

GAZETTE

Haven't read The Gazette in a year?

We've got you covered.

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Engineering students un

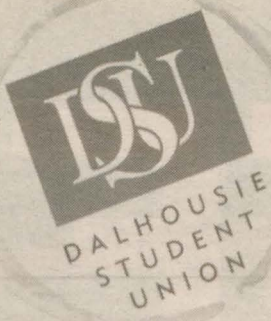


STUDENTS
QUASH
PROPOSAL



SECURITY:
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ampus





WEEKLY DISPATCH

Students All Over Nova Scotia Speak Out on Student Aid

The weeks before winter break saw an outpouring of student opinion on the financial aid system in Nova Scotia. The provincial review of student aid conducted by the department of education allowed students from across the province to air their concerns. The media have taken notice.



"We have six of the best universities in Nova Scotia. We need a comprehensive, widespread program to erase debt that not only benefits students in this province, but also encourages people to come here to further their studies," Horne offered, noting that plan could even bridge into economic development."

-St. FX student Glenn Horne
The Antigonish Casket, November 28

"Among the concerns to come out of the session at the Burr Ridge Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College were that student financial aid is too slow in coming, the process is too complicated and there isn't enough support to help students and families navigate the system."

-Yarmouth Vanguard, December 18

"You can't afford to buy a house, you can't afford to buy a car, you can't afford to have children," she told reporters outside a meeting room at the Dal Student Union Building. "You really can't afford to do anything that would require you being financially independent."

-Dalhousie Student Helen Langille
The Chronicle Herald, November 28

"The discussion also involved the need for greater attention to individual loan appeals, more flexibility for part-time students and better promotion of programs that already exist to help students."

-The Daily News, November 28

"In fact, the typical Nova Scotia student graduates approximately \$30,000 in debt after receiving an undergraduate degree. This puts many students in the province in a compromising position, says Paris Meilleur, executive director of ANSSA. "The debt in Nova Scotia is crippling. Students in Nova Scotia carry the heaviest financial burden out of any other North American jurisdiction," she said. "It's a pretty dubious honour to be carrying."

-The New Glasgow News, November 22

Mike Tipping
DSU President
dsupres@dal.ca / 494-1277



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
John Packman /
editor@dalgazette.ca

COPY EDITOR
J. Mary Burnet /
copy@dalgazette.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Katie May /
news@dalgazette.ca

OPINIONS EDITOR
James Munson /
opinions@dalgazette.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITORS
Aly Coy & Christie Conway
arts@dalgazette.ca

SPORTS EDITOR
Julie Sobowale /
sports@dalgazette.ca

PHOTO EDITOR
Josh Boyter /
photo@dalgazette.ca

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Susan Maroun /
design@dalgazette.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

NEWS

OPINIONS
Catherine Holloway
Doug Roop

ARTS & CULTURE
Dan Bray

CONTACT US

Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4J2
www.dalgazette.ca

GENERAL INQUIRIES
(902) 494-2507
editor@dalgazette.ca

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
(902) 494-6532
advertising@dalgazette.ca

THE FINE PRINT

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

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

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

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Stretter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Stretter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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



Do you
Need
to
Write?

...write
for the
GAZETTE

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

Saving drinkers from themselves

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you were away for the break you probably still heard the news: dollar drinks at the dirty Dome are done. And in the wake of a 3:40 a.m. brawl that led to police arresting 38 people and The Dome losing its liquor license for four days, everyone from police to local politicians to Gary Hurst, The Dome's owner, are recommending banning dollar drinks.

This is ridiculous.

People will be jackasses no matter what. Raising alcohol prices isn't going to stop people from getting drunk and starting fights.

At the moment, Nova Scotia bars can't sell alcohol below cost but there are calls, particularly from politicians, to boost the minimum price to two or three dollars.

This won't help, because the problem isn't cheap drinks. There are still fights in bars that sell more expensive booze and in provinces with price minimums over one dollar. The problem is overserving.

Unfortunately, the Labour department's Alcohol and Gaming division, which endorsed The Dome's new security measures, is looking at people who choose to drink like problem gamblers: people who go to a bar, spend all their money and then leave. The division's logic seems to be that if they have less money, they'll drink less.

And like a casino, The Dome now has 64 cameras - cameras that give the cops and the Alcohol and Gaming division the ability to keep up with what's happening at the raucous club.

But if nobody's going to cut off people who are stumbling up to the bar, patrons who can afford it are going to get just as drunk and rowdy as before. Raising the minimum price



PHOTO: JOSHUA BOYTER

People will be jackasses no matter what. Raising alcohol prices isn't going to stop people from getting drunk and starting fights.

of booze in the province as a reaction to related violence makes the same amount of sense as charging twice as much for the slices at Pizza Corner to stop fights from breaking out there.

This is where the Alcohol and Gaming division should be stepping in. They should have inspectors monitoring bars more closely and should impose stricter fines for bars that overserve. The fact that a brawl can break out in a bar, where bottles get thrown at police and 38 people get arrested, yet the bar still re-opens four days later doesn't say much for the division's high standards and willingness to take control of the situation.

Compared to all the flak cheap

drinks have been taking over the past week, I find it strange that I didn't hear much about how certain bars, including The Dome, can be open until 4 a.m. and serve until 3:30.

This early-morning closing time draws anyone who's had the ugly lights turned on them at 2 a.m. elsewhere but still wants to drink to The Palace, The Dome and Reflections... or the casino.

While city officials are crying for bars to raise the minimum drink price in order to curb late-night violence, not enough people are considering earlier closing times for bars and cabarets as a way to further discourage brawls.

The knee-jerk reaction of raising drink prices to stop violence should

not set a precedent in Nova Scotia. By banning cheap drinks around the province, the government is effectively saying its people, like tourists in Mexico, can't be trusted around cheap alcohol.

Eliminating cheap drinks, especially in such a student-heavy province, also just seems like a way to suck more money out of us.

The Dome's other solution of opening its security cameras to the police is another example other bars shouldn't follow. If bars can't properly monitor and eject violent or overly drunk people, it shouldn't be up to the police. When security staff can no longer keep an eye on things themselves, that's when they should stop letting people in.



COVER

There are no staff members who will accept responsibility for this cover, with good reason. It takes a really creative individual to strew pre-existing covers all over the floor and capture them on film (John Packman). Congratulations John! Questions or comments welcome: Susan Maroun design@dalgazette.ca

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Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday,
January 14th @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

ROSEMARY GILLAWARD

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the Rosemary Gill Award in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. Up to four awards can be made each year. The selection of recipients is made by a committee consisting of the President; the Vice-President, Student Services; the Chair of the Student Experience Committee of the Board of Governors; and a student appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 2008. Nominations should be made in writing and include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support, preferably including at least one from a student or students.

The Rosemary Gill Award is a plaque presented to the recipient at a spring reception hosted by the President. In addition, a permanent plaque bearing the names of annual recipients is displayed in the Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Nominations should be submitted to:

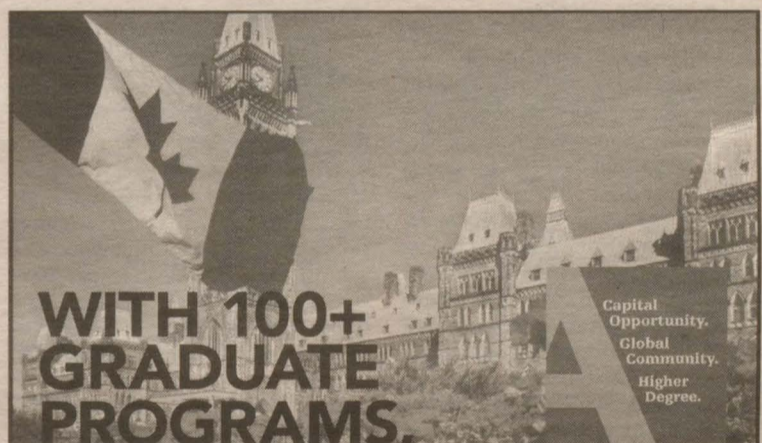
The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
Room G28, Main Level
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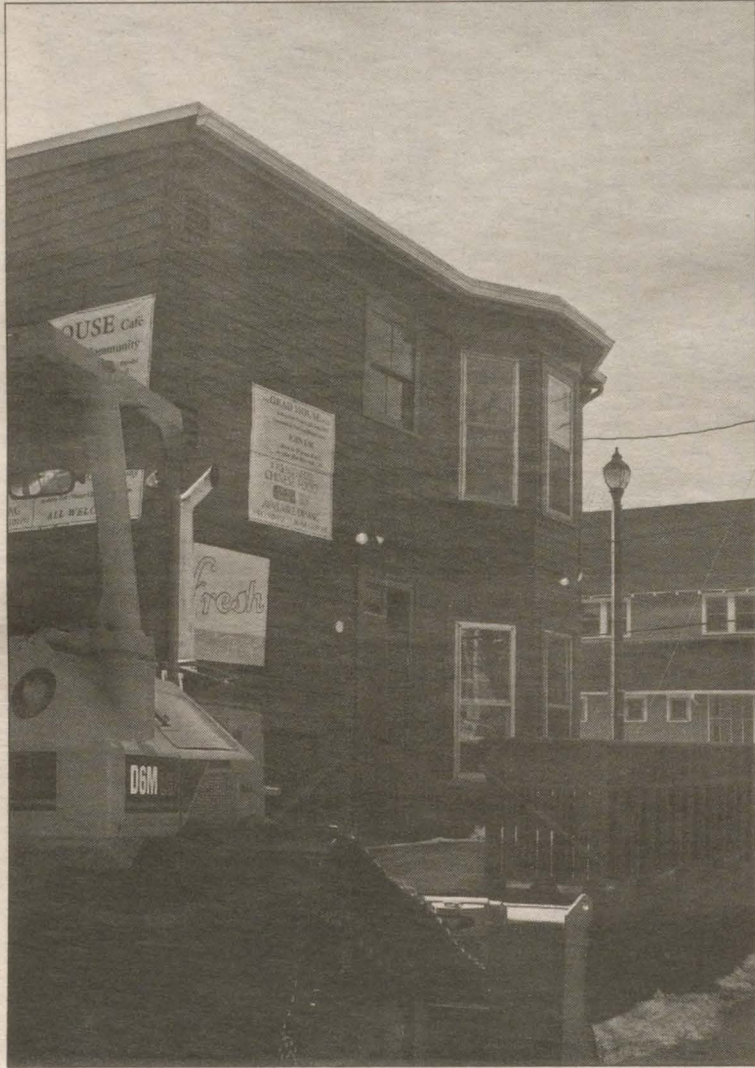
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Top four news stories of 2007

The purpose of *The Gazette* news section is to inform Dalhousie students about events and issues that affect campus and academic life. We seek to find the stories that resonate with the student body and highlight important needs, problems and achievements in the university community. Here are four of the most important news stories covered by *The Gazette* in 2007.

KATIE MAY | NEWS EDITOR



The *Gazette*'s Jan. 25, 2007 cover illustrated Dal's announcement that the Grad House would be destroyed if students approved a campus makeover.

Students rejected multi-million dollar campus makeover

University administration created controversy within the student body when it unveiled a major campus makeover plan last January. The \$25 million proposal, spearheaded by Dal President Tom Traves, featured 11 new leisure and study spaces on all three campuses, including the construction of three brand new buildings. The makeover would have been entirely student-funded, and originally called for each student to pay an additional \$10 per course for 20 to 30 years after construction was complete. The university planned to

take out a multi-million dollar bank loan to build the study space quickly. Future students would spend the next few decades paying the debt.

"Essentially this is about creating a legacy for students at Dalhousie over a long period of time," Traves said in an interview shortly after introducing the proposal. "I don't think at the end of the day the money should be a big issue for anybody."

But students didn't feel the same way. The plan was met with some opposition from the start when students learned that the university, in addition to asking them for more money, planned to demolish the Grad House to make way for a new



Students and faculty raised concerns that Dal should focus on maintaining old buildings, such as the University Club (shown here), instead of building new ones.

Student Union Building expansion on University Avenue. According to school officials, the home of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) needed an estimated \$750,000 in repairs and would have to be destroyed eventually, regardless of the construction plan.

Students voiced several concerns about the all-or-nothing project in the months leading up to the March referendum, during which they could vote for or against the entire makeover. Much of the student input came out of a public forum held Jan. 31 by the Dal Student Union. While grad student representatives negotiated with the school about the Grad House's fate, Sexton campus students called the deal unfair because their mandatory six-course class schedules meant they would pay more fees than other students, yet end up with arguably less than their share of proposed new space on the downtown campus. Many students worried about the financial burden the project would place on

future students and felt money could be better spent on repairing existing campus buildings.

Following the forum, the administration adjusted its initial construction plan, making several concessions for student concerns. The university agreed to build a new Grad House across the street and cap fees at \$100 per student each year, among other amendments. Dal also emphasized its commitment to boosting facilities renewal funding by \$1 million every year until the money raised matched demand. However, administration declined student requests to help draft designs for the proposed buildings.

Meanwhile, the King's Students' Union launched a 'No' campaign to counter Dal's vigorous 'Yes' advertising strategy, which cost the school more than \$11,000 and was described by some students as "propaganda." The KSU's message urged Dal students to vote against the project on behalf of all University of King's College students, who were not allowed to vote because

they were not officially Dal students. Yet, if the referendum passed, King's students would have to help fund the reconstruction through their increased Dal course fees.

On Mar. 7, the online referendum ended with the highest voter turnout of any campus-wide vote at Dal in the past five years. More than 28 per cent of the student body cast ballots, most of them reading 'no.' Roughly 2,400 voters, or 57.3 per cent, struck down plans to construct three buildings, renovate eight student lounges and redesign the section of University Avenue between LeMarchant and Seymour Street. With that, Dalhousie's dream of a grand-scale campus renovation legacy died. Administration currently has no plans to construct any of the spaces outlined in last year's proposal.

"We might have conducted it more effectively," Traves said, looking back on the referendum in September. "Obviously the campaign was unsuccessful, so we learned some lessons about campus politics."

Deans went one-on-one with cheaters

Last spring, Dalhousie joined the ranks of universities across Canada that give individual faculty members authority to dole out punishments for plagiarism offences. Dal's Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) announced at its March meeting that not all students accused of academic dishonesty during the 2007-08 school year would have to defend themselves before the committee. Instead, the SDC revised its policy to make deans or appointed professors "academic integrity officers," meaning those faculty members then had the power to meet with alleged cheaters and choose appropriate penalties based on predetermined guidelines.

The change aimed to make the discipline process more efficient and reduce the senate's workload. Mo El-Hawary, chair of senate at the time, said the new policy would include a number of safeguards to assure fair punishments.

"The faculty is closer to understanding and mitigating the situation, which would be an advantage to the student," he told *The Gazette*

last spring.

But a head student advocate questioned the new procedure, raising concerns that students would be coerced into accepting a dean's judgment.

"It's sort of like sacrificing fairness for the sake of timeliness," said Ashley Ayliffe, then executive director of Dal's Student Advocacy Service.

"There is a power imbalance, obviously, when you have a meeting with the student and the dean in private," he says. "A lot of students will be somewhat intimidated into agreeing with whatever proposal is placed before them."

The committee officially implemented its new policy in September, but the senate still faces a full docket since students can choose a senate hearing over a punishment proposed by a faculty member.

The change was only a "stop-gap measure," according to Mike Tipping, former vice-president (education) of the Dal Student Union, who called for a restructuring of the discipline committee when it first announced the policy change. He said professors who serve on the committee should get incentives such as salary boosts so they can afford to continue devoting time to discipline cases.

DSU enforced society policy for the first time

The Dalhousie Student Union committed to overhauling a long-ignored policy that banned non-Dal students from holding top jobs in student societies.

Several student society leaders worried they would have to push out non-Dal students or shut down their groups, after learning earlier this year that they violated the DSU's society policy.

The union's current vice-president (internal) warned nearly 30 of Dal's 225 societies the society review committee might not ratify them last year because non-Dal students, mostly from the University of King's College, held executive positions within the groups.

"Society policy creates a box, and a lot of societies don't fit into that box," Rosalie Hanlon said.

The original policy was written more than three years ago. Though many societies welcomed students from other schools into executive positions for several years, the DSU didn't actively enforce the rule until this year.

The 2004 policy stated that "the

society must have members of the DSU as its executive members," meaning anyone who did not pay a fee to the DSU could not be a paid society staff member or officially vote at group meetings. Instead, it said non-students could volunteer and hold non-voting positions within the groups.

Roughly 50 students attended the union's Sept. 25 public consultation to give their input and help write a brand new policy, which Hanlon initially hoped would be finished by the end of December.

"It may not sound like an exciting thing to be involved in," she said. "(But) all students should be involved in that discussion because it ultimately reflects how the DSU is governed."

Many students from both Dal and King's suggested students from other schools pay at least a portion of the DSU's annual \$113 full-time student fee. Others discussed the possibility of implementing a Dal student quota for society memberships, similar to the King's Students' Union society mandate, which states that a minimum of one executive member must be a King's student.

After discussing the previously

un-enforced policy with outgoing vice-president (internal) Chris Ide, Hanlon soon found the problem extended to all society levels and affected many different groups.

