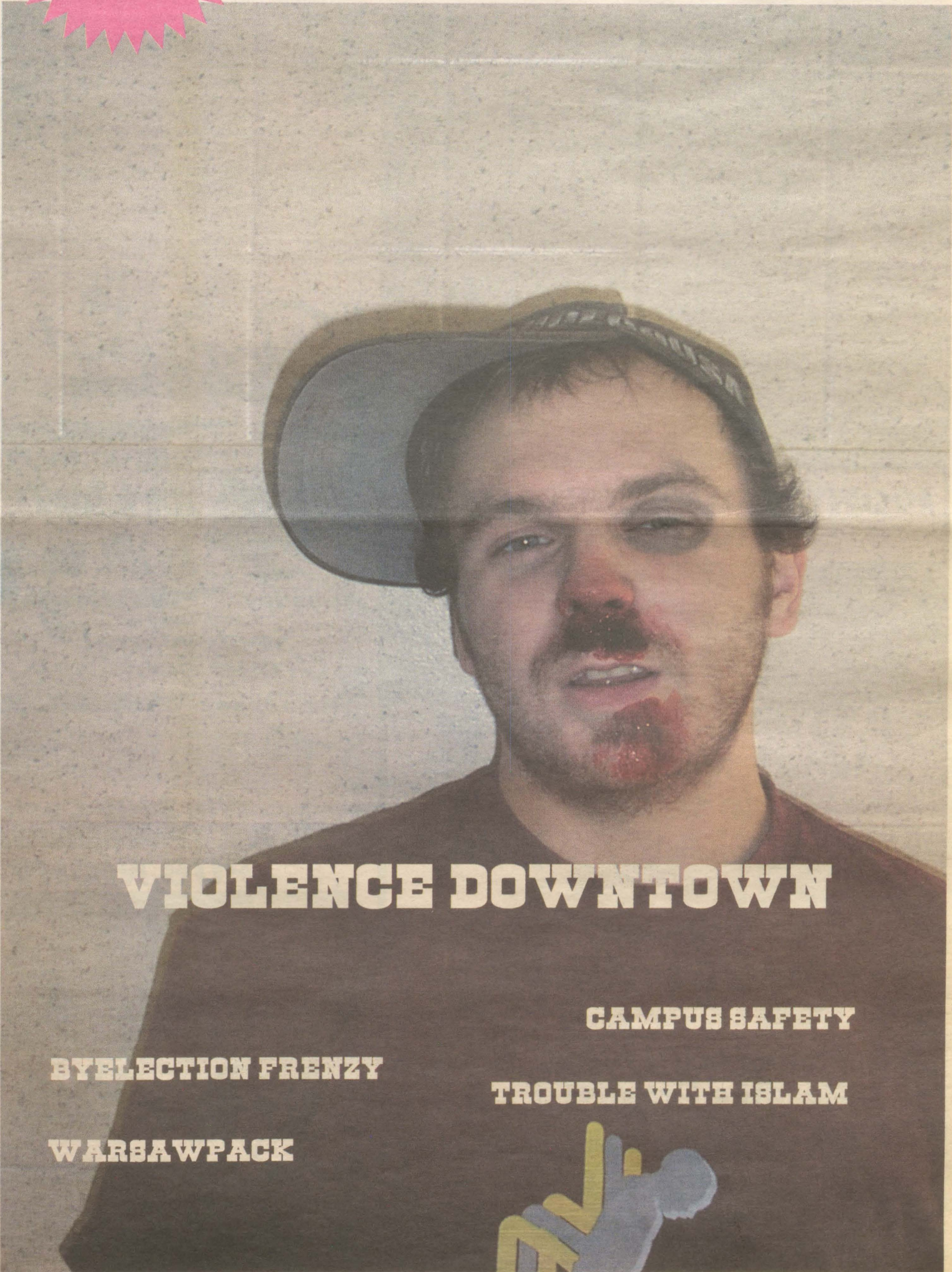


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# Gazette

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

October 16, 2003 - 136:07



## VIOLENCE DOWNTOWN

**CAMPUS SAFETY**

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**TROUBLE WITH ISLAM**

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# DSU Dalhousie Student Union

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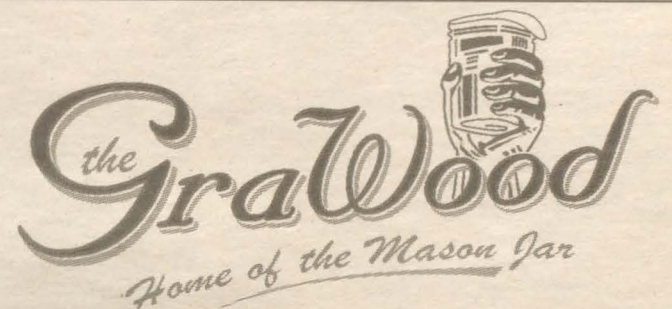
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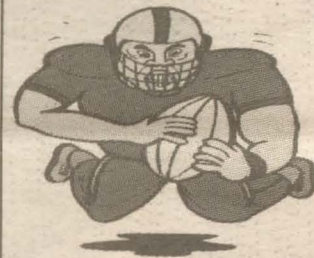
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# Editorial

REPO KEMPT Editor-In-Chief

**"Don't worry, honey. I'll make sure you never have to work at Tim Horton's, because I'll make sure you get an education."**

I'm standing in line at Tim Horton's in New Glasgow on the weekend when an intolerable and impatient woman delivers this line to her preteen son after a delay in her order. She spoke at a volume more than loud enough for the woman behind the counter to hear. The employee, showing more integrity and tact and than this customer will ever understand, ignored her and continued to serve her promptly and courteously. I, on the other hand, was wishing I had a cattle prod on hand to dole out a special "double-double" dose of respect.

The fact is, the young woman struggling behind the

counter may well be struggling to work her way through school. Many students, including myself, work part-time (or even full-time) to try and deal with the high cost of living away from home while going to university. The situation is often a Catch 22 as more time behind a retail counter means less time behind the books.

This week, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is collecting foam bricks from 2000 students across Canada. Each brick will bear the name of the student and the amount of student debt they will have upon graduation. They will be used to erect a wall, 8 feet high and 30 feet wide, on Parliament Hill later this month.

My initial response to this stunt is "whoopie doo". I appreciate the sentiment behind it, but I am tired of "rais-

ing government awareness" of the student debt crisis. Is building a giant Lego wall for one day outside of our legislature going to be any more effective than student marches or letter campaigns? Perhaps dumping a truck-load of Monopoly money on the PM's lawn is next on the agenda.

Disagree? We at the Gazette want to hear what students think a logical and practical solution to student debt would be. What action should our government take? What should students do? E-mail us at [gazette@dal.ca](mailto:gazette@dal.ca) and we will print the best and most productive solutions...and maybe the funniest to help ease our collective financial woes.

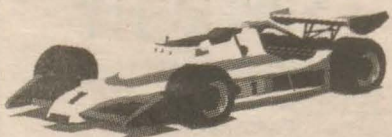


Editorial	3
News	4
Cover	5
Opinions	7
Streeter	9
Arts	11
Hot or Not	13
Sports	14
Sextant	16

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**Cover**  
Taking one for the team. Repo punished Loukas for rampant mistakes and computer crashes in the last issue.

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### APOLOGY

There were an insane amount of errors and omissions in the last issue. We (Loukas Crowther [Designer] and Catherine Cooper [Copy Editor]) apologize. Our software we use for layout decided to crash 2 hours before our print deadline, and the auto-backup was from earlier in the week. Therefore two days of work was accomplished in two hours, hence... the screwups. So don't think Catherine is a shit copy-editor, blame Loukas, Adobe, and Apple, they are all assholes right now.

## Teach in Thailand

Lertlah School Division, Bilingual and International Programs in Bangkok, Thailand is a full curricula school featuring Bilingual and International programs for pre-nursery to Grade 9. We are presently recruiting candidates for the academic year May 1, 2004 - April 30, 2005. Preference is given to applicants with a B. Ed. degree, however, other degrees will be considered. We require an original degree & transcripts, 3 letters of reference and a passport photo. Our recruiting team will be at Dalhousie University Oct. 24/03 at 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to make a full presentation and to interview interested applicants. E-mail - [lertlah@hotmail.com](mailto:lertlah@hotmail.com)

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## Byelection Position is no Cakewalk, says DSU Pres

CHRIS LAROCHE News Editor

Nominees in the Dalhousie Student Union Presidential Byelection can expect a tough job if they are elected in the October 28 vote, says current DSU president Johanne Galarneau.

The byelection, required by the DSU constitution if the elected president vacates his/her position before November 1, will officially fill the void left by elected DSU President Don Kearney's resignation.

"All I know from the resignation that [Kearney] submitted to council was that he resigned for personal reasons," said Galarneau, who served as the DSU president last year and vice president of the student advocacy the year before.

Because Kearney left his position during the summer term and an election could not be held, the DSU council appointed Galarneau to fill the Presidential position.

