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February 9th to February 16th, 2006

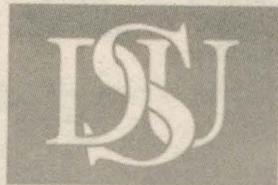
ISSUE 138-19

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1862

Gazette

the annual Gazette
Sex
issue

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



DALHOUSIE
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DSU Annual Elections Begin

DSU Elections:

Nominations for the DSU general elections opened on Monday February 6th and will close on Thursday February 16th. If you would like to run in the elections you must be nominated by at least 25 Dalhousie Students. Nomination forms will be available for pick up at the SUB Info Desk, in the DSU offices, or online at elections.dsu.dal.ca. On February 17th from 1:00 to 4:30 there is a mandatory candidate's meeting. Valid reasons for non attendance must be submitted to the CRO 48 hours prior to the meeting and are subject to approval.

Campaigning begins on Monday February 27th and ends on Monday March 6th. The new elections regulations propose significant changes to the poster regulations so that all postering will be taken care of by the elections committee. Voting for the elections runs from March 7th to 9th. Another feature of the proposed election regulations is that candidate's names will now be placed on the ballot in random order and will be re-randomized for each voter. This change was to address the concern that the ballots were unfair when candidate's names were placed in alphabetical order.

If you are looking to get involved with the DSU, the elections are your opportunity. Besides the four executive positions, there will also be Board of Governors and Senate Representatives elected. If you want to know more about any of the positions, visit the elections office in room 214 of the SUB or talk to any of the current executive or council members.

Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations:

From February 6th to 10th, ANSSA is conducting a public awareness campaign to promote post secondary education. We will be running ads on CTV all week, as well as holding a press conference at the Nova Scotia Legislature on Tuesday morning.

The Nova Scotia Department of Education has given ANSSA three of five student seats at a national summit on post secondary education from February 23rd to 24th in Ottawa. This summit is the first meeting focused on starting a dialogue between the provinces and the federal government around a national vision for post secondary education in Canada, something that both our provincial lobby group ANSSA and our national lobby group the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations have been asking for, for a number of years. This is the first time that students have had a voice at a conference of this type. For more details on ANSSA, the campaign, or the summit please visit www.anssa.ca or email VP Education, Jen Bond at dsuved@dal.ca.

Winter Carnival:

Winter Carnival got off to a great start with the Munro Day ski trip. We had five hundred Dal students on fresh snow at Wentworth and it didn't start to rain until we were leaving. We couldn't have asked for a better day.

Also as a part of Winter Carnival we have Charity Ball coming up on Friday Feb. 10th. There will be a silent auction with great prizes from local business and all proceeds from this event are going to the Canadian Cancer Society. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the SUB Info Desk.

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

At the Grawood we have the Winter Olympics - Opening Ceremonies on the big screen on Friday Feb. 10th starting at 2 pm. We also have **In Flight Safety with Adam Puddington & The Proof** coming up on Feb. 15th. More info on both of these events can be found on www.grawood.com.

If you are starting to look for a summer job be sure to check out the Summer Job Fair on February 15th in the McInnes Room of the SUB. The fair runs from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more info check out www.summerjobfair.com.

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

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Sex, I say, isn't just about getting it on

CHRIS LAROCHE
Editor-in-Chief

A good chunk of this week's issue of *The Gazette*, as you may have noticed, is dedicated to discussing, analyzing, and exploring sex.

So-called "sex issues" are a campus media staple.

(To pull a *totally* random example out of my hat, *The Gazette* has been publishing one annually for at least ten years).

Normally, the format has been simple: include a bunch of first-person narratives about relationships, put in a few raunchy articles painting differences between the sexes in broad strokes (include puns), and throw something on the cover that's as *Playboy* as the print shop will allow.

With any luck, this year's sex issue will be different. And while I haven't decided to kill the cliché and forgo a sex issue altogether, *The Gazette's* sex-mandate is certainly different this time around.

Instead of focusing on sex the *verb*, this issue adopts a broader definition of sex in a social context.

It's a definition of sex that includes gender identity, the changing nature of relationships, and the dangers of sexual harassment.

And it's a definition that readers should take seriously — because in the face of our *MTV/glossy* mag-laden popular culture, it is not being given the attention it needs.

Allow me to extrapolate. "Sex," U.S. novelist Henry Miller once wrote, "is one of the nine reasons for reincarnation... The other eight are unimportant."

Miller — not actually a believer in reincarnation — did much to liberate sexual discussion in the uptight Americana of the 1930s. Famous for crafting blends of fiction, non-fiction and polemic into seamless works of literature, many of Miller's best works, including *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn*, were banned from the U.S. on grounds of obscenity. The public needed to be protected from taboo materials, U.S. courts ruled, and Miller's works clearly crossed the line between artistic expressions and obscene commodities.

Although the ban on *Tropic of Capricorn* was overturned in a 1964 U.S. Supreme Court Case, guidelines establishing jurisprudence for obscenity cases weren't established until 1973's *Miller v. California* (an unrelated Miller).

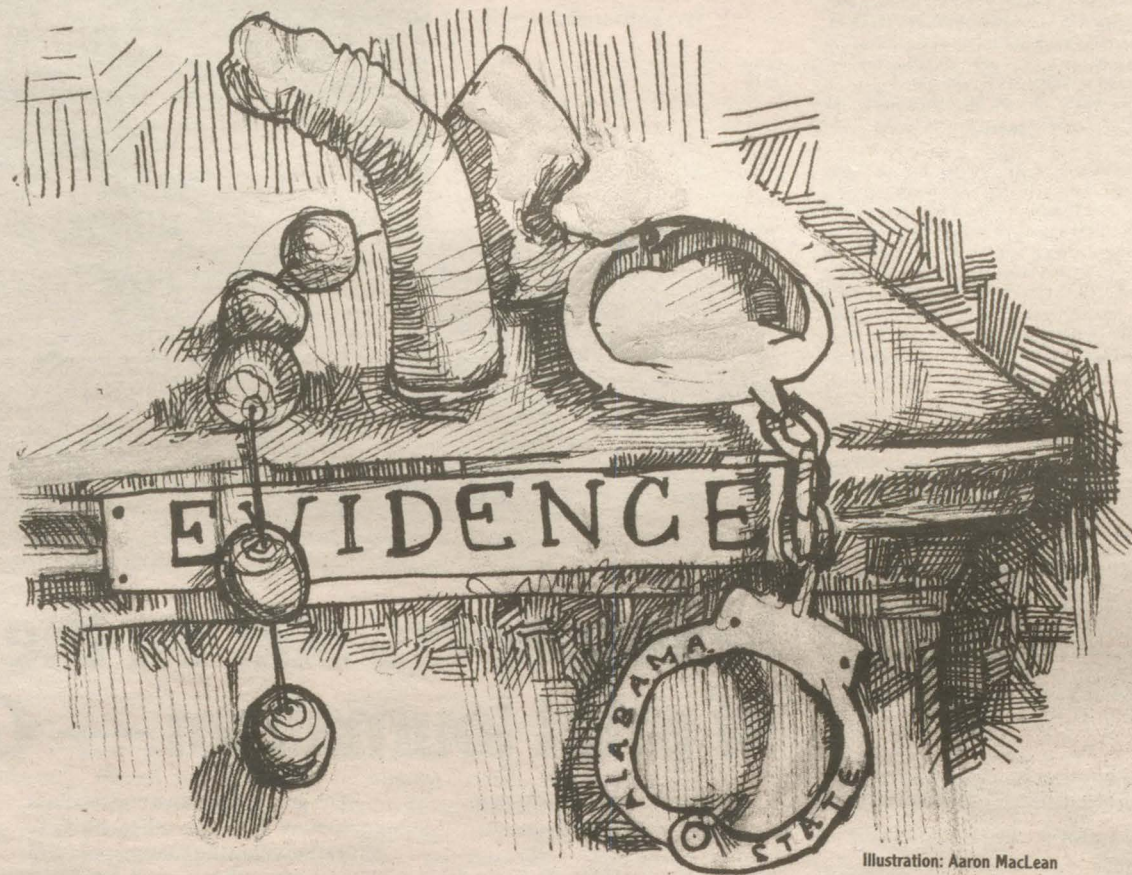


Illustration: Aaron MacLean

To be sure, North American society is arguably less repressive now than it was in the days of *Tropic of Capricorn*.

But as the recent embassy fires in Denmark prove, pushing the boundaries of freedom of expression is often dangerous, foolhardy, and never goes without consequences.

Sex has long been a bastion of taboos, its walls have long been targets of the establishment. Behaviorally, everything from gender-based segregation to the legality of anal sex (still considered a misdemeanor in 10 states and a felony in 12, with reasons ranging from "Crime Against Nature" to just plain "Buggery") has been legislated, debated, banned and sometimes repealed. Films have been censored, works of art have been barred from public display, and thousands of books — like Miller's — have been banned.

Many of them eventually got through, and, in most cases, society is probably the better for it.

But what made *Tropic of Cancer* so offensive to audiences in 1930 —

whereas the book is now welcomed as a literally classic in most contemporary Western societies? Is it that society's definition of "obscenity" has changed to accommodate?

And at what point is society too accommodating?

Audience, it seems, is everything. By 1930's standards, modern audiences are awash in sexual abhorrence. The average Britney Spears video — or Super Bowl commercial — would certainly make denizens of Miller's age blush. But while socialites of the depression era could certainly attend a local peep show, pick up a prostitute or attend a Burlesque production (which, in 1930, were quickly being shut down), Ms. Spears' bare midriff exposed to a mass audience would have been judged obscene.

But to modern audiences, Spears seems to be perfectly acceptable. Indeed, our capitalist taste for exposed flesh has literally flooded all forms of media with the work of the virtual pop culture aesthetic. Even print media, which normally prides itself on content over image, has been found

expendable in the global quest for glitter. Next time you visit a news rack, take a look at how many *FHM/Maxim/Teen Vogue/Seventeen*-type magazines fill the shelves. Then look at other 'more serious' magazines — try *Esquire*, or even *The Economist* — and count the glossy photoshopped images.

(Or just compare this copy of *The Gazette* to one published ten years ago).

To be sure, glossy photos in a magazine doesn't necessarily mean sex is being used to sell it. But sex, someone once famously said, does indeed sell.

(More specifically: sex sells, especially well if it's young, airbrushed, and on the cover of your magazine).

The irony here is that in portraying sex in purely aesthetic terms, popular culture is slowly sapping it of its most powerful possession: identity.

Whether you believe in re-incarnation or not, our friend Miller had a point.

Sex is a fundamental part of human life. And although Miller was

certainly talking about sex the *verb*, his statement is compatible with a definition of sex that considers a broader meaning — a meaning in which sex becomes a duality of sorts, a biological seed that taps into our animal drives, compelling us to lust and procreate, and also the very part of us that separates human from the rest of life on earth, compelling us to love (and, of course, procreate).

Sex is, to be frank, as much about our need for love juice as it is about who we are as individuals, how we express ourselves, and how others react to that expression.

For an example, think of Humphrey Bogart or Frank Sinatra. Would these men attract others the way they did, male or female, if they worked day jobs in offices instead of jetting around the world, talking the talk and sweeping women off of their feet? Consider men and women in positions of authority — would Belinda Stornach garner the attention that she does if she wasn't a rich, powerful and comparatively distinguished woman?

(And how is it that the simple curl of cigarette smoke — or the sauntering tones of a saxophone — can immediately evoke a sense of sensual voyeurism, an anonymous state of sexuality in which only the intellectual elements of sex are evident?)

Sexual attraction indeed has very real physical ramifications. But sex is ultimately derived from the mind, and how it combines physical and intellectual presence. Sex is a social phenomenon that follows us around as long as we interact with other human beings. How we define ourselves sexually — be this through our gender, our attraction to others, how we dress, how we think, or even how we kiss — inevitably changes that interaction.

Books like *The Tropic of Cancer* are important to this broader definition of sex because it needs to be discussed more, in the open, and its adherents must not fear of persecution.

In an age when homophobia is still rampant — despite Ang Lee's best efforts — women are still not treated equally, and public sexual discourses are still widely discouraged, such a dialogue should not be forgotten and buried underneath stacks of *FHM* and *Seventeen*.

Audience, after all, is everything; an audience that prefers image over content and ignorance over discussion will eventually find itself in dire straights. Confused, it might end up banning *Tropic of Cancer* all over again. And we don't want that, do we?



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THE FINE PRINT

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

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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

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All contributions in this issue of The Gazette were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Neal Cody, Anna Fong, Aaron Gillis, Lindsey Hepburn, Meghan Low, Matt MacLellan, Dawn MacPhee, Jena Martin, Deborah Mensu-Bonsu, Chelsea Murray, Dave Wentworth, Karen Orton, Dana Massey, Christina Stefanski, Ian Bickis, Ray Corkum, Moira Brady, Laura Day, Laura Trethewey, Angelica Blenich, Hilary Tittley, and Danielle Gaudet.

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

EL CORRECCIÓN

The cover photo of issues 138-18 and 138-17 were incorrectly attributed to Rosalie Hanlon. Both cover images were actually taken by resident Photo Editor, Rafal Andronowski. The Streeter question in 138-18 should have read "What is your favorite bar" not "m." (The employee responsible was hopped up on cold medication to help fight off a genetically modified cold-war era flu virus). We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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"Newspapers are the foundation stone of journalism," said Edward Greenspon, editor-in-chief of The Globe and Mail. "They need to act in the best interest of their readers and serve as a public watchdog." / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Newspapers still on the top rack of print journalism — Globe editor

DEBORAH MENSAH-BONSU
News Contributor

Canadian newspapers haven't yet lost the battle for supremacy in today's online age, said *The Globe and Mail's* editor-in-chief during a speech at the University of King's College on Feb. 3.

"It's the biggest challenge newspapers have faced in 400 years," said Edward Greenspon, who addressed students, teachers and community members.

In revenue terms, *The Globe and Mail* is eight or nine times larger than *GlobeandMail.Com*, he said, but other print publications across Canada are suffering worse fates.

"Revenues of the web will be greater than that of the newspaper," he said. "Generally, this industry is in a long decline. Many publishers are responding to this by trying to milk the cow on the way to the slaughterhouse."

Publishers are cutting expenditures and staff, said Greenspon, and journalists who specialize in one area of news are being substituted with generalists who don't have the any specific expertise.

And with the immediacy offered by the Internet, the time to report on a story has been cut back, often reducing the quality of news coverage.

"Sometimes you have to hold back stories that aren't ready," he said. "But being first is very important. Being second and better is not as important as it may look."

Greenspon said it's a struggle deciding whether to give a scoop away on the web or wait to put it into the paper.

Nevertheless he said the web doesn't ultimately spell "gloom and doom" for newspapers,

The goal isn't to have one medium competing with the other, he said, but rather allowing newspapers and the web to work in tandem, drawing on the strengths of each — a newspaper is a 24-hour check-up and the web is a continuous source of news throughout the day.

Greenspon also said the web changes the dynamic of the rapport between readers and journalists, which has created a "horizontal relationship." It allows for more feedback on articles and also encourages readers to share their opinions with one another, he said.

In January alone, the *Globe* had more than 270,000 comments posted on their website, he said.

The Internet also opens up possibilities to tell stories in new and different ways that have yet to be discovered, he said.

And while the web is about selection, the majority of online information isn't necessarily journalism, said Greenspon.

"You can look for the Greater Toronto Area and type in GTA, and then get something about Grand Theft Auto," he said, laughing. "This is where newspapers need to differentiate themselves. You don't get all the clutter of the Internet."

Newspapers are about filtration and distillation, yet still offer more information than broadcast, said Greenspon.

The Globe and Mail has remained successful by acknowledging that the words in journalism are very important, but these days, it's also about photo treatment and design elements, said Greenspon.

"People think visual elements will kill print," he said. "[But] editing can make a page sparkle and draw people

into the story."

Kim Kierans, the director of journalism at King's, said she appreciates the promising future of online journalism but also said newspapers are here to stay.

"We were one of the first universities in Canada to start an online program. We recognized very early on that online was the way to go," she said. "We try to integrate it into our other mediums. It's to be embraced."

But people still want credible, in-depth reporting, said Kierans, and that's what newspapers provide.

Dean Jobb, assistant professor of journalism at King's, said the web has to continue to grow in importance because it has so many benefits, but he's not willing to give up on print.

"I'm not ready to throw in the towel on newspapers just yet, and from what I could tell neither is [Greenspon]."

"People are under the impression that they can just Google it or go online," said Jobb. "But what are they getting and how reliable is it?"

