

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE



## Trick Or Treat Or Tuition?

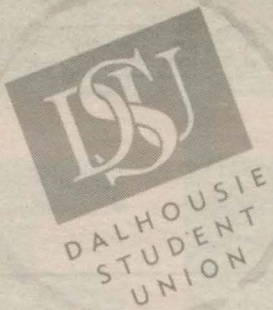
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# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## Tuition

This week, Statistics Canada released new figures on tuition levels across Canada. Once again, Nova Scotia is at the top of the list.

The DSU and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations used this as an opportunity to talk about the huge financial burden we place on students and the effect this has on our economy and our province. We got some great coverage of the issue in local and national media, including the cover of the Daily News and a Dal student talking about her debt in the Globe and Mail. For more on the issue, see [www.anssa.ca](http://www.anssa.ca).



## Strike?

Since the faculty strike at Acadia began last week, I've been getting a lot of questions about whether a similar situation is likely to occur here at Dal and what the effects could be.

First, let me say that a strike doesn't seem likely this year. I've met with both professors and administrators about this issue and both sides seem to be reasonable in their requests and to be genuinely seeking an equitable arrangement.

If a strike were to occur, the DSU would work to make sure that students are fully informed at all times and that their concerns are heard. We've been taking notes from recent student efforts at both Acadia and SMU.

## Society Round Table

This year's Society Round Table is going to be focused on creating a support network of society leaders. It will be a venue to share ideas and experiences. You do not want to miss this opportunity. As an added bonus you will learn a new technique of meeting hosting that you may find useful within your society.

When: Thursday, November 1st at 2-4PM  
Where: McInnes Room (2nd floor of SUB)

## Free Tickets - Strength in Numbers Tour

SUM 41, Finger 11 and special guest Die Mannequin will be playing Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm at the Halifax Metro Center.

Fill out a ballot at the DAL SUB Info Desk to win. The Draw takes place November 1, 2007. This contest is for Dalhousie students only.

Mike Tipping - [dsupres@dal.ca](mailto:dsupres@dal.ca)



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## THE FINE PRINT

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

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

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

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. 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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Write?

...write  
for the  
GAZETTE

Story meetings  
are held every  
Monday at  
5:30 p.m. in  
room 312  
of the SUB.

# Google life

**JOHN PACKMAN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Google has become a staple for internet users.

Whether you're just using it as a general search tool, watching movies on YouTube or searching for a class on Dalhousie's website, you're plugged into Google.

If I do something online, I do it through Google. It's easy to use and I'm constantly amazed at the services it provides me free of charge. But the more I realize how much it's part of my life, the more it's starting to scare me.

I gave up my Dalhousie e-mail address for Gmail when I noticed the panic that strikes students when the server in the Killam goes down and no one can access their MyDal accounts.

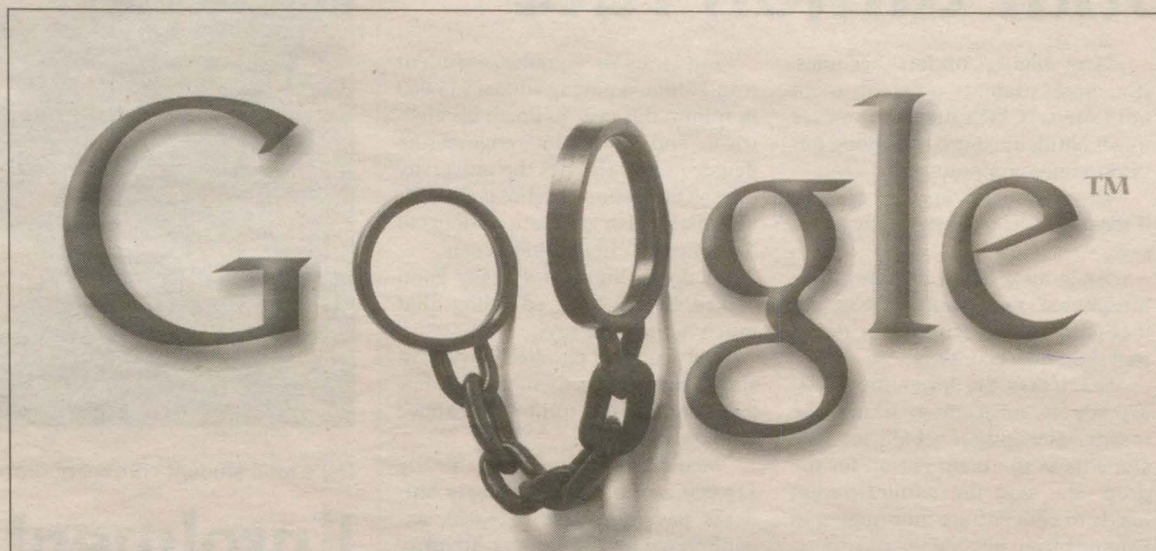
When I'm looking for news stories, I search Google news.

If I need to go somewhere, I look it up on Google Maps.

Even my lame blog on Blogger.com became part of Google last year, when the \$160 billion dollar business bought Blogger.

And if having all of my personal information plugged into Google isn't enough, Google also tracks my internet searching, through the computer I'm using and through my Gmail account.

Only after realizing this did I



bother going back to read the terms of services I thoughtlessly agreed to when signing up for Gmail.

"Google understands that privacy is important to you," it reads. "You do, however, agree that Google may monitor, edit or disclose your personal information, including the content of your emails, if required to do so in order to comply with any valid legal process or governmental request (such as a search warrant, subpoena, statute, or court order)..."

Jesus.

Since Google's headquarters are in California, "any valid legal process

or governmental request" would probably be from the U.S. government. And though I haven't done too much research on the kind of information the U.S. government collects, I know that I don't want it to be my information.

Compared to Microsoft, AOL and Yahoo!, Google has done a way better job of keeping personal information personal. AOL gave the U.S. Department of Justice the ability to search the records of 650,000 of its users two years ago.

And after a subpoena that requested the release of millions of search queries during a lawsuit try-

ing to overturn a child pornography law, Google was the only search engine that avoided revealing user data.

Though I feel a little better knowing this, I wonder how much of me is swirling around in Google's servers and data centres.

The reason they stockpile the information of the millions of people searching Google every day is simple enough: advertising.

The more they know about people and their search methods, the better they know what ads will be the most successful, selling ad space either through sponsored links on

google.com or through Google's AdSense - the little ads anyone can put on their website, both to redirect users and for a little bit of cash.

Earlier this year, Google lowered the amount of time they keep your personal data to 18 months. This helps keep their ad prices up, but also makes people's personal records more extensive and vulnerable.

Really, though, there's not much I can do about it. I use Google so much that it would be a huge change in my lifestyle to start using other, less effective methods of searching, blogging and emailing. And because it would be such a big change, a little bit of privacy may be worth giving away for the sake of convenience.

This issue of The Gazette looks at Internet privacy, particularly though Facebook. While it may contain less information than Google, the kinds of pictures and relationship info it contains certainly makes people seem more vulnerable.

Knowing privacy laws and the terms of use for various websites is key to knowing how much you're letting out there. These terms of use are often so shocking that they're enough to make people stop using things like Facebook. It's only by knowing these that you can properly assess how much of your privacy is worth giving away.

P

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# Dal's frozen fee still higher than national tuition rate

RYAN BAKER  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Tuition fees dropped across the province this year, but Dalhousie students aren't paying less.

University students in Nova Scotia continue to pay the highest tuition in the country despite a provincial fee decrease, according to a Statistics Canada survey released Oct. 18.

Tuition rates in the province this school year dropped nearly nine per cent since last year, from \$6,422 to \$5,878. But post-secondary tuition fees in N.S. are still more than \$1,300 above the national average, which increased 2.8 per cent to \$4,524.

The Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs for Full-time Students at Canadian Degree-granting Institutions (TLAC) is a study of universities across the country that monitors tuition rates from year to year.

Although the study says students in N.S. are, on average, paying less this year, Dal's rates are frozen at the 2006/07 levels of \$6,160, which are higher than the national and provincial averages.

The high cost of education may prevent potential students from coming to Dal, says Tara Gault, Dal Student Union vice-president (education).

"The higher tuition becomes, (the more) students are going to opt out," she says. "The biggest incentive to get (students) here is keeping our tuition rates competitive."

The university's future is at stake if fees don't drop substantially, Gault says.

"Dalhousie has a wonderful atmosphere," says Gault. "We've got that going for us. The major deterrent right now is tuition."

Gault says the lower provincial average is misleading, citing the recent \$500 tuition rebate for N.S. students as the main reason for the drop. She says the administration needs to concentrate on bringing in students from outside the province.

"We have to help those students that are coming from outside the province as well and include them in this tuition rebate," she says. "This university will not sustain itself unless we attract students from out of province."

Although Dal's international student fee was the only tuition hike set in this year's budget, it is less than the fee other international students pay at schools across the country. The national average for undergraduate students from another country is \$13,985 a year, while Dal's rate is \$12,610.

But Linus Yu, a graduate student from China, is paying almost \$15,000 in tuition this year to finish his electrical and computer engineering degree at Dal. He says the university doesn't offer enough scholarships for international or graduate students to help shoulder high tuition costs.

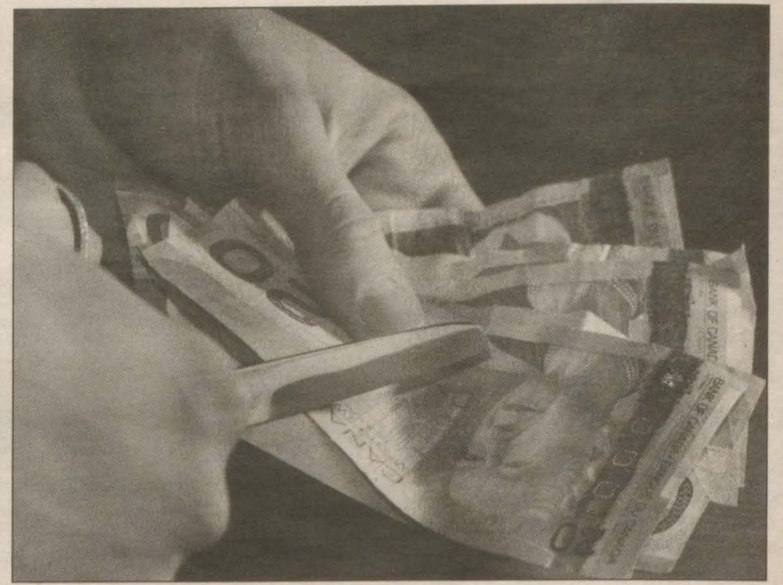
"I don't think it's a really good choice to be here spending that much money," he says.

Dal students enrolled in professional fields such as medicine, law and dentistry pay tuition well above national averages.

Medical students pay nearly \$13,000 a year, while dentistry students pay more than \$14,000, according to the Dal Budget Advisory Committee's operating budget for 2007/08.

Ava Vila, a third-year microbiology student and medical school hopeful, says even though tuition for her chosen career is more expensive than for other degrees, Dal won't have a shortage of applicants because students value education.

"Usually, people who are going to med school are willing to get out a loan or whatever they need to just to be able to go through it," says Vila. "(Cost) seems to be the least of their worries right now."



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Dal's total student enrolment dropped by 212 students this year.

# Enrolment drops for third consecutive year

KATIE MAY  
NEWS EDITOR

Student enrolment at Atlantic universities is steadily decreasing, but Dalhousie's not planning any major changes to its recruitment program this year.

Dal's total student enrolment has dropped by 212 students - 1.6 per cent - since last fall. The slight slide follows a decline of roughly 76 students for the 2006/07 school year. Enrolment hasn't gone up at Dal in almost four years.

Nearly 13,050 full-time students are attending Dal this year.

The preliminary registration rates are "more or less consistent" with the university's predictions, says Dal President Tom Traves.

"I'm not surprised there's a small drop."

Despite the overall decrease in enrolment, Dal welcomed 106 more first-year students this year, which Traves says is a good sign.

"We've invested a lot of money in our recruitment efforts and it's paying off," he says.

Altogether, universities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Newfoundland have lost 1,782 full-time students so far this year, and enrolment in the Atlantic region is down 2.4 per cent, according to a study released this month by the Association of Atlantic Universities.

In this part of the country, the number of post-secondary students will continue to fall as the popula-

tion ages. That's why Dal is focusing on attracting more international students, says the associate director of admissions and recruitment.

Terry Gallivan says that while Dal still mainly targets high school students from N.S. and Ontario, attracting foreign students is one of the university's biggest recruitment challenges.

"It takes some time to establish a reputation in new international markets," he says.

Dal employs seven full-time recruiters who travel to countries such as China, Turkey and the Caribbean to sell the university to potential students.

Dal is also concentrating on recruiting more students from western Canada, says Gallivan. He says Dal representatives emphasize the school's academic reputation, courses, successful alumni and location.

Last year Dal launched a major online advertising campaign, including a new website, discover.dal.ca, aimed at new applicants.

University spokesman Charles Crosby says the administration needs time to see if the digital ads are working before it considers re-vamping recruitment processes in response to lower enrolment.

"What really makes the biggest difference is actually going into the schools," he says. "It's always challenging because you're dealing with a shrinking pool of prospective students."

## AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION FEES FOR CANADIAN FULL-TIME STUDENTS

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2006/2007 to 2007/2008
	current \$		% Change
Canada	4,400	4,524	2.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,633	2,633	0.0
Prince Edward Island	4,920	4,440	-9.8
Nova Scotia	6,422	5,878	-8.5
New Brunswick	5,470	5,733	4.8
Quebec	1,932	2,025	4.8
Ontario	5,155	5,381	4.4
Manitoba	3,319	3,384	2.0
Saskatchewan	4,774	4,774	0.0
Alberta	4,763	4,964	4.2
British Columbia	4,740	4,855	2.4

Source: Statistics Canada

## AVERAGE GRADUATE TUITION FEES FOR CANADIAN FULL-TIME STUDENTS

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2006/2007 to 2007/2008
	current \$		% Change
Canada	5,387	5,447	1.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,096	2,096	0.0
Prince Edward Island	2,693	2,750	2.1
Nova Scotia	8,054	7,598	-5.7
New Brunswick	4,970	5,179	4.2
Quebec	2,059	2,137	3.8
Ontario	8,490	8,635	1.7
Manitoba	4,626	4,626	0.0
Saskatchewan	2,837	2,837	0.0
Alberta	5,490	5,385	-1.9
British Columbia	5,605	5,716	2.0

Source: Statistics Canada

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# Students come for *Sex with Sue*

But she didn't always like talking about it

J. MARY BURNET  
COPY EDITOR

Renowned sex lecturer Sue Johanson is trying to tell her audience that her generation didn't do a very good job teaching them about sex. But her microphone keeps cutting out.

The 77-year-old grandmother walks over to the hand-held in a stand on the side of the stage. She caresses it mischievously.

"That's why they give me this one," she gestures to the clip-on mic she's wearing. "It's safer...no fun."

Johanson switches her clip-on for the hand-held. Before the night is up, she will have enacted at least five microphone-as-penis simulations. It's true: she can't be trusted with a hand-held mic.

Johanson, a member of the Order of Canada, has been giving sex presentations at Dalhousie for 10 years. They normally happen during frosh week, but this year she's here in the McInnes Room in the Dal Student Union Building, at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 19.

Even though it's Friday night, the place is packed with more than 480 students watching her imitate a baby with a "death grip" on his penis.

"She's more like a stand-up comedian," says Nova Scotia College of Art and Design student Rebecca Roher, while watching the performance.

Johanson's been teaching Canadians about sex for more than 30 years. The Ontario native ran a weekly radio show, the *Sunday Night Sex Show*, on Toronto rock station Q107 for 14 years starting in 1984. In 1985, she began airing a weekly sex show on community access television that ran for 11 years.

Her most recent TV show, *Talk Sex with Sue Johanson*, is a live phone-in program that has aired in the United States since 2002. It also airs in Israel, Brazil and 20 European countries in five languages.

But doesn't talking sex get boring

after over 30 years?

"I love it!" Johanson says. "You could put me in front of an audience and I just get hyper. Yeah, I'm a ham."

She tells her audience a child's first sexual experience is of his parents discouraging him from touching himself, which she calls a "bummer."

"It's not much fun playing with yourself through 12 layers of Pampers."

Johanson wishes parents would give their children useful sex education and use proper terminology. But she admits she wasn't always so liberal.

She says she was too embarrassed to talk to her kids about sex. She told her daughter not to let a boy touch her between the "neck and the

"It was very embarrassing .... This is your mother up there, talking about blow jobs."

knees," and not to have sex. Period.

"That's not sex education," she says. "That's me trying to impose my values on my kids."

But before her children were adults, Johanson changed her mind about how to teach them about sex. She was a registered nurse and started teaching about sex in high schools, including her children's own.

"It was very embarrassing (for them)," she says. "This is your mother up there, talking about blow jobs."

And as soon as her grandchildren, now both earning Master's degrees, could talk, she was talking to them about sex.

Most children in Canada don't get such informative sex education. Johanson says sex education is good in some areas of the country but "abysmal" or "non-existent" in others.

In public school sex education, students don't learn about abortion, homosexuality or masturbation, she says.

"We omitted all of the essential information that you needed."

To remedy the gap she sees in information and support, Johanson started the Don Mills Collegiate Birth Control Clinic for youth in 1972. She ran it out of the health room of Don Mills Collegiate Institute, a high school in Toronto. She says kids dropped in from all over southern Ontario. It was free and they didn't need health cards.

But it isn't just gaps in sexual health information Johanson wants to fill. There are a lot of pleasure myths she hopes to clear up.

Guys are brought up thinking to be good lovers they need huge penises, "so rigid you can strike matches on it," she says. "(But) all you really need is 10 fingers and a tongue."