"You can't hold an election in the summer, obviously, because not all the students are here," said Galarneau. "The [DSU] council chose an interim appointment, and they appointed me until an election could be held."

Although she won't say whether she plans to run for reelection, Galarneau did say that the job of DSU president entails much more stress and work than people might expect.

"It's a lot of work. You can expect to work day and night. Expect to be criticized. You can't expect the position to be easy or to be everyone's friend. You have to have a lot of political knowledge and internal knowledge of the Dalhousie student union—it has to be a balance of both."

Galarneau says that a good knowledge of DSU history is also a recommended prerequisite for the job. Without an understanding of where the DSU has been, she said, a president won't know where the DSU is going—including policy implications and dealing with the council and executive and staff.

Official duties of the president include handling relationships with the media and press, policy writing, meeting with government officials, proposing policies to council, overseeing the executive staff and sitting on the University board of governors and senate.

"I'm the manager of the union, so everything you see in this building—in some indirect way—I'm responsible for it," said Galarneau. "My life consists of working 35 hours a week, as constitutionally required, but I probably work 60 hours a week in reality."

Although Galarneau's current term as president is only months old and may end by the end of this month, she says she's done as much as she can to improve the DSU for future executives.

"Our goal is to effectively represent students at this university, and I think we do that very well. If you attend any senate or board of governors meeting...you would see that your student reps are fighting for you constantly, always asking questions and always questioning the administration on what they're doing."

One of the changes made through Galarneau's mandate was the reworking of the DSU's mission and vision statements, which haven't been changed since 1997.

"No students know what our mission and vision is, and I think it is important for students to get behind what we represent, especially council and executive, because right now no one really knows what the statements are."

The two statements were far too similar and outdated to

be of any use, says Galarneau, but now that they've been edited to be more specific to the DSU's actual role, they should help in keeping the council and executive on track.

Council orientation concerning the new statements, among other things, is being held this week.

Galarneau has also addressed outstanding problems in the organization and overall role of the executive, which found itself engaged in a soap opera over comments allegedly made by then-VP of community affairs Brianne Lauzier that were inappropriate. With a new executive and new mandate this year, however, Galarneau hopes to create a firmer organizational manifesto with the introduction of the "Executive Handbook," which she completed this fall.

"There have been problems in the past because the executive is both bound by the [DSU] constitution and as full-time staff. Things like confidentiality, office hours, vacation days, sick days, things that are not covered in the constitution, but the executive still needs to follow because we're still employees, in essence, of the union. Obviously last year's executive is different from this year's executive. This year's executive is phenomenal compared to last year. Council always changes, and there are always different opinions, but that's the nature of student politics. You've got to expect it."

Other items on Galarneau's mandate, which include talking with the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) about the financial considerations of new programs being approved by the administration, meeting with bureaucrats in the education ministry following this summer's election, have all gone according to plan. The DSU executive will even be making an appearance on CBC's Street Cents on Oct. 20, giving some insight into rising student debt and tuition rates.

During this summer's provincial election, the DSU mounted a campaign to raise the issue of post-secondary education funding. Lawn signs and billboard ads were mounted in an effort to focus some attention on tuition rates in the province. In May, the DSU hosted the Canadian Congress of Student Associations. Nevertheless, Galarneau says there are still a lot of changes to be made.

Galarneau's outlook concerning the new government's post-secondary education plans isn't very approving, either. Touching the Debt Remission Program would be a political nightmare, she says, so a one per cent cut in the education budget means operating grants for universities could be on the chopping block.

"[Hamm's] minority government is not going to get anything through and I can see [Nova Scotia] having another election in two years. It's going to be an uphill battle, but if we can work with the opposition parties really closely, then I think we're going to have a step in the door."

Any student looking for nomination in the presidency can expect to deal with these issues once in office: a transition period of only three days is being allowed for the new President to move into office, down from the two-month period allowed for normally scheduled elections.

"Being the DSU president, it's a difficult job," said Galarneau. "If you've got the ambition and the will to do it, then go for it. It's a good experience."

Nominations for the Presidential Byelection candidacy are open from October 10 to 17. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Student Union Building Information Desk, the second floor Council office and the Alumni Lounge Student Services Office on Sexton Campus. Nominated candidates will be allowed to campaign from Oct. 20 to 24 and voting will be held on October 27 and 28.

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## The Downtown Scene

FROM THE EYES OF A BOUNCER, MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor

Craig Slaunwhite agrees that there are certain stereotypes pervading bouncers who work at downtown Halifax bars. "Oh definitely," said Slaunwhite. "Everyone thinks they are big knuckleheads who go to the gym and are pretty much illiterate. Some people think they are a bunch of perverts who just check IDs so they can find out girls' names."

Slaunwhite, who recently graduated from Dalhousie with a degree in kinesiology has worked as a bouncer for close to two years at such establishments as Pitchman's Pub, Copacobana, and Pogue Fado, and currently works at Seven. He got the job after a friend suggested it. As a competitive athlete, he likes the hours of the job as it allows him to train throughout the day with no interference.

Slaunwhite says the most common problems he has run into usually include people drinking to the point of losing self-control. "The general problems are people being far too intoxicated and losing control of their common sense," he said. "A lot of times you have situations where one guy looks at another guy's girlfriend so the guy with the girlfriend takes offence and that usually leads to an altercation of some kind. Everyone is pretty edgy in those situations"—especially the

staff.

"You're looking out for everyone else's safety and if you have two guys fighting, it's not so much those two guys that you're really worried about, but you have to look out for everyone else that's in the bar. You don't want someone to catch a stray fist or someone to catch a bottle. You need to look out for everyone's safety, so you want to get it under control as quickly as possible so no one else gets hurt." He has also made the observation that people begin seeing toilets in places they might not actually exist ("males love to piss all over the place").

While he does feel that in general bouncers do have a bad reputation, he is quick to point out that, like anything else, there is some good and some bad. "It's just like anything else. You can't really stereotype the whole group because, though it's a group, it's a group of individuals. Everyone is different. Some people have different motives for being there. Some bouncers are on a power trip and other bouncers are definitely there to look out for everyone's safety."

"Most of the time when an altercation happens with a bouncer, he's just trying to look out for the safety of everyone else involved and the person who is getting confronted automatically will take it personally and assume that it's a direct personal confrontation with them," said Slaunwhite.

While he does like interacting with people and the time the job affords him to train, Slaunwhite admits that there are few other perks to the job. Noting the drawbacks he sees Slaunwhite said, "I can't say I'm too keen on dealing with people who are really drunk and just sloppy." He also points out that while the company he works for, Source Security, is said to be one of the higher paying companies, bouncers' pay is, nevertheless, nothing to write home about.

On the whole, Slaunwhite seems happy to be doing what he is doing. He's glad to be working at Seven, a club he describes as being the total polar opposite to Pitchman's. "[There's a] much younger crowd, and people drink much more excessively at that kind of place and then there is also a larger volume of people to control. Seven is very upscale, and people are just there to have a social drink more so than to get drunk and it's usually an older, more dressed up kind of crowd, and much more well behaved and easier to deal with."



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## THIS WEEK'S CAREER NEWS

Week of October 20th, 2003

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- **PART TIME, SUMMER:** Numerous part time and summer positions are regularly posted on our site throughout the year.
- **INFORMATION SESSIONS:** Teletech, Oct. 23, 9 am – 1 pm, Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, SUB, drop in to learn more about employment opportunities they have available.  
JET Programme (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme), Oct. 28, Room 307, SUB, 9:00 am. [www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/ExchangeProgram/jetweb/index.html](http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/ExchangeProgram/jetweb/index.html).

Student Employment Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, SUB  
For job postings and further information go to [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)  
Student Volunteer Service [www.dal.ca/svb](http://www.dal.ca/svb)

# Paul Cellucci

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor



American ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci was in Halifax Friday and made a stop at Dalhousie. Addressing a capacity crowd at University Hall, Cellucci spoke for an hour, mainly fielding questions. In his brief introduction he pointed to Canada and US interdependence on one another, "We are interconnected, dependent on each other, and it is in each of our national interests - no matter what the issue of the day - to continue working together and it's exactly what we are doing, and what we have been doing, and what we will continue to do."

Cellucci spent the duration of the hour fielding questions from the audience, which included Dal students, staff, administration, and members of the local military. When asked about the obvious Canadian sentiment against war in Iraq Cellucci responded by saying, "We hoped, we expected in our time of need... that our best friend and ally would be at our side as Canada had been in Afghanistan and just about every other aspect of the global war with terrorism." He added that he now recognizes that the difference in the perception of the threat is what led to the difference of opinion on Iraq. He did however point out the harbour security of Halifax, commending them on working hard to keep boarders safe. He also mentioned the irony of Canadian naval vessels in the Persian Gulf providing more support indirectly than many supporters of the war. "Our ties are too deep, too long standing, we're too dependent on each other and interconnected for any one thing to interrupt the US Canada relationship."

