

FREE

ISSUE 137-11, November 18th - November 25th

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS '04

## MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

OCTOBER 15, 2004

**EXCLUSIVE  
NEW SURVEY**

**HOW GRADS GRADE  
THEIR SCHOOLS:  
THE INSIDE STORY**

BY ANN DOWSETT JOHNSTON

### DALHOUSIE FOR DUMMIES

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## DALHOUSIE COMES UP SHORT IN MACLEAN'S RANKINGS, AGAIN

**DAVID SUZUKI  
SARAH SLEAN  
WOMEN'S TRACK  
(National Champs)**

**ESL, TAIWAN  
JON BRUHM vs CKDU  
NEO-CON/NEO-HIPPY**

5891 553

485  
14 Nov 4 66

x 36  
12  
+ 58  
19  
57  
19

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22



DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



## DSU Council Meeting

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

### Society Info

#### Society Policy Forum:

In response to a variety of questions and concerns that have arisen as a result of the recently adopted DSU Society Policy we will be hosting a **forum** for interested individuals and societies on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7pm in **SUB 224**.

The **DSU's Legal Counsel** and **Insurer** will frame up the current environment with respect to responsibilities of society leaders, risk management and events/programming, and many of the questions that have arisen out of the implementation of the DSU's new policy, required forms, etc.

#### Society Ratification:

If you are interested in starting a society on campus you can contact Tamara Conrod, Vice-President (Internal) at the DSU Council Office, at dsuvpi@dal.ca or 494-1276. All societies ratified last year must re-ratify. There is **NO** deadline for ratification.

**The DSU gives out \$40,000 in Grants to students and societies each year. Each student is eligible for up to \$100 per semester and each ratified society is eligible for up to \$1000 per semester. For more information, contact Tamara Conrod, DSU VP (Internal) at dsuvpi@dal.ca.**

### Tiger Patrol

The DSU, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, provides students with a free shuttle service. Check out the schedule and routes online at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) > Our Services > Tiger Patrol.

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THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 25

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Psychic

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FREE

5:30 PM

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1

9:00 PM

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 2  
**The Village**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 2

RING OF FIRE

7:30 TO 9:00PM

HOT WING EATING CONTEST

FIRST SEMESTER LAST CLASS BASH with DJ W  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 LIVE MUSIC



# Editorial

Quentin Casey  
Editor-in-Chief

It must be November: the trees are bare of leaves, we have been hit with our first winter storm, stores are shamelessly promoting holiday shopping weeks in advance and Dalhousie is once again near the bottom of the *Maclean's* university survey.

It has truly become an annual November tradition to pick up a copy of *Maclean's* and find Dal near the bottom of the academic totem pole. For the second straight year we are ranked 13 out of 15 in the Medical-Doctoral category against similar universities that offer a broad range of PhD programs, research opportunities and a medical school.

This year we again beat the universities of Calgary and Manitoba, while the top three positions were, as usual, captured by powerhouses UofT, McGill and Western.

In theory, the *Maclean's* survey serves a legitimate purpose and has some redeeming qualities: it offers one of the only means of comparing universities in this country and in many ways forces Canadian schools to be competitive. It keeps a fire under the arse of universities and helps them improve their own campuses.

But at the end of the day, the *Maclean's* results are insignificant because the majority of Canadian universities, particularly those in the Medical-Doctoral section, are separated by such a slim margin of difference.

Not surprisingly, most of the survey's categories are dominated by the big dogs: Toronto, UBC, McGill, Western, Alberta and Queen's. But after you slide down past the upper echelon, there is really very little difference separating the middle of the academic fleet.

Sure, one school did win each individual measurement, but in respect to most of the categories,

the margin of defeat is irrelevant. This small degree of separation does not warrant a ranking system. The numbers support this claim.

Let me offer three examples from the Medical-Doctoral survey that illustrate this:

Firstly, in terms of the student body, the survey ranks the number of international students in graduate programs at each institution. *Maclean's* claims that this "acknowledges the benefits such diversity brings to the classroom." The separation between the sixth place school (McMaster) and the tenth place school (Laval) was minimal: the graduate student body at McMaster is comprised of 21 per cent international students, while Laval is made up of 20.3 per cent. Three other schools were within this very slim margin, meaning the difference between five schools in this category was 0.7 per cent of the student body. This represents only a sprinkling of students.

Similarly, in terms of faculty, the category measuring the percentage of full-time faculty with a PhD is indicative of the meager differences between the schools. The separation between the number one school (Alberta) and the fifth-place school (Laval) was a mere 1.1 percentage points. That's a third of the Medical-Doctoral schools separated by a single PhD professor out of every 100 faculty members. Even the total difference between the top and bottom schools is minimal: 98.9 compared to 91.9 per cent.

Finally, in regards to operating budgets, *Maclean's* measures the percentage of total expenditures put toward student services. The separation between Alberta (ranked eighth) and Manitoba (ranked fourteenth) was less than one per cent of their operating budget (4.77 versus 3.93). This essentially means that the bottom half of the universities surveyed

differed in their funding of student services by a trace amount—an amount that would never be detected while attending these institutions.

What this all means is that differences between the universities would go unnoticed in the day-to-day operations of the schools and would be unseen by students. These differences in placement would also appear to be large voids in the results. The school in seventh place is essentially no different than the school in twelfth place, yet one appears much higher in the rankings. This is misleading.

When I interviewed Dal president Tom Traves earlier this fall, he echoed these sentiments regarding the survey. Traves chose a baseball metaphor and likened it to batting averages.

"If the first-place person is hitting .360 and the seventh-place person is hitting .290—that's a big difference," he said.

"But if the difference between first and seventh is .360 compared to .352 there's hardly anything that is different between them. One is going to win the batting crown, but the batter that came in seventh doesn't have to hang his head in shame that he is somehow a lousy hitter, because clearly the result is outstanding and the differences are microscopic. I think that's largely the case with the *Maclean's* survey—they magnify microscopic differences."

There are certainly numerical differences between the many universities, but for the most part the differences are largely insignificant—making the *Maclean's* survey largely insignificant for any purpose other than informing the country that UofT, McGill and Western are better than Dalhousie and Manitoba.

*Maclean's*, tell us something we don't know.

# Gazette

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If you are interested in contributing to the Gazette, feel free to email us your article to: [gazette@dal.ca](mailto:gazette@dal.ca) or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312, Dal SUB.

## INTERACT WITH US

<http://www.dalgazette.ca/forum>

I knew I was acting like an ass when Loukas was telling me to settle down and stop yelling.



## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

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## THIS WEEK'S JOB NEWS

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# Dal 13th in University Survey Once Again

Neal Cody  
Laura Hynes  
Staff Contributors

**M**acleans magazine released its annual Canadian university rankings last week, with Dalhousie placing 13th out of 15 in the Medical Doctoral category for the second consecutive year. The University of Toronto was number one in the category, while the University of Waterloo won the comprehensive category and St. Francis Xavier University was ranked the top undergraduate school.

Dal's ranking has slipped in recent years from ninth in 2001, to eleventh the following year and thirteenth for the past two. Despite this year's low placing, the university is not overly concerned.

"Any areas where the university sees potential to improve, you have to take it seriously," said Jim Vibert, director of Dal Communications and Marketing, "but we're not wringing our hands over it." Vibert believes that Dalhousie's rank reflects more on Maclean's choice of indicators and weights than the university's true standing.

"If we look at other surveys, Dal comes out higher," he said, noting that 95 per cent of students entering Dal have averages above 75 per cent—the highest of any school in the region.

While UofT remained the leader in the Medical Doctoral category for its eleventh consecutive year, it too sees room for improvement. Jessica Whiteside, the associate director of news services for the University of Toronto Public Affairs, sees merit in the use of national surveys because UofT learns and improves based partly on their results.

"We know from the Maclean's exercise and from other surveys that we need to address issues around the student experience, and to that end we have made enhancement of the student ex-

perience the top priority in our new academic plan," she said.

"We believe that UofT's top ranking ... is a reflection not only of the outstanding talent of our students, faculty and staff but of the fact that we prepared well for the double cohort and were able to build on our tradition of excellence in higher education."

This year, Maclean's added a new criterion to its rankings: graduate satisfaction. The magazine polled over 12,000 recent graduates to determine how the education they received has paid off. 91 per cent of Dal graduates rated their entire educational experience as "good" or "very good," though out of all the universities rated, none received less than 90 per cent in this category. Only 29 per cent of Dal students were satisfied with student services on campus, yet 62 per cent would still recommend the school to a friend.

When asked if the university will try to improve its ranking for next year, Vibert said Dal is more concerned with improving quality overall than with boosting a number in a magazine.

**"I don't think it reflects the quality of education. If anything, I think it reflects a lack of government funding."**  
- Curtis McGrath, DSU president

Many students use rankings as important tools in deciding which university to attend. Lina Kiskunas, a second-year chemistry student at UofT based much of her decision on the school's reputation. "UofT is one of the best schools in the country," she said. "We're known for our med program, that's why I'm here."

Other students use the Maclean's review as a method of re-evaluating their decision and considering locations for future study. "We moved up two places and led in three categories," said second-year St. Mary's University student Jason Mackinnon.

Medical/Doctorate		
Rank	University	Last Year
1	Toronto	1
2	McGill	2
3	Western	3*
4	UBC	5
5	Queen's	3*
6	Alberta	6
7	Montréal	7
8	McMaster	11
9	Sherbrooke	8
10	Saskatchewan	9
11	Laval	10
12	Ottawa	12
<b>13</b>	<b>Dalhousie</b>	<b>13</b>
14	Calgary	14
15	Manitoba	15

"St. Mary's is really beginning to show itself as a leading undergraduate university."

Mike Bourgeois, a first-year business administration student at the University of New Brunswick, paid considerable attention to student lifestyle in deciding where to attend. "[UNB] is a school with a lot of spirit, a

lot of facilities for students and a broad range of programs," he said. "I think our ranking [in the comprehensive category] reflects this."

Despite Dalhousie's faltering rankings, DSU president Curtis McGrath doesn't believe students should be worried. "I don't think it reflects the quality of education," he said. "If anything, I think it reflects a lack of government funding." McGrath says he applauds St. FX's success—but that although Dal did okay, it can do better. "[We need to] pay attention, but we don't have to hit the alarm," he said.

# Putting Canadian Universities in Their Place

The woman behind the Maclean's rankings

Laura Hynes  
Staff Contributor

**T**his year's Maclean's university rankings edition hit stores last week, and Ann Dowsett Johnston—the writer who compiled the survey—told the Gazette just why Dalhousie and other Canadian universities placed the way they did.

While Dal ranked thirteenth in the medical/doctoral category for the second consecutive year, the University of Toronto maintained its first-place position for the eleventh year running. During the Gazette interview, Dowsett Johnston emphasized Dalhousie's position as a leader in such categories as class size, but also elaborated on Dal's major disadvantage—funding.

"The funding level in Nova Scotia, given the demand, isn't what it should be," she said. As a direct result, Nova Scotian schools that rely almost wholly on the government "haven't seen a reinvestment in post-secondary education."

"We're currently in the most challenging situation ever in Canadian history," Dowsett Johnston said. "We have the most students ever enrolled all in uni-

versity at once—with the lowest funding ever."

Dowsett Johnston also discussed UofT's continued financial success. "The top ranked university is sitting with an exceptional \$1.5 billion endowment that puts them in a position to make choices individually that have nothing to do with public funding," she said. Thus, during tough times "when government funding isn't steady ... you have a buffer and a fair amount of flexibility." Like Dal, UofT has also taken advantage of government assistance for research.