Ide realized non-DSU members were filling top society positions last spring, when he learned *The Gazette*'s Editor-in-Chief, then Rafal Andronowski, was a King's student.

He said DSU executives only received a list of student identification numbers, which they used to ensure students listed as executive members on society applications were registered at Dal at the end of the fall term. If the students applied for society status earlier in the year, chances were the review committee would ratify the groups before verifying membership.

"When we're ratifying societies, we're taking it in good faith," Ide said in a September phone interview, adding society executives were supposed to read the DSU's society policy and agree to follow its conditions.

He said DSU executives had to "play politics" and try to find a solution that would suit various societies and include different student groups.

facebook



The university fought back after a Facebook group posted this generic image and alleged Dal kills puppies for animal research.

Dal faced widespread animal cruelty allegations

Dalhousie's research practices got international attention at the beginning of last term, but students weren't proud of the publicity they received.

A controversial Facebook group that alleged Dal killed puppies for animal research sparked a media frenzy in late August, engaging local publications, national newswires and international press in a tumultuous story about the hugely popular social networking cyber site and the line between free speech and libel.

The school's public relations department vehemently denied the allegations, battling Facebook and the group called "Stop dogs and puppies from being murdered at Dalhousie," since its elusive creator, Amy Scott, posted the web page in July.

The group boasted more than 25,000 members when this story went to print and eventually removed "Dalhousie" from its name, citing pressure from the university as the reason for the change. It claimed Dal's animal research laboratory was

involved in unethical treatment of animals, specifically dogs.

Dal officials maintained the university has not experimented on dogs in more than a decade and does most of its testing on rats, insects and fish, with the exception of special research projects that require a lengthy approval process.

University President Tom Traves firmly denied the allegations. He said the administration knew Scott was an animal rights activist, but he was unsure why she would specifically target the school.

"It's based on completely false and erroneous information," Traves said during a phone interview in August. "This is a pathetic way of getting revenge."

Tensions rose when Scott removed the discussion board from her group's page, prompting Dal officials to request that Facebook shut the group down because it was restricting the possibility of informed debate on the subject.

After being removed for a few days, the group reappeared with the wall and discussion board intact. Some students then fired back at what they felt was a personal attack.

"The group that we've heard from the most vocally are Dal students. I think they're feeling a bit attacked by this," Dal spokesman Charles Crosby said. "There are people involved, not just an institution."

Two students, Stephanie Collins and Mike Wong, created "Stop people from spreading lies about animal cruelty at Dalhousie," a counter group aimed at confronting the allegations levelled at Dal and encouraging discussion of the issues surrounding animal research.

"You're smearing Dal's name, and it is purely a smear campaign," said Collins, a psychology grad student. "We're not concerned about what other universities think of us, but what we are concerned about is the general public who know nothing about animal research. And high school students particularly. Those are the next generation of Dal students."

The counter group has since closed. The original group, now more than 32,000 members strong, goes by the name "Stop animal testing in Nova Scotia," and rumours of animal cruelty at Dal are still cyber-spreading despite the university's best efforts.

Dal in Brief

Dal prof attacked on YouTube

Halifax police are trying to find out who's behind a YouTube video that portrays a Dalhousie professor as a pimp and insults his family and religion.

Dal officials discovered engineering professor Dr. Abdel Ghaly was the target of "an act of racism" and asked the administrators of the video sharing website to investigate. The video was posted on the site in late November and removed a few days later, CTV news reported.

Before the video was taken down, several students and staff received a link to it in a mass e-mail sent by someone using a fake address. The montage included images of Ghaly, his wife and children, sound effects likely taken from a pornographic movie and

anti-Muslim text.

A CTV report included a portion of an e-mail sent to students by President Tom Traves, in which he wrote the video "is not regarded as a prank, but as a vicious assault against which we will take all legal measures possible."

City police got involved in December. As of Jan. 8, they weren't considering the video a hate crime. But Constable Jeff Carr told *The Gazette* that whoever is responsible could be charged with defamatory libel and spend a maximum of five years in jail.

"In a situation like this it's a difficult process because it's [the evidence] from an e-mail that could have come from anywhere in the world," Carr said. "But we're still digging."

Source: www.ctv.ca

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

School still out at St. Thomas

St. Thomas University delayed the beginning of winter term last week because of an ongoing teacher lockout.

Students at the New Brunswick school were supposed to start classes Jan. 10, but now they won't hit the books until at least Jan. 14 - as long as professors agree to a new deal with the university before then.

In an unprecedented move in Canada, the university locked out faculty on Dec. 27 after 10 months of negotiations broke down, *Maclean's* magazine reported. The faculty union wants more money - a 43 per cent pay hike over the next three years, according to the university. Such an increase would cause tuition to rise dramatically.

"It is not a productive use of our very limited time," President Michael Higgins said in a statement. "It only adds more delay and more frustration to this situation."

The school's student union urged professors to get back to the bargaining table, though the two parties haven't yet scheduled more negotiations.

"(The union's) rejection of the administration's latest offer translates into a confiscation of our education at St. Thomas University," student union official Alicia Del Frate told *Maclean's*.

Oshawa mayor says students unwelcome

College students in Oshawa may have trouble finding a place to live next year if the city passes a proposed bylaw that would limit student housing and require landlords to pay extra fees for renting to students.

The proposed rule, under which rental houses near Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology could only contain four bedrooms and landlords would pay \$250 per bedroom in annual licensing fees, stems from numerous noise complaints and growing tension between students and other residents.

Some students told *Maclean's* the city is discriminating against them, and student newspapers in the area published editorials criticizing the plan.

Oshawa Mayor John Gray said the policy isn't intended to discriminate against students, though he also told *Maclean's* that

"nothing short of getting rid of all students will appease local residents."

City council is expected to vote on the bylaw Jan. 16.

Carleton appoints first female president

Carleton University's board of governors selected a former Dalhousie faculty member as its new president Jan. 8.

Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte was chairperson of Dal's department of French and then assistant dean of arts and social sciences before serving as president for l'Université Sainte-Anne in the mid-80s.

When Runte takes up her position on July 1, she will be the first female ever to head the school.

Sources: *Maclean's*, Canada News Wire

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Colleges call for new law after drinking deaths

Officials at Minnesota colleges want to change a state law that prevents them from informing students' parents when their children get into trouble with drugs or alcohol on campus.

Four alcohol-related deaths of current and former Minnesota State University students in 2007 prompted school officials to propose a new bill that would allow them to tell parents when their children are cited for underage drinking or minor drug possession.

Currently, state law protects the information as "educational data" and schools can only contact parents in cases of health emergencies, unless a student has signed a waiver, *The Associated Press* reported.

Similar bills were rejected the last two years in a row, and many students oppose the idea because they are legal adults and say their parents should not be involved.

But a professor at the University of Minnesota's school of public health told *The Associated Press* that simply informing parents won't solve drug and alcohol abuse problems among students.

"Parents can influence college-aged students, but they have less influence on college-aged students than they do on high school students," Traci Toomey said.

Source: *The Associated Press*

Part Time Sales Reps Needed

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Subject: Student Sales
jandersen@altimaxns.com

STREETER

What's your New Year's resolution?



“To feed my cat less because he is really fat and needs a diet.”

Christina Toner, second-year arts



“To embarrass myself less.”

James Kesten, fifth-year mechanical engineering



“Gain Weight.”

Nick Rodemacher, fourth-year management



“Date a hockey player.”

Isabel Lavender, first-year music



“Make a resolution not to make any more resolutions.”

Tara Math, fourth-year earth science



“To shave my whole face except for my moustache.”

Andrew Mackey, first-year masters of public administration



“To give up the smoking habit I picked up to win a bet.”

Shaun Naugle, fourth-year biochemistry



“Stop eating raw chicken.”

James Munson, First year foolology

TOP 10

...2008 PREDICTIONS

1. Three words: caffeinated apple juice.
2. Wars will continue and students will hold protests. No one will care.
3. Exams will see unprecedented rates of streaking.
4. The leggings-only trend will extend to men.
5. Another Clinton in the White House, another douche in 24 Sussex.
6. Overheard at Dal will be infiltrated by the CIA.
7. Everyone's Uggs will start to smell really funky.
8. Dal tuition will finally exceed Somalia's GDP.
9. Mumps and Norwalk will combine to form a supervirus. Mad cow will help.
10. Global warming will make Antigonish the new Cancun.