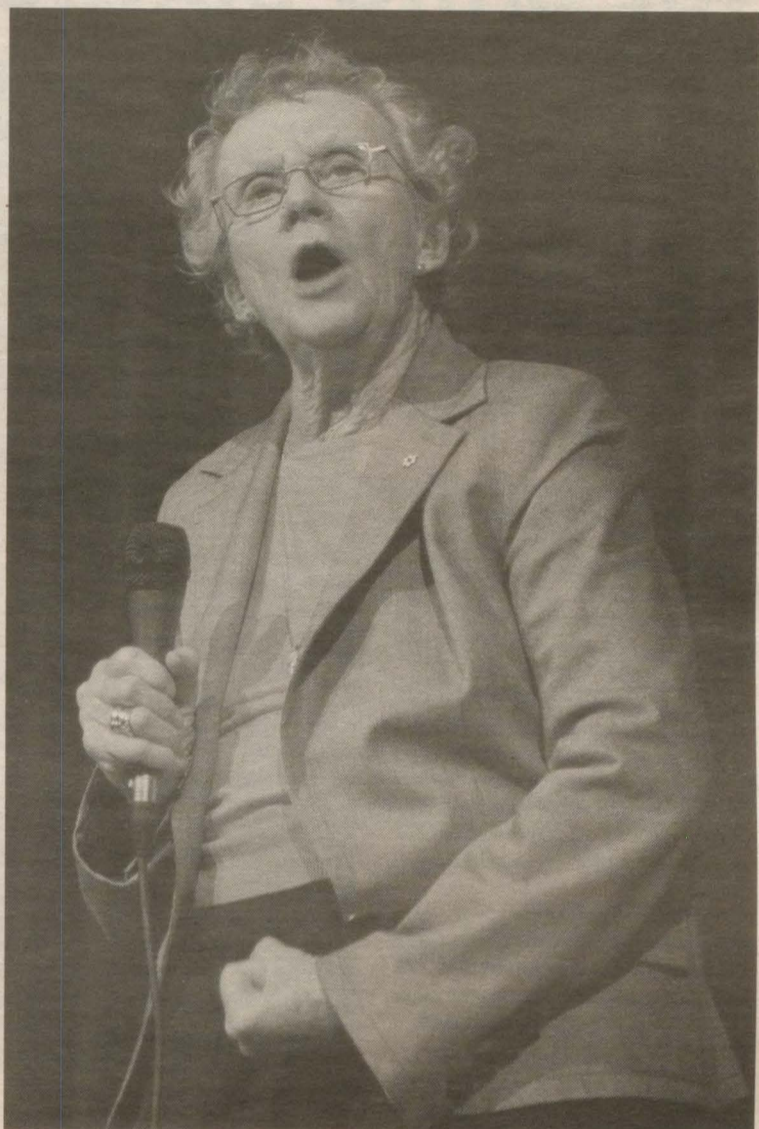
To help with masturbation and to spice up partner sex, Johanson pulls out her "hot stuff bag" - the travel version of the "Pleasure Chest" from her TV show.

"You don't ever want to get behind me in an airport," she says. She flew in to Halifax that morning from Cape Breton, and says the airport personnel searched through the entire bag of vibrators, dildos, butt plugs, masturbators and anal beads. Johanson gives her opinion on all of them.

Just as she takes call-in questions on her TV show, Johanson takes questions from the audience and the crowd stays 45 minutes overtime to hear her expert advice.

One question about lesbian sex prompts Johanson to apologize for the heterosexual theme of her talk. She says she doesn't have enough time to talk about queer sex, but her tips on how to please males and females are transposable.

It's amazing to get a roomful of students together at Dal to talk about sex comfortably, says Suzanne Clarke, a member the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research



JOSH BOYTER/ DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Students watch as Sue Johanson imitates a baby with a "death grip" on his penis.

(CANFAR).

"In a society where talking sex is a scary thing or a wrong thing or a bad thing...Sue makes it O.K.," she says. "I've seen (her) before and she's always phenomenal."

CANFAR presented the talk in partnership with the Dal Student Union. All of the \$935 raised will go

to AIDS research in Canada.

"Right now this is exactly what we need as students," Clarke says. "It's awesome to think about it and even just to get people in a room together where it's comfortable to talk about - that's what Sue's all about."

# GAZETTE .....

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting: on Monday, October 22 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

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# Students raise money for child soldiers

**EDANA ROBITAILLE**  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The youth was eight years old when he began his career as a soldier. Rebel armies kidnapped him and stole away to the wilds of northern Uganda where, for the next decade, they forced him to kill innocent citizens.

His violent tales are still fresh in Caity Sackeroff's mind. The third-year Dalhousie student listened to his story when she met him last summer at a camp in the African country.

"(The rebel soldiers) went to southern Sudan and they went to these villages and said, 'We're not going to fight you. We just want to make trades for food so put down all your weapons,' and then they massacred them," she says. "This boy was telling us this."

The International Development Studies and political science major volunteered for four months in Gulu, northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel guerrilla force, has abducted more than 50,000 children over the last 20 years.

Now Sackeroff marches for him and for thousands of other captured children who live as soldiers or sex slaves, caught in the ongoing conflict between the army and the Ugandan government.

Roughly 70 students and community members braved the rain on Oct. 20 to walk from Point Pleasant Park to downtown's Grand Parade in the third annual global Gulu Walk fundraiser.

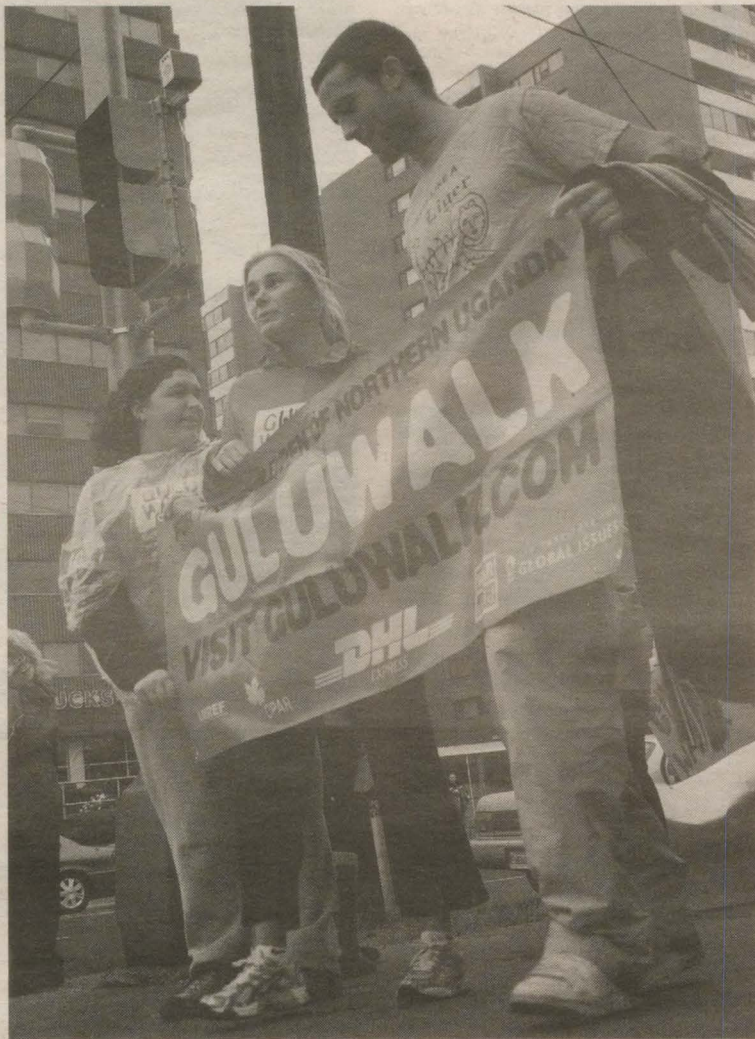
The walk, which Sackeroff helped organize, raises money to help children in Uganda, who live in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

Many of the people she met in Gulu were former child soldiers, some born to army leaders and raised in the bush – the only life they know. For most, it's hard to adjust after escaping from the army.

Some children were 'night commuters' and had to walk several miles to sleep in shelters so they wouldn't be ambushed in their beds at home.

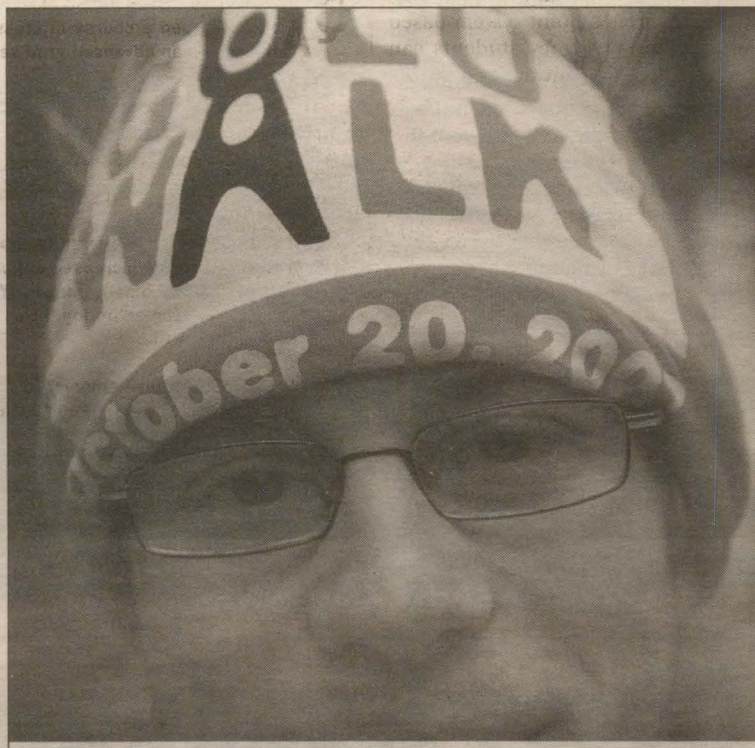
The country's government recently increased its security and is currently in peace talks with the army, so children no longer need to make treks to shelters each night. But according to [www.resolveuganda.org](http://www.resolveuganda.org), an organization lobbying for peace in the country, growing tensions within the army could threaten the talks.

The Gulu Walk funds the Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR), a youth program where young leaders from northern Uganda work with local community leaders and youth groups for peace.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Roughly 70 students marched in the third annual global Gulu Walk.



Jason Pooley, an architecture student at Dal and another coordinator of the walk, encourages people to keep supporting the fundraiser. "As students and as members of

a democracy, we make up a critical mass," he says. "When that mass comes together with a shared idea, it's possible to make change."

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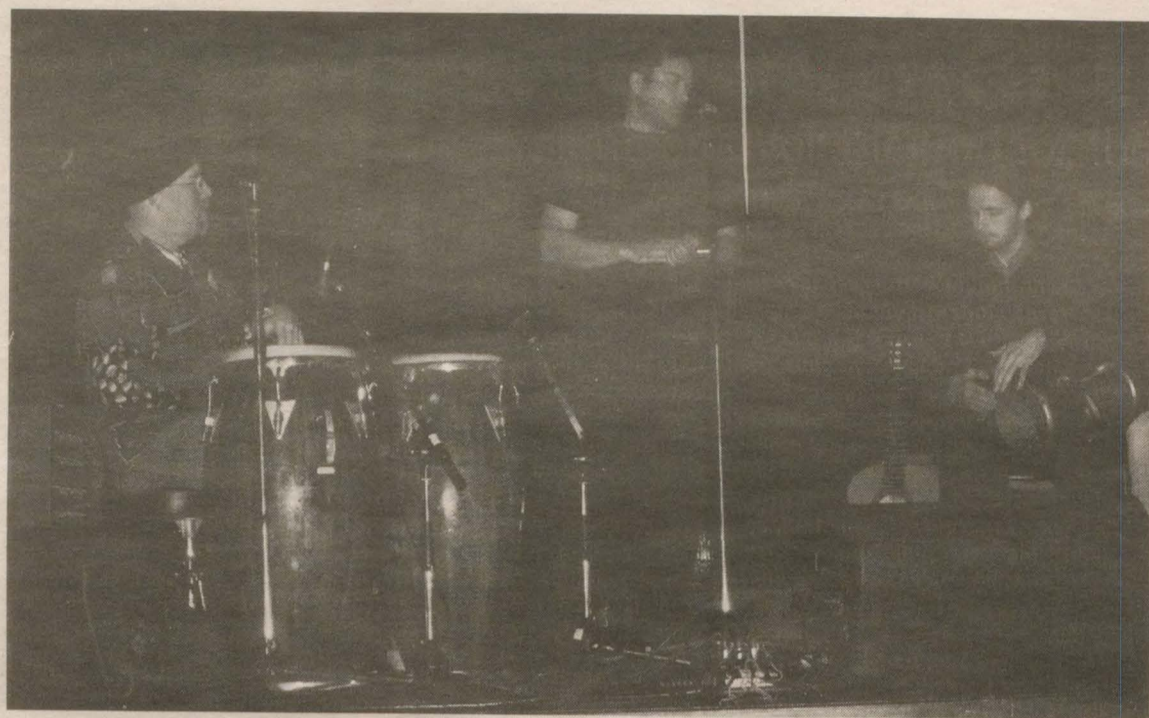
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JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

A concert featuring Mas Cencerro raised money for cystic fibrosis research.

## Charity not just for frosh week

### Shinerama tries to set new record

CHLOE WESTLAKE  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's annual frosh week charity fundraiser is now a year-long event for the first time.

Shinerama has raised more than \$48,500 so far this year. But Rosalie Hanlon, vice-president (internal) for the Dal Student Union, isn't finished yet.

Hanlon is the main organizer of Dal's Shinerama, a fund for cystic fibrosis research. She decided to extend the fundraiser past frosh week so more students could give to the charity throughout the school year.

"It's pretty easy to do while you're still in classes," Hanlon says.

Students continued to support the charity at a DSU-sponsored benefit concert in The Grawood campus bar on Oct. 17.

The concert featured the percussion group Mas Cencerro and the \$3 cover charge went directly to Shinerama for cystic fibrosis, a hereditary respiratory and digestive systems

disease.

Universities across the country participate in Shinerama and usually wrap up the fundraiser with a 'Shine Day' near the end of orientation week.

On Sept. 4, Dal's first-year students hit the streets of Halifax and did whatever they could to convince people to donate, including washing cars and selling candy.

Shine Day pulled in the bulk of the money, earning more than \$30,000 in donations. The DSU's second annual charity golf tournament on Sept. 21 grabbed roughly \$850 for the cause.

Third-year political science student Daniel Boyle and fourth-year electrical engineering student Brent VanSlyke started out with Shine Day and are still actively involved in the DSU's efforts to support Shinerama.

"It was camaraderie, it was the best day," Boyle says of Shinerama, while attending the concert.

VanSlyke says Shine Day appeals to first-year students so much be-

cause it's "for a cause; [they are] being productive and having fun."

Both Boyle and VanSlyke are in a core group of students actively involved in Shinerama, spending time in the summer doing things such as bar blitzes, during which Dal students go from bar to bar selling condoms, candy and glow sticks to raise money.

Hanlon has more charity events planned, such as an encore of 'Bling Bling,' a game frosh played during orientation week this year. This game involves a point system based on how much money students can raise. The game brought in nearly \$2,500.

Even students who are no longer actively involved in Shinerama paid without complaint to enter The Grawood last Wednesday.

"It's a great thing if we can raise money for any cause," said attending fourth-year sociology and environmental science student Eamonn Fagan.

## Prof Talk



Dr. Charlotte Loppie is Dalhousie through and through. Starting as an undergraduate, she continued at Dal with both her Master's and PhD. She has been a professor here since 2001, doing sessional teaching since 1999.

**Q**: When did you first realize you were going to become a prof?

**A**: During my PhD work, I was asked to teach Human Sexuality as a sessional. Between that and working as a research assistant, I sorta got hooked on teaching. I really like to develop courses and research.

**Q**: Is there anything you wish every student knew?

**A**: In terms of my Human Sexuality class, that they knew how to bring themselves and others to spectacular orgasm.

**Q**: What's your favourite drink?

**A**: Sauvignon Blanc, preferably from New Zealand.

**Q**: Do you have any pet peeves?

**A**: Disingenuous people. A lack of authenticity is something I have a difficult time with. That and pedophiles, you know.

**Q**: How can a student of yours suck up to you?

**A**: They can't. I've gotten love letters, offers of massages, coffee, dinner dates... Just come to class, listen, and do well.

**Q**: What course do you dream of teaching?

**A**: I developed a course in cross-cultural health promotion. I'd like to teach that. Also, an advanced grad seminar in human sexuality.

**Q**: What's your favourite part about living in Halifax?

**A**: I've lived here since I was 12. My parents are both from Nova Scotia. What I love about it is the people. I've been to places with nicer climates and more things to do, but Halifax has that small town feel with the big city perks. You can actually say hello to people and cross the street without getting hit.

**Q**: If you could change one thing about Dal, what would it be?

**A**: I'd like to see increased opportunities for people who might be considered economically disadvantaged. When that's your background, university can seem like it's not even an option. I was one of those people and I realize how lucky I am. It changes your life.

**Q**: What's your favourite music?

**A**: My favourite musician is Johnny Cash and my favourite band is the Yellowjackets, a jazz fusion quartet.

**Q**: Can you give us any sex tips?

**A**: Reverence for your own and others' bodies. Respect for diversity in human sexuality. Responsibility in sexual practices. Those are the three Rs. In addition to that: faster is not always better, remember to smile and maybe even laugh, and it's O.K. to fart.

Want to hear what your prof has to say?  
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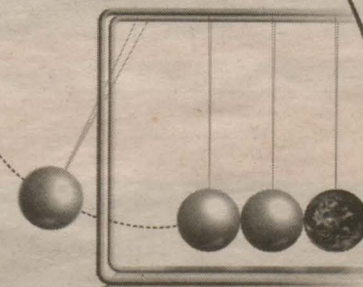
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# Who's using your personal information?