Greenspon said it's essential to change with the times and remain open to new ideas, without losing sight of fundamentals — generating stories that explore what's really happening and what it means.

"Newspapers are the foundation stone of journalism," he said. "They need to act in the best interest of their readers and serve as a public watchdog."

No matter the medium or the size of the story, the principles remain the same, he said.

"Journalism is a state of mind, a way of looking at the world. It's not just a job," said Greenspon. "If readers suspect you're not authentic, they'll drop you in a minute."

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ANSSA gets into high gear for PC leadership bid

CHELSEA MURRAY
Staff Contributor

The Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations is lobbying the Progressive Conservative leadership candidates in an attempt to ensure the new premier makes post-secondary education policy a priority in the legislature.

Members of ANSSA, the DSU's provincial lobby group, have met with candidates Neil LeBlanc, Bill Black and Rodney MacDonald, asking each of them for a commitment to a handful of key policies as well as an increase in funding for the province's universities.

A bid for leader of the PC party in Nova Scotia began after premier John Hamm announced his plans to resign on Sept. 29, 2005. A new leader will be selected at a convention on Feb. 11, 2006.

One of the key concerns ANSSA raised with the candidates is how Nova Scotia's needs-based grants programs compare to those of other provinces.

Currently, Nova Scotia is one of the only provinces in Canada that doesn't have its own needs-based grants program.

In a province with so many students, ANSSA says this is a problem.

"On a provincial level, we'd also like to see a permanent needs-based grants program to help some of those qualified but financially-strapped Nova Scotians," says Alex Abboud, executive director of ANSSA.

The lobby group also spoke to the PC candidates about the importance of a dedicated transfer for education — a program that would demand

more transparency and accountability from the provincial government.

Currently, money for post-secondary education is given to the provincial government through Canada Social Transfers — a program through which money for all social programs is given.

The federal government has no way of determining how much of the transfer each province places into education or other social programs, such as health care.

"What a dedicated transfer would do [is] carve that money out of the CST and have a Canada Education Transfer that would come to the provinces specifically for post-secondary education," says Jen Bond, chair of ANSSA.

"It just offers a lot more transparency on all levels."

Another goal of the lobby group, in speaking with the potential premiers, is to raise public awareness about the importance of post-secondary education.

"The campaign does target government," says Abboud. "But it's focussed on public awareness and raising awareness with everyone, be they potentially the premier, be they delegates to the leadership convention, or any Nova Scotian."

So far, all three candidates have shown an interest in making post-secondary education a priority in their government.

Abboud looks forward to seeing this interest continue.

"We're hoping that the talk and the buzz around post-secondary education, both provincially and nationally, starts to translate into action and to positive changes."

PC leadership debate reopens seven-day shopping week question

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

Sunday shopping will return to the provincial agenda, say the contenders for the province's top job.

The long-standing issue was featured in the last of a series of debates between the Progressive Conservative Party leadership candidates, held Feb. 3 in Halifax.

Contenders Bill Black, Neil LeBlanc and Rodney MacDonald debated for two hours in front of a crowd of over 300 party supporters at Halifax West High School.

"It would be the view of many of the people that I've listened to on this topic that we asked an imperfect question about an imperfect set of rules," said Black, referring to the October 2004 plebiscite where 55 per cent of Nova Scotia voters rejected Sunday shopping in the province and 55 per cent of voters within the Halifax region accepted it. Although, he said, "We can't retroactively decide to do something different."

Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada with a Sunday shopping ban, although bookstores, drugstores and stores under 4,000 square feet are allowed to open.

The legislation came under fire by Sobeys and the Atlantic Superstore this fall, in response to increased grocery sales at large drugstores. Premier John Hamm promised to close loopholes in the existing legislation, which contravenes the law. The retailers have considered legal action.

The 2004 plebiscite met with many complaints, as it asked voters whether they supported Sunday shopping, and in a second question, asked voters if they would prefer Sunday shopping all year or only for six weeks prior to Christmas.

Voters were allowed to answer the second question even if they had voted no on the first.

Debate moderator Judy Streach asked the candidates if Sunday shopping should be allowed on a district-by-district basis, if a majority of voters in one area chose to support the measure.

Black said that decisions don't always have to be made for the entirety of the province.

"We don't always have to do in Halifax what we do in Mabou," said Black, referring to MacDonald's



Rodney MacDonald said he supported moving forward on some form of expanded Sunday shopping, but respected the results of the provincial plebiscite. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

hometown in western Cape Breton. "I think Sunday shopping is one of those issues."

LeBlanc said separate legislation for parts of the province would lead to regional inequalities.

"I think for us to choose municipalities back and forth, that some say yes and some say no, is counterproductive, because obviously, business will shift from one municipality to another."

Rodney MacDonald said he supported moving forward on some form of expanded Sunday shopping, but respected the results of the provincial plebiscite.

"We gave Nova Scotians the ques-

tion, and they made the decision, and as premier I would respect that decision," he said. "It is not an issue that I would deal with in the immediate future. It would be long term."

LeBlanc and Black agreed that the "no" result of the previous plebiscite has to be respected, although discussions within government caucus could lead to another vote in a couple of years.

Black said that as premier, he would recommend to cabinet that the question be asked again to the voters, in approximately two years.

"Perhaps many people feel the question could have been asked more clearly."

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DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see page 18 & 22.

DSU exec fights for education and academic integrity

Dalifamous: a profile of Jen Bond

JESS MCDIARMID
Assistant News Editor

There's a joke in the DSU: if you want Jen Bond to stop talking, make her sit on her hands.

As the DSU Vice President (Education) speaks, her hands flutter through the air, emphasizing points and illustrating details.

Her hands talk themselves into a near-frenzy when Bond gets onto a couple subjects that are dear to her heart.

The first is post-secondary education. Cabinet minister Rodney MacDonald and deputy minister of education Dennis Cochrane laugh at her, she says — chuckling — because for her, everything comes back to post-secondary education.

"Healthier society, better economy, all of it, I can connect it back to post-secondary education," she says, leaning forward in the chair in her office in the SUB, hands coming down on the desk in front of her.

"But I truly believe it," says Bond, who's also chair of the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations. "I truly believe that a well-educated society is the key to economic growth."

Her favourite quote, from *Maclean's* magazine columnist Paul Wells, says Canada's election campaign heard no talk of a knowledge economy, while in China, they're throwing up university labs that look like cathedrals every 16 feet. Stephen Harper, meanwhile, was promising a \$500 tax credit for textbooks.

"Who's growing?" asks Bond. "It's China. You can make a direct correlation between post-secondary education and economics."

Bond's other major interest is academic integrity.

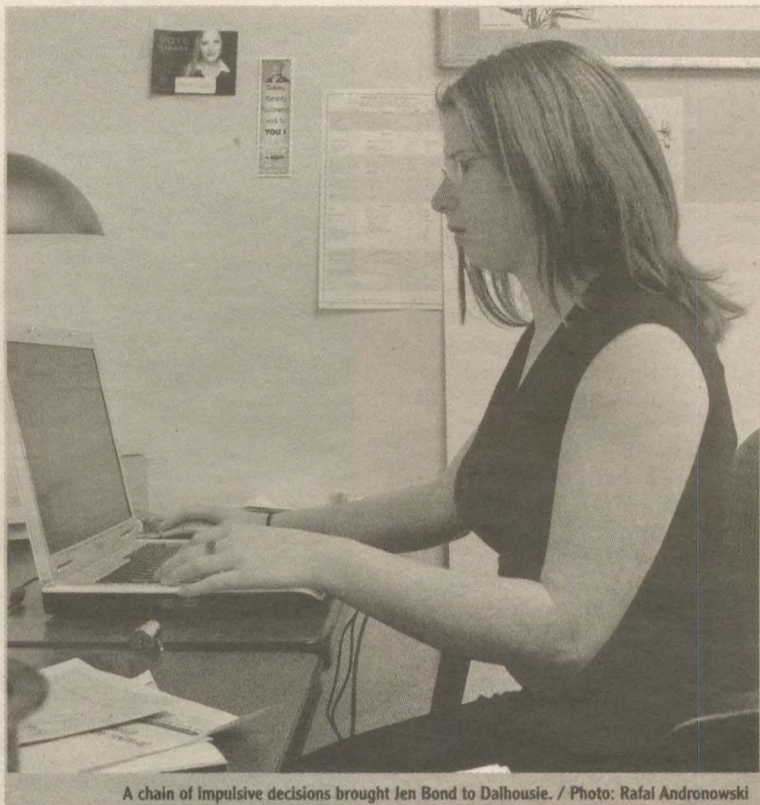
"I never thought I'd be so passionate about academic integrity, but I am," says Bond. It's about more than citations and not getting caught cheating, she says. Academic honesty ties into the quality of the whole university experience from how students learn to how teachers should present information.

It's an idea she tries to push through the university senate, her job at the DSU and pretty much everyone she talks to, she says, grinning.

Longtime friend and DSU colleague Jenny Cooper says Bond does everything in her power to fight student debt, improve the university experience and lobby for student issues.

"I have never met anyone who is so articulate and so well-spoken," says Cooper. "She can own a room. She's a phenomenal public speaker and she's brutally honest."

Third-year psychology student Kate Gallagher, who worked with



A chain of impulsive decisions brought Jen Bond to Dalhousie. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Bond during Frosh Week, says she was always there working in the background.

"And when those times come that something really needs to be said about the DSU, or what's going on with finances or education, she'll always step forward," says Gallagher.

Bond ended up at Dal three-and-a-half years ago on a series of whims.

Born in St. John's, Nfld., Bond grew up in the Middle East, and returned to Canada to complete Grade 11 and 12 at a boarding school in Ontario.

One day, she walked into a guidance counsellor's office and found applications to Dal on the table.

"I was like, I really like Halifax. I've been there once," she says, laughing. "So I applied."

Bond was accepted to Dal, as well as some other universities, but deferred her acceptance after deciding to take a year off.

She moved to B.C., and on to Australia.

And then a fax arrived in the middle of the Australian outback where she was teaching French and thwarting adolescent girls' late night attempts to sneak over to the boys' dorm at a boarding school. Faxes were the way to communicate in Alice Springs, she says, because it's so remote.

"If you turn one way and head 1,500 km south, you hit Adelaide. And if you go the other way 1,500 km north, you hit Darwin."

The fax was from her father, who

informed her a school called Dalhousie was wondering if she was going.

"And I was like, 'OK, I'll go to Dal, yeah, sure,'" says Bond. "From the very offbeat way I decided to come to Dal, which was 'I really can't be bothered to make a decision right now, but Halifax sounds like fun,' I'm really happy that I came here."

Bond's interest in student government was piqued during her first year when she lived in Eliza Ritchie Hall, as the residence's DSU representatives came back from union meetings full of stories about the goings-on there.

After serving as president of Eliza Ritchie in her second year at Dal, then-president of the union Kevin Wasko encouraged Bond to run for a position as student representative on the university senate, which she won for the 2004/2005 academic year. Once she got to senate, says Bond, she was completely hooked.

Bond graduated with a three-year degree in political science last May. When her term as VP at the DSU ends at the end of April, Bond has her sights set on carrying on to law school.

She hopes to study the relationship between legislation and society, and between communities and crime. Bond is also interested in alternative means of correction, such as aboriginal healing circles.

As she talks about healing circles, her arms arc in a slow circle that frames her face. Then her hands meet at the bottom, and settle to her lap.

Student putting Grawood back on campus map

Dalifamous: a profile of Chris McCluskey

MATHEW MACLELLAN
News Contributor

The recently improved perception of Dalhousie's campus bar can be largely attributed to its new marketing man, Chris McCluskey, says Greg Wright, director of licensed operations at the DSU.

McCluskey has been invaluable in booking acts such as In Flight Safety, Their Majesties, Great Plains and many others at the Grawood, says Wright. By booking high profile acts, as well as booking an eclectic mix of artists, Wright says, McCluskey has greatly contributed to the positive reception the student body has been giving these shows.

A fifth-year political science student at Dal, McCluskey's responsibilities as DSU Bar Services Marketing and Promoting Assistant include marketing Grawood events, maintaining and updating the bar's website and booking musical acts.

"It's very time comprehensive, I've worked really hard at it," says McCluskey of his position. "I get paid for it, and I'm allowed 20 hours a week, but it takes a lot more than that."

"But I don't mind doing it."

McCluskey, a native of Quispamsis, N.B., says he has always enjoyed working within a team atmosphere and with a challenging role. Wright describes McCluskey as "an easy-going, dedicated, team-player with a great sense of humour, a love of music and, most of all, a passion to see the Grawood do well."

In the 2004/2005 academic year, the Grawood lost roughly \$90,000, which was largely due to overstaffing and a former manager's inability to control spending, says Chad LeClair, DSU Vice President (Finance and Operations).

But the bar met its budgeted targets in the fall, and LeClair says the recent increase in attendance since January gives him confidence it will exceed its targets this term.

And McCluskey has been able to control costs by booking local acts that charge much less than the pub bands that the Grawood traditionally features, says LeClair.

"Every time we have a concert, [McCluskey] puts the work in. He really cares about what happens to the Grawood," he says. "And it's nice to see that because if a year goes by where no one cares, then you get into a lot of trouble financially and attendance-wise."

Last year, McCluskey ran for Vice President (Student Life) in the DSU elections, but he lost to Tara Berthier. He says that, at the time, he considered the results to be controversial, but now he says Berthier is working with him



Chris McCluskey says he and the rest of the Grawood staff will continue to build on the bar's recent successes by keeping in touch with Dal's interests. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

to help improve the status of the Grawood among patrons.

Aside from the acts he has booked, McCluskey says the recent increase in student attendance can also be attributed to a sense of consistency he has helped the Grawood achieve over the past year.

"Last year it was chaotic, in terms of consistency," says McCluskey. "One week you'd have open mic on a Wednesday, the next week a pilot show and the next week it would be a speaking engagement, so in terms of building up any sort of a draw it was impossible."

This year, the weekly events calendars have been fairly consistent, says McCluskey, with bands playing on Wednesday nights, trivia and open mics are on Thursdays, and Society nights on Fridays. He's also trying to build the Grawood's reputation as an excellent venue for watching high profile events, such as the Jan. 23 federal election and the Superbowl on Feb 5.

McCluskey says he has also helped implement more consistent cover charges. In comparison with last year's charges, which could be \$8 to \$10 with a lot of fluctuation, this year's cover has been consistently low with \$2 cover on Wednesdays and free on Thursdays. Headlining events, such as the Sloan concert in September that cost \$20, are still the exception.

"I really believe students were waiting for something they could really get behind," says McCluskey. "And we'll be continually building what we have by keeping in touch as Dalhousie's interests evolve."

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

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Bankers talk savings with students

ANNA FONG
News Contributor

Two members of the RBC financial group, Jason Jackson and Kevin de Freitas, held an information session on Jan. 30 to advise students on budgets and borrowing money.

"A budget is something I would recommend for students, especially when you have a limited amount of cash flow," said Jackson.

Eating out can be expensive, de Freitas said, so spending more money on pre-prepared grocery items and the creation of a meal plan are helpful ways to reduce costs.

de Freitas also recommended government student loans and bank lines of credit for students who are looking for financial assistance.

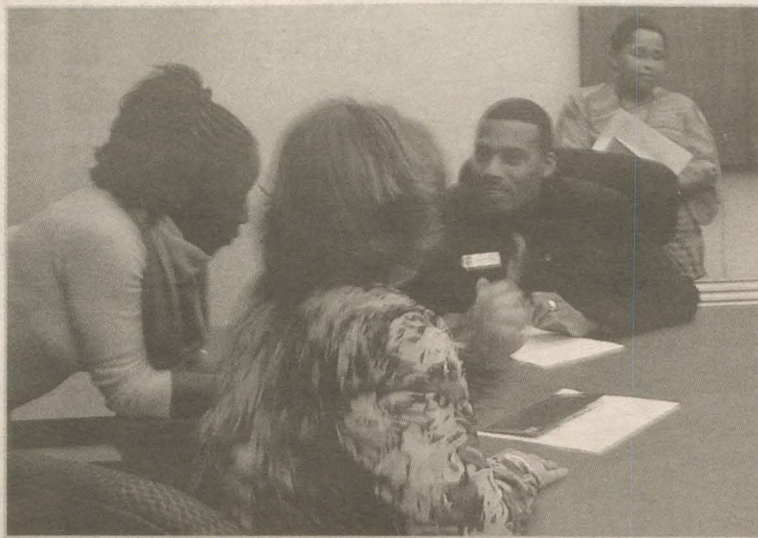
"Overdraft balances are a very expensive way to carry credit," said de Freitas, since interest can be three times higher than other types of borrowing.

