

FREE

139-11 / November 16 - November 23

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Gazette



HOTSPOTS ROBOT

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**N.S. government
helps chosen few**

P4

**McDonough
weighs in on poverty**

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sinks U.S. competitors**

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fronts film**

P14



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Last week when I wrote this article I indicated that our annual lobby conference was going really well. I couldn't have anticipated that it would end off being even more successful than I had originally imagined. During the week we met with over 140 Members of Parliament, Senators, and senior bureaucrats. Each one of these meetings is important to ensure that all parties continue to recognize the dire situation of post secondary education (PSE) in this country. However, I would like to highlight two particular meetings from the week.

The first was a meeting with Prime Minister Harper on November 8th. Ten members of CASA had the opportunity to question the Prime Minister Harper on his post secondary education policies. The 'New Government' is extremely reluctant to meet with any special interest groups and the fact that we were able to get a meeting with the Prime Minister, speaks to the respect that CASA has as a lobby group on Parliament Hill.



The second meeting that I would like to highlight was a meeting with Belinda Stronach, Liberal MP for Aurora-Newmarket. At last years Lobby Conference, Ms. Stronach attended a round table with all of the CASA members in her role as Minister of HRSDC. This year she has agreed to jump start a national discussion on PSE with all of the premiers and Education ministers by funding a Pan Canadian conference on PSE and she has asked CASA to co host it. One of CASA's main lobbying points is the creation of a Pan Canadian Accord on education, a document agreed to by all the provinces that outlines the role of PSE in Canada. Ideally, this discussion would be lead by the government, however, under the circumstances starting with this proposed conference could have significant effects.

The next meeting of the DSU Council is November 22nd at 6:45. Council meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

See you around campus. Stop by, or call anytime,
Ezra Edelstein
DSU President
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Gazette

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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.

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

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba. 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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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the academic year. We need writers, photographers, illustrators, readers and ideas. If you can contribute any of these, please drop us a line or come by the office.

Poker skills can pay the bills



LI DONG
Opinions Editor

of Minister of Government Services Gerry Phillips, crack houses. One newspaper even used a black and white photo of orphans on the street to accompany the story.

Canada's youth — a.k.a. us — must have pretty tough lives. In order to grow up to be decent human beings, we have to dodge all sorts of scary temptations including sex, drugs, cults, booze, smoking and now... online gambling.

Last week, Ipsos-Reid released a new poll of 1,000 Ontarians revealing that just over a third of respondents aged 18 to 34 play poker for money and about a quarter of them play poker at least once a week.

The poll, commissioned by the Responsible Gambling Council, also shows that 16 per cent think poker is a decent way to earn extra money, and an optimistic four per cent believe they could make a living at the game.

Meanwhile, 69 per cent of Ontarians polled said playing poker for money online is a problem.

The media jumped on the story and tried to paint online poker as the new future-destroying entity in the lives of today's youth, comparing online poker to the lottery, roulette, slot machines and, in the case

around him will make money from the less-skilled players over the period of his or her lifetime. I know this from thousands of hours of first-hand experience.

The game of poker is under attack on multiple fronts. The United States just passed a bill that basically bans online gambling in the country by making it difficult to transfer money in and out of online accounts. Currently, the bill isn't heavily enforced, but the damage has already been done — the legislation scared off the most popular poker site on Earth, Partypoker, from serving real-money customers in America.

The threat of online poker to Canadian youth is virtually a non-issue. Yes, more young people are playing the game, but like any skill game they suck at, they will eventually stop playing it. I have never met a student who loses more than they can afford to lose playing poker. As a matter of fact, if you want your child to learn they suck at poker, it's better to let them learn online.

When you're playing online, so many hands go by in a short period of time that if you're not skilled and disciplined, you will lose your money very quickly. Compare this situation to sitting at a table in a casino where the game moves considerably slower, and unskilled players tend to lose their money over a long period of time.

In the online scenario, the lesson is learned almost instantaneously. The youth is immediately punished for his mistakes. In the live scenario, the young player is allowed to hang around the table for a while and maybe even build up some false confidence about his game. He will go broke over and over again, but because it's happening so slowly, he

Society should give Canadian youth some credit and let them make their own mistakes.

After browsing the reader comments on The Globe and Mail website, I realized that many people in the public sphere still see poker as synonymous with gambling games such as blackjack, roulette and flipping coins for money. Let me put that myth to rest right now — in the long run, poker is 100 per cent a game of skill.

Just because the game involves a deck of cards and money does not make it gambling. Yes, there are times when the cards are running bad and you will lose your money no matter what. Such is life. But a player who is better than the players

won't realize his losses are due to his lack of skill. Instead, he'll be more inclined to blame it on bad luck.

But with enough skill and determination, a person is able to make a living playing poker. Believing this does not make one a problem gambler. It is simply facing the truth.

Problem gambling is a tragic reality for some people, but poker isn't to blame.

Society should give Canadian youth some credit and let them make their own mistakes. While problem gambling does exist, for the most part, young people know where to draw the line.

Gazette

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Pilot project to help single-parent students pay bills

KALEY KENNEDY
Staff Contributor

A new program will allow students who collect social assistance to also receive student loans as early as next January, the provincial government announced on Oct. 26.

Career Seek, a four-year pilot project, will give up to 50 students enrolled in post-secondary education programs that last longer than two years the opportunity to collect both income assistance and student loans. Previously, students could receive funding from both sources, but only for two years of study.

Single-parent students need as much financial assistance as they can get because they already work "double shifts" when they go to school and have to take care of their children, says Katherine Reed, project coordinator for the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.

"A single parent's babysitting and other employment-related costs can easily overtake her earnings," says Reed.

Career Seek fills the void left by the Family Benefits Program, which allowed single-parent students to collect social assistance and receive student loans. From 1999 to 2000, roughly 1,600 university students took advantage of the program.

After the Tories scrapped that program in 2000, students had to give up income assistance benefits if they wanted a student loan.

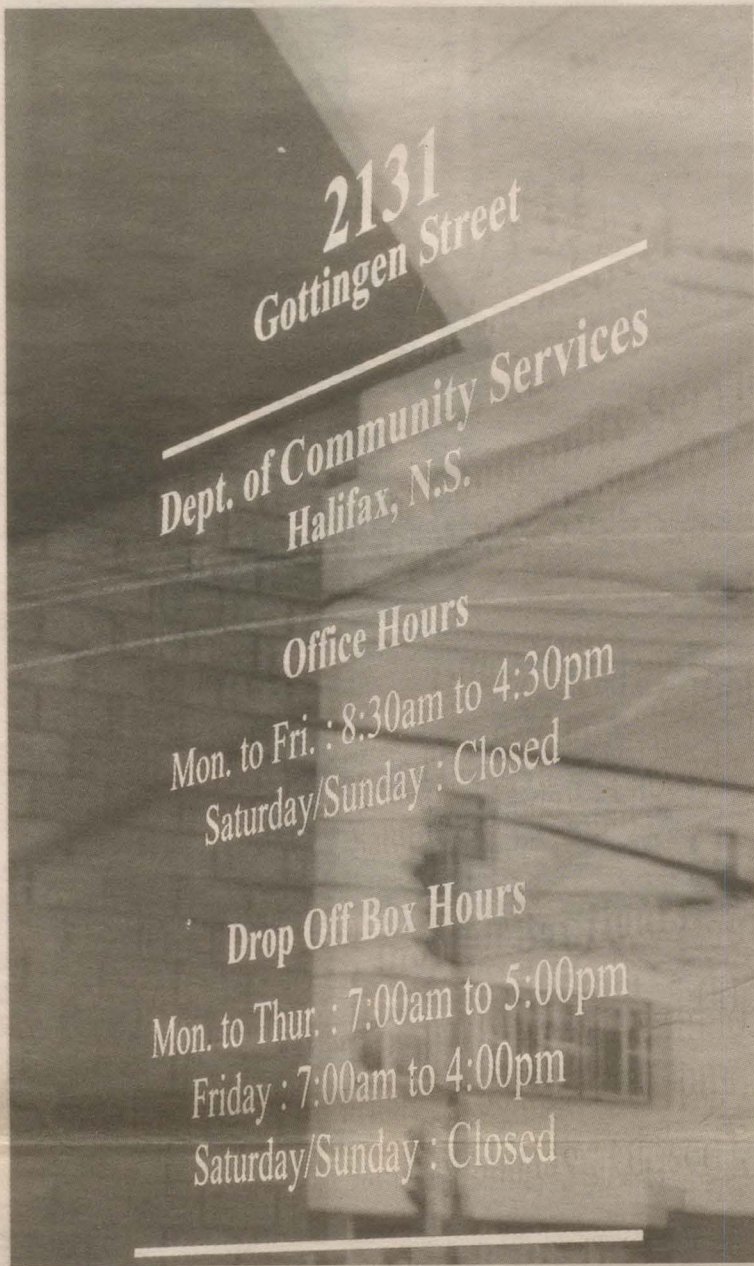
On average, a single-parent student requires more than \$19,000 per year to attend university. But the maximum student loan in Nova Scotia is barely more than \$11,000, leaving single parents with an \$8,000 deficit each year.

"It's the living expenses that drive up costs. Children cost a lot of money," says Glenna Ingraham, a mother who used the Family Benefits Program to pay for her education roughly 10 years ago. "Student loans won't cover childcare."

Ingraham, who received an English degree from St. Francis Xavier University, says it would have been "impossible" for her to finish her degree after her son was born if she couldn't apply for the Family Benefits Program. She says the extra money she received through the program helped her pay rent, childcare and groceries. Ingraham currently owns and operates a daycare business.

"One of the happiest days of my life was the day I was able to call them and say I am financially stable," she says. "I don't need anymore help."

Ingraham says the Family Ben-



The provincial Department of Community Services will administer a program that allows students to collect income assistance and apply for student loans. / Photo: John Packman

efits Program also allowed her to set an example for her child.

"My son hopes to go to university one day, and that's because I did it," she says. "The people who want to get an education are the ones who want to better themselves and get off of social assistance."

A Statistics Canada study conducted in 2001 found that half the participants whose parents had a university education also went to university, compared to just 17 per cent of those whose parents had a high school education or below.

Only 50 students can apply for Career Seek because that's the average number of students who collect social assistance and apply for student loans each year, the provincial

government says.

Before students can apply for the program, they must complete a career assessment to identify post-secondary programs that meet both their career goals and the needs of the province's labour market.

Successful Career Seek applicants must prove that a post-secondary education will get them a job upon graduation and will provide them with skills the provincial labour market needs.

Participants must also meet with an employment counsellor at the end of every semester to review their transcripts and ensure they're meeting their goals.

See page 6 for editorial comment.



"We'll measure our success by the number of people we help get out of poverty," said Muhammed Yunus, co-recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. / Photo: Jessica Patterson / Halifax Commoner

Halifax summit targets global poverty

DAWN MACPHEE
Assistant News Editor

More than 2,000 people from 100 countries gathered at the Halifax Metro Centre on Nov. 12 to discuss ways to increase financial assistance for the world's poorest.

"We are here in Halifax to launch two bold goals for 2015," said Sam Daley-Harris, director of the Microcredit Summit Campaign. "Setting bold goals is critical to making a difference. Bold global goal-setting cannot be found anywhere else in this field."

The campaign's goals, which it hopes to achieve by 2015, are to extend microcredit to 175 of the world's poorest families and to ensure that 100 million families have more than \$1 US each day to live.

Microcredit involves donors providing small loans to entrepreneurs who are too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Especially in developing countries, microcredit helps poor people generate income through self-employment projects and support themselves and their families.

"The rich learning agenda of these next four days is only one step in removing barriers to achieving our goals," said Daley-Harris.

From Nov. 12 to 15, the Global Microcredit Summit brought an opportunity for microcredit donors, practitioners and supporters to discuss their progress and define strategies for reaching the new goals.

Muhammed Yunus, member of the Microcredit Summit Campaign's executive committee, was named the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 13 alongside the Grameen Bank, a microcredit institution he founded in Bangladesh. Yunus and the Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the prize for "their efforts to create social and economic change from below."

"We are no longer a footnote in the financial system of the world. We are part of the mainstream," said Yunus. "We'll measure our success by the number of people we help get out of poverty. Let's make this an historical summit to get the ball rolling for a poverty-free world."

In 1997, the first Microcredit Summit was held in Washington DC, launching a nine-year campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families with microcredit by the end of 2005.

The 2006 report on the state of the campaign found that 82 million of those families were reached, and that the goal should be met by the end of 2007.