HOT OR NOT

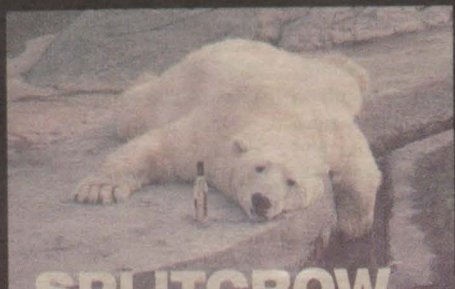
HOT: Graduation	NOT: Reality
HOT: Showing off Christmas presents	NOT: Showing off Christmas pounds
HOT: Four more months	NOT: Four more years
HOT: New Year's resolutions	NOT: Giving up ether
HOT: Meeting Jay-Z	NOT: Whatever you did over the break
HOT: Mike Huckabee	NOT: Everything he represents
HOT: Money from relatives	NOT: Winter tuition
HOT: Hot cousin at Christmas dinner	NOT: Incest
HOT: Monroe Day keggers	NOT: Waiting till February
HOT: Boots wit da fur	NOT: Reeboks with the strap

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Come to the next Gazette contributor
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GOVERNORS' AWARDS

In 1992, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University, the Board of Governors established a set of awards to be known as Governors' Awards.

Up to four awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - undergraduate, graduate or professional faculty student, full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President, Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, are presented annually in the spring by the Chair of the Board or designate.

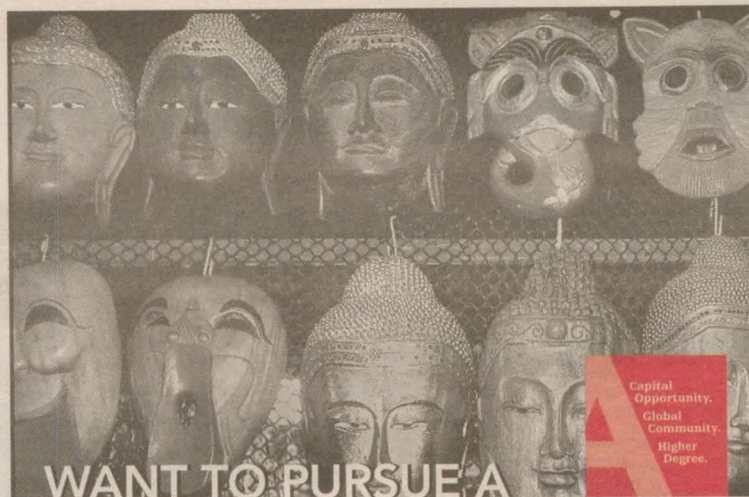
Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support. **Nominations should be forwarded on or before Friday, February 8, 2008, to:**

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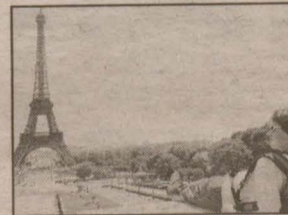
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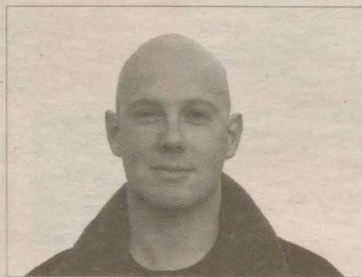
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Coffee and the war on terror



DOUG ROOP
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Doug Roop is a Dalhousie student who is spending the term working at a Tim Hortons in a NATO military base in Kandahar. This is his first article since arriving in Afghanistan.

As we fly over Afghanistan, approaching the Kandahar air base, I look down along the four benches running the length of the Hercules aircraft. I'm travelling with about 70 fully-armed soldiers and six members of the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency. The soldier sitting across from me rests his chin on the butt of his rifle and closes his eyes. I doubt he is asleep. Even after two days of travelling on five hours of sleep, I'm not relaxed enough to sleep. The roar of the engines is deafening.

I look to my right and see what looks like a scene from a war movie. Soldiers stare at their feet or the ceiling, their weapons resting either on their laps or between their legs. No one laughs or smiles, but they don't seem afraid, either. Just blank, steadfast expressions.

But then I look to my left and a colleague of mine, wearing too much clothing and an armoured vest one size too big, attempts to sit up by flapping his arms like a penguin. The soldier across from me laughs and for a few minutes the mood lightens.

But then the feeling on the plane gets literally heavier. My hands feel like 20-pound dumbbells as the plane descends steeply on its landing approach.

Once we're safely on the ground, my first impression is of how flat the land is. There is nothing for miles except for huge mountains on the horizon.

We are greeted by co-workers and start a walking a tour of the base.

As our guide points to a squat yellow building called the TLS, which stands for Taliban's Last Stand, a truck with local workers in the back passes us blasting "Stronger" by Kanye West.

As we make our way to another section of the camp, we come across what looks like small spaceships on the back of army trucks. Turns out these are unmanned airplanes that relay video to forces on the ground. We are not only lucky enough to see one launched, but our group is invited into the control hut to see the footage.

Shortly into our tour of the room, we see a Canadian patrol, about 6,500 feet away, on a black and white screen. The patrol is walking down a road and further up the road we see two figures run away and hide behind a wall. It is at this point we are politely hinted at to leave the control room. It's been less than 24 hours in Kandahar and we've already possibly seen who the soldiers are fighting.

Just as we think it couldn't get any better, it starts to quickly go downhill. The rumour we hear that day of a Canadian soldier being killed is confirmed. We are told that we will attend the ramp ceremony for Gunner Johnathan Dion the next morning.

Shortly after 6 a.m., hundreds gather outside the TLS building and march toward the Hercules that will take Dion back to Canada. As we line up, four people in my vicinity either faint or have to step back from the ceremony.

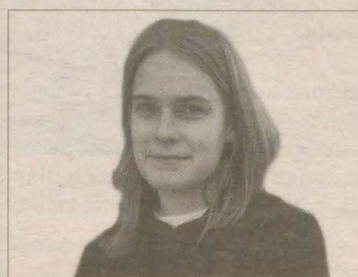
The one thing I will remember clearest are the eyes of the soldiers across from me, following the coffin as the coffin bearers and their fallen comrade passed in front of them down the centre aisle.

I will never forget the beginning of my six months. Afghans listening to Kanye? You can't make that stuff up. However, the dramatic end to my first day in Kandahar was a huge reality check and will constantly remind me of the gravity of the situation here.

Canadian soldiers are fighting and dying in a war, not a peacekeeping mission. This may seem obvious to some people, but I feel that many more underestimate what is going on over here.

The Scientific Skeptic

The year in science



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

A mystery bee murderer, a Nobel for former American Vice-President Al Gore and the publishing of the human genome were the top science stories for 2007. Here is a recap of these and more of the most important and interesting scientific developments and happenings last year.

The culprit in the mysterious colony collapse disorder, which killed up to 90 per cent of the honeybees in many areas of North America, has been identified. Worker bees from affected colonies disappeared overnight and the U.S.'s fruit and nut crops that depend on bee pollination were in danger.

The suspects in this mystery were many and varied. The disappearance was blamed on what turned out to be many unrelated causes, from global warming to genetically modified foods and electromagnetic radiation from cell phones.

According to research done by Co-

lumbia University and Penn State, it is now believed that the cause of colony collapse disorder is an Israeli acute paralysis virus that takes advantage of bee colonies weakened by human transportation and parasitic mites.

Craig Venter, the founder of The Institute for Genomic Research, published his own complete genome on Sept. 4, the first time anyone has done this. Although it cost him \$70 million, it's the first step on the way to affordable gene sequencing for everyone.

Other science stories include the discovery that the appendix does, in fact, have a function. It prevents the body from losing all of the good species of bacteria required in the gut. The highest concentration of bacteria communities in the body is found in the appendix.

A 40,000-year-old baby woolly mammoth was uncovered in Russia in May. The mammoth, named 'Lyuba,' is considered the most complete specimen found yet. It may provide insights into the diet of woolly mammoths and the climate of the earth 40,000 years ago.

2007 was also the year of amazing new technologies. Chinese researchers created glass capable of bending at right angles without breaking. The new glass was made by freezing a mixture of zirconium, copper, nickel and aluminium and is up to three times stronger than regular glass.

Researchers at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology took one of the first steps toward wireless power by beaming electricity across distances of a few metres. The wireless energy could be tapped to recharge laptop or cellphone batteries, and so far it does not interact with the people, walls, or reflective surfaces around it.

In August, a new paper battery was unveiled by the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute that can derive power from human sweat. Though the batteries have a thin coating of carbon nanotubes in cellulose, they are made of 90 per cent paper.

However, the largest share of scientific news stories continued to be related to the effects of global warming. In 2007, China doubled its level of energy usage in 2000 and had already become the world's largest producer of carbon dioxide.

In September, the European Space Agency announced their satellite images showed that arctic ice cover was at its lowest level to date.

President Bush finally acknowledged the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in his State of the Union Address, and Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to bring global warming into the public eye.

