

FREE

December 1st to January 5th, 2006

ISSUE 138-13

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

## BUSING IN HALI

with Dal's new U-Pass



also

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going private?** ..... pg. 5

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Nick and Jessica** ..... pg. 8

**Pooling together  
Halifax artists** ..... pg. 13

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the stage** ..... pg. 14

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



DALHOUSIE  
STUDENT  
UNION

## Happy Holidays

As this is the last issue of the Gazette before we all go on holidays, I wanted to take this opportunity to recap some of what has happened over the past four months.

We have seen really great society events throughout this semester, both at the Grawood on Friday nights, and in the community at large. This past weekend was a great example with the Computer Science Societies "Snowball", and the Sheriff Hall "Winter Wonderland Banquet" on Friday night. On Saturday night Health Professions hosted "For the Health of It" to raise money for Feed Nova Scotia. This past weekend is a great representation of the kind of work that societies have been doing for Dalhousie students and the community at large. Congratulations to you all and I am sure we will see many more great initiatives and events in the next four months.

Internally the DSU has also had a very exciting four months. There has been much discussion around the need for a grants policy, and we have started the development of a policy with input from a very diverse representation of the student body. The grants policy will be brought to council next term with the intent of having it implemented for May 2006.

We also saw the launch of the DSU Legal Assistance program. Since October the number of students using this has steadily increased. If you require free legal advice please contact us at 494 - 1106.

On the political front we have been extremely busy. Our provincial lobby group the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) met with Premier Hamm in early November and was the only Student group to do so in the past eight years. ANSSA has been putting pressure on the Provincial Government to follow the lead of New Brunswick Premier, Bernard Lord, and start seriously talking with students about the future of post-secondary education (PSE) in this province. ANSSA was also very active in lobbying the candidates for Halifax-Citadel, and is currently lobbying the candidates running for the leadership of the Provincial Conservative Party.

Federally we have seen some great developments around PSE. In the last two editions I have discussed the week that the VP Education, Jen Bond and I spent in Ottawa lobbying the Federal Government so I will not go into detail about that here. As I write this the government has just fallen. Post-secondary issues have steadily gained momentum and priority position on the government agenda, and I am certain that it will be a significant issue in the upcoming election. I look forward to an election that will take place during the winter academic term and the opportunities that accompany the timing of this election. I hope that students will recognize the impact they will have in this election and how that will shape the direction that PSE moves in the next few years.



The culmination of the "Pictures Worth \$1000" on Parliament Hill on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

On behalf of the Staff and Executive of the DSU I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday break.

Good luck with exams, papers, assignments ect., and see you in January.

Ezra Edelstein  
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# Election 2006: same old Canada, or time for change?

Martin and Harper have different agendas, beliefs and strategies — but who runs our country likely won't matter

There you have it — fall semester is over, done and gone, shipped, zipped and signed into the grand electronic vaults of academic history where any triumphs or blemishes you or I might have ever had are now preserved for all eternity.

Here's hoping Dal Online favours us both this year.

Regardless, sooner rather than later we will all be at home, basking in the throes of those oh-so-familiar family arguments, sibling disagreements and generally curmudgeonly Holiday behaviour. You know the drill: soon after you're done deconstructing the cruel and unusual peace your family has established in your fourth-month absence, you'll be injected into a series of awkward parties that demand nothing less than a Machiavellian demeanour from partygoers — those social outings that seem driven by a veritable conveyor belt of vaguely familiar faces, plastic smiles, meaningless handshakes and (hopefully) a few free glasses of champagne.

Well, don't worry, you won't be the only one clammng up and pretending to be interested in the thoughts of others.

After all, we've invented a few professions that do just that — and one of them is about to go to work.

Last week, MuchMusic visited Dalhousie campus on its VJ Search tour. Scores of Dalhousie students crowded the SUB lobby, trying to get a shot at pitching their stuff on stage. The startling amount of wide-eyed undergrads filling the SUB lobby — many of them star struck by the idea they might soon have a real, visceral shot at 15 minutes of fame — created a heck of a lot of noise.

As I passed through this maelstrom of noise and lights with a tall order of making it to the bathroom, two things came to mind.

My first thought was: the show must have really made working on the bottom two floors of the SUB

suck.

My second thought? Deranged SUB employees aside, it's good to see so many students interested in something so meaningless.

Because it gives hope to our generation's future as leaders of this country.

VJs, you see, are essentially an elected "youth culture" equivalent to politicians. Successful VJs are voted in through a shoddy electoral system in which only a small minority of the public participates (most, you see, do not care). VJs can only ascend to office on the coattails of predecessors — in layman's terms, a vacancy at the network. And once the novelty of a new VJ has worn off, well, it's back to the same old same old. Different faces, perhaps — but no matter who fills the MuchMusic screen, we still get the same old programming, the same softball questions in interviews, the same dead air between segments, and the same dancing freaks on Electric Circus.

Enter a cloth of the same colour: federal politics.

Yes, electoral electricity is sizzling and crackling in the December air, and unless you've been hiding in a cave off of Point Pleasant Park all semester, you'll realize this one is high-voltage.

(If you need a direct energy conversion, this one is about 9 volts compared to the normal 1.5).

Election campaigns are, like VJ searches, chalk full of showboating, promises and good old fashioned competition — the kind where five grown men get on national television and try to best each other for more than an hour straight, doomed by the medium to resort to playpen bickering and general tomfoolery (Paul Martin to Jack Layton in the last English debate: "Did your handlers tell you talk as much as possible?").

No, this isn't the place for the dignified, intelligent flip-flopping of John Kerry, or even the curt, to-the-point black and white statesmanship



Ah, the lives of the meaningless: MuchMusic VJs and Canadian politicians aren't all that different... / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

of George W. Bush.

In fact, our Prime Ministerial candidates might do better in debates with hockey sticks and padding.

Just as Winter semester will give many of us a fresh start so we can change bad habits and reassess our academic selves, and just as the NHL has gotten a fresh start after a season in the field, the coming election can give Parliament Hill a fresh start, too.

But when was the last time you actually honoured a New Year's resolution to start essays earlier, do all your readings, and study two hours a day? If you have, my apologies.

If you haven't, welcome to the club. And let's be honest, by the end of January, either Paul Martin or Stephen Harper is going to be our star luncheon member.

Let's take a look at these key players for a moment. The onus in this election is certainly on Mr. Martin, Canada's finance hero, the exonerated comeback kid who, caught red-faced with his finger in the pie, now

has to convince us that (1) he, (2) Judge Gomery, (3) the Liberal party, and (4) the entire Canadian justice system aren't lying. It isn't their pie after all — Chrétien and his wife baked it.

Some onus also belongs to our good friend Mr. Harper, the cow-boy-hat wearing Albertan who believes in the infallibility of the Christian marriage (...divorce, anyone?), the infallibility of the environment (...global warming, anyone?) and sees the Maritimes as a three-province welfare cheque (...we're working on it). He and most of his government has never led a country — let alone an effective opposition — and his only chances of becoming PM are predicated on the actual guy really, really fucking his job up to the point where Harper looks like a lukewarm alternative.

Oh, and his right-hand man was dumped on national television.

Outside of our star players, Canadian politics is met with irrelevance.

On that note, I have the least

amount of words to mince with Duceppe and Layton. Duceppe is a committed gentleman, a great speaker, and certainly passionate about politics. But any federal Canadian party that is against federal Canada shouldn't really count in a federal election.

Concerning Layton... my reservations are all about the moustache, moustache, moustache. I don't want a used car salesman for a national representative. Sure, the NDP and Layton have very little to do with non-unionized work like used car sales — Layton even has a PhD in political science to separate him from the proletariat — but there's something about the moustache's colour and shape that fails to say *leader*. Leader-in-law, shit-disturber, third-wheel, player-of-both-sides, grease-in-the-wheels, guy-you-have-to-live-with-or-he'll-topple-your-government, sure, these all apply. But not PM. On a side note, the NDP don't have a great track record when it comes to running things, either — BC ferries, anyone?

In the end, these personalities won't matter. Harper is anti-global warming, sure, and Martin's party does have that dandy legacy of stealing, covering tracks, and then lying about both when the tracks — poorly covered — are found.

But the reality is this: come January 23, our election will deliver either (1) a minority Conservative government that, because it must cooperate with the opposition to pass legislation, will move its policies to the centre; or (2) a minority Liberal government that, because it must cooperate with the opposition to pass legislation, will leave its policies in the centre where they are. Neither of these prognoses is all that different than the current minority government that, because it must cooperate with the opposition to pass legislation, has policies that sit in the centre.

(Meaningless election, anyone?) A few weeks ago, I argued in this very space that many students don't care that there is an election coming up, and this happens for the same reason many of us don't care who's hosting *Much on Demand*. In two words: Same diff'. Why vote if you have no real input?

On the other hand, our love for meaningless events, people and topics — as evidenced by the popularity of *E-Talk Daily*, *Canadian Idol*, Shania Twain and the recently departed Much VJ search — means meaningless elections are probably just what Canada's youth want. After all, we're too busy watching *The OC* to really care about our country, right?

Now if only Elections Canada allowed 75 cent call-in votes...

Comments? Email [editor@dalgazette.ca](mailto:editor@dalgazette.ca)

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**Summer Job Fair**  
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SUB McInnes Room

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# Gazette

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## THE FINE PRINT

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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 new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

## Gazette: News

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Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## U-Pass arrives at Dal — not quite on schedule

AARON GILLIS  
Staff Contributor

After much delay, the universal bus pass is finally coming to Dalhousie.

Starting January 2006, all full-time Dal students will receive the pass, which allows unlimited use of Metro Transit buses and ferries.

University of King's College students, however, are not eligible to obtain the pass.

Dal adopted the pass in response to housing and parking concerns, says Bonnie Neuman, Vice President (Student Services).

"We tried to create an inexpensive alternative in terms of public transit," says Neuman. And the program will encourage students to use the bus, a more environmentally friendly alternative to other transportation options, and allow more students to pursue off-campus housing, she says.

The U-Pass will cost \$58 for the winter term and will be added to regular student fees. An additional fare of 50 cents will be required to use the MetroLink bus, which currently services Dartmouth and will service Sackville in February. Metro Transit's standard student rates, on the other hand, are \$54 for a monthly pass or \$2 for a single trip.

To use the U-Pass, students will also have to present their DalCard upon boarding a bus.

Students who are taking three or more courses per term will receive

the pass. There is no option to opt out of the program. But students who are not on campus during the term, such as co-op students, will be eligible for refunds. Any student who uses Metro Transit's Access-a-Bus service will also be eligible. All refunds will be handled through the Student Services office.

Neuman says that the participation of all students is necessary in order for the U-Pass to be effective.

"The only way to get that low a fee is to negotiate en masse," she says.

Neuman says that a student survey conducted in 2004 found that many respondents were concerned about the lack of on-campus parking and 70 per cent were in support of having a U-Pass.

The U-Pass provides an inexpensive alternative to parking since the university does not plan to build any new lots or parkades, she says.

"That's not how Dalhousie wants to spend its limited resources."

Metro Transit first introduced the U-Pass at Saint Mary's University during the 2003 fall term. But the move to bring the pass to Dal was delayed for two and a half years, as HRM had to buy more buses to meet the increase in demand from the much larger university.

Metro Transit spokesperson Lisette Cormier says the city has now added five new buses, which will service three new routes designed specifically to service the university.

These routes will service the new bus stop on LeMarchant Street next

### Metro Transit's three new routes

**#40: Mumford terminal to the SUB**  
**#41: Dartmouth terminal to the SUB**  
**#42: Lacewood terminal to the SUB**  
Buses will leave from each stop every half hour from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays with no weekend service. The #41 route will be serviced every 15 minutes between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

to the Grad House.

Starting on Dec. 19, students will be able to pick up a U-Pass at the Student Accounts office, the DalCard office or the Student Service Centre on Sexton Campus.

But Neuman says there will likely be long line-ups during the first week of January.

"If they don't need it right away, it would be good to wait a week," she says, adding that the university couldn't introduce any more pick-up locations because it has to record the distribution into its computer system.

And Neuman says Metro Transit will likely face "growing pains" as it adjusts its routes to what is likely going to be a dramatic increase in demand.

"This is the first time that the city has done this," she says, referring to the bus increase. "They've made their best guess about ridership and how many buses will be needed."