Peter MacKay, Canadian minister of foreign affairs, welcomed the delegates to Halifax on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He announced the government will contribute \$40 million to microcredit projects around the world.

"I wish you great success in advancing your global campaign to put financial power into the hands of the world's poor," said MacKay.



Student Employment Centre

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Information Sessions

SWAP Working Holidays

Nov 16, 3:30 - 5:00 pm
SUB, Room 307

DRDC Centre for Operational Research & Analysis

Nov 16, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
SUB, Room 303

Nerds on Site

Nov 21, 2:30 - 4:30pm
SUB, Council Chambers

To RSVP for these sessions please visit
www.dal.ca/sec



Sustainability project passes half-way mark, needs more funding

ANNA FONG
Staff Contributor

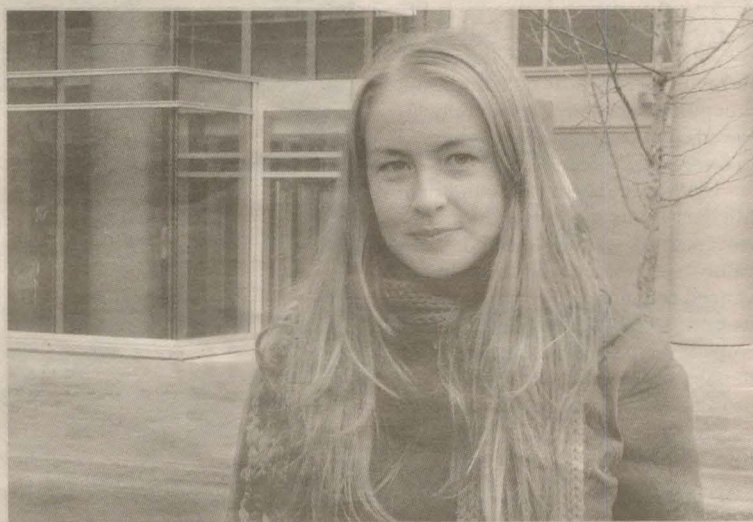
More than 150 Dalhousie student volunteers are working on a campus-wide audit that could save the university millions of dollars.

The Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework (CSAF) examines roughly 170 indicators of sustainable practices that organizers study before recommending changes to the university's policies on waste management and the use of paper, water and energy.

Wage increases, funding for minorities and the number of bike racks on campus are some indicators included in the CFAS audit.

Both the University of British Columbia and Concordia University have saved millions of dollars by introducing policy changes recommended by the CSAF.

"Right now, our resources are pretty slim and not all of the indicators have been completely evaluated," says Liliith Wyatt, communications coordinator for the Dal Integrated Sustainability Initiative (DISI).



Liliith Wyatt wants to create a sustainability office at Dalhousie that's staffed by paid personnel. / Photo: John Packman

One of DISI's primary goals is to finish the audit by next year to make recommendations in all 170 areas of campus sustainability.

"A lot of the indicators are research-intensive, so class work helps to provide vital information for the audit," says Wyatt. "Everything we do is volunteer-based."

Student volunteers have com-

pleted nearly half of the CFAS audit during regular class times, says Zoë Caron, founder and coordinator of DISI.

The University of Prince Edward Island finished the audit in a single semester because it had an entire class devoted to the program, while Concordia University took two years, says Wyatt. Dal has been working on

the audit for just over a year.

DISI plans to gather information from engineering students who are working on a project on greenhouse gases. The information will help organizers determine the amount of greenhouse gas emitted from campus buildings.

The society received \$1,000 in funding from the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), which barely covers the costs for campus awareness and education campaigns, says Wyatt.

"Once the audit is complete, we want to ensure our efforts do not disappear when DISI members graduate," she says.

To ensure the society completes the project, its members want to create a sustainability office staffed by paid personnel.

The DSU agreed to create the office and hire three full-time staff members, but the union can't shoulder the estimated \$2,500 costs on its own.

DISI wants to hold a referendum to ask students if they are willing to add a few dollars to their student fees to help fund the sustainability office.

From The Gazette archives

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

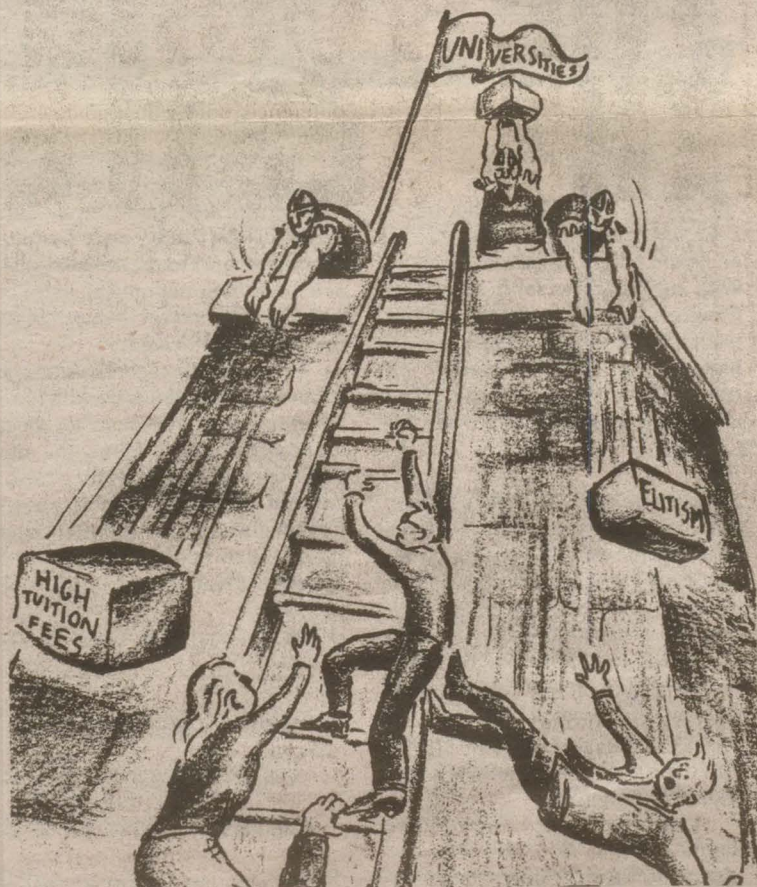
Former law dean dies

A former Dalhousie dean of law and P.E.I. premier, Joe Ghiz, died of cancer on Nov. 9 at the age of 51.

The son of a Lebanese immigrant, Ghiz paid his way through university, finished at the top of his class and eventually earned a degree from Harvard Law School. He became leader of the P.E.I. Liberals in 1981 and served as premier of the province from 1986 to 1993.

Under his leadership, Islanders saw the construction of the Confederation Bridge and the federal government's closures of CFB Summerside and the province's CN Rail lines. Ghiz was a fervent nationalist who vigorously supported the Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords. He left Dal in 1995 to accept an appointment at the P.E.I. Supreme Court.

"He made a tremendous contribution to the law school," said Associate Dean of Law John Yogis. "He took a great interest in his job and was always available to chat with students and staff... it was a great loss."



20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

Dartmouth boycotts S.A.

Dartmouth City Council voted to sever all ties with businesses that traded with South Africa in an attempt to make the city "apartheid-free."

Under the resolution, city staff members wouldn't invest in institutions that did business in South Africa and councillors wouldn't attend any functions where South African government representatives were present.

The Coalition Against Apartheid (CAA), which lobbied for the motion, said it was impressed by the support council members showed for the petition.

The CAA planned to send a letter to Halifax mayor Ron Wallace, asking him to consider a similar motion. City councils in Toronto, Vancouver and Regina also passed anti-apartheid resolutions.

30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

PQ wins Quebec

René Lévesque's Parti Québécois achieved a "stunning victory" over Robert Bourassa's incumbent Liberals to form the first separatist government in Quebec history.

The new premier announced he would call a referendum on Quebec independence within two years, after his candidates swept 71 of 110 ridings. The PQ won just six seats in the 1973 provincial election.

Experts agreed that general dissatisfaction with economic conditions in Montreal and a vote split caused by the resurgence of the Union Nationale led to the Liberal defeat.

Throughout the campaign, Lévesque insisted that quality of government was the lynchpin issue, not separatism. But some candidates maintained that separatism was a draw for voter support.

"The vocabulary is wrong," said

PQ candidate Paul Unterberg. "Quebec will not separate, we will have independence."

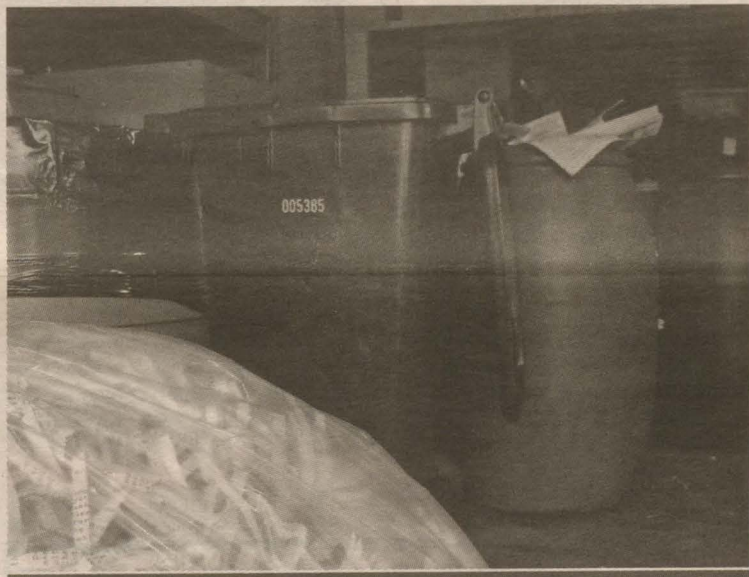
Tigers lose championship

The Concordia University Stringers defeated the Dalhousie Tigers in a double overtime thriller to win the CIAU soccer championships in Montreal.

The Stringers scored the winning goal with just two minutes remaining in the second overtime period, ending the hopes of the underdog Tigers.

Dal, playing its third game in as many days, defeated the University of Toronto Blues and the UBC Thunderbirds on their way to the championship game. "Our soccer team can hold their heads high," *The Gazette* wrote about the team's second-place finish.

"The entire university should be extremely proud of their accomplishments."



Words: Anna Fong / Photo: John Packman

Students push for recycled paper policy

A Dalhousie student society wants the university to use recycled paper to cut down on waste.

The Dalhousie Integrated Sustainability Initiative (DISI) is collaborating with the Sierra Youth Coalition, an organization that works to protect global ecosystems, to encourage Atlantic campuses to purchase recycled paper.

"Dalhousie is the largest university with the most political clout in the Atlantic region, so if we decide to convert, there will be enough pressure by us that the rest will soon follow," says Liliith Wyatt, DISI communications coordinator.

Wyatt says universities with small student bodies can't afford to buy recycled paper on their own, which prevents them from changing their paper purchasing policies.

DISI hopes Dal will start using only recycled paper by next September. But the university might hold a trial run to ensure the paper won't jam its photocopiers and printers.

So far, DISI has the support of the management, science and engineering faculties. Dean of management David Wheeler says the society must ensure that everyone involved is comfortable with the switch to recycled paper.

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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 the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

Another self-serving provincial program

In a seemingly philanthropic move, the Nova Scotia government announced three weeks ago that it will allow university students receiving social assistance to take out student loans for longer than two years, the current limit.

Career Seek, a four-year pilot program set to start in January 2007, has a budget of \$3 million and is touted as an opportunity for students on social assistance to complete a four-year university degree.

But after six years of leaving students on income assistance in the cold after their first two years of study — essentially restricting them to studying at community college — the announcement is too little, too late.

Career Seek funding is intended to bridge the gap between an individual's resources, such as personal income, scholarships or social assistance, and the provincial government's estimated cost of living. But the government still has not said how much funding will be available to students who are accepted.

And only a maximum of 50 students per year will receive funding from Career Seek — a number that is not only limited, but also arbitrary. The provincial government set the limit using the average number of students on social assistance who apply for student loans. The logic of using an average to determine the limit is flawed. Some years, there will be more need than others, and the program leaves no way to address it.

Career Seek also has disconcerting and potentially unattainable requirements.

To be considered for funding, applicants must already have been on social assistance for a year and are required to prove that their proposed

area of study will provide them with a job upon graduation. And that job has to meet the needs of provincial labour markets — all in exchange for the "privilege" of receiving a high-interest loan from the government.

Bureaucrats have yet to inform the public what they consider to be suitable career goals or what jobs will meet the needs of Nova Scotia's labour market. But the very name of the program reveals its self-serving nature.