Only time will tell if the crusade against climate change began early enough, but it will undoubtedly remain a hot topic in 2008.



Gazette

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

affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Cocktail for disaster

Dalhousie students will have a little less to brag about to their friends back home when they return to school this winter. Dollar drink nights at The Dome are over after a Christmas Eve brawl broke out in the popular dance club, at which patrons threw beer bottles at police and 38 people were arrested.

Cheap drinking may have made the university years a unique experience in Halifax, but the police and the city are saying it has created a violent scene, which the Halifax Regional Municipality has promised to make safer. After an American sailor was murdered in a brawl that moved from a bar and into the street two years ago, City Hall called an impromptu summit to discuss violent crime-related issues in the downtown core.

According to Paul MacKinnon, the executive director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission and a member of the roundtable group, one of the problems discussed was low-priced drinks in late-night establishments.

Mackinnon told *The Gazette* last fall that most businesses would rather see a minimum pricing standard in Halifax in order to get more money for each drink sold.

"They're competing a lot more on price even more than they were even a number of years ago," MacKinnon said. "They're saying we're not making any more money (by lowering prices). It causes a headache for the bars. They would rather get the \$20 with five drinks rather than 20."

Unfortunately, the city waited until its reputation for violence and disorderly conduct was renewed two weeks ago to enforce any changes. The Dome raised its minimum drink price to \$2.50 and made a number of security improvements to have its liquor licence re-instated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

It's a shame it took a large-scale violent altercation to make the city take action. The new regulations are a quick fix to keep situations like the one on Christmas Eve from happening again anytime soon. But

the Nova Scotia government should have already implemented regulations to keep such violence from happening at all.

Halifax needs a regulated and standardized training program for bouncers and bar staff, in the likely event that they have to deal with violent outbreaks again. Bouncers should be trained to prevent dangerous patrons from entering their establishments and to defuse a dispute rather than enflame it. Bartenders need to learn to spot sloshed customers and stop serving them shots - whether they cost \$1.00 or \$2.50.

Many Dal students may bemoan the disappearance of dollar drink nights, but the ad hoc changes being made by the province should have been instated a long time ago. Unruly drinkers and late-night violence have put Halifax on the front page more than once in the last few years. It's too bad the province waited until after several of these violent outbreaks occurred to attempt to curb one of its causes.

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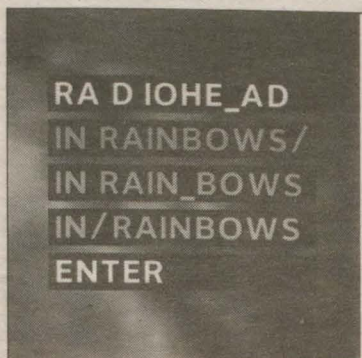
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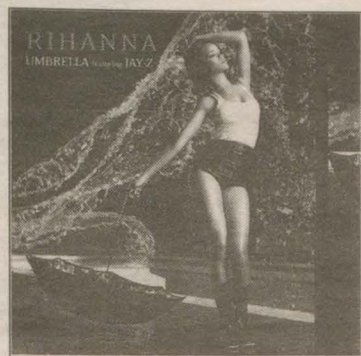
Top singles of 2007

CHRISTIE CONWAY | ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR



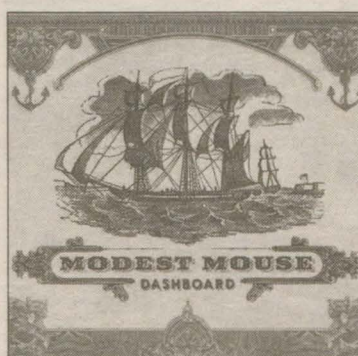
"Jigsaw Falling Into Place" – Radiohead

Radiohead's pay-what-you-can digital album *In Rainbows* offers a variety of incredible choices for best songs of 2007, but "Jigsaw Falling Into Place" has just the right mix of old and new Radiohead sound, along with a sense of jam-session intimacy.



"Umbrella" – Rihanna

Perhaps the most overplayed song of the year, "Umbrella" seemed to be the go-to tune for every closing scene of *The Hills*. And just when you thought the storm was over, Rihanna goes and releases an acoustic version.



"Dashboard" – Modest Mouse

Modest Mouse rarely disappoints and "Dashboard" is no exception, representing the greatest car song of 2007 or possibly ever. String disco meets Seattle indie rock with a sound that's oh so sweet.



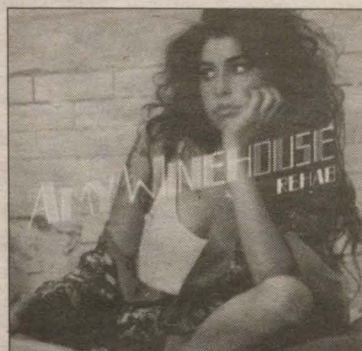
"Situation" – 1990s

The Scots of 1990s send you into reminiscences of the glorious glam punk bands of the 70s with a sound that stays true to tradition, while offering something distinctly unique. They're not the New York Dolls but they're still catchy as hell.



"Stronger" – Kanye West

A song that fills the mind with images of drunken dancing debauchery at The Dome. Our favourite egomaniac Kanye West loves hipster dance music almost as much as he loves himself and the result is a track that gets even the soberest of patrons on the dance floor.



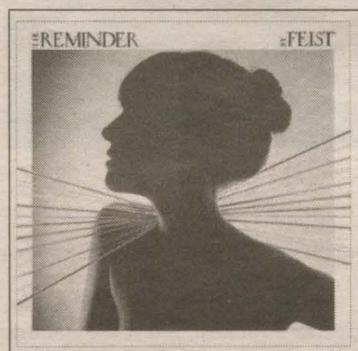
"Rehab" – Amy Winehouse

This song was all over the airwaves this year while its songstress was all over the tabloids. Winehouse's personal life may be a trainwreck, but the beehived sack of bones can croon with the best of 'em.



"The Underdog" – Spoon

God this band is good. So so good. Album after album, Spoon delivers toe-tapping tunes and thought-provoking lyrics that make ears happy. Here's to Spoon, for making the tambourine even cooler.



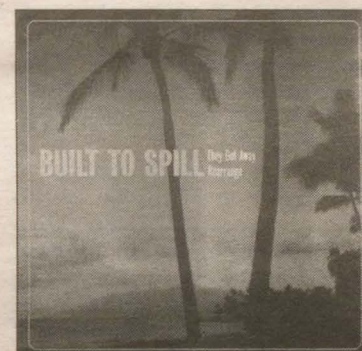
"1234" – Fiest

An iPod commercial and the title of alt-rock indie goddess, as dubbed by VH1 and MTV, is great for Feist's career but not so hot for her cred among elitist indie fans. But don't hold it against her. We could listen to this homegrown singer/songwriter count all day long.



"Icky Thump" – The White Strips

Jack and Meg White ruled the summer airwaves with a song jam-packed with some the best riffs of the year. A Sega-meets-rock intro with a Medieval Times-ish break and sing-along lyrics made this song a shoo-in.



"Myriad Harbor" – The New Pornographers

When class got to be too much, Dan Bejar let us get lost with him in New York City in this folk-rocky tune about pretty girls and record stores. This song is perfect for a winter wander.



"LDN" – Lily Allen

Lily Allen's voice is so sweet and upbeat, singing lyrics that make us think twice about spending spring break in London. No one else can make a song about crackwhores and violent crime sound like sugar and spice.



"When Under Ether" – PJ Harvey

PJ Harvey consistently finds new ways to acoustically creep us out... in a good way.



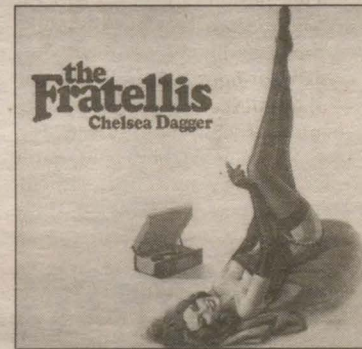
"Down Boy" – Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Art-punk with a helping of sexy and a side of sleaze. The riffs will have you rocking out and then looking for someone to makeout with.



"Phantom Limb" – The Shins

James Mercer makes us want to run through a spring meadow in a heavily medicated state. "Phantom Limb" has all the sweet pop melodies you've come to expect from The Shins, and the tambourine alone will get us through the winter.



"Chelsea Dagger" – The Fratellis

If you're getting ready for a night of bad life choices, this song may become an important part of your pre-drink playlist. Scottish man-sluts The Fratellis get us dancing and feeling better about our own indiscretions.

