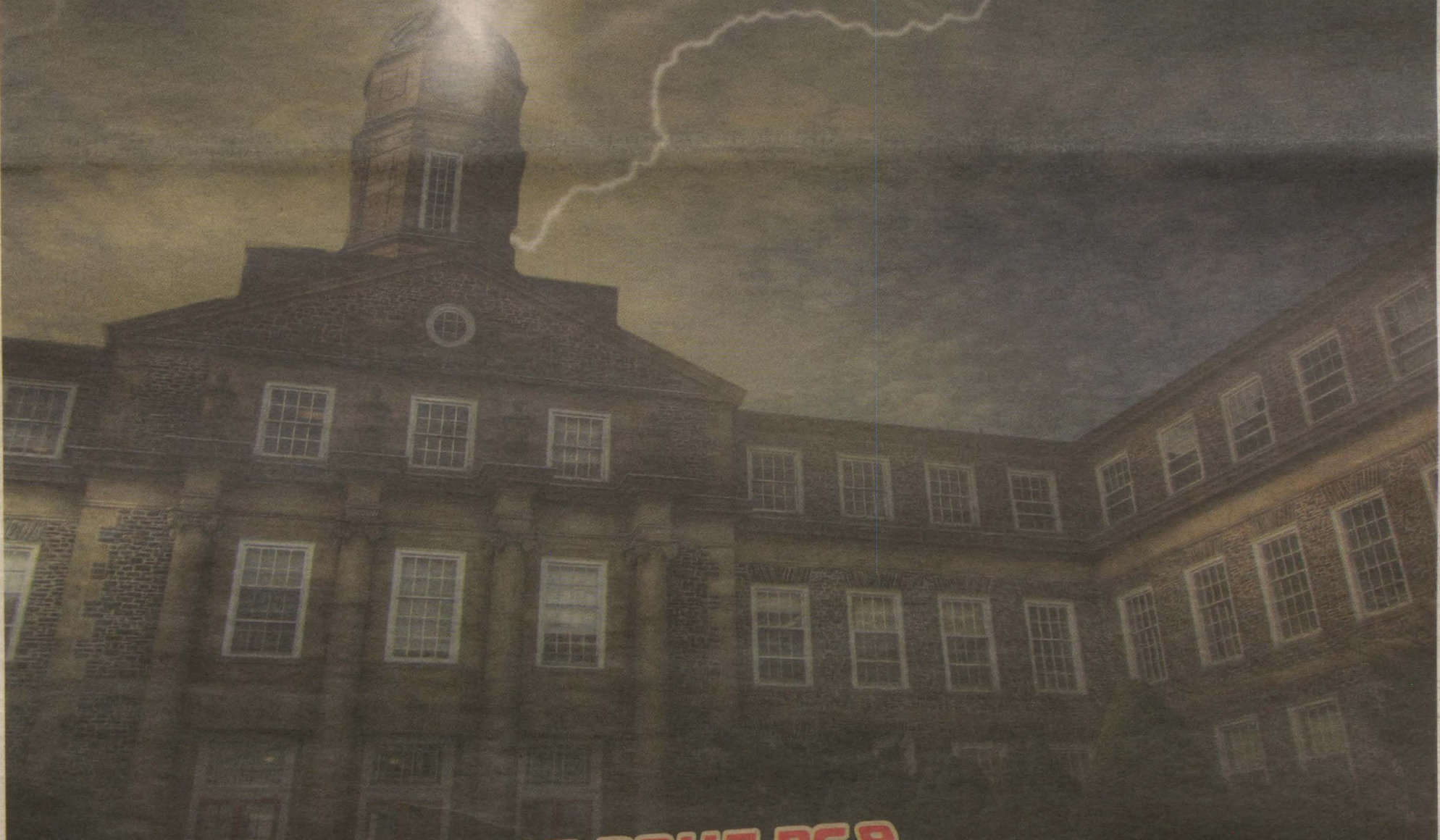
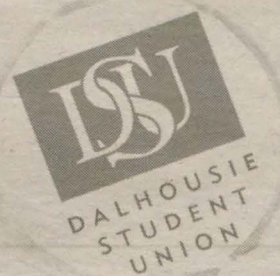


# THE GAZETTE GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE



**RADICALS IN THE ROWE PG 8**  
**SEXTANT'S FOGGY FUTURE PG 9**  
**DAL MUSIC HITS A CRESCENDO PG 16**





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

## DSU Weekly Dispatch

### Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

#### Events:

#### Wednesday, December 2

##### Open Mic @ The Grawood

There is a \$100.00 cash prize for best performance. If you want to play simply show up after 5pm to make sure you get a spot. Spots fill up quickly so get there early!

#### Thursday, December 3

##### Tim Chaisson and Morning Fold Live @ The Grawood

Special benefit concert in support of Shinerama  
Cover charge of \$5 at the door.  
All proceeds are donated to Shinerama.

#### Monday, December 7

##### Last Class Bash with Signal Hill @ The Grawood

Come out to the Grawood's legendary end of term party. You don't want to miss it!

#### Society News

Society Audits are now in progress. Please submit your books to DSU Vice President Doyle Bond by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please make sure that if you are holding a society event that you fill out a Risk Management Form at [http://fm.dal.ca/event\\_book.php](http://fm.dal.ca/event_book.php). Any questions can be directed towards your Society Coordinator @ [society.coordinator@dal.ca](mailto:society.coordinator@dal.ca)

#### Charity Ball

Each year the DSU hosts an annual Charity Ball dinner and auction in support of a select charity. This event is one of the social highlights of the year and is an amazing fundraising opportunity. The DSU is now accepting proposals from students and societies to help decide which charity this year's proceeds will go to. Proposals can be as long or as short as you like so get creative! The only guideline is that you provide us with solid reasoning as to why we should select your charity. This is always a very difficult decision as there are so many worthy causes so make sure you sell yourself and your charity.

Submissions are due on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and can be dropped off at the information desk in the Student Union Building or emailed to [dsuvpsl@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpsl@dal.ca) (with the subject title "Charity Ball Proposal"). The Events Committee will review all proposals and announce the charity of choice on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Exams are approaching, if you are studying late don't walk home alone!

Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am).  
Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> for more details.

Sincerely,  
*Your DSU Executive*

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



## GAZETTE STAFF

Josh Boyter, Editor in Chief  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)

Hilary Beaumont, Copy Editor  
[copy@dalgazette.com](mailto:copy@dalgazette.com)

Bethany Horne, News Editor  
[news@dalgazette.com](mailto:news@dalgazette.com)

Tim Mitchell, Features Editor  
[features@dalgazette.com](mailto:features@dalgazette.com)

Kaley Kennedy, Opinions Editor  
[opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com)

Laura Dawe, Arts Editor  
[arts@dalgazette.com](mailto:arts@dalgazette.com)

Joel Tichinoff, Sports Editor  
[sports@dalgazette.com](mailto:sports@dalgazette.com)

Susan Maroun, Art Director  
[design@dalgazette.com](mailto:design@dalgazette.com)

Pau Balite, Photo Editor  
[photo@dalgazette.com](mailto:photo@dalgazette.com)

## 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 Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

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## CONTACT US

Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 4J2  
[www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com)

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-1280  
[editor@dalgazette.com](mailto:editor@dalgazette.com)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
(902) 494-6532  
[advertising@dalgazette.com](mailto:advertising@dalgazette.com)



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# Editorial

## IN THE YEAR 2020!

What does the future of Dal hold?