For more information on the U-Pass, routes and schedules, visit <http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/>

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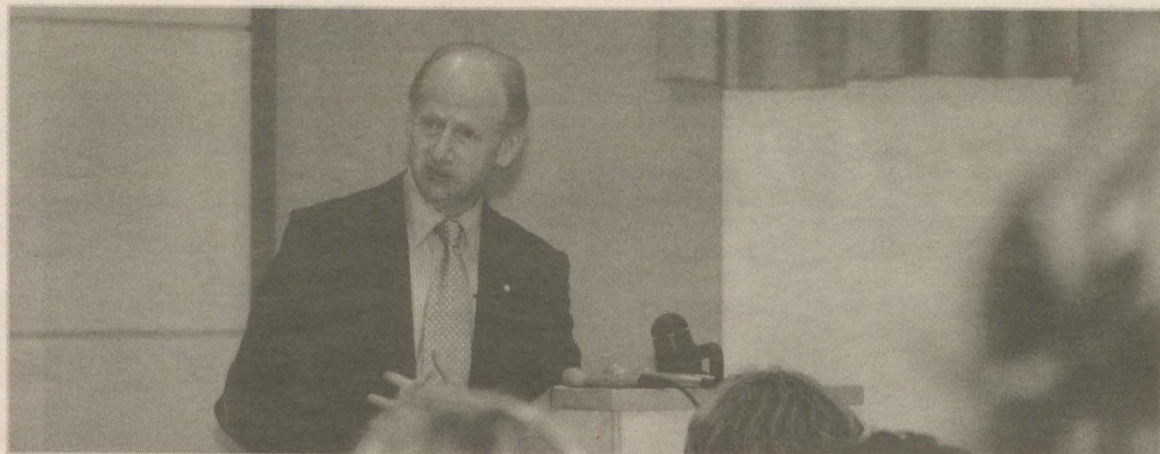


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The struggling economies in the Maritime provinces demand low tuition fees to drive "education levels as high and as broadly as possible," said John Ralston Saul. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Canada's education system is a 'political failure and a citizen's success' – John Ralston Saul

BRENDAN MORRISON  
Staff Contributor

John Ralston Saul is one of Canada's most renowned public scholars and the husband of former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. Before his Nov. 22 lecture at the University of King's College on globalization, Saul sat down with *The Gazette* to discuss, among other things, the problems with Canada's education system.

John Ralston Saul is sure about one thing: the state of the public education system in Canada is entirely out of step with the needs of its economy and people.

"It's interesting how there's money when you want it for things that aren't so necessary, and here's something which is absolutely essential to Canadian democracy and the prosperity and the well-being of the Maritimes, and it's as if there isn't the money," he said.

The struggling economies in the Maritime provinces demand low tuition fees to drive "education levels as high and as broadly as possible," said Saul. "If there's one thing that you need in economies that are coming around

corners, it's a lot of young people with a lot of energy who are doing things that are completely unexpected."

Saul argues that innovation is central to economic growth and that student debt is a primary obstacle to productivity.

"The last thing you need is a lot of employee-minded people," he said.

"You don't want people who are frightened to get out there and take risks because they owe so much money. You want people who at a very young age are willing to risk a great deal, whether it's in business or in the arts or in government."

For these reasons, Saul has always been adamant that education is the responsibility of the community and central to democracy.

"This country was built by public education," he said, adding that Joseph Howe and Charles Tupper would be horrified to observe the declining primacy of education as a public good.

"That attitude about treating education as a cost, as an investment, has been increasingly common," he said. "What you're

seeing is the kind of tail-end of the least interesting utilitarian sort of argument."

Saul criticized the idea that government is just a form of private enterprise, in which short-term costs are the central priority. He insists that education is a national investment. In 2004, during a speech about public education in Vancouver, he said the public good comes first because "it's the public good that produces wealth."

"If you have to think about how do you invest, where do you put money in order to get a return, one of the places you do it is in public education, and broad access, high quality public education," he told *The Gazette*.

"So it's probably the single most counter-productive thing you can do, to have high tuition producing high debt levels."

But Saul said the Canadian education system has still managed to function effectively.

"And it is due to the parents, the kids and the teachers," he said. "But it certainly isn't due to a political understanding of how central this is to Canadian democracy. It's a political failure

## In Focus: Canadian universities and privatization

ALICIA LAURSEN  
NEAL CODY  
Staff Contributors

The former president of Acadia University recently wrote a report suggesting that Canada should consider creating a privatized university network.

Kevin Ogilvie's report, *From Public U to Private U: an Atlantic Canadian Opportunity*, examines how six universities in Atlantic Canada could make the transition to private institutions. According to Ogilvie, the universities could become viable private institutions if managed correctly.

"It's not elitist or two-tiered," says Ogilvie. "It's simply another option."

Private institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia are flourishing, says Ogilvie, as are private nurseries and grade schools in Canada, which means private universities could be accepted in this country.

Currently, most universities receive 50 to 75 per cent of their funding directly from provincial governments. The rest of the budget comes from tuition and return on endowment funds. This guaranteed funding prevents universities from becoming more competitive, says Ogilvie.

With private funding, universities would run as businesses, he says. Private universities would compete to produce the best product in order to win private support.

"There are many firms and individuals out there looking for some-

thing new and exciting to invest in," says Ogilvie. Industries and firms could use institutions to develop people with the skill sets they require, he says.

New funding would allow schools to use the latest technologies, hire the best faculty and attract the most promising students, making them competitive with top private institutions in the U.S., says Ogilvie.

Dalhousie economics professor Mike Bradfield, however, says a private Canadian university couldn't attract the amount of private funding it would need to maintain quality.

"It's a pipe dream," he says. "There are so many benefits to having a well-educated society that would not be captured by a private post-secondary institution."

A private university in Canada wouldn't be able to pay its faculty a comparable salary and would consequently attract poorly qualified professors, says Bradfield. And funding deficits would have to be made up through tuition increases.

"Why would the rich pay more for what is essentially a sub-standard education?"

According to Ogilvie, the Maritime universities included in his report would have to increase their tuition by up to \$13,000 per year, or boost their endowments between \$300 million and \$500 million if they were to become private.

Privatization, writes Ogilvie, could cause enrolment drops and labour disputes during the transition years. But the first schools to priva-

tize would likely have a competitive edge with investors, he writes in his report.

Dalhousie president Tom Traves says converting Dal or any other established institution to a private university is "fundamentally impractical."

The provincial government, which currently provides the majority of Dal's funding, does not have a say on the day-to-day running of the university, says Traves. And money isn't given to universities because a certain skill in society is lacking.

"People give money to higher education because they believe in it," he says.

Political science and economics student Zoë Marks says academic institutions shouldn't be run like businesses.

"Universities aren't there simply to make a profit," says Marks. "They are there to explore ideas and concepts. They conduct research for the betterment of society, and they create human capital. That's far more important than simply making money and being competitive."

Privatizing universities would be difficult because the public opposes it, and institutions are reliant on government funding, says Ogilvie.

None of the schools Ogilvie studied had any interest in pursuing privatization. And he says it's unlikely a transition will occur in the near future unless a university is in such dire financial straits that privatization is the only way out.



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Dalhousie Writing Centre coordinator Margie Clow-Bohan says Dalhousie needs to place more value on writing skills. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Writing Centre opens new locations at Killam, Sexton Campus

CATHERINE DALE  
News Contributor

Changes are brewing at Dalhousie's Writing Centre.

This year, the centre has moved to a larger office in the Killam Library's learning commons. There has also been an increase in both the number of tutors and the variation in their backgrounds.

"Our 12 tutors now represent a good cross-section of disciplines, from English to engineering... to occupational therapy," says Margie Clow-Bohan, Writing Centre coordinator.

Clow-Bohan, who has held her position since August 2004, was also responsible for moving the Writing Centre office from the Killam's third floor to the learning commons last year.

"The centre used to be kind of hidden away on the third floor. Students pay for [this service]," she says. "What good is it if we're hidden away, pushing them away?"

Clow-Bohan says she's trying to increase the centre's profile on campus and make it more accessible to students.

And she says the recent changes have had the desired effect. "We're seeing more students for sure." In comparing the same week in 2004 and 2005, she says, "Last year we had 80 students, this year we had 106."

This year also marks the opening of a more limited centre on the Sexton campus. Civil engineering graduate student Heather Murphy tutors at this centre, which is avail-

able on Thursdays for four hours or by appointment.

Murphy, 22, says the decision to open an extension of the Writing Centre on the Sexton campus was met with enthusiasm by both librarians and professors.

But the new branch has seen somewhat limited success so far. Although Murphy has been busy helping M.Sc. and PhD candidates, only one undergraduate student has made an appointment.

Murphy suggests one reason for this is that writing is undervalued in many fields, including applied sciences.

"There should be more emphasis on writing in the technical field," she says. "Students aren't getting marked on writing, so why would they look for help they don't feel they need?"

The new centre is being heavily promoted with posters, a notice on the library website, and announcements from faculty members. "We're also going to start visiting undergraduate classes," said Murphy.

"If the demand exists, we'll increase our hours and perhaps even post another student [on the Sexton campus]."

Clow-Bohan feels that Dal as a whole needs to place a higher value on writing skills.

"There are 16,000 students at Dalhousie, and only one full-time employee [at the Writing Centre]," she says. "At St. Francis Xavier, there are 4,000 students and 11 full-time employees. They've identified writing as an important part of the education process and made it a selling point."

## ESL program to increase accessibility

CATHERINE DALE  
News Contributor

Dalhousie plans to change its admissions policy for international students who speak English as a second language for a trial period starting in September 2006.

Currently, these students must have either studied for a minimum of three years in English, or achieved a score of at least 580 in the TOEFL English language test to be admitted at Dal.

Under the proposed changes, the university will accept students whose academic qualifications fulfill its standards but also fail to meet the English language requirement.

Students with a TOEFL score below 580 will be enrolled on the condition that they complete, and pass, an English language course from one of several private institutions that Dal has set up contracts with.

"This is an experiment for us. We're just getting started," says Larry Maloney, associate Vice President (Academic). "Students getting in under this program will be tracked and

their academic success will be monitored to see if the program is a success."

Course fees, which students will have to shoulder themselves, depend on the institution and the degree of English language training the student requires. Students will also have to pay extra fees for the application and textbooks. At the East Coast School of Languages, for example, a four-week-long full-time course costs approximately \$1,000.

The courses will include more than simple English language instruction. Students will be required to do both oral and written work, and learn about research techniques how to analyze and critique research papers.

Maloney, however, admits that the program might not effectively address the need for a broader ESL program on campus.

"There is some scepticism about whether a TOEFL score of 580 tells the story about whether people have English language skills that can get them through university," he says.

Margie Clow-Bohan, coordinator

of Dal's Writing Centre, agrees that the TOEFL score may not be an accurate indicator of students' ability to speak English.

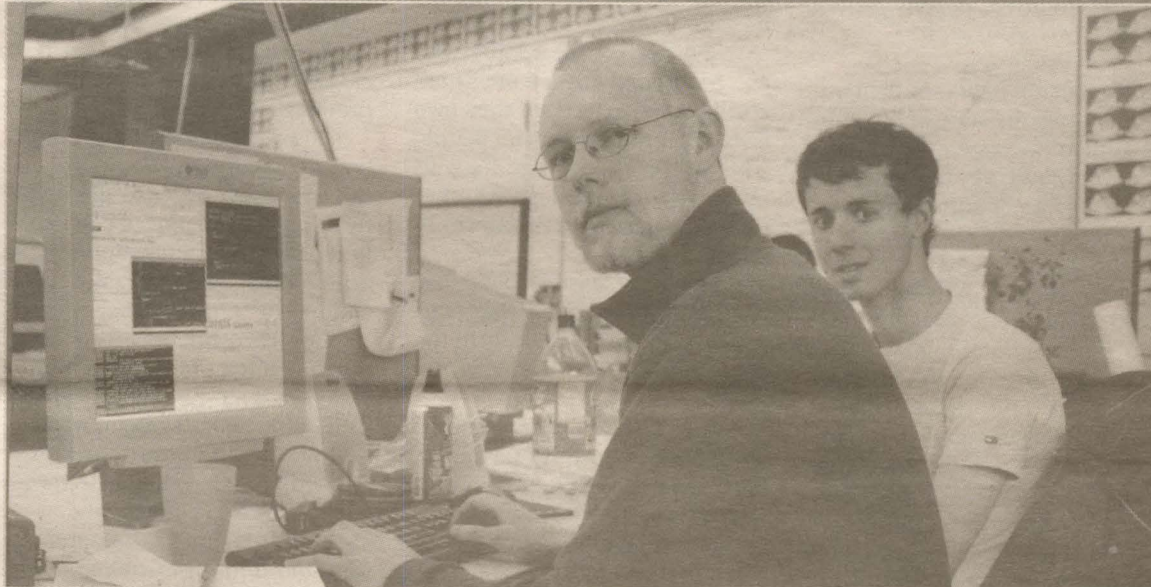
"International students are being rated on a test that indicates knowledge of classroom-taught English and not functional English," she says. "And the scores are not always a predictor of academic achievement."