Career Seek won't necessarily help students who collect income assistance pursue their interests and passions, whatever those may be. It will, however, help the province fill gaps in the workforce using a population that previously relied on government money to live.

But such a program essentially punishes students on social assistance by disregarding what should be an intrinsic right: if students must borrow money for their education, they should, at the very least, be allowed to take their program of choice without having to prove its worth to the government.

Career Seek is certainly an improvement on the supports that existed for students on income assistance in the past, and will undoubtedly help the 50 students that are deemed worthy each year.

But if the provincial government genuinely wants to provide meaningful and fair support to students on income assistance, it must replace its superficial generosity with a program that allows them to pursue studies of their choice — not simply those that serve government needs.

0

It's not uncommon to have to get shots before you travel.

It's the ones you need when you return that you probably shouldn't talk about.

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TRAVEL CUTS
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Gazette

Volunteer Meetings
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It's all about the stem cells

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Staff Contributor

On Nov. 10, shortly after the Democrats claimed control of the American House of Representatives, the Missouri constitutional amendment protecting federally allowed stem cell research was passed in a very close vote.

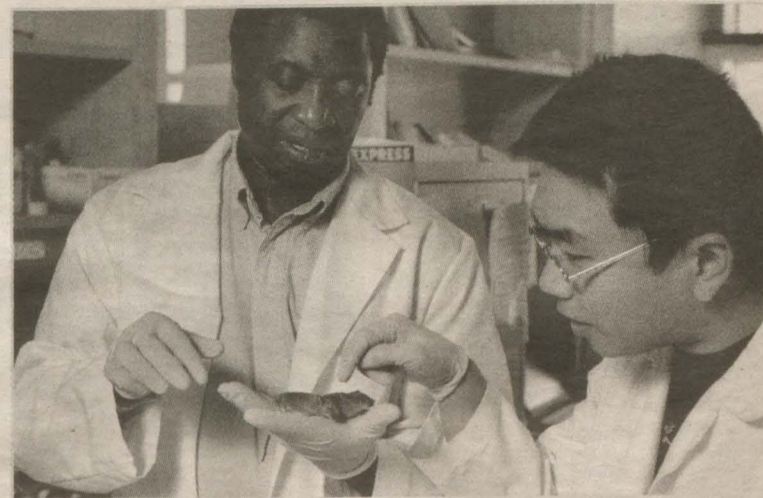
Claire McCaskill, the candidate Michael J. Fox supported in a controversial ad, was also elected. Stock value in companies that work in advanced cell technology immediately went up. While election changes won't reverse funding regulations or debates about ethics, it will alter the attitude toward stem cell research.

If you need any indication of how influential stem cells will be to the future of medical research, look at the developments in just this past week:

Rebuilding broken hearts

It's usually not the first heart attack that's the most damaging, but rather a subsequent one because of damage inflicted by the first. That's why scientists are now using stem cells, along with angioplasty — the process of mechanically opening a blood vessel with a catheter — to treat heart attack patients.

Stem cells from a patient's bone marrow will be injected into the heart through the catheter, allowing new heart muscle to grow. Since the stem cells come from the same patient, there are no ethical issues with destroying an embryo or rejection complications.



Scientists found that injecting mice with stem cells prevented cancer when the mice were shot up with cancer cells or exposed to cancer-causing chemicals.

Giving sight to blind mice

Humans have over 130 million photoreceptor cells on the retina. When people lose these cells, vision decreases, and the cells never grow back. But, using stem cells, scientists have grown new photoreceptor cells and transplanted them into blind mice, restoring partial vision. The blindness in the mice was caused by the same diseases humans suffer from, such as macular degeneration and diabetes, which means it may not be long before such techniques are successfully used on sight-impaired humans.

Vaccines against cancer

Scientists found that inject-

ing mice with stem cells prevented cancer when the mice were shot up with cancer cells or exposed to cancer-causing chemicals. Though the technique only worked 90 per cent of the time, there were no negative side effects. The American team behind the mice vaccinations hopes to one day develop a technique to prevent cancer in smokers and people with high hereditary risk for cancer, but with the tough restrictions of the Food and Drug Administration, it may be many years before cancer vaccination is widespread.

With the United States finally jumping on the stem cell research bandwagon, we can expect to see many more advancements in medicine in our generation. I think that's definitely something to celebrate.

The winds of change are blowing (somewhere)

JOHN HILLMAN
Staff Contributor

As of Nov. 7, the Democrats are no longer the whining little brothers of the American political system. With majorities in both houses of Congress, the Democrats now control the legislative agenda in Washington. What sorts of changes will this massive shift in power bring about and what will it all mean for Canadians?

1) There's going to be change in Iraq. The Republican-run debacle will finally come to an end. The Democrats have a plan, you see. They realize that it's time to turn things around. Sure, their plan may be even vaguer than Bush's, but you'd better bet that their vows to secure "phased withdrawals" within an unspecified timeframe are vastly superior to Bush's current efforts to reduce troop numbers over an undefined period.

Implications: The Student Coalition Against War will have to gradually phase out the number of protests over the next few years, assuming there's not an upsurge in insurgent violence... maybe. Hey, at least Rumsfeld is gone!

2) Same-sex marriage has won a major victory. Yes, with the election of the Democrats — those ardent advocates of social reform — nationwide recognition of same-sex marriage is surely right around the corner. Except in the six states that just voted to ban it.

Also problematic, only 34 per cent or so of the Democratic base supports full unions like we have in Canada. Then there's ex-presidential candidate John Kerry's ringing endorsements, "I'm opposed to gay marriage," and, "I'm opposed to it being in a platform. I think it's a mistake." With support like that, nationwide same-sex marriage shouldn't be much more than 50 or 60 years off.

Implications: We won't lose business from Rosie's cruise ships anytime soon.

3) Look for a more liberal Congress. With the Democrats in charge, the days of a conservative-dominated Capitol Hill are finally over. Sure, many of the older and southern Democrats are almost indistinguishable from their Republican counterparts, but just look at the fresh blood that has been injected.

There's Jon Tester of Montana, an adamant gun advocate and a hard-line opponent of amnesty for illegal immigrants. Then there's the new Virginian senator Jim Webb — also a gun nut and an immigration hawk, though these traits are often overshadowed by the papers he's written arguing women don't belong in the military.

What about Bob Casey Jr., the

4) Global warming. Assuming they can stick to their principles and avoid the temptations of big industry lobbyists, the Democrats will most likely try to pass environmental protection legislation, perhaps even adopting the Kyoto Protocol. If this goes through, the effects would be drastic. By cutting rates of greenhouse gas emission to 5 per cent of the 1990 levels, the projected average world temperature rise of 5.2 C could, by 2100, be lowered by a staggering 0.02 C, thereby completely solving that whole global warming thing.

Implications: Instead of sweltering 45 C summer heat waves, we'll be treated to cool and refreshing 44.98 C weather. Hold on to your

You'd better bet that the Democrats' vows to secure "phased withdrawals" within an unspecified timeframe are vastly superior to Bush's current efforts to reduce troop numbers over an undefined period.

new anti-abortion, anti-same-sex marriage, conservative-judge-confirming senator from Pennsylvania? Hmm. Well, at least they drove out many crazed Republican right-wingers. Take Lincoln Chafee, the pro-choice, pro-same sex marriage, pro-affirmative action, anti-death penalty, war-opposing, stem cell research-supporting, gun-controlling, rich-taxing, Sierra Club-endorsed ex-senator from Rhode Island. Talk about your conservative fanatics. Yes, this stunning ideological shift is an inspiring testament to the two-party system at its finest.

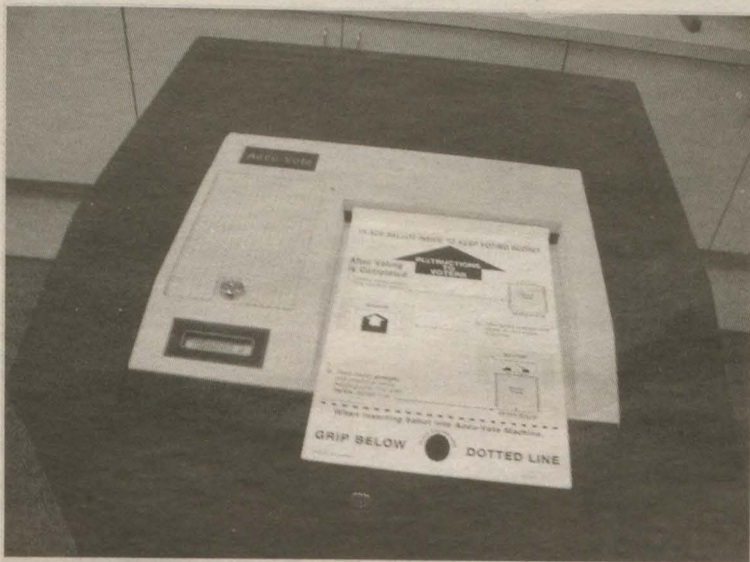
Implications: The far right has snatched victory from the farther right. Left-leaning Canadians still feeling the sting of the last national election can take some comfort considering that — even at its most extreme — Harper's conservative government looks like a bunch of commie pinkos next to any of these guys.

toques.

5) There will definitely be an election in 2008. As obvious as this might seem, think about it. It would probably have been time to call it quits if the Democrats had found a way to lose this one. All they really had to do was let the Republicans bribe, lie, ethnically slur, strangle, quagmire, and pedophile themselves out of office. John Kerry gave it a good shot, but it would have taken a Ralph Klein-level idiot to blow things this year.

Implications: If there's an election in 2008, then there will be "Indecision 2008" on Comedy Central and Jon Stewart's comedic styling will make it a bit easier for Canadians to cope with the inevitable ascension of President Jeb.

Democracy in action... It's amazing to realize how much power ordinary people have to change the world.



People outside the U.S. watched the midterm election with wide interest in an attempt to gauge American public opinion in relation to the Bush administration's policies.

American midterm elections U.S. and Bush not one and the same

NEAL HICKS
Opinions Contributor

The results of the American midterm elections and the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld delivered an important message to populations around the globe: the American people and the Bush administration are not one and the same.

It was not, of course, a presidential election, though many believe it should be the first step toward a much-deserved presidential impeachment. And few expect the election results to lead to a quick end to the bitterly contested Iraq war. Rather, the American midterm election was seen as a telling sign of Bush's waning power and domestic support.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, George W. Bush revelled in his prerogative as president and commander-in-chief, instigating a foreign policy defined by the War on Terror, in which one was either "with us or with the terrorists." This simplistic division led many Americans to fall in line with the president's rhetoric for fear of being labelled unpatriotic.

As it became increasingly clear, however, that Iraq was falling into chaos and the U.S. was losing moral capital through well-documented atrocities such as Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and the rendition of terror suspects to secret prisons, the War on Terror began to be cast in a new light. It's increasingly thought that the war endangers the world, rather than curbs terrorism.

Negative sentiment, combined with an almost McCarthyistic crackdown on domestic dissent, led many global observers to equate the Bush administration's foreign policy with America itself. As Karsten D. Voigt, the coordinator of German-American relations in the foreign ministry stated, "Europeans have tended to look at the U.S. as being synonymous with Bush."

People outside the U.S. watched the midterm election with wide interest in an attempt to gauge American public opinion in relation to the

Bush administration's policies. The results, according to Voigt, "show that the reality is far more diverse and multi-faceted. I hope it will lead to a diminution of anti-American prejudice."

The Democratic Party swept to power amid exit polls that suggested widespread discontent with the handling of the Iraq war, nationwide disgust at political corruption and record low approval ratings for President George W. Bush.

Not only does the result dismantle the supposed homogeneity between the Bush administration and the American nation. Individuals from around the globe also hope the Democrats' takeover of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time in 12 years will end the cycle of preventative war and unilateralism characteristic of the Bush administration in favour of a more conciliatory approach to global issues.

In a joint statement, more than 200 socialist members of the European Parliament hailed the American election results as "the beginning of the end of a six-year nightmare for the world."

In Pakistan, one opposition lawmaker, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed, said he welcomed the election results but he hoped for more. Bush "deserves to be removed, put on trial and given a Saddam-like death sentence."

But in the Middle East, the results elicited little enthusiasm among academics and analysts who argued it was unlikely to change the U.S.'s approach in the region.

In Jordan, Fahed Kheitan, a columnist for the newspaper *Arab Alyaum*, wrote, "The state of relief you see on Arab streets is not because the Democrats actually won, but because the Republicans lost." This sentiment underlines the fear that American democracy has fallen into a one-party system blanketed in the facade of choice.