**Matthew Ritchie**  
Assistant Arts Editor

For those of us without Deloreans (or, at least, a 1987 Toyota Camry with built in flux capacitors), it is hard to see what the future will really be like in the next 10 years. But it is easy to imagine.

The Toronto Maple Leafs will certainly not make it the playoffs. Obama will let the world down after his eight-year term. At least one of the Jon and Kate Plus Eight children will develop a drug problem.

But what does the future hold for Dalhousie in the next 10 years? When I started here in the middle of the decade, it seemed like the whole world was changing in new and exciting ways. On campus, the Gradhouse got moved

and some building got torn down. Still, I wonder what will happen in the next 10 years of Dalhousie University.

**In the year 2020!**

Becoming tired of outsourcing their labour to students for \$10 an hour, Tiger Patrol will purchase real live tigers to patrol the school after midnight. Although providing useless assistance in navigating students home at night, they will certainly create a means for getting rid of those two freaks handing out pamphlets outside of the sub.

**In the year 2020!**

Sloan will perform another concert at the Grawood. People will still not care.

**In the year 2020!**

Students will protest against fellow peers claiming they are from To-

ronto, when in fact they are from a town most have never heard of an hour away from the provinces capital. Because of this, all other cities in Ontario will simply be known as "Not Toronto."

**In the year 2020!**

Girls will finally stop wearing Ugg boots tucked into sweatpants on campus.

**In the year 2020!**

Engineering students will quit drinking for a semester and instead focus their efforts on improving their social skills.

**In the year 2020!**

Science students will finally stop ridiculing students working on arts degrees once they realize they too will probably end up working in offices once they graduate.

**In the year 2020!**

In an attempt to create more jobs

on campus, Shirreff Hall will change taco day from Tuesday to everyday of the week, creating at least 10 new positions for plumbers on campus.

**In the year 2020!**

The debate about whether it is pronounced "Greywood" or "Grahwood" will finally be settled - by pistols at dawn.

**In the year 2020!**

Someone will finally explain what leisure studies actually are the study of.

**In the year 2020!**

Frats will contain cool people.

**In the year 2020!**

Aramark will be forced off of campus when the Dawgfather expands into the student union building. His empire will crumble with the addition of a new hot dog vendor: Fredo Corleone.

**In the year 2020!**

Dalhousie will buy back Fenwick Tower, then re-sell it, then buy it back again, and finally, re-sell it. It will still resemble an album cover by the band White Lies.

**In the year 2020!**

The Dalhousie Student Union will release its second issue of Storm magazine.

**See you in the future!**

*Disclaimer: This has been a parody of Conan O'Brien's In the Year 2000. In case you are unaware, this is a satirical article. The point of it is to be witty, not factual. Though it deals with a true and controversial issue, the quotes are completely fabricated. Take these words as you would take any episode of the Colbert Report: with a thigh-slapping grain of salt.*

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**CAMP TOWANDA**

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CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches, and instructors June 19 - August 14.

Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board and travel allowance. Information meeting at SMU during late January early February.

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Staff Experience for application.

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email [staff@camptowanda.com](mailto:staff@camptowanda.com)  
or call 800 923-2267.

## ROSEMARY GILL AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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 2010. 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. To assist you in planning your submission, a nomination form can be found on the Student Services website, [studentservices.dal.ca](http://studentservices.dal.ca).

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.

Please submit nominations to:

The Office of the Vice-President, Student Services  
Room G28, Main Level  
Killam Memorial Library  
Dalhousie University  
6225 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H8

**The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 18, 2009.**



# News

**News**

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Bethany or Lucy at news@dalgazette.com



Bethany Horne **News Editor**  
news@dalgazette.com

## Teaching ethics to business people

Global recession and climate change affect new education models

**Bethany Horne**  
News Editor

**G**reed is no longer good. And the degree program that arguably attracts the greedy, the Masters of Business Administration, is having a major identity crisis.

But the director of the Dalhousie School of Business says this crisis is a good thing.

"When you look at some of the things that have happened on Wall Street— company failures, bank failures—we have to take responsibility as business schools for our education model."

And although they aren't the only ones to blame, Peggy Cunningham says the schools are in a position to teach stricter standards of social and environmental ethics that will guide the next generation of businesspeople.

Cunningham is overseeing an overhaul of Dal's MBA degree. This year, students in the first year of the new Corporate Residency MBA are co-existing with students in the old MBA program, which is being phased out. The Corporate Residency MBA has a focus on practical business experience. And, pervasively, on ethics.

"It's in everything we're doing, in all of our courses."

Cunningham says that the mission statement of the school has changed to reflect the equal importance of all three legs of the stool: people, planet and profits.

Next term, she is teaching a class called Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Ethics and Sustainability. This class has "been on the books for a while," but she doesn't think has been taught before.

"Corporate Social Responsibility is an elective in the existing MBA program, but in the new MBA program it's a required, capstone course," she says.

But how do you teach ethics to adults, who probably have their moral characters firmly set by the time they get to university?

"That's a classic argument: ethics can't be taught. I strongly disagree."

People who can make good choices on a personal level still benefit from learning frameworks to make these good decisions when they are complicated by multiple factors specific to business. Balancing the needs of customers, employees, shareholders, the environment, partners and regulators is a skill that, Cunningham says, she can certainly teach.

"Can I turn pond scum into an ethical person in one class? No. But we're screening very carefully."

Students have to pass a personal interview, as well as an academic review, in order to qualify for the MBA program.

Also, she says there is a self-selection of students, and the Dal school is reaping some of the best.

"Our mission is pretty public, in terms of what we want to. The students that we are attracting are students that care about issues like sustainability."

A big part of the change at Dalhousie, she says, is coming directly from students. "Students don't want to go into business and be ashamed of being business people."

The first class of Corporate Residency MBAs initiated an oath they could swear at the ends of their degrees, modeled after the Harvard Oath developed by students of that school in June 2009.

Those who swear the Harvard oath make eight promises, meant to "seek a course that enhances the value (the adherent) can create for society over the long term."

"Young students, they're much more idealistic than the previous generation—and they see the problems," she says.

Is this gear-shift hard on faculty, who come from a different school of thought about how to do business?

She says changing the education model is hard on the professors, who are uncomfortable but not resistant.

"Raising question when you don't have all the answers does make people uncomfortable," she says.

Consumers are another part of the equation. How much blame do they carry for the practices of business? After all, business only gives people cheap plastic built by underpaid workers in environmentally noxious factories because consumers want low prices, right? And would cutting down on the production of cheap plastic, or conventionally grown bananas, or SUVs, do the same to those markets as government crackdowns on cannabis does to the drug trade? The forbidden goods get pushed underground, but there is no effect on demand.