**JAMES MUNSON**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Facebook has become one of the fastest growing social networking sites in the world, tripling rival MySpace's growth with an average of 150,000 new users each day, according to Time magazine. All that's required to sign up is a valid e-mail address. Its accessible and easy-to-use format has spread Facebook's popularity across the globe.

When CEO Mark Zuckerberg started Facebook, it was only accessible to Harvard students. Then the site was opened to college students, high school students, companies, and finally to the general public. According to Zuckerberg, 10 to 15 per cent of all Canadians have Facebook. Zuckerberg says plans are already in the works to have the site translated into different languages.

Facebook's success has drawn the eyes of potential buyers. Accord-

ing to New York Times blogger Saul Hansell, both Google and Microsoft are getting closer to buying a small share of Facebook at a huge value. Microsoft already owns the right to sell ads on Facebook.

However, there have been an increasing number of concerns regarding public access to private information on Facebook profiles.

The BBC consumer show Watchdog recently performed a worrisome experiment. Reporters at Watch-

dog created a profile called "Amba Friend," which included a cartoon picture of an attractive woman in her 20s, according to the RTÉ, Ireland's public broadcasting organization.

"Amba" selected 100 friends at random. Thirty-five contacts replied immediately, allowing Watchdog to see their personal information.

Watchdog then took the information of one 'friend,' 23-year-old Scott Gould, from England. The show used clues to find other in-

formation about Scott from other publicly available sites. They finally put enough information together to open an online bank account and apply for a credit card.

The experiment highlights how easy it is for users to gather information on individuals on the internet, through Facebook or some other website. Here are some examples of how your personal information can be used without your knowledge on the internet.

**ADVERTISERS**

Facebook recently gave its advertising software an upgrade. According to online magazine *www.valleywag.com*, Facebook's Flyers Pro is a step up from its former Flyers program, which only based advertising on the small groups, like universities, that users were members of. The new program allows advertisers to zero in on potential customers based on city, sex, age, relationship status, employer, educational level, political views and keywords.

**POLITICIANS**

Federal political parties are currently in a war of words over the databases they collect to gather information on voters. The Conservative party has drawn the ire of privacy experts over claims it has used information collected from constituents to gain data about voter affiliation. According to the Canadian Press, the Liberals say they have two separate databases: one manages constituent case files and is paid for by MPs, while the other is used by the party for partisan motives. While this doesn't directly involve the use of Facebook, it highlights how personal information online can be useful to those looking for your vote.

**SCAM ARTISTS**

Neil Monroe, external affairs director for credit information group Equifax, told the BBC that, "Fraudsters are taking advantage of the new craze for social networking" by stealing users' identities. Monroe warns against posting information a fraudster could use, such as birth dates and e-mail addresses. Equifax also warns against posting more subtle pieces of information useful to credit fraudsters, such as pet names, which people often use as passwords.

**ORGANIZED CRIME**

British-based IT security firm MessageLabs told Australian newspaper *The Age* that criminals are making use of social networking sites. E-mail containing 'trojan' software is being sent to corporate executives using information from social networking sites. According to MessageLabs founder Mark Sunner, "Facebook and MySpace aren't just a productivity nightmare, they are also a goldmine of data for the bad guys. They can profile a company structure using LinkedIn, get personal details from MySpace and Facebook, and use that data to construct a targeted attack."

**HACKERS**

In 2005, Facebook filed a lawsuit against another social networking site called ConnectU for hacking into its database and stealing thousands of e-mail addresses, according to NBC News. ConnectU used the e-mail addresses to entice Facebook members to join ConnectU, according to the lawsuit. The trail is ongoing.

**THE MILITARY**

The Pentagon's National Security Agency (NSA) has funded research about the huge collection of data available on social networking sites, according to *New Scientist* magazine. The magazine says Facebook could advance research in Resource Description Framework (RDF) as well. If successful, RDFs would allow different types of personal data, such as banking records and online purchases, to be posted on the internet in the same format as Facebook. This would make data collection incredibly easy and would allow organizations, such as the NSA, to create extensive profiles on individuals.





# The Scientific Skeptic

## The math behind Facebook

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The widespread use of the internet and of Facebook, in particular, has provided a new area of research in the field of network theory. And as network theory shows, the amount of people you know on Facebook mirrors your networks in real life.

Duncan Watts is one of the pioneers of the new science of network theory, which he presented in his 2003 book, *Six Degrees: The Science of a Connected Age*. Formerly a sociology professor, Watts is now the head of research in human social dynamics at Yahoo! Research.

Network theory is a branch of mathematics that attempts to describe relationships between connected things, whether that's people, power stations or atoms. It is used in many areas of science, including physics, psychology, sociology and biology.

In 1967, social psychologist Stanley Milgram (of the infamous 'obedience' experiments) conducted the first experiment in 'small world' phenomena.

Milgram sent out information packets to people in Omaha, Nebraska. The packets contained a letter asking the recipient if they knew a target person in another city. If they did, they were asked to forward the packet to that person. If not, they were asked to send it to an acquaintance who might know the person.

Very few of the letters reached their targets and many of those who did receive the packets did not bother to pass them on. However, out of those who did, it was found that the average number of people per journey was around 5.5 or 6, leading to the conclusion that 6 people separated most people in the US.

The result of Milgram's small-world experiment is the origin of the term 'six degrees of separation.' In the mid-90s, this idea spawned the game *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon*, the goal of which is to link any actor and Kevin Bacon in as few connections as possible, through the movies they appeared in together.

The mathematical equivalent of this game is the Erdős number. Paul Erdős was an eccentric mathematician who wrote over 1,500 papers. He was also a vagabond who collaborated with around 500 other math-

ematicians.

The mathematicians who directly co-authored a paper with him have an Erdős number of 1. Any mathematician or scientist with whom they later co-authored a paper have an Erdős number of 2, and so on. Having a small Erdős number is considered prestigious.

Consider applying this to Facebook 'friendships.' There are 34 million active Facebook users in the world. The average user has around 90 friends. That means that all Facebook users in the world could be interconnected within 4 degrees of separation.

But is there any way to test this? Karl Bunyan of London, England created a Facebook application called 'Six Degrees' as a research project. Users who add the application allow Bunyan to find the route of friendships back to his profile. Currently, the average number of degrees of separation for all users is 6.56, which is pretty close to the result of Stanley Milgram's experiment, but is not the 4 degrees expected.

The explanation for this is fairly obvious. Friendships on Facebook aren't random. Our 'friends' are usually acquaintances affiliated with some place and time in our lives. You might have one group of friends in your hometown with whom you share many mutual friends and then have another cluster of mutual friends you've met at Dalhousie.

These clusters mean that some friendships do nothing to decrease the degrees of separation between you and all other Facebook users, since the application only counts the shortest path length and not the number of possible ways of getting to another user.

In Watts' small-world network model, a number called a 'clustering coefficient' describes this characteristic. The larger the clustering coefficient, the longer the shortest path length between one random user and another is.

Research into network models has important applications in the real world. It can be used to predict the spread of disease, or blackouts on an electrical power grid at peak usage. It also goes to show that who you can be connected to on Facebook might not have so much to do with how popular you are.

# Revolting against frivolous Facebook

JOHN HILLMAN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

As anyone who has caught an episode of *Dateline* in the last few years already knows, the internet can be a scary place. There are countless disturbing trends developing every day, but of them all, there is an issue that concerns me far more than government spying, perverts, identity theft or the collapse of the traditional media combined.

I'm talking, of course, about the recent proliferation of Facebook applications.

Facebook was once a fine-tuned machine. Now it is so overloaded with frivolous add-ons, I forget why I joined in the first place. I presently have 26 untouched application invitations sitting in my notifications inbox. Every time I log on, 20 new crazes are sweeping the Facebook universe, and I seem to have the unfortunate honour of receiving solicitations to join each and every one.

It's getting to the point where I don't even have time to go creeping anymore! Stop and think about the ramifications of this: if I don't take note of the fact that a friend from distant childhood has set his status to "chillin' in the library," who will?

It's not just the sheer number of applications that's the problem, either. If these were important messages informing me about serious issues facing society, then I'd have the tact to ignore them quietly, as I do the CBC or Amnesty International.

These applications, however, are not quite so noble-minded. I have two invitations to add "Harry Potter's Magic," for example. Unfortunately, the cheering charm my friend cast on me doesn't seem to be working yet.

It might have something to do with the "zombie bite" my girlfriend gave me. If I send this annoying application to a few hundred thousand people, I can help the zombie faction overcome their vampire and werewolf nemeses, and earn the title of "Zombie Warlord" - a real resume highlight!

This zombie bite, of course, differs profoundly from the "Pirates vs. Ninjas," "Jedi vs. Sith" and "HoboWars" applications that are also stuffed into my inbox.

Here's a new one: "Addicted to Heroes." Finally, someone understands my innermost desire to combine my love of *Heroes* with my secret desire to make my Facebook profile unreadable!

**Poké Mon** ≡ X

Displaying 10 of 49 actions

**Nikil has been pinched 16 times, dropkicked 5 times, spanked 4 times, hugged 4 times, slapped 3 times, groped 1 time, and tickled 1 time.**

**Today**

- Nikil has slapped Daunish M. Aboobaker (USC). 6:53pm X
- Jonathan Hsu (Stanford) has groped Nikil. 6:46pm X
- Nikil has sucker punched Will Liu (Stanford). 6:43pm X
- Nikil has bl\*ck% slapped Jonathan Hsu (Stanford). 6:37pm X
- Jennifer Shen (Microsoft) has dropkicked Nikil. 5:40pm X
- Nikil has slapped Jonathan Hsu (Stanford). 5:15pm X
- Nikil has spanked Wendy Tung. 5:04pm X
- Nikil has hugged Erica Mohler (UCSB). 5:01pm X
- Nikil has dropkicked Dave Cliffe (Waterloo). 5:01pm X
- Nikil has pinched Aaron Wadler (San Francisco, CA). 4:25pm X

**What do you want to do to Nikil? (it takes a moment after your click)**  
bl\*ck% slap, bite, chest bump, dropkick, french, grope, headbutt, hug, kiss, lick, pinch, slap, spank, sucker punch, tickle, trip or worship.

Since when was a good old-fashioned poke not good enough.

This surge in profile clutter is quickly becoming an epidemic. I'm tempted to propose that those of us who would prefer a more exclusive, personal, social networking website simply break away and found our own internet community. But, as I recall, that was the whole idea behind Facebook in the first place.

No, we're going to have to take far more drastic measures this time if we hope to succeed in our most noble vision. Realistically, I can think of only one sure-fire solution: pulling out of internet networking altogether.

Before you hardcore Crackbook-heads jump to criticize this plan, let me assure you that I too foresee at least two key difficulties. First of all, it will require us to cut contact with certain people in our lives. I know it will be tough letting go of all of the dear friends you keep in touch with through the "I Cheated at Heads Up 7Up in Elementary School Anonymous" group, but alas, no revolution comes without its casualties.

The other, perhaps larger hurdle is that, without the ability to wall-post, access mini-feeds, or poke,

we will be forced into increased real-world interaction with our closest friends. How people will need to meet up without first receiving proper 'e-vites' is a problem we'll have to overcome. I think I may have an answer.

As a history major, I've come across a form of social interaction known as an 'invitation,' which people employed to notify each other of upcoming events back in ancient times. Apparently, these primitive humans would alert each other either in person or via telephone, and in some rare cases, they even physically transferred informative pieces of paper to one another!

I know this all sounds a little far-fetched, but complete withdrawal might be our only option. Immediate action is needed, and I've already taken the first step. If interested in any way, please look up my new group: "If this group reaches 1,000,000, we're all quitting Facebook!"

Sure, it might be a little drastic compared to, say, the Russian Revolution. But hey, Russian peasants never faced anything quite as oppressive as a Facebook addiction.

P

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## Putting your privacy at large

RAMI NASSER  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Facebook is one of the fastest growing social networking sites in the world. According to Alexa, a traffic ranking service, Facebook is the most visited website in Canada and over 10 per cent of Facebook users are Canadian.

Facebook's popularity makes it a juicy target for internet crime and big brother-style surveillance. Privacy issues include identity theft, screening by current and potential employers, fraud, behaviour profiling for marketing purposes and law enforcement surveillance.

Identity theft is the most serious privacy issue on Facebook. Most users share their personal data including their full name, birth date, address, phone numbers, email addresses, pictures, spouse information, work history, education history and political affiliation. In 2006, a University of Tennessee student was arrested after he stole the identity of another student using Facebook.

Sophos, an IT security and control company, performed an interesting experiment to investigate the risks of identity theft on Facebook. They created a fabricated profile for Freddi Staur, a plastic green frog.

Through this profile, Sophos sent friend requests to 200 random users. Forty-four per cent of those users accepted the frog as a friend, giving it complete access to their data, potentially including everything needed to commit identity theft.

Facebook now allows third parties to create their own Facebook applications to improve the accessibility and usefulness of Facebook. Beware of third-party applications! According to the Facebook privacy policy, third-party applications may access your personal information and share certain information about you with others.

Sharing your information is mandatory in order to use many applications. According to its privacy policy, Facebook does not screen or approve third-party applications and can't control how your data will be used. I developed two Facebook applications and both got approved without any screening.

Employee screening is another privacy concern. It's very easy to find anyone on Facebook using the search feature. Earlier this month, CBC news found pictures of Canada Border Services Agency recruits drinking while in uniform on Facebook, along with wall posts calling Prime Minister Harper a "serial killer" and referring to French Canadians as "fucking French bastards."

In response to the findings, public safety minister Stockwell Day launched an investigation into the incident.

Earlier this year, Ottawa-based grocery store chain Farm Boy fired several employees after they posted comments in the "I got Farm Boy'd" group. There is now an "I've been terminated from Farm Boy" group.

Facebook announced it will make some users' data accessible with third-party search engines like Google, Yahoo and MSN to make it easier for people to find you and connect with you. Potential and current employers will be able to google your name and find your Facebook profile much more easily.

Facebook can also be used to connect with professionals and meet potential employers. For example, Dalhousie's Management Career Services is cleverly using Facebook to connect students with alumni and announce career events. Last week I had lunch with an MBA alumnus and potential employer who I met on Facebook.

Connecting with co-workers, potential employers and professionals in your field is another reason to worry about what goes on your profile.

Here are a few tips to protect your privacy:

Don't publish your birth date, address, phone numbers, spouse information or work history; remove unprofessional pictures from your profile by using the 'remove tag' function; set your privacy settings so only your friends can see your information; and only accept people you already know as friends.

Facebook is a great service that connects you with your friends, but be aware of the privacy concerns and be proactive in protecting your information.

## Save yourself from Facebook shame

AMY DEMPSEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

For all those Facebookers out there, here is some advice for preventing unnecessary disgrace and humiliation.

Does your stomach turn at the thought of sloppy drunken pictures of yourself suddenly appearing online? A simple solution is to create a stockpile of blackmail photos of all your friends. If they know about your stash of embarrassing evidence, you won't have to worry about the terrifying, morning-after "You've been tagged in..." email.

Keep in mind that tagging ugly photos of your friends creates bad Facebook karma, so if you don't want the public to see that picture of you shirtless and passed out next to the guy who sleeps in front of the Spring Garden Library, then use discretion when creating your own photo albums.

And hey, go easy on the albums. No one needs to see 60 pictures of your trip to the grocery store or the afternoon you spent in the backyard with your dog.

If you change your relationship status as often as Lindsay Lohan checks into and out of rehab, consider leaving it blank. The world (or at least the Facebook world) does not need to know every time the shit hits the fan in your love life.

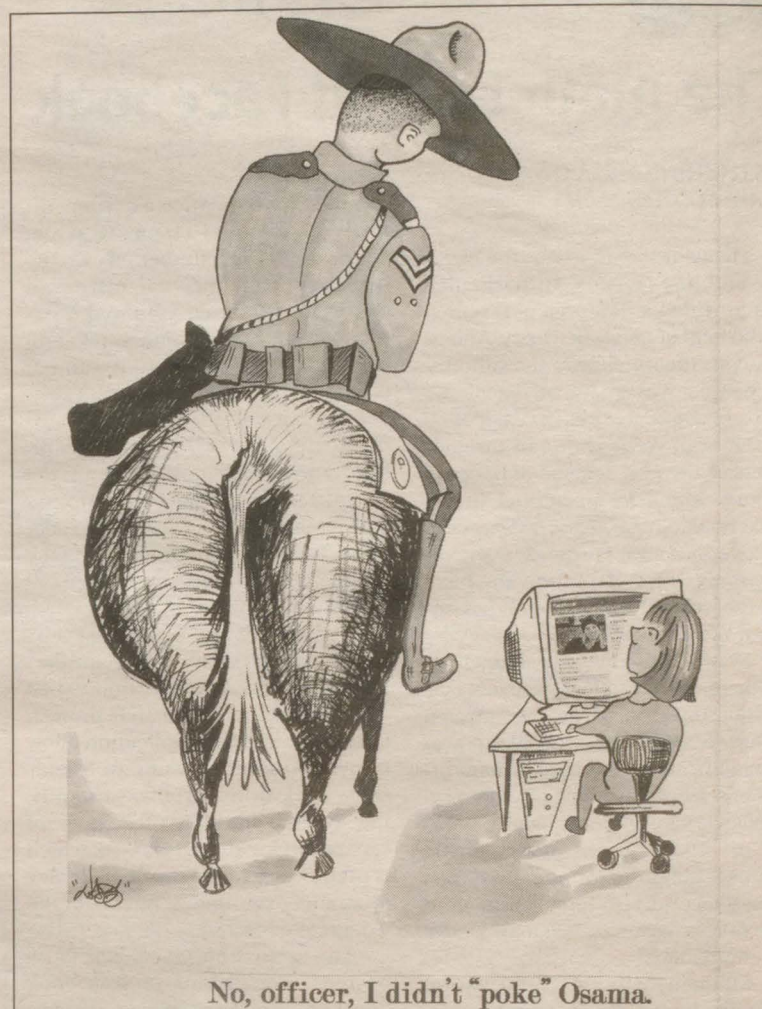
Don't name photo albums "Pics of me being bored." If you are going to bore everyone to death with photos of yourself leaning suggestively against random pieces of household furniture, at least be honest. You are not bored. You just like to take lots of pictures of yourself.