This wasn't just a midterm election. It was an evaluation of where the American nation stands with regard to the Bush administration. How the Democrats choose to wield the newfound political capital has yet to be seen.

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Applications for the MSc (Clinic Vision Science) program beginning in September 2007 are now being accepted. Applicants must hold a four-year bachelor's degree with a minimum B average (GPA 3.0), with at least one undergraduate class in human anatomy and/or physiology, and a class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students may be accepted without these prerequisites on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field is considered an asset.

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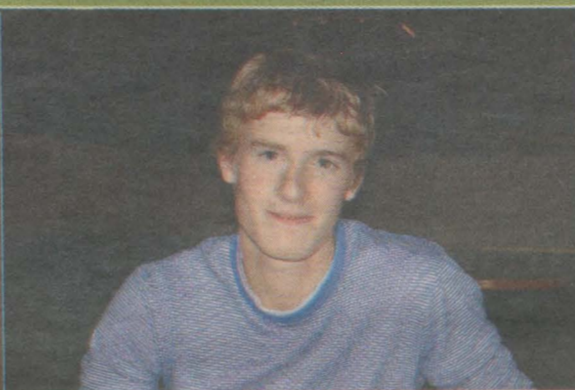
STREETER

IF YOU COULD GO ON VACATION ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD IT BE?



“Thailand, because I've never been there.”

Anne Arsenault, fifth-year French & political science



“The moon, because it's not a very common place to go.”

Alex Fader, third-year philosophy



“France, because they speak French and they have really good bread and cheese there.”

Meggie Bazley, third-year psychology & French



“Italy, because they have my favourite food, pasta, and I've never been there.”

Carol Malko, third-year political science & French



“Indonesia, for surfing and a road trip.”

Enoch Wu, fifth-year English



“Cuba, because I like to relax on the beach.”

Nadine Raschad, third-year management



“Australia, because I like the Opera House.”

Krishna Bakthavathsalu, Master's of computer science



“Mexico, because the diet there is rich in beans!”

Joey Ryba, seventh-year gastronomy

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TOP 10

- NO. 1 REASON TO LEAVE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION**
You can make way more bank being a divorce lawyer for K-Fed and R-Phil.
- AUCTIONING OFF MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN KEY SOCIETY**
Who wouldn't want to date their future boss?
- DOES BELINDA STRONACH HAVE A CONSERVATIVE BONE IN HER BODY?**
It's sure clear that her humourous isn't intact.
- LOST DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE ANYMORE** Like it ever did.
- DENISE RICHARDS THROWS A STATE-OF-THE-ART PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY AT AN ELDERLY WOMAN** Really putting the phrase, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" to the ultimate test.
- CURLERS POSE NUDE IN CALENDAR IN ORDER TO SEXIFY THE SPORT OF CURLING** Thrusting brooms and screaming "Hard!" ... what's left to sexyify?
- FAITH HILL'S CELEBRATION DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE DIDN'T WIN** Is basically like the award show version of a premature ejaculation.
- SUING BORAT FOR MAKING YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT**
Makes you look like even more of an idiot.
- REAL HEADLINE: "SIENNA MILLER, JUDE LAW FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT"** I'm guessing their relationship was more "mental" than it was "fun."
- MARRIAGE TO K-FED ESTIMATED TO HAVE COST BRITNEY \$45 MILLION**
Now that shit is what I call toxic.

HOT / NOT

- HOT:** Will Ferrell / **NOT:** Daniel Craig
- HOT:** Canada Post / **NOT:** "Fed-Ex"
- HOT:** Gin / **NOT:** Rummy
- HOT:** Democracy / **NOT:** The last six years
- HOT:** Kylie Minogue / **NOT:** Faith Hill
- HOT:** Getting dumped via text message (K-Fed) / **NOT:** Watching your divorce on CNN (Val Kilmer)
- HOT:** Tomboys / **NOT:** TomKat
- HOT:** Reese Witherspoon / **NOT:** Anna Nicole Smith
- HOT:** Toques with bills / **NOT:** Toques with earflaps
- HOT:** Pre-nuptial agreements / **NOT:** *Til Debt do us Part*

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4.9 million Canadians live in poverty and 1.2 million of those are children.

Ending poverty at home and abroad

Not mutually exclusive

ALEXA McDONOUGH
Special to The Gazette

I welcome this opportunity to respond to Rafal Andronowski's proposition for tackling poverty — that we "start locally and work our way up" (*Gazette* 139-08, "Letter from the editor").

I respectfully disagree. Tackling poverty at home and abroad need not be competing propositions. They are not mutually exclusive.

With federal budget surpluses in excess of \$100 billion in the past seven years, it's obscene for poverty to remain so punishing and so pervasive for so many:

- 4.9 million Canadians live in poverty, 1.2 million of those are children
- 48 per cent single-parent poverty rate — with 28 per cent stuck on welfare
- More than 500,000 single workers with earnings less than half of what would be sufficient to lift them out of poverty

Over a five-year period, the Liberal government eliminated the deficit on the backs of society's most marginalized — the homeless, the poor and the disabled. Having done so, on the eve of the 2000 election, instead of rebuilding critical social and economic programs, they chose to give away \$100 billion in tax cuts to Canada's least needy, primarily Canada's corporate elite.

Similarly, the Conservative government chose to keep these cuts in place. Is it any wonder the homeless or hungry person on Spring Garden Rd., when confronted with placards advocating support for Africa's needy, might ask "what about me?"

Canada's increasing poverty in a period of such enormous economic growth is a national disgrace, and for far too many, a personal tragedy. That is precisely why the Make Poverty History campaign focuses on eliminating poverty at home and abroad.

This past summer, the NDP stepped up the Campaign to End Poverty in Canada.

Working with community-based organizations and social action groups, federal New Democrats have been engaging Canadians in forums on the Canada Social Transfer (CST), the money that gets transferred from Ottawa to the provinces and territories for post-secondary education, social assistance, etc. Cuts to the CST and inadequate monitoring and accountability standards are a major contributor to poverty.

Based on this collaboration, the federal NDP caucus, through legislation, motions and Parliamentary Committee work, has been advancing comprehensive, achievable poverty-reduction policies, including a National Child Care Act, a Canadians with Disabilities Act, a Seniors Charter and legislation, af-

fordable and accessible housing, making post-secondary education affordable for everyone, a far-reaching jobs and skills training strategy, employment insurance reform, guaranteed annual income, pay equity, justice for Aboriginal people and specific initiatives to help women, visible minorities and immigrants.

It's clear that Canada has ample fiscal capacity to address poverty in Africa and other impoverished regions. When Liberals took office in 1993, Canada's international aid had reached just under 0.5 per cent of our Gross National Income. Paul Martin's so-called "Liberal" policies dragged our aid levels down to 0.23 per cent.

It's well understood that the UN's Millennium Development Goals can't be achieved without donor countries meeting a minimum aid level of 0.7 per cent of their GNI in order to cut global poverty in half by 2015. On a recent visit to the U.K. and Nordic countries, it was humiliating to have to face questions as to why Canada was still languishing at 0.32 per cent when those countries had surpassed 0.7 per cent, with some reaching one per cent.

Regrettably, Harper's conservative government seems intent on mimicking the dismal Liberal policies. They're already breaking their campaign promise to increase Canada's international aid to the OECD average of 0.42 per cent by 2010, violating the letter and the spirit of my motion passed unanimously in the House of Commons on June 28, 2005, which called for Canada to:

- Honour its commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals, and by 2015, to increase Canada's international aid to 0.7 per cent of GNP
- Improve our aid effectiveness by strengthening the partnership with civil society, both in Canada and overseas
- Introduce legislation which establishes poverty reduction as the priority for Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Our federal government has both the legislative tools and the fiscal capacity to address poverty at home and abroad. It is both short-sighted and mean-spirited to pit Canada's poor against Africa's poor.

I commend those who, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty, carted buckets of water to Province House to shine the spotlight on Africans who are forced to walk great distances just to provide water to their desperate families.

With your youthful energy and the wisdom of our elders, let us resolve to ensure that at next year's march to Poverty House we pass fewer homeless people along the way.

Alexa McDonough is MP for Halifax NDP Foreign Affairs and International Development Critic

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Releasing the ROBOT

Local band discusses hot-off-the-press EP

MARK BUCKLEY | Staff Contributor

It was an unusually warm November night. I was early for my interview with local band HOTSHOTROBOT, and stopped in at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs for a quick drink.

Jen Clarke, who sings and plays synthesizer for the band, was on the dance floor. She looked over at me and started toward me. Then stopped. And started doing the robot. "I'm about to go on," she said. "It's karaoke night!"

She took the stage and sang a captivating rendition of Madonna's "Into the Groove." The band was celebrating. Its new EP, *Eat My Heart*, had arrived earlier that day from pressing and packaging.

Clarke finished her karaoke solo and the HOTSHOTROBOT entourage moved on to her apartment with me in tow. The guest of honour for the upcoming EP release party waited patiently in unmarked brown boxes beside the door.

Before the interview, the band agreed to play a sample from the EP. I sat amongst the first people to hear what the group has laboured on since August.

HOTSHOTROBOT made its first appearance on the Halifax music scene in the spring of 2005, and has since established itself as a fixture of the local music community with its explosive live shows. Its most recent efforts, however, have focused on the completion of its debut EP.

While its sound appeals to modern listeners, the band members say they look to former eras for inspiration.

"Our influences are mostly '80s driven, like Echo & the Bunnymen and the Slits," says Clarke. "We have punk elements, but we're not definitively punk. We feel we're on the fringes of definitive scenes."

Bassist Andrew Gormley agrees, saying the band is removed from any sort of mainstream music. "When we have something that sounds too conventional, we'll add something to it so that it interests us," he says.

HOTSHOTROBOT's sound occupies an anomalous position in Halifax's music scene with tight electronic, rock, pop and punk-in-



HOTSHOTROBOT hopes for a UK tour and a full-length album in the near future. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

spired riffs. "We have strange a-melodic parts [in our] songs, but we still maintain an accessible melody," Clarke says. "We try to challenge pop music in strange ways."

The 1980's drum machine/synthesizer influence is reflected in the band's first demo, recorded in the winter of 2004. "We did it with a drum machine," says Clarke. "[The demo was] pretty much for the purpose of recruiting a drummer."

HOTSHOTROBOT has gone through four drummers since its inception, recently losing its longest-standing drummer, Sean MacGillivray. But Clarke says the principal members of the band — Gormley, guitarist Brad Luknowsky and herself — still share the same vision, even though drummers come and go.

The band members are light hearted, joking about how they found his replacement, Lance Purcell. "There were 300 try outs," says Luknowsky, though other members point out that local musician Jon Epworth recommended Purcell.

With the arrival of the new EP, Gormley jokes that the band should get rid of the earlier, less accomplished demo recordings. "We've actually put microchips in the [demos], so now we can destroy them by satellite," he cracks.

The band self-recorded *Eat My Heart* — Gormley produced and engineered the EP. "If we were going to do it in a studio, it would turn out sounding sterile and exactly the opposite of what we wanted," he says.

The band enlisted Ed Renzi, a

Stories from the HOTSHOTROBOT archive

Pornographic synthesizer

Andrew Gormley: I don't know where we got this *Playboy* magazine from. Brad [Luknowsky] had it or something. Anyway, Jen [Clarke] always leaves her K-Station [synthesizer] at our place, so before a show, we took the centrefold from the magazine and taped up the entire K-Station.

When she took it out at the show later on and played, there were a bunch of people just standing there, and she had to rip it off.

Hissyfit at Reflections:

Jen Clarke: I was a little embarrassed when we played Hissyfit, the yearly drag show at Reflections. It was quite the event because the guys were dressed as girls and I was dressed as a guy, David Lee Roth inspired. I had a huge snaking cock in tight acid wash jeans.

I don't know if it was because we were all a little weirded out by each other being the opposite sex, but we got really drunk, as did most of the other bands, by the time we went on. They had a curtain at Reflections, sort of to surprise [the audience]. "Here are the bands in drag. Surprise!"

There was a drag queen named April Showers hosting it and right before she opened the curtain, she

turned to me and said, "Honey, you're smashed!" I had this moment of realization and I dropped my K-Station on the ground right before the curtain opened. We then proceeded to try to play "Maneater" by Hall & Oates and failed miserably because we were all too drunk.

East Coast Music Awards' pass-out:

Brad Luknowsky: We played in P.E.I. [for the ECMA]. I did pretty well for our set, but afterward, I don't know if you've ever been to Hunter's Alehouse before, but they give you this massive, fucking huge glass. It almost looks like two litres of beer. Anyway, I drank the whole thing and before the next band went on I went up to this area behind the stage and passed out. I just went to sleep.