Cunningham, whose expertise is in marketing, says business can "try to move consumer preference from really harmful products to more beneficial ones."

"There an entrenched belief that this is the way business has always been—that it's only by pushing consumption, and excess consumption, the excess use of resources, that business has ever been conducted."

She hasn't completed her research, but she thinks that concept is wrong.

"You get to post-World War II, and that's where that (idea) really came to the fore. And that's only 50 years. So there been a whole history before that, when business was thinking much more broadly." In the end, Cunningham is excited about the future of Dalhousie's School of Business.

"There's risk in doing what we're doing, but there's probably more risk in not doing it," she says.



"It may look a lot like the Rowe, but it's definitely more sustainable and more efficient."

Photo Supplied

## Dibs on the new building

Most floors are called for, but still no word on who will serve the food

**Jason MacGregor**  
News Contributor

**A** new Dal building promises more space, more light, and more rain-water.

In case you've missed it, the new academic building under construction on Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street has taken form over the last few months. While it may look a lot like the Kenneth Rowe Management Building, it has the added features of being one of Halifax's greenest buildings.

Andrew Merrick, the Aecon Project Manager overseeing the work, and Omar Khartabil from Dalhousie University, say that the building should be waterproof by the middle of December. It'll then take the crew another six months to fit out the inside so that the different departments can move in around the end of June.

"The schedule is just a tool to monitor progress," says Merrick, a civil engineer who graduated from Dal Tech in 1999. He's happy with how everything is going so far. All four floors have already been delegated.

Across from University Convenience, on the street-front corner will be the new location for PCPC, the campus computer store. The rest of the floor will be relatively open with couches, chairs, vending machines and a microwave. There is a spot in the plans set aside for a café, but it's unclear who will be the tenant because the school is still in talks with unnamed companies.

Upstairs, on the second floor, will be the new home for the Department of Continued Education. The third floor will host space for the School of Social Work. And hidden away on the fourth floor will be spots for the Department of Computer Science.

All along the sunny, south side of the building, on all four floors, will be the classrooms and washrooms. On the not-so-sunny north side, overlooking Coburg Road, will be offices.

For all those chumps who were jealous of Citadel High School for its envi-

ronmentally friendly look and design, the new academic building is also LEED built, meaning it meets the standards of the Canada Green Building Council.

"It may look a lot like the Rowe (Management Building)," says Khartabil. "But it's definitely more sustainable and more efficient."

Green features include a green roof, re-used rain water, a solar wall, light sensors in most rooms, bike racks galore, natural lighting and a 30 per cent decrease in the amount of concrete used. The grass and low-maintenance garden on the roof act as an extra barrier to keep in heat, and retain rainwater that can later be re-used—not for drinking, it's not potable. The 80,000 liters of water that can be held at a time will be used for flushing toilets and watering the green roof.

In the construction, a new type of concrete, called Bubbledelect was used. It has nine-inch plastic bubbles inside, allowing for longer spans to be used, which in the end means larger public spaces. Because of this design, less concrete was used, which also cuts down on construction costs.

For those worried about electricity consumption, the new academic building is built so that sunlight can light up the atrium through windows on the south side of the building. In rooms that are not very accessible to natural light, like the staff offices overlooking Coburg Road, motion sensors are being installed that turn down the lights when nobody is around, and turn the lights back on when people are in the room.

After construction is complete, trees are going to be planted in the sidewalk area surrounding the site.

In 2010, the 65 trades-people working on the building will move inside.

"Once we get the building water tight we'll be working from the first floor up to the fourth in that sequence, so the trades will all follow one another all the way up through the building," says Merrick.

While weather plays a role in construction, Merrick is confident that the furniture will be ready to move in by the beginning of July.

### World AIDS Day Event

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

A gathering featuring youth performances, local speakers and a keynote address from Lois Chingandu, Executive Director, SMAIDS, Zimbabwe, highlighting the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls both locally and around the world.

An announcement of the youth poster contest winners.

Where: Italian Cultural Centre  
2629 Agricola Street, Halifax

Time: 4:00 to 6:00pm

Light Snacks and Refreshments  
All Welcome  
Wheelchair Accessible

For more information, contact [aids@gov.ns.ca](mailto:aids@gov.ns.ca) or 424-5730

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# \$30,000 from McGill legal settlement went toward survey

## CASA members didn't know there even was a legal settlement

Lucy Scholey  
Assistant News Editor

The \$30,000 put toward a Canadian Student Survey came from a settlement with McGill, members of the Canadian Alliance of Students Association learned last Friday.

After several bouts of miscommunication, the national director of CASA explained the survey's details to a group of student union representatives at the alliance's Annual General Meeting. "We sincerely do apologize because we do feel that this was in our jurisdiction to decide," said national director Arati Sharma at Dalhousie University on Nov. 20.

The survey raised questions among some student union members who were unclear of its details, including who made the decision to conduct the survey and where the money came from.

The Canadian Student Survey is a project co-initiated by CASA and the Canadian Education Project, a Toronto-based research group. It's the first time Canadian student unions and lobby groups have designed a survey for data gathering purposes. The idea behind the survey is to prop up advocacy and lobby efforts. In previous years, these groups relied on data from outside research groups.

As of the AGM plenary – the meeting when a representative from each student union votes on the specific decisions up for debate – 20,000 students had completed the survey.

Due to confidentiality reasons, Sharma couldn't disclose details of the McGill case, but said the issue was missed member payments. Through an out-of-court settlement, CASA gained \$37,500 in total, but kept \$28,575 after the \$8925 in legal fees were factored in.

Sharma and CASA's governance officers decided to put the money towards the Canadian Student Survey. Student unions that have membership with CASA and their provincial lobby groups can receive funding from both organizations to participate. Non-CASA members can also participate, at a fee of \$1,000.

The Canadian Education Project is a division of the Educational Policy Institute (EPI), an American research group. Alex Usher is the Canadian director of EPI. He was also a former national director of CASA.

In an interview two weeks ago, Sharma said this doesn't pose a conflict of interest.

"The data is ours," she said. "(EPI is) just processing it for us."

"I didn't know there was a settlement before I came here," said Jack Brown, to



CASA treasurer Allan Hal, secretary Justin Williams, chair Tina Robichaud, and national director Arati Sharma at the AGM last Friday. Photo by Pau Balite

the group of representatives from about 23 CASA-affiliated student unions.

"We've been having communications issues for the past little while now," added the president of the University of Fraser Valley Student Union Society during a break.

The university isn't participating in the project because British Columbia doesn't have a provincial lobby orga-

nization and the University of Fraser Valley doesn't have room in its budget to pay the fee. There were also issues with the survey's methodology, he said.

While the president of Saint Mary's University Student Association admits there has been a lot of miscommunication, he says he has few doubts about the project.

"Our union's job is to interpret the budget and what is best for students and what we really should be discussing ... (are) the merits of the survey itself," Matt Anderson said. "(SMUSA thinks) the merits of the survey are very good."