"[You] have to make choices," Dowsett Johnston said. "Either you crowd classrooms, or don't reinvest in [your] library," but something has to get cut when there isn't enough investment in universities.

Despite Dal's shortcomings, Dowsett Johnston says she respects the school. "Nova Scotia needs Dal in a way that is almost unparalleled. Schools like Dalhousie and Manitoba tend to be institutions that are doing a lot in a region where there literally isn't another competitor," she said. "My feeling would be hats off to Dal and hats off to the universities—it's a challenging job."

# Scoring Education: Are Rankings Wrong?

Neal Cody  
Staff Contributor

**T**he opinion of published university rankings has long been divided—but whatever critics say, these surveys are a lucrative business that doesn't seem to be letting up. Canada's premier post-secondary education review publication—Maclean's 2004 University Ranking—hit shelves in early November and will stay in stores until January,

so copies can be snapped up by knowledge-hungry parents and high school students anxious to know which school is best. University graduates, administrators, professors and students are also interested, wanting to find out how their respective schools did.

"Folks like lists," says Jim Vibert, Dalhousie's director of communications and marketing.

Continued on Next Page...


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DSU council gets jiggy with it. / Photo: David Irish

# DSU Notebook

## Course evaluations killed at latest council meeting

Philip Carpenter  
Staff Contributor

pile a report on a permanent solution by Jan. 31, 2005.

Solemnity was the first order of business at the Nov. 10 meeting of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council, as engineering representative Joe Healey moved that council observe a moment of silence in honour of the Dalhousie students who have served in the military and in other functions during the Korean and World Wars. The silence soon gave way to the noisy bi-weekly business of DSU council.

### DSU's online course evaluations shelved

DSU vice president of education Jill Houlihan explained the DSU Academic and External Committee's decision to temporarily suspend the DSU's online course evaluations, a rarely-used service. Only about half of the DSU student members could use the service because some faculties opted out of participation. The DSU plans to fill the vacant Course Evaluation Commissioner position, and the commissioner will com-

### Council goals analyzed

Council made up a priority list for itself, making DSU constitutional and electoral reviews its top goals. The quality and location of food services on campus came a close third. Notable goals, like internal and external lobbying, received little support.

### Disclosure of insurance policies challenged

Engineering representative Healey asked for "access to information" in his motion to affirm councilors' right to have the DSU's insurance policies "fully disclosed." Debate focused on the details and exact levels of disclosure, despite the general consensus that members of the union should be able to view the insurance policies. Council finally decided that limited copies of DSU insurance agreements should be available within the DSU offices in the SUB.

## Maclean's rankings accurate, says Dal

Continued from Previous Page...

"They sell magazines."

The *Maclean's* rankings are generally seen as the most accurate standings for university education in Canada, but that was not always the case. The list was strongly criticized by university officials when it first appeared in 1991, with critics saying the methodology used in the rankings was flawed and its comparisons unfair.

Dalhousie, however, has no problems with the rankings, even though the university placed 13th out of 15 this year. "No statistical analysis is perfect," says Vibert. "But we don't have any particular problems [with the *Maclean's* survey]. I think the results are accurate in what they're measuring."

*Maclean's* weighs financial information, like a school's operating budget and its financial assistance package, equally with a school's library holdings—essentially saying that finances are as important as library resources.

*The Globe and Mail* began publishing its own rankings of universities in 2002, tabulated using student feedback as the only source. Canadian Business magazine ranks the top MBA programs in the country, annually. In the UK, the *Times* Good University Guide is a must-read, and other countries have similarly themed rankings.

But ranking fever initially began in the United States. Books, magazines and newspapers can tell you everything from the av-

### How Does Dal Match Up?

	Dal	UBC	UofT	McMaster
<b>Maclean's</b> (Medical, 15 ranked)	13	4	1	8 (Tied)
<b>Globe &amp; Mail</b> (38 ranked)	27	30	36	4
<b>Top 500 World</b> SJTU	202-301 (Tied)	36	24	88
<b>Top 200 World</b> THES	<200	46	37	147

SJTU - 2004 Academic Ranking of World Universities, Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China  
THES - World University Rankings, 2004, The Times Higher Education Supplement

erage retention rate of a school, to whether or not it appears on a list of "top ten party schools." The most prominent guide is the *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Colleges Index, which first began ranking in 1983.

"Thousands of American families consult college-ranking publications ... for supposedly objective guidance in choosing the best college education," writes Paul Boyer in his book, *College Rankings Exposed*.

"Yet most education professionals discredit these listings, even those who benefit from their position in these hierarchies of quality." Boyer believes that university rankings are subjective because the criteria and weights they use are arbitrarily selected.

Several groups have recently released world university rankings, most notably the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Both of these lists show Harvard as the number one school in the world, but differ significantly in the ranking of other schools.

In spite of all the criticism surrounding them, Association of American Colleges and Universities president Carol Schneider writes in Boyer's book that university rankings will become more popular as the demand increases for such comparisons. But she warns that students should be careful: "It's like ranking the quality of new cars by collecting the opinions of bystanders who have never driven them."

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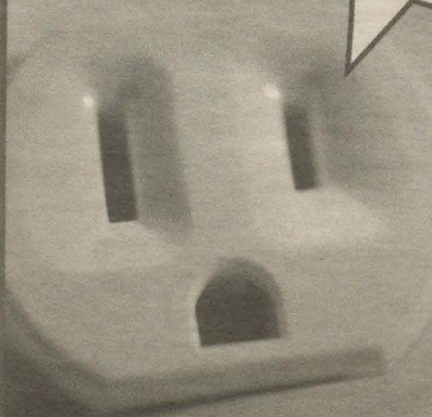


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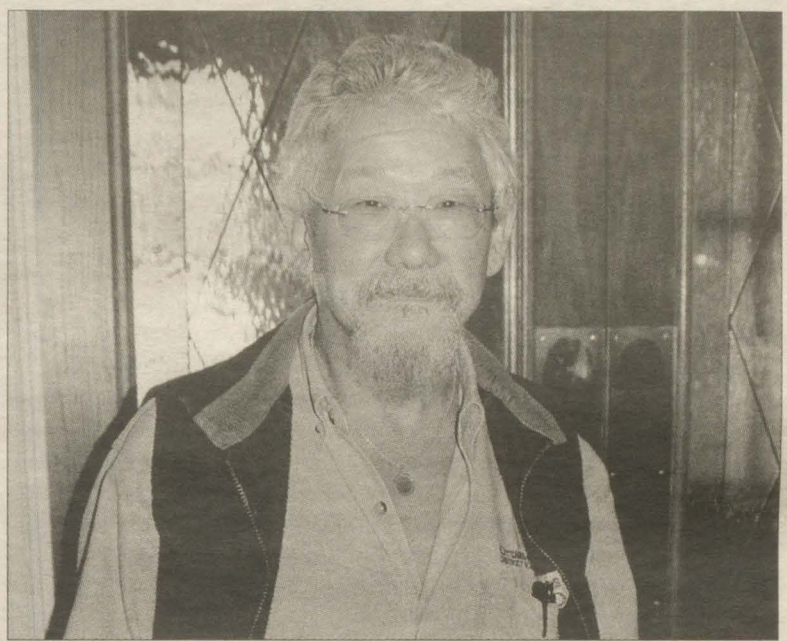
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# The Future of the Environment Through the Eyes of a "Greatest Canadian"

An interview with David Suzuki

Christopher Hobrecker  
News Contributor



David Suzuki, Canadian and scientist extraordinaire / Photo: Christopher Hobrecker

David Suzuki, Canada's celebrated geneticist, environmentalist and television host, was recently named one of CBC's Top 10 Greatest Canadians. But for Suzuki, now 68 and in his 25th year as host of "The Nature of Things," there are more important things to worry about than the "Greatest Canadian" series. Trained as a geneticist, Suzuki has become an advocate for the environmental movement, and he thinks the average North American is suffering from a great disconnect—from nature.

"People ask me, which issue do you think is most important? Is it species extinction, toxic pollution, overpopulation? The reality is that each of these is important, but no one knows which one might take us past the point of no return. I believe, even if we solve all of these issues, that we wouldn't be any closer to being in balance with nature," Suzuki said in a recent interview with the *Gazette*. "The underlying root cause of these problems is the values and beliefs that we cling to. And increasingly we see ourselves disconnected from the real world, and we think that our lives are driven by the economy."

Suzuki's experiences with *The Nature of Things* have crystallized his opinions on this disconnect between individuals and nature. Describing a show he did on asthma, Suzuki explains that when he was growing up in Vancouver neither he nor his parents had heard of asthma. Today, not only does everyone know about it, but many more people have it. Suzuki decided to check out this discrepancy—he waited for a smog alert in Toronto, and then sent his crew to film at an emergency room.

"It was jammed with old people and kids, having severe asthma attacks. The thing that blew me away is that many of the people were brought in sports utility vehicles. And that's when I realized that people driving those cars love their mothers, fathers and kids. They would do anything to save their lives, but they don't connect the fact that... their lifestyle decisions are the very cause of the problem."

According to Suzuki, everyone—SUV driver or not—must become more aware of their simple everyday connections with the environment. "That's the problem we face ... whether it's shopping in a Gap or Roots store or buying a computer or car, all of that comes from the earth in some way ... Nobody wonders what chemicals are in

their shirts," he says. "The crisis is that we no longer see ourselves living in a complex world where everything is connected."

While Suzuki is critical of all disconnected North Americans, he reserves his strongest disapproval for the current U.S. administration, calling President George W. Bush an "eco-terrorist" for failing to address climate change. "In the very process of focusing on terrorism and then denying the reality of climate change, George Bush has become the world's biggest terrorist. Because what he's doing is denying what is scientifically overwhelming, and what role the United States, the largest economy in the world, is playing," he says.

Suzuki says there has never been a serious prime-time science show on any of the major American networks—and that Canadians are more concerned about their environment than Americans.

With *The Nature of Things*, Suzuki hopes to educate Canadians about environmental issues they may have heard of, but don't fully understand. Genetically modified food is one such example: "It's claimed that genetically modified food will feed the world's hungry...[but] that is the biggest bullshit argument I have ever heard." Genetically-modified crops are expensive to grow and an easy way for biotech companies to make profits at the expense of the world's hungriest people, he says.

Water is another pressing environmental issue for Suzuki. "People pay more for bottled water than they pay for gasoline. The answer is not bottled water, it's to clean the goddamn stuff up," he says. "What kind of a country are we, when we have water so polluted that we don't want to drink it? The thing that is shocking to me is that you go to a place that serves bottled water and it's from

France. I don't think France's water is better than ours."

Students may be in the best position to advance Suzuki's causes, which is why he speaks to student newspapers like the *Gazette*. "You're in a milieu in which your minds are being opened up to a universe of ideas and people and things going on. Your brains are ripe—this is fertile ground—and you don't have the investment in the status quo. You're open to revolutionary ideas," he says. Suzuki has been retired from university teaching for a number of years but still considers himself an educator, just using a different medium and reaching a much larger audience.

Even after 25 years, there are many potential episodes left for *The Nature of Things*, and Suzuki thinks he'll be on television for at least a few more years.

"I've wanted to retire for a long time, but I feel this series is really important to Canadians, and I would not want to jeopardize it. I think this show should be on forever. The issues it raises are so fundamental for Canadians, and the most powerful factor that affects us today is science," he says.