Andrew Gormley: You passed out in a bunch of gyprock because they were doing renovations up there with nails and dust and gyprock everywhere. I walked backstage and walked upstairs and saw you on the top two stairs rolling in all this gyprock.

Jen Clarke: And meanwhile, I'm like, "Where's Andrew and Brad?" I inch backstage up the stairs and Andrew is sort of sitting on the step with Brad in the gyprock.

recording arts student at Halifax's Centre for Arts & Technology, to help master the EP.

"[Gormley] did quite a good job telling me exactly what he wanted," says Renzi. "They were all very clear."

Clarke says recording the album was stressful. "You always think that you will be able to take it on, but everything that can go wrong does go wrong," she says.

After spending so much time and energy on the EP, Gormley says they're excited to write new songs and hopes to make enough money from *Eat My Heart* and touring to record a full-length album.

The band members have thought

about exporting HOTSHOTROBOT's music to the U.K. With such concentrated populations, proximal locales and cultural diversity, Clarke says she hopes the band would find some European admirers.

"It seems like the bigger city, the more people who are on the fringes," she says. "It makes sense to go to really heavily populated areas."

Clarke says they don't know how people will receive the new EP. "But we figure if we like it, then we trust our tastes."

HOTSHOTROBOT releases its EP on Friday, Nov. 24 at Stage Nine, with opening bands ANV, the Joyless Streets and Telecommando.

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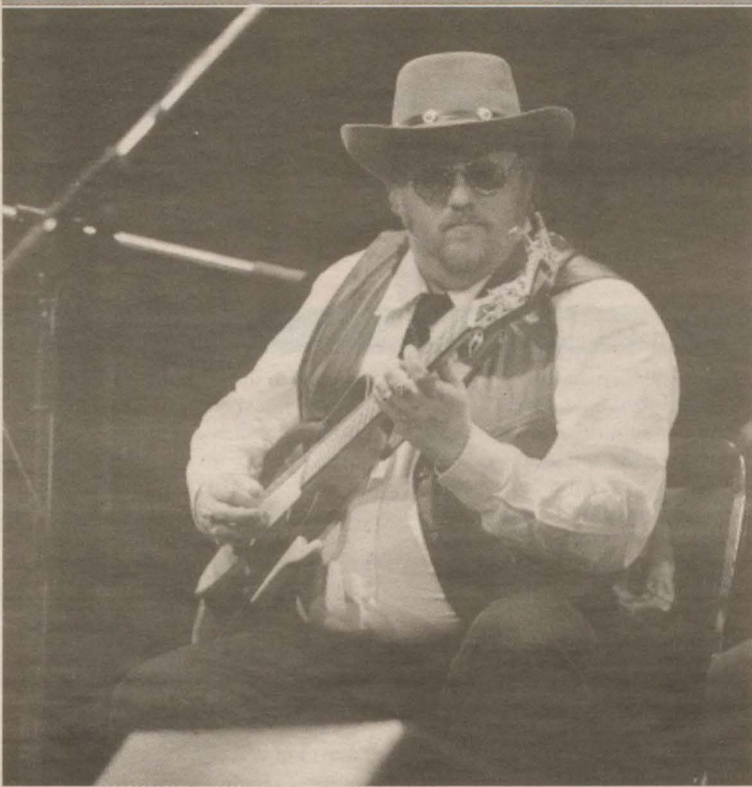
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Report Card

MATT ANDERSEN & J.P. CORMIER / Rebecca Cohn Auditorium / Friday, Nov. 10 / Reporter: Karyn Haag



Audience reaction: B-
Stage presence: A+
Sound: A+
Get-it-on-ability: B
Musical ability: A+

Opening act Matt Andersen took the stage in front of enthusiastic applause and proceeded to both gently tickle and powerfully pound his small guitar. Picking up on crowd favourites, Andersen played original songs, but didn't hesitate to compliment them with nods to Bill Withers and Bob Dylan. His songs of heartache, loss and uplifting humour encouraged the audience to sing along with full hearts and flushed faces.

J.P. Cormier entered the spotlight to play piano and sing harmony vocals with cheeky multi-instru-

mentalist Darren McMullen, who switched instruments every song and occasionally helped Cormier play his mandolin. The musical talent resonated off the stage.

The audience was treated to an encore unlike any other when Cormier invited Andersen back on stage to perform his rendition of the Marshall Tucker Band's "Can't You See."

Andersen's powerful vocals and Cormier's instrumental talent matched perfectly, and were well suited for an entertaining competition between the two performers.

At the end of the show, the audience reluctantly poured out of the Cohn with warm hearts, especially after an audience member's marriage proposal during intermission.

Local Crop

Susan Zakaib / Staff Contributor



Their Majesties
Lands Where Tales Are Tall

On first listen, Their Majesties' debut LP, *Lands Where Tales Are Tall*, seems catchy and fun, but nothing life-changing. It's melodic, pleasurable and laid back, but also upbeat. It has that feel-good rock kind of vibe that makes a good soundtrack for a road trip or cleaning the house. It's worth checking out, but your life won't be incomplete if you don't hear this album.

On second listen, however, the songs begin to surprise. "Shoe-string Divider," which originally fit the "fun, but not amazing" category,

grows, when halfway through it suddenly breaks into a loud, powerful, bridge, which quickly turns into a sweet vocal harmony.

"Fire Island Unchaperoned" has an immediately memorable groove, accompanied by piano, brass and wonderfully fun melodies on vocals and guitar.

Extremely enjoyable layered pop melodies, vocal harmonies, piano riffs and sudden style-changes appear throughout *Lands Where Tales Are Tall*, which make for surprisingly great musical moments.

Catchy, fun and a great road trip soundtrack, it would be misleading to characterize *Lands* as such.

The members of Their Majesties have excellent songwriting skills that shouldn't be ignored, and likely won't be, since the LP's hooks are so memorable.

Lands Where Tales Are Tall may not be life-changing, but it's surprisingly good.



While indie culture claims to value artistic merit, indiers tend to support art based on its relative obscurity instead of its overall quality.

What is... indie?

I listened to 'Nsync — when it was underground

SARAH MORTIMER
Staff Contributor

The question, "What is indie?" has become rather trite. Stacks of articles have been produced on the subject, all making the same artificially "profound" conclusion that the indie movement has changed, without saying how.

After the recent explosion of indie culture, various prominent corporations have capitalized on it. It's spread like Protestantism through the western world and, similarly, has fragmented. Today, the term indie can refer to a style, a genre or a marketing tool, and while still retaining a sort of wonk loyalty to its original ideals.

New indie is strongly contradictory to its origins. The term stems from the word independent and refers to an artist's creative and financial independence from mainstream culture. Indie artists fund their own work, which presumably shields it from the "corruptive" influence of "the Man," ensuring its artistic integrity. Indie, as an ideal, supports notions of individuality and anti-corporatism.

Today's version of indie still preaches this bohemian dogma, and in the most hypocritical of fashions — pun intended. The very fact that indie is a discernible style proves it's not individualistic. Tune your radar

to silk-screened Belle and Sebastian T-shirts or Converse sneakers and you'll spot several indie dressers.

Indie claims to be about originality, following the rhetoric of "I got this from a vintage store downtown, you've probably never heard of it," but this ideal is now just another Wal-Mart trend.

Outfits of famous indie dressers are available at commercial outlets. The quirky polka-dotted dress is now a staple in every girl's wardrobe. While indie fashion should be unique and fresh, it now parallels the ordinariness of The Lacoste polo phenomenon.

And indie's lack of originality isn't just in fashion, but in music and film as well. Indie music is recognized by its experimental and often very instrumental sound. Otherwise it's identified by the indie-looking front man or bad cartoon album cover.

More often than not, bands labelled indie are signed to prominent labels and aren't certifiably indie in the least.

It's the same case with film. So-called indie films include Zack Braff's cunning wit or artsy imagery, but these same films attain blockbuster status and are supported by major companies.

In the art scene, indie is commonly false. Staying true to independent ideals in today's context

seems like an impossible feat, and "being indie" is to battle a complex oxymoron. While indie boasts its favour of individualism, it requires its followers to be discriminatory.

Contradictory to its manifesto, assuming the label "indie" actually influences people to avoid interesting, although mainstream, art. The tenants of indie culture often require sacrificing one's true appreciation of art in favour of more obscure media.

I once knew of a self-proclaimed indier who said while she liked Jenny Lewis, she could no longer listen to her album now that *Spin Magazine* reviewed it. To her, Lewis's recognition in a popular music magazine signalled her admittance to mainstream culture, and my friend was thus repulsed.

While indie culture claims to value artistic merit, indiers tend to support art based on its relative obscurity instead of its overall quality. The indie movement is too obsessed with seeming original and authentic, and in its eagerness to embody these traits, it can often cause individuals to assess artwork in a vapid manner.

In hopes of maintaining their "originality," indiers increasingly censor their personal tastes in order to impress others.

Indie is no longer about independence or embracing individuality. It's about conformity and elitism.

Arts Hole

Vapid music videos

RAYMOND LEONARD
Arts Contributor

Knocking back my sixth cigarette of the hour, almost sweating from all the nicotine coursing through my veins, I stare down the gaping hole the music industry has dug for itself.

Somewhere behind me in the living room of my friend's dusty apartment, the TV is tuned to MuchMusic, which is showcasing some new, exclusive video. The song itself is pretty bare, despite incessant barrages of blaring noises, incoherent screams and a small army of backup singers. There's no substance to it.

When I hear this kind of music, I imagine a long conference table surrounded by suited stiffies trying to figure out how to make the new track showier and flashier than the last.

So they move beyond the song to its packaging, which becomes far

more important.

This is the fundamental flaw in mainstream music today. No longer can a song merely appeal to us by its musical virtue — it must be a flashy, scandalous and often borderline-pornographic music video as well.

If I walked over to the screen, I probably would see Fergie or the Pussycat Dolls or whoever, practically naked, humping a pole while fireworks shoot into the sky, hummers drive by and backup dancers do back flips to the rhythm of gunshots and explosions.

We can't listen to music anymore, we have to experience it.

It has to overwhelm all our senses and leave us in a vegetative state afterwards. Every aspect has to stick out. It doesn't necessarily have to be a well-created piece, it just needs to be everywhere, constantly in front of you, never letting go of your attention.

It needs to reach out of the screen and smack you in the face.

This leads to an inevitable problem. Eventually the bar will be raised to its highest notch and the industry will fail to meet the multimillion-dollar budgets that each song and video costs in production, advertising, special effects and sex appeal.

Everything will be eerily silent as the next new video musters its strength and prepares to open its massive jaws and consume us. The music industry will reach a crossroads.

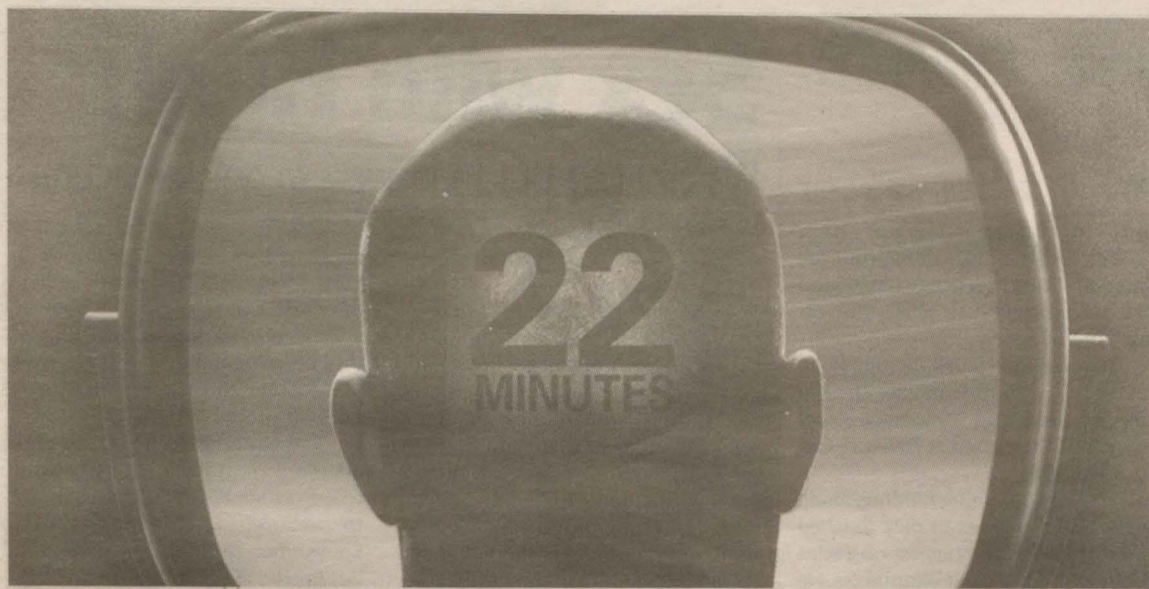
On one side lies destruction — a neon grim reaper on a big screen TV, beckoning you forward into a flashy, stylish and sexy apocalypse.