January '08 Career Skills Events

Highlighting International Experience January 22 - 2:30-4:00 (SUB, Room 224)

Networking for Net Worth: From Class to Career January 24 - 5:15-6:45 (McCain)

Getting Employers' Attention Workshop January 29 - 6:00-7:30 (Shirreff Hall Study Lounge)

On Campus Recruiting

Nova Scotia Power Inc. January 15 - 5:30-7:30 (Sexton, Room B310)

Corrections Canada January 24 - 3:00-5:00 (Location TBD)

For details and registration see the Career Calendar at www.dal.ca/csc

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Minds

Just don't say "Macbeth"

DAN BRAY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Macbeth might not really be cursed, but it must be very hard to direct. After watching the Dalhousie acting class drive the tragedy into the ground two years ago, I didn't think it could get any worse. At least the King's Theatrical Society had that advantage.

Macbeth is Shakespeare's shortest tragedy, but it is exceptionally humanist and powerful. The play demonstrates some of the bard's darkest flourishes of prose and most intense characterization. Nowhere else in his plays do we see a couple as perfect for one another as the Macbeths, which makes it all the more pitiful when they embark, hand in hand, down the road to murder and insanity.

The play's tragic plot is based around the fact that an essentially good guy is coerced into committing a horrific act of violence by his arrogant wife. After replacing the murdered king, however, Macbeth grows paranoid and cuts down everybody in his path, while his once dangerous wife is reduced to a hand-washing sleepwalker.

Ailsa Galbreath's production did not capture this dynamic. It was hard to believe that Macbeth, played by "Crazy-Eyes" Brayden Benham, is good-natured or rational at any point. Lady Macbeth (Maija Buckley-Pearson) entered salivating over the renegade witches' prophecies and never calmed down, so the audience wasn't comfortable with her, either. When the couple wasn't yelling at one another, they were making out, leaving the audience struggling for middle ground.

Macbeth's eventual evil is meant to eclipse that of his avaricious wife, in turn forcing her to tremble at his monstrosity. However, since he was quite vicious from the moment he strutted onstage, it was hard to believe that the queen's worry would ever drive her to such self-destructive madness. Benham had a tendency to spit and yell, while Buckley-Pearson's Lady Macbeth - arguably one of Shakespeare's most difficult female characters - bungled some



Perhaps "Macbeth" was uttered inside the theatre, because this production seemed cursed.

of the show's most tender moments. That said, her "Out, damn spot!" speech was quite well done, salvaging her performance.

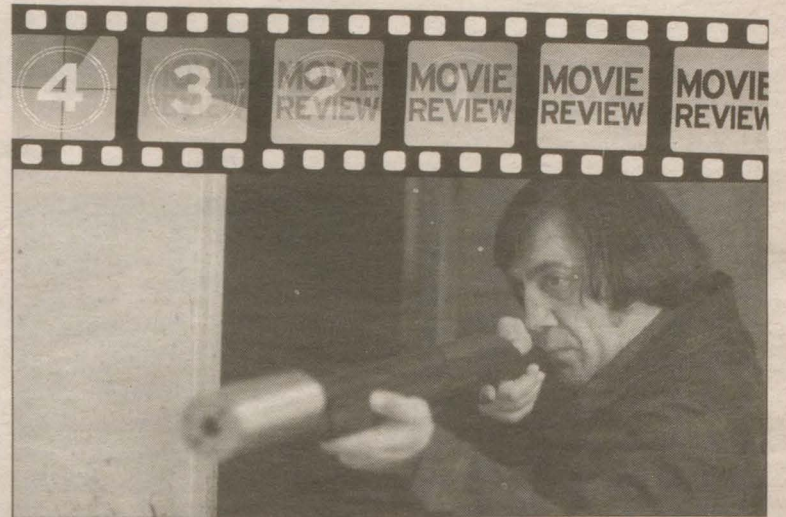
The supporting cast was a mix of the dexterous and the well-intentioned. Andrew Davies played Macbeth's faithful sidekick, and although his speeches sounded a bit rehearsed, he painted a sympathetic Banquo. It was difficult to watch him get so blithely murdered without pity.

Malcolm Woodside was also quite talented, despite his tendency to follow other characters around the stage. Yolana Wassersug played Ross, the bearer of bad news, with simultaneous force and sincerity. Angela Potvin, as Hecate, held a commanding presence, and the witches' fear of her trickled into the audience. Ira Henderson's Macduff was expertly handled, and when he wept at an unexpectedly tender lament for his

butchered wife and babies, the audience cried with him.

Macbeth includes some of Shakespeare's strongest and most chilling language, the majority of which got lost in translation, however. The production's most successful moments were due to its blocking. Along with the cast's contagious energy and meticulously timed entrances and exits, the play's bloody nature was realized. The battle scenes were well choreographed, although Lady Macduff's assassination could have been 15 minutes shorter.

But considering they had less than two months to present a relatively uncut Shakespearian tragedy (not to mention on a measly budget and during exams), Galbreath did a pretty good job. Although there were areas for improvement, the cast's hearts were in the right spot and the bard's opus was ultimately realized.



No Country for Old Men

ANDREW EDWARD DAVIES
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

No Country for Old Men, the latest film by the Coen brothers, is an old western for our time. It is a brutal and meditative film on violence and evil.

The film follows the story of three men, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin), a hunter who finds more than \$2 million in the desert, Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem), an assassin on the trail of the stolen money, and Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones), a sheriff on the trail of both of them.

The three characters have no screen time together, but because of this their stories work better overall. All three make up important individual parts of a larger story.

The film is based on Cormac McCarthy's 2005 novel of the same name and is faithful to the events therein. The dialogue sets the tone for the story; the words are frank and unsentimental but full of meaning.

The sense of uncertainty surrounding the events in the film makes it intriguing to the very last scene.

While it is an original cinematic effort, *No Country for Old Men* evokes the excitement of old school chase scenes. Joel and Ethan Coen, who wrote and directed *Fargo*, create sequences that are genuinely suspenseful and produce a constant sense of dread. As the film's tagline

says, "There are no clean getaways."

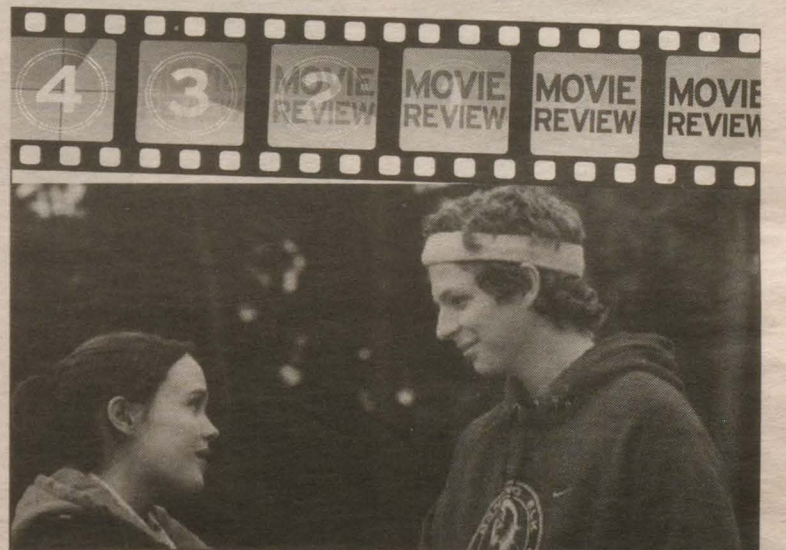
It is also a film of voices. McCarthy's dialogue drives this film as much as the action does, especially Bell's monologues, which were the best part of the novel.

The performances are also true to the novel. Brolin, Jones and Bardem all capture the characters written on the page. Bardem has received much well-deserved attention for his memorable portrayal of an evil man - a performance that makes the title of the film quite appropriate.

Jones, who won an Oscar for *The Fugitive*, was a great choice for the character of Bell. Jones shows he has come a long way from playing Sam Gerard. However, remembering him in that role adds poignancy to his performance in this film as a man weary of the cruelty he has seen.

As Moss, Brolin provides a good alternative presence to these men and captures the essence of the character McCarthy created.

There have been rumblings about how the ending leaves audiences "cold" due to a lack of resolution, but the lack of resolution is what ultimately makes the film real. Life doesn't always provide definitive answers. The ending is faithful to the novel by being somber instead of reverting to something more satisfactory, which is fitting for a movie with such a foreboding title.



Juno's not too cute

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Juno's childish music and choppy opening animation sequence bring *Napoleon Dynamite* to mind. But after the first 15 minutes, the movie is clearly much more.

A comedy about teenage pregnancy is ambitious to say the least. Luckily, director Jason Reitman (*Thank You for Smoking*) manages to strike a balance of humour and seriousness and keeps the film from being either too silly or somber.