In addition to *The Nature of Things*, Suzuki can be seen this week on "The Greatest Canadian," airing on Saturday at 9:00 p.m. The "Greatest Canadian" honour is not lost on Suzuki who, despite the votes of thousands of Canadians, believes he is not worthy of the title.

"I would have been thrilled, delighted to have been in the top 1,000. To be in the top 10, you know Don Cherry's in there, which makes you think about it a bit, but it's a great honour." And for all those who are wondering, Suzuki's greatest Canadian would not be himself, but Canada's father of medicare, Tommy Douglas.



## Remembers "Hell" During Holocaust Education Week

Jenn Casey  
Staff Contributor

Philip Riteman stands to the side of the attentive crowd in the McInnes room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building, away from the spotlights meant to illuminate him. He doesn't want to go on stage.

"I do not like to speak in public," he says in his Polish accent. "But I must, because you need to know that you are living in heaven. I have experienced hell, and your generation needs to know about it so it never happens again."

Riteman is referring to the Holocaust, sometimes overshadowed during traditional Remembrance Day ceremonies. He came to Dal on Nov. 8, as part of Halifax's first-ever Holocaust Education Week, to speak about the horrors he experienced during his four years in concentration camps.

"I had just completed fifth grade. It was 1941 and one million German soldiers surrounded our town," he recalled during the talk, visibly shaken by the memory. "They had guns, we did not. We had never seen guns before. They were just shooting right in the windows."

The soldiers gathered all the able-bodied and forced them to march long distances, periodically shooting prisoners.

"I was so close to one of the men they shot, no farther than 10 feet away," said Riteman. "Sometimes they would force them to dig their own graves and then shoot them in the back of the head so they would fall into it."

He continued telling the story of separation from his family and work in slave camps, revealing horrific and vivid details of events.

"They would kill little innocent babies by throwing them in the air and shooting them," he recalled. "We were forced to clean up the bodies of the piles of dead that accumulated daily. They would burn 20,000 bodies every day."

Among the dead were Riteman's parents, five brothers, two sisters, his grandparents, nine uncles and aunts, and numerous cousins. He found out the gruesome details firsthand, because he arrived at the camp where they had been killed a week later.

"I will never ever understand how a human could do this to another human," he said, crying.

Watery eyes could be seen throughout the crowd—and this reporter was not exempt.

One audience member asked how he escaped.

"There was no escape. Death was your only escape," he said, shaking his head. "I for some reason managed to live through it all and was liberated by American troops."

"They gave me a banana and I didn't know what to do with them," he recalled, finally laughing. "I had never seen one, so I just chomped down without peeling it."

About a month after being freed from the hands of the Nazis, Riteman found out he had extended family in North America. One of his aunts had immigrated to Newfoundland before the war and wanted to bring him there. That's how he ended up in Canada.

"We're living in the best country in the world," he said. "Most of us don't even know it."

In closing, he repeated his valuable message to young people: "Teach your children to love, never hate. Your generation needs to stop this from ever happening again."

## Indemnity Form Takes Criticism From All Sides

Philip Carpenter  
Staff Contributor

Opponents of a controversial DSU indemnity form have begun a petition calling for a DSU general meeting to debate the policy.

The petition is just one of many recent attacks on the form, which all societies must sign—meaning that their individual members incur all costs stemming from violations of the DSU society policy's risk management provisions.

Jess Abramson of the Dalhousie Women's Centre is an ardent supporter of the petition, because she disapproves of the indemnity form and the lack of democratic process surrounding it.

"The indemnity form is neither part of the society policy nor part of the [DSU] constitution and it hasn't been voted on by council," she said.

With more than a hundred signatures already, the petition is "ready to go next term," said to Laura Boswell, vice-president external of the Law Students Society. She is wary of calling a general meeting this term, because it would likely be held around exam time.

DSU vice-president internal Tamara Conrod declined comment on the petition, saying she had not yet seen a copy.

At the Nov. 10 DSU council meeting, engineering representative Joseph Healey leveled new legal criticisms against the indemnity form. Calling it a "legal contract" between society officers and the DSU, Healey argued there was inconsistency with the use of the terms "directors" and "officers."

Healey pointed out that the form could victimize many society members. "[The form] puts the onus on people to defend themselves," Healey said at council. He suggested specifying

Healey concurred. "[The society policy] does not require the indemnity form nor at any point was an indemnity form submitted to the process of ratification to council," he said. Boswell's suggestion was defeated in a vote.

Another attack on the indemnity form came on Nov. 12, with the Dalhousie-King's Conservatives society submitting a lengthy application to the DSU Judicial Board arguing that it is outside the jurisdiction of the DSU to impose the indemnity form on

**"The indemnity form is neither part of the society policy nor part of the [DSU] constitution and it hasn't been voted on by council."**

**- Jess Abramson, Dalhousie Women's Centre**

that only people who "administer, authorize or promote" activities should be held responsible for violations. This wording is in contrast to the current document, which holds responsible "officers who knowingly consent to such failure [to abide by the risk management provisions], or are willfully blind" to breaches of the society policy.

At the meeting, Boswell moved that all societies whose ratification had been deferred because of indemnity form issues be ratified under the Society Review Committee's report to council. Engineering representa-

member societies. Neither the DSU nor the Dalhousie-King's Conservatives could be reached for comment.

The DSU executive is planning an information forum on Dec. 2 for society officers in an attempt to quell mounting opposition to the indemnity form. The forum will include the DSU's legal counsel and insurer. "People still have questions and would like to have them answered in a satisfactory manner," said Conrod. The DSU forum for society officers on the indemnity form will be held on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in room 224 of the SUB.

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## Border Crossing Returns After "Screw-Up On Many Sides"

Jennifer Morrison  
News Editor

CKDU radio jockey Jon Bruhm, host of *Border Crossing*, will be back on the air Nov. 19 after serving a four-week suspension for a profanity-laden interview on his show. The station is now admitting that Bruhm's punishment was poorly handled and is implementing a new policy to deal with such incidents in the future—but Bruhm is still frustrated.

"My nose is clean, and I think that the situation should have been handled with more sensitivity and courtesy," said Bruhm in a recent interview with the *Gazette*.

After CKDU received several complaints during Bruhm's Oct. 15 on-air interview with controversial glam rocker Robin Black, the station's board of directors, composed of programmers and a staff member, decided to suspend him. But because there was a delay between the dissolution of last year's board and the creation of a new board at the Oct. 27 annual general meeting, Bruhm didn't find out he was suspended until Oct. 22, only a few hours before his show.

"It was an administrative problem," said Shelley Robinson, CKDU station coordinator.

Bruhm appealed his suspension within 48 hours, but an appeal meeting was not held until the beginning of November when the new board was in place. "I wasn't even invited to the meeting, I had to crash it," said Bruhm. "They made me sit outside while the people who knew what it was about told the people who didn't know. So they force-fed them their opinion of the situation."

Bruhm had no written documentation of his suspension until several days after the appeal meeting, when he received one letter explaining his suspension and two letters of apology.

Despite Bruhm's complaints, Robinson said there was nothing out of ordinary about the appeal meeting. "It's a standard procedure for discussions in camera," she said of the fact that Bruhm wasn't officially invited. She add-

nians' sex habits and more. Even though he had told Black several times in advance to keep things clean, Bruhm admitted that he "should have done more to steer the interview away" from Black's potentially offensive comments.

"I do understand that the station wants to set an example and show other programmers that it's not okay to do that. But to show the other programmers by completely screwing one of their own

**"My nose is clean, and I think that the situation should have been handled with more sensitivity and courtesy."**

- Jon Bruhm

ed that his situation was high on the agenda nonetheless.

The board decided to split what happened into two separate incidents—the interview itself and CKDU's response.

"It totally didn't get dealt with appropriately, but the suspension was upheld because of the content [of the show]... At the core, you can't talk about process without talking about what started it," Robinson said. She said Bruhm's show violated CRTC rules, Canadian broadcast standards and CKDU's mandate, which aims to promote alternative views while remaining open and welcoming.

Bruhm thinks the station's handling of his suspension cannot be separated from his show. "That's kind of like a crime happening and the police detective work afterwards being fumbled, and that not being taken into consideration at the court case. You can't split the two up because they both matter," he said.

During the contested interview, Robin Black talked about transvestites, gay people, Haligo-

is not the best way to do that," Bruhm said.

In response to Bruhm's situation, CKDU is developing a new policy to deal with questionable programming, hopefully to be finalized at an early December programmers' meeting. The station wants to avoid more "train wrecks" like Bruhm's in the future, said Robinson. "I think it's really important that things have context. This isn't coming from out of nowhere and random censorship. Because CKDU has a lot of freedoms and responsibilities, we have to protect them," she said.

Aside from the Robin Black interview, Bruhm is a vital part of CKDU, Robinson said. "Jon has done a lot for the station, and we will have no problems with his show if it stays within the confines of the rules."

After what he calls a "screw-up on many ends," Bruhm is preparing for his "comeback special" with Slowcoaster, airing Nov. 19. "It's bittersweet," he said, but "what it all boils down to, I do the show because I love it." He is planning to resume a peaceful coexistence with his fellow CKDU-ers.

"I'm going to do my best to let it go. All I wanted from the get-go, the reason why I kicked up this stink, is because I wanted my show back."

## Dal Student Awarded for Innovation and Leadership

Katie Maskell  
Staff Contributor

In busy university life, we don't often encounter students who step outside their academic bubble to help others. But this is just what Melissa "Capp" Larsen has done.

A second-year student at Dalhousie, Larsen was recently awarded Labatt's Future Leaders Award for Atlantic Canada in acknowledgment of her work at the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service—which included working with lower-income tenants' legal rights.

Labatt's People in Action (LPIA), the organization that introduced this award, assisted with the development of Larsen's and countless other summer employment opportunities. LPIA began in 1977, and has since received millions of dollars in investments. The program encourages students to create their own summer jobs, working with registered charities and developing skills that will later be applicable in the working world.

"People in Action is for students across Canada," says Irene Lane, public relations manager of Labatt Breweries of Atlantic Canada. "It provides them with the opportunity to create and execute their own projects to work with charities," she says, adding that students' projects work both ways, helping them and the registered charities they work for.

Larsen's work at the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service over this past summer consisted of creating a public awareness program geared towards the rights of tenants and landlord-tenant laws, particularly for individuals in the low-income bracket. She also developed an in-depth "Guide to Rental Housing in Nova Scotia" and she initiated a public information session on tenant's rights, which has evolved into a local tenants' right group.

"The first thing I did was

make a tenant rights guide, putting into plain language what the rights of tenants are," she says.

Affordable housing is a relevant issue in Nova Scotia, and for Larsen. "The situation for tenants is quite bleak. There's no rent control, if you haven't lived somewhere for five years you can be evicted for no reason,"

**"She did a phenomenal job while she was here. We now have a great publication and workshops based on her work. She really sparked some good action down here."**

she says. "The lack of affordable housing makes it really hard for people to be able to secure housing, and if people know what their rights are they'll have a better chance at actually keeping their [homes]."

"Capp came to us," says Megan Leslie, a supervisor at the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service who worked with Larsen over the summer. "She really wanted to work in tenants' rights. She did a phenomenal job while she was here. We now have a great publication and workshops based on her work. She really sparked some good action down here."