A word of advice: you cannot disguise the fact that there is no photographer involved in these little photo shoots. It is quite obvious you are holding the camera at arm's length or using a convenient 10-second timer.

Don't post pictures of yourself doing any kind of illegal drugs. You might not care now, but you will when you get a friend request from grandma.

The notes section of Facebook should never be used as a personal diary. Ever. No exceptions.

Don't creep in public. I have heard many horror stories of people



No, officer, I didn't "poke" Osama.

in the Learning Commons getting caught creeping by the people they are currently creeping on. Creep in the privacy of your own home, or at least take your laptop into the stacks.

Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know. Even if they are good-looking. Hot people can be crazy stalkers, too.

Let's talk about Facebook PDA for a minute here. First of all, wall posts should never be used as a means of expressing your feelings to a boyfriend or girlfriend. Here is a nauseating example: "Love you soooo much baby!! Have a nice day, can't wait to see you tonight;!! xoxo."

You and maybe two per cent of your Facebook friends may think this is cute, but it makes the rest of us want to projectile vomit all over our laptops. Where the hell did privacy go? Text.

Call. E-mail. Instant freaking message!

Also, posting pictures of you and your boyfriend's (I say boyfriend because girls are especially guilty of this one) cuddle and makeout sessions is just not cool. First, because it's way too obvious you are trying to prove something or make someone jealous. Second, because it's lame, and nobody cares.

If you are guilty of more than a couple of the above-mentioned Facebook crimes and find yourself offended by this article, maybe you should start an angry Facebook group about it. Just make sure to put caps lock and multiple exclamation marks in the title, make as many spelling errors as possible in the description, and post all the drunken, self-indulgent, PDA photos you have of yourself in the group's album, just for spite.

# GAZETTE

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## Letters

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, The Gazette may invite the author to revise the submission.

## Articles

Submissions to The Gazette opinions section must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit a list of sources along with articles. This publication only prints submissions its editorial board deems to be void of libellous and/or defamatory material. Submissions are due at noon on the Friday prior to publication.

## Ludicrous Sextant

The editors of *The Gazette* must find the time to publish a front page article criticizing the efforts of *The Sextant's* editorial staff. *The Sextant* is incapable of producing relevant or interesting editorials, and their contributors have an awful sense of humour.

As I browse through the pages of *The Gazette*, each article demonstrates some kind of reading value. Once I arrive at *The Sextant*, it is infested with the most ludicrous of topics. The last page of every *Gazette* contains the same stupid, boring and embarrassing drinking stories and sexual misadventures.

This is truly embarrassing for a university, especially if it's representing the interests of one of the most intellectually capable groups of students. The last *Sextant* had a whole article praising engineers' pride and tolerance for beer and their infinite capacity to party.

The previous *Sextant* issue had nearly half a page used to promote \$2 beer, and the other half teaching engineers to smile! An earlier version of *The Sextant* included a list of things you are supposed to do and not do at the T-Room. I can't find the words to express the contempt toward the poor quality of these ar-

ticles.

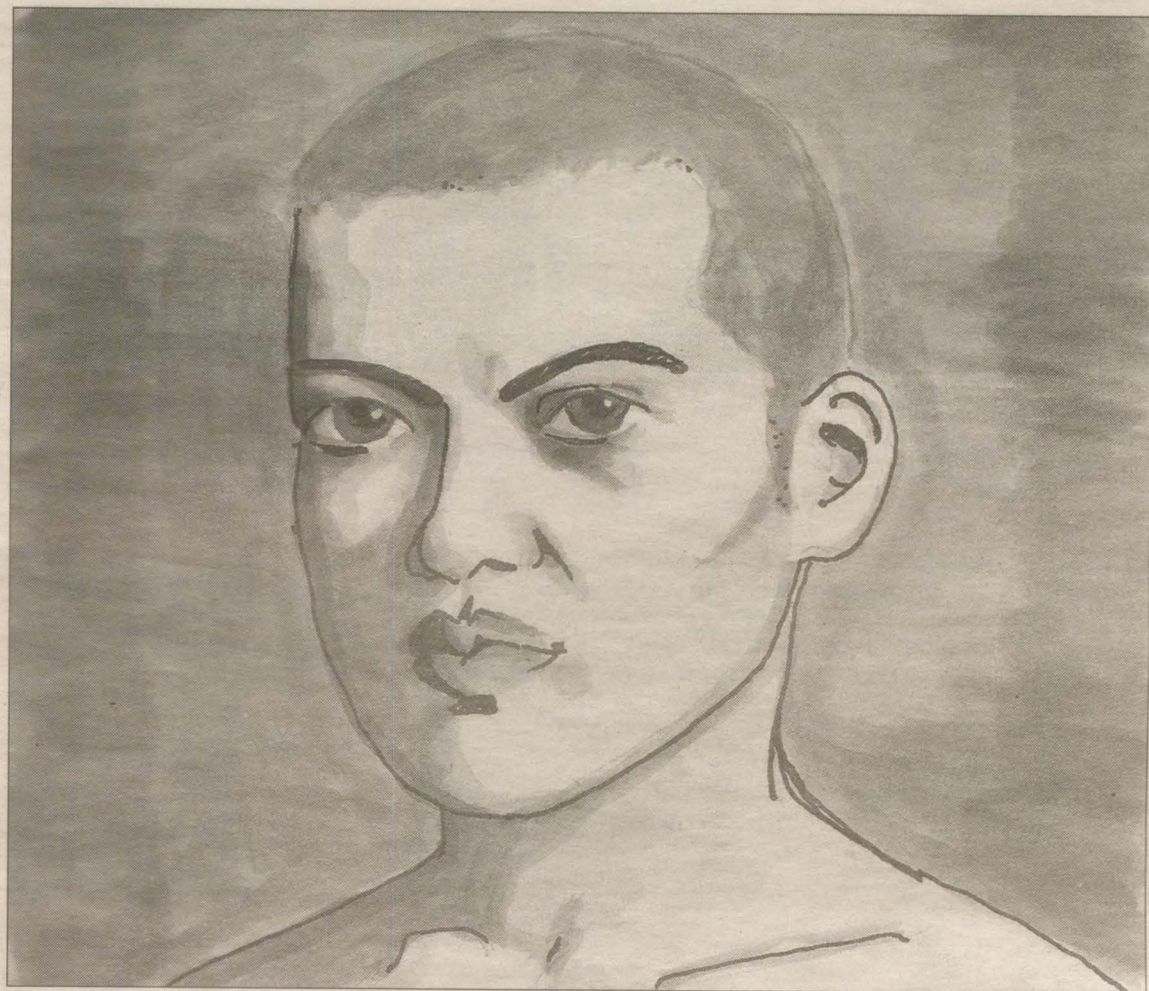
I've learned to dismiss the fact that these articles are totally irrelevant to issues on Sexton campus, but I'm always appalled at the lack of quality humour. They do not meet the standards for good university newspaper articles. The quality of these articles could probably disappoint a high school journal. It seems to me that the editors are allowing any article to go to print only to satisfy the space provided.

This newspaper is read by students, faculty, staff and communities around campus. The average reader is not interested in reading someone's cloudy sexual recollections of the T-Room. I'm sure that stories originating from any other bar in Halifax are more interesting.

We have just celebrated 100 years of engineering education. I think we could do a lot more to reflect upon our intellectual achievements and our involvement in society.

We could discuss student co-op ventures, engineering competitions, research, etc. We shouldn't degrade the importance of engineering by only writing about one's drinking capabilities and promiscuity.

-Moustafa Youssef, fourth-year chemical engineering



REBECCA ROHER / REBECCA ROHER ILLUSTRATION

Using words like "mutilation," "horror" and "nightmare" to describe sexual reassignment surgeries can promote ignorance and transphobia.

## Peter Duffy spreads trans intolerance

J. MARY BURNET  
COPY EDITOR

Peter Duffy is spreading transphobia. If it had been homophobia, racism or sexism that was so prevalent in his column on Oct. 18 in *The Chronicle Herald*, he may have been fired. This is no less serious.

Duffy attended the Let's Talk Sex conference in Pictou on Oct. 16, where a panel of three transgender youths spoke about their emotional and physical experiences of transitioning and of transgender identity.

As if coming out as trans to friends and family wasn't hard enough, these youths were courageous enough to sit on a public panel in Pictou and tell an auditorium full of high school students, teachers and health-care professionals about their experiences, in order to share information and promote understanding.

But our resident columnist seems to feel he has the moral authority to enforce intolerance, ignorance and transphobia.

Duffy's column is riddled with examples of his ignorance of transgender issues, and a clear unwillingness to learn about the people he is so eager to demean.

Duffy writes that, when he first sees the panelists, he thinks the two seated on the ends of the table (who are women) are female, and the two in the middle (who are men) are male. One of the panelists was not trans, and Duffy writes of her that, "only Christine is the gender I guessed - a heterosexual woman."

Sexual orientation doesn't have anything to do with gender, but what really displays Duffy's ignorance is that he uses the word "gender" to signify his confusion about the panelists' sex.

Gender has to do with the traits and characteristics a person presents in society that are associated with being a man or a woman. So really, all of the panelists are the gender he guessed.

Next, Duffy says "transgendering" is the term people use for when a person makes the transition from male to female, which is actually

known as transitioning.

Andrés Gayoso facilitates queer and trans groups at The Youth Project on Brunswick Street. The organization provides services and support to transgendered, gay, lesbian and bisexual youth in Nova Scotia.

Gayoso says Duffy's use of incorrect terms "really just highlights his lack of research on the subject."

Holly Crooks responded in *The Herald* to the article, saying to Duffy, "if you want to write on the subject of cross-gender identity (a.k.a. when you're living in the wrong body), you have a responsibility to educate yourself about it."

But it doesn't stop at ignorance and lazy journalism. Duffy actively degrades the young people on the panel and anyone else who has undergone or is thinking about sexual reassignment surgery, calling the surgeries "mutilation" and "horror." He says it makes him "queasy," calling it "the stuff of nightmares."

"By calling it a mutilation, a horror, a nightmare...those are pretty scary and those are really loaded words," says Gayoso. "By using those words, he's really not promoting any understanding."

Duffy calls transitioning "physical torture." To be sure, it's a difficult process. Renowned sex lecturer Sue Johanson, who was part of the Let's Talk Sex conference and also spoke at Dalhousie on Oct. 19, read Duffy's column.

"Some of the things that he is saying are true," she says. "Changing your sex from male to female or female to male is, I don't want to say horrific...it is painful."

Johanson says that Duffy's words reflect his "gut reaction."

"Anybody who's thoughtful would say, 'Well, okay, that's how he reacts and it's not fair to turn everybody against people who are transgendered,'" she says.

If you read between the lines of Duffy's hateful judgments, there is an inspiring story of youths empowered in their choice to come out and live in a body that matches their identity.

Duffy writes that one of the fe-

male-to-male panelists smiles as he says, "I'm so much happier than I have been in a long time."

Another female-to-male panelist urges the audience to never try to change themselves to please others.

These speakers are clearly not "young people in turmoil," as Duffy labels them. They are happy, confident and willing to share their experiences with others.

Yet Duffy just doesn't seem to get it.

"Duffy seems so hung up on surgery, he misses the point," writes Sheena Jamieson in another response in *The Herald*. "These youths are happier and healthier by dealing with being transgender, getting the support they need and talking to other people about it."

Gayoso agrees.

"He's not validating those people's experiences," he says.

Duffy's intolerance is dangerous because his platform is a newspaper with a daily circulation of over 114,000 copies, plus internet readership. His promotion of disgust toward trans people could cause others who don't understand this identity to feel that a response like his is acceptable, and cause people who discriminate and express hate toward trans people to feel validated.

*The Chronicle Herald's* mission statement says that, "no good cause shall lack a champion and that wrong shall not thrive unopposed."

Well, *Chronicle Herald*: the good cause is respect, acceptance and love for the trans youths who were brave and generous enough to share their experiences with the public. The wrong is that Peter Duffy used his column in your paper to spread intolerance, hatred, discomfort, misunderstanding and condescension toward these proud, courageous people.

How this column made it past editors and into the newspaper is beyond me. The newspaper needs to right this wrong. The youths Duffy demeaned deserve a profuse apology, and Duffy deserves to have the platform from which he spouts his ignorant ranting kicked out from under him.



# Gazette

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. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

### Privacy concerns bring borders to the internet

Your MyDal account might be slow and ugly. It might be full of irritating notices about unreturned books and tuition payments. And it might tell you it's closed for maintenance after your 11th attempt at getting your VPN Client to work. But there's an upside to using MyDal.

MyDal, like all databases at Dalhousie, is subject to Nova Scotia's Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act (PIIDPA). PIIDPA took effect on Nov. 15 last year and Dal released a new privacy policy two months later in response to the legislation.

PIIDPA was created to protect the personal information of Nova Scotians from data collection permissible under the Patriot Act in the United States. 'Public bodies,' such as universities, that are reckless with personal information, from birth dates to personal opinions, can be fined up to \$500,000.

These are welcome safeguards, and they reveal a clear threat to the privacy of most university students. Sites such as Facebook and programs offered under sites like Google have their databases in the U.S. This means that while organizations like Dal are making sure our personal data isn't being used without our consent, what we use online outside of the university is not as protected.

It's a tough reality to face. Considering that the U.S. is one of the only developed countries without 'comprehensive' privacy laws, according to the non-profit organization Privacy International, and that many of the most popular internet sites are based in the U.S., our privacy should be one of our biggest concerns when we go online.

We forget that internet sites exist in the real world and are subject to real laws. Just as those who live in a community like Halifax obey the same laws, privacy concerns should

be solved by instating international standards for privacy laws.

Perhaps classes on privacy should be offered to the average student. Internet use is too pervasive among university students to be ignored. Just as we take courses in how to use the library, we should be instructed in how to use the internet safely. This could close the gap between the amount of information students post online about themselves and how careful Dal has to be about the data it's responsible for.

The University Computing and Information Services site advises students and staff not to use Facebook as a substitute for Dal e-mail or for the storage of university data. Google applications like Gmail and Google Docs should also be avoided, it says. It advises us to use applications made in Canada, whose databases are stored here at home.

Dal has had to make sure survey programs and programs like RefWorks keep their databases in Canada as well.

Dal's privacy policy does give some leeway for research, which might allow personal information to travel outside of Canada. It requires that personal information online be kept to a strict minimum, though, and clearance is required from the vice-president if programs used to store information are not designed or based in Canada.

This can be quite disconcerting to the average internet user. There is no way most students can avoid having our information shared in the U.S. when so many of the most popular sites on the internet are based there.

But as long as privacy law remains inconsistent around the world, the average internet user needs to use caution when online. We need to bring student awareness to privacy concerns, so that the internet - one of the most open sources of information available - can remain without restrictions.

# STREETER

What was your most outrageous Halloween costume?



“A cyborg.”

Taylor Andrews first-year bachelor of arts



“Anne of Green Gables.”

Garrett Lyndes, second-year bachelor of science



“I was a Smurfette. My whole body was blue.”

Heather Jenkins, fifth-year recreational management



“Gingerbreadman. I had giant cardboard cutouts for it.”

Tim Sceaman, first-year engineering



“I dressed as a skeleton, painted all black with painted in bones.”

Rebecca Delong, first-year bachelor of science



“Dressed as giant Crayola Crayon with [my] brother and sister.”

Mathew Wilton, first-year bachelor of arts



“Elvis Christmas tree, inspired by a mail order catalogue.”

Sarah Ziolkowska, first-year library science



“Margaret Atwood.”

James Munson, 10th-year English

# OVERHEARD AT DAL

**In Shirreff Hall:**

**Girl:** When I was at the medical centre today they shot a baby! ...wait, I mean they gave it a shot!

**On Larch Street:**

**Girl:** Then I asked her if she pissed in the shower, because I could sooo smell piss!

**Two Girls on the #1 bus:**

**Girl 1:** Yeah, me and my other friend were really close. Sometimes to stop boys from hitting on us, we'd just mack on each other.

**Girl 2:** I know what you mean. Me and my roommate used to shower together. I mean, whatever, I'm not wasting hot water and it's not like I've never seen it before.

**Leaving Risley Hall:**

**Guy to his friend:** Yeah, I couldn't remember her name, so I just made one up.

**Outside the SUB:**

**Dawgfather eating his own hotdog:** Gettin' high off my own supply!

**After reading a line out of a book:**

**English Prof:** This is one of my favourite quotes. I even have it under my Favorite Quotes on Facebook.

**In class:**

**Prof:** Am I going too fast?

**Student:** Yes.

**Prof:** I knew it. I could tell some of you were slow.

**In second-year English class:**

**Prof:** Have you ever noticed that Adam and Eve don't have last names?! Isn't that weird?? I've always thought that was weird...and not just when I'm stoned.

**First-year psych class, after prof announces he is going to dissect a ferret ear:**

**Girl 1:** Oh my God, a fairy!

**Girl 2:** Oh my GOD! Where'd he get a fairy!?

**In first-year psych class, discussing the auditory system:**

**Prof:** But we don't usually communicate in whistles – unless you're Timbaland.

**Talking to a friend:**

**Girl:** But you know what? I wouldn't wanna be a guy 'cause like, how annoying would it be to have a floppy penis hit you in the leg all the time? I mean, like every time I see my boyfriend walk around naked, it just flops around everywhere! And sometimes it gets caught in things. And now everyone is looking at me and thinking that I'm a big weirdo who stares at my boyfriend's penis, so I'm gonna stop talking.