Ella Henry, Vice President of Education at St. Thomas University, said the project has raised questions concerning CASA's governance structure.

"I think we heard, here, in the plenary, that a lot of schools have questions about whether the national director and governance officers were within their mandate to make that allocation of money," she said.

St. Thomas University didn't participate in the survey because its Research Ethics Board raised concerns about the lack of scholarly research. Before the university's student union could

put it to a vote, the project had already been approved, Henry says. She was not consulted on the project, she adds.

Kory Preston, Vice President of University Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier, said Sharma and the governance officers had the right to allocate the money without a vote from the general assembly.

"It's up to the national director to allocate those funds because it came

up outside of the budget," he said. After several student union representatives voiced their concerns over the lack of communication, Sharma said CASA would work on improving the head office's communication with members.

"Our leadership working group is developing a communications strategy for the organization," she said. "I think we have a great external communications strategy for responding to the media and government, but I think we need something a little more robust so our leadership group is actually communicating with our members better."

The provincial lobby organizations partnering with CASA in the survey are the Alliance of Nova Scotia Students Association, the Ontario Undergraduate Students Alliance and the Council of Alberta University Students.

The Dal Student Union hosted the AGM from Nov. 17 to Nov. 20. Other topics up for debate included a graduate grant for students with high financial need, and a motion to post all documents, recordings and minutes online.

## Creationists give out free Darwin books

### Abridged Origin of Species has an added introduction touting intelligent design

Ashleigh Mattern  
The Sheaf (University of Saskatchewan)

ASKATOON (CUP) – Students who got a free copy of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* on campuses this month might be surprised to find an introduction by intelligent design proponent Ray Comfort.

Comfort's publisher, Living Waters Publications are targeting North American universities during November to give "future doctors, lawyers and politicians ... information about Intelligent Design," according to their website. Intelligent design and creationism are beliefs opposed to Darwinian evolution, positing that a supernatural creator set life in motion.

On Nov. 19, two men set up outside the Killam Library with 200 copies for Dalhousie students. Kirk Hubick, one of the men, told people to make sure to read the "special introduction written by a friend of mine." He says he paid for the books out of his own pocket.

On Nov. 9, an unknown group handed out several copies to passers-by at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The books have also been handed out at the University of Alberta.

Torien Cafferata is the president of the University of Saskatchewan Freethought Alliance, a campus group for scientific integrity and secularism. He says he is concerned that the books were handed out on his campus "in a weaselly kind of way."

Steve Newton, public information project director for the California-based National Center for Science Education, says Comfort and supporters plan to distribute the books to 100 American universities on Nov. 19, and 24 Canadian universities on Nov. 24, the 150th anniversary of the first publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

Cafferata says he thinks they may have changed their plans due to pressure from secularist groups like the Freethought Alliance.

"They learned that a lot of secularist societies were planning a counteroffensive, like to celebrate evolution on that day. We were planning to find out where they were planning to release the book, then we would set up next to them and have all the supportive facts for evolution."

Dr. Jose Andrés, an evolutionary biologist at the U of S, says that one of his issues with Comfort's introduction in the Living Waters Publications version is that it's inappropriate for the scientific topic of the book.

The introduction talks about religion and "solving life's more important questions," but Andrés points out that "All of that has nothing to do, absolutely nothing to do, with the origin of the species."

"It's fine by me, and I'm happy to read that as the introduction to a religious book but not as the introduction to a piece of work that has to do with science."

There are at least two versions of the book circulating campuses. In an open letter from Comfort on the Living Waters website, he writes, "My name will be on the cover (for those who think that we are somehow being deceptive)," but his name appears nowhere on the back or front cover on a copy obtained by Canadian University Press newspaper The Sheaf. Nor does it appear on the cop-

ies distributed on Dalhousie University.

The version handed out at the U of S is an older version, which Newton says has several chapters of Darwin's original text removed and a slightly different introduction. In the version of *Origin* discussed for campus distribution on the Living Waters website, however, they say "nothing has been removed from Darwin's original work."

Joseph Anderson, an employee at Kenderdine Art Gallery at the U of S, happened to pick up a free copy. Having always wanted to read "On the Origin of Species," Anderson says he was excited to get the free copy but said it surprised him to find out the introduction was written by a creationist.

"Just because the *Origin of Species* by Darwin has sort of been held up as an anti-Christian kind of book for so long, I was surprised it was being used as a missionary tool," he says.

Still, he says compared to some of the religious groups he has encountered on his campus, the people handing out the books were innocuous.

"The way they went about it seems a gentle approach, which I appreciate," he says. "I'm not for banning groups from campus or anything like that."

Warren Kirkland, the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union president, echoes Anderson's sentiments, saying that as long as they're being respectful and no one has complained, it isn't an issue.

"The university is about embracing different views and thoughts," Kirkland says.

Cafferata says he's most worried about the students who pick up the book and think Comfort has a valid argument against evolution.

Robert Luhn, director of communications for the National Center for Science Education, agrees, saying the introduction has "bad science, bad history and bad theology."

"The telling points being that it's not just a matter of, gosh, Ray Comfort doesn't know anything about science," Luhn says. "He makes completely spurious claims. There's no transitional fossils? There are transitional fossils in museums all over the world!"

### "I didn't know there was a settlement before I came here."

nization and the University of Fraser Valley doesn't have room in its budget to pay the fee. There were also issues with the survey's methodology, he said.

While the president of Saint Mary's University Student Association admits there has been a lot of miscommunication, he says he has few doubts about the project.

"Our union's job is to interpret the budget and what is best for students and what we really should be discussing ... (are) the merits of the survey itself," Matt Anderson said. "(SMUSA thinks) the merits of the survey are very good."

Ella Henry, Vice President of Education at St. Thomas University, said the project has raised questions concerning CASA's governance structure.

"I think we heard, here, in the plenary, that a lot of schools have questions about whether the national director and governance officers were within their mandate to make that allocation of money," she said.

St. Thomas University didn't participate in the survey because its Research Ethics Board raised concerns about the lack of scholarly research. Before the university's student union could

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## News

# Forty years of progress for Transition Year Program

## But still no aboriginal professors, says director

Scott Beed  
Staff Contributor

It has been nearly 40 years since Dalhousie University started its Transition Year Program (TYP), but while the program has benefitted many First Nations and African Canadians, the university is still lacking aboriginal professors, says the program's director.

Data on student ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis, so there's no accurate record of the exact number of aboriginals on campus. But Patricia Doyle Bedwell, the director of the TYP says there are about 60 aboriginal students at Dalhousie and no aboriginal faculty members.

Lauretta Syllidoy, a representative of the Native Education Counselling Unit, says if there was a larger presence of native staff members on campus it would most likely inspire native students to follow in their footsteps. Syllidoy says when students see other aboriginals in important positions it gives them an achievable goal to work towards. Positive role models can have untold benefits according to Syllidoy.

The one-year program prepares students whose high school grades don't meet standard Dal entrance requirements. Dal established the TYP to redress educational inequities faced by members of the aboriginal and black community.