Undergraduate students can receive between \$5,000 and \$20,000 per year from a bank credit line. The amount varies because it's based upon an individual student's cost of tuition, housing and general living expenses. Undergraduates often require a cosigner, unless they hold a job that earns a sufficient amount to support the line of credit requested.

"It's unfortunate that more students are not taking advantage of this," said Barb Hamilton-Hinch, from The Black Student Advising Centre. Only two students attended the information session.

Hamilton-Hinch said she wasn't aware a professional studies credit line existed before attending the event. Unlike the undergraduate credit line, students pursuing law or engineering can receive \$55,000 to \$150,000 per year from a bank. The amount is based upon a projected salary received upon graduation.

Some students who can't make payments on their loans apply for interest relief, a grace period where monthly payments are not required and interest is not charged on the loan. The interest relief option is strongly discouraged, because it can lead to a false sense of security and excuses for missing loan payments



Representatives of the RBC financial group gave students banking tips during an information session on Jan. 30. / Photo: Anna Fong

said de Freitas.

People who own numerous credit cards raise a red flag to lenders who see them as credit seekers with the potential to become heavily indebted.

Even if the cards are unused, there is always the potential or temptation to use them.

"When you're a student just graduating, it's hard to really judge a situation based upon credit, because any credit you had may have been [with] a cosigner" said de Freitas.

Students with little or no credit history can still borrow money. Job history, personal savings and residential address history are some stability measures lenders consider when students apply for credit.

Creditors are required to report to the bureau once a month, so repeatedly missing payments or exceeding credit card limits can negatively affect a person's credit history.

Once credit problems are encountered, it can take two years to re-establish good credit with lenders.

To re-establish good credit, all that is required is to show a monthly pattern of on-time payments on single loan or credit card. If unable to obtain a loan or credit card, a student can go to a finance company and purchase an item, such as a computer, for no initial payments or in-

Financial tips for students

1. Apply for a student chequing or savings accounts since they have lower monthly fees and service charges than regular accounts.
2. Create pre-authorized payments to prevent missed bills and subsequent interest charges.
3. Always pay the minimum monthly credit card balance. Missed months are seen a failure to meet contractual obligations and can negatively affect credit history.
4. Avoid smaller interact purchases. Bank accounts have a limited number of transactions allowed per month; if exceeded, charges per transaction will result.
5. Put a portion of a loan or credit line in a cashable investment certificate. The money will earn minimal interest, but is separated from the main account, which prevents overspending.
6. Contribute to a monthly savings plan, such as a retirement savings plan, to help establish a good credit history in terms of personal savings.

terest. Satisfactory fulfillment of the payment contract with the finance company can help re-establish good credit.

UNI BRIEFS

DAL BRIEFS

Dal helps link autistic teens

Dalhousie's school of occupational therapy and the provincial autism centre of Nova Scotia are developing an online network for teenagers who suffer from autism. Organizers hope Autism Online will help autistic teens cope with feelings of fear and loneliness that naturally develop from their life-long developmental disorder.

Dal has donated space on WebCT for the pilot project, and Reg Urbanowski, associate professor at the school of occupational therapy, will be involved with developing a training program for those who supervise the teens when they are online. Urbanowski will also help evaluate the project next fall in his project design and evaluation class.

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Profs ordered to lower grades

A recently leaked memo from the administration at Lakehead University reveals that professors were asked to re-grade student marks because they were considered too high.

Upon returning to class after Christmas break, many students in the education program realized their online marks had been changed from what they'd been before the break. The Lakehead student newspaper, The Argus, reported that some students' marks had been lowered by as much as 18 per cent.

Administrators say they reviewed all final marks in the department and found that a high number were above 80 per cent, in the "exceptional" category. The department was concerned with mark inflation and sent the marks back to the professors to ensure that they had been graded in accordance with an assessment rubric that had been recently introduced.

According to the rubric, the median mark for classes should be between 70 and 79 per cent. If the median fell on 80, professors were instructed to reduce each mark by 2 per cent. The rubric states that only "a few exceptional students" should receive a grade of A, or 80 per cent.

The Argus reported that many students are confused and angry about the mark changes.

The university administration says students have the right to appeal their marks individually, but it won't be re-examining the grading policy rubric. It will, however, be launching an investigation into how the memo was leaked in the first place.

Drag queens close blood drive

Québec's provincial blood collection agency, Héma Québec, shut down a McGill blood donation clinic after a queer student group demonstrated at the site. Members of the group, Second Cumming, were protesting the agency's exclusion policy, which prohibits men who have had sex with men since 1977 from donating blood.

Héma Québec says the policy is in place because this group of men is statistically the most likely to have HIV.

Posters were put up around campus before the blood drive, encouraging students to "act faggy, dress in drag and lie about [their] sexual history." Héma Québec closed the clinic and disposed of the blood collected that day, saying it feared the blood may have been contaminated if donors were lying about their personal information.

Second Cumming says it didn't intend to close the clinic, but rather was only trying to bring attention to what it believes is a discriminatory screening process for blood collection.

Héma Québec says it may not be able to hold blood drives at McGill again if donors are going to lie about their personal history.

MUN student wins Supreme Court case

A former Memorial University of Newfoundland student has won a decade-long legal battle against her alma mater for negligence and defamation.

On Jan 27, the Supreme Court of Canada reversed a Newfoundland and Labrador appeals court ruling, re-instating a lower court ruling, which awarded Wanda Young roughly \$839,000.

In 1994, Young, who was enrolled in a social work course at Memorial, sued the university, her professor Leslie Bella, and the director of the School of Social Work. Young had attached an unreferenced appendix to an assignment, prompting Bella to believe Young had written it herself. The appendix was a first-hand account of a woman sexually abusing children that Young had taken from a textbook.

Bella reported the paper to Child Protection Services, which eventually cleared Young of any wrongdoing. Young requested an apology from the university, which refused, and she proceeded to sue for negligence and defamation, alleging her career and reputation had been impugned due to the report.

The university maintained it did what was required under the law — to report suspicion of child abuse as outlined in the Child Welfare Act — but the jury found in Young's favour and awarded \$839,400 plus legal fees.

UofA students push for tobacco ban

Students at the University of Alberta have started a petition to institute a campus-wide tobacco ban. The petition currently has 1,200 signatures, 400 short of the number it needs to force a student union referendum on the issue. The plebiscite proposes banning the use and sale of tobacco products on university property, effective July 1, 2006.

Organizers say the question will likely be included on the ballot during the student union elections in March. Although a successful vote for the ban would not be binding on the student union or the university, both say it would strongly factor into any future decisions on the matter.

If the UofA approved the ban, it would become the second university in Canada to become entirely smoke-free. Dalhousie became the first in May 2003.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Congress slashes student loan program

The American House of Representatives approved a bill on Feb. 1 that would make record cuts of \$12 billion to federal student aid programs.

The Deficit Reduction Act, which is expected to save the federal government roughly \$40 billion over five years, was passed by a narrow vote of 216-214. It had been previously approved in both the House and the Senate — where Vice-President Dick Cheney was forced to cast his vote to break a tie — but was sent back due to slight amendments. President Bush now has to sign the bill before it can become law.

Critics say the cuts will send students deeper into debt, but the bill's proponents say fiscal prudence is more important. They also point out that the bill will create a merit-based grant program, entitled the Academic Competitiveness Grant, and fix the interest rate for repayment at 6.25 per cent.

According to a 2004 College Board study, the average post-secondary tuition at 4-year private colleges in the U.S. was \$19,710 USD in 2003-04 and \$4,694 USD for public institutions.

Sources: Canadian University Press, CBC Online, The Argus (Lakehead), The Hoya (Georgetown), The Guardian Online (UCSD), Dalhousie News.

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FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES



10 years ago this week...

- The DSU seized the financial records of the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie (B-GLAD) after the group ignored numerous requests by council for its fiscal ledger. B-GLAD's chair claimed the group's office had been ransacked during the summer and between \$1,000 and \$2,000 in property was missing, including its ledger. In all, roughly \$1,000 of council funding was unaccounted for and future funding for the group was to be withheld.
- The Dalhousie Progressive Conservative youth club was fighting for survival this week in 1996, after three years of inactivity. A current and former president told *The Gazette* that the organization was still hurting from the Mulroney era and the loss of the 1993 federal election.
- The Phi Delta Theta fraternity announced it would build a new \$250,000 house on campus. Beginning in April 1997, the fraternity would demolish its current residence, an old, but familiar, landmark at school. The chapter was created in 1930 and counted some 800 alumni among its ranks.
- The Canadian University Press reported several student newspapers had submitted false information to *Maclean's* magazine for

publication in its annual "Guide to Canadian Universities." The papers said they submitted the fake information in order to protest *Maclean's* practice of getting student opinion from campus papers and student journalists without attributing credit. "They were making money off the backs of students," said Dionne Stephens, editor of York University's *Excalibur*. *Maclean's* had published information the previous year from the *Excalibur*, which described the school's (non-existent) new breast-feeding facilities.

Simon Fraser's *The Peak* tried unsuccessfully this year to file a story about a fictional campus dance troupe that performed spontaneously at school pubs.

25 years ago this week...

- Two students at the University of King's College were suspended from residence after they mooned the crowd during a variety show. King's president John Godfrey and Dean of Men Tom Curran were in attendance, and admonished the students for their "extreme tastelessness." The two men were "reported to have thrown beans and fish guts into the crowd, drank onstage, and used vulgar language."
- The Feb. 5, 1981 issue of *The Ga-*

zette looked back 105 years prior to an article in the paper advocating the admission of women to the college. The author, writing in 1876, lays down "as a principle scarcely requiring argument" that women should have the opportunity to receive the best education possible. He expresses hope that no one "so stupid, so rooted and grounded in shortsighted bigotry" as to oppose this suggestion would be found among the college's authorities.

His noble stand for equality takes a hit, however, when he reveals himself to be susceptible to the chauvinism of the era:

"[I]t is best for young ladies to be educated in connection with young men. The industry of the latter is likely to prove a stimulant to the flagging zeal of the weaker sex; and the sterner, more practical, and logical character of masculine education will prove a most valuable corrective of the worst vices in the ordinary instruction afforded to girls..."

Although the author's intentions were laudable, and eventually realized, his rationale is ridiculously backwards in retrospect.

- Dalhousie celebrated its annual winter carnival with dances, snow sculpting, talent nights and pub crawls. The carnival tug-of-war was also a big hit (see photo), being held on the University Avenue island in front of the SUB.

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

Contribute!

Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 p.m. every Monday. Room 312, Dal SUB.

If Christmas and Valentine's Day are supposed to be wonderful holidays that celebrate happiness and love, why do they make so many people feel miserable?

Perhaps it's just an urban myth that suicide rates are higher during the Christmas season than at any other time, but there's no denying that all this emphasis on happiness and love makes many people keenly feel their lack of

these blessings.

My Valentine's plans, as usual, consist of getting together with my single girlfriends to consume vast quantities of alcohol and chocolate, which — come to think of it — is exactly what I do during the Christmas season.

I guess consumption is what these holidays are really about, after all. Just take a stroll around any department store, or wander into Hallmark or Car-

leton Cards, and your senses will be overwhelmed by chocolate, candy, and appropriately-themed toys and knick-knacks.

So, come Feb. 14, many of us must be prepared to come to terms with our singleness in the face of commercialized coupledom.

I hope my senses will be so numbed by alcohol this year that I'll miss the day entirely.

Muhammed cartoons aren't as "sober" as Danish newspaper editor claims

JOHN PACKMAN
Opinions Contributor

Earlier this week, protests erupted in many parts of the Islamic world after *Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten*, a Danish newspaper, published a dozen drawings, which include satirical representations of the prophet Muhammad.

A number of European newspapers, such as *France Soir* and Germany's *Der Welt*, recently reprinted the drawings, sparking widespread outrage. Many protestors have burned Danish flags, and there have been calls to boycott Danish and European products.

Some have gone so far as to demand the execution of the artists.

Casten Juste, the *Jyllands-Posten's* editor-in-chief, wrote a letter in response to this controversy. He said the drawings were "part of an ongoing debate on freedom of expression, a freedom cherished in Denmark."

Juste also apologized to any Muslims who were "indisputably offended" by the cartoons. *Jyllands-Posten* published his letter on Jan. 30 — four months after the newspaper

originally published the drawings.

This apology illustrates the newspaper's attempt to remedy the violent situation the cartoons have caused. The letter refers to the unintentional interpretation of the drawings as "a campaign against Muslims in Denmark and the rest of the world," and explains that, since the controversy began, they have attempted to "initiate fruitful dialogue with Danish Muslims."

While I commend these remarks, I disagree with the statement "[i]n our opinion, the 12 drawings were sober. They were not intended to be offensive." The newspaper's claim that it was testing the limits of freedom of expression is believable, but I find it difficult to believe that these drawings were not intended to be offensive.

Islamic law forbids any depiction of religious figures, particularly Muhammad. That any depiction of a religious figure would prompt protest from Islamic communities following such laws should be assumed.

Moreover, many of the drawings seem to go out of their way to offend.

A drawing that received particular attention from protestors depicts Muhammad's head with a lit bomb in

his turban — making a direct connection between Islam and terrorism.

The insinuation that Islam is fundamentally associated with terrorism is in no way "sober," and it's unbelievable that anyone, particularly a newspaper editor, would claim this.

Furthermore, testing freedom of expression using drawings allows the meaning to be more ambiguous. This makes the intent of both the artists and the newspaper unknown and open to interpretation.

The idea that the drawings "were not intended to be offensive" to anyone is simply not believable. Any drawing that wouldn't offend anyone would fail to test the limits of freedom of expression, and fail to serve the purpose of the newspaper's debate.

And although his letter is addressed to the "[h]onourable fellow citizens of the Muslim world," if Juste really wishes to apologize, he should speak genuinely — and be ready to admit that the drawings his newspaper published were far from sober, and had a clear intention of being offensive.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

The strip club debate continues

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to the letter Josip Vaci wrote regarding my criticism of his article that was published in an earlier edition of *The Gazette*. There are a few things that need to be said.

Vaci intimates that he wants further dialogue on the subject of strip clubs. Although I don't believe him (the subject of my initial letter), I'll humour him.

In his original article, Vaci makes a contentious statement: "Just because one is free and willing to do an act doesn't make it right." In the following paragraph he says it is not "a right" when two parties are involved in consensual "use."

Both are true statements. In neither situation, however, is anyone doing anything wrong.

The values that Vaci presents are sexually and socially regressive. Not everyone enjoys sex in the way it's "meant to be had." Besides, sexual repression is downright unhealthy. If someone wants to go to a strip club, let them.

This is my next point: they aren't harming anyone, despite Vaci's babble of depriving a person of their "human dignity" and other such platitudes. If he had been following the debate over the opening of Sensations, Vaci would have been aware that the problem the residents had was not with the moral issues surrounding the sort of establishment but with the expected clientele and splinter businesses.

Essentially, the residents of the residential area adjacent to the commercial area in which Sensations is situated were concerned about drugs, prostitutes, drunks and perverts.

This is all ridiculous. It's what we call profiling — even police aren't al-

lowed to do that. According to the underreported examples of other strip clubs (past and present) in the HRM and Moncton, crime has never been a particular problem.

If a person finds strip clubs "morally reprehensible," there is nothing wrong with that.

There is, however, a simple solution: don't patronize them.

Sandy Fortune

CKDU's funding drive is a shared responsibility

Dear Editor,

Some recent Internet grumblings have led me to believe that comments I made regarding CKDU FM's Funding Drive, which appeared several months ago in articles in both *The Coast* (Nov. 24, 2005) and *The Gazette* (Nov. 10, 2005), might have offended or alienated some volunteers at our station. I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear this was not my intention, and offer my apologies to anyone who may have been hurt by what I said.

The question was raised as to why I would call out programmers at the station for our failure to meet our funding drive goal this year — and the accusation was made that I was blaming others for my own personal shortcomings and failures.

One of the first things taught during the training process at CKDU is that we have a funding drive and that volunteers have to participate.

During the interviews, I pointed out how many volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty, and did amazing jobs during the funding drive. I did, however, express disappointment with those programmers who did absolutely nothing to help out. It's incredibly frustrating to

watch the hard work of so many people be shot down by those who don't feel it's their responsibility to help out in the slightest.

I'm sorry if this position offends people or makes me seem like I'm absolving myself of responsibility in the matter, but it's not something for which I'm going to apologize. A complete, unjustified lack of effort on the part of any programmer or volunteer at the station is — in my mind — completely unacceptable.