LOVE



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SATURDAY MATINEE -- HAWCO

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MONDAY - WEDNESDAY -- MCGINTY

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# THE CROW

# STREETSTYLE

**SASCHA GARREY,**  
fifth-year economics and environmental programs



○ Says Sascha: "My style is like cyborg meets Bill Gates at the Cococabana"

These wayfarers were stolen from Kate. Sorry, Kate. ○

"I wear a rosary and necklace everyday." ○

○ Mixing denim with denim can be tricky, but a vintage jacket (from Mintage, in Vancouver) with brightly coloured jeans makes the perfect denim statement.

Mixing patterns works best when there's a similar base and tonal difference. Mixing patterns works best when there's a similar base and tonal difference. ○

○ If you're going '90s, you'll need a rad pair of sneakers. These babies are still hot in the 21st century.

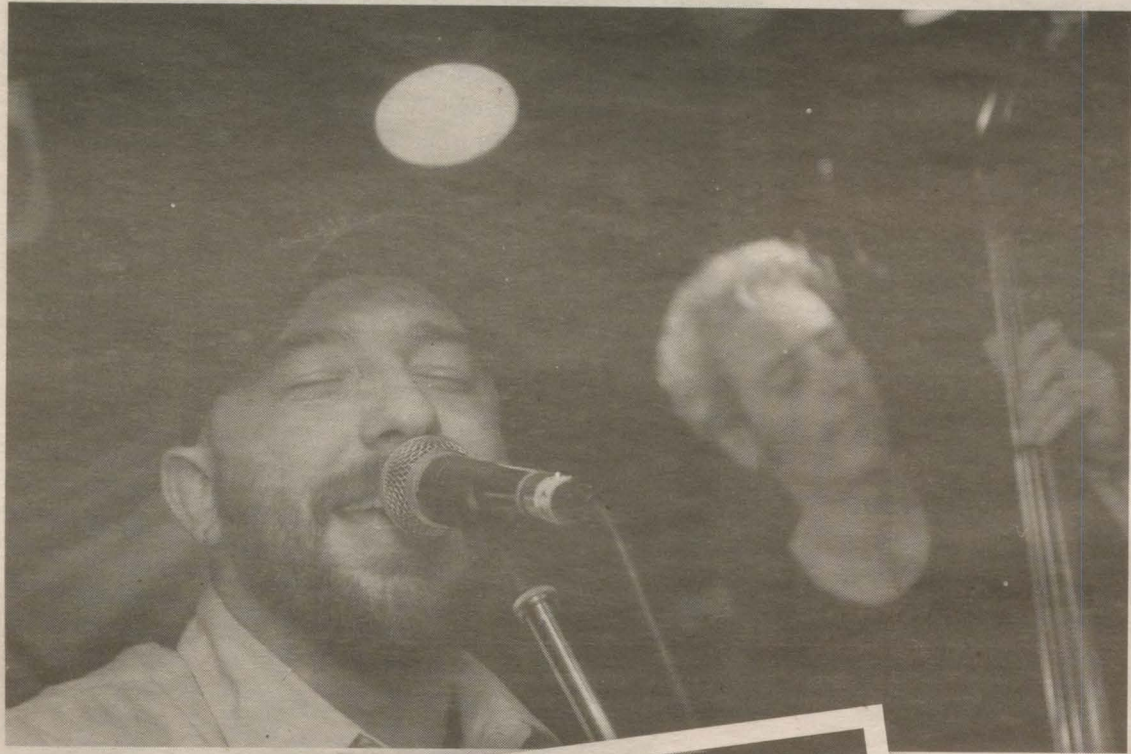
Who says socks with sandals are a fashion sin? When your socks are this hot, they're worth showing off. ○

**JONATHAN MACARTHUR,**  
first-year music



Wash it down with 

# HALIFAX POP



PHOTOS CHRIS SMITH



## Hit 'em where it hurts

**NICK KHATTAR**  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Two hundred indie haircuts bounced up and down at The Marquee on Oct. 18. It was a sea of kids in tights and Chuck Taylors, entranced by bands far more sophisticated than they were, at the Arts & Crafts showcase.

Up first was Fredericton's finest, Grand Theft Bus, who are not on the A & C label. These gents have come a long way since the days of 14-minute jams and guest appearances with Jimmy Swift in backyards.

Once known for their eclectic, catchy, maritime rock jams, their performances are now more refined and disciplined. Grand Theft Bus played a tight set of songs from their new album, *Flies in the No Fly*. They provided a nice soundtrack of experimental, rocky tunes, along with some gentler instrumental pop.

Next up was Young Galaxy, whose name may be a bit of an oxymoron, but a fairly accurate description of their music.

Although they aren't as galactic and sci-fi as their name would suggest, they do have a unique style of echoing female and male vocals and playing catchy, distorted riffs. It seemed likely most of the people at The Marquee were there to see these

once West Coast, now Montrealite rockers.

The Most Serene Republic received a warm welcome. Perhaps this is because their low-fi, twisted, ambient sound is more addictive than crack. These guys will smash their way into your heart and kick you in the arse.

Chorus vocals were interwoven with a jazz influence and a hit-'em-where-it-hurts pop sound.

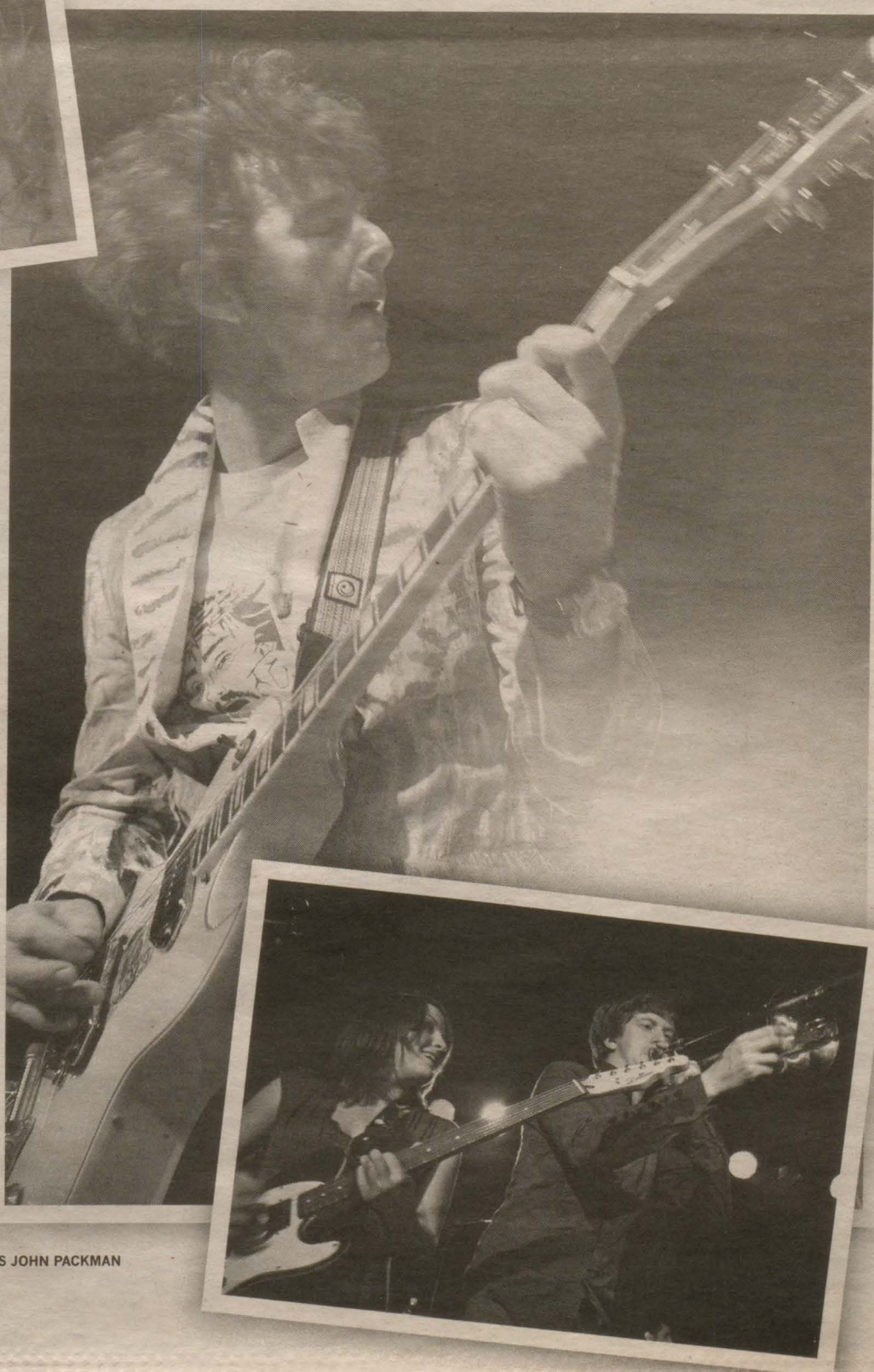
This seemed like the quickest set of the Pop Explosion, not due to a lack of songs or short song length, but because when you're immersed in a whirlwind of ambient noise, time never lasts long enough.

Last on the roster for the evening was another local band from Toronto, Apostle of Hustle. It's a mystery what made them come from Lollapalooza to the Pop Explosion, but kudos to whoever directed them toward Halifax.

Broken Social Scene guitar hero Andrew Whiteman has managed to create an enigmatic genre with this band. Their set of weird, tropical, rustic rock was thoroughly enjoyable.

Guitarist/vocalist Julian Brown's sweating was likely not due to the heat of the venue, but to the musical heat radiating from the stage.

PHOTOS JOHN PACKMAN



## United Steel Workers of Montreal

**JAMES MUNSON**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Montreal might not strike you as a steel working town, but if its 'union' is any indication, the industry is alive and strong.

The United Steel Workers of Montreal played at The Attic as the closing act last Friday, beginning at around 2 a.m. The mostly Montreal natives kept an enthusiastic crowd alive right until the end.

With a style that's sometimes called 'citygrass,' sometimes called alt-country, the Steel Workers played a raucous set with distinct vocals.

Felicity Hamer's raspy voice blazed through "Tracie Dean" from their second album *Kerosene & Coal*, released this year.

Her voice isn't easy to compare with any other female country singer's. It lingers and rushes like the band's rhythmic mandolin, played by Shawn 'Gus' Beauchamp.

Beauchamp leads the vocals on "Ask Me To Stay," also from the band's second album. His emotional

take on lost love was a captivating pleasure, simple and easy to listen to, as his voice climbed into a chorus accompanied by Hamer's vocals.

The song is a testament to the Steel Workers' wide musical range, as Hamer backs up Beauchamp with a much smoother voice.

The third main vocalist, Gern f., also changed his act to suit each song.

The imposing rhythm guitarist provided support to one of the other vocalists. But when Gern took centre stage, his style was entirely his own.

His Tom Waits-like voice made his songs sound like they'd been kept hidden from the world for years, to finally come out mean and proud.

During the show, Gern told a story about Ontario's Northumberland County. Then the band kicked into an escalating rush to the finish, with all three vocalists joining in on Gern's tale.

While fans may have had to wait late into the night to hear the Steel Workers, the evening's lineup had definitely saved the best for last.

# EXPLOSION

## Joel Plaskett has a family affair at St. Matthew's church

DAVE NYKYFORUK  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

With the rest of the Emergency down in the southern states, Joel Plaskett took a reprieve from his Tragically Hip support duties to play a solo acoustic show at St. Matthew's church, as part of the Pop Explosion last Saturday night.

The sold-out pews, filled with adoring disciples of the Church of Joel, were encouragingly receptive to opener David Myles, but it was the Halifax golden boy who delivered the sermon of the night.

Jetlagged and slightly disheveled, Plaskett appeared to be in his most candid state. Free from the shtick and structure he usually employs during his shows with the Emergency, this set allowed for laid-back intimacy.

Plaskett's homey charm resonated throughout the church in his Haligonian-style musings. He talked about playing with Thrush Hermit at the Pop Explosion years ago and of attending mass with his grandparents at the church.

With the acoustic nature of the

set, Joel shied away from playing *Ashtray Rock*, instead plucking songs from his extensive catalogue, including some from the seminal Thrush Hermit album *Clayton Park*.

An early highpoint came when Plaskett sat down at the grand piano and dedicated a song to his recently deceased grandmother.

The family affair continued when he invited his father onstage for a few songs, including some near-celestial renditions of "Natural Disaster" and "Happen Now."

Despite a few innocent fumbles and a malfunctioning drum machine, Plaskett tailored his show perfectly.

It was refreshing to hear his set without *Truthfully Truthfully* staples like "Work Out Fine" and "Come On Teacher." Those requisite crowd pleasers, as well as tracks from *Ashtray Rock*, took new shape during the encore – most notably, "Fashionable People."

As the show came to a close, the audience gave both Plaskett men a standing ovation. Whether it's entertaining drunken frosh or a church full of devotees, Plaskett never fails to put on a solid show.



PHOTO JOSH BOYTER

## Crowd knows art from bullshit

DAVE NYKYFORUK  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

When writing about an act like AIDS Wolf, it's hard not to fall into the easy convention of contextualizing the band with respect to a few points. Band members Hiroshima Thunder, Special Deluxe, Barbarian Destroyer and Him, the Maji, are all from Montreal, affiliated with Wolf Parade. Two of their members are renowned graphic designers.

Unfortunately, it takes more

than a few exciting bits of credibility to be a good band. The acts preceding the over-hyped Montreal band on Oct. 16 proved it by showing up their headliner.

Opener Vennt were spooky. Haunting instrumentals plodded alongside Sandy Saunders' warped yelps, creating an utterly terrifying atmosphere. Their brooding orchestrations were executed with precision, and the members' ability to restrain themselves onstage only added to the bleak effect of their music.

Vennt's Divorce Records label-mates Be Bad quickly erased the mood of Vennt's depressing drone, infusing a thrash of psychedelic punk into The Seahorse. The spastic upstarts charged through their set with energy to spare, adhering to a strict formula of blitzkrieg guitars and tweeky vocals.

While Vennt and Be Bad might not be the shiniest examples of versatility, the next act, Old Time Relijun, demonstrated honed musical ability.

Their brand of dark, bluesy, experimental rockabilly weaves Arrington de Dionyso's possessed vocals with Aaron Hartman's dry humping of the upright bass and Ben Hartman's double saxophones.

A special mention must be made of de Dionyso, who underwent a very Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde-like transformation from a pre-show tea drinker at the merch table to a bike shorts-clad mad minstrel on stage.

Hailing from Portland, Oregon and signed to K records, Old Time Relijun is a flagship of old indie, and served as an interesting juxtaposition to the Montreal scenesters about to take the stage.

AIDS Wolf delivered a forgettable, repetitive, short cavalcade of tumbling, unfulfilled build-ups and underwhelming, mildly bizarre wails.

Singer Special Deluxe stood out from her beige uniformed band mates in a pretentious black leopard. She milled through the crowd and climbed on a few tables in a desperate attempt to compensate for her band's inability to engage the audience.

There's a fine line between art and bullshit. The good news? Judging by the fact that The Seahorse was half empty after Old Time Relijun finished, people are able to make the distinction.



PHOTOS MYSPACE

## 'Polite rock' and mild headbanging

NICK KHATTAR  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

If you managed to skip midterms and start the weekend off on a Wednesday, you might have caught Laura Peek and the Winning Hearts, i see rowboats and, from the dark, sceney underbelly of Montreal rock, The Besnard Lakes on Oct. 17.

The doors opened at 10 p.m. By 10:03, The Marquee was swimming with 90 per cent of Halifax's trendy,

indie-art types, eagerly awaiting a good healthy dose of i see rowboats.

The Halifax quintet sure knows how to razzle and dazzle a crowd with their smorgasbord of sound.

It was hard to keep track of how many instruments they had, but they definitely knew how to use them. It sounded like they got their hands on a can of bluegrass and a little vial of funk and stirred it into a cauldron of mutagen.

The fiddle underlined slapping

snare beats and melodic, hypnotizing vocals.

Laura Peek and the Winning Hearts hopped onto the decrepit stage next. The three-piece from the heart of indie Halifax have a sound so soft and subtle, if there was a term to describe it, it would be 'polite rock.' It felt like they were going to say please and thank you after every captivating song.

Peek's univque, unrefined, delicate voice held the melancholy lyrics together.

## Fresh, political rhymes

ADAM MILLER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The night of Oct. 17 at The Attic was a pivotal moment for the future of hip hop in Halifax. MCs Brother Ali, Blueprint and Toki Wright and DJs BK-One and Rare Groove trekked all the way from Minneapolis to bring their unique sound to the Halifax Pop Explosion.

Toki Wright opened the night with fresh rhymes and intelligent lyrics infused with heavy political commentary against the American government. He condemned the invasion of Iraq and said none of the band members voted for George Bush.

The intense beats provided by DJ BK-One did irreparable damage to my hearing, but were a refreshing change from the usual crap that gets played at The Dome.

Wright was playing most of the songs off his album *Meal Plan*. The dreadlocked MC definitely got the crowd moving, setting up a long night of some of the best underground hip hop to hit Halifax in a while.

Next up was Blueprint, who hit

the stage hard with powerful energy, blasting incredibly intricate lyrics to the backdrop of the heavy-drinking DJ Rare Groove's loud beats.

Blueprint is a Columbus, Ohio rapper best known as the other half of the duo Soul Position with RJD2. He told the crowd his sound levels were fucked up because he skipped sound check to walk around Halifax and check out the city.

His set ended with an amazingly well played version of "Final Frontier," with DJ Rare Groove successfully filling in for RJD2, which got the crowd at The Attic even rowdier than usual.

It was pretty hard to do anything but vibe to the music because of all the drunk people crowding the stage, but you could tell the MCs appreciated the energy. Their Undisputed Truth Canadian tour was apparently not as well received in cities like Calgary and Toronto. But on the last night of their tour, the Halifax crowd didn't disappoint.

Finally, at around 2 a.m., the crowd started chanting "Ali! Ali!" and the heavy, albino MC appeared from nowhere with a beer in one hand and

a microphone in the other.