On the other is recovery — a long and painful route. But at the end there's a brilliant sunrise that the world can appreciate without having to see it have sex with someone.

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Live bloopers – what fun!

Never had I ever...

Attended a live taping of 22 Minutes

ANNA FONG
Staff Contributor

I always wanted to attend a live taping of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*. When I finally got tickets for a show last week, I had no idea what to expect.

It was a chilly Monday night. Unfortunately, a crowd already formed in CBC building's lobby by the time I arrived, so my friends and I had to wait outside, where the wind blew so hard that my fingers were numb.

Once inside, we were treated to glasses of wine, perhaps to encourage laughter during the taping or to warm us up from the bitter cold. Though I didn't partake, many others enjoyed drinks in the waiting area, which soon began to get crowded. When the room began to split at the seams, a petite blonde escorted some of us to the cafeteria in the basement of the building.

The basement was hardly glamorous, strongly resembling the lower classroom areas of the King's A&A building, complete with brick walls painted over in beige. We waited in this cellar for what felt like 20 minutes — maybe it was more like

22 minutes — before we were ushered into the recording studio.

Walking to my seat, I passed signs informing me that by entering the area I agreed to be taped.

It was a small house, but a packed one. There were only about 100 chairs squeezed tightly together. Audience members varied in age from a nine-year-old to senior citizens. It was the first time most people had been to a taping of *22 Minutes* and we were excited.

Four large cameras — one for each cast member — surrounded the anchor desk, which had televisions set up next to it.

Show writer Irwin Barker entertained the audience with anecdotes and jokes, giving us a taste of what was to come.

Once the recording began, it was like watching the show from home, except the bloopers were included. Gavin Crawford made the first stumble of the evening during a story about a hockey team — and his parents were in the audience!

Some parts of the show were pre-recorded and shown on large TV screens. Most of the material taped live was story introductions

from the news desk. Shaun Majumder and Mark Critch finished with a short skit about a politician who gave up Canadian citizenship to become a British Lord, but wanted to get it back.

Majumder and Crawford stayed around to chat with fans after the show. Majumder even discussed various aspects of Halloween with my sister and me.

A *22 Minutes* taping is an entertaining way to spend a Monday evening, and I recommend that everyone do it at least once. After all, who wouldn't want free booze, laughs and the potential of 22 seconds of fame when the cameras pan to the audience at the end of the show? My friends had the tops of their heads shown, and there was a shot of my hand clapping before the show cut to commercial.

Maybe I'll get a call as a hand model — who knows?

Free tickets to This Hour Has 22 Minutes can be attained by visiting the web-site and calling the ticket hotline number. Tickets for the shows go fast, however, and all the November shows are sold out.

The Epicurious Student

Wetting the whistle with the wines of Parés Baltà

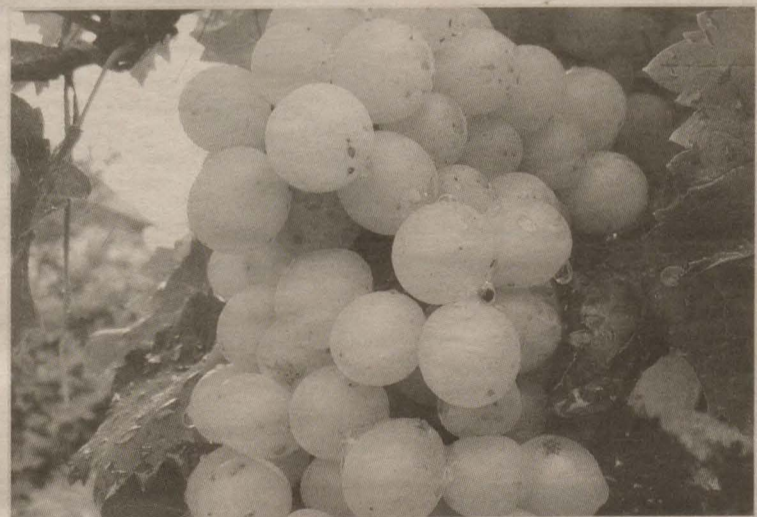
ANDREW BERNARDO
Culinary Connoisseur

Joan Carol and his family have grown grapes in Spain since 1790. With over 174 hectares of vines and 18 individual varieties grown each year, it's hard to label the Parés Baltà winery anything if not ambitious.

What is more important, however, is the winery's approach to wine making — it works in harmony with the environment. From facilitating the vines' flowering and pollination process by keeping 50 bee hives on the premises, to naturally fertilizing the land by allowing over 1000 sheep to graze there, Parés Baltà is on the leading edge of responsible viticulture. The Parés Baltà team eliminated the need for artificial pesticides and fertilizers that can be harmful to the environment, preserving not only its interests, but those of the next generation.

The 18 individual varieties grown by Parés Baltà open up a world of possibilities when it comes to blending wines to suit even the most discerning palate. It also provides the wine makers with the unique possibility of developing new blends for the unique releases that have become the winery's trademark.

When I attended the Nova Scotia Port of Wines Festival last October, I had the chance to speak with



Parés Baltà's export manager, David Rovira Parker. He explained, with great pride, the steps the winery has taken over the last 20 years in hopes of making it the epicentre of Spanish viticulture.

Along with his words came a wine that turned out to be, in my books, the wine of the festival. Hisenda Miret Granacha 2003, a 100 per cent pure grenache — hard to find in Spain — was full of explosive, fresh berry flavours that dance on the taste buds.

There are two other wines that are available all year in Nova Scotia, at very reasonable prices. Mas Peti is a cabernet sauvignon-grenache

blend that's loaded with cassis, strawberry notes on the nose and spicy clove and tobacco flavours (\$11.92).

Mas Elena is a blend of cabernet sauvignon, franc and merlot that offers full red cherry fruit flavours, with a distinctly dry finish. It's great with grilled meats and strong cheeses (\$15.10).

These are wines that can be enjoyed on a student budget. Lift a glass of Parés Baltà and toast the wonderful complexity of Spanish wine.

Next week: rum and its unique ties to Nova Scotia

Burn Baby Burn

SAMAN JAFARIAN
Arts Editor

There's a fine line between incorporating one's musical influences into a song and blatantly copying whole parts of a song — no matter how inadvertently.

If both sides of the mix tape were played, they would sound very similar, be it from guitar riffs, drum beats or melodies.

SIDE A: THE ORIGINALS

- Queen & David Bowie – “Under Pressure”
- The Beatles – “She Said, She Said”
- Britney Spears – “One More Time”
- U2 – “Bullet the Blue Sky”
- The Cure – “In Between Days”
- Weezer – “Hashpipe”
- Sly & the Family Stone – “Thank You”
- Nickelback – “How You Remind Me”
- Tom Petty – “Mary Jane’s Last Waltz”
- Pixies – “Dancing the Manta Ray”

SIDE B: THE COPIES

- Vanilla Ice – “Ice Ice Baby”
- Weezer – “Holiday”
- Britney Spears – “Oops... I Did It Again”
- Green Day – “Give Me Novacaine”
- Wilco – “Pot Kettle Black”
- Gwen Stefani – “What You Waiting For?”
- Janet Jackson – “Rhythm Nation”
- Nickelback – “Someday”
- Red Hot Chili Peppers – “Dani California”
- Their Majesties – “Emergency Band Meeting”

Review

Fuck Death



Photo: John Packman

LAURA BERTON
Staff Contributor

Fuck Death is an exhibit by nine artists known as the Fuck Death Foundation. It runs at Gallery Deluxe Gallery, a tiny, unique space in an attic, which requires climbing a ladder to access the display.

The exhibit includes a short video, photographs, an x-ray of artist Jeremy Steart's fractured arm and a pyramid of Alexander Keith's beer cans called “The Last Crusade” — something the majority of students can certainly relate to.

An intriguing fictional news article entitled “Fuck Death Funds Now at Work in Major Redevelopment at Lance Armstrong Disney Ride” *Fuck Death Head Offices*, Nov. 3, 2021, Toronto, ON” is also on display.

See what I mean by intriguing? What are *Fuck Death* funds or a Lance Armstrong Disney ride? Or *Fuck Death* head offices? Dated 15 years in the future, this piece is obviously satirical in nature and forces one to question society's priorities.

What appears to be an empty plastic container painted gold and labelled, “The David Copperfield Spring of Eternal Youth” accompanies the display. It seems to imply that eternal youth is an illusion, a magic trick that is unattainable and unrealistic. It asks why society

is afraid of aging and dying and obsessed with looking young, when people could just be happy with their lives at the moment.

“Strange Bedfellows” by Elise Famussen is a provocative colour photograph of a woman lying in bed with the Grim Reaper. They're both smoking cigarettes and a beer sits on the nightstand. Beside the beer lies the Reaper's scythe, an eerie-looking object with a strange skull on the top. Creepy shadows are cast across the walls and the woman seems to be bored and accepting. The image cheapens death.

There is another installation featuring the Grim Reaper, two photographs by Davida Nemeroff and Jeremy Laing. The first is a headshot of a man's face. The second depicts the same man standing in a grim reaper costume, holding two bags of chips and a beer. These black and white photographs nicely compliment “Strange Bedfellows.”

Fuck Death is a worthwhile exhibit that will leave the viewer wondering if there is too much focus on death in society, and not enough on life.

Fuck Death runs until Friday, Dec. 1, at Gallery Deluxe Gallery, 6015 Willow St. Public viewings are from 12-5 p.m. on Sundays, by appointment.

For more information on upcoming events go to gallerydeluxe.gallery.com

Just another show

Dal student filmmaker sees dreams become reality

ARWEN KIDD
Staff Contributor

At six-feet, two-and-a-half inches, Michael Fox says if there were ever a movie made about his life, he's not sure who would play him. "Maybe Danny DeVito," he says, laughing. "He can play anything. But probably some no name guy you've never heard of that looks a bit like me."

Fox has made movies since he was six years old. Now, at 24, he's worked as an actor, crew member, director, writer, cinematographer, producer and editor. His newest feature-length film, *Entherance Online*, is set to screen at Dalhousie next week.

Entherance tells the story of John Philip Dunbar (JPD), a university student whose personal life suffers as he becomes increasingly addicted to an online game. His job, grades and long-term girlfriend are pushed aside to make room for his obsession with the fantasy world and his infatuation with Dragonfly, another role-player in it.

According to Fox, who wrote, directed, shot, edited and co-produced the film, it includes action, comedy and romance.

"[It's about] the culture of people who play these online games," he says. "And particularly the people who play them obsessively too much."

Dauphine Dunlap, a fourth-year King's student, says movies such *Entherance* may help draw attention to what she thinks is a very timely issue.

"Internet addictions are getting to be a big problem," says Dunlap. "You see help services for other addictions like gambling, alcohol, and drugs, but you never see flyers for Internet addictions."

Fox, who regards writing and filmmaking as a documentation process, says there are definite aspects of the film that he identi-



fies with — the struggle to balance school and work, for example.

"I have no life," he jokes. "No free time. I don't recommend anyone else doing this."

But the difference between himself and the character JPD, Fox says, is that he manages to keep everything under control. Along with continuous film projects, such as a short movie shot this month about a duel fought in 1840, Fox holds a job and is a third-year Dal student majoring in theatre and English.

But he says he would be happiest if he could just make movies.

Fox says his paying job at the Halifax Citadel is another type of show, where he explains things and people clap.

"Basically I get to pretend it's the 1800's and dress up in a [kilt]," he says. "Old ladies come and take pictures of me, and they talk about how they wish they could take me home to their granddaughters."

Fox has lived in Halifax for more than 15 years. He describes the city

as having great character and lots of "sweet locales." He's filmed at the Citadel, Point Pleasant Park and Dal, which served as "Wells University" in *Entherance*.

His previous work includes two features — a zombie movie, *The Living Impaired*, and a comedy, *Amateura*, both screened at Halifax's Oxford Theatre.

Fox says obtaining funding, along with finding venues to play finished films, is one of the biggest obstacles for most independent filmmakers. He says applying to festivals such as Halifax's Atlantic Film Festival, which he hopes will screen *Entherance Online* next fall, is the best way to get people to see one's work.