I understand that there are a multitude of legitimate, understandable obstacles that might interfere with someone's ability to participate or raise money. Apathy and a sense of entitlement, for me, however, don't fall into that category.

Given that I'm neither a journalist nor an editor at *The Coast* or *The Gazette*, I have zero control over what gets printed. A 45-minute interview that is compressed into a few short paragraphs and a few short quotes is bound to present a simplified version of things, and I would hope that most people would understand that.

My concern is that some volunteers may have taken comments that were not directed at them to heart and for this I can only offer my sincerest apologies. CKDU has been a part of my life for 15 years and I can say with no hesitation that I really do love this place. If the tables were turned and I felt that someone was questioning my dedication or accusing me of being the reason that the station was in trouble I would certainly be upset about it.

It's an incredibly exciting time here at CKDU and I hope nothing that stemmed from either of those articles would prevent anyone from walking in the door and joining the family.

Michael Catano
Station Coordinator, CKDU-FM

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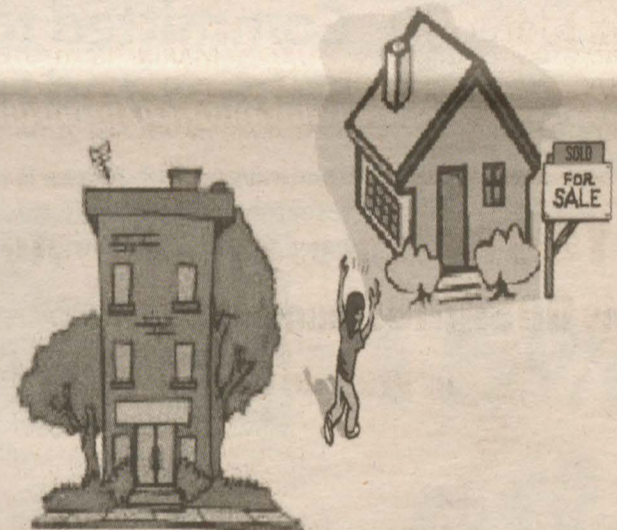
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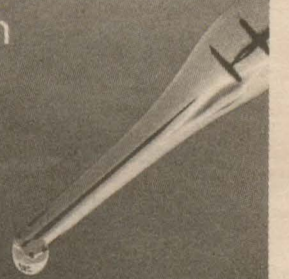
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Free speech includes freedom to offend

JAMIE BEREZIN
Opinions Contributor

The recent furor over several cartoons published in a Danish newspaper has exploded into international violence. In Damascus, the Danish and Norwegian embassies have been torched, European flags have been burned across the Middle East, and calls for the perpetrators to be beheaded have even been heard in such bastions of freedom as London.

But who's being targeted by these protests? It isn't *Jyllands-Posten*, the Danish newspaper responsible for commissioning the cartoons. Nor is it the many other European newspapers that have republished the material in question.

No, it's freedom of expression that has been targeted; it's the right to offend.

Yes, some of the cartoons are in poor taste. Yes, some of the cartoons are offensive. But the punishments being demanded by imams and protestors surely don't fit the crime. Behead those responsible? You can't be serious.

These people demand the blood of the perpetrators in a battle to the death to defend the honour of Islam from the nefarious satirist. Their efforts so far, however, have been misguided. Burning flags offends all the citizens of Denmark, not just those at fault. Boycotting Danish products affects companies totally unrelated to the controversy. But demanding the government apologize for the content of a free press is perhaps the most imprudent.

I shouldn't have to go on a tedious rant about founding fathers and unalienable rights to explain that freedom of expression is a pillar of democracy. It isn't the government's responsibility to answer for the media.

The Prime Minister of Denmark, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, got it right when he told Middle Eastern ambassadors that he wouldn't apologize, for he had nothing to apologize for. I suppose this may be difficult to com-

prehend in countries where media censorship is the norm.

Nevertheless, a vengeful attitude presented itself in some surprising places. On Saturday, the *National Post* (along with many other papers) ran pictures of the protests. On the streets of London, protestors demanded the same cruel and unusual punishment as those in Iran or Gaza.

What struck me, though, was a sign in Abu Dhabi that read, "Dose your freedom allow you to talk about holocaust?? At least it allows you to offense Muslims!!!! [sic]"

This is a valid point. No paper would publish a cartoon depicting atrocities of the Holocaust, intending it to be satirical. Were a newspaper to do so, however, here's what would happen: a number of people would cancel their subscriptions, others would write letters to the editor, and the paper would come out with an editorial apologizing for its actions. Notice that the heads of all its editors would remain intact. The matter would be discussed around water coolers for a while, and then it would be forgotten.

Jyllands-Posten has already apologized, and letters to the editor have been written (worldwide). So, why is this matter not going away? Maybe it's because of the repressive governments in the Middle East, where it's expected that critics will be silenced. Maybe it's due to the pre-existing hatred spread by fundamentalists who exploit the poor and uneducated. Maybe it's due to an irrational attempt to protect a great religion. More likely, it's a combination of all three.

Whatever the reason, expression must be silenced by these actions. Freedom of expression doesn't exist without controversy. In fact, freedom of expression cannot exist without controversy.

Salman Rushdie, who upon publishing *The Satanic Verses* found himself in a similar predicament, offered these words of wisdom: "What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist."

Contribute!

Come to our weekly contributor meetings,
5:30 p.m.
every Monday.
Room 312, Dal SUB.

TAKING A STAND

Student creates awareness group Humans Against Homophobia

DAWN MACPHEE
Staff Contributor

During a formal ball held in the SUB last November, two students had to be kicked out for harassing people with homophobic slurs. The incident left many witnesses with the feeling that something had to be done.

"Two guys were sitting at the front making snide comments, both of them taunting and making absolutely awful remarks," says Dal student Chris Ide, one of several people targeted by the offending students.

Ide says the incident at the formal ball was the first time he has experienced such an overt form of discrimination.

"I approached them and said, 'if you plan on making comments like that maybe you shouldn't make them so loud,'" says Ide.

He wanted the students removed, but no one knew what to do.

When Ide and other concerned students told security, the officers asked if the students had attacked them.

While there was pointing and rude remarks, there wasn't actual fighting.

SUB security said it was up to the organizers of the ball — the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS) and the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS) — to remove people, and offered to back them up if necessary.

The two offending students left without further incident.

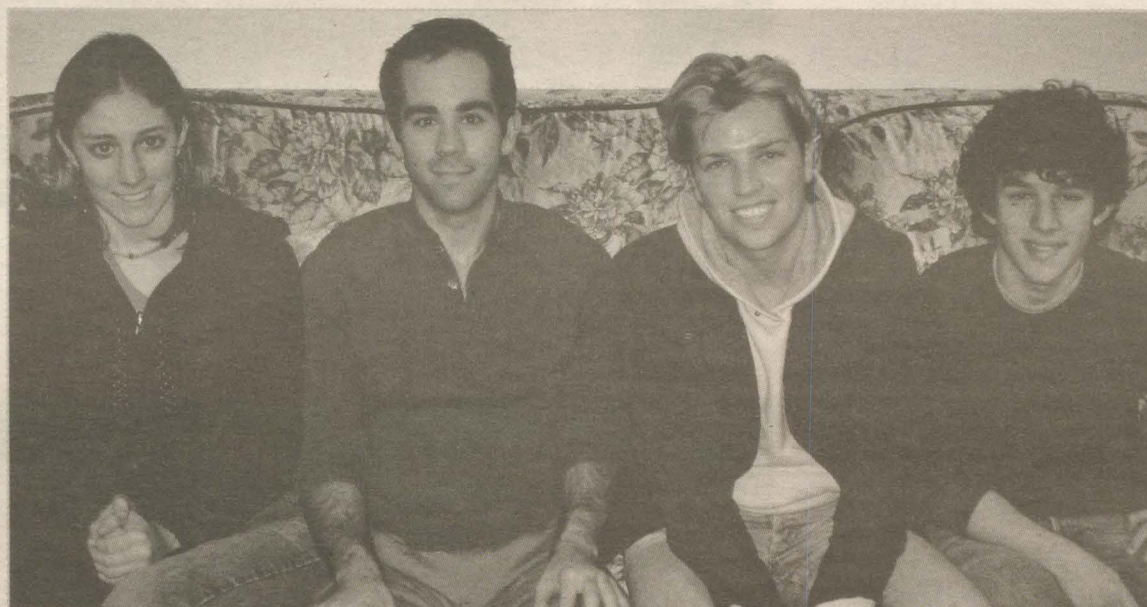
Jamie Blasina, president of DASSS, says having to ask people to leave for verbally assaulting people really got him thinking.

"The ball was the straw that broke the camel's back, and made me really want to do something about it," he says.

The homophobia Blasina had seen at the ball, combined with recent gay marriage election issues and experiences with friends "coming out" to their families, spurred him to action.

"Coming out shouldn't be an issue at all, and that's one of the strongest signs of social homophobia," he says.

Blasina realized more needed to be done on campus to tackle homophobia.



Members of the NSPIRG working group HAH, (L-R); Allison Gurnham, Jamie Blasina, Chris Ide and Cy Giacomini hope to build awareness about homophobia. Photo: Dawn MacPhee

Meeting of minds

Blasina approached university chaplain Clement Mehlman to discuss his ideas of addressing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer concerns on campus.

Mehlman is a strong advocate for Allies at Dalhousie, a group of 60 people that support LGBTQ youth, faculty and staff. He played an integral role in establishing the group.

"In the late 90s, I met with a student whose friend had recently been diagnosed with HIV," says Mehlman. "One evening, several months after the diagnosis, alone for the weekend in his apartment, he took his life. This indicated to me that the university needed to be very clear that there were allies for people to talk to in the midst of such serious difficulties."

Mehlman says he knew Humans Against Homophobia, a working group of NSPIRG, had been active, on and off again, over the past 15 years. The chaplain suggested Blasina go to NSPIRG and try to restart the defunct HAH group.

NSPIRG was enthused. Now, Blasina is the driving force behind revitalizing HAH, which fell to the wayside years ago when many of its members graduated.

"The name appeals to me because it's important that we show homophobia is not just a gay issue, it's

a human issue," says Blasina. "I want to convey that image and have the group open to anyone who has interest in the issue."

Homophobia: it's not over

NSPIRG executive director Dave Ron views the problems of homophobia, and prejudice in general, as systemic. Educating students on the need for tolerance is not enough, he says.

"We advocate and aim to facilitate an anti-oppressive framework, that we as a community not simply tolerate diversity but, more importantly, embrace diversity," says Ron.

Blasina says the university promotes an open environment but it also hides a lot.

"There are homophobic people on campus, and we need to be aware of that," he says. "A lot of homophobia is so entrenched and so systemic that we don't even notice it. It manifests itself in so many ways that are often very subtle."

Blasina and Mehlman both identify living in residence as a major problem for many LGBTQ students.

Some students' first encounters with gay people may be in residence, says Blasina. People's backgrounds are very different and rumours spread like wildfire, he says, so residence is often a place where people encounter homophobia, when it should be a

safe space.

Hugh Wallace, a former residence assistant, readily identifies with homophobia in university residences.

Wallace says residence is a microcosm of different people and diverse ideas. When disciplining a student as part of his job, the student insulted him about his sexual orientation.

"Oh, don't listen to him, he's just a fag," the student said during the exchange, according to Wallace.

To deal with the matter, Wallace would have had to bring the offending student to the residence life manager to explain the situation.

"You lose so much dignity when something like this happens," he says.

Wallace says he was too embarrassed to make a complaint and so the student went unpunished.

"If each person who is homosexual fights for their own rights and their own lives, that can educate so many people," says Wallace. "If HAH can succeed in influencing the way people at Dal think, that is a really good start."

Moving forward

HAH held its first meeting in January 2006, which included a mix of brainstorming and thought provoking discussion, says Blasina. The group already displays a wide variety

of sexual orientations in its membership, and he says people are aware of the issues and know what's going on.

Dave Ron says HAH stands apart from other groups because the operative word is "humans." It's not a support group for homosexuals, he says, but an education and outreach group to counter forces of homophobia and heterosexism.

The group is still in its early planning stages, updating the previous mandate of HAH, and identifying concerns, challenges, and strategies. While formal details are still being worked out, Blasina is convinced education and awareness will lead to the achievement of goals.

"Eventually, we'd like to move into a more educational capacity, as in workshops and recognition of systemic homophobia," says Blasina.

HAH plans to hold events that draw attention and awareness to homophobia. Currently, it's planning a photo exhibit of homophobic graffiti. Blasina encourages anyone who sees that kind of graffiti, especially around Dal, to photograph it.

"The exhibit will be a way to get people to notice things," he says. "Some will be shocked by it."

Blasina hopes to emphasize the human element of HAH, and plans to network with students as well as the greater community. "I want to highlight the inclusiveness of the group," he says. "I don't want straight people to feel this is a gay group, and that they can't or shouldn't be apart of it."

As president of DASSS, Blasina isn't a stranger to organizing and facilitating. He'll continue to coordinate the HAH group, laying the groundwork to become a fully ratified DSU society. "When we leave Dal, this is something we want to leave behind, so the main goal is to establish a framework now," says Blasina.

Chris Ide says he's impressed with the job Blasina has done in getting HAH off the ground. Ide, who's been involved in organizing the new group, hopes HAH will address the problems of discrimination and homophobia because, he says, both relate to human rights.

"It's not about tolerance, it's about acceptance," he says. "We should be recognized as students, not by our sexual orientation or otherwise."

See page 15 for more information.

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HAH Photo Exhibit

Please send photo submissions of homophobic graffiti to:

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TOP 10

- 1 **REMEMBER HOW IN GRADE SCHOOL EVERYBODY WOULD GIVE YOU A VALENTINE?** Now all you get is a card with a donkey saying, "I hay hayyyte you!"
- 2 **THE KISS CAM AT THE HOCKEY GAME** Voyeurlicious.
- 3 **THE TRAGIC BREAK-UP OF LANCE ARMSTRONG AND SHERYL CROW** Probably the only girl on earth that Lance couldn't get a yellow band around.
- 4 **WAITING FOR THE SUPER BOWL TO END SO YOU CAN WATCH GREY'S ANATOMY** Still cooler than being upset over how *Desperate Housewives* went unaired.
- 5 **WHEN A CARTOON CAUSES SO MUCH UNNECESSARY RUCKUS** Damn you, Striperella!
- 6 **THE RAGING POPULARITY OF LAVALIFE** Volcanic.
- 7 **"IT'S HARD OUT HERE FOR A PIMP" NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR** I pity the distinguished actor who has to present that nomination.
- 8 **OKAY, SO I WAS WRONG ABOUT HOW THERE PROBABLY WASN'T GOING TO BE A SNOW DAY** But the NDP still sucks.
- 9 **HOORAY FOR LAZY READING WEEK!** Or as English students call it, "Tuesday."
- 10 **THREATENING SOMEONE WITH "I WILL MENSTRUATE ON YOUR BED/PEE ON YOUR TOILET SEAT!"** Scare tactics work. Period.

HOT

Munro Day

Controversy over cartoon Mohammed

The Rolling Stones' giant tongue

Brangelina

Reading week

Extreme sex

DQ Valentine's cakes

Speed dating

The girl on our cover

Sex Issue

NOT

Alice Monro

Going to the Dome to get "Mo' Hammad"

Janet Jackson's nipple

Bennifer

Wack readings (ex. T. S. Eliot)

Extremist sects

Flowers, candy, love, etc.

Speed dumping

Our photo editor's regular gigs

Issues with sex

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

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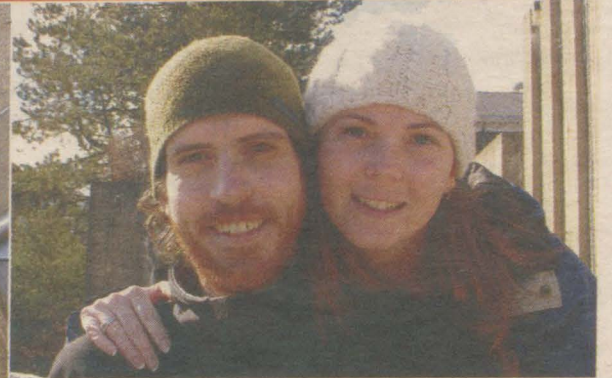
STREETER

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?



"Tie me up." "Tie me down."

Lesley Newhook, Ph.D English and Ryan Van Hujstee, MA English



"I'm going to take this woman out and blow her mind."

Rob Lewis, fifth-year biology and Sherry Benteau, seventh-year earth science



"Listening to CKDU move to 88.1FM."

Candace Moores, CKDU spoken word coordinator



"Probably going out to dinner at a mysterious location."