"It's important to address historical inequalities and inequities that continue to plague Nova Scotian societies (and) Canadian society," explains Isaac Saney, a staff member who has taught with the TYP for 17 years. "This is a way of dealing with the historical weight of injustice, discrimination and racism."

The program, according to Saney, builds a society of equity and equality. Founded in 1969, the TYP was a response to growing concerns that blacks and aboriginals were not being represented at Dalhousie. At the time, it was hailed as a unique program in the country.

According to Saney, the program is designed to build critical thinking skills, develop fundamental academic abilities such as basic writing skills and develop a student's ability to make coherent arguments. A significant amount of academic work and skill building is done. The program prepares its students to enter any discipline from the humanities to mathematics to chemistry. To go with the standard classroom instructions there's an orientation week, special guest lectures and a multitude of workshops.

"Normally in a year there are 25 to 30 students enrolled in the program. These people are taking a preparation year for university studies. But in total there are about 70 to 80 students who use the services in one way or another," says Saney. These numbers haven't changed significantly in recent years.

According to Saney, the program has successfully met its objectives over the years. Most students will take the skills



Patricia Doyle Bedwell, director of the Transition Year Program, says there are about 60 aboriginal students at Dalhousie University and no aboriginal faculty members.  
Photo by Pau Balite

they have learned in the TYP and successfully navigate their way through Dal undergraduate and graduate programs.

"These people go on to be important leaders, role models, exemplars in the first nations and the black community" says Saney.

As well as the TYP, there's the Na-

relationships. Syllidoy says the centre creates a feeling of community.

Syllidoy goes on to say that because the centre is relatively small it has the ability to address the needs of native students on an individual level. The centre is multifaceted with all its official duties, but Syllidoy says the staff members

**"This is a way of dealing with the historical weight of injustice, discrimination and racism."**

tive Education Counselling Unit, part of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. This program provides both academic and societal support to natives attending university in the greater Halifax area.

Located on 1220 LeMarchant St. across from Risle Hall, the centre is open to any native or black student who wants to drop by and use the computer, phone or any other service that may be available.

Syllidoy has noticed some students can suffer from culture shock. These students move from small communities or reserves and can find the size of Halifax overwhelming. In these communities it's a reality to know the name of every member. So according to Syllidoy the hustle and bustle on campus can seem foreign to new students.

The department can act as a home base for native students. A safe haven for students to meet and create

## LIVE COVERAGE OF A DSU COUNCIL MEETING VIA TWITTER FEED

Bethany Horne | News Editor

No minutes? No problem! We know the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) doesn't mean to be so aloof: they just have very poor technical skills. Despite a change earlier this year to the way minutes are kept, it's still hit or miss whether students can access them on the DSU website. So, as a service to students and to the union itself, on Nov. 18, The Gazette tweeted the DSU council meeting. Trying to keep things public, you know? And entertaining. The following feed has been edited for clarity, and cut down to fit in this space, but if you want to read the full thing, or want to make sure you get the next live tweets from council, follow us at [www.twitter.com/dalgazette](http://www.twitter.com/dalgazette).

Ok! All set. On the agenda: CASA presentation, petition, recall motion. 6:25

Mark Hobbs spent the afternoon pulling Coke Olympics flags out of S.U.B. planter pots. Keeping on top of those contract breachers. 6:34

Normal recorder isn't working, voices to be captured on makeshift one instead. 6:36

Additions to the Agenda: appointments to Member-at-Large seat, CRO. Notice of Motion: Secret Contracts. 6:38

Another motion: To recall Mark Hobbs, VP Internal, introduced by Zindra Gillis. Agenda approved. 6:42

Arati Sharma is here to make a presentation from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). 6:43

"Interesting conference - very internal - looking at values, mission statement, etc." she says. 6:43

Sharma: We were able to get the government to mete out more student debt. Short-term solution to high summer student unemployment rates. 6:54

CASA working with @michaelgeist on Book Importation tariffs. Getting rid of them could save students \$30 million. 7:13

CASA "not against graduate tax credits, but into changing them into upfront grants." 7:26

Presentation over, finally. 7:29

Nominating committee nominates Curtis Johnson for Member-at-Large spot. 7:31

Doyle Bond nominates Hayley Guest. Sarah Bouchard is also nominated. That means: a vote! 7:32

Really passionate speech by Hayley Guest about why she wants to be the Member-at-Large. She's interested in "all committees." 7:43

Council now votes in camera (reporters and visitors exiled to the hallway). 7:48

Congratulations to the new Member-at-Large: Sarah Bouchard. 8:12  
Happy ending: Hayley appoint-

ed Chief Returning Officer (CRO - in charge of DSU elections) instead. 8:14

Now, reports from our executives:

Zimmerman report: Dal VP of student services Bonnie Neuman contacting A-level societies, without letting the DSU know. Uh oh...

...Asking opinions about a proposed new student fee of \$140 dollars a year! 8:32

New student fee would be to build a whole new Dalplex. 9:02

VP Hobbs report: the Food Bank is re-opened, mouse-proof and recruiting volunteers. Hopes it will be open three to four days a week. 8:34

VP LeForte report: Still no answer on late night study space. 8:36

VP Osmond report: Didn't write a report this week. Hasn't been up to a whole lot. 8:38

Questions and answers from the floor. 8:43

Eric Snow: "There are no copies of the minutes on the website this year. What's the status?" 8:44

Zimmerman: Deleted a section on the site. "I guess I should stop doing stuff on the website." Snow giggles. 8:46

Jennifer Chisholm: DASSS has concerns about lack of vegetarian food options in the S.U.B. 8:49

All the grant money ran out early this semester. Big questions about why. Snow feels that the full amount has been given out too liberally. 9:08

Zindra Gillis: Need stricter guidelines for how to give out grants. Right now, as long as applicants follow the guidelines, it's hard to refuse. 9:09

Zimmerman: Frustrated with people not following procedure in this meeting. 9:25

Onto the Secret Contracts Notice of Motion (this counts as two weeks notice for a motion to happen Dec. 2). 9:26

SMAC (Student Mobilize for Action on Campus) collected 1,500 signatures to oppose DSU secret contracts. 9:27

Glenn Blake: 1560 signatures from students asking that all contracts the DSU negotiate be made available to all students. 9:28

Recall of Mark Hobbs motion pushed to next meeting. 9:30

Osmond has been volunteering his services to societies if they need poster design. He'll be in the bar if you want to give him your number. 9:33

Meeting over. Council members to migrate down to the Grawood. 9:35







Features

# Features

Features

Gazette Features publishes one long feature or two short features every week. E-mail Tim at features@dalgazette.com to pitch an idea.



Tim Mitchell Features Editor  
features@dalgazette.com

## SEXTON'S FOGGY FUTURE

Has Dalhousie forgotten about its architecture and engineering students?

Tim Mitchell  
Features Editor

Dalhousie University has three campuses in Halifax: Studley, Carleton and Sexton. Studley campus is constructing a New Academic Building that's scheduled for completion in September of 2010. Studley is also seeing renovations to its Life Sciences Centre.