Clow-Bohan says ESL students are often taught a standardized form of English, in which they develop an understanding of the language's basic rules. These students are not, however, learning English's colloquial dialect and the ability to "live with the language," she says.

And because the program only caters to international students, Clow-Bohan is concerned the needs of Canadian ESL students, as well as students who have already studied at English-speaking institutions but don't have an adequate grasp of the language, will not be met.

"Many times [these groups] don't have the expected level of English language proficiency," she says. "Who is helping these groups of students?"

## Students' software ranks in global top five per cent



The "extracurricular hobby" — the *my.dsu.ca* events site — of two Dalhousie computer science students has made the top five percentile of a popularity ranking on two community open-source sites.

The sites counted the number of downloads and hits of more than 100,000 products and ranked each program based on its popularity.

"It was a little unexpected," says undergrad student Sean Smith.

Smith and PhD candidate Oliver Baltzer released the program as open source software in September after spending the summer developing it with several other comp sci students

at the request of the DSU.

Open source software, which can be downloaded from the web and used for free, can be changed to fit individual needs and preferences.

The program, which the DSU uses for events listings, has been downloaded roughly 150 times. People from as far as the Netherlands and Jamaica have contacted Baltzer and Smith about using the program.

Baltzer and Smith say the feedback they receive from users also helps them improve the program. They expect the number of people downloading and using the program will increase over the next few

months as they continue to make improvements.

Smith and Baltzer update the *my.dsu.ca* website and release new versions of the program as open source software every few weeks. They also plan to develop programs for online society ratification, grants applications and an improved version of Tiger Books, the DSU's online textbook exchange.

All the software for those projects would be released as an open source software package called Tiger Suite, says Baltzer, which could be used by other universities for their own purposes.

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# Gazette

## Editorial

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and

to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

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

## Montreal massacre victims a symbol of right to learn

Shortly after 5 p.m. on Dec. 6, 1989, Marc Lépine carried a semi-automatic rifle into the school of engineering at the University of Montreal. His intent, evidenced by his suicide note, was to punish women for what he felt was their goal to rob men of their opportunities and advantages in society.

Twenty minutes later, 14 women were dead and nine were injured.

The story of these victims is now a cornerstone of Canadian history that continues to speak to the viciousness behind acts of violence against women in this country and those beyond.

Lépine targeted the 14 students because he perceived them as symbols of weakness that threatened to break social and societal boundaries. More specifically, he believed the "weak" were threatening to become empowered with the tool that he thought didn't belong to them: knowledge.

Now 16 years later, as Canadians plan vigils and lower the flag to half-mast to honour the victims of the Montreal massacre, they should remember not only the tragic ends of these women's lives but also what each of them wanted to accomplish.

It is regrettably very easy for university students — of both genders — to become swept up in the fury of paper writing and exam preparation, and forget how fortunate they are to know that their labours will likely shape their futures. The compulsion to remember names, dates, theories and formulas is in many ways a distraction from remembering this great fortune that all students enjoy.

And the very idea that this for-

tune could be robbed from them at any moment because of their sex is, by and large, likely never given a single thought.

Consequently, the victims of the Montreal massacre are "unlikely heroes," as Elizabeth McCormack, coordinator of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, rightfully points out. The 14 women sacrificed their lives, though unknowingly, to show the community at large the absolute necessity of the ability of women to become meaningful contributors to society.

Indeed, those women are symbols, but not of the kind Lépine envisaged. Rather, the women represent the mindless brutality inflicted upon their sex that prevents them from realizing what they seek to accomplish.

Those women were no different from any Dal student before they went to their classes 16 years ago. But afterward, they became galvanizing forces in the history of this country. And it is why they went to their classes that they should be remembered.

### Murdered victims:

- Geneviève Bergeron, aged 21;
- Hélène Colgan, 23;
- Nathalie Croteau, 23;
- Barbara Daigneault, 22;
- Anne-Marie Edward, 21;
- Maud Haviernick, 29;
- Barbara Maria Klucznik, 31;
- Maryse Leclair, 23;
- Annie St.-Arneault, 23;
- Michèle Richard, 21;
- Maryse Laganière, 25;
- Anne-Marie Lemay, 22;
- Sonia Pelletier, 28;
- Annie Turcotte, 21.

## Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: [opinions@dalgazette.ca](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.ca)

Letters: [letters@dalgazette.ca](mailto:letters@dalgazette.ca)

### VENT: THINKING OF A VENT EVERY WEEK Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

If I genuinely had enough anger in me to think of a heartfelt vent every week of my life, I'd already be dead of a heart attack. Why does no one else ever contribute a vent? Is it that no one has anything to complain about?

We have a lot of contributors and a number of editors, and I'm sure all of them have something to whine about. What about all the potential readers

we've angered this year? Do they just send us hate mail on principle, or do they actually want to contribute to the student paper and have their opinions heard?

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of things that piss me off, but many of them just seem so minute that I feel stupid expanding them into a 300-word rant every week. For instance, I hate

professors who don't give feedback on assignments, drivers that cut others off when crossing the street, cabs that don't show up when it's raining, and librarians who ignore you at the Circulation Desk.

It's not a perfect world, is it? Since it's impossible to change everything, though, I suppose venting is the next best thing.

## Letters

[letters@dalgazette.ca](mailto:letters@dalgazette.ca)

### Health plan: no "cash cow" for DSU

Dear Gazette,

I was reading the recent article by Ms. Suchocki (138:12) about the DSU opt-out process, and I was shocked and appalled at the lack of research that went into the article. Ms. Suchocki claimed the health plan was, and I quote, a "cash cow" for the DSU.

She was correct that opting out of the health plan does entitle a student to a \$248 reimbursement; however, "unclaimed" opt-out fees are paid to an insurance company to provide health insurance policies for students who do not opt-out of the plan.

The DSU does not directly supply the health plan but rather facilitates the plan for the student insurance policies.

The DSU makes pretty much no money whatsoever from the student health plan. In 2003, the DSU actually lost \$1,000 on the health plan, and in 2004 the health plan was revenue neutral. Any excess monies are put into a trust fund, which is used to pay for any increases in the premium. This trust fund as of March 2004 stood at a level of approximately \$62,000.

I would suggest to Ms. Suchocki that it's the writer's responsibility

to accurately report the facts, so it would behoove her to do at least five minutes of research before writing an article, as I have done before writing this response.

I should also point out that, in light of the fact that the DSU makes absolutely no money from the health plan, less criticism should be directed at the opt-out process.

By making the opt-out process what it is, the DSU is protecting the students ensuring that they are fully informed as to what they are agreeing to.

Charles S. Wright IV

## Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey broke up — and I'm sad

BRENDAN MORRISON  
Staff Contributor

All that remained pure and holy in this godforsaken world seems to have finally vanished. Oh, great despair. It is the end of idealism. Enter disillusionment.

According to the impeccable journalists at [www.celebritynip-slip.com](http://www.celebritynip-slip.com), Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey have broken up. And I am sad. In an age when divorce rates have surpassed the improbability line and separation is now more likely than not, Jess and Nick stood together as a singular beacon of hope. Through thick and... well, thicker, these two lovers managed to embrace one another. Despite the challenges of make-up problems, daily dieting developments, and financial excess disputes, their love always came first.

Their message was clear: Who needs money when you've got love... and lots of money?

Remember that episode of *New-*

*lyweds* where Jessica whines about not knowing how to use an oven, and everyone laughs at her like she is a complete and utter moron — but then Nick looks at her and smiles? Wow. That was great, eh? What a truly profound indication of love at a moment of intense vulnerability and crisis.

That was in fact a pivotal moment in my own life. It was then that I realized that perhaps true love is possible, that maybe someone out there could look beyond my own lazy ass, superficial worldview, moral deficiencies, technical ineptitude, and conversational incompetence, and see me for something more important — like my huge endowment(s), and endless income.

But now it appears that such idealist conjecturing is for naught. If those two can't last in wedlock, what hope do the rest of us have? If true love can't even last on television anymore, real life doesn't stand a chance. Must we now look to Dave Navarro and Carmen Electra for marital guid-

If those two can't last in wedlock, what hope do the rest of us have?

ance, and the promise that true love can make it, provided it be found on the set of a porno movie?

Living with that aside, spiritual solace seems at a loss. The union of 98 Degrees and the Mickey Mouse Club signaled the future of western civilization. As when G.I. Joe went off the air, the real American heroes are through. And I am sad.

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# Joy to the world: another holiday season

HEIDI HARDING  
Staff Contributor

Happy Holidays are coming, and along with the usual cheer, criticisms of commercialization, globalization, and the loss of good old-fashioned values will soon be upon us. The idea that corporations are sucking the very soul out of humanity isn't much of an exaggeration. As a society, we are slowly accepting the inevitability of the end. It's obvious from our apathy.

Think about what you would like for Christmas, Chanukah, or whichever holiday you celebrate. Let's say you want a new pair of running shoes. That certainly isn't too much to ask for, since everyone needs shoes, especially in a Halifax winter (though you might be better off with rubber boots).

It's quite possible, however, that those shoes may have been made in India by child workers earning maybe \$20 a month for working up to 16 hours a day. The saddest part of this is that even after being "rescued" by the Labour Department and police, many of these child labourers will go back to working under the same deplorable conditions. They feel responsible for their mothers and young siblings back home, and the only thing they aspire to is surviving

another day.

Think about your New Year's Day dinner. You might be having turkey or some other traditional dinner, but at the opening of the Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo in Thailand, visitors will be sampling delicacies such as giraffe, tiger and lion. The best part? The restaurant serving rare meats such as these will be open every day at the buffet-style restaurant in the zoo. The zoo claims it is aiming to increase public awareness of conservation issues. Strangely enough, World Wildlife Fund officials disagree, believing that serving endangered animals for dinner might confuse the patrons of the zoo.

After everything that has been said and done, after all the commercials on television and books and pleas from environmental groups are over, it still seems like the world is moving backwards on conservation and environmental issues.

When you head home for the break, take a look around. Was that subdivision there when you left home? Did that new mall spring up from nowhere in the middle of what was a farmer's field the last time you checked? All around us, in our own backyards, our views are becoming obscured. Any last wild spaces, or sacred places, are slowly disappearing under the bulldozers of development.



When you head home for the break, take a look around. Was that subdivision there when you left home?

When was the last time you went for a walk just to look at the life around you?

Most people don't care that there are others starving in the streets, that the last of the wild beasts are being driven into extinction, and that our own souls are being crushed under the desire for money. We all want to survive, after all, but we aren't de-

signed to survive in a world without life. With increasing rapidity we are constructing our own doom, for which there is no cure, no miracle. What we are doing to the environment, and to ourselves, will be difficult to reverse. We will have to live with the consequences of all our actions. This may mean a world rampant with famine and sorrow and

disease.

So before you give yourself up to holiday cheer, or while you draft your New Year's resolutions, consider the way you feel about the way you live, and think about the world you want your children to grow up in. Perhaps one of those resolutions should be to give up your protective shell of apathy.

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# AIDS mission to South Africa changes students' worldview

JENA MARTIN  
KEVIN LINDSTROM  
Opinions Contributors

In the summer of 2000, Jena Martin and Kevin Lindstrom participated in a community service project dealing with HIV and AIDS victims and their children in the rural South African Town of Mduku. These are their reflections:

As sixteen-year-old boarding school students from rural Québec, the prospect of spending a month volunteering and trekking in the KwaZulu Natal in South Africa appeared to be the vacation of our dreams. As we boarded the flight from Paris to Johannesburg, visions of the two of us in board shorts and bikinis, running down secluded beaches and hiking over the largest vegetated sand dune in the world, filled our imaginations.