His rhymes were just as politically charged as the other MCs, but the deep resonance of his voice across the cramped dance floor made it impossible to do anything but listen to his fierce lyrics.

His song "Uncle Sam Goddamn" is an attack on the entire U.S. administration, questioning everything from Hurricane Katrina to 9/11, while his popular hit "Truth Is" literally had the crowd screaming for more.

As the set ended I realized how badly my ears were ringing and headed to the washroom, where I came face to face with Brother Ali.

I told him I was covering the show for *The Gazette* and asked if there was anything he wanted to say.

In just a few words, he pretty much fit the stereotype of every manufactured rapper.

"Tell them that the girls were chasing me and that I have an extremely enlarged genitalia."

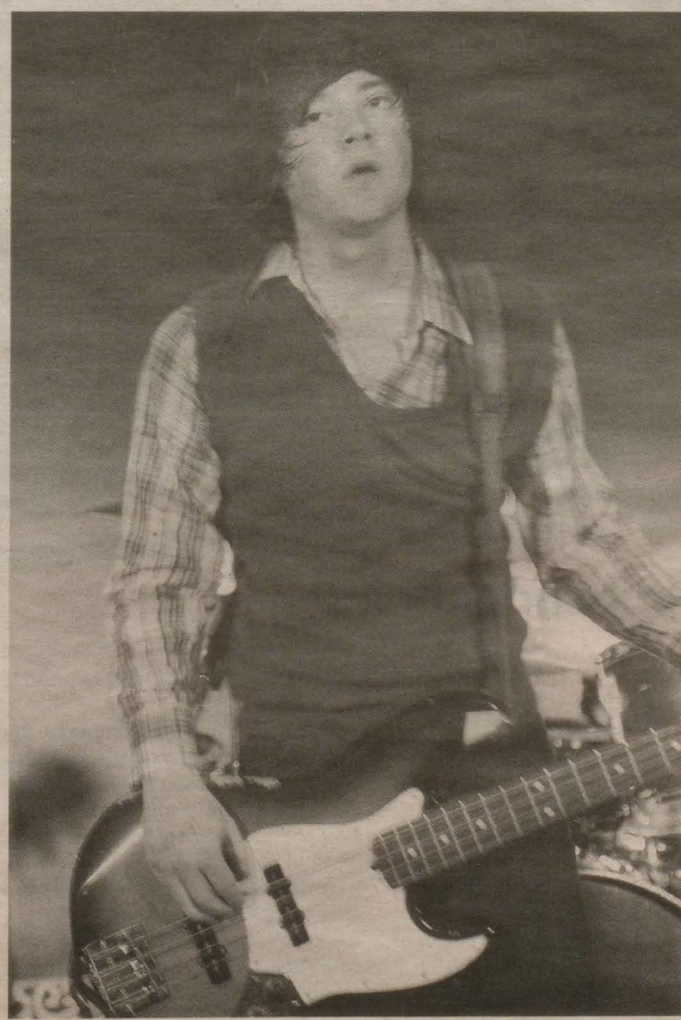
Brother Ali might be just as full of shit as any other rapper out there, but unlike some of them, he has the lyrical skill to back it up.



PHOTOS MYSPACE



PHOTOS JOSH BOYTER



# HALIFAX POP EXPLOSION



## Eric's Trip closes out Pop Explosion

JENNIFER BOND  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Halifax Pop Explosion is a frantic music marathon. Like a real marathon, it always reserves a little extra something for a big push at the end. This year, that big push was the closing night's five-band lineup at The Marquee.

The night's talent included Pride Tiger, Mother Mother, Land of Talk and Miracle Fortress, who all played in quick succession before re-formed quartet Eric's Trip took the stage.

Strathcona, B.C.'s Pride Tiger kicked off the evening with a healthy dose of 70s inspired, pure rock and roll. Drummer and lead vocalist Matt Wood worked to get the crowd excited during Pride Tiger's tough 'first band of the night' spot. The band's driving rock beats, coupled with its stellar stage presence, got heads bobbing and set the tone for what was to come.

Next up was Vancouver-based quintet Mother Mother. Just two years old, the band has developed its own unique sound that plays just

as well live as it does recorded. From the infectious staccato pop sounds of "Polynesia" to the Spanish guitar-backed "Love and Truth," Mother Mother defies any one genre.

The interaction between the three vocalists, especially Molly Guldemon and Debra-Jean Creelman, who sing choral harmonies for most of the songs, made the group's stage show entertaining. Along with Ryan Guldemon on guitar and vocals, the singers just looked like they were having fun.

Last-minute addition Land of Talk played next. This Montreal trio combines intense rock guitar with the dulcet tones of lead singer Elizabeth Powell. While the band's music was polished and pretty, it left something to be desired. Their sound faded into the background instead of being the main event of the moment.

Nominated for a Polaris Prize earlier this year for its first full-length album *Five Roses*, Miracle Fortress is the creation of Montrealer Graham Van Pelt. He has enjoyed critical acclaim and a legion of devoted fans for his multi-instrumental, Brian

Wilson-esque pop and transfixing voice. Van Pelt filled out his live show with a drummer, bassist and guitarist, plucked from various other Canadian bands. Songs like "Have You Seen In Your Dreams" benefited from the sound of live drums, as opposed to an electronic rendering.

While there was a robust crowd for the opening acts, it was clear by the packed house that formed toward the end of the night that the most anticipated act was Eric's Trip.

This was the first time the Moncton-based band played in Halifax since its initial disbanding over a decade ago. Its return to the Pop Explosion has been the topic of much conversation since it was announced late this past summer.

Despite some initial sound problems and vocalist Julie Doiron partially losing her voice, Eric's Trip did not fail to impress. The band's entrancing, lo-fi pop was masterfully blended with discordant guitars. Eric's Trip played right up until the last minute before they were required to leave the stage, throwing out crowd pleaser after crowd pleaser.



PHOTOS JOSH BOYTER



# HALIFAX POP

DalTheatre presents Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

## A satisfactory start for DalTheatre

AMY DEMPSEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The powerful pull of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* is not only demonstrated in the effect it has on audiences, but on the emotional impact it has on performers.

The actors who played the Prozorov sisters in the DalTheatre production were visibly shaken at the play's end, continuing to sob throughout the curtain call and as they walked offstage.

Paul Schmidt's version of Chekhov's celebrated play paints a portrait of everyday life in 19th century Russian society, but it tells a story of frustration and desire that is universal.

The Friday evening performance of DalTheatre's first production of the 2007-08 season started out a little shaky. Perhaps this had something to do with director Jure Gantar's decision to double cast the female roles, dividing the performance schedule so that each set of women takes the stage on alternating evenings.

Though DalTheatre has consistently had a high female-to-male ratio, sharing lead roles between cast members may not be the best solution to the problem.

Relationships between the characters appeared underdeveloped, seeming at times strained and slightly uncomfortable. The actors performed well individually, but as a group they appeared to have a difficult time bringing it together.

However, the cast did manage to shine in the end, delivering a poignant and convincing final act.

Margaret Legere played a stand-out role as Masha, the intellectually starved sister trapped in a loveless

marriage. She falls into a deep reciprocated love with Colonel Vershinin (Mike McLeod). Their connection was palpable from the moment they met onstage.

The climactic kiss during their emotionally charged farewell scene was one of the moments that shone, and seemed just as impulsive as if the two actors had spontaneously decided to embrace each other at that very moment. It even drew a few gasps from the audience.

Aaron Walker morphed from an innocent and ambitious young boy to a jaded, self-declared failure for his role as Andrei Prozorov. The original sparkle in Walker's eye hardened to a lost and vacant stare as the play progressed, and he captured Prozorov's numb hopelessness quite effectively.

The set design was minimalist. The actors performed in the centre of their encircling audience with barely more than a few chairs to support them. They deserve to be highly commended for their ability to work in this potentially claustrophobia-inducing space.

Any interpretation of such a classic play is worth seeing, and this performance was no exception. But if this year's group of young actors wants to meet the performance standards of DalTheatre's past, they will have to raise the bar for their next production.

The next DalTheatre production will be *A Spider's Tale* from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1. Tickets can be purchased at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium box office (\$12, \$6 for students). For more information about the DalTheatre 2007-08 season, visit [www.theatre.dal.ca](http://www.theatre.dal.ca).

## Never had I ever...

### Volunteered for the Pop Explosion

NICK KHATTAR  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Working at The Marquee can entail some pretty late shifts. On Friday morning at 5 a.m., I was just getting off work at the club. I went directly to the Computer Science building in a desperate attempt to read the 400 pages necessary to finish Tom Jones on time for class.

I was looking forward to Friday night, having been told I would not have to work and could thus relax and indulge in a few 'casual' spirits.

Come 9 p.m., I was still at the Comp Sci, feasting on a poutine from Freeman's and trying to make plans for the evening. I was about three mouthfuls into the delicious composition of gravy, cheese and fries when I got a phone call.

"We need you to come into work ASAP." Click.

"Hello? Hello?? DAMNIT!"

I returned to The Marquee fairly bitter and jaded about the situation and immediately began to look for a way out. The doors opened at 10 p.m. and there were barely enough people there to make work enough for me or anyone else.

I told my boss I really couldn't work that night due to lack of sleep, piles of homework and the fact that I volunteered to billet Shawn Fogel, a musician from New York, for the evening.

I was told that due to a certain someone from Dartmouth playing that night at the Cunard Centre, things were expected to get very busy after the show, and thus I was

required to stay.

I defiantly went around The Marquee blowing out all the candles and pouring out peoples half-full beers. After about an hour of such activity, I was discovered and sent to the dungeon to sort beer bottles. This was actually agreeable to me because it allowed me to 'work' completely unsupervised.

Come 1 a.m., I received a call from Fogel and his band, who were supposed to be billeting with me, informing me their set at Ginger's Tavern had finished but they were sticking around for the last set.

I informed them of my work situation. I told them to call me when they were done and I would try to work something out, knowing full well I wouldn't be done until well after 4 a.m.

I continued with my lackadaisical bottle sorting for a few more minutes, when I received another, much more distressful phone call.

It was my best friend, crying hysterically, telling me she was downtown and needed help. After several minutes of trying to decipher what was going on, I managed to piece it together that she was somewhere near Reflections, far too intoxicated to be on her own.

I tried to convince her to get in a cab or to let me call her a cab, but fearing this would take far too much time, I assured her I would come find her.

I informed my co-worker of my somewhat sticky situation and departed on my 10-speed. After a

phone call from a random person who found my friend passed out in her own puke on the sidewalk, I was able to locate her.

I thanked the kind strangers and tended to my friend, who could neither tell me why she was in such an appalling condition or where she had come from.

My only option was to throw her on my 10-speed and start pushing her home. Somewhere close to the Metro Centre, I realized this was not going to work for the remaining 25 blocks to my house, so I threw her over my shoulder, ditched my bike and called a cab.

I'll spare you the details of why I spent hours the next day disinfecting my house, but I'll conclude by saying that after some late-night phone calls made to relatives, I managed to get my friend into better hands than my own.

It was sometime after my friend's cousin came to get her when the band billeting with me called, saying they were out front of my apartment.

I wish I could say that the New York band and I stayed up until sunrise drinking tequila and telling tales, but it was far less exciting.

I'm glad I had a chance to meet them. We did talk for a bit and I got to show them what a 'lung' is, but I had been awake for over 48 hours by then and was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. We said our goodnights. I told them not to bother waking me in the morning and headed to bed.

It's not all gold and diamonds being a Pop Explosion volunteer.

## Cakes for cash

RACHEL SUNTER  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

There is something about eating home baked goods that makes your day a little bit sweeter. For students grocery shopping on a budget, baking cookies and cakes becomes an indulgence. Homemade desserts offer a special kind of joy that only one subsisting on Kraft Dinner and Mr. Noodles can fully understand.

For third-year International Development Studies and Spanish major Jessica Galt, baking has become more than just an indulgence – it's a passion and a small business venture.

Galt's cakes, baked and decorated from scratch, fetch between \$40 and \$75 apiece.

The cakes are typically chocolate or vanilla with cream or fruit filling, and

they are all covered with buttercream icing before they are decorated.

Galt has also made specialty desserts to suit different dietary requirements, including vegan chocolate cake.

Galt prepares figures like flowers, people and letters in advance with Royal Icing, a white icing that dries to a smooth, hard finish and can be coloured. After hardening – a process that can take up to a week – they are ready to transform Galt's cakes into baskets of spring blossoms or Lego blocks.

Galt's customers are "mostly friends, family and people who have heard of me through friends," she says.

She says the money she makes from cake-baking supports her entrepreneurial venture.

"I'm not out there to make a huge amount of money."

Not yet, at least. After completing her undergrad, Galt wants to attend the French Culinary Institute in New York. She eventually hopes to run her own bakery.

"But that's way, way down the road," she says, laughing.

For now, she's looking forward to her next project: a two-tier wedding cake that she's learning to make at a specialty decorating class. The cake is big enough to serve 60.

"I might have a formal beer and cake party," says Galt, already pondering ways to dispose of the dessert.

As you can imagine, Galt has never had much of a problem finding friends willing to do her a favour and help eat cake.

If you would like to contact Jessica Galt about ordering a cake, she can be reached at 431-6856.

### Health Professions Career Fair 2007

Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007  
10:00 am – 3:00pm  
Student Union Building – McInnes Rm



Bring your Resume and make connections at Atlantic Canada's Health Professions Career Fair. All students who are studying in (or individuals that have an interest in) the health field, and health-care professionals are welcome to attend.

#### Recruiters from across Canada and the U.S. are ready to hire:

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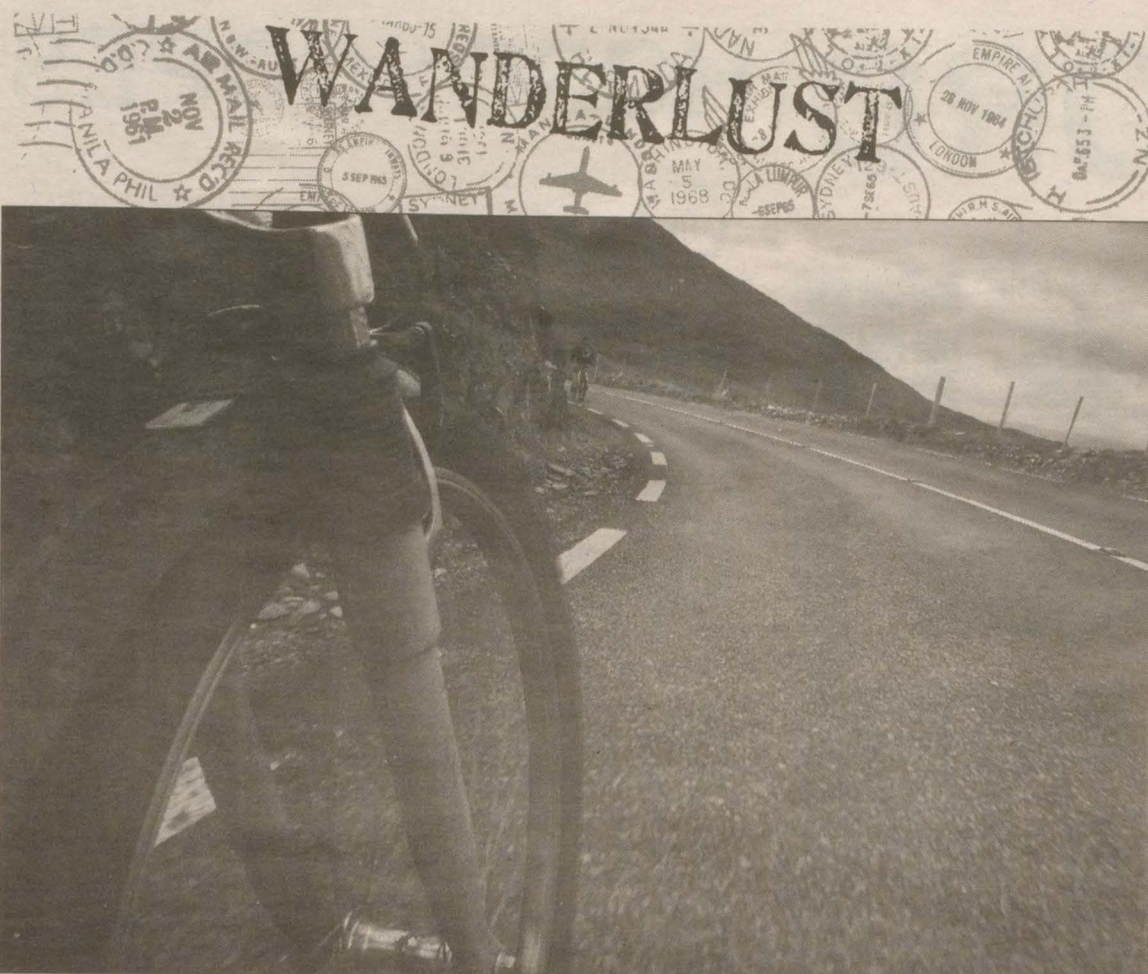
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Peddling through paradise on the Bruce Peninsula.

LOUIS DECARLO

## A good path

PATRICK ST. AMAND  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

A bike trip along the beautiful Bruce Peninsula is easy and rewarding.

If you travel north up the eastern shore of Lake Huron, the western shore of Georgian Bay will eventually sandwich you in. This is the Bruce Peninsula – a few hundred kilometers of fresh, sparsely populated land that is one of the best-kept secrets in Canada.

My father and I took a bike trip up the peninsula from Sarnia to Kincardine. My father is a biking enthusiast and I was ready for an adventure. We departed around 8 a.m. with our sights set on the town of St. Mary's. This would make the journey roughly 60 kilometres.

We set out and quickly became unfamiliar with the surrounding land. We had travel bags stuffed with camping supplies that, by mid afternoon,

seemed to weigh about 100 pounds.