Carleton campus is constructing a new Life Sciences Research Institute building that's scheduled for completion in March of 2011. The classrooms in the Tupper building on the Carleton campus are also being retrofitted and upgraded.

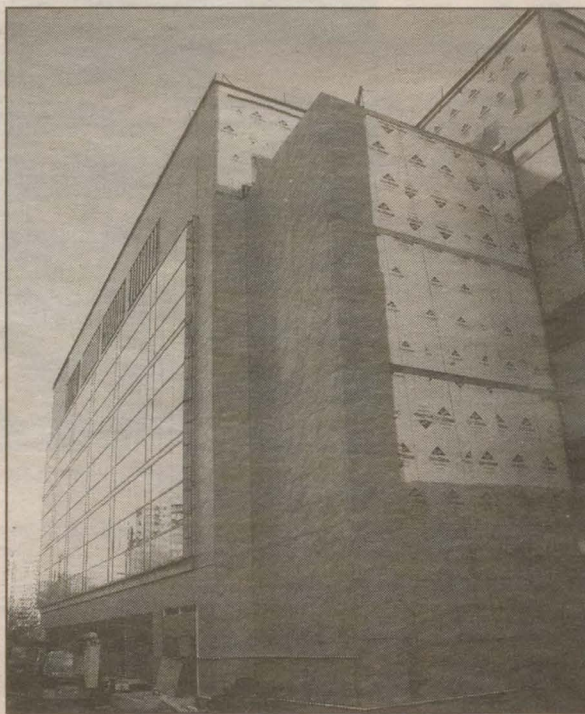
So what's being improved at Dal's Sexton campus? At the moment, nothing.

"We're in the middle of a development campaign, and if there's some other philanthropist out there that is going to drop some money onto the (Sexton) campus, it could happen sooner than later," says Ken Burt, Dal's VP (finance and administration). "I don't know, I just don't know where we are in terms of that portfolio."

Ironically, the Sexton campus is home to Dalhousie's schools of engineering and architecture.

"I feel like Sexton campus is being left out of Dalhousie's plan for improvement," says Martin Crawley, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student.

Dalhousie has a Campus Master Plan that outlines future construction and renovation projects around the university. It's been created by a multinational cor-



Carleton campus' LSRI building, under construction | Photo by Andrew McCurdy



Studley campus' NA building, under construction | Photo by Andrew McCurdy

DSU president Shannon Zimmerman also sits on the Campus Planning Steering Committee.

In the Campus Master Plan, the future of Sexton includes an Integrated Design Engineering and Architecture (IDEA) building. At the moment however, that's all the building seems to be – just an idea.

"We're just at the conceptual plan-

10 grants from the federal government, including grants for the IDEA building on the Sexton campus. The federal government chose to fund the Life Sciences Centre, so I don't know what was in their decision making process, but you pretty well have to do the projects that are funded. We do have a developing campaign, a fundraising campaign, underway at the university, and the IDEA building is on the list of projects for that campaign."

Crawley would like to see the project go ahead.

"Having a new building with proper ventilation, more group space and updated labs would vastly improve the experience of engineers and architecture students at Dalhousie University," says Crawley. "I don't understand how Dalhousie can be competitive for attracting more engineering and architecture students without making sizeable improvements on Sexton campus."

As for the current infrastructure on the Sexton campus, Crawley says it's time for renovations.

"Proper ventilation systems are lacking throughout Sexton Campus. Our library is very uncomfortable to study in because it is like a sauna all year round. Another issue on campus is the lab equipment and space on Sexton campus. The labs that I have been in are pretty small, cramped and messy. I think this is because the labs were allowed to become outdated and cluttered with old equipment. I am pretty sure students and professors would benefit from newer, larger and cleaner lab space, whether it be for instruction or for research."

Burt says that in the future there will be some improvements to the Sexton campus, including retrofitting classrooms and labs, as well as the creation of new student space.

"We're going to be retrofitting for instance, O'Brien Hall over the next couple

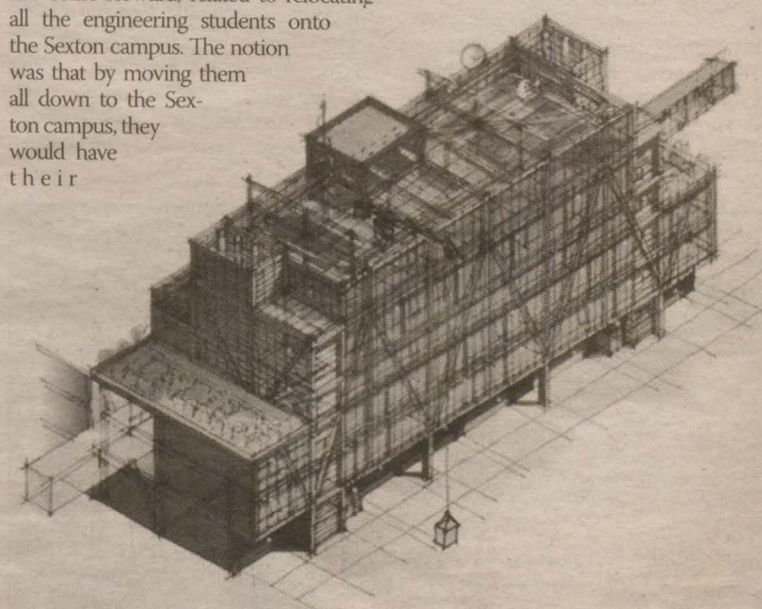
of years, and increasing our student residences on that campus. If and when the IDEA building goes ahead, it will allow us to retrofit a big portion of the campus. I think the IDEA building will be key to creating a domino of improvements on that campus. The buildings, they're good, they just need some money invested in them in terms of renewal, and we're doing that, but that particular campus requires quite a bit of renewal, and the IDEA building will be the first major step in redeveloping that campus."

The administration is also looking into creating a new 300-seat theatre on Sexton campus for first- and second-year engineering students who have to attend classes on Studley campus. One option they're considering is transforming the Sexton gym.

"The (Sexton) gym itself is one idea that has come forward, related to relocating all the engineering students onto the Sexton campus. The notion was that by moving them all down to the Sexton campus, they would have their

own community, and to make that happen, we need a 300-seat theatre teaching space. Now we're looking at a couple of options, including using the theatre space, the teaching space that has been developed in Chapter house where we are currently teaching nursing students, sort of at the corner of University and South Park. But again, these are just early discussions. There is a need for a larger classroom and whether it's a conversion of the gym, or some other space, we're in the process of looking for something."

"Whether it be a new building, or overhauling the current buildings on campus, concrete actions and commitments by the Dalhousie administration must be made to improve life on Sexton Campus," says Crawley.



**"I don't understand how Dalhousie can be competitive for attracting more engineering and architecture students without making sizeable improvements on Sexton."**

poration called the IBI Group that offers services in four areas of practice: urban land, facilities, transportation and systems.

The company recently released a third progress report that outlines future construction efforts at Dal for the next 40 years, if approved by the Campus Planning Steering Committee as well as Dal's president, Tom Traves, and the university's board and senate.