Six years later in Halifax, however, these aren't the memories that remain the most poignant. Instead, we are more likely to remember the moments we spent watching a mother dying from HIV in the small, poorly funded clinic we worked at, or blowing balloons for an 8-month-old baby who would never see her mother, or live to be a mother herself. These are the heartrending moments that our film didn't capture, and for which we were totally unprepared for.

Upon our arrival in South Africa, we were forced to come to terms with the stark realities left behind by more than 300 years of colonization and a repressive apartheid regime: a small, advantaged elite and an overwhelmingly impoverished majority. Images of young black children at street corners, peddling their meager produce for whatever money they could get, were juxtaposed against the blue water of the swimming pool in the backyard of our white billeting family's home.

We are both children from mixed race families, and were the only members of the project who were not

white. From this vantage point, the perception of the Rainbow Nation seemed further off than the current democratically elected ANC government would like the international world to see. Race clearly played a role in class formation, leaving two Canadian private school brown kids caught somewhere between ignorant vacationers or academic activists. Had it not been for this ambiguity, however, the experience may not have had the profound affect it has had.

The socio-economic inequalities that exist within the country between blacks and whites were most apparent in the context of the current HIV/AIDS pandemic that plagues the country. It was this pandemic that brought us to Mduku.

We split our time between three different projects: the maintenance and continued construction of a community and school based library, providing support to and helping the understaffed and overworked doctors dealing with adult HIV/AIDS victims, and finally bringing fun and sport to the lives of HIV-positive children.

While this project put our lives on hold and shocked our systems, living with HIV is part of the daily lives of the people we encountered.

In South Africa, HIV/AIDS is so rampant, its significance and urgency begin to fall by the wayside as everyday life continues. This ability to separate death and disease from life was one of the glaring differences between us and the people we worked with.

At the end of our stay in Mduku, the trip's organizers prepared a 100-km trek through untouched wetlands in Kwazulu Natal for us as a rehabilitation from the realities we had been fortunate enough to face. Ironically enough, the organizers felt two weeks of dealing with HIV/AIDS was a lot to handle. But those two weeks were just a minute fraction of the lives of HIV sufferers — people whom we became friends with.

# Dal needs to increase AIDS awareness

MEAGHAN MACSWEEN  
Staff Contributor

This week, McGill grad student Zoë von Aesch has AIDS on her brain.

Being my best friend and all, I called Zoë last week to shoot a little shit. We chatted freely for a while, until she asked me what Dalhousie's plans were for AIDS day.

There are/were a couple of great events planned. The AIDS quilt and candlelight vigil are lovely and vital ceremonies that should be taken very seriously. There are some great public events planned at the AGNS, and CANFAR Dalhousie will have a booth set up in the SUB. No doubt, many Dal students are participating in these, as well as other events around the city.

Still, her query made me wonder about the general level of Dal's participation in AIDS/HIV awareness and related events for the other 364 days of the year. Now, I know I'm no expert, nor am I actively involved in any really intense DSU activity.

What I do know is, if Dal has some kind of consistent, every day AIDS plan up its university sleeve, then I — the average student — am unaware of it. And isn't the phrase "AIDS awareness?"

As the former co-chair of the Queen's University AIDS committee, Zoë has been actively involved in AIDS/HIV awareness for the last

“Unlike Africa, we have the means to spread the knowledge and produce change. The only thing standing in our way is a lack of awareness.”

few years. Her work with the Queen's committee was a success: the team promoted AIDS awareness across campus, and raised thousands of dollars for the local AIDS community.

“We received a fair bit of positive feedback from the students,” she says. “It is, of course, nearly impossible to measure the extent that you are getting through to people, but I believe that we certainly helped bring the issue to the forefront.”

When I told her that Dalhousie does not have this kind of committee set up, Zoë was surprised. After some reflection, she threw out a couple of reasons for the difference. For one, there is a popular class offered at Queens entitled “AIDS: Power and Politics,” which seems to have opened the eyes and the minds of many students.

As well, AIDS committee positions at Queen's are hired post that gives the organization a certain weight and prestige. “Members take their jobs seriously,” she explains to me.

The Student Union at Queen's has made the AIDS committee an active sub-group of the Queen's Arts and

Science Society. This means that the AIDS committee is high up on the access-to-university-funds hierarchy and will likely remain there for a long time, whereas there is no such comparable organization at Dalhousie. Say it with me: awareness.

The Queen's AIDS committee has been active for four or five years, and continues to grow. And according to Zoë, it is the responsibility of the students to keep this going. “We're here, and we're young and educated and aware of the problem, so we might as well take advantage of these resources and do our part.”

Zoë's passion stems from the frustration of knowing that Canada — as a technological and social world leader — is capable of accomplishing so much more. “In some ways, it's more frustrating to deal with the problem in Canada than even the Third World. Unlike Africa, we have the means to spread the knowledge and produce change. The only thing standing in our way is a lack of awareness.”

If you'd like to make a difference, but don't know how, don't worry — I feel the same way. Happy AIDS awareness week, Dalhousie.

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## TOP 10

- 1 **EMINEM IN REHAB FOR "SLEEPING PILLS"**  
At least that's what he told 50 Cent after he passed out during the movie.
- 2 **THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BONO AND PAUL MARTIN**  
The sad thing is that Martin's second-coolest friend is Rick Mercer.
- 3 **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U-PASS**  
Does not equal the importance that I-pass.
- 4 **PRIVATIZING DALHOUSIE**  
But then we'd be overrun with rich kids from Toronto.
- 5 **THE TRAGIC BREAK-UP OF NICK AND JESSICA**  
Damn you, Angelina Jolie!
- 6 **IN SWEDEN, EVERY LETTER TO SANTA GETS A REPLY AND SMALL GIFT**  
How about asking for more than 20 minutes of sunshine per day?
- 7 **WOMAN THREATENING TO PROTEST WITH NAKEDNESS**  
How scary looking is she?
- 8 **COMPARING THE GREY CUP TO THE SUPERBOWL**  
Like comparing Curious George to King Kong.
- 9 **SINGAPORE SCIENTISTS DEVELOPING WAYS TO SEND HUGS VIA THE INTERNET**  
Remember when we figured out how to display images on the internet? Remember what that led to?
- 10 **FORGETTING NUMBER 10 IN THE TOP 10 LAST WEEK**  
It was the sleeping pills! I swear!

## HOT

Killam as the "sober bar"  
Grey Cup  
X Box 360  
Public Art  
Santa Claus  
Rent  
No exams for arts students  
Home for the holidays  
The Alehouse waiting lines  
Seasonal gifts

## NOT

Overcrowding with no alcohol  
Wearing no cup  
Anderson Cooper 360  
Public Urination  
Satan's Claws  
Rent  
Hundreds of essay pages to write  
Those damn people from high school  
Pearson's waiting lines  
Singling out a religion in print

Suggestions? [hotornot@dalgazette.ca](mailto:hotornot@dalgazette.ca)

### DISCLAIMER

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 by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba himself.

Have an opinion?  
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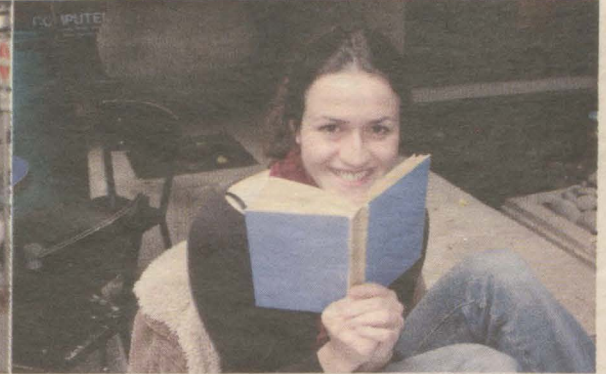


## STREETER

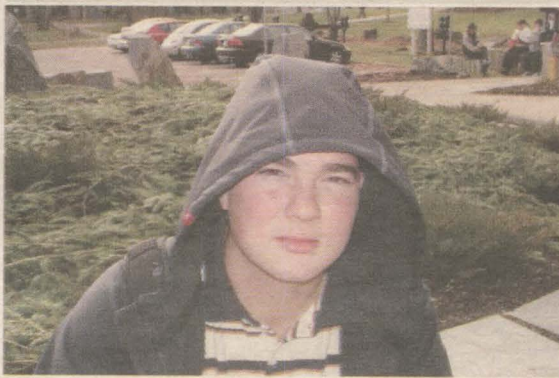
What are you most looking forward to this Christmas season?



"Seeing my family."  
Allie Kane, second-year planning



"I'm excited to have time to knit gifts for people."  
Kerri Strothard, fourth-year English



"Gifts. It's a happy time of receiving."  
Andrew Lucas, second-year commerce



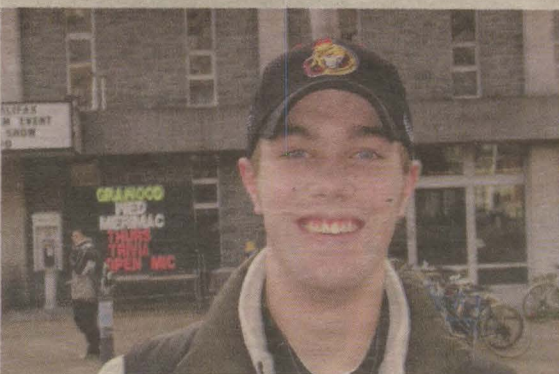
"Peace and quiet. Staying home and doing nothing."  
Joel Legere, second-year metallurgical engineering



"I'm gonna be chilling."  
Meagan McConnell, first-year arts



"Not being at Dalhousie."  
Jeff Woodhouse, first-year management



"Not having to see Party Boy for over three weeks, mostly because he always reeks of malt liquor and stale urine."  
Alex Beall, third-year kinesiology



"It could be nice to check out some hometown top-shelf ladies, but when it comes down to it, some guys are into women, I'm into gas."  
Joey Ryba, 25<sup>th</sup>-year fartology

Got a question you want to see answered by students? [streeter@dalgazette.ca](mailto:streeter@dalgazette.ca)

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# Local arts organization provides support to creative folks

JODIE SHUPAC  
LAURA DAY  
Staff Contributors

The Halifax arts scene, rich with culture and full of rising talent, is massively under-funded and often quite neglected, says Nova Scotia native Rob MacArthur.

To give emerging artists the opportunity to develop their talents and show their work in an open and supportive environment, MacArthur created Artists' Pool, a non-profit organization designed to help up-and-coming artists of any domain.

MacArthur, 27, decided to establish the organization about a year ago, at which time he was working at a call centre in Sydney, N.S., and hating it. He's both a writer and a guitar player and wanted to find a job that would require his creative involvement, as well as allow him to give other artists the chance to do what they loved.

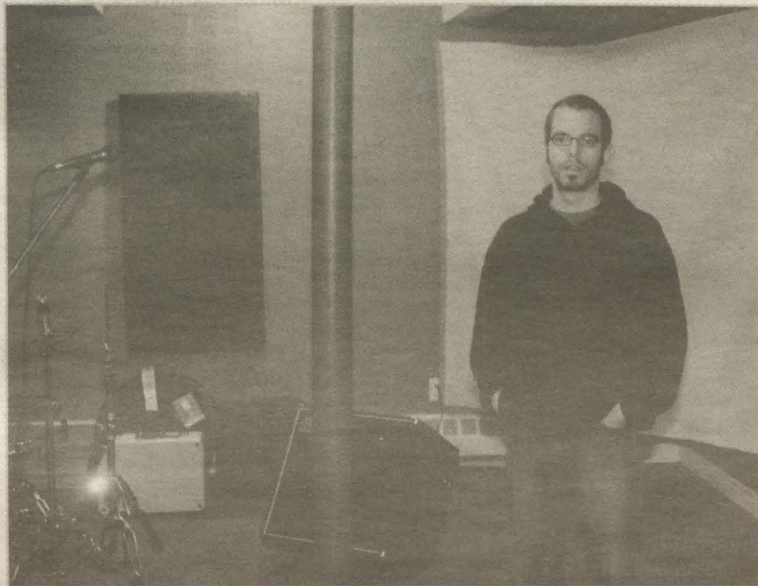
"I wanted to get my fingers into everything," he says.