We encountered steep hills, beautiful farmhouses and nice historical spots. I recommend to anyone planning such a trip to make sure they can pace themselves and look for terrain and landmarks they have never come across before.

We made it to St. Mary's and feasted on Subway. We set up our tents in an open field. I had a rough night and upon waking up, ran and quickly showered with no warm water. The fellows showering with me were the largest millipedes and spiders I've ever seen.

We ate a light breakfast and set off to Goderich, zigzagging along kilometres of old dirt road. The beauty of this part of the trip was that there was really no one around. We were in the middle of what appeared to be nowhere.

I must confess this seclusion was beautiful, but if there had been a flat

tire or an injury, it may have been disastrous. Always be prepared!

We passed by horses, dirt roads covered by trees and two old dogs that gave a half-hearted bark at us then fell asleep. We meandered on to Goderich where we ate a bag of chips, set up camp and drank a six-pack, reflecting on the day.

The third and final day came. This was the most beautiful part of the trip. We were off to Kincardine and managed to ride along the shores of Lake Huron.

The lakefront property was enormous and the lake was beautiful. Kincardine welcomed us with severe rainfall and busy roads. But we persevered and managed to muscle our way through.

Unfortunately, the trip ended due to my knee, which ached with every cycle of the pedals. Although it ended abruptly, this was the best trip I have ever been on.

## Vernacular Movements

ARLEEN HAMMOND  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The late NSCAD Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate, Galen Kuellmer, was tragically killed in a bicycle accident in 2004. The Anna Leonowens Gallery is currently exhibiting the photography Kuellmer produced around the time of his death.

The exhibit, entitled Vernacular Movements, is a captivating look at some of the architecture in and around Halifax.

"My curiosity about how we look at the built environment runs parallel with a deep interest in how we read and interpret photographs as true and believable documents," Kuellmer explains in his artist's statement. "The photograph records

and rewrites those stories through composition and displacement of context.

Vernacular Movements is connected with the domestic and functional parts of architecture.

Kuellmer's photographs are captivating and amusing. "Untitled 12" shows a 'no parking' sign displayed clearly in front of a private drive with a vehicle parked in it.

Many of his photographs show places around the city that are run-down and deteriorating juxtaposed with something newer and sturdier. These contrasts allow for viewer interpretation. Each photograph tells its own story.

*Vernacular Movements is on display in Gallery 1 at Anna Leonowens until Oct. 27.*

Escape to strawberry fields in *Across the Universe*.

LOUIS DECARLO

## Across the Universe

MARK BUCKLEY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

*Across the Universe* is a musical fantasia brought to the silver screen courtesy of director Julie Taymor. It's the story of Jude (Jim Sturgess), a young artist from Liverpool who journeys to the United States and falls for a girl named Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood).

In the throes of mutual adoration, we find these star-crossed lovers at the centre of the world – New York City – amid the counterculture of leftist ideals in the early 60s. It is a time of change, love, war and music.

The structure of the narrative is, fittingly, based upon the music of arguably the most influential group of the time, The Beatles.

Because The Beatles have such a diverse catalogue of work to choose from, Taymor was able to devise a story by arranging their music. She does it in such a seamless manner that it is as though the songs were written for the film and not the other way around.

Some of the allusions to iconic figures and incidents of the era are subtle – a playful wink to those in

the know – while other references are unmistakable. With an eclectic demographic in mind, the film covers a lot of ground, spanning the Beatles' music and the events that influenced their ever-evolving sound between 1963 and 1969.

There is a sense that the audience is being engaged in a theatrical experience. The matrimony of such beloved music with a visual phantasmagoria of hallucinatory images and colours is mesmerizing, putting viewers in a heightened emotional state.

The portion of the film set to "I Am the Walrus" illustrates this technique of combining music and images to draw out emotions rather well. There are a number of other emotional clips, such as a haunting rendition of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" following the murder of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The film has been subject to a lot of debate, with critics arguing that looking beyond the veil of glimmering lights reveals a narrative lacking in substance. However, if viewers suspend their disbelief in order to see Taymor's movie as an escapist fairytale, it is a very enjoyable film.

## Get jiggy with The Strangeboys

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Bluegrass sextet The Strangeboys livened up The Grawood last Thursday night with a mix of old and new.

The band is Jeff Rothwell (mandolin), Will Milne (acoustic guitar), Scott MacCormack (upright bass), Daniel Latner (fiddle), Neil Wiancko (five-string banjo) and Adam Shier (acoustic guitar).

The Strangeboys opened the night with a lively series of toe-tapping bluegrass numbers. It wasn't long into their first set before Rothwell's plucky mandolin began to work its magic on the crowd and unabashed jigging, foot stomping and hand clapping ensued.

Latner joked with the crowd between songs and the band appeared to be enjoying themselves as much as the audience members, with smiles all around.

The Strangeboys, who are cur-

rently working on a demo, mixed up their set by incorporating traditional tunes as well as bluegrass covers from The Grateful Dead, The Disco Biscuits and Prince. "When Doves Cry" was a crowd favourite.

The band also included original songs in their set list. "Lights (of the Ballin' Moose)" got even the most aloof listener's fingers tapping.

The Strangeboys are an interesting change after the Pop Explosion. Their knowledge of traditional bluegrass and their inventive mixing of outside musical influence make for a refreshing sound that is infectious and danceable.

Check out The Strangeboys if you want a unique listening experience or if you just need to get your jig on.

*The Strangeboys will be performing on Nov. 3 at Bearly's on Barrington Street from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cover is \$3 at the door.*



One University. One World. Yours.

### Do you work in food service at a restaurant or hotel in the Halifax area?

### Would you like to participate in a study by Saint Mary's University professors on tipping practices?

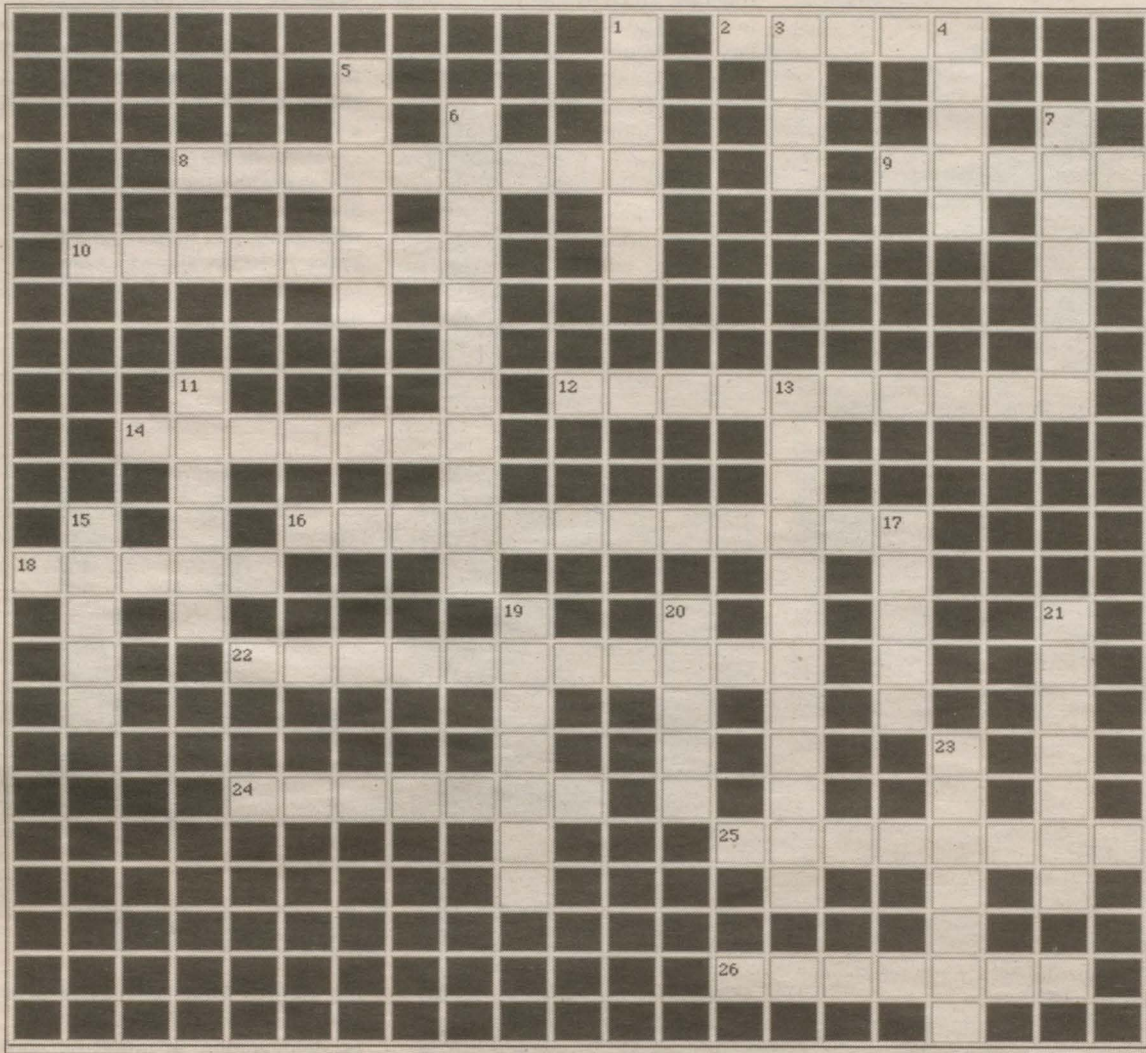
Help us by filling out a short online questionnaire at

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

for more information, call 240-2782

# CROSSWORD

All Hallows' Eve



**Across**

- 2. Generic costume
- 8. Communicate with the dead 2 wds
- 9. Friday the 13th
- 10. Don't let it cross your path 2 wds
- 12. Sarah Jessica Parker and Bette Midler will cast a spell on you 2wds
- 14. Hold the garlic
- 16. Who ya gonna call? 2 wds
- 18. Buffy's watcher
- 22. "It was a graveyard smash" 2 wds
- 24. Pre-Jack-o'-lantern
- 25. What Halloween is known for
- 26. Overdone candy

**Down**

- 1. \_ doll
- 3. Dr Jekyll and Mr. \_
- 4. Trick or \_
- 5. Light as a feather, stiff as a board
- 6. "They're here"
- 7. Wizard bankers
- 11. Son of Satan
- 13. Residence of Headless Horseman 2 wds
- 15. Believer in the Great Pumpkin
- 17. Location of witch trials
- 19. Profession that benefits from Halloween
- 20. What Halloween is also known for
- 21. Living dead
- 23. Resident of Elm Street

# HOROSCOPES



**SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)**

The Space Needle in Seattle is shouting for excitement this week, and it's calling your name. You have been too afraid to add that extra spice to your life that you've been craving. But now it's go time, and the fun won't stop until the cow rings the bell.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)**

Your love has been like a diamond in the rough – the only trouble is where to find this 'rough.' But do not fret, because you will not have to look very far to figure out that it's right under your booger-filled nose. Blow your nose with a Man Size Tissue and put that diamond on the market.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)**

Be careful of those who may be green with envy. There are positive things flying at you from all corners of the earth this week, so you'd better tighten your seatbelt, adjust your helmet and get your eyebrows in line. You will be on a rollercoaster of good things coming your way – just make sure to hold onto the stuff you want to keep. Do yoga and stretch your epidermis.



**AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)**

Do not forget to clip your toenails. Your crush could spot this and take note. Everyone is taking notes but you. Why is this? Memories come and go, but paper lasts a long time. You are a smartypants, but that does not mean your pants are made of gold. Merlin the wizard has cast a spell on you, and now you are under his control.



**PISCES (February 20 - March 20)**

The Cheestring you have been pulling on is wearing thin. But that's O.K. It means it is time to get some real work done. Whereas Homer would say "Doh," you will say "Oh." Your street smarts, wit smarts and love smarts will form a tripod of knowledge this week. Do the locomotion of information and you will get the creation of something astonishing.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20)**

You have been a tidy freak lately, both in your professional life and personal life. When you're done vacuuming those drapes, you'd better go out there and show Angela who's the boss. It's time to grab life by the big bullhorns and ride it on the beach. But hold onto your cowboy hat, or else you might lose a shoe.



**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)**

The bath you've been running is overflowing. You have been getting distracted this week and it is leading you to forget things that may be of importance. In order to stop yourself from pulling all of your hair out, just chew a straw instead. Don't worry – the doom cloud is about to turn into a ray of sunshine.



**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**

You are caught up in Charlotte's web. Pinocchio never got anywhere with lying. The truth ain't got nowhere to go. A lie is like the giant pink platypus in the room. Spill the beans and you will get a delicious bean salad in return.



**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**

Disco Stu likes fish in his shoes, but nobody likes dead fish in a bowl. Make sure to feed your fish and clean its water. If you do not have a fish, feed your cat or a bird on the street. Help someone, something, anybody, because help is normally wanted, but everyone's too chicken to ask. Love will see this and bring over strawberry shortcake.



**LEO (July 24 - August 23)**

Those noodles you have been cooking are still hard. You don't need to throw them against a wall to figure that out. Make sure you do things thoroughly, or you could end up with soggy bread and no meat to put on the sandwich. You have Betty Crocker's number and she knows the recipe. There is no harm in trying.



**VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)**

Your sink is clogged. It is probably all those discarded alfalfa sprouts from your shepherd's pie. Unclog it and go out and do something. You cannot spend all your time twiddling your thumbs, waiting for life to bite you in the butt. Go out there and sink your teeth in. Happiness is just a push of a button away.



**LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)**

You will feel spiritually enlightened this week. You will be the wisest person in the room, and everyone will know it. So do not get testy like balls when people ask you for advice. You are the best person to dispense it right now, and you will be rewarded nicely for good deeds. Peter Pan knows how to fly and he is willing to tell you the secret.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:

Monday, October 29 @ 5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB

## Teach English in Japan

Interac is accepting applications for teaching positions commencing in April 2008.

Qualified candidates must:

- Possess a university degree
- Be native/fluent English speakers
- Have teaching experience and Japanese language ability (preferred, but not required)

Visit [www.interac.ca.jp/recruit](http://www.interac.ca.jp/recruit) for more information or to apply online.



- Down
- 1. Voodoo
  - 3. Ghost
  - 4. Treat
  - 5. Seance
  - 6. Poltergeist
  - 7. Goblins
  - 11. Damien
  - 13. Steepyhollow
  - 15. Lins
  - 17. Salem
  - 19. Dentist
  - 20. Candy
  - 21. Zombies
- Across
- 2. Ghost
  - 8. Ouija board
  - 9. Jason
  - 10. Black Cat
  - 12. Hocus-Focus
  - 14. Vampire
  - 16. Ghost Busters
  - 18. Giles
  - 22. Monster Mash
  - 24. Pumpkin
  - 25. Costumes
  - 26. Rockets

Crossword Answers:

# Students set sail in hometown regatta

**JULIE SOBOWALE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend the Dalhousie Sailing Club hosted the first university regatta ever held in Halifax. Students from Halifax and Montreal gathered at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron club for the first annual Halifax Sail Explosion regatta on Oct. 20-21.

Despite the wind and rain on Saturday, the competition helped raise awareness for competitive sailing in the area.

Six teams from Dal raced against two St. Mary's University Huskies teams and two McGill University

Redmen teams. Each team consisted of two people in one boat. Peter Dickson and Sophia Erdahl were Dal's top finishers and came in second place.

The Dal sailing club began two years ago when club president Matt White, Peter Dickson and several other students decided to compete at the university level. The team entered regattas held by the Nova Scotia Yachting Association and the Intercollegiate Sailing Association (ICSA), based in the U.S.

"Our first year was very hectic for us," White says. "We didn't really get off the ground until mid-October. Since then, we've been building

on that experience."

Fifteen of the 60 club members compete regularly in the ICSA circuit, while the rest support the club financially as recreational members. The majority of the club's regattas are in the U.S., but the team felt it was time to have a regatta in their hometown.

"This is the first step in promoting sailing as a university sport," White says. "Most people think of sailing as old men in big boats, but competitive sailing requires a smart mind and a significant amount of concentration. When you're sailing you have to fight the wind and use it at the same time to stay flat and fast.

It's a very athletic sport."

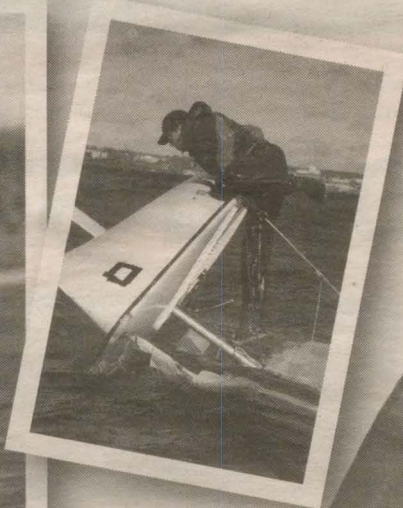
Most U.S. universities have varsity sailing teams. In Canada, the situation is dramatically different. There are a few sailing clubs scattered throughout Ontario and Quebec, and only a few Canadian regattas.