It's a long, strenuous process, but Fox says the biggest reward is seeing his ideas become a reality. But he also believes he's ready to try his hand at more professional films.

"You know, I'm pretty big on Steven Spielberg," he says. "He's kind of the generic filmmaker that everyone brings up, but if I had to pick [a favourite] I'd go with him, just for being universal."

Fox says he likes the idea of making films that everyone can enjoy — like *Titanic*. He readily admits to being a "Hollywood fan," and says that in a way, this sets him apart from other independent filmmakers.

"A lot of filmmakers who want to get into it on an independent level tend to create 'art,' movies that stick out," he says. "It's not that I don't really think of myself that way, but I'm just saying I would sell out at the first possible chance. If somebody said, 'Hey I just watched your crazy movie, how would you like to direct a new Sandra Bullock romantic comedy with Julia Roberts and Matthew McConaughey?' I'd be like, whatever, sign me up."

Entherance Online plays in Ondaatje Hall in FASS, Friday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5; \$3 with a valid student ID.

Sex with Hugh

Was that it? Quick answers to quick reactions

HUGH WALLACE
Sex Contributor

Was that it? Some of you may ask that question after a quick stint with your partner — or a random picked up at a downtown bar.

Lasting longer is something many people — men and women — hope for in their sexual performance.

One reason someone might want to last longer is the feeling of incompetence or inadequacy felt after a "quick" reaction. My purpose is to help those of you afflicted by this dilemma by offering some words of encouragement and ways to change your fortunes.

The most important thing is that you're comfortable with your body. Just like anything else, you have your pros and cons. You need to be conscious of what these are and try to accept them. Only then can you comfortably discuss your body and sex issues with the other person involved.

This is extremely important — it brings you closer together and helps you gain empathy and understanding. You can then work on techniques designed to solve the dilemma together, and be comfortable with that.

There are many techniques for overcoming a quick reflex. Sexinfo101.com covers the basics from the "start & stop" to the "squeeze technique."

The start & stop is a long process that requires the cooperation

of both partners, though it's also suggested as a solo mission. It involves stimulation to the near point of orgasm, but stopping to allow for a "cool off" period. It recommends this be performed five or six times per session to maximize the likelihood of success.

The squeeze technique focuses on the firm application of pressure to the underside of the penis, mainly to the urethra. It is important to know when to do this — if you hold out for too long it might be too late.

It's also possible to decrease the amount of sensitivity by wearing a thicker condom. This might be your first option especially if you don't want, or are unwilling, to share your dilemma with others. Thicker condoms can be sexy too, especially if you have a quick ejaculatory reflex.

Some encouragement for men with this issue: it's not that big a deal. It's important for you to be comfortable with yourself. Some partners might find your quick reaction arousing or enticing. The most important thing to do if it bothers you is to work toward a positive change.

Get your partner involved. Accept the fact that not everyone is perfect. Believe that you are not the only one with this issue. Have patience. And most importantly, don't try to resolve it too quickly.

I need questions to answer or you can send me some words of wisdom. Get a hold of me via e-mail at: sex@dalgazette.ca.

GOOD STUFF



Review

Dance! Gala '06

BRITTANY CURRAN
Staff Contributor

Before Dance! Gala '06 began, people waited on the balcony of the Sculpture Court at the Dalhousie Arts Centre, reminding me of the Globe Theatre in London, where people can watch the plays beneath them.

At 7:30 p.m., audience members filed into the main auditorium and settled into their seats while blue lights shone on the black backdrop of the vast stage.

Dance! Gala '06 presented dancing, music, history and awards, while providing an evening of uniquely choreographed routines.

The evening's emcee, Heidi Petracek, acknowledged the contemporary focus of the dance routines for the night. "Contemporary dance is really the dance of now," she said.

Seventeen adolescent girls took the stage first with white ribbons in their hair, wearing white blouses and black corsets, to perform an upbeat routine to a fast-paced Celtic track. They moved effortlessly while fusing highland and tap styles.

Next, three young women danced a romantic routine to a techno-electric song. They displayed both ballet and modern dancing styles with their jagged movements interspersed with

sporadic jumps and spins.

There were also two hip-hop acts on the Dance! Gala bill. The first was by a group called Step Bruthuz, which is comprised of three young male dancers whose style is described as "break-dancing in its true urban street form."

The second group was made up of three young women who danced to remixes of modern hip-hop beats. Both groups had very funky choreography.

Two acts, however, were exceptionally unique. One was a solo tap by a dancer who used a black box as a prop. By knocking on the box, she created the beat for her dance and

included the audience in her performance when she gestured for everyone to snap their fingers

The other act was an abstract piece that began with the performer crawling along the stage. The dance progressed to an almost animal-like state as the music became faster and the dancer's movements became more raw. But she still demonstrated her extreme flexibility and grace.

The most beautiful piece of the night was a flamenco dance. Four older men sat on the stage as a younger woman stood among them.

A slim woman then appeared and performed the Spanish dance. Her movements were confident and

poised. The group also presented another piece, in which two of the older men and the other woman played the music for the dance.

Throughout the evening, Petracek presented awards and showed videos about the history of dance in Nova Scotia.

The energy and the eclectic mix of routines captivated the audience, which applauded throughout the night.

Although the show seemed short, it covered many different styles of dance. The evening was inspiring with dancers rightfully taking centre stage. At Dance! Gala, these dancers really stepped up.

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Spiking trash talk

Veteran provides team with skill and laughs

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

Veteran outside Dan Murray has helped the Dal men's volleyball team go undefeated in Atlantic University Sport (AUS) play this season.

"[Murray] plays a massive part in our team's success since he possesses many of the skills that our offence needs to run smoothly," says teammate Jeff Weiler. "With [Murray] on our squad, it gives our team a ton of ball control and one more potent weapon that teams have to prepare for."

Known as Danastic to his teammates and friends, Murray began his varsity volleyball career at the University of Waterloo. But during his first year at Waterloo, the Oakville, Ont., native says he decided it would be better to transfer to Dal.

"I wasn't feeling the University of Waterloo anymore," says Murray. "I knew some people who were playing [at Dal] including Chris Dunlop and Scott Townsend. [Dal] seemed like a good fit, so I decided to check it out."

Murray, a civil engineering student, says the experience has been good, because it's a mix of school, an active social scene and competitive volleyball.

Good team chemistry is necessary to win championships and Murray says teammates Jesse Mighton, Scott Townsend and Jeff Weiler helped him with his court performance.

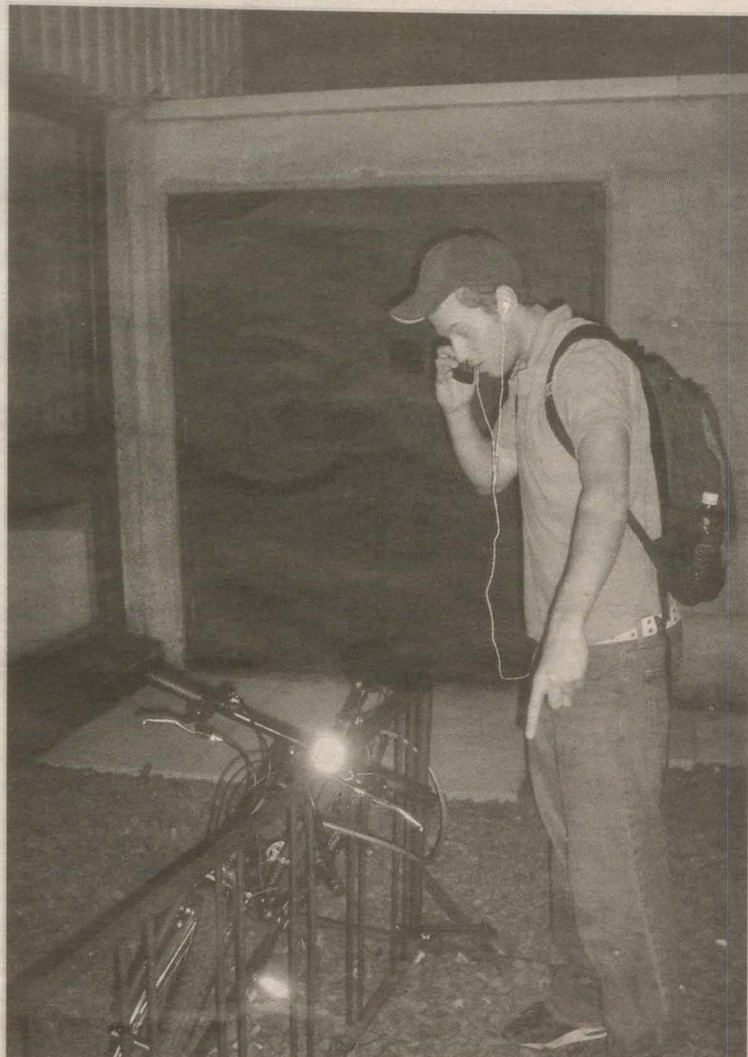
"They're all really good guys and pretty fiery competitors," says Murray. "They're good dudes to hang out with as well. If you're struggling on the court they'll let you know, but it's all pretty positive in the sense that they're trying to help you get better and obviously they can play a little, too."

Weiler says Murray is a fiery competitor, but cool and calm in pressure situations during a match.

"Whether it's trash talk coming from opponents, or just things not going well on the court, our team can always count on him to be well-composed and never get rattled," says Weiler.

As well as his strong play on the court, Murray provides the Tigers with a few laughs.

"[Murray] has an awesome sense of humour, and due to his



Dan Murray is a fiery competitor but stays cool and calm in pressure situations. / Photo: Jesse Mighton

love of the group, is the sole reason people can hear anywhere from five to 10 ACDC songs in our warm up before games at the Dalplex," says Weiler.

Looking to the future, Murray says he might like to play professional volleyball in Europe before looking for a career job.

"I'm not sure where my degree will take me," says Murray. "I'll take a look at things and evaluate my situation, but obviously playing in Europe would be a lot of fun and a really cool experience. I've heard of a few people going there and it seems pretty good."

But before Murray joins the pro ranks in Europe or starts designing buildings, he's focused on helping the Tigers win a medal at the nationals.

In October, the Tigers competed against out-of-conference teams at

a University of Manitoba tournament, posting a 3-1 record. Murray says the team gained a lot of confidence from its strong performance.

"We played pretty well," says Murray. "The most important thing is we took a few games off some tough western conference opponents... and made a name for ourselves. Tactically we got to see some potential opponents for the [nationals], so it was very positive for sure."

Murray says it's going to take a good finish to the first half of the season and a strong second half, as well as hard work and good training, to win a medal at the national championship.

"We're pretty confident when we play our game and if we train hard from here on out, we should have a good opportunity to beat any team we face."



Dal sailing kicked butt in Boston. / Photo: Chad Manley

Dal sailing makes its mark at U.S. regatta

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

Dalhousie's new competitive sailing team travelled to MIT in Boston for the No Ringer Invite on Nov. 4 and 5, where it overcame first-time jitters to place third and prove that Dal's sailing team is a legitimate competitor.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) ratified Dal sailing as a society this year, offering limited funding for start up. The team submitted its application to the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) in September and was approved for the 2006 season.

Matt White, a Dal sailing member, says the approval by NEISA allows the team more opportunities to compete against the best teams in North America, most of which are in the U.S.

"Only UBC and McGill really have sailing teams," says White. "Now that we are part of NEISA we can attend regattas every weekend if we wanted to."

The team travelled to McGill at the start of the season for a smaller-scale event, but White says the No Ringer Invite was the team's first real regatta, allowing Dal to race against teams such as Harvard, Brown and Vermont. White says the regatta was a great experience and good exposure for Dal, despite some initial difficulties with the boats provided by MIT.

"It's a cool thing about sailing," says White. "The host team provides the boats and at MIT we had to use

tech dinghies, which they designed there [at MIT] instead of the 4-20s we are used to."

White says while the No Ringer Invite isn't NEISA's highest calibre regatta, it was a good start and was great to beat American competitors.

"U.S. colleges don't always view Canada as being very competitive, so it was nice to kick their butts," says White. "It really allowed us to prove ourselves."

With winter approaching, the team's successful season opener was also its last for the year. White says the team will continue to train once a week, but they won't attend any more regattas.

"We could hit the water again in the spring," says White. "But by the time it warms up it's exam time and everyone leaves. We will start up again in August though."

Now that it's a NEISA member, the Dal sailing team can get an earlier start in the 2007 season, which begins next September.

Shawn Fraser, senior manager at Dalplex, says it's great to see a young club such as sailing have success at the MIT regatta.