The idea behind Artists' Pool is to help artists find work that will ultimately channel funding back into the organization, thus aiding other rising artists. MacArthur says he hopes to show artists they don't need to resign to the "starving artist" image and can find ways to put their skills to practical use so that they have the means to continue creating.

This past year has been a fairly rocky one for Artists' Pool — finding funding for the arts is not a simple task in Halifax. But in spite of financial difficulties, Artists' Pool generated interest among certain local businesses looking to employ artists to assist them with design and advertising. In this situation, Artists' Pool connected businesses with promising visual artists.

While there were definite pros to this arrangement, MacArthur says serving as the middleman between graphic designers and businesses gave rise to too many complications. An entire graphic design firm has been formed under the Artists' Pool umbrella so designers can deal directly with whomever they're working for.

In mid-July Artists' Pool held its first show, a photography exhibit entitled, "Halifax Indie Rock in Pic-



Director of Artists' Pool, Rob MacArthur, picture here in one of the many jam rooms at the Rock Garden / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

tures." Recently, Artists' Pool sponsored the "Drop Out Show," which featured former NSCAD students' work.

Currently, MacArthur says he hopes to use the Artists' Pool to provide a creative outlet for artists, particularly musicians, in a variety of ways. At the Rock Garden Jam Spaces, located at 2304 Hunter St., bands can rent rooms either monthly or by the hour to use as rehearsal space.

Dozens of bands make use of this space throughout the week.

The money that Artists' Pool makes from the rehearsal spaces is funneled back into the organization and is often used to fund ventures such as shows put on by aspiring visual artists.

When approached by a band looking for a show, MacArthur says he does all that he can to connect them to a venue. It's easier for bands to put on shows with the aid of Artists' Pool, as opposed to directly dealing with an establishment, because there isn't an excessive waiting period before booking, he says.

Because Artists' Pool prides itself on being extremely open-minded and encouraging to emerging talent, MacArthur says he gives his all to bands that are just starting out — he tries to provide them with the resources they need to begin recording or touring, for example.

MacArthur says he wants to publicize the monthly showcases held by his label, From Here to There, where emerging bands perform at various venues throughout the city. The shows are free of charge, and aim to highlight a variety of musical genres without being limited to a certain type of sound.

Another venture that MacArthur hopes to expand through Artists' Pool is the "Sounds Local Zine," which comes out roughly every two months and provides an outlet for budding writers. So far the zine has focused mainly on music-related content, but MacArthur says he hopes it will become a space for new writers to get a chance to publish their stories, poems, and other works of fiction.

MacArthur says he has a number of goals for Artists' Pool that he hopes can be fulfilled in the new year. He says he's looking for alternative funding for artists and wants to continue to help new bands set up tour schedules, release albums, and get signed to bigger labels.

Anyone interested in utilizing the Artists' Pool rehearsal space, writing for the zine, or using the Underground Gallery space to host visual arts shows can check out the Artists' Pool website at [artistspool.org](http://artistspool.org), the Rock Garden website at [rockgardenjamspace.com](http://rockgardenjamspace.com), or call 404-7007.

# All the Dish

Brain food is good — feed your mind

JENNIFER CHOI  
Co-Phat Lady

This exam season leave your books, highlighters and pens at the library. The right recipe to acing your exams can be found on your next trip to the grocery store. In order to get your mind and body ready for intense studying and exam writing, you need to eat a good combination of the right foods.

We often put the importance of studying before everything else, especially the foods we eat. But studies have shown certain foods can enhance and improve our concentration and memory. The foods you put into your body can be just as important as what you put in your mind.

Food affects not only the body but also the brain — it's level of energy and how it adapts to tasks. What you eat during exam time influences your mood, motivation and mental performance.

Eat and drink well. This means staying away from processed, high-fat and sugary foods. This doesn't mean stay away from all fatty foods. In fact, good intellectual performance requires fat. Stick to eating good fats like the omega-3 fatty acids found most commonly in fish.

Don't completely deny yourself of your favourite foods. Be smart about when to eat pizza, chips or pop. Choosing to eat them before an exam will make you lethargic.

Limit the urge to buy a cup of coffee, tea or pop at the library. If getting a coffee is your way of procrastinating, get some fresh air, eat a healthy snack and drink water. You may think you need caffeine to stay alert but it'll only dehydrate you.

So before you set up a three-week camp at that corner table at the library, fill your fridge and cupboards with the essential foods.

Try this quick and easy Salmon recipe to boost your brain power.

### FOILED SALMON with VEGETABLES

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 4 oz. salmon fillet or steak
- 1 sm. yellow squash or zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1 sm. tomato, chopped
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp. vodka or white wine or veg. stock or water

### BRAIN BUILDERS

- Bananas • Beef, lean • Broccoli • Brown rice • Brussel sprouts • Cantaloupe • Cheese • Chicken • Collard greens • Eggs • Flaxseed oil • Legumes (beans) • Milk • Oatmeal • Oranges • Peanut butter • Peas • Potatoes • Romaine lettuce • Salmon • Soybeans • Spinach • Tuna • Turkey • Wheat germ • Whole grains • Yogurt

Source: [www.askdrsears.com](http://www.askdrsears.com)

### BRAIN BUSTERS

- Alcohol • Artificial food colorings • Artificial sweeteners • Corn syrup • Frostings • High-sugar drinks (pop) • Hydrogenated fats • Nicotine • Over-eating • White bread

Salt & pepper to taste  
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place cookie sheet or baking pan in oven to preheat for five minutes.

Meanwhile, smear oil in center of a 12" square of aluminium foil and place salmon, squash, tomato and onion in center of foil over oil. Sprinkle with vodka, salt and pepper; fold diagonally to form a triangle; tightly seal edges.

Place foil package on preheated cookie sheet, return to oven and bake 10 to 15 minutes, or until salmon is opaque and vegetables are tender. Open foil packet; be careful of the hot steam that escapes. Enjoy!

As you take a vow to catch up on all missed readings and lectures, take a vow to feed your mind properly. Don't assume you can survive on foods that only require you to add water and microwave on high for five minutes. You can do better than that! Balance the books with brain food.

Questions or Comments? E-mail the phat ladies at [two.phat.ladies@gmail.com](mailto:two.phat.ladies@gmail.com)

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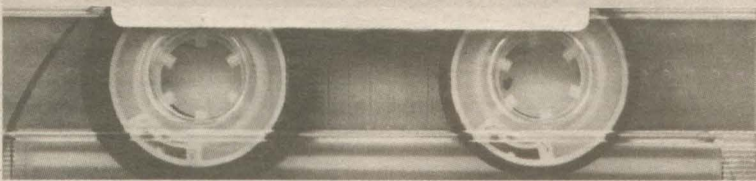
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## Burn Baby Burn



### CHRISTMAS SONGS!

**SIDE A: NON-TRADITIONAL** Sarah Bridge / Staff Contributor

During my first holiday season at Dal, I played Christmas tunes so often that my roommate deleted them off my computer.

In order to conform to the strict no-Bing Crosby rules that had been set out by my Scrooge-ish residence partner, I was forced to branch out. And so, my list of innovative Christmas songs was born.

- "Santa Baby" - Madonna
- "Merry Christmas Baby" - Christina Aguilera
- "Christmas in Hollis" - Run DMC
- "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" - N'Sync
- "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" - James Taylor
- "Jingle Bells" - Diana Krall
- "River" - Joni Mitchell
- "Maybe This Christmas" - Ron Sexsmith
- "All I want for Christmas is You" - Mariah Carey
- "Feliz Navidad" - Jose Feliciano
- "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" - Jessica Simpson

**SIDE B: TRADITIONAL TUNES** Saman Jafarian / Staff Contributor

While I enjoy the non-traditional holiday songs as much as the next person — VeggieTales are my favourite — some of my best holiday memories include listening to the classics while decorating the Christmas tree.

Unfortunately, procrastination runs rampant in my family and decorating the tree normally happens after Christmas Day.

Here's hoping you get yours up in time.

- "Feliz Navidad"
- "Little Drummer Boy"
- "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"
- "Winter Wonderland"
- "Silver Bells"
- "Let It Snow"
- "We Three Kings"
- "Ave Maria"
- "White Christmas"
- "Auld Lang Syne"

## This Week's Picks

Entertainment Pick by Saman Jafarian

### The OC Drinking Game

*The OC* returned three weeks ago after a five-week hiatus, and it's worse than ever. Let's be honest: the show wasn't great to begin with, and all possible plot lines have been exhausted.

The problem, though, is that the show is highly addictive. So what are we to do? Create a drinking game, of course.

If you google "*The OC* drinking game" you get literally hundreds of thousands of hits. To save you the effort, however, my roommate and I have created one for you.

Here's the best part: you don't need alcohol. Half of the fun is in pointing out all of the irritating aspects of the show. In fact, if you are using alcohol, don't play for more than ten minutes. It will be more than enough.

### Take a drink every time:

- 1: Ryan broods.
- 2: Seth is sarcastic.
- 3: Mischa Barton can't act.
- 4: Previously "indie" music is popularized in awkward and unrealistic settings.
- 5: You want to hit Taylor.
- 6: Summer says "eww."
- 7: Comics or anime are mentioned.
- 8: A new character is introduced.
- 9: Bagels are mentioned.
- 10: Ryan hits something/someone.

## Celebrity Quote of the Week

"I'd like to become the first female president — it would be fascinating. The first thing I would do is redecorate the White House. It doesn't look very cozy."

- Jennifer Lopez

## SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/17-/8/12. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Interviews on campus in mid January. Call 800 923-2267 to schedule an appointment.

Visit [www.camptowanda.com/](http://www.camptowanda.com/) Staff Meeting for information and application.



The cast of *Night Must Fall* sports 1930's garb. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Night must fall

Dal Stage Society production offers an interesting take on a 1930's play

LAURA DAY  
Staff Contributor

It's Sunday afternoon at Studio One in the basement of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. Various melodies are circulating around the stage including the themes from *Chicago* and *Annie*. Members of the Dalhousie Stage Society are creating these sounds as they warm up for their full dress rehearsal of *Night Must Fall*. The play, however, is not a musical.

*Night Must Fall*, written by English playwright Emyln Williams, is an interesting take on typical murder mysteries. "It's a murder mystery for dummies," says co-director Célèste Mazur.

The story is about a man named Dan who shows up at the house of Mrs Brampson after he has impregnated her young maid. The plot moves along with Mrs Brampson taking a liking to Dan and welcoming him into her home, but the other characters feel that there is something suspicious about his character and the circumstances in which he arrives.

"It's about the face that we show to the outside world, the masks that we wear," says co-director Antony Dobrzensky.

The play itself was first performed in London in 1935 with the playwright taking the lead role. It was later turned into a movie in 1937, which was nominated for two academy awards in 1938. A less successful film version of the play was made in 1964 starring Albert Finlay, otherwise known as the old man in Tim Burton's 2003 *Big Fish*.

The Dal Stage Society's version shows promising talent from the lead roles played by Ken MacAlpine in the role of Dan and Caitlin Kennedy in the role of Olivia. The play includes a brilliant performance by Hayley Gray in the role of Mrs Brampson.

Gray is a first year student at Dal from Kingston, Ont., where she performed in various community theatre shows.

"In the two month break that I had from this summer to when we started this play I really missed the theatre, so I was really glad to get back into it," she says.

The Dal Stage Society started a few years ago to give non-theatre students an opportunity to participate in amateur theatre. But many theatre students also profit from the society because these students often don't perform until their fourth year of study. The majority of the cast of *Night Must Fall* are in the first year of the theatre program.

This group has been working on *Night Must Fall* since the middle of October for about five days a week for hours at a time. There was a strong amount of professionalism displayed by everyone on the set during rehearsal. This type of professionalism transcends onto the stage and is a great example of the type of work that can be accomplished by Dalhousie students.

*Night Must Fall* will be performed at Studio One in the basement of the Dalhousie Arts Centre on pay-what-you-can Thursday night at 8 p.m. for another full dress rehearsal. The official show runs Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets are only \$5 with your Dal card.

## One take

First annual Halifax Student Film Festival lacks diversity

ASHLEIGH GAUL  
Staff Contributor

Every once in a while there comes a mediocre movie that inexplicably attains cult appeal and spurns a sea of Hollywood / undergraduate / high school / public school imitations. *Pulp Fiction* is one of those movies. While not particularly bad, we were probably better off without all the derivative "ultra-violent supergore mingled with serendipity and wit" that infected the next ten years of high school and undergraduate productions otherwise uninspired.