The main issue Cellucci addressed in his responses was the issue of prevalent negative attitudes concerning American Foreign policy. "The United States of American is unquestionably a force for good on this planet," he said. "We're not always correct in the foreign policy decisions we make, but we try to make those decisions on demerits." He mentioned America's involvement with situations like the India Pakistan nuclear war threat, the US patrol of the North/South Korea border, and US involvement in fighting world hunger.

Cellucci has become well known for speaking out against certain Canadian policy, and to this question he said he was unwilling to apologize for speaking out and being vocal. "US diplomats are involved in public diplomacy. I don't think there is anything wrong with that. I don't think there is anything wrong with being straightforward. I don't think there is anything wrong with telling people why we made a decision, what our reasons are for that decision, and if we're disappointed with Canada, or any other country that a US diplomat might be serving at, I don't see any reason why we should not be straight forward."

One member of the audience voiced concern over what he saw to be a policy on the part of the US of "you're either with us, or against us." Cellucci disagreed with this sentiment, using US aid t

Canada during this summer's SARS outbreak as an example. "We were here to help and to make sure that sound science was being applied.... You were not with us on the war in Iraq but the next time there was a crisis in Canada we were here to help." Throughout his response, Cellucci stressed the interdependency Canada to the US, raising the US's decision not to sign certain treaties. The US's reluctance to sign treaties such as Kyoto and Landmines do not automatically mean the US is against what the treaty stands for, he said. Rather, if the US government feels a treaty is not in the best interest of its own citizens, it will not sign. He cited the US aid for removing landmines and the study on greenhouse gases despite not signing any treaties that support such things.

A sense of tension in the room failed to let up throughout the entire session, coming to a head as the question of weapons of mass destruction was raised. The Ambassador pointed out the numerous facts and stats from the UN requesting Iraq get rid of their WMDs. He believes that they do exist, pointing out the question of why the UN would pass numerous resolutions if the evidence supporting WMD presence in Iraq did not exist. "We did perceive that country to be a threat against the United States, but we also know that removing Saddam Hussein from power will have a very positive impact in the long run on the people of that country."

Showing signs of what has been perceived by some as America's way of admitting premature entry of Iraq, Cellucci also made reference to America's asking the UN for help in establishing Iraq's stability. The Ambassador also fielded questions regarding the US's decision to grant far more money to war than peace, most specifically, AIDS in Africa. "The president has a major initiative for AIDS in Africa.... If you look at what's been committed, the United States has committed more money to that situation in the world by far." The US is the leading donor in terms of world food aid, he said, garnering a round of round of applause after emphasizing the importance of debt elimination in the third world.

Cellucci believes in helping through free trade and trade liberalization and thinks that domestic agriculture needs fewer bailouts and subsidies, thereby levelling the playing field. "We need to give these developing countries the opportunities to sell their agricultural products into the world markets. If the western world continues to subsidise agriculture to the extent it does, then these developing countries won't be given an opportunity." To this he added, "Economic investment dwarfs foreign aid. If you really want to lift people out of poverty, you have to create a climate in the country that encourages investment and trade."

Lastly, Cellucci was asked a series of questions regarding America-Canada border safety and America's relationship with the

UN - "If we perceive a threat we're going to deal with the threat whether the UN or anyone else wants to deal with it." Though some members of the audience expressed dissatisfaction with some of the Ambassador's answers, Cellucci's focus on America as a nation under threat was clearly expressed.

## I Survived Hurricane Juan

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, HAVE THE T-SHIRT, CHRIS LAROCHE News Editor

Although the visible damage Hurricane Juan wreaked on Dalhousie has all but disappeared, the hurricane's presence still lingers on campus, if somewhat lightheartedly, thanks to two entrepreneurs.

Former Dalhousie students Mark Morrison and Scott Lewis spent Wednesday and Thursday afternoon of last week parked outside the front entrance of the Killam Library, selling T-shirts out of the back of their van. The tees, featuring an aerial photo of Hurricane Juan with the caption "I survived Hurricane Juan" below, were priced at 10 dollars apiece and displayed in the van's windows.

"As soon as the storm happened, we came up with the idea for the shirts," said Lewis, a former Marine Mapping student.

The graphic of Juan on the front of the T-shirts, showing the hurricane just south of the Nova Scotia peninsula, was pulled off of NASA's website. Advanced Screen Printing, a Halifax-based printing company, printed the T-shirts.

Although their first batch of shirts was botched by a misspelling of Juan's name, Jaun, pronounced by Morrison and Lewis as "Wah-oon" the pair weren't charged for the misprints and had 100 T-shirts with correct spelling in their hands by Saturday.

"We tried selling them at the waterfront, but we got kicked out," said Lewis. "We only sold like one or two T-shirts down there anyway."

After leaving the waterfront, Lewis and Morrison decided Dalhousie campus might be a good place to sell their merchandise, setting up their University Avenue location on Wednesday morning.

"It's prime time up here. There's lots of people passing by, and we're selling a lot of shirts," said Morrison, who studied History at Dalhousie. He said the pair had sold enough T-shirts to break even by Thursday morning. "We're already into making profit. We're not making a ton of money. We're just having some fun."

Although Morrison and Lewis sold all the T-shirts by the end of the week, they say they'll do another printing of the T-shirt provided they get enough requests.

"It's a big event with lots of people," said Lewis. "We thought this would be a fun way to remember it."

You can send an "I Survived Juan" T-shirt request to megmorri@hotmail.com

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# Campus Safety Needs Improvement

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor

The concept of safety is one that gets a lot of coverage in today's news. Everyone is concerned about national safety, international safety, airport safety and even highway safety. Interestingly, few people take the time to consider the safety of their own backyard, which in our case is the Dalhousie campus. I, for one, feel that it is high time we stop and examine several aspects of campus that are so unsafe, they are just asking for trouble.

Perhaps the most important change that needs to be made is just how poorly lighted campus is after dark. The area behind the Killiam library, the space that leads from the Chemistry building to the Howe Hall parking lot, and the pathways to, and spaces around Shireff Hall are particularly bad. It seems to me that the least the university could do is hang a couple of floodlights in such high traffic areas.

As it stands right now, the wooded area that leads from Howe Hall to the Killiam is about as safe as a 10-year-old boy at Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch. And the blue safety lights currently in place are present in some low traffic areas, and absent in other busy spaces.

Another area of campus I find painfully overlooked is University Avenue. During the day, cars race through there as though it's the Indianapolis Speedway, and nothing is there to

deter them from doing so. Motorists often show little regard for an area so obviously populated with pedestrians, and act almost surprised and angered by the inconvenience caused to them by students having the audacity to walk across their own campus.

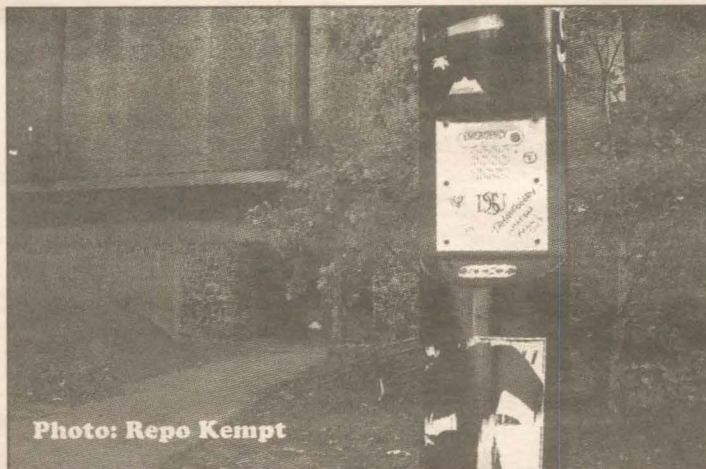


Photo: Repo Kempt

A look at the Killiam's back-door.

Why is no one policing drivers on this street? Each day, there are no shortage of parking police circling campus, practically foaming at the mouth over the prospect of writing yet another ticket for a student whose class is running late. To me this presents the image of a university administration

more concerned with the money in parking meters than with the safety of its own students. If this is not the case, I challenge the university to do something to show myself and the rest of the student body otherwise.

The final area that I feel needs addressing is the massive amount of construction on campus. While I am in full support of the university's attempts to modernize and improve campus, I am also in full support of these construction crews cleaning up after themselves.

Just last week as I was leaving the library, I came across a sheet of plywood covering a large part of the walkway behind Howe Hall. Thinking it was placed over a hole in the path I proceed over it only to step on a three-inch nail. Upon further examination, I found that the board in fact had close to a dozen others. Had it been daytime, I'm sure I would have been able to recognize the board was only there because someone didn't put it away and the nail would have been avoided. However, since it was well after dark, and I was too busy scanning the woods and walkways for attackers, I guess I missed it. Perhaps if someone was willing to invest in some lights for campus, my foot, and students in general, could avoid being stabbed.