Burt says students have been consulted throughout the planning process.

"We've been getting some (feedback from students). We're always interested in hearing from the students. So, if they do want to comment I encourage them to go to the web site (blogs.dal.ca/campusplan) and to get into those blog discussions and have their voice heard."

ning phase of the building," says Burt. "It could be as much as 100,000 square feet – largely academic and teaching space. The notion is to create some heavy duty labs so that some of the large engineering projects can be moved in with trucks and offloaded with cranes so students have the ability to work on much larger projects than are currently available."

The building would be located somewhere between Gerard Hall and the electrical engineering building. It sounds like a much-needed improvement to the Sexton campus. But without funding, engineering and architecture students shouldn't expect to see it built anytime soon.

"It's just a process of the way the money comes," says Burt. "With the knowledge infrastructure program, we did apply for



# Opinions

**Opinions**  
Gazette Opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. E-mail Kaley at [opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com) to contribute.



Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**  
[opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com)

## New buildings, same old ideas

### Planners should think twice about demolition

**Jake Schabas**  
Opinions Columnist

Master plans are always exciting documents, and Dalhousie's updated Campus Master Plan is no exception. Full of colourful diagrams, maps and tables, plans give us the rare opportunity to shape the future landscape of our communities to better reflect the goals and values we think are important.

Judged from this perspective, there's much to praise in Dal's new plan. Students' cries for improved active transportation and public transit infrastructure have finally been heard. The master plan proposes putting bike lanes along University Avenue and turning the now vacant bus stop corner outside the Student Union Building into a "landscaped transit terminal."

For pedestrians too, much is in store. A new multi-level parkade to be built next to the Dalplex will rid campus of the haphazard scattering of cars currently parked in many of the university's busiest outdoor spaces. With the cars gone, a pedestrian plaza will be built at the top of University Avenue to act as a focal point for student social life.

In terms of their overall cost and impact in comparison to other measures called for in the plan, however, the bike lanes, pedestrian plaza and bus terminal are little more than fancy garnishes packaging the more ambitious goals at the centre of the Master plan: to quickly make Dalhousie much bigger by constructing massive new residences and academic buildings.

With Dalhousie currently running at capacity and enrolment projected to increase by 2,500 students in the next four years – a 16.4 per cent increase from last year – the status quo simply won't cut it any more. The problem is there's only so much space on campus where new development can go. Cue the planners.

Phase one of the plan proposes to address the demands of massive enrolment increases by building a six or seven storey mixed-use student residence on LeMarchant Street across from Risley Hall and the SUB. The building will have as many as 300 living "suites" on the upper floors, while the ground level will be an "enclosed concourse" – picture a single storey Park Lane Mall – complete with "food services," a pharmacy, a convenience store, "games" and, get this: a barbershop.

Making room for this residence, however, will mean demolishing the five Dal houses, including the new Grad House, that are currently occupying the site, most of which are in good condition or have been recently renovated.

Indeed, every single house owned by Dal on Studley campus has been listed as a "priority building" by the planners, a label used to identify "those properties considered to be of significance to the plan for future campus development." This doesn't mean they will necessarily be torn down, but it doesn't mean they'll be protected either.

In this era of "sustainability," while new development might promise greater efficiency and more environmentally

friendly design, razing perfectly good buildings hardly strikes one as following the sustainability mantra. But that's a question for an engineer to tackle, and besides, there are other more important reasons to be distressed by the proposed demolitions and new residence building.

To start with, there's the architectural heritage argument. Built in the 1920s and 1930s, the LeMarchant Street houses are not only some of the oldest buildings on Studley, but they help to integrate campus with the surrounding residential neighbourhood through their scale and style. It's these houses that give Dal its uniquely Maritime feel, setting it apart from other Canadian university campuses – a draw for many out-of-province students.

They also provide intimate spaces for important student and community services that rely on the more personal and relaxed atmosphere the houses provide. In fact, most of the university services involving the greater community can be found in these old houses, like the Dalhousie Women's Centre, the Native Counselling Unit, the College of Continuing Education, the School of Social Work and the Transition Year Program offices, not to mention almost all of Dalhousie's remaining non-traditional residences.

But even for the majority of students who never step foot in these old houses, their demolition doesn't bode well for the future of campus life.

The famous urban thinker Jane Jacobs once wrote that "old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas

must use old buildings." With momentum building for bringing more affordable and local food options onto campus, these new businesses and student societies will need places to serve from; the McCain lobby can only go so far.

But independent start-ups need appropriately sized spaces with affordable rent, not industrial-sized cafeterias with a big price tag that will surely come part and parcel with the "indoor concourse" proposed in the new residence building. So without even explicitly writing it, the "food services, pharmacy, variety/convenience" described in the plan simply means more Sodexo, a Shoppers Drugmart or Lawton's and another unremarkable Big General.

Cafés such as Coburg Coffee or Just Us! Café are only possible in older buildings because of their cheaper rent, more intimate scale and cozy atmosphere. The same goes for restaurants. So if new student-run organizations like Campus Action on Food and Tuppy Thursdays or local independent businesses are ever going to find a home on campus, it'll be in these old houses and not in new residence buildings tailored to the requirements of industrial food distributors like Sodexo.

So while destroying five houses to make room for much needed new residences may not seem like the end of the world, it sets a bad precedent for all the other "priority" houses on campus, especially since the LeMarchant Street houses are in good condition and particularly well-located.

Grad students also won't be pleased

to hear that once their new bar is torn down after having only been open for a year or two, the Grad House's next home will be along side Sodexo and Shoppers in the mall-like concourse of a first year residence building.

These kinds of transformations are a perfect example of what Dal is potentially losing by replacing its historical houses with massive new buildings. It's like choosing the Grawood over the Grad House, and for many students, that's the wrong choice.

There are other solutions to residence shortages that don't involve the wrecking ball. Why not try innovative architecture that works around older buildings or adaptively reusing other structures, like the Studley Gym – another building soon to be demolished by the stroke of a planner's pen – before razing historic houses. Or by developing any of the huge surface parking lots on campus before destroying perfectly good buildings.

The Master Plan's colourful bike lanes, pedestrian plaza and transit terminal – all long overdue and relatively inexpensive pieces of infrastructure that the planners would be stupid not to include – shouldn't distract us from the bigger picture. Dalhousie is growing, and that growth requires new buildings. But does the development proposed in the plan really reflect the same values symbolized by bike lanes and improved public transit?

Sustainability isn't just about losing the car; it's about losing the lifestyle where we replace rather than reuse.