Thankfully, the "*Pulp Fiction*-is-the-only-movie-I've-ever-watched" crowd of filmmakers seems to have petered out in recent years. But, perhaps, it's time for a new nomination: *Office Space*.

Take a look at the entries within the first annual Halifax Student Film Festival, for example. Established by the Saint Mary's University Film Society, the festival didn't provide much diversity.

Early in the twenty-film set, Dave Gates's *Transmogification* sets a tone

of the disgruntled and slightly inadequate everyman who is bullied and outcompeted for his job, apartment and successful dates by even more successful and over-ambitious corporate meatheads. While the animation and soundtrack are beautiful, the concept seems suspiciously "Judgian."

*The Cardboard Cut-Out* does little to dispel initial suspicions. It could represent an alternate script to *Office Space*, in which Peter sends a life-size, stand-up image of himself into the office in his place.

The characters are merely exaggerations on those created by Mike Judge, infused with obnoxious body and homoerotic gags.

And Kathleen Leaman's *Two Minus All* may inspire hope by referencing better movies, but it represents little more than a fantastical dialogue between the comfort mist and Bohemian leanings of Peter Gibbons.

To stand out from the depressing theme of corporation malaise required only that the film be nothing like *Office Space*. Siddhartha Fraser's *i mourn this tree*, an ecologi-

cally-themed poetic narrative superimposed on images of a sweaty boxer in the wilderness, may have come across as a recycled entry from an Environment Canada high school film competition — but at least the sweaty boxer's not in a cubicle.

*They Call him Monster, I Call him Officer* was hilarious and refreshing in that it couldn't be derivative of *Office Space* or any other movie, ever — it made no sense.

Soley Grey was the only film that met both requirements: it was not like *Office Space* and it was good. Reid Jones's short mockumentary traces the life and influence of the fictional title character, a certified lunatic self-help guru who convinces his disciples to reduce their "physical and mental landscapes" to shades of white. The film provides a simple premise on which to build his elegant photographs and backdrops.

Perhaps the young filmmakers of Halifax should take a little direction from the film they love to imitate. In the words of Peter Gibbons, himself, "I love Kung Fu." A little thematic diversity can be a good thing.



This "French maid" wants to get you laid.

## SuperSex in the SuperCity Fantasy Role Play for Dummies

DAVE WENTWORTH  
Sexpert

I will be the first person to admit that I don't have loads of experience in the area of fantasy and role play, but I have been exploring the area more over the last few months. So, I have a few ideas and tips to help make your fantasy session go off without any large problems.

For me, the element of role-playing that warms my cockles is the fact that you can be very simple, or highly complex, depending on what you and your partner(s) want to do. For example, if you are short on time and money you can easily put together a scene in your own home that steps beyond your normal day-to-day persona.

Let's say you know your boyfriend is having a longer-than-usual day at work and you want to surprise him/her when he/she gets home. Well, with such short notice you will have no time to have a seamstress tailor you an outfit that will make him/her submit to your carnal desires. So, I'd change gears and start working with whatever you happen to have on hand at home. For some girls (and some guys), an exotic dancer can be an easy persona to slip into. Set your CD or MP3 player to a racy song with lots of sex — Black Eyed Peas "My Humps" would be a terrific choice — and when your partner gets home have him/her sit down and start moving your body. He/she will not be concerned with your footwork and dancing skills, so just move in what-

ever way feels natural, and respond to body language. If it looks like your partner's leg might be in pain, move your body weight over. If your partner gets a naughty grin on his or her face when you grind into them, keep that up. You will quickly see what works and what doesn't.

If you've gotten beyond Role Playing 101, I would like to introduce some ideas to take your fun further. I probably will sound like a realtor, but location, location, location. You don't have to go to extremes, but sometimes role-playing in your bedroom feels dorky. A nice hotel room can give that change of environment and let you step outside of yourself. I also suggest taking your time and planning the little details. It can make your scene more accurate and at the end of the day, that is what you are going for. You want to convince both you and your partner enough so that they can mentally slip into their role and maximize the potential of your sex scene.

For uniforms, you can do things cheap or be very elaborate. A lot of times, I balk at the price of some outfits and costumes. It really depends on what you are setting up. If it's something you will reuse in future sessions, such as really nice padded blindfolds or a uniform of some sort, then spend a little extra for the quality. If you are planning on having your outfit torn off your body by a savagely hot lover, you may rather consider one of metro's many secondhand clothing stores.

## Report Card

STAGGERED CROSSING / Stage 9 / Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005



Reporter: Sarah Bridge  
Photographer: Rafal Andronowski  
Stage Presence: A  
Audience Reaction: A+  
Sound: A+  
Effort: A

Even those who are not personal friends of Staggered Crossing felt closer to the band members after their intimate and energetic performance at Stage Nine on Saturday night.

Since 1996, when Staggered Crossing was formed, the Torontonians, JT, Dan, Dave and Jeremy have accumulated a devoted fan-base — which was made obvious by the

enthusiastic crowd at the show.

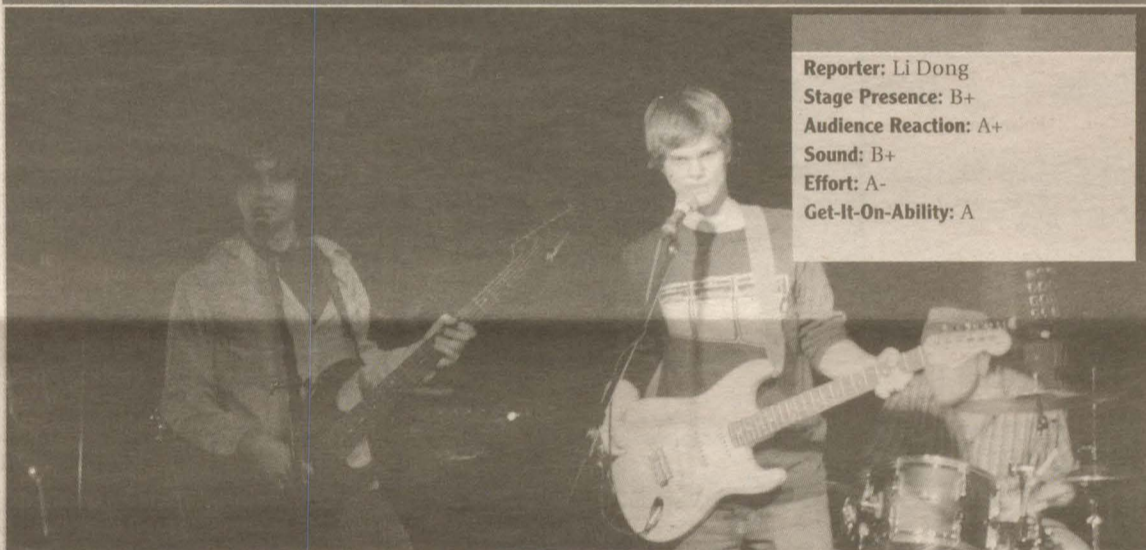
The band's loud rock 'n' roll music is mellowed by an occasional mix of folk and reggae, but never failed to keep the dance floor full of excited fans.

While Staggered Crossing's latest CD, *Burgundy and Blue*, was just released last year, the band did not forget to play the favourites from their past records. The biggest hits of the

night were "Further Again" from the band's self-titled album, and *Burgundy and Blue's* "When the Rain's All Gone," played during the second encore.

All in all, the band's Saturday night gig was everything it ought to have been. With upbeat lyrics like, "Let me shake it all about," who wouldn't have a good time?

THE NEW SCHOOL LOWS / Ginger's Tavern / Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005



Reporter: Li Dong  
Stage Presence: B+  
Audience Reaction: A+  
Sound: B+  
Effort: A-  
Get-It-On-Ability: A

Before The New School Lows started playing at the relatively packed Ginger's Tavern (if you've never been there, it's a cross between the Attic and upstairs Tribeca), frontman Simon Walker heard a blond girl screaming from the crowd. "Hey Simon, nice shirt, didn't Seth Cohen wear that once?"

"Is that even a compliment?" I asked.

"Are you kidding?" she responded. "It's the compliment!"

That pretty much sums up the

continuously positive audience response throughout The New School Low's set, which included songs by Coldplay, Weezer, Snow Patrol as well as original music.

The band built momentum quickly and never let the energy wane. Out of the three bands that played that evening, The New School Lows were the only ones to inspire 1) eruptive cheering in-between each song, 2) dancers to the dance floor and 3) girl-on-girl action.

Perhaps most surprising of all is

that this was the band's very first gig. Although lead singer Simon Walker and lead guitarist Shawn Mullen have taken down the first place prize at Grawood's open mic nights on several occasions, their music was given more breadth and dimension in both the transition from acoustic to electric and the addition of the drums and bass.

In short, they had the attitude, they had the style, they had the moxy, they had the groupies... they had it all.

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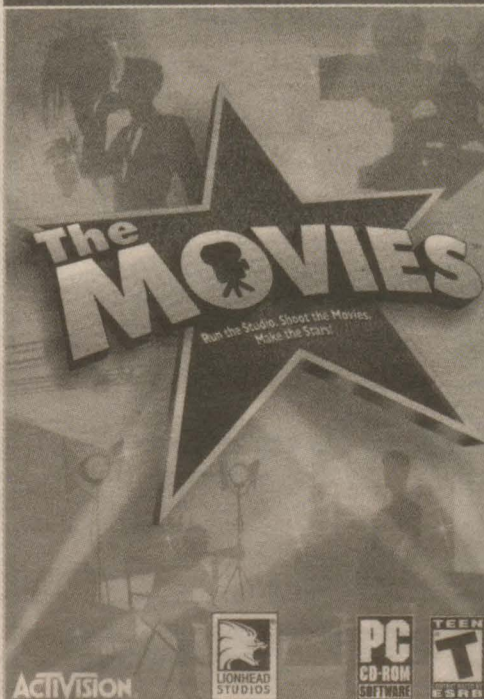
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FACULTÉ D'ÉDUCATION  
Université de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

## GAMERS AWARE

DANA MASSEY / Staff Contributor



Genre: Tycoon  
Available For: PC  
Developer: Lionhead Studios  
Publisher: Activision  
Players: One  
Reasons to Buy: Easily make your own movies.  
Reasons Not To: Micromanagement and overwhelming gameplay.

*The Movies* is the latest offering from famed designer Peter Molyneux and Lionhead Studios, who also developed *Fable* and *Black & White*. In *The Movies*, players take on the roll of a movie mogul, responsible for a studio from the dawn of the industry all the way into the modern era.

The game feels like a blend of a regular tycoon game and *The Sims*, which means players must be prepared for a lot of micro-management. Like real movie stars, your stars throw tantrums and need trips to rehab when they hit the bottle.

Managing these demands in five to ten stars is often too demanding. Lionhead did a marvelous job on the user interface, but the competing demands of the stars and the studio is overwhelming.

The other half of the game is the much-hyped movie maker. Again, the interface is stellar and in this case, players can take as long as they want. Players have total control over their film through a series of canned situations. In this, the possibilities are endless.

As a tycoon game, *The Movies* is nothing special. The movie maker gives the game some value, but it will not appeal to everyone.



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Lost Boys of Sudan is a feature-length documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America.



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 All proceeds will be donated to Wadeng Wings of Hope.

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**Serial Fiction**

A Letter to Santa Claus by Lindsay Dobbin



Most valuable Santa!

How are you? Do you hear that question often? I bet you get so many letters this time of year where kids and adults just ask for stuff. A toy train. New pencils. An unbroken heart. But does anyone ever ask how you are doing? How is your wife? Does she make cookies and milk for you all year or is your relationship down in the dumps ever since you "just mentioned" that you wanted to start wearing a black suit to spruce up your sex life? How are the elves? I bet the toy factories are like an episode of Big Brother right now! You know, the gossip... Tom sleeping with Jim, Sally wanting to put edible underwear on the dolls. I bet it's crazy! How do you handle it? And how are the reindeer? Are you still applying Marxist philosophies (yes I know about this now thanks to high school) to the pulling-of-the-sled or have you dropped that and let them create their hierarchies. I heard that when there are internal hierarchies within a group that is working towards the same goal, that they sometimes pull apart. I am just warning you. It would really suck if that happened when you were flying.