# Hoping for Rain

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor



Why do so many people devote their lives to earning money? Why would someone spend their life in a career that doesn't satisfy them? Why can't some people see that their emotionally draining lives and uninteresting jobs are depleting their health? Why can't people see the paradoxical equation that exists in the pursuit of cash? When one has an unsatisfying career for one's whole life because one is only doing it for the money or some kind of social status, one will become emotionally tired, lack passion and, therefore, be in bad health. One will then have to take that money and spend it on health care, drugs, suntan spray, lotion, face wash, etc. to prolong one's life and/or give the appearance of youth.

This is high modernity, within (my friends capitalist society) putting such a high price on material things and a lack of value upon nonmaterial things that come naturally (i.e. emotions and bi-products of those emotions such as music and art).

I miss the good old days when appearance did not matter. Life was a series of relationships with no expectations, just heart. Music was personal and shared, not produced and performed. Smiles were sincere. You'd work to live not work to exist because work is who you are. You were close with your family. You grew up with your friends. When someone said, "how are you," they really wanted to know. You didn't wait for the night for exciting things to happen, they happened all day. Wisdom was more important than knowledge. You mapped your way via familiarity, not redun-

dant signs. You knew things by their use and your relationship with them and not by what their name was. The weather was more predictable. You weren't afraid of animals. You felt a connection with every story told and could remember every exciting detail. You described things by way of the senses and emotions, not by using abstract explanations like variations in wave pressure to describe a symphony. Because you were so connected with the natural world, you'd pray for rain, not for hot weather.

I did not live these good old days fully, but I wish I had. Does this place exist, or is it just a past, imaginary romantic legacy? Hoping for rain in such a generally dry society.

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# The Trouble with Islam

LINA HUSSAIN Staff Contributor



*The Trouble with Islam* is a new book written by Irshad Manji, an Indian, Muslim lesbian who feels that the Muslim society needs to challenge its faith. Before I begin to tell you about why she is wrong in saying the things she does, I will tell you why someone like Irshad is given the opportunity to trash Islam in the first place.

Sadly, Islam has been weakening for years, slowly deteriorating in front of the world. The religion that was once known to have fair and just ideologies (i.e. treating others with respect) has now become a joke. Men of all ages today preaching about how women (including their own sisters, mothers, and wives) should cover up their bodies and hair and perform their prayers daily are the same men who like

to check out attractive girls passing by and go downtown on weekends to drink and dirty dance with girls and maybe even get lucky.

I hear about and witness young teenage women who wear the scarf, advertising to the world their religious values and beliefs while practicing almost everything Islam holds as a sin.

Muslims are breaking up. There is so much selfishness, prejudice, racism, differentiation, and gossip within the Islamic community. This is exactly why it's so easy for others to take the advantage and make false accusations about the faith.

I don't mean to be attacking my own people, but it's hard not to notice that what is going on is pure contradiction and a whole lot of hypocrisy. It's almost as if we want to let go of our identity rather than pull it together and fix it.

That being said, it's no wonder people like Irshad Manji are selling thousands of copies of books attacking Islam and its people. Ms. Manji claims she is a Muslim, yet her claims are nothing but false accusations based on invalid sources. What she really does is attack corrupt views about

Islam—which are held by some very corrupt people—and use them to label the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad.

I haven't read her book yet, but I have visited her website where she speaks openly about *The Trouble with Islam*. Muslim-refusenik.com is the website, and I believe its name is enough to show you that she "refuses" Islam. On one page, she displays a list of the things she thinks are corrupt in Islam:

- The unjust treatment of women in Islam
- The Jew-bashing that so many Muslims persistently engage in
- The continuing scourge of slavery in countries ruled by Islamic regimes.

Maybe I'm not in any position to preach about Islam, but what I do know is that anyone with half a brain who can read one sentence can educate him/herself about Islam and learn that all of these accusations are completely unfounded.

First of all, women are sacred figures in Islam; it's as simple as that. This "inferior" treatment of women in Islam doesn't exist. Second of all, we do not bash Jews. Believe

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it or not, Muslims, Christians and Jews have been living in peace in many countries around the world for centuries, including countries like Iraq and Palestine. Who we are against are the Zionists. And last but not least, slavery is one of the biggest sins in Islam. Islam does not allow slavery. The Prophet Mohammed banned slavery and declared that all humans should be treated equally. Therefore, the countries that allow slavery and call themselves Muslims are hypocrites.

About the topic of "inferior treatment of women in Islam," "Muslim" men who like to stop women from pursuing a career or education and force their wives to cover up themselves from head to toe are nothing but dominating men who want to prove their manhood in front of people. In the case of Saudi Arabia (an issue mentioned in Manji's book), the two genders are not allowed to mix in public places. Everything from schools to shopping malls are segregated, and women are not even allowed to drive.

However, this is not what Islam is about. Male-domination in Muslim societies is simply the result of the actions of powerful men who thought it would be easier, better and more convenient to have men dominate society. Back in the day of the Prophet Mohammed, women went to war with their men, which proves that women possessed strength, which tells you that men today have a problem with women being as powerful as they are.

Something very interesting happened last week. A very good friend of mine happened to email Manji highlighting the facts I stated above. Her reply to him was "read my book." In another email, he simply asked, "Where in the world do you think Islam is a pro-slave, anti-Jew religion ... it's just not logical when Islam is based on equality and love." She replies with "America, too, is based on democracy and freedom."

Guess this means you think there is nothing wrong with that country. Thanks for enlightening me!"

My friend continued to argue his point. He emailed her again and argued that "there is always a black sheep in any society, even in a utopian one," and that she shouldn't generalize that the face of Islam is a corrupt one just because there are a number of people out there who call themselves Muslims yet engage in "honour killings" of their daughters, terrorist attacks on innocent people in the name of Allah, slavery and the drinking of alcohol. In his words, "Even a Utopian world would not cease to have troubles and corruption."

So, how to defend herself against such a strong argument? Irshad Manji "bravely" blocked his e-mails and stopped responding to him. Amusing, isn't it? I don't know about you, but to me it sounds like she's saying, "I have nothing to say."

But, then again, maybe the problem is in our Muslim society that allows people like Irshad Manji to ridicule our religion instead of fighting back and proving her wrong.

One last note: people like Irshad Manji who falsely accuse Islam of being a corrupt religion have only strengthened my faith, simply because I know that her accusations are invalid. What I am hoping to achieve by writing this is to unite our society and have us stand up for our beliefs and not allow people to trash us (or any belief, faith, or society for that

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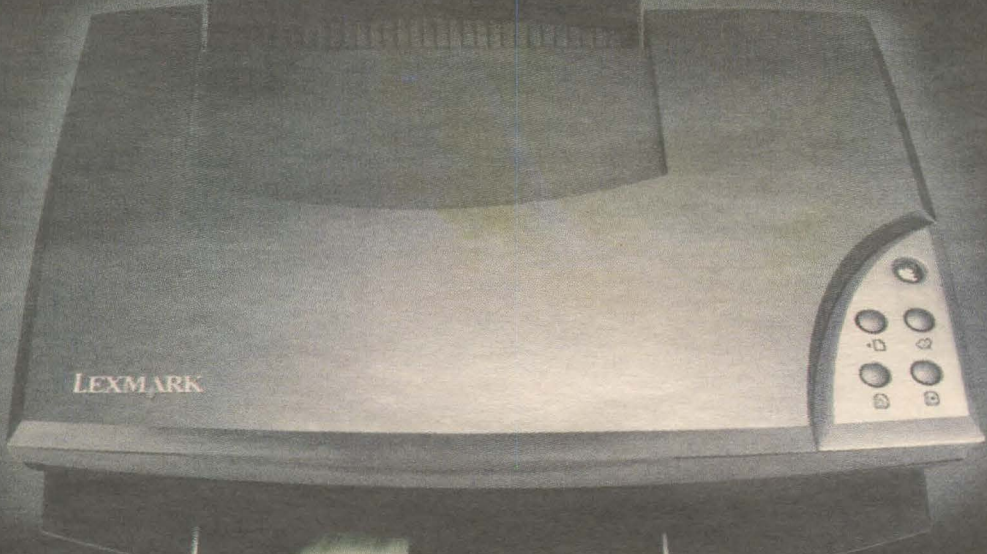
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# I am Canadian, I am the Walrus

JENN MORRISON Staff Contributor



This summer, a Canadian warship returning from the Middle East was escorted into Halifax harbour by Theodore Tugboat. It made for a perfect snapshot, which unwittingly captured our country in a nutshell: we do have a bit of global muscle left, but the most familiar, cherished images of Canadiana are cartoons.

It seems that the stars have aligned in a rare position, and Canada has been getting a lot of favorable press these days. I was all set to showcase *The Economist's* recent declaration that Canada is "now rather cool" and fawn over the magazine's cover featuring a moose wearing sunglasses. I

was, that is, until *The Chronicle Herald's* Harry Bruce, a self-described dull man, pre-empted me with his column entitled "The true north, strong and free...is cool." So I am daring to go one step further, to declare that Canada is beyond cool. It's downright kitschy—which is all the rage these days. For a so-called middle power, Canuckistan has enough levels of irony and quirkiness and je ne sais quoi to make it a hegemon of kitsch.