Caroline Mann, MA history



"Studying."

Jacob Angle, third-year biology



"Getting drunk by myself in my boxers."

Brian Pentz, third-year biology



"We refuse to celebrate because it's a Hallmark holiday and it's a lame excuse to get laid."

Maurice Faries, first-year commerce and Lesley Allen, first-year commerce



"Hopefully hanging out with the guy above me... otherwise, I guess it's suicide again for me."

Joey Ryba,

Got a question you want to see answered by students? streater@dalgazette.ca

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All about sexually transmitted infections....

CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections, and one of the more serious because it can cause sterility if it goes undetected.

The symptoms can be subtle or nonexistent. In women, symptoms may include differently coloured discharge, pain during sex, or abdominal pain. Men may experience a milky or watery drip from the penis, itching or burning when urinating or swelling of the testicles. If detected early, Chlamydia is easily treated.

CRABS/PUBIC LICE

Crabs are tiny insects that live on the skin and they are often — but not always — spread sexually. They can also be picked up by using the bed linen, clothes or towels of an infected person. Symptoms may include itchiness around the genitals. Crabs can be treated easily with special creams, lotions or shampoos.

HERPES

Herpes causes painful sores around the genitals. Symptoms may come and go. Initially, a tingling in the genital area may be experienced, followed by a cluster of small blisters. The blisters burst and leave painful sores which can last for up to four weeks. Many people do not experience repeat attacks and if they do, find them to be less painful than the first. It is spread by direct contact with the open sores, usually during sex. There is no cure although medications may shorten the attacks and make them less painful.

GONORRHEA

Also called "the clap", or "the drip," gonorrhea is a common STI that can be very serious if not treated early. If left untreated it can cause chronic lower abdomen pain and potential sterility. Symptoms are more difficult to detect in women than in men, but includes strange

discharge, burning and pain when urinating and pain during sex. It can be treated with antibiotics.

SYPHILIS

A difficult disease to detect, syphilis spreads to your entire body in three phases. The first phase symptoms are painless sores appearing at the spot where the germ has first entered the body. In the second phase six weeks to six months after infection, a rash may appear on the palms of your hands or soles of the feet. In the third phase, if untreated, syphilis can cause serious health problems such as heart disease, blindness, paralysis, brain damage or death.

Where to go for testing:

You can be tested for STIs at your doctor's office. Any information you give your doctor is completely confidential. Dal Health Services can be reached at 494-2171.

If you prefer anonymous testing, call the Planned Parenthood Metro Clinic at (902) 455-9656, or stop by the clinic at 6112 Quinpool Road. You can also call them if you have any questions.

Planned Parenthood Metro Clinic, the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and Mainline Needle Exchange all provide anonymous HIV testing in Halifax.

Mainline can be reached at 2383 Agricola Street or by calling 423-9991.

The AIDS Coalition can be reached at 425-4882 or 429-7922. You can also stop in at 1657 Barrington St, Suite 326.

The STI Clinic in Halifax is on the 5th floor of the Dickson Building, just south of the intersection of University Ave and Summer St. The clinic is open 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday night. You don't need an appointment. Nurses and doctors are also available to answer questions over the phone from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Putting an end to HIV/AIDS

Local groups push for microbicides as HIV prevention

MEGHAN LOW
News Contributor

A product that would reduce the transmission of HIV and STIs is being hailed by AIDS watchdogs on and off Dalhousie campus and throughout the global AIDS movement as a means of empowering women with the ability to protect themselves without having to rely on men to wear condoms.

"We have been hearing from women all over the world that neither condoms nor abstinence are the solutions for them," says Erika Burger, program officer for gender and HIV/AIDS at Dal's Atlantic Centre for Excellence in Women's Health. "They need other methods to prevent HIV infection."

Microbicides are a range of products that would prevent HIV transmission when applied topically before sex.

They could be available as gels, creams, suppositories, films, sponges or slow-release rings.

The products are being developed for both vaginal and anal use, and will also be available with and without contraceptive ability when they're released, which could be in the next four years, says Burger.

Females are twice as likely to contract HIV during unprotected heterosexual sex as men.

Because of the physiology of women's reproductive tracts, the virus is transmitted from men to women eight times more efficiently than from women to men.

And young women are at great risk, says Burger. HIV infections in Canada are increasing among women aged 15 to 29 faster than any other group, and women represent well over half of new infections worldwide.

Women often aren't in a position to negotiate safe sex with men, says Burger, due to power imbalances that exist both in Canada and worldwide.

"Not every male sexual partner is receptive to negotiation," she says. "With a microbicide, women don't have to negotiate. They can just choose to use it, taking control for protecting their own health."

Microbicides would give women the ability to protect themselves without their partner even having to know it's there, a possibility other female-controlled options such as the female condom haven't done, Burger says.

While microbicides aren't meant to replace condoms, the product could benefit anyone who's having sex, says Maria MacIntosh, program coordinator at the Nova Scotia AIDS Coalition.

"Microbicides would be used with a condom as extra protection, and for those who don't use one," says MacIntosh, who's also a member of the Microbicides Advocacy Group Network.

The product, in its non-contraceptive form, would also remove limitations for partners who want to have kids but can't because one is HIV-positive, Burger says.

"There are lots of people with HIV who fall in love and want to get married and have a normal life like every-

one else," she says. "When your only option is condoms, it's very limiting."

Burger says the first microbicides on the market will likely reduce the risk of transmitting HIV and other STIs by 50 to 60 per cent. More effective microbicides are expected to hit the shelves shortly after.

According to Burger, a microbicide with 60 per cent efficacy against HIV could prevent up to three million HIV infections over a period of three years.

Governments play an essential role in the development of the product. Burger says it's hard to market microbicides — big pharmaceutical companies don't want to invest in the product because it won't be highly profitable.

A lot of government funding is required to develop, test and market microbicides. But the product could be available in 2010 if sufficient investments are made.

More than 33 million people have died of AIDS already, Burger says.

"It is not something to be taken lightly," she says. "And it's going to continue unless we find a way to intervene effectively."

A half-hour documentary, *In Women's Hands: a film on women, HIV and hope* will be shown on Monday, February 13th at 12:00 noon in the SUB, Room 307. Erika Burger will be on hand to answer questions following the film.

Register at acewh@dal.ca or 494-7858 by Thursday February 9. Lunch is provided. There is no charge.

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Failing social skills or a cry for the return of arranged marriage?

A foray into online dating

JENA MARTIN
Staff Contributor

How many failed bar pickups, unreturned eye flirtations in the Learning Commons, and off-hand parental hints about finding a good boy/girl/transgender need to occur before even the most self-assured, attractive 20-something-year-old is driven to online dating?

"The battery charger just isn't keeping up anymore," says student Kyra Bell-Pasht about why she decided to dabble in online dating. "Dating is just so much more efficient online."

More and more people are finding themselves at this crossroads. According to www.syl.com, there are seven million people currently registered with online dating services. And 53 per cent of women and 48 per cent of men have used them.

With such high numbers, I couldn't help but wonder: was I next? As an experiment in social science, I set out to explore this foreign land.

I armed myself with an ideal bio: Fiffillatio, who's looking for someone to sing my native Bulgarian folk songs to, who loves giving pedicures and isn't afraid of a little "horseplay" — the kids are in bed by eight...

My posting was up not 24 hours when the first eligible bachelor materialized through cyber space.

"You speak Bulgarian, it's like dream come true," his message read. "Since I've come to this new land I've been looking for someone like you. I don't have any kids but I would like some part time."

"I too only enjoy selective exercise. You sound like a beautiful baboushka and I'd like to have a full body visual MSN conversation with you."

I was slightly shocked by Zorgonbigballs' response, but nevertheless elated to find that even the most unique individuals can find a match



online.

While online dating is very accessible, one must be wary — it has its fair share of horror stories.

Allie Dennis prepared to meet who she thought would be her dream seven-foot Brazilian prize-bull fighter.

"I had no idea what I was getting into when I arrived at Mexicali's," she says.

Today, she's still recovering from the shock of discovering her high school gym teacher waiting for her at the table.

The once ostracized world of newspaper personal ads has flourished into an extremely lucrative industry of online dating sites.

It costs as little as \$16 to start communicating online with people

in the same postal code for up to five months. The business magazine *Forbes* reports online dating service revenues topping \$214 million in the first half of 2003.

Are corporations profiting from a generation of people who fear social situations? Or is this simply a cry for the return of arranged marriages?

While it appears as though corporations are taking advantage of our failing social skills, for some it has opened new doors and has led to glorious new relationships.

Kevin Lindstrom, who found his soul mate online, says online dating has someone for everyone.

"I finally found someone who is equally passionate about a beautifully handcrafted model airplane as I am."

Logging on for romance

The ups and downs of Internet dating

ANGELICA BLENICH
Staff Contributor

For many of us, the idea of having an online relationship is something that we find either intriguing or humorous.

We are familiar with the resources that are available to those in pursuit of online love — sites such as Lavalife, eHarmony and PerfectMatch are all noticeable fixtures when browsing the Internet.

Questions such as, "Would you date this girl?" or, "Are you looking for love?" consistently pop-up during the simple task of trying to check your e-mail.

But for university students, the thought of having an Internet boyfriend or girlfriend is not only something we scoff at, but also something we equate with being, shall we say, less than cool.

For the average Dalhousie student, there are many other ways to meet people: living among hundreds of co-ed students in any of the residences, eyeing that cute guy in your chemistry class who looks like his understanding of the subject is far beyond yours, or spending any night of the week at the infamous Liquor Dome, where the object — and most likely outcome — of the night is to wake up the next morning, staring with confusion at the person next to you.

The chances of meeting someone online, however, are available and are, in fact, occurring.

When I googled the phrase "online dating," I was met with 159 million search results.

With such a vast number of resources available to those interested in online dating, I came to the conclusion that someone must be using them.

One of these people is my very own roommate, Lola.

Her use of dating websites began at the age of 20 when she randomly started surfing different sites

to meet new people. Over the next few years Lola met a wide variety of interesting individuals who she remains in touch with to this day.

After some failed attempts at pursuing a relationship, she met her current boyfriend of one year, Peter.

She credits her relationship success to the use of a very specific dating website. In her case, she found one that catered to her religious background.

Lola says there are lots of interesting people to meet through the Internet for either romance or friendship.

With the option of creating your own specific profile, which outlines your interests, views and goals, meeting someone who shares these traits is easier than trying to strike up a conversation at a bar.

And the variety doesn't end there. Many sites, such as BlackPlanet or AsianAvenue, offer the opportunity to meet people based on their ethnicity.

Whatever your personal tastes might be, the likelihood of being able to find them through an online resource is very high.

Although these resources and options are available to everyone, one might wonder if the average university student is ready for them. Dating services generally target young adults — roughly 25 years old and up — who are looking for something more serious.

This hardly describes the typical undergraduate student whose weekend plans might include yet another attempt at successfully completing century club and actually remembering it the next day.

Just like being set up on a blind date, online dating may be right for some but not for all.

Whether or not you believe this method has the potential to lead to love, there are certainly no limitations on the scope and range of the Internet dating experience.

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The dirty voices of sex

An introduction to dirty talk

LAURA TRETHERWEY
Staff Contributor

As we enter adulthood and hesitantly, or rambunctiously, traverse the exploding minefield of sex, all of us will eventually encounter that whispering enemy called dirty talk (aka-poetry).

We hope the ensuing words will help you identify and respond to the various dirty talker types:

Over-the-top, hysterical dirty talk

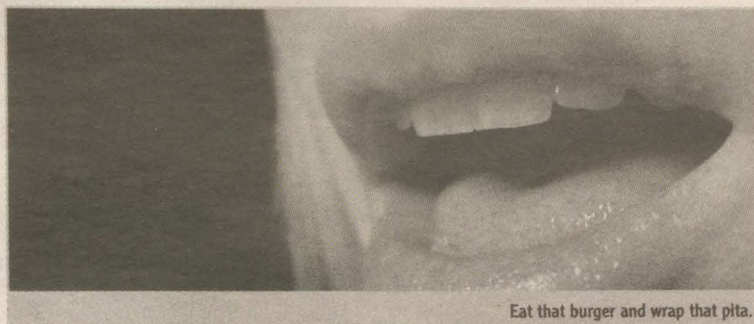
This partner will be screaming before lips even touch. Likely, you will hear few actual words, rendering any kind of dirty dialogue improbable.

Rather, there will be an abundance of confusing, ecstatic-sounding noises. Therefore, arm yourself appropriately with earplugs.

Food-oriented dirty talk

The title is self-explanatory. Rather than your partner referring to body parts, you will encounter phrases such as "eat that burger" or "wrap that pita."

How to proceed is the next question. We suggest correcting your partner's word choice.



Eat that burger and wrap that pita.

School-related dirty talk

This type is extremely rare. If it's something you're interested in, try to find an attractive classmate to facilitate the type of "discussions" you and your partner will be having. Such phrases as "tell me again about the third essay choice," are likely to crop up.

Or demands like "correct it, baby" or "where's my pen?" could also surface. We advise you to fill in the blanks.

Revelatory dirty talk

Be especially cautious around this type of dirty talk. A revelation such as "actually, I'm gay" should always be treated delicately. Others,

such as "that bump has always been there" or "no, that's not another toe," can be incorporated into your sexual activities as you see fit.

Stream-of-consciousness dirty talk

Try not to feel excluded. In this form of dirty talk, your mate will describe your sexual encounter in an increasingly distant tone with natural imagery. For instance, "my hand approached the thicket of her womanhood" or "he screams now with the impassioned call of a thousand herds of goats." Don't be alarmed. We suggest an interpretative mating ritual dance preceding your encounter, which will likely cause your partner's head to explode with passion.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

Porno for Dummies

DAVE WENTWORTH
Super Sexpert

Pornography has been around ever since film has been made. Most porno before the 1970s, however, was confined to brothels. For most of our generation, porno is an accessible type of film, available to rent at any video store or even more discreetly, over the Internet.

While so many people have watched porno videos, and enjoy them, there has always been a stigma attached to renting such videos in public. The backroom in a video store, with a scant curtain partition between regular and adult movies, has always been an embarrassment for many first-time renters.

Adult films are shot all over the world, but the American pornography industry truly fuels the global market.

With an average of 20,000 releases per year, over 90 per cent of America's porno is shot in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. As an epicenter, San Fernando draws wannabes from all over the world who want to make

fast money in an overrated industry. But the lifespan of a porn star is often short-lived, usually being replaced by the next attractive model to come to the casting studio.

Human sexuality is varied, and so it's no surprise that pornography is also varied. You can find porn for pretty much any taste, sexuality, urge or desire. Everything from tame, "soft-core" videos to more potent and rowdy hardcore videos is available on the market. This again makes the Internet a strong backbone of the adult film industry, as it allows customers to directly sleuth out what they want to see.

Often, pornography is assumed to be used to enrich masturbation. Watching a video while masturbating provides visual stimulation, and can also allow a person to explore what aspects of sex they most get pleasure from.

For couples, pornography can help heighten the thrill of sexual intercourse. Seeing other couples engaging in sex while you too are having sex can provide the stimulation associated with group sex, without

having to go through the process of setting up a group encounter. Porn can also provide couples with ideas for new techniques or positions that they may want to adopt into their bedroom frolics.

Pornography is not just exclusive to video either. While some prefer watching videos, pornography can be found in magazines, and publishing staples such as Playboy have now created their own digital, specialty channels.

While some consider pornography to be crude, others awe in the glitz of the adult film industry. Like all other film industries, pornography regularly takes the time to honour the cream of the crop at the annual AVN (Adult Video News) awards. This event, about to have its 22nd anniversary, bestows awards in over 100 categories, including best new starlet, transsexual performer of the year, best cinematography and best cover design.

The sheer volume of this event goes to show that whether or not you are porno's friend or foe, the adult entertainment industry is here to stay.

Is sex the new Wheaties?

JOEL DURLING
Opinions Contributor

For many, New Year's resolutions include eating properly and getting more exercise. Yet, time and time again, these resolutions are flushed down the toilet along with the McDonald's food we've broken them with.

Why do these resolutions keep failing? Could it be that many of us find exercise unexciting? Is eating properly beyond our means, or just too inconvenient? Can we simply not find the time to trek to the gym between classes?

To all of you lost souls out there, I offer you a solution: sex!

A little nookie with a consenting partner may not give you the body you've always dreamed of, but it provides excellent cardiovascular exercise. Sex can increase your heart rate, allow you to break a sweat, and

involve the use of multiple muscle groups. Serotonin secretions also improve your emotional state.