The last time I saw you in the flesh was twelve years ago. I was five. I don't know if you remember but I was the girl who was wearing a Gumby nighty and moccasins at 9 Lakeside Drive. I just found a letter I wrote you that year. I asked for the animal sound maker. I think I've become a better writer.

Santa!

*I think that really this year I want the noise maker of the animal because of Christmas and for my castle. So I want to use that with the animal comes to me am visit.*

Thank you,  
 Alex

Other than asking how you are, I am writing you because I need some help. I have two problems. The second I think you can help me with more.

I want to be a comedian. But I realize that you have to do more than pull

100 jokes out of your 1001 BEST JOKES EVER book and recite them. I tried this once and nobody would look me in the eye! You have to move around, flail your arms in the air, and pause between jokes so people can laugh. You need to do all those things at the same time and I think it's harder than ballet, which is something I tried once because I am tall and thin. My uncle Robert says it's all about the timing. He had appendicitis last Christmas. Anyways, I really need your help. I'd like to be funny (my Dad told me I shouldn't say want because it's rude). I have all the good qualities of the funny people on TV except for the funny bone. I am tall and thin which is why Jim Carey is funnier than Jon Lovitz. But that doesn't work because look at John Candy. I like him. Especially since his last name is candy. Does that mean you like him, too? Okay, so a funny bone. I would really like one!

My second request is for my grandmother. She's a diabetic. Which means she can't eat a lot of candy and she has to poke herself with needles and sometimes she demonstrates this at family functions. This time of year is a bad time for her because of the negative reaction her dentures have to frozen chocolate. You see, my grandmother freezes her chocolate so she won't eat it all at once because of the diabetes but then she can't take it! It's usually when she is watching Oprah that she eats a whole FROZEN box because she will call us during dinner and says that she did it again. Yup! Can you please give my grandmother chocolate that diabetics can eat all the time without, well whatever happens when diabetics have too much sugar? I guess that's it.

I've attached some pictures of things I like. Especially my favourite fashion accessory the sheepskin vest. I am wondering if you can give it and my address to Jim Carey when you visit his house? And ask him to sign it! I don't understand why people sign their own pictures.

Yours in a trustworthy manner,  
 Alex



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ADVENT 1: November 27 - Candle of Hope  
*Who is Coming?* - Rev. John E. Boyd  
 Music: Brahms, Bach, Wood

ADVENT 2: December 4 - Candle of Peace; Communion  
*News? What News?* - Rev. John E. Boyd  
 Music: Daquin, Wilan, Sullivan, Dandrieu

ADVENT 3: December 11 - Candle of Joy; White Gifts  
*Something to Sing About* - Rev. John E. Boyd  
 Music: Dandrieu, Vaughan Williams, Posten

ADVENT 4: December 18 - Candle of Love  
*Want to Hear a Secret?* - Rev. John E. Boyd  
 Music: Balbastre, Tilley, Daquin

SPECIAL SERVICES AND CONCERTS

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:  
 December 18 at 7:00 P.M.  
 Traditional Lessons, Carols and Choral Anthems  
 The Choirs of First Baptist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE: December 24  
 4:00 p.m. Family Service - Christ Candle  
 11:00 p.m. Communion - Christ Candle  
*Welcome Jesus!* - Rev. John E. Boyd  
 Music: Daquin, Tilley, Wayne

CHRISTMAS DAY: December 25  
 10:30 a.m. Inter-Generational Service  
 Stories and Carols of Christmas  
 Music: Daquin, Balbastre, Wayne



JAZZ VESPERS

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Date: Sunday, December 4, 2005

Time: 7 p.m. for Jazz Vespers

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The

# SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## The Sextant Wants You

ALEXANDER MACDONALD  
Managing Editor

Christmas is only a few weeks away which means that another term is quickly coming to an end. Soon we'll all head home and buy gifts to put under the trees of our friends and family.

However, if you want to save some money, then I suggest you build your gifts with your own two hands. Engineers, for instance, could build Dad a new transmission, or perhaps design a very tight vest that stimulates blood flow to keep him warm.

Better yet, you could combine the two and give Dad the first prototype of a "Trans-Vest-Tight" for Christmas.

A "Trans-Vest-Tight" is guaranteed to surprise and confuse him when it is first unwrapped. And you'd better hope that he doesn't grow too attached to the warmth of the "Trans-Vest-Tight", or Mom may be really appalled. You may even say that the "Trans-Vest-Tight" will really help him switch gears. I'll stop now.

Unfortunately, this issue marks the end of an era at Sexton Campus. The entire executive of *The Sextant* will be finished their academic requirements at Christmas and moving on to the real world. This means there are major staff vacancies to be filled before January.

Most importantly, *The Sextant* needs a new Managing Editor to take over from myself. You may be thinking that the Editor-in-Chief is the most important position, but in reality, he's just a figurehead like Colonel Sanders, Queen Elizabeth II, or Tom Traves.

In fact, Peter White is a fictional character whose articles were actually written by an eight-year-old girl. She has also posed for the pictures of "Peter" that have appeared in this paper.

Sadly, she is also moving on to bigger and better things so *The Sextant* needs a new figurehead. However, the Editor-in-Chief will actually be in charge this winter which means either writing an article every week, or finding others to do it for you.

In keeping with tradition, the quality of these articles should be really low and contain very little substance.

If you aren't yet chomping at the bit to sign up, allow me to explain the many benefits to be had as a member of *The Sextant*. First, you'll get paid. Now I'm not talking garbage man money or even B.A. graduate money but yes, these are real jobs with real paycheques.

Secondly, there's fame. You'd be surprised with the amount of complimentary mail *The Sextant* receives

via its email address. Admittedly, we only received two letters this semester, but I'm sure that fact shocks you just as much as it did us. Also, it's a lot of fun to put your picture in the paper for no apparent reason.

Finally, it's also a great experience to put on your resume. I recently applied for a job with Hewlett-Packard and one of the questions asked whether or not I was ever an editor of a student newspaper.

Since the definition of newspaper does not limit it to multi-page publications, I was able to respond in the affirmative and further exaggerate my past experiences.

If you are interested in any position with *The Sextant* for the upcoming winter term, we ask that you write us a letter explaining why you would be the best choice for the job.

Regular readers will know that we like to keep things light and humorous, so we'd really appreciate applications that are in the same vein. Alternatively, you could go the route of "professional journalism" but that would be like trying to sell birth control to an electrical engineer. Needless to say, this position is only open to students who take classes at Sexton Campus. Please send all applications by December 9th to:

Mr. Alexander B. MacDonald, ESQ.  
King of Recruiting, The Sextant  
sextant@dal.ca

As you pretend that Green Day's "Good Riddance" is playing in the background, I'd like to say that it's been a pleasure to write these articles for you while not once being accused of libel, insensitivity, or T-Room bashing.

I wish you all the best of luck during exams, unless you're in my class, in which case I wish you a full letter grade less luck than me.

## For Pete's Sake

PETER WHITE  
Editor-in-Chief

This is it. My final edition of *The Sextant*. But instead of crying, like I do during most things in my life, I thought it might be a better idea to reflect on all that we at *The Sextant* have accomplished over the last few months. This might be a short article.

When I first took over this little publication known as *The Sextant*, I dreamt big. I had visions of creating a widely read, respectable, downright brilliant, weekly paper. When I was younger I also dreamt of becoming a pro baseball player. Neither one came true. Regardless, I and my team of merry idiots did manage to put out something every week and I'm not even ashamed of most of it. I'll also have you note that most of the band of merry idiots didn't even do any work, but that actually might have helped us.

We at *The Sextant* didn't do anything outside of publishing the paper. For me that is a big regret. We

had some ideas, and some funding to make the ideas happen, but we never got around to getting anything done.

This is pretty disappointing, but I like to look on the positive side: We didn't kill anybody. Nor did we promote child labor or cause irreversible damage to the environment. And reading the *Sextant* is not yet proven to cause cancer. *The Sextant* didn't tackle too many tough issues at Sexton campus. We didn't break any big stories, conduct any groundbreaking interviews, or incite any radical changes in the school.

I like to think however, that we did offer a few at least slightly interesting articles to occupy the time of Sexton students, and maybe even a handful of students from the mysterious land of upper campus. If we did that, than I am satisfied with our performance this year. I have low standards.

When I was 6 years old, and played hockey about as well as a pylon, I was told that the most important thing is that I have fun. I took this approach with *The Sextant* this year.

I'm not a writer, not a journalist,

not even really that literate. But I've entertained myself through the articles that I've written this year. And now that it's over, let's see if I can't get a little sentimental. And use three contractions in a single sentence. Yeah, I definitely have a career in writing ahead of me...

A lot of people would usually thank everyone who took the time to read *The Sextant*. Not me. I'd like to take the time to thank the people who read and liked the articles.

If you didn't like the articles I hope you get heartburn. Nothing severe, just a little discomfort. I'd like to thank my aforementioned team of idiots, some of who tried to help.

I'd like to thank the *Gazette* for continuing to publish our useless drive, no matter how bad it is. And most importantly, I'd like to take this opportunity to make a point of not thanking Dalhousie Sexton campus.

The sub-par facilities and equipment have made for some trying times over the last few years. Thankfully there are some decent people and professors that have made it tolerable. And now, after only 13 issues, my career as Editor-in-Chief is over and if you're lucky, you'll never hear from me again.



Remembering the Massacre

On Dec. 6, 1989, Marc Lepine walked into l'Ecole Polytechnique in the early evening carrying a high-powered rifle. He began shooting. Fourteen young women were killed. Thirteen other people were injured. Then he killed himself, and left behind a note that said feminists had ruined his life. The shooting horrified the nation and has come to symbolize violence against women.

Please take the time to reflect and remember this horrible incident.

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Dal 1 St. FX. 4

**Women's volleyball**  
Dal 3 UNB 0  
Dal 3 UdeM 1

**Men's Volleyball**  
Dal 3 UNB 0  
Dal 3 UdeM 0

**Women's basketball**  
Dal 49 SMU 59  
Dal 64 Acadia 52

**Men's basketball**  
Dal 55 SMU 70  
Dal 64 Acadia 55

**VARSITY RESULTS**

## Varsity Report

### Tigers off to a good start in the first half

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

With exams on the horizon, the first-half of the AUS season has ended. The soccer and cross-country seasons are finished until next year while hockey, basketball and volleyball have reached the halfway mark.

Here's a breakdown of the Dalhousie sports teams:

**Soccer:**

The women's soccer team finished second in the regular season with six wins, one loss and six ties. The team came up a bit short of its goal of going to CIs as the women lost in the AUS semi-final to the Cape Breton Capers. Leah Kutcher and Melanie Clarke received first-team all-star honours and Leanne Huck and Angela Donato received second-team all-star honours.

The men's soccer team finished third in the regular season with seven wins, three losses and one tie. The team made it to the AUS final but lost to St. Mary's 7-2. At the time, the men were playing their third game in as many days and were both physically and mentally drained. They played their best game of the season the day before against UPEI and won 3-0. Simon Richardson received first-team all-star honours and Jarreau Hayward received second-team all-star honours.

**Cross-country:**

The women's cross-country team finished second at the AUS championship just behind St. FX.

The team wasn't expected to be that strong this year and surprised a few people across the country. They finished 10th at the CIS Championship hosted by Dal held at Point Pleasant Park. Janice Ashworth won the silver medal at the CIs and has been selected Dalhousie's athlete of the week several times.

The men's cross-country team had its best season in recent years. Big things were expected and the team delivered. They won the AUS championship and finished fifth at the CIS Championship with several runners posting personal bests. Paul Chafe won the bronze medal at CIs and has been selected Dalhousie's athlete of the week several times.

The hockey, basketball and volleyball teams have all reached the halfway point.

The men's hockey team is off to a slow start with a 2-13 record, but with the talent the team has, these Tigers should be able to turn it around in the second half. The women's team has a 10-5 record and is expected to contend for the AUS banner.

The men's volleyball team has a 9-1 record and sits in first place, while the women have a 7-1 record and are in second. Both teams are favourites to AUS and are playing several out-of-conference matches to better themselves for the CIs.

The men's and women's basketball teams have each played five games and have identical records of 3-3. With only six games played, it's difficult to get an accurate reading of how the year will unfold.