Although Canadians do enough navel-gazing to make it a national pastime, we still don't take ourselves entirely seriously, as HMCS. Theodore proved so beautifully.

Exhibit B: the poster children for the Canadian identity, to name a few: Tim Horton's, hockey, and the Mounties (and notice how the Mountie images that spring to mind are not of a muscular cop in a shoot-out with bad guys, but of a goofy-looking lad in starched red sitting atop a horse).

Exhibit C: in keeping with what *The Economist* calls Canada's "social liberalism," we have a prime minister who muses about trying marijuana for fun when he leaves Sussex Drive, and it is taken as par for the course. (Even if it is a Shawinigan golf course that he may have used government funds to pay for, but I digress.)

And finally, Exhibit D, which makes me want to recite

the "I Am Canadian" rant loud enough to break my vocal cords: *The Walrus*. If you haven't heard (and shame on you), this is a brand-new "Canadian" magazine; a northern *New Yorker*, if you will. I use "Canadian" in quotation marks because the editors write that "*The Walrus* is a Canadian magazine, but only by the accident of place and time...As for the hoary old question of 'the Canadian identity,' we promise never to raise it."

Yet with this affirmation, they guarantee that the "Canadian identity" will permeate every page, which it does. Some highlights from the first issue include: concise and bejeweled short pieces from all corners of the world; an analysis of Iranian literature by Margaret Atwood; an article on gay television; an exposé of Canada Steamship Lines; and a valiant plea for the national mammal to change from the beaver to the walrus, "a more benign creature who is decidedly further up the food chain, and whose virtues—like those of our magazine and the country in which it is headquartered—remain to be discovered and appreciated."

And there you have it: a supposedly serious military escorted by a smiling tugboat, and a high-brow magazine seriously extolling the virtues of the walrus. I'm still extremely proud of the maple leaf, and I love this kitschy humour. Our country is a giant yard sale.

## Plagiaristic Probable Cause

LI DONG Staff Contributor

A vile word has been infecting the veins of every syllabus of every arts and humanities class the last few years. The very sound of the word can induce feelings which would rival Freud's notions about castration anxiety. "Plagiarism," and its cheerful cousin, "Intellectual Honesty" have certainly been making their rounds lately. There is no question as to whether or not you've had the terror drilled into you head. The only question is how many times.

Remember when our generation first gave birth to the internet? We taught her to do only deeds of love like spread information, music and, of course, hardcore porn. Well guys, it looks like those bitter adults have finally caught up to us and like a tubby man catching up to an ice cream truck—they're pissed. The grown-ups finally managed to turn our precious baby girl into a raging bitch.

Dalhousie now subscribes to the website that claims to act as a, "powerful deterrent" to plagiarism, "Turnitin.com." The name itself sounds like a double-dog dare to any young punk trying to act cute with his paper. This website basically compares your paper with a bunch of other ones, looking for similarities. My question is: how're they going to account for the words and phrases everyone uses in essays and lab reports? Words such as, "the," "that," and "Casper." I suppose it's ironic how the gouches are using the very tool which sparked the rise in plagiarism against us oh so viciously.

The public announcement of employing this website is, of course, only one of many steps involved in Dalhousie's draconian policies toward even the most minor of plagiaristic offences. Make no mistake about it: Dal considers plagiarism, "the most serious academic offence in the university." Its penalties range from getting an, F in the course to revoking a degree or expulsion. (The severity of the penalties are, of course, based on the charge that the accused is faced with, whether it be first-degree plagiarism, second-degree plagiarism, wordslaughter, etc.)

However, the strangest aspect of Dal's plagiarism awareness program is the way that they're trying to reach out to the students. As if taking up ad space in syllabuses wasn't enough, someone decided to make a no-budget short film to further illustrate the different components of plagiarism. This film (which I was forced to watch for Psych 2000) was, in fact, the very "operational definition"

of corniness. The film should be accessible through your WebCT in the "Information literacy" section and under the jigsaw piece that reads, "researching ethnicity."

The movie starts out promising, taking us through several dramatic newspaper clippings and sound bites concerning plagiarism followed by a statistic saying that almost, "75 per cent of college students own up to some form of academic dishonesty." I had mixed feelings about this statistic because 1) it showed that if I didn't plagiarize, I obviously didn't fit in and thus must not be cool, and 2) earlier that week the same course which forced me to watch the film taught me how statistics are often manipulated to serve the writer's purpose.

Then we are introduced to the story's protagonist, Joanna (whom we are told is in third-year), and the bad-assed antagonist, Rebecca (whom we are told is in first year). We learn that these two women are working together on a joint-paper. Their affinity towards each other as partners probably stems from the fact that they were the only two middle-aged women in the class. Nevertheless, the plot only grows more bizarre from this point. The "students" talk to each other, talk to themselves, and in some scenes we're not sure who they're talking to.

When they're talking with each other, we are treated to crisp and innovative dialogue including:

Joanna: "We should be able to work on different parts of the assignment."

Rebecca: "That sounds good but I really have no idea on how to even start."

However, during these interactions we are constantly interrupted by a cartoon "Stop" sign popping up in the frame, followed inexplicably by the sound of a choo-choo train. The train sound is downright confusing and only distracts us from the piece of advice given by the narrator after every stop sign.

We follow the women's journey toward finishing their paper and are taken through the battles they have with their

inner-demons. Several times, both partners give serious thought to plagiarizing (we know this because we can hear their thoughts), however, when it seems like they are just about to commit the crime the train whistles and stops them.

The film is left very open-ended. We are informed that the women have finished their paper but we can't quite be sure that the evil Rebecca played it legit. And even if she did cheat, we have no idea what punishments they suffered. Thus, the movie lacks any catharsis or denouement and leaves the viewer with one burning question: "train?"

Generally, the plot of the story is reminiscent of the beginning minutes of a poor porno. I half-expected a cable guy or pizza boy to walk in on the ladies at any given moment.

It's probably true that most kids in universities don't take the plagiarism issue seriously enough. We've only heard urban legends about that guy who got flogged after he copied a paragraph or something like that. In the end, Dal students have been thoroughly saturated with sermons about plagiarism. Anything you throw at us now will simply be ridiculed.



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## Halloween Changes Suit

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

Now that Thanksgiving is over and the hoards of gourds have left our tables' centerpieces, it's time to focus our attention on a more pressing issue. With Halloween's ominous preparations now in demand, it is every red-blooded student's responsibility to have the best damn time possible. The only way to accomplish this goal, of course, is to educate oneself on the mysteries of this favorite holiday.

Once upon a long, long time ago, the Catholic Church designated what is now known as "Halloween" to be "All Hallows Eve." This made November 1 "All Hollows Day," or "All Saints Day."

It all began in the fifth-Century B.C. in Celtic Ireland. Summer for these blarney lads and lasses officially ended on October 31. At this time, the holiday was called "Samhain" (sow-eyn), and marked the Celtic New Year. The Celts thought this was the day when the spirit world was given access to communicate with or possess the living. Villagers trying to avoid this kind of bodily invasion would dress up in scary outfits and paint or mask their faces to frighten the ghosts away. Those who didn't escape the spirits, and became possessed despite their defenses would be burned at the stake in the Druidic fire of Ursinach, Ireland.

Trick-or-treating became custom in ninth-century Europe. It was believed at the time that prayer could speed up a soul's deliverance to Heaven. So, on "All Souls Day," Christians would beg for bread and sweets in exchange for the promise of their prayer.

In the Americas, during the 1840's, when Irish immigrants brought the ritual with them, some of the holiday's essence was modified. Pranks, such as turning over neighbors out-houses, became popularized.

**“With Halloween’s ominous preparations now in demand, it is every red-blooded student’s responsibility to have the best damn time possible.”**

The Irish also derived from their folklore the jack-o-lantern custom: Jack was a substance-abusing prankster who one day persuaded Satan to climb a tree. Then, by carving a cross into the trunk, he trapped Satan. Jack bargained the Devil's release in return for the promise that Satan would never tempt him again, but when Jack died, Heaven refused his entrance because of his evil-doings. Hell also rejected him for tricking the Devil. Feeling sorry for him, Satan gave him an ember to light the path of his darkened eternity, which he put in a hollowed turnip to prolong the flame. The famished immigrants of 1840 hollowed out pumpkins (they were much more plentiful than turnips in North America) to keep the jack-o-lantern spirit alive.

In contemporary Halifax, the tradition of Halloween is still one of the most mischievous and exciting times of year—however modified it may be. Haligonians egg or toilet paper properties in order to aggravate ghoulish teachers or loathsome co-workers.

Kids also find merriment in scaring each other with mythical anecdotes. Every Nova Scotian knows the legend of the ghost ship in Halifax Harbour near the Bedford Basin, or the one about the blackened windows of the haunted house up the street from the Camphill Veteran's Hospital.