Larsen just returned from an all-expenses-paid trip to Toronto where she attended a summit along with three other LPIA students from Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada chosen from the 130 students involved in the program. At the summit, Larsen received her Future Leaders Award and a \$1,500 scholarship.

As for the goals of the LPIA program, Larsen plans on putting her skills to use in the workforce. "I'm not interested in going into law," she says, "but I'm interested in doing advocacy work and working on anti-poverty issues. I found that this was a particularly pertinent [issue] because of the state of housing."

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## The FCC

Presiding over a country that has aired *Braveheart* totally uncut on more than one occasion and in which semi-graphic "reality" shows like *COPS* go on broadcasting unabated—has decided Stephen Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* should be kept off U.S. airwaves... despite the fact the movie has been shown before, in the exact same time slot, on the exact same network, for

three years running. *Saving Private Ryan* is violent—but "excessive violence" hardly applies. All that WWII gore has a purpose. It's reality. It's been forgotten. But apparently an informed reality is too much for American audiences—better let them simply watch *COPS*. — C.L.R.

**Vent** (Chris LaRoche, Loukas Crowther)

## Personal Responsibility

Someone needs to explain to me how a certain fast-food restaurant in this city has actually been held responsible for a teen climbing on top of its roof, falling through the gap between it and another building—and the resulting injuries. Is every building in the city going to need a warning label on its roof now? Hey, answer the door: I think *common fucking sense* is knocking. — L.C.

## White Juan Redux

How exactly did I miss this crazy storm that knocked out power all over the province? Airports were closed, roads blocked and the snow outside my house barely went past the sole of my sneaker. Perhaps living downtown and retaining my news media blackout has left me out of the loop on some matters. — L.C.

# Neo-Cons and Neo Hippies

Carter Smith  
Opinions Contributor

Like four out of five of my fellow Canadians, I was pretty discouraged with the results of the American election. The same questions most of us ask about W. and the American voters in exasperation have since been analyzed ad nauseum: why do Americans think it was smart to oust Saddam? What the #\$\$%^ about the WMF'ingDs? And, as Britain's *Daily Mirror* put it: "how could 59,054,087 people be so dumb?"

The open-minded four-fifths of Canada have been politely demanding answers for months. But these once pertinent questions are now fruitless. Barring a high-profile sex scandal, the Bush II regime is here to stay until January '09 at least. Actually, this administration could probably survive even a sex scandal: Karl Rove would blame the liberal media, Cheney would blame Clinton, Rumsfeld would blame Syrian extremists, W. would blame activist judges, and "values voters" between L.A. and New York would blame homosexuals. Regardless, most Canadians (and the 56 million who voted against Bush) will have to resign themselves to the fact that W. and fighting in Iraq are here to stay. Fortunately for the lingering vestiges of our youthful idealism, we won't have to confront our boy Johnny K. playing lead hawk, "hunting down and killing" Iraqi insurgents.

Yesterday some longhaired beardo invited me to a rally in protest of the ongoing American assault on Fallujah. Had our boy Kerry been elected it would have



The neo-hippies of today must realize a huge portion of Iraqis and Middle East residents welcome the often ham-fisted implementation of U.S. policy.

been really embarrassing if we were called to march around Halifax shouting those lame cheers, eating all that granola and flashing posters with those clever slogans ("WMD: Wanker and Mean Democrat," or "WWND? [What Would Naomi [Klein] Do?]") That would have been strange. But, Kerry was the pre-eminent advocate of purging Fallujah of insurgents during campaigning. To turn on him after those nine months together would have been tough.

The bottom line is Iraq will likely be producing garish amounts of casualties for the next several years. The "insurgents" in Iraq are terrorists. They're not Al Qaeda, but they employ tactics worthy of the same wrath. The neo-hippies of today must realize a huge portion of Iraqis and Middle East residents welcome the often ham-fisted implementation of U.S. policy at least as much, and usually more so than a despotic Sunni-led Islamic theocracy (like Iran) or genocide-abetting, "sovereign" state (like Sudan).

It may seem callous for a privileged white Canadian to claim that the impending deaths of hundreds of Fallujians will yield

a positive result. But world politics are always callous. The U.S. does what is best for it, Iraqis will decide which side is best for them, just the same as Canada or France will pursue their own interests. To decide that W. is an anomalous evil mastermind (well... just evil) completely ignores history and serious political realities.

Unfortunately the neo-hippies don't have solutions to the violent, discordant and domineering nature of humans. Seeing two burnouts argue "Phish v. the Dead" will confound even the brightest of this contingent. I would just implore them to think of how much Iraqis will eventually enjoy working at Wal-Mart and watching reality TV.

Think of the simple joys of using oil revenues to buy soccer stadiums instead of palaces, second-rate artillery, and French politicians. It will take at least another decade, and time will tell, but fortunately for Japan, Germany, Israel, Singapore, Korea, etc. the neo-hippies who fashionably and blindly hate W. Bush were either "totally spaced" between 1941 and 1963 or totally ignored, which they mostly ought to be until 2008.

# I, T-Dot Confessions of a Torontonian

Jenny Cooper  
Staff Contributor

If there is one thing that I am ashamed of, it is my heritage. No, I am not talking about my family background *per se*, but more so where I was born and bred. I am one of those people the rest of the population of the Atlantic loves to hate. My name is Jenny and I am from Toronto.

I am not referring to Ajax, Mississauga or Hamilton, but in the center of the craziness at Yonge and St. Clair. So there is no way around it, I cannot even give one of those "half outside of Toronto" bullshit answers. It has been hard to come to terms with, but it is something I am learning to deal with on a daily basis.

You see, I have come to realize that making friendly fun of Newfoundlanders on a National scale is so 1999. Toronto is the new Newfoundland. Whether you like or not, Torontonians have slowly become the butt of everyone's jokes. But really, why the hell not? I do think it's very funny when girls spend hours straightening their hair and then tussle it up in a messy bun... it only makes sense that you should miss a class so that you can perfect this fashionable style.

And sweatpants to class? What could be hotter than sitting in my astronomy class at 11:30 a.m. and getting the privilege of seeing your thong peaking out through those DAL pants you managed to roll down to below your hips? Best of all, when you stand up, that oh-too-tight shirt really accents those saddle-bags you have been acquiring courtesy of those beer

parties in rez. Amongst all the stereotypes, there is one which I have yet to understand. When the hardcore T-Dotters open their mouths, they manage to execute a dialect that only exists in that *Clueless* movie with Alicia Silverstone (otherwise known as "Valley Speak"). I say hats off to all of you who have mastered this linguistic art. Sadly, I have news for you. You aren't from the valley! Yes, Toronto is situated on a very lovely ravine system, but, sorry, it just doesn't piece together. And it makes you sound like a dumbass.

Before I have cell phones thrown at me and Louis Vitton bags mailed to me with death threats and fecal matter enclosed, I just want to reinforce I can say this because I am one of you guys, as much as I hate to admit it. Sorry fellow Torontonians, but we have these stereotypes attached to us for a reason. We are clones that have taken over this city and we are a great source of entertainment for everyone around us. So let's at least not be mean. You don't have to be a Sainly caregiver, but just stop making fun of those who make their living in the fishery industry, any maritime dialect which our fellow Nova Scotians and beyond share, and for the final frickin' time, the anniversary of the Halifax Explosion is not in any way related to the Halifax Pop Explosion. In closing, I would like to point out that I spent two years in Manitoba before coming out to this lovely province, so I feel that somehow that has put me on the slow and painful road to recovery.

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# Streeter

Dalhousie has come in 13th place out of *Maclean's* rankings of the top 15 Doctoral-Medical universities in Canada two years running. How do you feel about choosing to come to Dal?



Dalhousie has the only international business program in the Maritimes. *Maclean's* is just one biased opinion.  
- Josh Furlong, first-year commerce



I knew about the rankings but it wasn't a deciding factor in my decision. Dal has a great reputation for its co-op program.  
- Emma Venters, second-year commerce



I did look at the rankings, but Dal already has international recognition as a great university. So I don't have a problem with the rankings.  
- Jamie Moore, second-year Management and IDS



I just thought it'd be an adventure to come out here and I wanted to come to Halifax. I looked at the rankings and it didn't have an effect on me. I care more for the city.  
- Sandra Nestic, second-year commerce



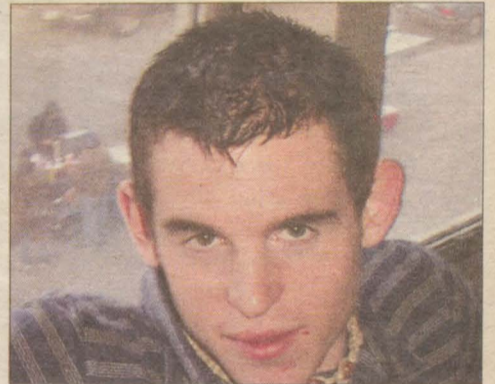
I didn't look at the rankings really. Dalhousie has a good reputation for its commerce program.  
- Robyn Sullivan, second-year commerce



The rankings weren't important to me. The only reason I came here was because it's a good university. And I'm not in med school so I don't care how it ranks in that sense.  
- Liane Khoury, third-year Spanish



I just wanted to come to Halifax, I didn't even look at the rankings. Dal's special because it focuses a lot on research and graduate studies.  
- Ryan Duff first-year commerce

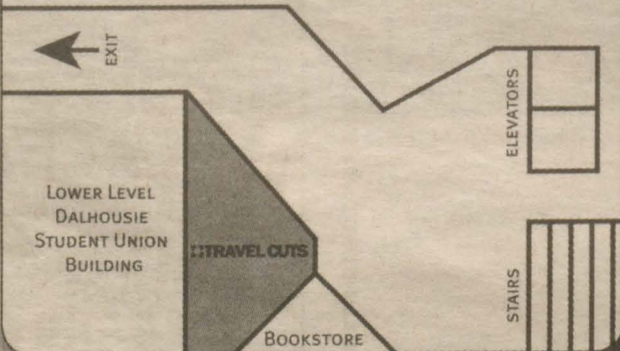


Thirteenth again? It just goes to show that Dal is a weak link on this campus. I am sick and tired of King's students having to carry all the weight around here.  
- Chris LaRoche, first-year O.C. fan

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# Letters

## Re: Art?

Hello.  
I am a student at Dal and have to say one thing, and one thing only, in response to Catherine Cooper's ignorant statement about "Cop with Flowers." Here goes: You mention that "any boob" could have taken the picture, however, "any boob" did not take the photo. The artist took the photo and, as it was their idea, they can take credit for the art. Whether or not you enjoy the art has nothing to do with whether it is, or if it is not, art.

Have a good day,  
Mark Lamovsek

## Misconceptions about the RMC

To the editors of the section in question and the paper as a whole:

I just wanted to let you know that a recent article in the Dal student newspaper was offensive and showed a blatant lack of research and concern for fact-based reporting.

Reid Southwick's recent article "Dal Cadet Reflects on Re-

membrance Day" referred to an education at the Royal Military College as "free." This simply could not be farther from the truth.

As a graduate of RMC and former regular force officer, I was dismayed by this comment and other glaring inaccuracies about the relation of cadets and the cadet "officers" (and I use that term in the loosest possible sense) to

**RMC graduates work demanding jobs, and risk their personal safety on a regular basis so that other Canadians can enjoy many liberties.**

the Canadian Forces (not Armed Forces, as stated in your article). These individuals are officers by name only, and the youth they supervise are in no way, shape or form affiliated with the Canadian Forces.