Clearly, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity are problems in our province and across the country. Recent studies conducted by Statistics Canada have indicated Nova Scotia is the second most obese province in the country.

Some diet-related illnesses or diseases include: diabetes, obesity, cancer, heart disease, stroke and osteoporosis.

In combination with other unhealthy habits, such as smoking and excessive drinking, physical inactivity and a poor diet will most certainly buy us a one-way ticket to poor health and premature death.

Here is my suggestion: ensure you are in a healthy relationship with someone you're comfortable with sexually, and knock boots till the cows come home.

While you're at it, why not add some food to the picture to spice things up? Try a little fruit foreplay to get some of your daily recommended fibre and vitamins, or make a healthy post-coitus meal together.

Another tip: nothing is hotter than working out or going to the gym with your partner. Don't be surprised if you feel like saddling up even after a hard workout.

Sex can be a fun and enjoyable activity. Nevertheless, ensure that you take this advice only if you're in a monogamous relationship. Sexually transmitted infections are on the rise. Many infected people are asymptomatic, and infections frequently have long incubation periods. You can't always trust your senses!

Although doing the nasty with randoms will still give you that cardiovascular benefit, it definitely won't be as enjoyable if it ruins your health.

Sexual Harassment Information

The university defines sexual harassment as "any sexually-oriented behaviour of a deliberate or negligent nature which adversely affects the working or learning environment."

It may involve conduct or comments that are unintentional as well as intentional.

What do you do if you are a victim of sexual harassment?

Seek advice

You may anonymously seek the advice and assistance of the Sexual Harassment Officer or an advisor from the Sexual Harassment Resource Group.

The officer/advisor will ensure your comfort and safety in laying out the various options available. You will look at what happened and decide on the most appropriate course of action to address it.

Sexual harassment complaints can be made by any member of the university community who has been directly affected, or has reasonable cause to believe sexual harassment has taken place.

Complaint procedures for resolving an alleged sexual harassment incident

A) Informal Procedure - A variety of options are available depending on the nature of the behavior and the wishes of the complainant. Informal actions might include advice, referral for counseling, investigation, meeting with the respondent, relocation of complainant/respondent, or apology from respondent. No written complaint is required and the identity of the complainant may be kept confidential.

B) Mediation Procedure - To initiate this procedure the complainant must file a written statement of complaint including the names of parties involved and a description of the behavior. If the complainant and respondent agree to resolve the matter via mediation an advisor will be selected to mediate the complaint.

C) Formal Procedure - A written statement of complaint is required and the respondent's administrative head will be notified. The complaint will be investigated to determine if there is reasonable basis for disciplinary action or remedial measures.

Important Contacts

Compiled by: Laura Day / Staff Contributor

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre
5475 Spring Garden Rd., Suite 304
Phone: 422-4240
After-hours crisis line: 425-0122
This centre operates a 24-hour phone line for survivors of recent sexual assault and provides court support and accompaniment.

Planned Parenthood
6009 Quinpool Rd., Suite 201
Phone: 455-9656
This clinic offers free pregnancy testing, free condoms, abortion referral, pap smears, STD testing, and anonymous HIV testing.

Home of the Guardian Angel
2893 Agricola St.
Phone: 422-7964
This clinic provides confidential pregnancy and post-abortion counseling.

AIDS and Sexual Health Infoline
1-800-668-2437

Dalhousie Counselling Services
SUB, fourth floor
Phone: 494-2081
Offers personal counselling regarding sexual issues, such as coping with STIs, sexual problems or sexual identity issues.



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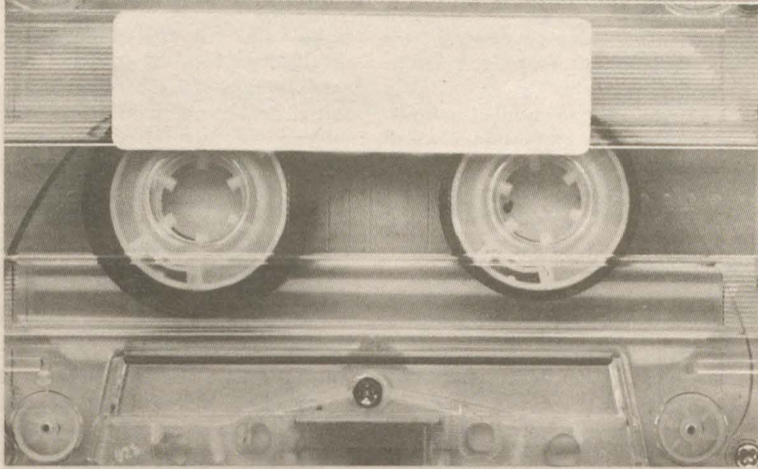
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Oh Burn Baby Oh Burn



Sex

SIDE A: Bridgette Sullivan / Assistant Arts Editor

Friday night and the strip is hot. Why does my heart skip a crazy beat? Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh. You know it's not only love, dear, that can flip the switch up. Get on down with the sound of the music. Would you like to discover physical conversation? 'Cause you gotta' give me some. You better take cold showers or get off your ass and jam!

- "Bad Girls" - Donna Summer
- "Why Do Fools Fall In Love" - Frankie Lymon and The Teenagers
- "Orgasm Addict" - The Buzzcocks
- "Erection" - The Faint
- "Boogie Nights" - Heatwave
- "Sex Without Stress" - The Au Pairs
- "Love Is A Number" - White Rose Movement
- "You Gotta Give Me Some" - Bessie Smith
- "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" - Stockard Channing
- "Get Off Your Ass And Jam" - George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic

SIDE B: Moira Brady / Staff Contributor

Music during sex is overrated. Actually, it's ridiculous. Here are eight reasons why this is so:

1. It throws off your rhythm.
2. If Chris Martin is singing, it makes you feel like you're in a music video, which equates to being filmed, which is just weird (sometimes).
3. Hopefully, your sexual experience exceeds four minutes and, if it does, the change of songs is uncomfortable at best. The three-second silence will be the longest three seconds of your life and may have negative affects, if you know what I mean (please refer to side A, song four).
4. What are you trying to cover up? Music can drown out the encounter.
5. Some people think music makes sex more romantic. Bullshit.
6. You know you're secretly fantasizing about the singer, come on. Come on now.
7. The only music that's acceptable to me during sex is the sound of someone getting off.
8. You're already making music for chrissake. You're doing it!

Finding the Message in *Transamerica*

Does bigwig acclaim detract from the story?

HILLARY TITLEY
Staff Contributor

Transamerica, starring Felicity Huffman, has generated a great deal of hype, most of which is surrounding Huffman's performance as pre-op transsexual Bree. Although Huffman has deservedly won and been nominated for a whack of awards, her acclaim distracts from the character she plays and her story.

Transamerica has become an example of acting instead of a film.

In the film, Bree is about a week away from the final surgery that will complete her transformation into a woman when she gets a phone call telling her that her forgotten son is in lock-up in New York City and needs to be bailed out. On the advice of her therapist, she goes to the Big Apple with the intention of dealing with the

last thread of her life as a man — although at this point, she still doesn't know how exactly.

This movie is now about Huffman acting. The rest of the roles could have been filled by just about anybody.

There are many nubile, early-twenty-something guys in Hollywood that could have played her gay-hustler son. Perhaps that is why Kevin Zegers is getting his own share of buzz, as in the end, he was the one picked to play the role.

I wish I had seen this movie before it exploded on to the mainstream Oscar parade. The subject matter is admirable enough, and it would have been a thrill to see Bree for the first time and recognize Felicity Huffman of *Desperate Housewives* fame.

It's unfortunate that the arc of the story is so conventional. Does any-

one really believe that Bree and her son aren't going to end up at "Happiness and Understanding"? What else is expected for a humble transsexual and her otherwise good son? That being said, not many movies feature transsexuals. Neil Jordan's *Breakfast on Pluto* is also about gender confusion, but never made it into wide release.

I am willing to admit that I saw this film under the wrong pretext: I wanted to know why Huffman had won a Golden Globe.

I recommend going to see *Transamerica* with an optimistic attitude that says, "Tell me something I didn't know already" instead of a cynical attitude that begs to be impressed.

If you go with the later attitude, I can save you the money and say yes she is excellent and she will be deserving if she wins. If you go with the former, you may be impressed.

Report Card

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES / Monday, Feb. 6, 2006 / The McGinnis Room



Reporter: Moira Brady
Photographer: Rafal Andronowski
Overall performance: B+/A-

Each time I have seen *The Vagina Monologues*, I am moved in a different way. It's the freshness of the subject matter and the variations in performance that always make this play a worthwhile experience.

The stage was beautifully arranged with a multilayered setting of women, who watched each other perform frozen in place, offering a powerful visual backdrop.

All of the monologues were wonderfully delivered for the most part. There was some sophomoric acting, but the stories were still effectively

told.

Three women in particular gave topnotch performances. "My Angry Vagina," performed by Deborah Preper, floored me. Perhaps it was her startling resemblance to my mother, but she absolutely nailed it. The monologue is a crass, loud, bawdy piece and she found it, and made it her own.

Joanna Caplan captured "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vagina's Happy" perfectly, and it was evident to everyone in the room. She flowed with ease and cracked everyone up

with the vehemence of her moaning demonstration. The crescendo of the reenactment was blush-worthy.

And the very last monologue, given by Jodey Reeves, was a sighing tribute to childbirth.

Her voice hypnotically described its beauty and difficulty with "I Was There in the Room." The smooth calm of her alto sent shivers down my spine.

At the end of the night, I was inspired to try the hand mirror out for size, and remember my vagina for a change. -MB

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Kardinal Offishall has participated in events that strive to bring the youth of communities together.

The fire and the story

Kardinal Offishall speaks out about hip-hop's influence on violence

CHRISTINA STEFANSKI
Staff Contributor

"My show is about people feeling ten times better after the show than they did before the show," says Kardinal Offishall, a Canadian hip-hop artist whose sound is heavily influenced by reggae and dancehall music.

Kardi has an impressive repertoire of experience in the music business, which includes several music awards, involvement with different media venues and many shows throughout North America.

Kardi went on tour through Canada with 50 Cent, performing in Halifax at the end of 2005.

Toronto's MP Dan McTeague attempted to ban 50 Cent from entering Canada during this recent tour. The Canadian government, which was trying to prevent violent behaviour among youth, feels that such violence has been influenced by the performers music.

50 Cent's last concert in Toronto in 2003 was marked by a gun-related fatality outside the theatre.

The *Gazette* discussed with Kardi his views on the effect rap music has on violent behaviour among youth.

Gazette: How does your music affect the violence that has taken place in Toronto since the end of 2005, namely the gang-related shooting that killed an innocent teenager at the

Eaton Centre, and preceding fatal shootings in Toronto? Does your music fight against racial profiling?

K.O.: People don't listen to my music to change the people that are profiled. I make resistance music, and I inspire certain kids. People in control are not going to change their outlook. We must maneuver around the powers that be. I want to educate, inspire and liberate.

Chronologically, I've gone through different things in my life. "Freshie" [on *Fire and Glory*, Kardi's most recent album] is based on a true story about a friend from Jamaica who got deported from Canada. The mother of the character in the song had no idea what he was up to and she was working to make things better for him.

"Everybody Gone Gangsta" [on *Fire and Glory*] is showing a lot of cats that don't realize they can be themselves that they can do what they need to do [to be themselves].

Gazette: What are your feelings about the shootings that have taken place that are seemingly influenced by 50 Cent? How do you feel about being involved in a tour that seemingly influences violent behaviour?

K.O.: I don't believe the shootings that have taken place are 50 Cent's influence. It is easy to say who is influencing these youths to act vio-

lently. People are going to be people, and are always trying to blame it on someone. Those people who shoot other people have issues.

Music varies, sometimes you get angrier after listening to it, sometimes you get more down — it helps whatever emotion you're dealing with. To me, 50 Cent is just music. Anyone with sense knows that he would not be able to deal drugs and shoot people and be on Jay Leno the same day.

We have to refer to the adults. It's up to the parents and parental guidance to influence the kids. I know that the Internet, TV or radio didn't raise me. It was my parents who taught me right from wrong. It's up to the schools.

It takes a village to raise a child and teach them right from wrong.

Gazette: What kind of an influence do you want to have on youth and young males especially?

K.O.: I have participated in functions and events at community centres and recreational centres that brought the youths of the community together. I don't believe in detention but prevention. I just try to make music that I enjoy and that has a positive influence on people.

Kardinal Offishall's album Fire and Glory is currently available at record stores.

Body moving

Liveart performances celebrate the possibilities of the physical form

IAN BICKIS
Staff Contributor

I can't recall what first brought me to a Liveart show, but it must have been a woman — they have a way of making you do things you wouldn't naturally do.

The first show I saw, by Tedd Robinson, had a bald Robinson, face painted white, spinning in circles, wearing what appeared to be blend between a kimono and a kilt.

The next show, by Thomas Lehman, included a scene where Lehman stripped naked while explaining how his arm was attached to his torso. Bass guitars were also involved.

My third experience, by Marie Chouinard, had a myriad of dancers either scurrying around like insects, or striding about like animals on the savannah, with the aid of canes, walkers, and harnessed wires.

These images are but snippets of each performance, and do them no justice, but they do show how very weird modern dance can be.

Once you get past the nudity and prostheses, however, there lies a most wondrous utilization of the human body to evoke forms and emotions.

Susan Cook, a local choreographer and dancer, loves the possibilities of dance. She described one of her favourite performances as being "extremely moving and powerful, yet tender and fragile... such a range and contrast, it cut you open so that you were feeling everything."

Paul Caskey, artistic director of Liveart, agrees and says dance has "a level of expression unparalleled in other arts."

It's with this passion for dance, and with the hope to expand appreciation for the art, that Diane Moore formed Liveart productions over 20 years ago. Based in Halifax, Liveart is a charitable organization that brings numerous world-class dance productions to the city, as well as organizes classes, workshops, and fosters local talent.

The organization's most recent production, *Encyclopoedia-Compilation* by Lynda Gaudreau, carried on the tradition. Like many contemporary dance productions, Gaudreau engaged the senses as much as possible, and created more of a performance piece than one strictly about dance.

Through digital video, the movement of sheets, pictures and lighting, and, of course, the intricate and choreographed movement of the dancers, Gaudreau excited the eye. But through the use of microphones and vigorous thigh-slapping, she also made it very much an auditory piece, with the dancers playing off

each other's timing, experimenting and evolving throughout the piece to create some really interesting sounds.

Caskey says there was also an intellectual aspect to the performance, which is an element he cherishes about most dance productions. The performance was actually a compilation of some of Gaudreau's previous pieces. Had she not revived these pieces, they would be in limbo, neither existing nor gone.

There is something "ephemeral," as Caskey puts it, about dance, which, unlike a painting or a sound recording, really exists only during the performance. By reviving several of her pieces, and putting them together within one complete production, Gaudreau created what Caskey calls "book ends" to an encyclopoedia of her work.

Gaudreau's work, however, also revealed some of the challenges that Liveart and the dance community at large encounter when they try to expand the art.

The technical aspects of the performance were well put together, and there was obvious creativity, but I doubt it engaged those who weren't already devotees.

It was a more formal affair, without the audacious flare of other Liveart performances I've enjoyed.

You could not, for example, have left the Chouinard show without a sense of awe. But the two productions are just different approaches to the widely-encompassing label of contemporary dance.

Finding a balance between attracting a new audience, while still pleasing the regulars, is a very difficult task.

There is also, as Caskey delicately put it "a lot of bad dance out there," which, if you have the misfortune of seeing first, may turn you off the art completely.

The continuing excellence of the Liveart choices, however, bodes well for its next production. I can't, however, promise that you'll enjoy contemporary dance, whether you see it through Liveart, or through any of the various other performances scattered about Halifax.

But as we become increasingly disconnected from our bodies, dance, which boldly celebrates and revels in the possibilities of the physical form, will make you think, and might even expand your perspective.

At the very least, contemporary dance will be sure to impress you date.

See the next Liveart production, by Natasha Bakht and Yvonne Ng, Feb. 16 to 18 at the Dalhousie Arts Center.

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DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster see pages 6 & 22.

The keeper of the flame

Gallery director and curator strives to make art present

RAY CORKUM
 Staff Contributor

Just inside the doors and down the stairs of the Dalhousie Arts Centre lies Halifax's oldest public gallery of the visual arts.

The gallery contains works contributed over the last two centuries — first by President Thomas McCulloch, who donated John James Audubon's *Rice Bird and Red Maple* in the 1830s. This piece was the first of the works that would become the permanent collection of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, which opened in 1953.

Since that time, the faculty of the gallery has sought to maintain the works in trust for generations yet to come.