But perhaps the biggest change that has occurred to the face of Halloween is the evolution of costumes. In fifth-century B.C., Irish of all ages celebrated "Samhain" in vivid and ghoulish outfits, the bigger and more grotesque the better. Today, the tradition seems to have completely turned around. Instead of aiming to scare others away, lots of people dress to attract. Halloween is a welcome excuse for a girl to dress as a Playboy bunny or a sexy, gothic dominatrix. Likewise, males get to choose from a wide array of burly personas, from the raging cowboy, to the hairy lumberjack, all in efforts (and successfully so) to make the female mouth salivate. So, a day that originally marked the liberation of disembodied souls continues today, entailing the slightly more relevant liberation of sexually coy souls. Besides participating in parties and the usual shenanigans, why not try something different this year? Halifax offers a "Halifax Ghost & Graveyards Tour" running every evening at 7p.m. at Cable Wharf. For reservations call (902) 434-4773.

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# Sartorial Eloquence

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, JENNIFER MORRISON **Fashion Police**



Neptune Theatre's production of *The Rocky Horror Show* is extra-terrestrial pornographic sartorial fantasy, no ifs or ands (but lots of butts) about it. In a city not known for its raciness, RHS is an eye-opener and a jaw-dropper, even more so than the Broadway version, which I saw in 2001. With the incessant simulated masturbation, simulated sex, and authentic pelvic thrusts and spanking, the cast performs abuzz with pre-orgasmic energy.

And the costumes, designed by Arthur Penson, reaffirm that clothes are eternally sexier than nakedness. What

else can explain the rampant desire to engage in sexual acts with a bit of something still left on—a kinky costume, perhaps? *The Rocky Horror Show* uses costumes to tap into universal sexual S&M fantasies—still standard pornographic fare, but now moving into the mainstream. The old-school bellhops wear tilted pillbox hats with lacy thigh highs. The androgynous Frank 'n' Furter is clad in leather, fishnets, red fingerless gloves, and feathers. Columbia (who wears in sequins in the movie) wears leather too, reminiscent of Madonna's Jean-Paul Gaultier cone bra era, while Magenta, with her "girls gone wild" fro and French maid uniform, is too dirty to do a maid's work.

Columbia and Magenta are a theatre lover's wet dream. They writhe around on stage like sleek sado-masochists, but they perform for a mostly middle-aged audience, whose members blush, but know that what they see on stage is, to some extent, played out in their bedrooms in the dead of night.

Even the accessories—flashlights, microphones always at the ready, a distant rocket ship—are phallic symbols. There is no nudity, but it's not necessary. In *Rocky Horror*, sex and style go hand in hand, or hand moving slowly up leg. The raunch is not gratuitous, but represents Frank 'n' Furter's command to "give yourself over to absolute pleasure."

## Halifamous

JASON WALSH **Staff Contributor**

The new school year is well under way, but there's something far more exciting just beginning here in Halifax. For years, Halifax has been the fortunate home to an incredible underground hip-hop scene. This scene, however, is notoriously overlooked. This is precisely why local hip-hop heads are hyped about the start of Halifamous.

Halifamous, the brainchild of Greg Bates, a second-year SMU student, is a webpage designed to be a place to discover and promote Halifax hip-hop. "[Halifamous] is something that the East Coast of Canada really needs... it's going to help local artists have a home," says Brian Pelrine, known on the decks as DJ IV (pronounced eye-VEE). IV has been spinning records and turning heads for a few years now, and is one of many local artists who see Halifamous.com as "the place people [will] go... when [they hear] about talent on the East Coast."

On the whole, Halifax hip-hop has not gone completely unrecognized. Buck 65, a long-standing local artist, has secured a record deal with Warner, and tours around the world. Classified, whose single "Unexpected" made it into medium rotation on Much Music, has released *Trial and Error*, an album well received by critics and fans alike. Local hip-hop pioneer JoRun makes beats for a wide range of

artists.

And while Buck 65, Classified, JoRun, Skratz Bastid, and Josh Martinez have all made a mark outside of Halifax, there are plenty of other artists who many consider deserving of recognition. Artists, DJ's, and groups, such as Brokin Language, Prolific, Spesh K, 365, J-Bru, DJ IV, Jay Bizzy, and Universal Soul can all be found on Halifamous.com.

Already in the works is a Halifamous.com exclusive compilation with unreleased tracks and original collaborations. The compilation will be available as a free download off the page within the next couple of months.

Although in its early stages, Halifamous promises to eventually expand, with live shows, merchandise, compilations and a solid forum for people to go to find out news regarding local hip-hop.

So go out and listen to the amazing local talent, or check them out on Halifamous.com. As DJ IV said, "It's Hal's turn in the worldly cycle... out west has been blowing up for a while, and now, courtesy of a few cats, there's some light being shed on this side of the country."



## Report Card

### The Dears

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Date:** October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Venue:** The Marquee

**Reporter:** Ryan Potter

**Stage Presence:** B

**Audience Reaction:** A

**Sound:** A+

**Effort:** B

**Get-it-on Ability:** B

The Dears are Canada's best band. I'm not so sure they all love each other off stage or at home, but they have the best collection of songs going. The emotion and the love and the suffering that is present in Murray Lightburn's lyrics, and The Dears' music on all of their recordings, bled through into their tired performance on Friday. The Dears weren't lethargic, they just didn't seem to have enough gas in the tank to make this show (and especially their all-ages show on Saturday) remarkable. Excellent musicianship and an honest effort made the show memorable, though. If you haven't heard The Dears, go buy, steal or borrow any of their albums. You won't regret it.

## Burn Baby Burn

**The Warlocks** • "Baby Blue"

**The Distillers** • "Drain The Blood"

**Future Kings Of Spain** • "Hanging Around"

**Billy Talent** • "Try Honesty"

**The Strokes** • "Meet Me In The Bathroom"

**Hawksley Workman** • "Tonight Romanticize the Automobile"

**The Rapture** • "House of Jealous Lovers"

**Outkast** • "Hey Ya"

**Probot w/ Lemmy** • "Shake Your Blood"

**Travis** • "Reoffender"

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# Artist Profile: Warsawpack

TRISTAN CLEVELAND Staff Contributor

Since Warsawpack began to form in 1998, they've been getting attention all across Canada for both their distinctive sound and their provocative lyrics. Every phrase in every song drips with politics. On their new album, *Stocks and Bombs*, lead vocalist Lee Raback raps about everything from genetic engineering to the war on drugs.

The band isn't just politics, though—it's also good music. By fusing funk, jazz, rock and hip-hop, they have created a sound that is truly their own. Lee Raback spits angry lyrics into the mike while classically trained horns play funk/jazz with their garage rock veteran rhythm section. It makes for a unique experience when listening to their CDs. The Gazette's Tristan Cleveland had to chance to sit down and interact with Raback about his band, Warsawpack.

**T.C.:** Your band has a very diverse musical background. This gives it its distinct sound, but does it ever create problems when writing?

**L.R.:** Not really. Minor set backs like how we're going to phrase something, but not disagreement. If we don't like something, then we usually all agree. It's hard to describe...we don't disagree about concept, just how to phrase some things.

**T.C.:** On the G7 website, your biography is satirically written in the form of a terrorist report. Tell me about what prompted that idea.

**L.R.:** Yeah, I wrote that actually. We needed a new bio, so I read a whole bunch of the old ones. It's a very boring genre, you know, just not entertaining. They always seem so wank. I hate hype, and that's essentially all they are. I found that a bio is basically just another form of marketing, so I starting thinking about another format that wasn't so boring. Don't know how it dawned on me. I guess the way it's written in speaks volumes in itself. Form is content after all, or so they teach you in high school.

**T.C.:** I read that your group met at a party. Is that true?

**L.R.:** In part. I met the then guitarist Scott Rankin at a party. He was playing at that time with our rhythm section. The band is essentially made of three groups of people who knew each other. The guitarist and the rhythm section knew each other and were doing garage rock at the time. The horns knew each other, and the DJ and myself knew each other. I met Scott at a party and we got together. The horns came after. There's actually been a change of personnel—Scott Rankin's not with us anymore.



**T.C.:** The sound of your band isn't exactly intuitive, how did you come by it?

**L.R.:** After we met at the party, we started...well we were basically trying to construct rhymes over organic beats. We knew we didn't want to be rap rock, and honestly we wanted something new. We weren't really drawing the idea of the band from anyone in specific. We wanted to match hip-hop with something more traditional. When we were theorizing about it at that point we were thinking soul or funk so we were looking for sax and flute. Our bass player (Jaroslav Wassmann) saw Simon (Oczkowski, tenor sax, flute) busking downtown. He was just, I think, 17 at the time. So Jaroslav asked him to come down and jam with us, and that's when it started to take the shape that it is now.

**T.C.:** How did your affiliation with G7 begin?

**L.R.:** When we recorded GDP, we did it independently. It was painful, long and expensive and we didn't have the money to do it all in one piece. We could only do sections of it at a time. We realized that recording it completely independently was not really possible. Major labels were trying to play footsies with us, but we didn't want to go that route. We wanted control over our sound more than we wanted money. We put together a package and

sent it out to a few independent labels, and G7 was at the top of their list. They do lean towards a more punk tradition, or rock, or folksy Canadian, like the Weakerthans, but we definitely liked their ethics and the way they do business.