RMC cadets must serve a minimum five-year commitment following graduation, longer for some occupations. Time spent at RMC is largely taken up by military obligations, sports, school, and other community commitments. Many grads are sent over-

seas for tours in places civilians such as yourselves would not dream of going. RMC graduates work demanding jobs, and risk their personal safety on a regular basis so that other Canadians can enjoy many liberties.

Ex-cadets have died on active duty... the submariner killed most recently was an RMC graduate, class of '95. Was his degree free? I think not. He paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In short, the article in question had a number of inaccurate statements. Be wary of making broad, sweeping statements with no factual basis.

An RMC education is a great many things... "free" is not one of them.

Christine Nault  
Faculty of Law  
RMC class of 2003

## CKDU's actions against Bruhm were uncalled for

Dear Editor,

My condolences and support goes out to Jon Bruhm (see *Gazette* 137:11).

I heard nothing during the

interview with Robin Black that I would consider offensive or that contravenes CRTC regulations as far as I can tell. The (old) CKDU Board of Directors is obviously overreacting, and I find it quite hypocritical and amusing that Jon would be taken off the air when there are shows on CKDU that I consider far more offensive than what I heard in this segment.

Some shows play rap music that use the n-word as a mantra, but there's nothing said about that for instance.

Having been involved in community radio on and off since 1976 and not without controversy myself, I applaud Jon for bringing this scenario to light.

There are two types of CKDU: 1. the CKDU that publicly promotes its diversity and freedom to express itself and 2. the CKDU that no one gets to hear about, the one that dictates morality, is narrow minded and negatively reinforces its programmers through labeling, stigma or 'progressive disciplinary action' and censorship.

If anything, this incident further reinforces the fact that CKDU programmers need some

sort of bill of rights for their protection and defense in situations like this—and that the new

**CKDU is not a bubble: it is community accessible. Ironically, the action against Jon led to less community access.**

Board of Directors needs a more professional and compassionate outlook.

CKDU is not a bubble: it is community accessible. Ironically, the action against Jon led to less community access.

Phil Walling

*We welcome all letters regarding the contents of the Gazette. Please keep letters under 200 words. The Gazette reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and/or clarity.*

*E-mail us at [gazette@dal.ca](mailto:gazette@dal.ca) or use our on-line forum located at [dalgazette.ca/forum](http://dalgazette.ca/forum). Please be sure to sign your name if using the forum.*

*Love us or hate us, let us know what you think.*

# Fire in the Apartment

## One man's story of escape

Reid Southwick  
Staff Contributor

The thought that my life could end at age 22 was a distant one when a friend and I shared a cigarette in his room on Nov 6. But within a few hours a fire had ignited from a smouldering ash lodged in the upholstery of a chair and destroyed everything in the room. In fact, if my friend hadn't aggressively shaken me awake, I would not be alive to tell his story. His name is Philip Edward Harris, and he needs your help.

Phil, 22, spent many of the later hours sitting with his knees to his chin and his hands over his face. "I feel so fortunate to be alive right now," he said through his fingers. "But everything I own is gone."

The flames consumed Phil's stereo, television, digital camera,

bed and nearly every article of his clothing, save a load of laundry that was at my house. But the majority of his coveted hip-hop record collection he started when he was 17, worth roughly \$2,000, is of the worst fatalities.

Phil and his colleague Vijit Ponnaiya in the process of getting their own hip-hop show on CKDU. As there are very few venues in this city where local artists can get exposure, Phil and Vijit would dedicate 20 percent of their airtime to showcase Halifax's own. But now that may no longer be possible.

Earning a \$10 an hour at a call centre on Spring Garden Rd., Phil can hope to replace only a fraction of what he lost. He needs his community to come to his aid at this dire time of need.

The majority of those reading this story most likely share in the impoverished lifestyle of

a student, but donations of any amount could help him get his life back in order. Aside from a healthy serving of good Karma, all contributors will receive an honourable "shout-out" when Phil and Vijit get on the air.

This second chance the powers that be have awarded me has

**The majority of his coveted hip-hop record collection he started when he was 17, worth roughly \$2000, is of the worst fatalities.**

opened my eyes to the brutal danger of having any open flame indoors, and I urge everyone to take your cigarettes outside. Accidents can happen imperceptibly, and it may be too late when they are realized. The entire house along with the connected buildings could have been destroyed with everyone in them.

Smoking can kill on more levels than advertised on the packs.

LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK		WEEKS ON CHART
10	1	<b>T-ROOM TRIVIA ON FRIDAY NIGHTS IS BLATANTLY RIGGED IN FAVOR OF THE DSU</b> We're breaking the story on Triviagate and we're calling for all of your resignations.	7
14	2	<b>MAKING FUN OF YOUR PROF'S THESIS</b> Not a great idea if you want to, uh, pass.	4
3	3	<b>PEOPLE WHO DON'T SHOVEL THEIR SIDEWALKS</b> Deserve to drown in a three-inch pile of slush. Naked.	8
9	4	<b>IF WE FIND SOMETHING THAT SMELLS WEIRD</b> Why the hell do we smell it again just to make sure?	2
1	5	<b>THE INVENTION OF ROBOSAPIEN</b> The ad says that it can even dance... we'll let you figure out what kind of dance it does (duh).	3

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## Gluttony is a Sin?

Welcome to Danté's inferno! The Greenwood is hosts "Ring of Fire" on Thursday, Nov. 18—the biggest hot wing eating competition in the history of Dalhousie. Spin the wheel, Eat, eat, and eat that carnage until you can physically eat no more! It's all going down (and maybe coming back up) from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## The Godfatha of Soul?

James Brown is taking the Metro Centre by storm Thursday, Nov. 25. Apparently the man with the golden eyes senses something special waiting for him in the great North East. He's playing with JACK-SOUL and tickets cost \$53.50. Show starts at 8 p.m. For more info, go to <http://www.halifaxmetrocentre.com/>

## Get Your Paint On?

The Clay Café (Quinpool Rd.) will host musician Jenn Grant this Friday, Nov. 19. But even if she wasn't going to play there, y'all should check out that shizzat. The Clay Café is definitely a cool place to paint and do arts and crafts—and if it weren't, we wouldn't mention it.

## What's Film Without Score?

Would movies even exist if they didn't have soundtracks? No. That's why Symphony Nova Scotia is going all out for a celebration of great movie score composers. "Classic Film Music," the first concert of the Musically Speaking Series debuts this Friday, Nov. 19 the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Show starts at 8 p.m.

Hot Spots

# Life as a Cabin

Songwriter Sarah Slean changes environment and finds a new sense of self

Lindsay Dobbin  
 Assistant Arts Editor

Change in environment can either aid or choke off creativity: the outcome is dependent upon how the artist reacts to that change. The former occurs when the artist surrenders—not the white flag type—to the environment and, in turn, forges a uniquely symbiotic relationship. Canadian songwriter Sarah Slean chose to surrender to the stripped down environment of a cabin in a forest outside of Ottawa and, as a result, created *Day One*—an album laden with ideas of revolution ignited by wonder and awe.

In the summer of 2003m after the success of her major label debut *Night Bugs*, Slean ran for the hills. Literally. Her motivation: to rid herself of the psychological noise that her presently grim world created. With painting tools and a piano by her side throughout the four months, Slean created madly, proving the new environment was the greatest teacher of all. "It was so amazing to me that music came back in such a warm tide," she once said, "and painting just leapt out at me when I stopped struggling."

I recently talked to Slean about her experiences in the cabin and how it changed her perspective of her own identity, the world, and, inevitably, her artistic methods and creations.

You said in a pervious interview that one of your main motivations for going to the cabin was that you were hungry for a teacher. Who and what were your

teachers while in the cabin?

I would change the word hungry to absolutely starving. I also went to the cabin because I felt that all of sudden everything was hilariously meaningless and everything was ridiculous. I thought to myself "why does anyone do anything" and I couldn't shake it. When I got there and I was looking for some direction—some sort of lifeline. I read Eastern philosophy, which had wisdom in it. A lot of Canadian poetry: Leonard Cohen, Michael Ondaatje, Al Purdy. It wasn't any of those in specific; it was being where I was and having a chance to actually devote my energy to them. It was like they were revealed to me because of my environment, and my environment was the greatest teacher of all.

When I spoke to you two years ago, we discussed the many different identities you attach yourself to, in particular the lady in the red dress on the back of *Night Bugs*. You said that you envisioned yourself as her on stage "singing with all your might." Do you feel you have become more close to the centre of that identity after your experiences over the past couple of years and with *Day One*?

With this [album] I cut a little closer to the bone. My whole reason for going to the cabin was to try to carve off some of the costumes that I had put on myself and were basically there for protection, I think. I took the scalpel to it and got some courage to peel some of them off and let who I actually am emerge.

Who did you discover yourself to be outside of those costumes



"It was as if I tossed my eyeballs in the river and gave them a good scrub," says Sarah Slean, of living isolated in a cabin for four months.

and the external things that you thought defined yourself?

I think who I really am is who people really are in the very centre—a piece of this miracle that is life or God or whatever you want to call it. We're all that: this sort of infinite power that is just infinitely good, nameless, and ageless.

Did the cabin experience teach you anything about artistic method?

Although I don't like to carve into details about how I go about making things, I feel like it comes from that place, that black hole... When I stopped fighting, I surrendered and it all came like it was there forever and it was the most amazing feeling.

On *Day One* there was a conscious decision for more rhythm. To me the dichotomy between the rhythm and melody suits the binary themes of the album such as science and faith because the music feels determined and direct, but there is still the vulnerability and wonder of the melody there. How do you feel coupling

the two has changed the delivery and interpretation of your music?

When I sing these songs, the rhythm is right down my spine all the way to my tailbone. I think that some people are accustomed to my older music, and they kind of go "Oh my God" when they see this new show, but I feel like this is an urgent time in history and my tiny insignificant little life I want to express how urgent the need for revolution is—for wonder to return and for people to open their eyes.

From the album title to the papers with "today" written on them to the clock with "now" as each hour, throughout the album artwork I see an emphasis on today and the number one. What is today? What is *Day One*?

The psychology behind that was that I was reversing the "one day" sentiment. It became frighteningly clear to me when I was reading Eastern philosophy, and I was sitting by the trees on my little back porch by myself in my bare feet, that every single

moment is right now. You could completely reinvent yourself in five seconds. You could turn the boat of your life another way. In eastern mentality that's the most glorious and exhilarating faith that everything is happening now and now can cascade past you constantly. That's freedom, not horror. I wanted to embrace that because I was sliding down this path that was making life heavier by the day and as soon I could feel day one in my heart and soul anything was possible.

In the song "Out in the Park," you sing: "What are your hearts and wheelbarrows for?" Could you elaborate on what you mean by that and how it connects to people?

When I used that line I was thinking about all my friends that I consider noble. Most of them have nothing in the eyes of the modern world, which means they don't have enormous bank accounts or homes and cars and husbands and wives, etc. I take great inspiration from people that can step back and say, "my life is a tool." It's about trying to give something to the world that's beautiful before you go and trying to leave a mark in that way. I pictured their revolution as people with big shiny hearts using whatever tools were at their disposal to ignite a revolution.

Sarah Slean plays the same bill as Ron Sexsmith and Nathan Wilely at the Rebecca Cohn on Saturday, Nov. 20. The show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$28.50. Slean's new book, *Ravens*, which consists of her paintings and creative writing, will be available for sale at the show.