"The high placing will certainly boost the sailing club's profile within the NEISA circuit," says Fraser. "We hope to see other schools in the region develop programs to provide local competition for our club... The Dal sailing club is off to a great start and should continue to be successful."

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE

JANICE ASHWORTH
CROSS-COUNTRY

Janice Ashworth led the charge on the Plains of Abraham, helping Dal win a bronze medal at the Nov. 11 CIS Championship hosted by the Université de Laval. Individually, Ashworth achieved First-Team All-Canadian status for her sixth place finish. She's now one of only six athletes in CIS history to win four All-Canadian awards in cross-country. The veteran was recognized for her contributions to cross-country running and received the Student-Athlete Community Service award. In her four years of competition, Ashworth has led the Tigers to three CIS team medal finishes. Ashworth is fourth-year environmental science student from Dunrobin, Ont.



MALE ATHLETE

ROBERT JEWER
CROSS-COUNTRY

Robert Jewer made the final race of his university career his best, setting the standard for Atlantic cross-country athletes on the Plains of Abraham. Jewer steadily moved through the pack during the final two laps to net the unranked Tigers an eighth-place finish — the top of Atlantic Canadian teams — in the CIS Championship. The fifth-year veteran finished seventh overall making him the top runner in the Atlantic conference. He received a CIS First-Team All-Canadian award. Jewer is a second-year MBA student from St. John's, Nfld.



TIGERS

AT HOME THIS WEEK

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH ID

NOVEMBER

16	W Volleyball vs StFX	7:00pm
17	W Hockey vs Concordia	2:30pm (Exh.)
17	M Hockey vs UNB	7:00pm
18	M Hockey vs UdeM	7:00pm
18	Basketball vs UNB	W 6pm, M 8pm
18	Swimming AUS Invitat'l	11am & 6pm
19	Basketball vs UPEI	W 1pm, M 3pm
19	Swimming AUS Invitat'l	10am & 4pm
19	W Hockey vs McGill	11:00am (Exh.)



INTRAMURAL SUPREMACY EVENT

Women's Basketball, November 18
Come on out to earn extra supremacy points for your faculty, society or house! Check in at the canteen for the half-time challenge and be sure to wear Dal gear! Great beverage prices and prizing!



THE PEPSI BOTTLING GROUP



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The SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

DAL ENG
Dalhousie University
Engineering Student Societies

Motorcycle Auction



Nov. 24, T-Room Sexton Campus 10:30 PM
Bidding starts at \$50, all proceeds to benefit Pulling for the Kids

SCOTT BLAKE
Sextant Editor

The *Sextant* and Dalhousie Sexton Undergraduate Engineering Society (DSEUS) bring to you the first annual motorcycle auction for "Pulling for the Kids," our big fundraiser that is happening Dec. 2 in the Sexton parking lot.

Being auctioned off is a beautifully restored 1983 Honda CM450E complete with personalized DALENG license plates! This motorcycle was painstakingly refurbished

by our very own DSEUS President Chris Davis. Chris has kindly donated his time and effort to this project in hopes of kick starting the Pulling for the Kids campaign.

We hope to see "TUNS" of students, past and present out for this great event! Bidding starts at \$0.50. Payment can be made in cash, Dalcad, Visa or Mastercard.

Auction starts at 10:30 p.m. November 24, 2006 at the T-room. Motorcycle specifics as well as further information about "Pulling for the Kids" can be found at www.dalsexton.ca.

The engineering roundtable

What? Huh? What is this?
Well, I am here to fill you in on this great idea.

The *Sextant* is looking for some input on anything and everything Sexton Campus and Gerard Hall students have to say.

But we have encountered a formidable foe — apathy. So, we have decided that a great idea to overcome apathy is to give FREE BEER to those who come to the meetings. Yeah, I knew that would get your attention.

But now that I have your attention, you're thinking: "Do I really want to go to a meeting for FREE BEER? They might try to get me to write something or, gasp, become involved in something."

Don't worry. We simply wanted to

overcome your apathy and not necessarily conquer it right away. Here is what the format of these meetings will look like. It'll be a simple open discussion of a few ideas the editors have and we'll be looking for some input (and yes, verbal input is an acceptable form of input, from the attendees). That's it, no strings attached. Of course, if you're interested in writing something, that's perfectly fine too... but we're not holding our collective breaths.

All that is left is to tell you when this meeting will take place next Thursday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the T-Room.

So come out and show your support, and even if you don't want to show your support, just come for the laughs and the FREE BEER.

Three walks around your own house

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The 2006 Microcredit Summit in Halifax brings attention to the idea of microfinance and its role in empowering people in developing countries (and even in our own). Institutions like the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, or the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India are representative of the development potential of microfinancing.

Microfinancing helps women and men access small loans in groups or as individuals with the intended goal of building greater capital. What I came to learn in my experience working in a microcredit bank was that microfinancing is more than small loans, as the benefit of small, often community level, banking is an equally important investment in social capital as it is economic capital.

I stepped off the bus with my bags; I was at the regional office of the NGO I would be in close contact with for the next three-and-a-half months. I was a student and seeking to learn about microfinancing in rural Ecuador. My search had taken me to Loja, the southernmost province of the country. Lojanos were warm and inviting people, and the NGO staff had taken me under their wings and arranged for me to live in a small community where a microcredit bank had been established four years before.

The community, or rather my new home, was named Las Huertas (meaning 'The Gardens') and was located a 40-minute ascent on foot from the nearest paved highway. The single lane dirt road that leads up to the community was built in 1998 — before that no vehicle access was possible. Since no one in the community had a vehicle the road was an access point for NGO staff, governmental agencies, visitors and vendors. Loja lies in the

southern Sierra, a climate susceptible to drastic wet and dry seasons. The predominantly farming-oriented communities depend on subsistence farming and agro-products to sell at market in order to support themselves. Such is the lifestyle for the approximate 100 community members of Las Huertas.

The community, through the help and guidance of the government's Ministry of Rural Development, a \$450 US donation from an Italian NGO and a committed national Ecuadorian NGO, the microcredit bank 'El Manizal' opened on Nov. 14, 2001. The physical bank is no more than an office, with a small safe in the corner, two computers, a printer, and filing system.

What this simple space represents is the empowerment of its 72 members that are able to access microcredit loans, the education and training of the bank's administrator, a dedicated directorate made up of five community members, and the constant help, reassurance and capacity building of government and non-government field workers who make monthly (or more) visits to the community.

I cannot flatter you with success stories of a woman who accessed a microloan for seeds and fertilizer and now owns an avocado plantation. From my point of view, the bank itself is a success story. The benefits of bringing the community together, providing training for local members in microfinancing, and of course providing local access to loans at close to national interest rates on a continual basis is the success story from my perspective. Due to the environment, weather, and being farming based community, many people cannot rely on the earnings during the end of the agricultural season to make it through to the next harvest. Especially if the rural farmer is forced to use a mid-

dle man to sell to large processing companies in the large city.

Middle men, as I found out, will take up to a 30 per cent cut on the market value of agricultural products. This only further disenfranchises the rural producer. With the new active participation in local associations with development, mandates have been developing ways in which to empower rural farmers, among others. This includes an association of peanut farmers working together to sell their combined produce to large industry at fairer market prices.

The community members' lifestyle has changed little since the inception of the micro-credit bank. The ability for members of the community to face old and new challenges is strengthening. Capital comes in many forms, all of which together support each other.

All community members continue to rely on agricultural production, though the community recently in partnership with international donors and a national NGO install a large irrigation system in order to increase the length of the growing season and ensure drinking water all year long. Community members have also begun to educate themselves and diversify their farming practices as the country moves toward securing a free trade agreement with the United States, which will destabilize the current national market as cheap U.S. agro-products will flood out the small rural producers.

Though development and poverty alleviation are complex systems that cannot lean on one solution alone, the benefit of microfinancing and the partnering building of social capital can make big and small strides towards greater financial security and empowerment in the lives of the small and often disenfranchised citizen.

Dalendar & Classifieds

dalendar@dalgazette.ca / classifieds@dalgazette.ca

Dalendar

Send your Dalhousie related events to:
dalendar@dalgazette.ca (FREE)

Thursday, Nov. 16

DWC: Single Parent Meet and Greet
5 p.m. @ Dalhousie Women's Centre
Free

Friday, Nov. 17

Film & Talk: International Students Day
7 p.m. @ Scotiabank Auditorium, SMU
No One Is Illegal - Halifax hosts a film screening of *Measuring Security Measures*, in collaboration with Saint Mary's International Centre, to mark International Students Day.
Free

PINK: Strut for the Cure

Time TBA @ Rain Lounge
Working towards a cure for breast cancer.
Price TBA

Chemistry Seminar with Professor Davit Zargarian

12:30 p.m. @ Chemistry Room 226
Professor Davit Zargarian from the University of Montreal will be giving a seminar entitled: "Indenyl Complexes of Group 10 Transition Metals: A Comparative Discussion."
Free

Pharmacy Society presents Trivia!
9 p.m. @ The Grawood

Come out for some rounds of trivia, sponsored by the Pharmacy Society of Dal.

Price TBA

Friday Film Screening

12 p.m. & 5 p.m. @ The Grawood
This week's film, *Invincible*.
Free

Sunday, Nov. 19

Vegan Potluck

6 p.m. @ NSPIRG (Dal SUB, RM 314)
NSPIRG is holding a vegan potluck, bring your favorite vegan dishes.
Free

DWC Workshop: Introduction to Safe Spaces and Crisis Management

1 p.m. @ Dalhousie Women's Centre
Pre-registration required, sign up at womenscentre.dsu.dal.ca.
Free

Dodgeball Tournament

1 p.m. @ King's Gym, King's Campus
Do you LOVE Dodgeball (the movie and the game)? Well if so, you should come out for Free The Children's Annual Charity Dodgeball Tournament! The tournament raises funds for Free The Children's school building project in Sierra Leone. For more information, please email kingsftc@hotmail.com.
Free

Wednesday, Nov. 22

The Bathub Project (Nov. 22 - Nov. 24)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. @ Dal SUB Lobby
An inter-faith, inter-society initiative designed to raise funds, awareness and toiletries for battered women's shelters. Come out and donate for a good cause (and maybe win raffle prizes!).
Donation

How Life in the Military Moved Me to Peace

7 p.m. @ Dal SUB, RM 303
Nancy Taber, a PhD candidate at the University of South Australia and Assistant Professor in the Master of Education at MSVU will reflect on her experiences serving with the Canadian military for 13 years. Local singing group, Clearing by Noon will also perform.
Free

Candy Palmater Talk

1:30 p.m. @ Dal SUB, RM 307
Comedian and reformed lawyer, Candy Palmater will be speaking at Dal Allies' general meeting on aboriginal and queer issues.
Free

Friday, Dec. 1

The Complete Works of Gilbert & Sullivan - Abridged

8 p.m. @ St. George's Round Church (2222 Brunswick St)
We've woven many of your favorite tunes into The Complete Works

of Gilbert & Sullivan - Abridged!
And we've assembled an all-star cast to sing them. We've got comic characters, silly situations and improbably plot twists.
\$15 (adult) / \$10 (student/senior) / \$5 children

Classifieds

Send your classifieds to classifieds@dalgazette.ca

WANT TO BE A SINGING PIRATE?

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia is looking for performers for our spring production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. We are looking for a chorus of pirates, Keystone cops and flappers. We need principal roles in all vocal ranges.

Leave your name and number on the G&S message line - 429-1287 - and we'll get back to you about auditions on Dec 6th and 10th.

BARISTAS WANTED!

The Wired Monk Coffee Bistro is opening mid-November on the corner of Hollis and Morris and needs a brilliant line-up of new staff. P/T and F/T avail. Must love serving people and making great coffee and food.

Phone Lisa at 223-4565 to apply!

HAVE THE SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE...

... at a prestigious coed sleep-away camp in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, 2 hours from NYC. We're seeking counselors who can teach any Team & Individual Sports, Tennis, Gymnastics, Horseback Riding, Mt. Biking, Theatre, Tech Theatre, Circus, Magic, Arts & Crafts, Pioneering, Climbing Tower, Water Sports, Music, Dance, Science, or Computers. Kitchen and maintenance positions also available. Great salaries and perks. Plenty of free time. Internships available for many majors. On-campus interviews on Jan 18th. Apply online at www.islandlake.com. Call 800-869-6083 between 9 and 5 eastern time on weekdays for more information. info@islandlake.com.

SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/16-8/11. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting and interviews will be held on campus in late January. Visit www.camptowanda.com Staff Experience for application. Email staff@camptowanda.com or call 800-923-2267 for additional information.