**T.C.:** It must be nice to be with a label with such a strong political agenda, especially with organizers like Propagandi (political punkers who started The G7 Welcoming Committee label).

**L.R.:** Oh yeah, and I think the politics really lends itself to hip-hop. It's a medium that gives you a lot of power to say what you want. There are more and more people out there doing that, and I think the more it gets around and in the club scenes the better.

**T.C.:** Your lyrics are consistently political, even more so than most of the other punk bands on the G7 label. Are you ever tempted to write about your own personal matters?

**L.R.:** Not for this band. I'm capable of writing in a conscious vein that isn't so barky or bite-y. I do have those sorts of lyrics in me. I wouldn't do that to Warsawpack, though. It has a fairly unique voice. It's definitely the way I feel best. Maybe eight albums from now when we're all withered and decrepit and we don't have a million dollars yet we'll write some sappy crap.

**T.C.:** How much does the rest of your band contribute to the content and concept of your lyrics?

**L.R.:** They give support. They egg me on. I've stolen a couple of lyrics from the guys. Hemispherical pistons, that's Matt's line. I'll come to them and ask them if this is too much, too hateful, too violent. Before it even gets to that I ask myself if something's going to far. Basically they're pretty gun-ho. I don't think they've ever said to me "don't say that" or "that's too much."

*Warsawpack are playing at The Attic on November 1.*

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## Tigers Run Over the Competition

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor

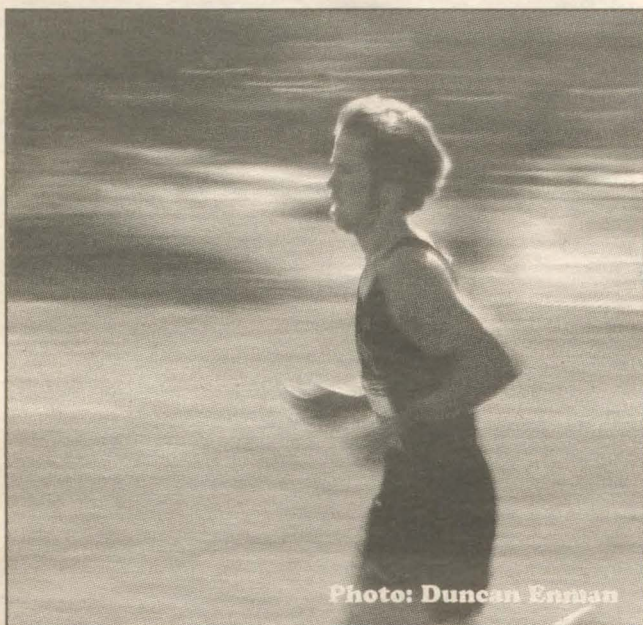


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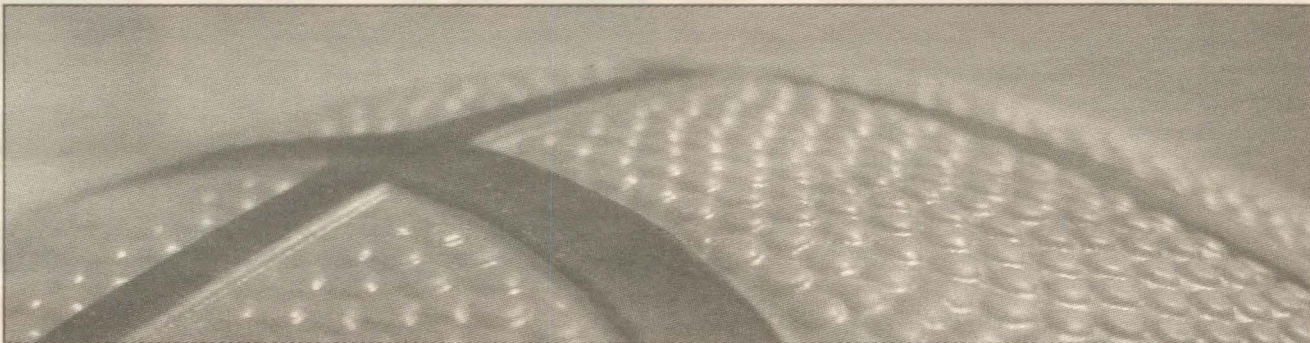
The Dalhousie cross-country team had another extremely successful weekend, as they won both the men's and women's team titles on Saturday. Stanley Chaisson won the men's event in a time of 25:51.86, beating teammate Paul Chafe by just over 25 seconds. Also placing for the men were Curtis Archibald in 6<sup>th</sup>, Mihira Lakshaman in 11<sup>th</sup> and Michael Wadel in 14<sup>th</sup>.

The women also dominated the standings, with Hilary Burn taking second place and Rayleen Hill taking fourth. Also in the top 10 were Ellen Vessie and Anne Myers taking eighth and ninth respectively. Finishing out the placements were Cathy French in 12<sup>th</sup> place and Leanna MacLean. Superstar Janice Ashworth sat out this weekend in order to rest up for the Atlantic University Sports (AUS) championships.

Both teams have been looking strong all year as they look ahead to the AUS championships on Oct 26 at Universite de Moncton. This will truly be Dal's chance to shine, as they are looking good to place high in the rankings and qualify athletes for the Canadian Interuniversity Sports championships.

## Basketball Preview

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor



The Tigers will start the 2003-04 season with eight new faces on the 15-man roster. The team will be anchored by last year's AUS scoring leader Nick Donald, as well as sophomores Monte Francois and Tim O'Connor, as they look to challenge in a tough division featuring St. F.X., Acadia and Memorial. Although Dalhousie will feature a small line-up, the Tigers will look to play an up-tempo game both offensively and defensively as they utilize their team speed and depth to their advantage.

The team will travel to Laval to play the top five ranked University of Laval, as well as Calgary and P.E.I. Two trips to Ontario and the competitive Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament round out the exhibition schedule. The key to success over the tough exhibition season, as well as the early part of the regular season, will be continual improvement, as the team hopes to come together in time to make the AUS play-offs.

In addition to all the new faces on the floor for the Tigers, there are several new faces on the sidelines. Second year coach John Campbell is joined by Ken Friedman, who will assume the role of Associate Head Coach. Ken brings with him over 30 years of NCAA and NBA experience to the Tigers staff. Dalhousie graduates Scott James and Darryl Johnson jump to the university ranks following successful tenures at both the high school and club levels. Kirk Reid a recent graduate of McGill University and former league all-star for the Redmen rounds out the staff.

The team will be hoping to put their last season—a 5-15 record with a few bright spots—behind them. This past

weekend, they showed definite possibilities as they beat defending AUS champs UPEI in a two-and-a-half hour long battle. The game spanned two overtime periods and only a last second three-pointer by Chad Smith won the game 80-79. Nick Donald had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Tim O'Connor had 22 points with 18 rebounds to lead Dalhousie. This win put them in the finals of the Rogers AT&T NCAA showcase.

The Tigers were over matched by the Division One Maine Black Bears in the final, losing 92-63. The Black Bears scored from outside all night long, draining 15 of 23 three pointers. Dalhousie need not fret though, unfortunately only around 1000 people saw them lose, as this event was very poorly attended, probably due to it falling on the Thanksgiving weekend when many people are with their families getting stuffed with turkey.

The Dal team looks as if they should be able to improve on last year as this preseason win over the Panthers speaks volumes for their off-season preparations. Here's hoping the Tigers can leap higher, run faster, and dunk the crap out of the competition this year

### The 2003-2004 Team

- 10 – David Piers – PG – Truro
- 11 – Dan Bustillo – PG – Richmond
- 12 – Nick Donald – GD – Ammon
- 13 – Marcus Verdu – PG – Timmins
- 15 – Tim O'Connor – Forward – Vancouver
- 20 – Mike Budreski – GD – Halifax
- 21 – Matt Brooks – Forward – Dartmouth
- 22 – Dion Walcott – GD – Toronto
- 23 – Chad Smith – GD – Halifax
- 25 – Ryan deWinter – Forward – Sussex
- 33 – Adrian Turchet – Forward – Toronto
- 34 – Josh Langford – GD – Riverport
- 35 – Hugh Mullally – Forward – Charlottetown
- 42 – Monte Francois – GD – Scarborough
- 44 – Drew Stratton – Forward – Quispamsis



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# Playoff Time Again

JAMIE ARTKIN Sports Contributor

I always seem to know when the baseball playoffs are approaching. I don't even have to look at the calendar. Three signs it is that time of year again:

1. The Blue Jays go on a tear and rip off 10 straight wins. This always drives Torontonians nuts, because they wonder where all this enthusiasm was during the previous 142 games.

2. The Phillies great season falls apart. It's always fun to listen to my sister each March as she predicts that they will "Go all the way." Every year it almost happens, until they collapse faster than a freshman after a Thursday night visit to Pitchman's.