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# SuperSex in the SuperCity

## Southern discomfort



Dave Moriné-Wentworth  
Expert

The Deep South, the Bible Belt, Dixie... names for the Southeastern corner of the United States are numerous. An area unlike the rest of North America, the South commonly conjures up ideas of debutante balls and mint juleps. However, underneath this *Gone with the Wind* façade is a society that

usually, one of the biggest double standards comes from a place where size matters most—Texas.

Earlier this month, the Texas Department of Education stamped an approval on changes to the sex education curriculum. These changes were not course based, but related to the mandatory textbook.

This text will undergo two changes, changing the definition of marriage from “between two people” to “a lifelong union between a man and woman”. The average non-Texan would assume that this change in lingo has to do with strong family traditions and resistance against

double that of Canada and the U.K., and nine times the rate found in Holland or Japan. In all, thirteen percent of pregnancies in the U.S. involve teen women and one-quarter of all teenage mothers in the U.S. will have another child within two years. As for sexually transmitted infections, 25 per cent of sexually active American youth will acquire some sort of STI during the course of a single year.

The Bible Belt is beginning to unbuckle.

Despite billboards on the sides of highways that vehemently oppose non-procreative sex—“God Hates Adultery”—there are underground movements springing up in cities from Memphis to Biloxi, Mississippi. In Nashville, progressive women have been starting up SUGAR parties. These events are pro-sexuality gatherings where women can explore and learn about their sexuality from one another. SUGAR welcomes all women, weather they are simply looking to find their clitoris or g-spot, or just looking to spice up their love life with pornography and sex toys.

Suzi Parker, author of “Sex in the South,” because of the area’s high numbers of Christians and the visibility of the church, there is a “cloud of sin” ever-present and Southerners are “always aware of Hell and damnation.” This veil of morality has outlined a culture that enjoys sinning on Saturday and repenting on Sunday. But, as Parker concludes, “guilt feeds into the naughtiness and makes sex all the better!”



### Report Card JazzEast

Date: Thursday, Nov. 11, 2004  
Venue: Stayner's Warf Pub & Grill  
Reporter: Natalie Pendergast  
Photographer: Rafal Andronowski  
Stage Presence: A  
Audience Reaction: B  
Sound: C  
Effort: A-  
Get-It-On-Ability: C+

Jerry Granelli (percussion), Skip Beckwith (bass) and Gene Smith (trombone) offered an ear-pleasing night of jazz at Stayner's Wharf last week that even the least experienced jazz-listeners could appreciate. The cozy booths at Stayner's were filled mostly with seemingly knowledgeable jazz enthusiasts, but to pin any type of stereotypical style on the scene would be difficult. The one thing everyone did share, though, was a common respect for the flawless improvisations of Jerry, Skip and Gene. Sipping on a beerski and saying, “mmm that is some ripe shit, Cat,” to myself made for a relaxed Thursday—an evening that had me tapping my shoes to a mathematical beat the whole way home.

**SUGAR welcomes all women, weather they are simply looking to find their clitoris or g-spot, or if they are looking to spice up their love life with pornography and sex toys.**

lives life large while always being watched by the church. Unique sexual environments like the South's evolve from pre-conceived moral repression; but contemporary belles are now forming underground communities that allow for free sexual exploration in safe and loving arenas.

The operative word for these movements is underground. Not only are more radical forms of sexual expression quieted but also Christian fundamentalist ideology is commonly pushed in sex education courses, despite ongoing double standards. Nat-

same-sex unions. Whatever the motive, it can be constructed as hypocritical: Texas has one of the highest divorce rates in the U.S. whilst course designers still felt the need to use the word life-long.

This supports a widespread Southern convention of sinning on Saturday and repenting on Sunday.

The Texas sex education example can also be applied here as no mention of contraceptives can be found in any of the four approved sex ed. manuals. This is worrisome, considering the U.S. teen pregnancy rate is

## C L A S S I F I E D S

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**WOMEN OF COLOUR GROUP:** meet and chat with other ladies of colour at this informal group. Kickoff meeting—spoken word workshop feat. Shauntay Grant. Join us at the Dal Women's Centre (6286 South St.) Friday Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Info: 494-2432.

**MEN FOR CHANGE MEN'S TALKING GROUP:** join other guys to talk about your concerns with sexism, masculinity, and other men's issues. 7-9 p.m. at the Dal Women's Centre (6286 South St.) Monday Nov. 15. Info: 494-2432.

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## Burn Baby Burn Your Weekly Playlist

An eclectic mix of "Songs to Road Trip to"  
Esther Ives  
Staff Contributor

The White Stripes  
"Seven Nation Army"

Metric  
"Soft Rock Star"

Wilco  
"Jesus etc."

The Shins  
"New Slang"

The New Pornographers  
"All for Swinging You Around"

Jack Johnson (Ben Harper accompaniment)  
"Flake"

Nick Drake  
"Pink Moon"

Xavier Rudd  
"Light and Shade"

Kings of Leon  
"Tahila Sky"

Guns n' Roses  
"Patience"

Van Halen  
"Can't Stop Lovin' You"

A Tribe Called Quest  
"Jazz (We've Got)"

# Neptune's Latest: A Sign of the Times?

Esther Ives  
Staff Contributor

Neptune's most recent feature, *Three in the Back, Two in the Head*, is a play obviously not meant to be regarded solely as entertainment. A winner of the Governor General's Award for Drama, the political drama was written by well-known Canadian playwright Jason Sherman.

Dealing with topics such as national security and government conspiracy, *Three in the Back, Two in the Head* is set to minimalist stage settings and features almost no action—but the play also falls short in delivering an overall message. The media's recent heightened interest in covering stories dealing with weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile defence programs makes the timing of the play's release curious—but this reviewer is not enchanted by the connection.

Modelling itself after a "Colombo-style" mystery, the plot unfolds in reverse: a series of dramatized flashbacks reveal the events leading up to the murder of scientist, Donald Jackson. The opening scene of the play takes place inside the Pentagon, where Jackson's distraught and emotional son, Paul, confronts CIA hot shot John Doyle, seeking answers to the mysterious circumstances surrounding his father's death. Inspired and slightly obsessed by the idea of "peace through deterrence," Jackson had developed a missile defence system, code name "Snow Ball," for the CIA. But as it turns out, more advanced technology is available for purchase by the time project "Snow Ball" is to be implemented, and the CIA backs out of its deal with Jackson. Much to the concern of Doyle and General Ed Sparrow, satellite intelligence reveals that Jackson has in turn gone and sold his technology to the United States' nemesis, a



Politics, power and deceit: All on the agenda for *Three in the Back, Two in the Head* / Photo: Jenine Dowden

country referred to by the name of "AD." Jackson disappears shortly after this information is revealed.

The play's story line develops in a series of layers that deliver an overall unbiased picture of the events surrounding Jackson's murder. In giving personal accounts of separate dealings with Jackson up until the time of his death, each of the five characters takes a turn as narrator. This makes for interesting drama in the sense that it compels the actors to vary the portrayal of the characters that they play. For example, during the scenes in which the story is told through the eyes of Paul Jackson, John Doyle is portrayed as an aggressive person. When the same story is recounted from Doyle's own perspective, however, Doyle portrays himself in a much kinder

light. Sherman delivers realistic (albeit "colourful") dialogue, and the acting is superb, but the switch in narrators is at times confusing and the mystery surrounding the murder is not even slightly suspenseful.

The play was inspired by the murder of Canadian scientist Dr. Gerald Bull, who was found outside his Brussels apartment after being shot five times from behind in 1990. Over the course of his career as an aerospace engineer, Bull developed arms for China, South Africa and Iraq—although in the play it is the CIA that is implicated in the murder; in reality Israeli intelligence is believed to be responsible for Bull's murder.

Sherman could have taken greater advantage of the play's relation to Bull's murder by delivering a message about today's worldwide insecurity situation, but instead he shies away from making any explicit political statement at all, leaving this reviewer dismally disappointed. If you can be satisfied solely with well-written lines and an experienced cast, than this is the play for you, but potential audience members should be forewarned: *Two in the Head and Three in the Back* is neither politically insightful nor wittingly entertaining. Runs until Nov. 28, tickets are \$15 for students, regular, \$24.

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### Free Movie Tickets:

Want to win two of four tickets to see a special screening of "Alexander," starring the sexy Colin Farrell on Monday, Nov. 22 at 7.00 p.m. at Park Lane? Drop by the Gazette office (Rm. 312 S.U.B.) the day of the show at 3.30 p.m., and tell us the correct answer to the following question: who is sexier Colin Farrell or Anthony Hopkins? Good luck.



# Sartorial Eloquence

## Nerd appeal

Nadine LaRoche  
Resident Fashion Nerd

Maybe it started with your English teacher leaning over her desk for a few seconds too many. Maybe it was the way your first lab partner looked at you over the top of his glasses, or maybe it was the secret crush you had on the not-so-popular kid that sat in the front row. Whatever it was that got your brain-loving juices flowing, we all share the same weakness for nerd appeal.

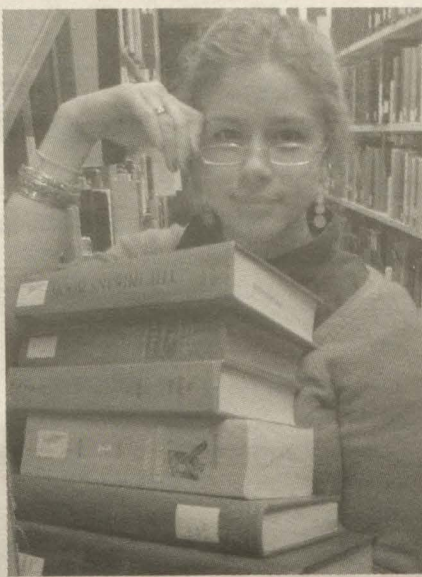
A trend that dates back to Buddy Holly's infamous horn-rimmed glasses and latches on to the undeniable sex appeal embedded in nerdiness has boomed in today's style.

The attraction stems from the mystery behind the glasses. Nerd attire leaves a person's sexuality to the imagination and requires further investigation to uncover. The fantasy of unveiling this hidden sexuality (which is usually accompanied by the

fantasy that this sexuality is freakishly kinky) creates a desire embedded in curiosity. It is only when a nerd has taken off her glasses and let down her hair—or taken off his glasses and removed his sweater-vest—that her sexual secrets are revealed. Unlike smooth-talking jocks or belly-exposed bimbos, nerds' presumed skills in the bedroom are privy only to the lucky suitors who dare to unbutton their blazers.

Mainstream fashion has latched on to nerd appeal in one of three ways: it is blown out of proportion à la Britney Spears' first video, killed at the hands of an overindulged trend (take pleated mini skirts for example) or worshipped by fashion gurus.

Argyle, the unofficial tartan of the nerd, has become one of fashion's favourite patterns. You'll find the diamond-like design on socks, sweaters, sweater-vests, purses, belts and



umbrellas. These once-were grandfather items are hot commodities and are bound to pop up in every fashion follower's closet.

If you're a sucker for argyle, then indulge yourself quickly in its geometric goodness because like all style trends, it is sure to fizzle.



The blazer, a brainiac's signature top layer, has become the wardrobe staple and ranges from vintage-inspired to modern, conservative and simple. The stylizing of ties, though often mistaken as spawns of Avril Lavigne, is also product of fashion's love for nerd appeal.