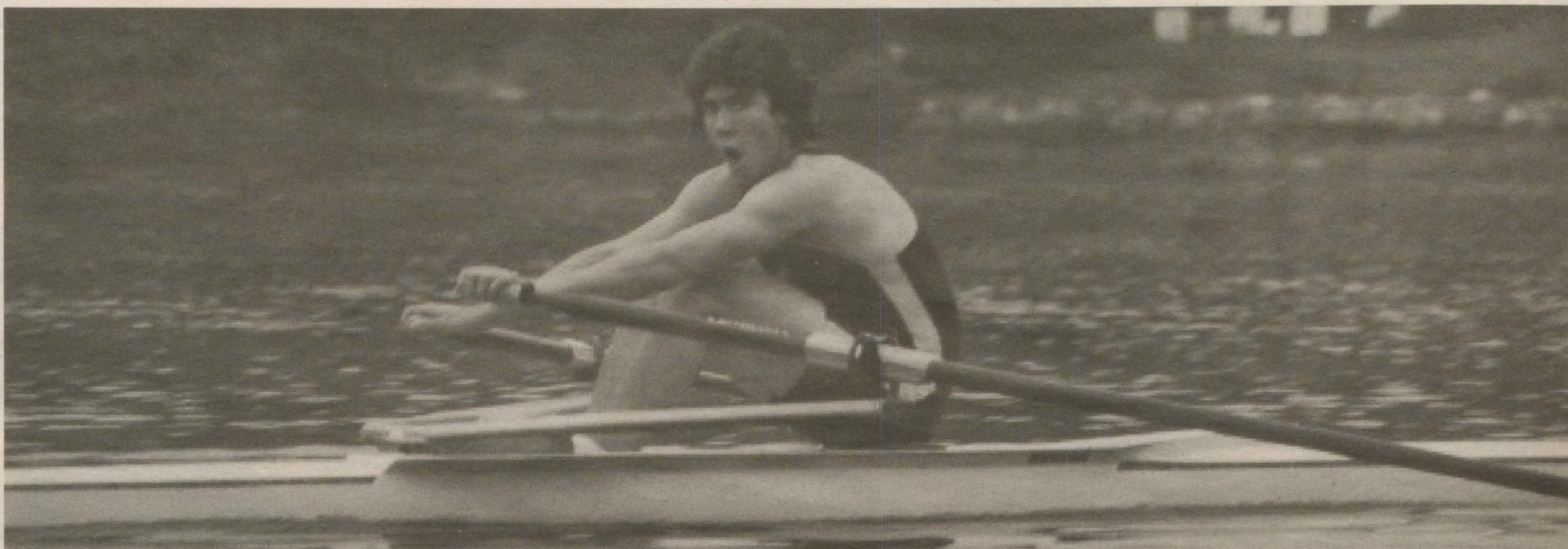
"With this competition, we're trying to build a Canadian circuit," Dickson says. "The problem for Canada is distance. In the U.S., schools are close together and there's tons of water around for them to race. Here in Canada, we have teams at Dal, McGill, the University of Toronto and Queen's University, but we're so spread apart. Hopefully, we can change the ICSA to be an organiza-

tion that represents sailing for North America."

Though the club has only been around for a few years, it's one of the premier sailing clubs in Canada.

"The club is evolving," Dickson says. "We're starting to be more competitive and organized. Instead of people showing up individually, we have our teams set."





SANDY CHASE / SANDY CHASE PHOTO

Dan Murray is the lone male member of the Dal rowing club.

# Rowing for a status symbol

**JULIE SOBOWALE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

This weekend the Dalhousie Rowing Club will participate in the first ever Atlantic University Rowing Championships. The event will coincide with the fourth annual Really Chili Regatta, hosted by the Nova Scotia Rowing Association on Oct. 27 in Dartmouth.

Dal students will compete against teams from the Mount Saint Vincent University Mystics, the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, the Memorial University Sea-Hawks and the St. Francis Xavier University X-Men and X-Women. The event is part of a long-term effort to make rowing a varsity sport.

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) is the national governing body that dictates what will become a varsity sport. In the 2004/05 school year, rowing teams across Canada collectively applied for varsity status, but their bid failed to meet CIS criteria. In addition to requiring 20 university teams, all four regional associations, including Atlantic University Sport (AUS), needed to host a regional championship.



"We were denied status mainly because of the lack of the championship," says Head Coach Tara Barnett. "We have to establish a regional championship by 2012 in order to fulfill the requirements."

"The process we're going through is the same as the way an Olympic sport is chosen. They look at how many people are playing the sport and the competitions. If we can prove that there's an interest, then we can get the status."

Varsity status is crucial for

coaches and athletes. Funding and sponsorship are readily available at the provincial and national level. Varsity athletes enjoy added incentives, such as eligibility for student-athlete scholarships and exemptions from class when needed.

Rowing remains under the radar at Dal, but the sport has a bigger profile in Ontario. Rowing is a varsity sport in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) league, the regional equivalent of the AUS. The first OUA championship was held in 1926.

Trent University, an OUA member, regularly hosts the Head of the Trent regatta, the largest regatta in North America with annual attendance exceeding 5,000 people.

"It's a pretty small scale out here compared to Ontario," says Barnett, who competed there. "At Trent, I remember that students were joining the team just to get the rowing jacket because it was that much of a status symbol. It got so bad that the coaches decided that only students who had been on the team for at least a

year could get the jacket."

The Dal rowing club could certainly use the status. The team was started four years ago. Few members remain this year, as others have graduated. However, the few still on the team have a good shot at a medal in the competition.

Hana Nelson and Emily Duann are among the handful of women who will compete in the co-ed four and doubles teams. The championship provides an opportunity for Dal students to showcase their talent.

"In the Maritimes, we were pressured to have a regatta here but I'm really excited about it," Nelson says. "We're not recognized as a good rowing club like the teams in Ontario or teams out west like the University of British Columbia team. Plus, there are not a lot of regattas in Halifax."

*The Really Chili Regatta begins at 8 a.m., with the championship time trials scattered throughout the morning. The AUS finals will begin at 12 p.m., followed by the Learn-to-Row Challenge at 2 p.m. in Lake Banook. The start/finish points can be seen from the Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club Paddling Bay.*

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:  
on Monday, October 29 @ 5:30 p.m.  
in room 312 of the SUB

## Athletes of the week

**FEMALE ATHLETE**



**LAUREN DORRINGTON**  
SWIMMING

The Dalhousie women's swim team swept all events at the Amby Legere Swim Meet hosted at UNB over the weekend. The team was led by top point scorer Dorrington, with five wins – the highest number of events she was allowed to compete in. She captured the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke, the 100m freestyle and the 200m individual medley. Dorrington is a fourth-year sociology student from Uxbridge, Ont.

Other nominees: Alex Legge (basketball), Kim Carcary (hockey)



**MALE ATHLETE**



**JOSH DISHER**  
HOCKEY

As a goalie, Disher played a vital role in the Tigers' two road victories over the weekend. The first was a 4 - 2 win over STU on Saturday. In Sunday's 5 - 4 overtime win against

UPEI, Disher made numerous saves while the team was a man short with two minutes left in the 10-minute overtime. The game ended in a shoot-out, with Disher stopping all three UPEI players. He is also overcoming a major injury that kept him from playing last year. Disher is a second-year management student from Burlington, Ont.

Other nominees: Simon Farine (basketball), Ross Hagen (soccer), Bryce Tung (swimming), Doug Young (swimming), Adam Hotchkiss (volleyball)



## DAL TIGERS

MAKE A VARSITY GAME  
PART OF YOUR WEEKEND!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
MEN'S HOCKEY vs. UPEI, 7:00PM

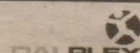
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
AUS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS @ PT. PLEASANT PARK, 12/12:45PM  
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. UPEI, 1:00PM  
MEN'S HOCKEY vs. STU, 7:00PM

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28**  
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs. UDEM, 1:00PM

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH ID

Check out the new Student Recreation Guide which lists sport clubs, intramural leagues, Dalplex programs, where to look for employment opportunities and much more!  
[WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA/GETINTHEGAME](http://WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA/GETINTHEGAME)

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The

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

# SEXTANT

## Open letter to Scott Wetton

Dear Mr. Wetton,

I was extremely pleased with your interest and the promptness of your reply. Unfortunately, I have not been as prompt in my formal response to your application.

Please accept my apologies as my company has recently been through relocation, upsizing and partnering with various other companies (I am now affiliated with DALENG and other up and coming organizations).

As for your application, after careful review I have the following comments. It is clear to me that both written and semi-coherent verbal communications are a necessity in this industry and your abilities are an asset.

Your demonstration of both transportation of ethanol and the facilitation of its consumption brings you to the forefront of the other applicants. There is one area for improvement however, that being your inexcusable garlic breathe. This was made painfully evident by the scent

given off by your letter.

This can be overcome however as I am also working on a partnership with Clorets. To offer some friendly advice, I would re-evaluate your diet.

Given what I have seen and experienced I am extending to you a formal offer of employment. You will begin immediately at the position of Senior Drinking Associate. A final informal interview will be required for administrative purposes.

I will be in contact with you to set up a time for a meeting, which will take place at the T-room of Sexton Campus, where I would also like to discuss the acquisition of your Scotty's Corner operation.

Once again, congratulations, I look forward to crazy debauchery and shenanigans (ranked on a 1-10 scale, obviously) and to moving forward with your drinking buddy services.

Here's to Honour,  
Chris Boland

## Treats in the sheets

BY THE BEDFORD BASIN BAD BOY

No matter what you do this Halloween; do NOT eat chocolate in bed, especially if you sleep in the nude. What happened to me was horrifying for an instant, but it turned out to be only moderately embarrassing in the end.

This is the deal. It was around Halloween last year, and I was on a work-term in Fort MacMurray. As part of my lonely, sad, weeknight evening routine, I took to eating bulk Rosebuds (you know those Neilson Chocolates in the boxes, or 'weird Hershey Kisses' that old people love?) while watching CSI on my laptop, and lying on my bed. I'd usually just grab a handful of the rosebuds and keep them on my chest, as I was horizontal with my head propped up to see my laptop resting on my stomach.

One particular evening, I was enjoying my evening routine and the phone rang. I got up to answer the phone not realizing that I had four rosebuds on my chest. I was going to pick them up, but the phone was on its third ring and I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to answer it. I went for the phone, reassuring myself that I'd get the rosebuds when I got back.

I hung up the phone and got back to watching some CSI. I had completely forgotten about those fateful rosebuds. It got chilly in my room so I pulled my comforter overtop of me and adjusted my pillows.

Three days later on a Saturday morning, I woke up after a night on the town. I was dehydrated as hell, so I hopped out of bed to get some water. I stood up and looked back at my sheets in disgust. I wasn't that drunk. I'd never done that before. As the launderers say: "Brown on white, not a pleasant sight." I was standing

in my room, naked as a jaybird, trying to understand what happened. What would Grisham do?

Still naked, I started my own crime scene investigation. My butt wasn't itchy and the smears on the sheets appeared to be more around where the middle of my back would've rested. I was beginning to think that perhaps the worst hadn't happened.

I noticed a small ball of brown at the edge of one of the skirts. It didn't look like turd remnants so I bravely picked it up, squished it between my fingers, and sniffed. To my great relief it was chocolate. Rosebuds to be precise.

As relieved as I was that I didn't shit the bed, my roommate still questioned why I started a load of laundry as soon as I left my room.

Enjoy your treats, butt beware of the rosebud.

## Compressed Air: A Fossil Fuel Alternative?

DAVID ALDERSON

The senior design projects have kicked off again this year within the Department of Mechanical Engineering. One team in particular has taken on the ambitious challenge of designing and producing a compressed air drive system.

Compressed air has been mentioned lately as another alternative to fossil fuels amongst hydrogen, electric, and biofuels. Is using compressed air feasible for propulsion in some application? This is exactly what the compressed air drive group, consisting of Scott Allan, Dave Spencer, Michael Roy, David Langille and I, will attempt to prove.

In the early stages of design idea generation, modification of a rotary engine has shown some promises for cost effective proof of concept for a compressed air drive. However, finding a rotary engine has proven difficult in Atlantic Canada.

The compressed air drive team is looking for anyone out there that

may have information on the whereabouts of a rotary for sale or how to get a rotary engine.

In order to test the final design prototype, the compressed air drive is going to be utilized in a single person go-kart. If the project is successful, this will easily display the potential for compressed air in a drive system. The vehicle will provide performance and drive characteristics allowing for the drive to be tested and compared with similar go-karts on the market.

Persons, companies, or parties interested in sponsoring the compressed air drive team, or donating a go-kart, parts or machining time, would be very much appreciated. For more information on the Compressed Air Drive design project and team, please visit [www.me.dal.ca/~dp\\_07\\_2/](http://www.me.dal.ca/~dp_07_2/) or contact us at [airpower-drive@gmail.com](mailto:airpower-drive@gmail.com). For general information on Mechanical Engineering senior design projects please visit [www.me.dal.ca/%7EDP\\_MECH/](http://www.me.dal.ca/%7EDP_MECH/).

## Open letter to commerce

Dear commerce students,

I want to apologize, for I have made a mistake. I've given you too much credit. To think that you could finish in second to us in a trivia challenge was obviously wrong. You couldn't even finish. All you had to do is show up, put on a brave front, and that was too much to ask. I am sorry that I have thought this highly of you.

I thought that saying "winning second" was a polite way of letting you hold your heads up high, but walking out of the T-Room because half your team can't read a clock is a new low for your collective profession.

I mean, technically, you guys are disqualified. Second place was an achievable goal and you chose to

forfeit. I know that this concept is a difficult one, so in layman's terms it means you had a choice: either choose something or choose nothing. To my surprise, you chose nothing.

No worries though, such choices seem to be a consistent theme in the decisions you've made thus far.

Now I know what you're going to say: "It wasn't fair, just about half our team is outside the T-Room." The contest started at 9:15, and I expect you don't usually plan to be late for a competition.

I know this is a basic concept, but you need to walk before you can run. Besides that, power hour starts at 9, all the more reason not to be late. And let us not forget my letter last week saying that you didn't have

a chance. So, technically, this was unfair from the start.

Not only do you run crying injustice, you make demands while you flee. I heard some nonsense about a bigger neutral venue. That may help for more of your classmates to join in your impending defeat, assuming they can make it on time.

Since I have placed too much faith in this simple constraint I implore you, upon your next "challenge" please be professional; simply quit the day before so we can avoid any more unfounded high expectations.

Yours,  
A concerned engineering student

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## Eight out of 10 Canadians will be infected with HPV in their lifetimes – will you be one of them?

Not if the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has anything to do with it. The SOGC is urging young adults to expose what lurks between the sheets in order to protect themselves against this highly contagious – and potentially dangerous – virus.

HPV, or the human papillomavirus, is a common sexually transmitted infection. So common, in fact, that there are over 100 different types of HPV. Most will clear on their own within two years, without you even knowing you had it, however some are more persistent and may lead to long-term consequences. Also, certain sexually transmitted strains can cause genital warts, and others can even cause cancer. The warts can vary in size and appearance, ranging from growths that look flat, raised, or even cauliflower-shaped. The swellings can sometimes be itchy, and if they're allowed to grow they can cause sores, bleeding, and can even block vaginal openings.

You're probably thinking that someone would have to be pretty clueless to hook up with a partner who's covered in genital warts. But there's just one problem - not everyone infected will have symptoms. So, whether you're all about staying exclusive or playing the field, a partner can still pass HPV on to you without even knowing they have it.

And as if the thought of genital warts isn't enough to kill the mood, other types of HPV are the number one cause of cervical cancer. It's a serious disease - this year, about 1,350 women will be diagnosed with it, and another 400 will die from it.

Condoms do provide a safety net against HPV, but they can't promise to be 100% effective. This is because HPV spreads so easily that all it takes is skin-to-skin sexual contact for it to make the jump from one person to the next, and a condom might not completely cover an infected area.

There's too much of a risk involved to stay powerless against HPV. Up to 80% of Canadians will be exposed to it, many before they turn 26 years old, so why not make today the day you take charge of your sexual health? Since HPV infections can go undetected, getting regular Pap smears should be at the top of every young woman's to-do list. It's the best way of identifying HPV and catching early signs of cervical cancer before it's too late.

Of course, prevention is just as important as awareness. In case you're not convinced, let's get into some more heavy

numbers: The one and only option that provides close to 100% protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause about 70% of cervical cancers, as well as types 6 and 11, which cause 90% of genital warts, is the HPV vaccination. Medical experts, such as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, recommend vaccination of all women aged nine to 26. But don't think that once you're vaccinated it means no more Pap tests. It's not a question of choosing one or the other – they're both important components in the fight against HPV. This year, more than 400,000 women will have an abnormal Pap smear, many indicating pre-cancerous conditions.

**"Genital what?!!"**

**HPV**  
Yes, genital warts. It can even lead to cancer. You can get it through intimate skin contact. You don't even need to have sex. Unfortunately condoms won't fully protect you.

Vaccination is recommended for ALL Canadian young women aged 9 - 26

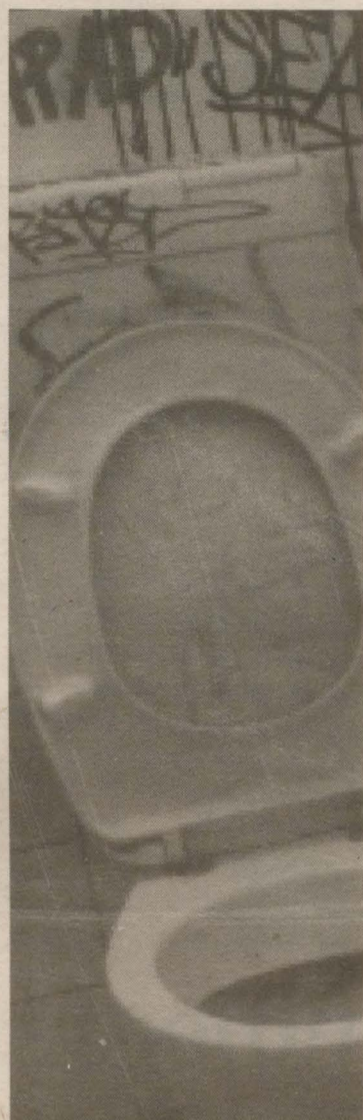
Spread the word not the disease

Knowledge, screening and vaccination can help.

[hpvinfo.ca](http://hpvinfo.ca)

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

Getting informed is another major component in keeping your body and your sex life healthy. This doesn't just go for young women, but young men as well. A recent study found out that less than a third of both men and women have ever heard of HPV. Rise above the statistics. Get all the facts at [www.hpvinfo.ca](http://www.hpvinfo.ca) and talk to a doctor about protecting yourself, and your partners.



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to  
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...write  
for the  
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