Susan Gibson Gibson Garvey is one such keeper of the flame.

"Art reflects on the human condition and the issues of the day," says Gibson Gibson Garvey. "Yet it is a great experience in and of itself."

The gallery prides itself as a tool for the contextualization of the perceptual experience. Exhibits such as *States of Being* provide an outlet for works that capture existence and experience through the eyes of a variety of artists. Susan Scott's *As for me, I still have you here* pays homage to one of the greatest explorers of the altered human perception, French symbolist Arthur Rimbaud.

Experimenting with the "locality of sound," *The Idea of North* explores aural stimuli as a foil for visual art. Media art is hardly new, and yet its context within a world that is constantly on the cusp of technological advance is especially poignant.

But there is no sense in attempting to overanalyze something that must also be enjoyed for what it is in essence: a form of expression that exhilarates; that grasps you. Perhaps it should be appreciated for simply invoking thought and stimulation.

"Art keeps you awake," says Gibson Gibson Garvey with a smile. "After all, the opposite of aesthetic is anesthetic."

An adamant believer that a complete education is derailed by overspecialization, Gibson Garvey has served the arts community at Dalhousie for 16 years, currently as director/curator. She and her colleagues have worked in collaboration with university faculty in an effort to expose as many students as possible to the golden resource that is at their



Susan Gibson Garvey works on an upcoming exhibit, *Fabulous*. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

fingertips.

She likens the Gallery to the Kilam Library in its role as an "academic support unit" — no education at Dalhousie would be complete without exposure to the immense (if not intimidating and archaic) literary collection of our library. Likewise, the permanent collection that is housed within the lower levels of the Arts Centre is maintained in trust for the generations of students that pass through the halls of Dalhousie — for both enjoyment and expansion of their hungry minds.

Gibson Garvey is the curator of the upcoming exhibit *Fabulous*, which is

named for its emphasis on works that contain a sense of narrative and wonder. The exhibit is an attempt to highlight portions of the collection that demand in-depth exploration less for meaning and theme than for true appreciation of the layers of work that have gone into each piece.

The idea of maintaining the gallery for the betterment of the community it serves is a driving force for Gibson Garvey. Her goal for herself and the gallery is "to simply make art present."

Visit artgallery.dal.ca for more information.

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

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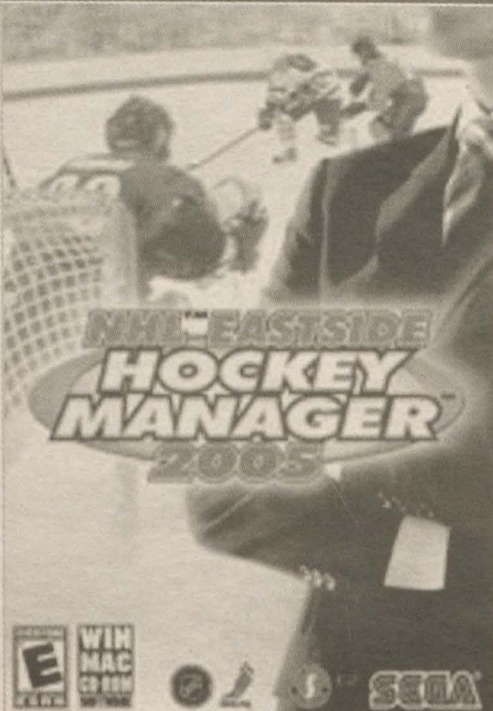
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GAMERS AWARE

DANA MASSEY / Staff Contributor



When it comes to sports games, most people think of frantically pounding a gamepad to try and get points. *NHL Eastside Hockey Manager 2005* is the second edition of a much more measured approach to sports games. This game places the player as a team's general manager and coach and provides players with the most in-depth hockey simulation ever created.

There are no gamepads or reflexes required. *NHL EHM* is a thinking person's sports title. You can control a team with real players, from one of 20 leagues, including anyone from the Halifax Mooseheads, to your favorite NHL squad, to the top teams in Europe. What is more impressive is that the background database literally includes almost every notable hockey team on the planet, including our Dalhousie Tigers.

As the GM of a team, you manage everything: player contracts, staff, team tactics, practice and training camp, lines, drafting and much more.

The game is extremely deep, but this depth makes it very hard to master and occasionally confusing. The learning curve is made steeper by less than perfect UI.

NHL EHM is also not for fans of action. This is a text-based game, but the lack of action does not mean a lack of drama. The intimacy you have with your team means you're heart will be pounding during every game.

Ever been frustrated with a real GM making a strange trade? *NHL EHM* lets you try it yourself.

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NHL Eastside Hockey Manager 2005

Genre: Text-based hockey management simulation

Available For: PC

Developer: Sports Interactive

Publisher: SEGA

Players: One (online play supported)

SERIAL FICTION

ASHLEIGH GAUL / Staff Contributor

Persecus and the Martyrdom

I will begin with *Giardia* because it is a withered and ungainly creature like me. I begin with *Giardia* because I find it meager and unsatisfied, and fitting of scientific exploration; or, at least, of my particular scientific exploration.

I have been sitting in the ocean floor for five months. That means I left Massachusetts sometime in the first week of September, landed here once, nine hours and 36 minutes after sometime in the first week of September, and again approximately two and a half minutes later. My research project, or at least the one I proposed to the National Research Council last January, is to recover a long-accepted but forgotten branch in a hydrothermal food web. My assignment, as ordained by the National Research Council's response, is to discover a long-accepted branch in a hydrothermal food web.

I am a scientist of sorts, and an historian of sorts; that means to a scientist I am an historian and to an historian I am a scientist.

Domitoris, our pilot, and not I, navigated our submersible through a martian carbonite metropolis before plugging the spout of an underwater volcano with our enormous girth last September. It was Domitoris again who discovered we were stuck, but it was probably our on-board mechanic, Persecus, who first noticed the floor of the engine room melting along with the ship's battery and his skin.

According to Domitoris, our liquefied engine room probably sealed the remaining space between our ship's hull and the vent, causing a column of sulphuric pressure to catapult us into a bed of tubeworms lining a nearby rift valley. For five months, a cloud of black chemicals from the nearby vents has been fueling the ship and its instruments.

If it hadn't been for Persecus's death, our six remaining crewmembers might have grown listless through inactivity. Torqueo and Flexus, two saturation divers who had been granted a tour by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in exchange for a salvage operation last May, had managed to wrench the mechanic's melting body through the engine room's hatch between landings, and Concutius,

the crew's robotics expert, finessed the manipulator arm when Persecus's body was pronounced dead and in need of disposal.

Edulis, our chef, is kept busy throughout the day killing and preparing the abyssal crabs and gulper eels that swarm Persecus's body, while Domitoris diligently mows the corpse's pogonophoran pyre with the submersible's front propellers.

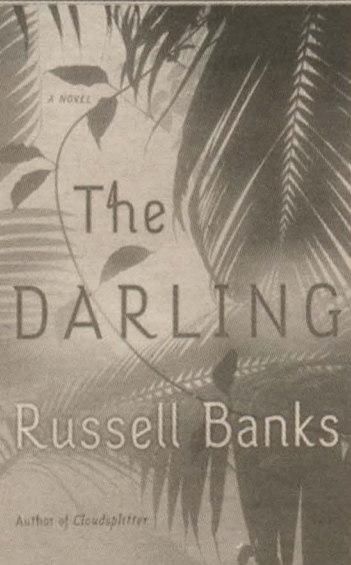
As for me, I've found that an abundant and productive ecosystem has arisen from Persecus's body, and one that provides me with a singular opportunity for observation within the very ecosystem I have been commissioned to study.

For the most part, I am unaffected by the crash. I spend my afternoons collecting samples and in the evenings I compare my results to those of the ancient explorers. What follows is an objective account of the strange animals living and breeding within the body of my mechanic, in a black smoker, 2,300 feet below the ocean's surface, and their interactions.

As I said, I begin with *Giardia*.

ENTERTAINMENT PICK

KAREN ORTON / Staff Contributor



Russell Banks' latest novel, *The Darling*, is an intriguing look at one woman's path towards self-discovery within the context of recent West African history. Banks tells the story of 58-year-old Hannah Musgrave as she looks back on her life.

Hannah is an upper-middle class woman, "the darling," who left behind her privileged background to join a radical leftist group, the Weather Underground, in the 1970s. She dropped out of Harvard medical school to pursue a life in which she carried out covert operations and was forced to assume a new identity.

Hannah left the States as a wanted criminal by the FBI, and set out to create a new life in Liberia. There, she begins work in a chimpanzee lab, where she develops strong bonds and a great affection for the chimps.

Hannah marries an official in the Liberian government and has three sons, leading a genteel life as a housewife. This placid existence is disturbed as the political situation becomes increasingly volatile in Liberia, due to a civil war.

As Hannah is drawn into the situation, her life begins to fall apart around her, and she is forced to confront parts of her identity and past that she had previously tried to suppress.

Russell Banks skillfully blends vivid descriptions of Liberia and its political climate with searing insights into human nature that emerge through his characters.

The Darling is an engaging and well-written novel that lets us understand Hannah intimately, and which brings to life Liberia for the reader.

Celebrity Quote of the Week

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- Czech model Paulina Porizkova



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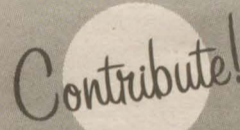
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V-Day

JACQUELINE POUSSHAY

So next week is Valentine's Day. I've never paid much attention to this holiday, whether I was single or I had a boyfriend (hey, it happened... once... long ago...).

Here's a helpful list of possible gifts for you non-single guys who haven't picked out something for your special lady yet so that you actually have some chance of getting some on V-Day:

- Chocolates (always a good standby, because pretty much everyone likes chocolate)
- Jewelry (unless your girlfriend doesn't wear a lot of jewelry... like me... then she probably won't like it)
- A framed picture of you two together that you know she really likes (BONUS POINTS and a close to 100% chance of getting some)
- A Willow Tree Angel
- A bottle of vodka (this was suggested to my boyfriend at the time by a certain classy female engineering student at UCCB, and I actually got a bottle of vanilla vodka that Valentine's Day and I thought it was a pretty cool gift. So I guess I'm equally as classy)
- Shoe polish (a girl I know asked for shoe polish from her boyfriend for Valentine's Day and she got it... but she was an engineer so that doesn't really count as a gift for a "real girl")
- A dozen roses, but then pick one rose out and replace it with a plastic rose from the dollar store, then tell the girl when you give it to her "I'll love you until the last rose wilts" and then it'll never wilt and so basically you're saying you'll love her forever and she'll cry from happiness! (another suggestion from the girl from UCCB... I didn't get roses on Valentine's Day that year and I'm kind of glad because I probably would have laughed in my then-boyfriend's face)
- The rose panties you got as a door prize from TechBall.

Oh yeah, and Amy Schnapps is still looking for "someone special". Stop by the EUS office during the Tuesday office hours for more information.

AEC Weekend Review

JACQUELINE POUSSHAY

Everyone knows that engineers like proving that they're better than someone else. Well, this past weekend was an event for all kinds of nerds to congregate and try to do just that. The 22nd annual Atlantic Engineering Competition was hosted at Dalhousie's Sexton campus from February 3-5, 2006.

After a grueling evening of partying at TechBall on Thursday night, the senior design competitors arrived on Friday, February 3 to start their project designs.

This year's challenge was to build a precision drop machine, while taking into account forces such as wind, the mass of the weight to be dropped, etc.

Senior design continued through till 10PM on Friday, with the rest of the competitors arriving on Friday night to attend the opening ceremonies and a wine and cheese. After the wine was drunk and the cheese was eaten, the competitors headed to the T-Room where the opportunity to make new friends and network (yeah... network... that's what we'll call it) was presented.

Some of the braver and heartier competitors visited the Alehouse after the T-Room, but for the most part, the competitors had an early night, in order to be on their best game for the next day.

On Saturday morning, the other competitions started - junior design, consulting engineering, engineering communications, innovative design, and extemporaneous debate.

All of these competitions took place from 8AM-12PM on Saturday. Interesting piece of trivia: this year was the first year that consulting engineering was a category at AEC; in Québec, consulting has been a category for many years. Consulting was mandated at CFES Congress 2005 to be a part of the Canadian Engineering Competition, and so it was held at AEC as well. This year's problem was to present a proposal for a sewage collection system in the city of "Metropolis" - a city that looked uncannily like Halifax...

Sexton Campus on Saturday at noontime was a hub of activity - not only was there a career fair going on, but the media was present to film the

senior and junior teams testing out their prototypes!

The rest of the competitions wrapped up on Saturday afternoon, and the competitors headed back to the home base of the Lord Nelson to get some much-needed rest before the closing banquet and awards ceremony.

The closing banquet was a lot of fun (at least, it was more fun because I actually remember this one, as opposed to the one that was held last year in Moncton)... the keynote speakers were from ExxonMobil and DND.

The DND was definitely the more entertaining speaker, probably because he had videos of planes crashing into the ground... everyone knows that engineers like explosions and things smashing into other things. Finally, the moment everyone was waiting for arrived - the awarding of the... uh... awards!

Dalhousie Sexton was well represented, with both teams taking first place in their respective categories! The senior design team consisting of Andrew Horne, Anthony Dickson, Byron Shay, and Matt Bligh; and the consulting engineering team will attend the Canadian Engineering Competition in Montréal from March 9-12, to show the rest of Canada what Dalhousie Engineering is made of. (Oh yeah, and we got cash prizes as well... which was super rad!)

The T-Room was open on Saturday night for the competitors, and a good time was had by all. Rumor has it that some members of the Dalhousie delegation met a girl named "Charona", like the song by the Knack!

However, since I was at The Attic checking out Die Brucke, Montgomery Moth, Mardeen, and the Holy Shroud (which is beside the point, this is an engineering newspaper, not a cultural review section, everyone knows engineers don't like music and other creative things) I am unable to comment on the validity of that claim.

So, in conclusion, big thanks go out to Jeff Green (6th year mining engineering student) and his team of organizers for holding such an awesome event. Congratulations to the senior design and consulting teams, and good luck at Polytechnique in Montréal!

Apathy

BRENNAN McVEIGH

For those of you unaware wikipedia.org defines apathy as, the lack of emotion, motivation, or enthusiasm. Apathy is a psychological term for a state of indifference - where an individual is unresponsive or "indifferent" to aspects of emotional, social, or physical life. Apathy is rampant on Sexton campus. It's my single biggest problem with Dalhousie.

For example, how many of you actually like Dalhousie? How many of you admit to it? Not a lot I'm betting. If any of you. This is typical of most people I asked. That's acceptable though. You have the right to complain. Everyone does, and everyone I know complains about Dalhousie.

My problem with this is that everyone complains but no one does anything about it. Basically if you complain about something you should be willing to do something about it.

Seems to be that everyone just complains and does nothing to better things. For those of you that actually do help things and volunteer on campus and read the emails this doesn't apply and to you I say thank you.

I would also like to say I am sick of seeing the same people over and over help out. There is a lot of people on this campus, why do I see the same ones every time there is an event. I feel as though 5% of the people do

95% of the work here, and they're in school too. They are taking five to six classes same as the rest of us. I say thank you and so should you.

So when I came back to campus I resolved to do something about apathy. From the time I got back I volunteered to do whatever was asked of me. I actually read all the emails Dalhousie sends me. I know strange isn't it?

So call me a sucker, and call me a keener, but if you do you lose the right to complain about Dalhousie because you aren't doing anything to make it better.

It's not a hard thing to do. When someone says, "want to write something for the sextant?" Don't say I'm too busy, because you don't know busy. If someone asks "can you help set up for this?"

Try it, it usually takes a precious hour away from your life. An hour most of you can spare from television or MSN. An hour you would have wasted. If you're really lucky it will be an hour you would have spent complaining.

So please help me out. I had to come to Dalhousie I automatically transferred here. I'm stuck here until I graduate, I would like to change this apathetic community into one I'm proud to say I was a part of. Or tell me off.

Either way, give me some feedback. Let me know that there are people here, who can think.

Photo Contest

DOUG DEMARO

I was asked by a confidential source to propose a contest, an interdisciplinary challenge. There will be a photo contest between the disciplines. With a large cash prize. Yes a cash prize.

The criteria for this contest are as follows; you and your class mates must take a photo that demonstrates why your class is the best class in engineering. They can be fun photos or photos of you participating in group activities, with or without alcohol (yes they exist). Also it would be advantageous if in the photo graph you were putting down other disciplines. Basically the only rules are that you can't hurt anyone. No kidnappings. No destruction of property, anything else that would allow you to blame me or the Sextant in anyway shape or form.