Underground culture has embraced nerd appeal by placing it at the foundation of its style. Hipster male style defines the ultimate nerd: slightly too-

short skinny pants, button-down shirts, worn blazers and thick-framed glasses. They wear everything nerdy short of a pocket protector, but the result oozes sexiness.

The hipster girls are equally as nerdy with similar glasses, fitted blazers, pleated skirts, pulled-up socks and Mary Jane's.

The underground music scene has long latched on to nerd appeal by creating the unspoken rule that every indie band needs that one guy who rocks out with horn-rimmed glasses sliding off his sweaty nose (look to Arcade Fire for a recent example).

From fashion disaster to hot commodity, nerd-inspired clothing has never been short of adorable. We'll always have an innate desire for the untapped, and fashion feeds into this desire, making nerd appeal a source for style.

### Edward Street #5



Edward Street #5  
Shane Patenaude

### GAZETTE HOT SPOT OF THE WEEK:

**Snow is extreme?**  
There's nothing quite like a good downfall of the white wintery goodness—if you have massive enough ski hills to enjoy it, that is. Halifax-native and world-known pro skier Jonny Law Knows big ski hills, and he's on plenty of them in Sojil Purpose, the latest 16mm & HD extreme ski and snowboard film out of Teton Gravity Research. Even better, Jonny himself will be in attendance at the film's Dalhousie showing, sponsored by Cleve's Source For Sports, Ski Wentworth and the Gazette. Check it: Nov. 27 at Ondaatje Hall, 7:00 p.m. (doors), 8:00 p.m. (show). Tickets are \$10 and include 2-for-1 lift tickets to Ski Wentworth, and get you a chance to win a heli-ski package to Alaska and a trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Other draw prizes include gear from The North Face, Rossignol, and R.E.D. protection.

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## Basketball

- Nov. 20 MUN @ Dal  
Women: 6 p.m. Men: 8 p.m.
- Nov. 21 UCCB @ Dal  
Women 1 p.m. Men: 3 p.m.

## Hockey

- Nov. 21 Dal @ SMU  
Women: 2 p.m.
- Nov. 24 SMU @ Dal  
Men: 7 p.m.

## Volleyball

- Nov. 19 SMU @ Dal  
Women: 6 p.m.
- Nov. 23 UdeM @ Dal  
Women: 7 p.m.

## Swimming

- AUS Invitational Nov. 20  
Men/Women 4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 21  
Men/Women 3:30 p.m.

## Sports Briefs

# Weiler Has Lofty Goals for Men's Volleyball

Joey Ryba  
Staff Contributor

The men's volleyball team has hit the court and continues to dominate the AUS. The players have really bought into a team-first attitude and a commitment to staying focused and getting the job done.

One Tiger expected to lead his team this season is libero, Jeff Weiler. Weiler is a third-year kinesiology student from Scarborough, Ont.

Weiler's passion for Volleyball began well before his arrival at Dal. "I started playing volleyball when I was 11 years old," says Weiler. "I really enjoyed playing. My coach told me about a volleyball club outside of school. I tired out for the club and made it and I've been playing ever since."

Weiler continued to play throughout his school years. While in high school he was recruited by a number of universities.

"When I was in grade 11, I was recruited by Dal," says Weiler. "Dal's Coach Dan Ota talked to me about their program. We kept our contact in grade 12 and OAC. Other universities also talked to me. Dan told me I would be a big part of their team. I really liked what I heard about the volleyball program and the academic programs at Dal, so I chose Dal. It couldn't have worked out better for athletics and academics."

Besides competing for Dal, Weiler has had a successful career playing for other teams. He played for Ontario at the 2001 Canada games in London, Ont. and for Team Canada at the 2003 World Jr. Volleyball Championships in Iran.

"The Canada Games were a



Last year Weiler was named CIS libero of the year. / Photo: Duncan Enman

positive experience," says Weiler. "I wish more athletes had the opportunity to participate in the Canada Games. Unfortunately, our team didn't do that well. We were seeded first and didn't get a medal. It was frustrating in that respect, but the games aren't just about winning."

In 2002, Weiler was invited to attend the Canadian World Jr. Volleyball camp at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. "Earlier in the year, I went to the Nationals for club volleyball," says Weiler. "There were scouts at the tournament and I was invited to the camp in Edmonton. It was a four-day camp with 30 athletes. I was very happy when I found out I was on the team. After the camp, we competed in a qualifying tournament in Kelowna, B.C. against the U.S., Mexico and Puerto Rico. We won the tournament and received a berth in the World Jrs in Iran in the summer of 2003."

Weiler says the trip to Iran was a positive experience.

"We placed ninth out of 16, which isn't too bad," he says. "A number of players including myself picked up a bug and were sick most of the time. From a

cultural standpoint, things were great. The people of Iran bent over backwards to make us feel welcome. They were certainly great hosts. It was an excellent experience to live and learn a new culture."

For now, Weiler is content on helping the Tigers win a national championship. After that, the sky is the limit.

"I want to play pro in Europe for a few years," he says. "I would also like for Canada to qualify for the 2008 Olympics. I played with the National Senior team this summer." Academically, more school is on the horizon for Jeff. "I really like the kinesiology program here at Dal. I would like to do my Masters and maybe my PhD."

Whatever his decision, he says volleyball will always factor in somehow. "I want to be involved in coaching or with an association," he says. "There were a lot of people who helped me get to where I am today. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for them. If there is a high school kid in the same situation I was in, I want to help him realize his dreams and be successful. I really want to give back and help others."

## Inside the locker room with ...



This week I interviewed **Raphael Eghar** from the men's soccer team.

Theresa-Anne Salah  
Staff Contributor

### What's the most effective way to get your crush's attention?

Well, in my first year, my buddy Adam Hotchkiss and I developed a strategy that never fails. If I gave it away, every joker on campus would use it for evil. Just so you know, the strategy is known as Plan B and should only be used on quality ladies... never at the Palace!

### What's your new year's resolution going to be?

Now that soccer is in the off-season, I plan on spending at least four or five nights a week improving on my flip cup technique. Those boys on Larch St. are pretty intense players, so I doubt I'll be as good as they are. But, maybe I can be this year's most improved player, or at least give Haughn and Simi a run for their money.

### What do you want for Christmas?

I'm not all about getting stuff on Xmas. I'm looking forward to giving some meaningful shit. For instance, my good friend Jarreau loves pork and all pork products with all his heart. For xmas, I was thinking it would be nice to show up at his door with a giant ham and some pork rinds. He'd appreciate that.

### If you could start university all over again, what would you do differently?

If I could start university all over again, I definitely would have appreciated the food I had in rez. The possibilities were endless, and lord knows I can't make omelettes like they cook up on the weekends. All you frosh out there eat up! It's good shit. You're going to miss it and end up like me, scamming rookies into swiping you in for free!

### What's your alcoholic drink of choice, and how often do you consume it?

Definitely a well poured Stella. Depending on my funds I could go for one or two a day with dinner. Although lately I have had an interest in XXX homemade moonshine. I wouldn't recommend drinking it though—I've heard it gives terrible gut-rot, and no one wants that.

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Paul Chafe  
Cross Country

Paul Chafe is this week's Dalhousie Male Athlete of the Week. Once again Chafe led the Tiger effort at this weekend's CIS Cross Country Championship in Guelph, ON. With a fourth place individual finish in a time of 31:21.2, Chafe garnered first team all-Canadian status and led the Tigers to a fifth place overall finish. Last week he earned top honours at the AUS Championship in Halifax and led the Tiger team to the conference win. Paul, a fourth year Biology/History major is a native of Railton, ON.

## Athletes of the Week



Janice Ashworth  
Cross Country

Janice Ashworth is this week's Dalhousie Female Athlete of the Week. At this weekend's CIS Cross Country Championship, Ashworth finished second overall individually and led the Tiger women's team to a first-place finish. Dalhousie is the first school from the Atlantic conference to win the CIS banner in women's or men's cross country. Last year's CIS Rookie of the Year finished the race in a time of 17:27.5 to earn a second place finish for the second consecutive season. For her efforts Ashworth earned first team CIS all-Canadian status. Ashworth is a second-year International Development Studies student from Dunrobin, ON.

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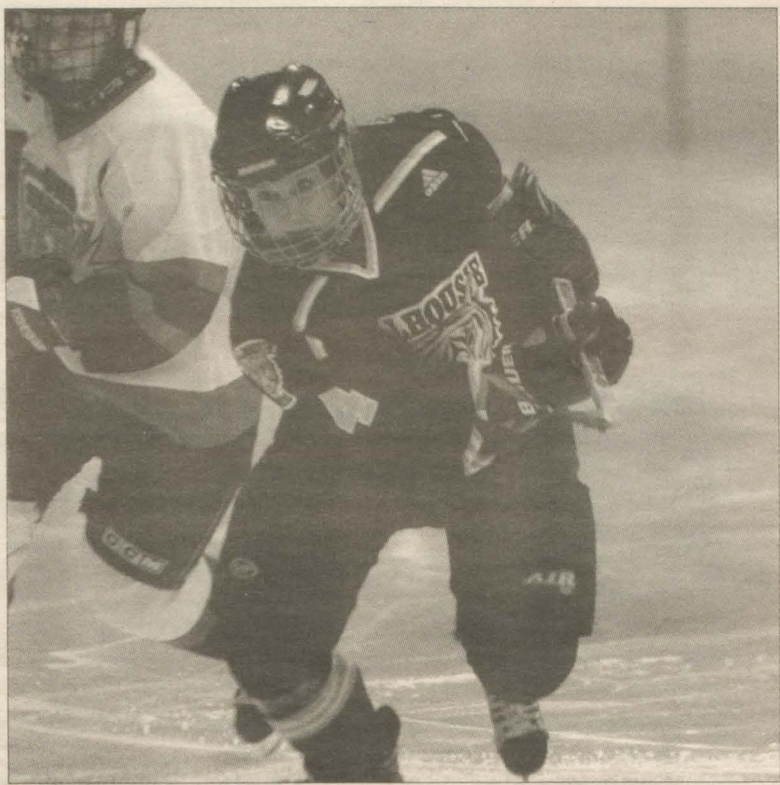


Photo: Nick Pearce

## Dal's Two-Sport Star Trades Soccer Ball for Hockey Puck

Jenn Casey  
Staff Contributor

Leah Kutcher likes to do things in pairs. Not only is she doing a double major in history and international development studies, but she is also a member of both the women's soccer and hockey teams.

"I do everything the night before mostly," says the native of Toronto, who moved to Halifax eight years ago. "If I didn't play sports I would probably be just wasting my free time."

What makes Kutcher's life even more interesting is the constant juggling act between soccer and hockey when the seasons overlap.

"It's a big compromise on both coach's part," says hockey coach Lesley Jordan. "She's a very good athlete in both sports and both teams benefit from having her around. In the fall she dedicates her time to soccer and we get her when we can. After soccer's over she's with us full time."

And her return to hockey couldn't have come sooner. The team is suffering from a lack of scoring. They're 0-4 in AUS play to date and getting outscored three to one. But Kutcher doesn't quite see it that way.

"I'd much rather be at nationals," she says referring to the soccer team's heartbreaking loss to UPEI in the AUS finals. "I know as the losing team you're not supposed to say this, but it was a robbery. We got tough breaks, we were the better team."

But despite failing to make nationals, she looks at the season positively. "It was wicked, we had a great season," she says. "The best group of teammates you could ask for. It was a hard loss but I have one more year."