3. Game six, October 25, 1986 gets revisited. Boston fans wonder if this will be the year that their beloved team can break the curse of Bill Buckner. ESPN writer Bill Simmons begins his yearly complaints that the Sox have no bullpen, no third baseman, or no something else.

These things signal the beginning of race to the World Series. Few things in the world of sports excite me the way that playoff baseball does. I don't know if it is the crack of the bats, the red, white and blue banners that hang in the stadiums or simply hearing Fox analyst Tim McCarver say Jorge Posada's name. And this year brings with it a special piece of magic that could materialize. The Chicago Cubs defeated the Atlanta Braves to play the Marlins in the National League Championship Series, while the Boston Red Sox have



advanced to play the hated Yankees in the ALCS.

With this an interesting question has arisen. Are we in the midst of seeing one of the most exciting World Series this decade, or, dare I say, ever? Having baseball's World Championship held at Boston's Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Field will bring with it even more excitement. Think of the potential match-ups that we could see—Kerry Wood against Pedro Martinez, Sammy Sosa against Trot "The Hammer" Nixon.

I'm getting giddy just thinking about it. What else could

bring this season to a more climatic finish, a Yankees/Marlins World Series? I think I would rather endure a Trading Spaces marathon on TLC than watch that bout.

The tension builds as the outs become harder to come by. Dreams are lived and lost as teams pull on their golf shirts to begin the long off-season and think about how they could have done it differently.

The Red Sox vs. The Cubs. Neither team has won in a long, long time, but a guy can hope, can't he?

# Women Rucking Hard

JAMIE ARTKIN Sports Contributor

With temperatures that made Halifax feel more like Anchorage, Alaska, I watched the Dalhousie women's rugby club put forth an effort at practice last week which would make many think that there was an Olympic gold medal on the line. A group which features students between the ages of 18-31, this veteran team has gotten off to the hottest start in Dalhousie history. Head Coach Glenn Johnston has led his charges to a 5-1 start in only his third year as the leader of this squad.

With players like National Team recruit Elana Middlekamp and former Canadian Interuniversity Sport leading scorer Jess Young, Johnston has an experienced group of girls who are poised to capture their first championship in this school's illustrious history.

But this success hasn't happened overnight. After enduring a winless first season, Coach Johnston was quick to point out that it wasn't the amount of wins that mattered to him, but the improvement that the team made. Season two under Johnston saw the more seasoned team score

more points in a single contest than during all of the previous season's games combined.

Having the opportunity to view one of the girls' practices was an experience. They were running play patterns which could probably confuse some of our math professors, but made them look simple once they reached speeds that would make Olympic sprinter Maurice Greene look average.

"Our success," Johnston said, "can be traced to the leadership that many of our older players provide." With four students in the law program and another in medicine, experience isn't an issue on this team. Following the patterns of such great groups like Duke University's basketball team and Miami's football team, Coach Johnston has established his team around a core group of leaders which have led the way this season.

Athletes Nicole Baker and Mandy

Bouchard have played with such strength and poise that they would make Haley Wickenheiser jealous. However, finishing the season off strong will be no easy task considering what lies on the road ahead. Teams all over the Maritimes are gunning to have a piece of the most successful girl's rugby team this season.

There are no Rasheed Wallace like attitudes or criminal records and certainly no front page accusations on ESPN.com. Just a group of girls out to have fun and showcase the pride they have for the sport all of them truly adore.

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## A Tale of Three Geese

By: Chris Fedora



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving weekend. Now, I know geese and turkeys don't have a whole lot in common except for the fact that they're both birds and are incredibly stupid, but seeing that big turkey on my table this past weekend reminded me of three unfortunate geese from my home town of Sydney River. It's the sad tale of Scooby, Dooby, and Quackers.

Anyone who has a lawn (front or back) has had to deal with the burden of dandelions at some point or another. Most people tend to ignore the problem and hope it goes away. Others will mow the lawn incessantly in an attempt to hide the problem. Still others will use expensive weed fighters to

try and eradicate these pests. Now, there are a few individuals however who choose to break away from the norm, try and think outside the box, like to leave things up to Mother Nature even. One of these such people lives in my home town. I won't mention any names because a friend of mine from this family goes to Dalhousie and I would like to spare him any humiliation. For his part, my friend knew nothing of the tale I am about to tell, until I filled him in.

My friend's brother had decided one day that the only sure fire way to deal with the dandelion problem was to introduce geese into the equation. He believed, while geese aren't normally thought of as dandelion eaters, they could be trained to get rid of the weed problem. With a little research he found that this was already a practiced method of grooming your lawn, as well as other crops and gardens. It seemed that geese were apt to eat unwanted grass and weeds and, for some reason, leave the desired plants alone. For more information on this process, visit: <http://muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/agguides/poultry/g08922.htm>

This is not at all the point of my story. My tale leads into darker areas than this. You see, once this remarkable idea entered this person's brother's head, he immediately went out and purchased three baby geese. There names were Scooby, Dooby, and Quackers. These three unsuspecting birds were put through a rigorous training schedule in order to teach them to eat only dandelions. They performed incredibly and

soon became full grown dandelion eating machines. The weed problem had been taken care of, the only problem was that it had been taken care of too well. The geese were out of dandelions to eat. One could think of many obvious solutions to this problem such as: reduce the number of geese, train them to eat something else, or even buy them food. But, no, this guy decided to plant more dandelions to feed his birds. So now, this family is bombarded with the antics of three incredibly dumb birds, and their weed problem has intentionally gotten worse. I forgot to mention that each of these birds produced five pounds of waste per day; that's fifteen pounds of waste total per day!

This fiasco went on for a few months while the rest of the household had to put up with the annoying birds. One family member discovered they were, for some reason, scared of the color blue, and began chasing them around with a blue colored stick every time they got on her nerves. At one point this person chased the birds around the house and out around the backyard for ten minutes, no so much because they were annoying but because it was becoming a game.

The plan was to let the birds feed until they became a sizeable weight to slaughter and eat. I have no idea what they were planning on doing with the dandelion problem they had created after the birds were gone. As it turns out, two of the birds were sold, possibly, to someone else with a weed problem, and the third goose was killed and cooked and digested. I could only hope the remains of the fallen fowl were burnt and its ashes were spread across the very lawn it had strived to protect. This article is dedicated to the memory of Scooby, Dooby, and Quackers.

## The Greatest Job Ever. Period.

By: Mike Hogan

This past summer and fall, I have had the pleasure of working on an innovative research project for one of the hospitals here in Halifax. The project itself involves designing a new, never-before-seen, medical instrument and software. With these, doctors are able to evaluate a serious condition with traumatic side-effects. I am helping to improve the quality of life for the hundreds, if not the thousands, of unfortunate victims of this condition. In addition to overseeing the design of the instrument and software, I have gained invaluable experience by setting the agenda and prepare the minutes for the regular meetings with the project team, staying in close contact with our industry partners (including an all-expenses paid trip to Toronto back in July), and working with an amazing team of doctors and engineers. We hope to apply for a patent very shortly and then market the product to hospitals worldwide. On top of all that I just said, the pay in the summer was excellent and I get to work on the project for my Senior Year Design Project and after I finish school in December, until it's done and tested!

So what is the instrument, you ask? Well, let me tell you then. It is, in fact, an anal probe. That's right kids; an ANAL PROBE! It's about 2 cm in diameter and gets inserted up to 5 cm into the anus. It measures the strength (via pressure) and images the muscle structure (via ultrasound) of the anal-sphincter muscle complex. The software displays the pressure and ultrasound data as a 3D structure over time. I won't tell you much about the serious condition the probe

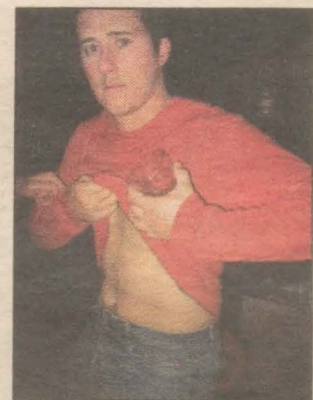


and software are evaluating, but I will tell you that it involves women and childbirth. (I highly recommend a C-section for all you mothers to be.) The probe construction and software implementation will be done by January 2004, at which time we will begin testing and refinement of both. I know I could talk about the probe for hours but I think I'll leave it at that.

The picture you see is of me with a replica rubber asshole. Email me at the address mentioned below if you want to know what it's used for.

So I think that I have the greatest job/project ever! Agree with me? Or do you think your job beats mine? Think it's the vilest thing you've ever heard of? Got any other comments? Want to volunteer to be a test subject? Want to go out with me? Then email [mshogan@dal.ca](mailto:mshogan@dal.ca) and tell me why I just made an ass of myself. I'll post the most creative replies.

## Contest Winner



This Week's Winner

"Well Ladies, Here He Is, Billy 'Fabio' Clyburn"

This lucky guy wins a prize, which can be picked up Thursday night at the T-Room. Just look for any of our fabulous staff.

## T-ROOM Corner