Halifax-born Ellen Page plays Juno MacGuff, a distinctly weird, smart and witty 16-year-old who gets knocked up by Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera) and tries to find the right adoptive parents to raise her unborn baby.

Cera plays the same sort of awkward

teen he played in *Arrested Development* and *Superbad*, but he shouldn't be written off.

Cera and Page are fantastic. Despite being only 19 and 20 respectively, they don't miss a beat working among an older and accomplished cast.

Juno is stripper/writer Diablo Cody's first screenplay. At times, it's overly quirky and some of the slang is unnecessarily silly. "Honest to blog."

But this hasn't kept *Juno* from being rated the best movie of 2007, according to Roger Ebert, being nominated for three Golden Globes and winning a number of smaller awards.

A very cute soundtrack, mostly provided by Kimya Dawson, adds a nice, childish touch. Though some of the dialogue makes the movie feel corny at times, tremendous acting, directing and great characters make *Juno* worth seeing.

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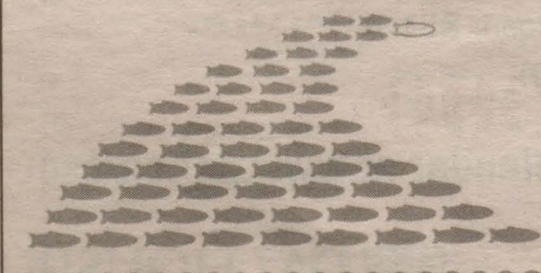
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Hot trend of 2008: not smelling like an ashtray.

How To: Quit smoking in 30 days

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

It's resolution time, and a good time to finally quit smoking. January is stress-free, school-wise, and a good time for a fresh start.

It's not impossible to quit. I have followed these tips and I haven't had a drag of a cigarette in a year and a half. I don't even think about smoking and couldn't be happier that I don't.

Week One

In the first week, you may want to cry, scream, and punch your roommate. You have to want to quit smoking. If you are fully prepared for the battle, you are more likely to succeed.

- Stop smoking on a Monday. This day is far enough from the weekend that you're not hungover and not going to drink for at least three days.

- Go for a run. That will hurt your lungs enough to make you want to quit.

- Try to go for three days. After three days the nicotine is mostly out of your body so you won't crave it as much.

- Buy extremely strong gum. Chew gum constantly. Whenever you feel like a cigarette, chew a piece of Inferno or Midnight Mint. It will also prevent snacking.

- Avoid hot drinks like coffee or tea for a couple days. Pop is a sufficient supplement.

- You might have to rely on other addictions for about two weeks.

- Go for another run on day three. It will relieve anxiety and remind you why you're quitting.

- Feel good about going to the store to buy a pack of gum instead of a pack of cigarettes for 10 times the cost.

- Bring apples and snacks for breaks between classes. Try to mix up your routine.

Week Two

In the second week you might debate whether you can roll up and smoke that potpourri your mom gave you for Christmas. But spite helps. If friends are skeptical about you going the weekend without smoking, do it to prove them wrong.

- Ease into drinking. Have a few beers at a friend's house the first night. Bring granola or peanuts.

- Keep in mind alcohol affects you more because the nicotine is out of your body.

- It will be torture to not smoke while drinking at first but remember: the more nicotine there is in your body, the more your body will want it.

- Don't allow yourself even one drag. It will lead to smoking again. No exceptions. The slippery slope of smoking spread over a couple weeks is this: one drag, splitting a cigarette, bumming, feeling bad for bumming and buying a pack for the weekend, splitting packs, fully smoking.

- It is in fact possible to drink without smoking.

- It's simple to stop smoking when you're sober if you can do it when you're drunk.

- Bring lollipops to a kegger or bar.

- Remember, the worst is over. It will only get easier from this point.

Week Three

In the third week you will be more at ease with your non-smoking routine and will undoubtedly enjoy the extra money in your pocket.

- You will start coughing up gross phlegmy black stuff. That is your lungs cleaning themselves.

- It's hard to think you'll never have a cigarette again, but after a month you won't want one.

- Since there is no smoking in clubs and bars, it won't be hard to avoid cigarette smoke, and you can laugh at the suckers in their jackets freezing outside to get their fix.

- If you're ever about to give in, think how much healthier you feel and how much money you have saved already.

- Three packs per week for a semester of school costs about \$420.

- You will notice that you smell better and have more energy.

- You might gain a couple pounds, but if you keep chewing gum and have healthy snacks it won't be excessive.

Week Four

By the fourth week, with luck, the smell of cigarettes will make you cringe and you will pity your smoking friends for having to freeze in the cold.

- You will start to not think about the post dinner butt while slurping your soup.

- Tell people about your accomplishment.

- Don't celebrate with a smoke. And even if you don't go all the way, there is no harm in trying to go three days. Good luck.

SEX WITH HUGH

Business in the front, pure sex in the back



HUGH WALLACE
SEX COLUMNIST

When I was in Salamanca, Spain last semester, I learned there is no sexier thing than a mullet. They are sported by anyone who is someone and never seem to deter the ladies (or men), like you might assume.

In Canada we see a lot of the Euro-esque mullet style, which is a North American revival of the ever so sexy Euro mullet. It is a mullet renaissance, if you will – and I will.

I believe that the über trendy Euro mullet craze sweeping our fine nation is totally righteous.

The functional definition of a mullet is a haircut that is short enough in the front that you can carry out a business transaction but long enough in the back that you can entrance people with your party lifestyle.

Now of course, there are many variations on the mullet theme. Some of these include the mini-truck mullet, the Euro mullet, the tendril mullet, the red robin mullet, the skullet, the femullet and so on and so forth.

They all pack a different punch and definitely a different meaning. Getting into that, however, would be a totally different article. If you need some light reading to brush up on your mullet classification skills, check out www.mulletsgalore.com.

The mullet is a wily and elusive character. It is definitely sported by someone with the confidence to boast such a luxurious coif. Even in the case of the skullet, which is characterized by the absence of hair in the front/top, it is a chance for the person who sports it to show off the remaining vestiges of their once illustrious mullet beauty.

The mullet-wearer can also be characterized by their attire. In terms of determining the personality of the individual bearer, we can look at clothing to surmise whether they are part of the new school or old school philosophy of mullets.

A more upbeat, modern dresser should definitely be lumped into the new school of mullets. This mullet bearer likely has an interest in

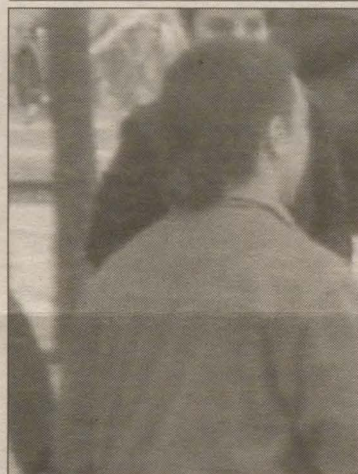
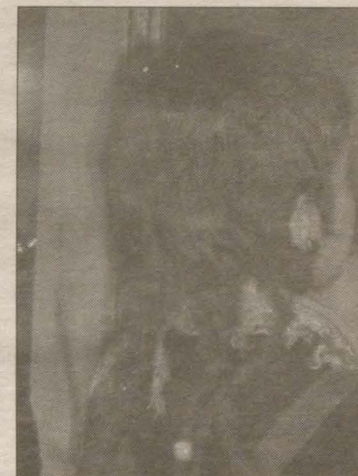
indie rock and tight pants, and is emotional and sensitive. This is a friendly mullet. A mullet you could take home to mum and dad.

The latter, however, is a more aggressive mullet, sported only by those daring enough to indulge in the old school delights of mulletting. These folks likely enjoy Budweiser, wear lots of plaid and have tendencies toward violence. This is a slightly dangerous mullet. A mullet you wouldn't want to piss off. A mullet

and creative ways of pleasing their partners.

The shorter part of the mullet evokes an idea of sincerity, responsibility and professionalism, which is important in a mature, adult relationship.

And the mullet represents endurance. It takes a long time for people to grow those suckers, carefully sculpting their hair to produce the ultimate orgasmic result. Endurance is chief in both the emotional and sexual as-



It seems we're not the only ones who think Billy Ray Cyrus is a sex god.

with a high degree of mulletude.

The new school Euro mullet, however, is not dangerous and is more than just friendly. Yes, the Euro mullet actually manages to be sexually attractive.

Let me just recap a little of last year's column for those of you who weren't around. I have an obsession with the idea that confidence is sexy. I hope there is agreement among us on this point. This is where the mullet gains its sex appeal, because it takes a very confident person to pull off this style.

Furthermore, it takes an artistic person to revive an old trend. And an artistic personality also allows a person to come up with romantic

pects of relationships. It's important during the rocky, emotional times that afflict a good relationship, and sexual endurance needs no explanation. It's just important.