Now she looks ahead to her hockey season. She doesn't foresee any problems adjusting into the team and hopes to contribute immediately. Coach Jordan doesn't doubt that for a minute.

"Leah is one of our stronger leaders in the dressing room and out on the ice. She's a very confident athlete and that's what we need. And she's better offensively every year. She's worked on her hands and shot and last year she was a big threat. She'll definitely bring some offense for us this year."

It's not just on the ice that she excels. Kutcher is also an Academic All-Canadian. "She's very well-rounded," says Jordan. "And we're very glad to have her back."

## Swim Team Predicts Big Things for the Weekend

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

The men and women's swim teams will be looking to qualify more swimmers for the CIS championships when they host their conference invitational this weekend at Dalplex.

Already the team has three women and one man qualified for nationals. Ashley Aitken, a second-year kinesiology student from Bermuda, is one of those qualified. So far this season Aitken has emerged as one of the conference's standout performers. In two meets so far this season she has won five individual events and cemented herself as perhaps the best female sprinter in the Atlantic conference.

Though she is already qualified, Aitken says she goes into this weekend with goals just like the rest of her teammates.

"I'll just use it like another meet and try and get as close to my best times," she says. "Hopefully I can go faster."

Aitken says that while she is pleased with the early season success, she doesn't plan to let it stop at the season's half way mark. She thinks that her team can have a big weekend, but knows there are things that still need work.

"Everyone's pretty excited for this weekend," she says. "I think we'll have a lot of qualifiers [for nationals]. But the whole team needs to get behind each person's race a bit more—both the men



Photo: Michael Gorman

and women's team. A good atmosphere always helps a person to step up and race their best."

The men have also been dominating so far this season. Like the women, they have won both of their meets.

Though they only have one qualifier so far, many are eyeing this weekend as their chance to add their names to the list. David MacDonald is one of those guys.

The second-year science student from Port Hawkesbury is a threat to qualify in the 100-metre and 200-metre freestyle. MacDonald put in a lot of work in the off-season and his performance at meets this season sug-

gests that could soon pay off.

Like Aitken, MacDonald is predicting a big weekend for his team.

"I think that there is a lot of depth on our team this year," he says. "When we are rested and shaved it is going to be a sight to see."

As for seeing that sight, Aitken is hoping people come out to support the team. The first meet Dal hosted this season wasn't well attended and Aitken says it really does make a difference to the swimmers.

"When there are people there watching it gets you excited and makes your race seem a bit more important."

## The Water Cooler

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

Dan Hennigar stood just 700m from the finish line at last weekend's CIS cross country championships in Guelph—but he wasn't able to see his runners cross the line.

"I was able to see them just before they got to there, but I couldn't tell where they were finishing," he said.

As a result, Hennigar's running tally of his team's progress was a little off. He thought Dal was in line for a second place finish, but he was wrong. When the result were announced, Dal's women had won their first national championship by 15 points—a clear margin—with three runners finishing in the top seven. The men, who also ran well, finished fifth.

As you might expect, Hennigar was elated.

"I'm really happy with the team's performance," the proud coach said. "Everyone performed so well when it mattered the most and they overcame some tough circumstances."

The national team title, and Janice Ashworth's individual sil-



ver medal has cemented Hennigar as the most successful coach at Dal right now. In the last three years, his track and cross-country teams have combined for three individual national titles, four silvers and a national team championship. Only swim coach David Fry, whose teams have a silver and three bronze medals to their credit in the last two years, comes close to Hennigar-coached teams' impressive tally.

For Hennigar, it has to be just a little bitter sweet. It wasn't long ago that rumours flew around Dalplex that the cross-country and track programs were on the verge of being cut to save money.

Now, they're the two most successful programs at the school. And yet Hennigar hasn't always received the credit he deserves.

Last year, despite coaching athletes to two gold medals and two silver medals at CIs, Hennigar was overlooked for Dalhousie coach of the year honours. Not to undermine the accomplishments of men's hockey coach Fabian Joseph, last year's winner, but something seems a little odd when his team's CIS bronze medal counts more than Hennigar's pair of national titles and double silver finishes. But it was hard to tell what Hennigar thought or felt about the oversight—he was busy coaching one of his athletes at the Cross Country World Championships in Italy that night.

Too often sports are overlooked simply because they aren't as high profile as others. In the case of Dalhousie, the sports that are overlooked also happen to be the school's best programs with some of its most dominant athletes. It's too late to see the cross-country team in action, but when track season begins in the New Year, don't miss you chance to check that out.

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### Friday Night Trivia!

**Brent is back!** That's right, the original "robust" host of Friday Night Trivia, Big Brent Deroches, is at the T-Room is back for one special, magical, emotional night. Come down to the T-Room this Friday, Nov. 19, and test your skills against the master himself. Cover will be \$2, and for this generous donation there will be free guessing...that's right, no quarters needed this night folks, except to tip the bartenders. There will be prizes, there will be laughter, there will be a big funny guy on stage

who will stump your brains. The fun begins at 9 p.m., so come early and get a good seat.

## America Has Spoken

Joel MacDonald  
Sextant Contributor

It's a disappointment to many (not me personally), but good ole W. will be around for another 4 years. In a more convincing fashion than his prior election against Al Gore, Bush defeated Senator John Kerry by getting 286 electoral votes to Kerry's 252. In the weeks leading up to the election, many conversations/arguments were had, with the majority feeling they were as much anti-Bush as Pro-Kerry. In a society where people like Michael Moore get praised for telling the "real story", people need to smarten up and realize there is more to life than what an ignorant scruffy rotund man tells you.

So how did this happen? If Bush wears horns and Kerry has the answers, why did Bush win? Prior to the election, both sides felt the voter turnout was important in order for their respective parties to win. The Democrats

did a good job of getting new voters out to register, but the GOP (Grand Old Party) did a better one. To tell all the reasons why Bush was the only valid choice for president would take too long, but some reasons are explained in the following couple of paragraphs.

### Once you Flop you Can't Stop

Some have indicated that Kerry's "flip-flopping" shows that he is open to new ideas, but it can also be interpreted that he never had both feet on the ground. Bush is by no means perfect, but he resolved in his purpose and allows the general public to feel more secure. Bush had an agenda and never veered from it. It's not to say that Kerry is never consistent with respect to some issues. He was consistent with his views about Vietnam and Nicaragua—he wanted to abandon them. He was consistent in not supporting the Persian Gulf War. With Kerry at the helm, Saddam Hussein would not only be in



power, but still control Kuwait. Is there something wrong with that? America seemed to think so.

### I'm Gonna Tax that Affluent Ass

Senator Kerry felt that the country had to get back to a safe world, a world prior to Sept. 11, 2001. Senator Kerry, I say to you, what about terrorists attacked the USS Cole, or the World Trade Center in 1993, or slaughtering the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972, just to name a few? That doesn't sound like a safe world to me. Kerry feels that terrorism will go the wayside if it is left alone. This mindset does not sit well with Americans, nor

should it. Recently, Osama Bin Laden released another video, showing that he could rear his ugly head at any moment. So it is agreed that terrorism is an important issue, but is it the only issue? Taxes are always an issue when it comes to election time. Kerry wanted to increase taxes for the rich and cut them for the middle and lower classes. This robbing from the rich and giving to the poor only worked back in the days of Robin Hood in Nottingham. People must realize that penalizing the rich punishes everyone. Overtaxing the rich decreases the incentive for the rich to continue to prosper or to work harder. At the same time, if you are in the middle-class, the incentive is even less to reach into that next level of income.

There are many reasons not to penalize the rich. For starters, they save the most money, and without their backing, we would not be able to get housing, car or education loans that many of us need. Also, most owe their jobs to

a rich person—the owner or owners of the business they work for. Basically, Senator Kerry is sending the message to Americans to be complacent with what they have, because the harder you work and the more you achieve, the more the government is going to retract. Is that what you want in a leader? Not exactly the inspiration I would want. Remember that the so-called lower class in the U.S. lives a far better daily life than their "class" mates found in most other countries

Finally, most people feel Americans are an ignorant group who only care for themselves. This may be a valid point, but being a person who lived outside of Boston for four years, I can only say they are very similar to us—they put their pants on one leg at a time. Of course there are other issues that were of concern for this election, but the ones mentioned here took the forefront and proved to be the demise of poor Senator Kerry. America has spoken, and so have I.

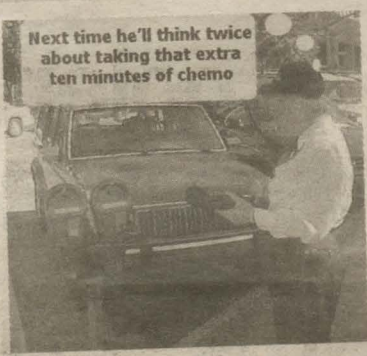
## Your Time Has Run Out Superheroes!

Chris Fedora  
Sextant Guru

I was home a couple of weeks ago and happened to go visit my grandparents. My grandfather recently had surgery on his bowel to remove the cancer that was giving him terrible gas. Now, he has to undergo chemotherapy on a regular basis to make sure that all the gas-causing cancer is gone. At our hospital back home a special parking lot was created for cancer patients—and where I come from there are many. The parking lot was built close to the cancer wing so that the nauseated chemo patients could hobble to their cars and drive home without having to walk as far as a football field, thus tiring them out even further and increasing the chance of a vomit stained parking lot.

What a novel idea this was. This hospital was so very caring and thoughtful of their patients needs. I mean, I know my grandfather doesn't look forward to the chemo and doesn't need the added dread of the post-chemo walk of nausea, just as I suspect the other patients don't either. So kudos to the person or persons responsible for erecting (hehe I love when I can use that word in a sentence) this parking lot.

I know pretty much every person who is reading this knows at least one person affected by cancer and has seen the devastat-



tating blow that the disease and its treatments can deal. I have tried to imagine what it would be like to go through all that my grandfather has over the past months, and it has been very hard to do. What I do find easy is imagining the absolute devastation and astonishment of finding a parking ticket on my car after going through what I can only imagine to be the most horrific torture on my body's insides. That's right, cancer patients get ticketed if they end up taking too long during the treatment. Each parking space has a parking meter, costing a minimum of \$1 for 2.5 hrs. Some patients can be in the hospital during treatment for longer than this period, so the hospital has provided each parking meter with the ability to upgrade the parking duration...after adding more mon-



ey of course. How very thoughtful and generous of them.

The regular parking lot, however, has an unlimited parking duration, with a payment of \$2. So the merely feeble and partially dying folk can roam about the hospital for hours without a care in the world.

Meanwhile, the cancer patient is getting chemo, the whole time thinking, "did I put \$1 or \$2 in that friggin' meter?"

I hope this whole concept seems wrong to other people than just me. Ticketing patients

who might not have much else to look forward to except dying is just a kick in the face, balls, and anywhere else that it might hurt to be kicked. What's next, charging the handicapped to use the wheelchair ramps?



Chris Fedora  
Sextant Guru

Everyone has had this discussion at one time or another. I have had it on numerous occasions. But after seeing The Incredibles this past weekend, the subject has come up again: If you were to have one super power, what would it be?

Well, I want to take this discussion a bit further. I could ramble on, like I usually do, about what my choice would be in the matter. However, instead I think I want to hear from all of you. Write into sextant@dal.ca and let us know what super power you would choose and why. The most interesting ones will get published here in a couple of weeks and those chosen to appear in the paper will win a prize (actual prize will be determined later).

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The Urinator!

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