## Canada's World Junior Hockey team aims to win gold on home turf

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

The puck drops on Dec. 26 for the 2005/2006 World Junior Hockey Championship held in Vancouver, B.C. Team Canada hopes to repeat as gold medalists in front of its hometown fans and all of the team's games have been sold out for over a year.

Most of the players that helped capture gold in Grand Forks, N.D., last year are too old and have moved on to professional hockey. With a team of new and inexperienced players, it will be an uphill battle for Canada to win the championship.

The only returnee is defenceman Cam Barker. Barker, a Chicago Blackhawks first-round draft selection, had a solid tournament last year and will be looked upon to anchor the blue line.

There is a possibility that NHL rookie sensation Sidney Crosby could suit up for his country. Crosby is only 18 years old and is still eligible for the tournament; however, Crosby has 28 points in 23 games with the Pittsburgh Penguins and it's highly unlikely that he'll be in the Team Canada line-up.

With only one returnee on this year's squad, this could mean that more players from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) could be in Vancouver this holiday season. Only two or three players from the QMJHL have been on each

of the last two Team Canada World Junior editions.

Guillaume Latendresse from the Drummondville Voltigeurs will likely make this year's team. Latendresse, a Montreal Canadiens draft pick, has 27 points in 20 games with the Volts. The speedy forward had an excellent training camp with Montréal. He was the last player cut from the team — the coaches thought it best for the young 18 year old to play another season in major junior.

This past week, when the QMJHL All-stars battled the Russians Selects, Latendresse dominated in both games with two goals and an assist in each. Latendresse has a physical dimension to his game and he's not afraid to punish opponents with some big hits.

Besides Latendresse, fellow Quebec Leaguers Luc Bourdon, Alex Bourret and Julien Ellis all have a shot at making the team. All three players attended the Team Canada World Junior summer evaluation camp and also played for the QMJHL All-stars this past week.

Bourdon, a defenceman with Val D'or, will benefit from the high turnover from last year's defensive core. Bourdon really impressed the Vancouver Canucks coaching staff at Vancouver's training camp in September, so much that he was invited to attend the main camp with the NHL superstars.

Alex Bourret from the Shawinigan

Cataracts has 35 points in 27 games. He scored a highlight goal in a game against the Russian Selects and his offensive touch could come in handy.

Julien Ellis is one of the top goaltenders in the QMJHL. He sports a 12-6 record and 2.93 goals against average with Shawinigan. The QMJHL is known for great goaltenders. In recent years, former Quebec Leaguers Marc-Andre Fleury and Olivier Michaud have been between the pipes for Team Canada, which may play to Ellis' advantage.

There's also an outside chance that James Sheppard and Ryan Hillier could make the club. The two forwards are having great years with the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles and the Halifax Mooseheads. Both played for the QMJHL All-stars, but at 17 years of age, they'll likely see their first World Junior action next year.

In addition to the QMJHL, the OHL and WHL will be well represented at the World Junior tournament.

In goal, Carey Price, Montréal's first-round selection in 2005, is an excellent candidate for the starting position. Marc Staal, Ryan Parent and Scott Jackson should join Cam Barker on defence and up front, Cody Bass, Steve Downie, Benoit Pouliot and Wojtek Wolski should lead the offensive attack.

The World Junior Hockey Championship runs from Dec. 26, 2005, to Jan. 5, 2006. Tune in to TSN for all the action.

## Half time: the Ambush reflects on the fall term

JESSE MIGHTON  
Ambush President

At the start of the school year, we, the Ambush, Dalhousie's booster club expected to see a huge increase in fan support at Dalhousie varsity games. One thing we have learned is that change comes slowly, but things are headed in the right direction.

Currently, the Ambush has 94 members comprised of students, alumni, faculty, and athlete's family members. Given the size of our school, this may seem like a small number, but we choose to look at it more optimistically. These 94 individuals represent an accurate cross-section of the Dal community. We have international students, Halifax locals, varsity athletes and armchair athletes, professors and students. On this level, the Ambush has succeeded in bringing people together for a unified cause.

We realize that not everyone will be a "die-hard" fan even within our organization, but the more like-minded people we can unite under

a common banner, the better the results will be in the long run.

One of the best outcomes that we have seen in this first semester has been fantastic cooperation from a number of university groups that are all onboard for our ongoing goal.

The sports marketing and development department has been essential to everything the booster club has done. This department's generous support of energy and resources has allowed us to try some new things at games, as well as to form new means of event promotions around campus.

The DSU has also been an important partner as far as giving the Ambush the means to operate as a society, and hopefully some support in the near future for bringing some of our bigger and better ideas to life.

The most important thing this society can take away from this semester is a wealth of knowledge about the Dal community and what it takes to make things happen at this school. I wholeheartedly refuse to believe that Dalhousie's students are apathetic about their school. Rather, I know

that people need to be convinced of the merits of an activity before they will attend. This tells us that more efforts have to be made on a promotional level leading up to games, and at the games themselves. Varsity sports are already a very entertaining product, but we can do more to make the events themselves more of a spectacle.

We have two initiatives coming up in the beginning of next semester that we hope will address this issue.

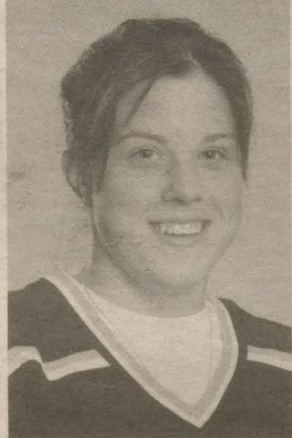
Ambush Radio will debut on CKDU-FM 97.5 in January.

The show will bring varsity news and interviews to the airwaves. We're also in the process of developing an interactive website that will be both an information forum on upcoming events, and also a place where Dal sports fans can share their thoughts and opinions.

Another event that I'm excited for is our residence promotion campaign that will kick off before the end of this semester and will definitely become a large part of all the Ambush's future endeavors.

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**FEMALE ATHLETE**



**JAYNE KNOWLES**  
HOCKEY

Jayne Knowles chipped in two goals and an assist this weekend as the women's hockey team finished its final weekend of the fall term with three points. On Friday, Knowles kick-started the Tigers' comeback against St. FX, when she connected on a beautiful cross-ice pass to narrow the score to 3-2. The Tigers and X-Women finished with a four-all tie. Knowles finished the game with a +2 rating and led the Tigers with four shots on net. On Sunday, she showed explosive speed as she counted one goal and one assist in the 7-4 victory over Mt. A. Again, Knowles led the team in shots on goal with six and finished with another +2 rating. Knowles is a first-year kinesiology student from Windsor, N.S.

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# Dalendar

[dalendar@dalgazette.ca](mailto:dalendar@dalgazette.ca) / [classifieds@dalgazette.ca](mailto:classifieds@dalgazette.ca)

## DALENDAR

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

### Thursday, December 1

**John Elmer on Israel's Disengagement: a View from Gaza**  
7 p.m. @ Ondaatje Auditorium, McCain Bldg.  
Info: [www.freepalestine.ca](http://www.freepalestine.ca)

### Exam Study Space in the DSU

The DSU will be pleased to offer students study space during the exam period. The gates of the food court will stay open until the building closes. All students are welcome.  
Starting 12:00 p.m. @ Killam Library  
Info: [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)

### Saturday, December 3

**Los Flamencos**  
9:30 p.m. @ Stayner's Wharf Pub and Grill  
\$5 cover

### Sunday, December 4

**Jazz Vespors with prayer, spoken verse,**

### art and live jazz

7 p.m. @ First Baptist Church, Halifax  
Info: [www.firstbaptisthalifax.org](http://www.firstbaptisthalifax.org)

### Monday, December 5

**Dalhousie Tea Drinkers' Society Christmas Tea Party**  
8:00 p.m. @ Room 303, SUB  
Free

### Tuesday, December 6

**Pay what you can Yoga class**  
11:30 a.m. @ SUB 224  
Info: [dwg@dal.ca](mailto:dwg@dal.ca)  
**16th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre**  
Candlelight Memorial Service  
5 p.m. @ Student Alumni Lounge, Sexton Campus  
1360 Barrington Street

### Wednesday, December 7

**Blood donation**  
1-3 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. @ McInnes Room, SUB  
Bring ID  
Info: [www.bloodservices.ca](http://www.bloodservices.ca)

### Thursday, December 8

**Dal Medical Students for Choice Dessert Buffet Fundraiser**  
All you can eat dessert buffet and live music  
8 p.m. @ Tupper Cafeteria  
\$10  
Info: [dalmsfc@dal.ca](mailto:dalmsfc@dal.ca)

### Sunday, December 11

**Feed Nova Scotia presents It's a Wonder Life**  
1 p.m. @ Oxford Theatre  
\$5

### Thursday, December 29

**Rod Shoveller Memorial Men's Basketball Tournament**  
The Rod Shoveller Memorial Basketball Tournament is a premiere national regular season CIS men's basketball tournament. This year it will feature teams from SMU, St. FX, UNB, Brandon, Lakehead, McGill, Concordia and the host Dalhousie Tigers. Runs until December 31.  
For ticket pricing and more info contact John Campbell (902) 494-2738.

### Thursday, January 6

**Lecture: Science does not need God — or does it?**  
A critique of the intelligent design movement by Rev. Dr. George V. Coyne, Director of the Vatican Observatory  
7 p.m. @ Scotiabank Auditorium, Sobey Bldg. SMU  
Free

**Snowflake invitational varsity swimming**  
12:00 p.m. @ Dalplex  
Info: [athletics.dal.ca](http://athletics.dal.ca)

## CLASSIFIEDS

Send your classifieds to: [classifieds@dalgazette.ca](mailto:classifieds@dalgazette.ca)

**Have the summer of your life** at a prestigious coed sleepaway camp in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, 2 1/2 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 posi-

tions also available. Great salaries and perks. Plenty of free time. Internships available for many majors. On-campus interviews on Jan 19th. Apply online at [www.islandlake.com](http://www.islandlake.com). Call 800-869-6083 between 9 and 5 eastern time on weekdays for more information. [info@islandlake.com](mailto:info@islandlake.com).

**HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development** needs a Marketing Coordinator for a full-time contract position. Applicant must be EI eligible. Application, Deadline: December 5. EMAIL FOR DETAILS: [home-place@heartwood.ns.ca](mailto:home-place@heartwood.ns.ca).

**YOUR C+ WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** do you need help or editing to get an a+? I'm a retired english teacher with competitive rates. Call or text message me @ 802-8012.

**Moving away and discarding detritus that has gathered in my apartment over the past 3 years:** Large bin of computer/graphic design related textbooks: from Flash programming to Basic typography, neatly contained in a large tupperware bin for eash transport. Some kitchen appliances: an indoor grill, coffee makers, etc. E-mail [lc@root-studios.com](mailto:lc@root-studios.com) for full list and prices.



- Don't like something in the paper?
- Have a need for a creative outlet?
- Want your voice heard?
- Want to be part of something and/or meet new people?



- Give you a public outlet
- Nurture your talents
- Give you something to do with your time
- Socialize your ass (figuratively)

How does this amazing relationship work? Well, you have several options: 1. E-mail us at [info@dalgazette.ca](mailto:info@dalgazette.ca) and ask for more information; 2. E-mail a section editor (above) and pitch a story idea; 3. Every Monday at 5:30 p.m. we meet with our current and prospective volunteers. This is your best bet to make a difference or get an assignment. Show up at Room 312 in the Dalhousie SUB. We don't bite, but we might cuss. Sorry mom.

**STUDENT DISCOUNT**  
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Or... Are you here for Both Semesters?  
**7 Month Membership \$179.99** +tax  
[WWW.FITNESSFX.CA](http://WWW.FITNESSFX.CA)

**Chiropractic**  
Dr. Brad Lohrenz  
Robie @ Spring Garden  
Chiropractic Clinic  
Halifax Professional Centre  
5991 Spring Garden Road  
Main Floor  
(1 block from Dal. Campus)  
422-3279  
Dal. Student Insurance  
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# WANTED

## STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

*For a technology & business ADventure!*

Dalhousie Faculty of Computer Science is offering a dynamic and exciting winter evening course exploring the world of entrepreneurial ventures

*If you are a budding entrepreneur, check out —*

**CSCI 2102**

**7:00-8:30PM MONDAY & WEDNESDAY**

*Or call Allan Jost at 494-2509 OR Ed Leach at 494-1816 for more info*



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