Thus, mullets are sexy.

I hope I have somehow persuaded you to at least have an appreciation for this unique hairstyle as it infiltrates our nation. And if you have a mullet, please send me an e-mail telling me how much you love it, care for it and appreciate it. I personally prefer a mullet with tendrils.

I'm also open to questions, comments and criticism. E-mail me at sex@dalgazette.ca. Cheers and Happy New Year!



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There it was – gone!

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

New York City: the glitz, the glamour, the center of the universe. And for those of us living in Newtown, Pennsylvania, it's only a day trip away from the drudgery and boredom of suburban life.

It's an hour to Penn Station on an express train from Princeton Junction with all the ravishing New Jersey scenery your eyes can take in. The morning sun rising over chemical plants and electrical stations will never look as good as when you're crammed into a seat on public transit next to a young gentleman who looks like he was very recently paroled.

But I was on my way to Manhattan and couldn't be troubled by the sulphuric odours issuing from countless Jersey smoke stacks or the possibility of being shanked. No, I was going to the Big Apple!

I arrived at Penn Station and took a cab down to Tribeca, planning on spending the day making my way uptown, alternating between West Broadway and Fifth Avenue. I hit one of the many Starbucks to caffeinate myself and then, sugar-free vanilla soy latte in hand, set out onto the streets.

The shopping on West Broadway, just above Canal Street (the hub of Chinatown), is incredible. Between pure excitement and holiday sales my credit card took a severe beating well before noon.

I was counting this season's Christian Louboutin pumps and neo-yuppies as I walked through SoHo and then headed west toward Greenwich Village. The shops and restaurants oozed hipness and I attempted to embody the aloof cool I was sure must be present in all authentic 'villagers.' By now I was already dreaming of smacking the hoods of cabs in my Manolo Blahniks and Free People embroidered tunic while yelling, "I'm walkin' here!" God I love this city.

I headed back over to Fifth and made my way farther uptown, stopping to check out New York Univer-

sity and The New School for Design along the way. I had lunch on Fifth at Eisenberg's Sandwich Shop, where one can often see the likes of Cynthia Nixon and Peter Gallagher stuffing their faces with the greasiest turkey club in all of Midtown.

It was only 2 p.m. when I found myself on 46th and figured I'd look for the legendary Gotham Book Mart, in hopes of running into John Updike or other notable members of the literati. Imagine my horror as I came upon the blue awning of Gotham to find darkened windows, a barren, dusty interior and a vermin notice on the front door. Gotham was no more. How could this happen? I had passed at least half a dozen Barnes & Nobles packed with patrons and the Gotham Book Mart was now reduced to a rat shit emporium. I sat on a street bench and gathered my thoughts.

I had meant to spend the rest of my day wandering the stacks at Gotham, casually carrying around *Rabbit, Run* (just in case), but now I needed new plans. The Museum of Modern Art was closeby, but I had visited it recently and after the morning's shopping expedition, I was looking for an activity that was a little more on the free side.

After some careful thought and an impromptu conversation with a street cleaner about how New York was going to hell in a handbasket, I decided to continue along the vein of literary Manhattan landmarks. I'd passed Scribner's where William Faulkner had worked before his later success and had seen the empty shell of Gotham. I figured if I was going to do a literary nerd dream tour of Manhattan, the next stop had to be Chumley's, and that required heading back down to the village.

I took the Orange Line from Rockefeller Center down to 4th and proceeded to walk over to Grove Street and Bedford. Chumley's was a speakeasy during prohibition and the Mecca for the great literary minds of the time. Eugene O'Neill, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner and wild Welshman Dylan Thomas were all loyal patrons. One can only imag-

ine the drunken ramblings of minds such as these!

As I walked down Bedford Street, searching for the unmarked door of Chumley's, I came across a long stretch of green painted plywood along the side of a building where the entrance should have been. I stopped and looked around. An elderly man in a long overcoat with a broken foot hobbled down the street. I asked if he knew where I could find the entrance to the famous bar. He looked back at me and in a very dignified French accent, told me that I was standing in front of it. He also told me that only months before, the chimneys within the building had collapsed in on each other and Chumley's had been closed indefinitely.

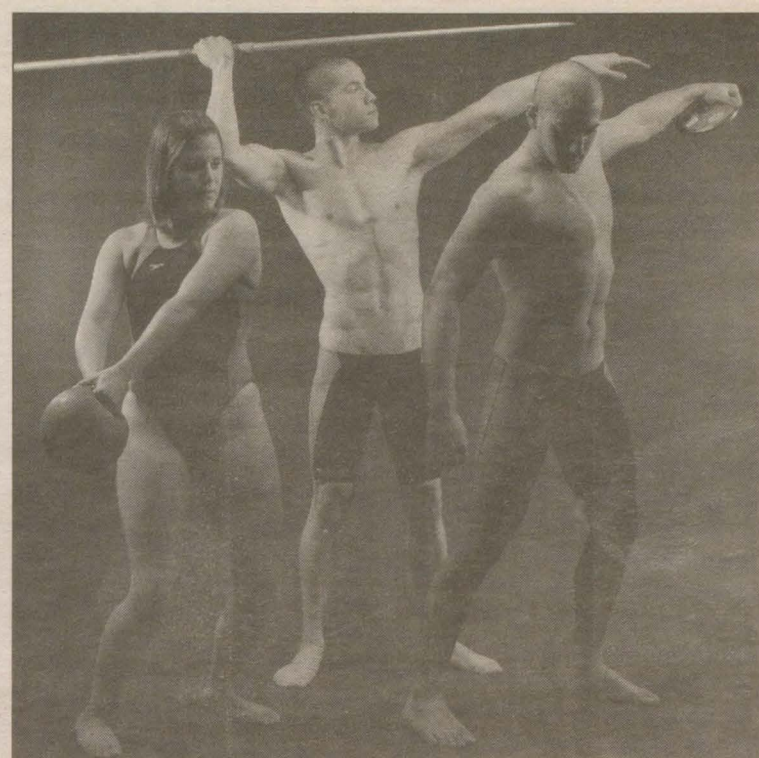
So there it was – gone. "What in the name of God or Nature is happening to this city?" I thought to myself, but knowing such a question might not be quite appropriate to ask a nice elderly Frenchman, I thanked him and wandered back into the heart of the village.

I stood on the corner of 6th, attempting to discretely bring out my "Guide to New York City" to figure out the best walking route back to Tribeca for dinner, when all of a sudden one of the faces in the crowd, the sea of people you pass all day long in Manhattan, was not just a face in the crowd.

"Holy shit! It's that Ryan guy from *The OC*!" my mind screamed. Nobody else on the street seemed to care, but sure enough, Benjamin McKenzie was walking past me as I read my guide and looked like another lame lost tourist...awesome. If I wasn't already a loser for being deflated over a botched literary landmarks tour, now the *OC* guy thinks I'm lame. Damn it.

On the train ride home I called my sister to ask if she wanted me to pick up a late supper. She asked how my day had gone.

"Well, I walked more than 70 blocks only to find that two key historical landmarks are gone," I said. "But I saw that sad looking Ryan guy from *The OC*. He's shorter than I thought."



Taking it off for funds

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

Sports teams often have creative fundraising drives like dinner banquets or fashion shows. But the Dalhousie Tigers swim team is taking a slightly different approach with its swimsuit calendar. While the calendar may not be as racy as a *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, the Tigers are showing off in hopes of raising funds for the season.

The theme for this year's calendar is Olympic sports, to correspond with the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Each month features two or three male and female athletes in swimwear representing different Olympic sports, with the accompanying schedules for and additional photos of swimming action shots. The photos were taken by Dal varsity photographer Nick Pearce with graphics done by Dalplex graphics designer Christine Darrah.

This is the second edition of the Dal swim team calendar. In 2006, the Dalhousie Student Union did not include the team's competition schedule in the student agenda. In order


to raise student awareness about the team, Magda Gawlik and Colleen Smith produced the first calendar in fall 2006. This year Lauren Dorrington and Catherine Boyd took the lead in creating a more professional calendar.

"The calendar this year is different from last year's because we were able to learn a lot by seeing how the calendar was put together the first time and then make improvements on it the second time around," Dorrington wrote in an e-mail interview. "For example, we kept with one theme throughout the entire calendar (us swimmers doing other Olympic sports). Plus, I wanted all the photos to be uniform so I organized them to be done in the studio."

The Tigers are looking for a few more dollars than last year to cover extra costs incurred this year. Last year the team raised \$4,000.

"This year we went with a different printing company, so hopefully we will be able to raise a bit more than that this year," Dorrington wrote.

The calendar costs \$15 and is sold at the Dalplex.



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