Ideas for this contest can be obtained from the MIT hack gallery. Just google that. See google is now a verb for those of you not in the know. Basically I would like to see images taken from around the city of engineers doing group things that make me laugh or make me wince.

Most of all have fun guys, or girls; I hear they have girls in engineering now.



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Hockey forward combines finesse with intensity

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The most skilled player on the Dalhousie Tigers women's hockey team is Leah Merkley. The third-year winger complements her moves with an intense, in-you-face brand of hockey that's helped the team earn second-place in the AUS.

Merkley, a Bracebridge, Ont. native, started playing hockey when she was four years old. There weren't any girls teams in her hometown, so she played boys hockey until she was in high school.

She moved to the Toronto, Ont., area in her final year of high school and played for the Aurora Panthers women's AA hockey team.

Originally, Merkley planned to attend an American university after high school, but she changed her mind before graduation.

"I had a bunch of offers from different schools in the States," Merkley says. "As far as I knew, I wanted to go to the States, and as the time drew nearer, I decided I didn't want to go there."

Around the same time, Dalhousie Tigers women's hockey head coach Leslie Jordan scouted some tournaments in Toronto. Jordan invited Merkley to visit Halifax and Dalhousie.

"I came out and fell in love with Halifax and this school," Merkley says. "They kind of had the program I wanted and it seemed to be the full deal."

Jordan says Merkley is probably the Tiger's best player. She says Merkley is very skilled and has good hands. She says the offensive forward didn't know what to expect from the league at first, but the first-line winger has worked hard over the past few seasons and has put everything together.

"She's the complete package," Jordan says. "She's coming full-circle and really knows what this league is about."

Over her three and half years at Dal, Merkley says the most memora-



Leah Merkley complements her moves with an intense brand of hockey. / Photo: Nick Pearce

ble moments with the Tigers were the 2005 AUS semi-final against SMU, a 3-2 overtime win at St. FX. in October and a 5-2 win over St. FX. last week.

She says the Tigers are getting remarkably better each year.

"People don't take us as lightly anymore," Merkley says. "We're not lucky like everyone says. We can definitely take it to these guys."

Merkley says many top-notch players have played for the Tigers and she's learned a great deal from them. The player who sticks out the most is current team captain Leah Kutcher.

Merkley says Kutcher is an inspiration because the fifth-year forward also captains the women's soccer team, is an Academic All-Canadian and is one of the top players on the Tigers.

"She's always working hard," Merk-

ley says. "She's awesome to be with side-by-side and also just the role of the captain. I've learned a lot from her... just the way she deals with things."

Presently, Merkley studies History and journalism, but her future plans are undecided. She's considered teaching and doing her masters.

One thing is for sure: she wants to travel after university and remain involved with the game. Merkley says she might also like to be a sports writer or suit up for a professional women's hockey team.

With the playoffs set for the last weekend in February, the second-place Tigers look poised for a long playoff run. Merkley says consistency is crucial for the team and the Tigers can't take any opponents for granted.

"We just have to be ready to play every game and play Tiger hockey."

Mind over matter

Dalifamous: A profile of Angie Birt

DAWN MACPHEE
Staff Contributor

Angie Birt harmonizes body and mind in her dual career as a psychology professor and yoga instructor.

"I love to teach," says Birt. "Psychology is a passion of mine and yoga is also a passion, so it's easy to teach your passions."

Birt teaches psychology at Dalhousie and Mount St. Vincent University. She and her business partner Jody Manley run Ashtanga Yoga Halifax, a company that provides yoga instruction at various locations throughout the city. During this winter term, Birt has been teaching eight yoga classes per week.

Birt is what one could call a lean, mean, yoga machine. Her long, curly hair and ready smile complete her total picture of health. Originally from P.E.I., Birt completed her PhD in cognitive psychology at UBC. As a student, she tried yoga to relieve the stress of her studies. She played around with different styles until she found her best match with Ashtanga yoga.

When asked to describe Ashtanga yoga, the first word that comes to Birt's mind is a resounding: "difficult." She says Ashtanga is a physically challenging practice, but the benefits make it all worthwhile.

"The primary series of Ashtanga is a detoxifying sequence of postures," says Birt. "You want to breathe deeply and sweat to release toxins."

Ashtanga yoga is based on the teachings of Sri K. Pattabhi Jois of Mysore, India. It literally means "eight-limbed yoga." The practice involves synchronizing the breath through a series of postures. This produces an internal heat and purifying sweat that detoxifies muscles and organs. Ashtanga yoga provides a strong cardiovascular workout and over time is said to increase strength and flexibility, improve circulation, and calm the mind.

Yoga offers positive lifestyle benefits for students, she says. "It's an energizing practice so it's great for stress reduction because it creates a sense of calm energy."

Teaching late afternoon yoga class-

es revitalizes Birt to return to academic work in the evenings. An Ashtanga yoga class can make a fantastic study break, she says.

"You'll feel renewed and energized after a yoga class."

Birt moved to Halifax and started attending Ashtanga classes on a daily basis in 1999. It wasn't long before her instructor and future business partner, Manley, approached her to teach yoga.

Birt shadowed Manley and helped her teach classes. And she soon embarked on a serious teaching session with David Swenson, one of the world's foremost experts on Ashtanga teaching and practice.

Her main teacher later became Darby, another widely respected Ashtanga expert based in Montréal. Birt became an official partner in Ashtanga Yoga Halifax in 2000.

Last summer, Birt spent two months studying with Sri K. Pattabhi Jois in India. Pattabhi Jois, also a Sanskrit scholar, celebrated his ninetieth birthday during Birt's visit. Birt was humbled by his presence and says he has a special energy.

"He knows so much that by just being around him you feel inspired to be such a better person," she says.

Birt is enthusiastic about a new opportunity to blend psychology with yoga through research. She recently received a grant from MSU to study the cognitive benefits of yoga. Cognitive psychology is Birt's specialty and the discipline focuses on the mental processes that influence human behavior. The grant will allow Birt to meld her two careers together.

Her investigation is now in the preliminary stages, but she foresees positive results.

She says she connects with yoga students in a different way than she connects with university students. She is using this wisdom to become a better teacher.

"Because of yoga, I'm trying to establish better connections with my university students on a more personal level," she says.

For Birt, yoga is a philosophy of life: "to live the best life possible and be the best person you can be."

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

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Women's volleyball team buckles down for stretch-drive

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The Dalhousie Tiger's women's volleyball team is in first place in the AUS and has clinched a playoff bye.

Head coach Kirk Yanofsky says his team has played well up to this point and has improved since September.

"One of our main goals was to make sure we were always getting better," says Yanofsky. "So, in terms of AUS play, it hasn't always been great, but we've found ways to get results... so, each match we play seems to be making us a little better than the previous one."

Yanofsky says Leslie Marriott, Jilliane Goulet, who decided to return for her fifth year before Christmas, Leah McInnis, and Stacey Power lead the team.

Marriott is the only real setter on the team, he says, and she's a performer that thrives under pressure.

Yanofsky says it's nice to have Goulet back. He says she was a little rusty at first but has taken the necessary steps to make the improvements.

McInnis was injured for most of the first half, but Yanofsky says she's progressed nicely and has solidified herself as the best libero in the conference. He says her passing stability and defensive ability have helped the Tigers get results.

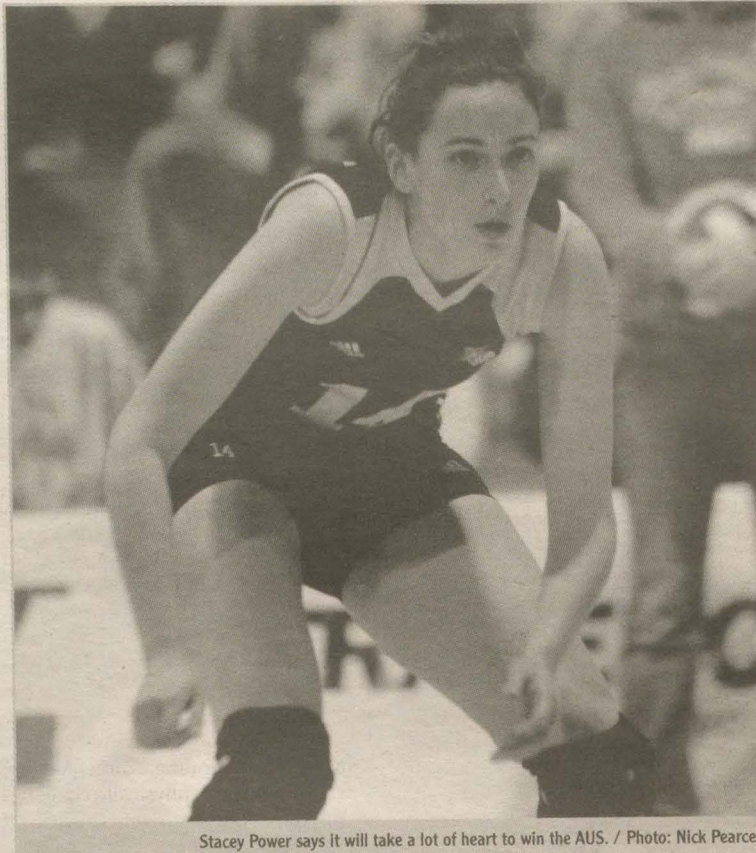
Yanofsky says Power has been the team's go-to player.

"Stacey has been a real rock for our team," he says. "She's really stepped up to the plate and delivered. A lot of our success was because she's played so consistently."

Power also says the season has gone pretty well up to this point.

"I think the fact that we've clinched a playoff spot shows that we've had a pretty good season," Power says. "I think we've been building up to the AUS championship and getting Jilliane Goulet back in our line-up has definitely helped."

Recently, the Tigers competed in an interlock tournament at McGill University. It wasn't a good weekend for the squad on the score-sheet as the team lost all its matches.



Stacey Power says it will take a lot of heart to win the AUS. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Yanofsky says the interlock is a positive development for the women's program and the Tigers found out that the team has to play better on its side of the net.

"The results were disappointing, but more disappointing was the way we played," he says. "I think it was an excellent learning experience. Our challenge now is to make sure the things we can control are a real high priority and to make sure we don't give away free points to the opposition."

Power says the team didn't play up to its potential in the interlock tournament. She says if the Tigers played better, the squad would have posted a couple of wins.

"We definitely learned some things from [the interlock], especially against Laval," she says. "They're the top-team in the CIS right now. They play well no matter who their

competition is, and I think coming away from that weekend, that's how we have to look at the AUS."

With the playoffs just a couple of weeks away, the Tigers are training hard for a long playoff run.

Yanofsky says the Tigers compare with any team in the country in terms of skill and physical ability, but says his team has to get better at the process of playing the game.

"Where we're having a shortfall is our ability to take care of the ball on our side of the net," he says. "Taking care of those little things is what separates the great teams from the good team and I think that's for us our main challenge."

Power says the Tigers will need two weeks of intense training and a lot of dedication to win the AUS and to have a strong performance at CIS.

"It's going to take a lot of heart and I think we have it."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

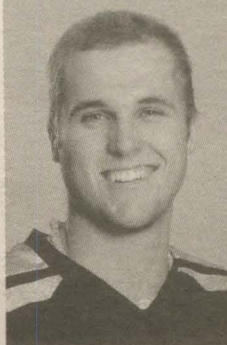
FEMALE ATHLETE



STACEY POWER
VOLLEYBALL

Stacey Power was named player of the match in the Tigers 3-1 win over fourth-place Memorial. Always a consistent player, she showed why she is one of the leading players in the league. Power contributed seven kills (with zero errors), 10 digs and passed 2.42 / 3.00 with no errors. On Sunday, she helped the Tigers clinch a first-round playoff bye with a strong performance in the four-set 3-1 win over third place UNB. In this match, Power had 13 kills, again with no errors. Power is a fifth-year economics student from Cole Harbour, N.S.

MALE ATHLETE



SCOTT TOWNSEND
VOLLEYBALL

Scott Townsend's 42 assists and seven service aces were instrumental in this weekend's win. On Sunday, the team played its only match of the weekend and hosted UNB for a short three-set victory. Townsend is a fourth-year management student from Halifax, N.S.

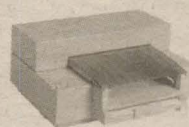
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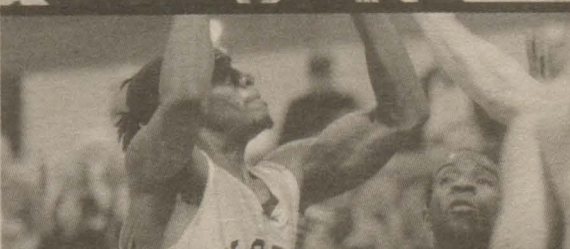
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Women's Hockey vs. STU, 3pm

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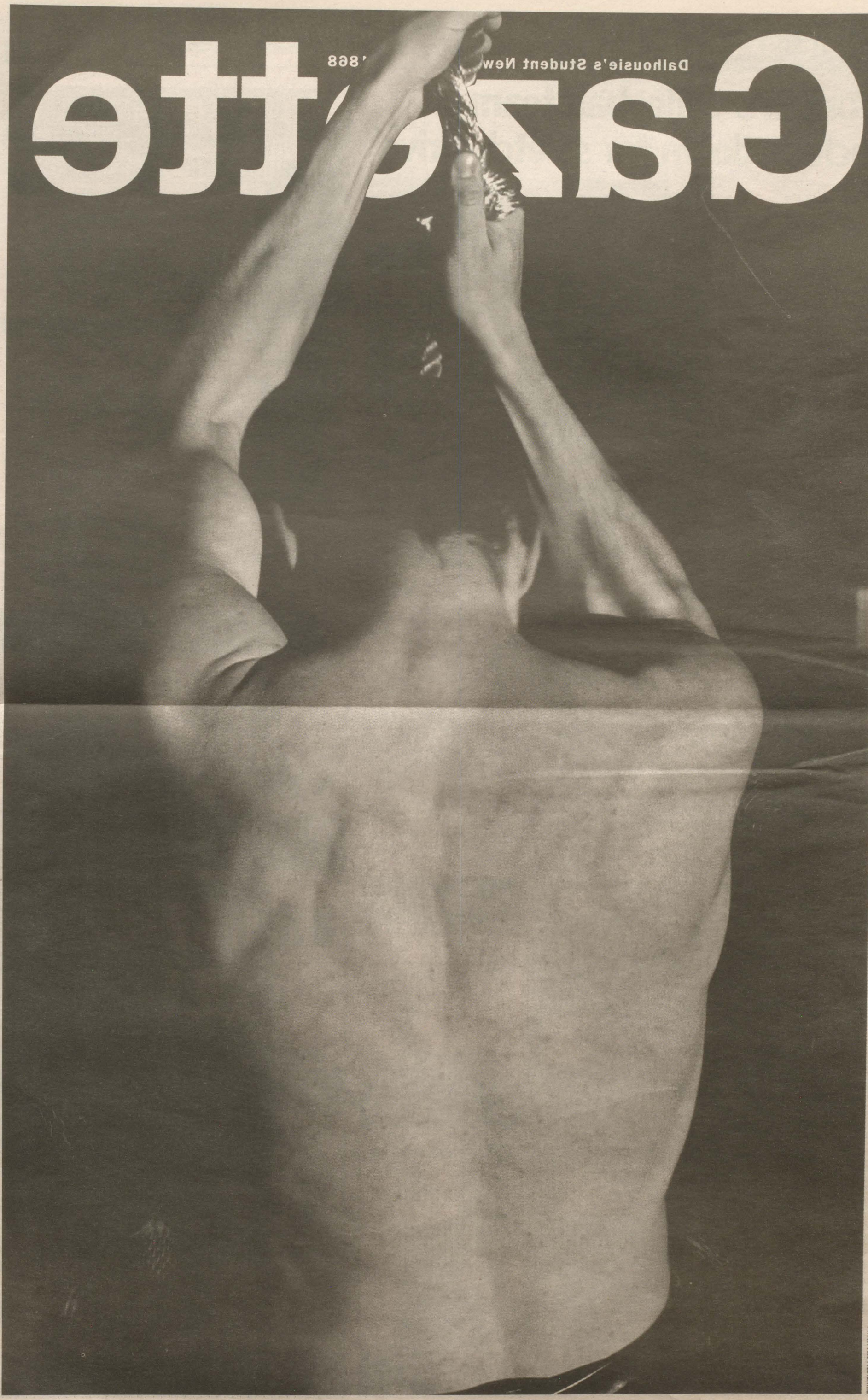


Photo: Jess McDermid