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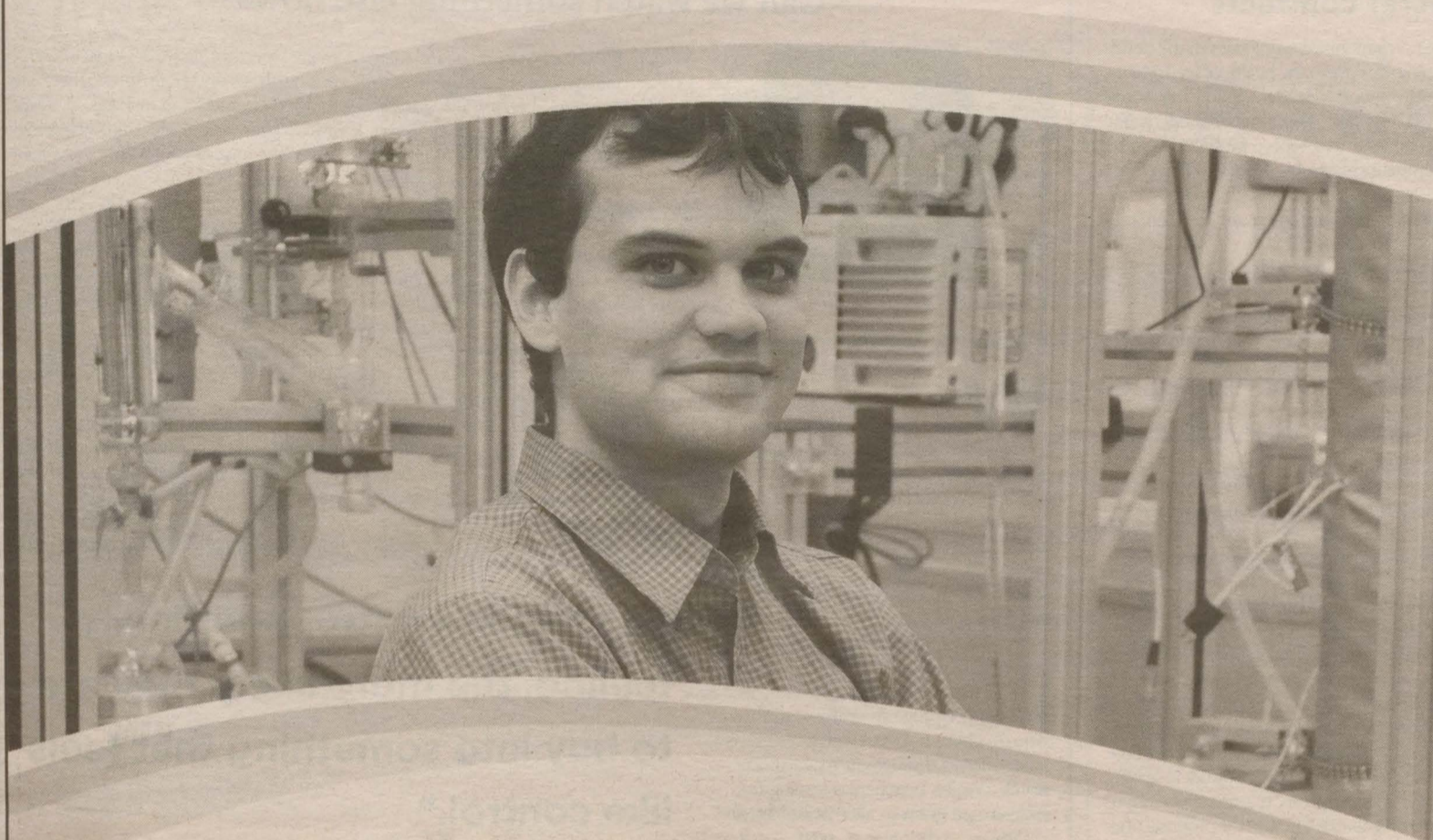
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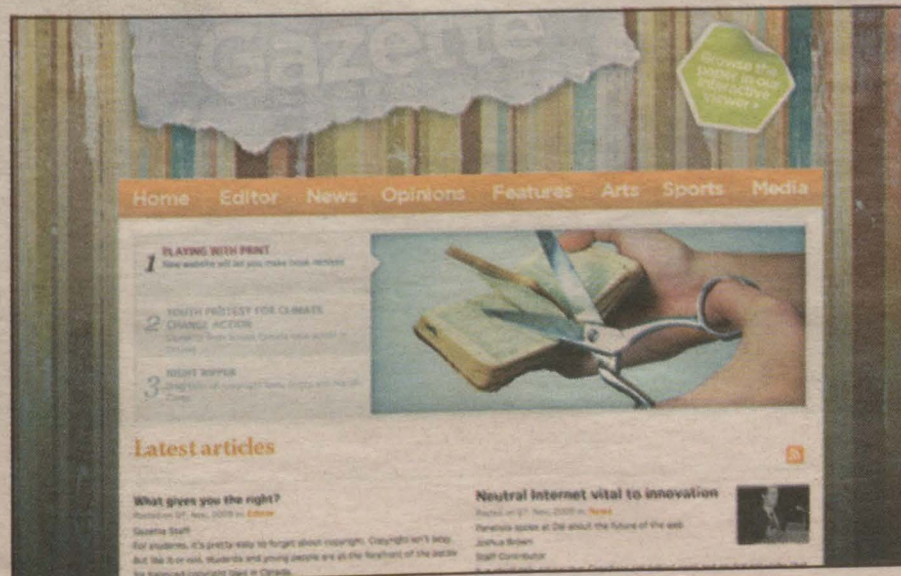
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Opinions

# Secret contracts: a thing of the past?

## Students fight to end secret contracts

Ryan Lum  
Opinions Contributor

For the past month or so, the student group Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC) has been circulating a petition calling for an end to the Dalhousie Student Union's "secret contracts," most notably its dealings with Pepsi and Sodexo.

Both of these companies have inked contracts with the Dalhousie Student Union that give them the exclusive rights to sell food and beverages in the Student Union Building, not only denying other companies or individuals the opportunity to sell food or drinks, but also prohibiting the free distribution of food or drinks, unless authorized by the DSU executive.

These contracts are subject to confidentiality agreements – stipulations that forbid anyone other than select members of the DSU governing bodies and those corporate representatives involved in the negotiation from seeing the contents of the contract.

Secret contracts are not a new phenomenon at Dal.

In 1998, the union agreed to a 12-year exclusivity deal for beverage sales in the SUB with Pepsi. Last year, that agreement came to an end, and contract negotiations ensued over the summer.

Pepsi was able to maintain its monopoly on campus for the next seven years by ousting several competitors, including Coke, and once again signed with the DSU under terms of confidentiality.

As negotiations were carried out during a time when the majority of students were absent from campus, student participation was hardly a possibility. Even in the full swing of the semester, the DSU has yet to actively involve its members in a dialogue about why these contracts were signed and whether they serve the best interests of students.

While the DSU is aware of the concerns over confidentiality agreements, they justify their actions by pointing to the funding they receive from Pepsi, money that goes to the benefit of students.

The DSU is caught in a prime example of tied aid, whereby the union receiving funding is contingent upon their achieving a quota of Pepsi sales.

Last year, that quota was not met, and no money was received, although Pepsi retained its right to exclusivity. While Pepsi is in a win-win situation, the DSU promotes a beverage that is concocted at the expense

of non-unionized employees in the developing world and the health of its students, not to mention student union autonomy.

For its part, Pepsi cites confidentiality agreements as a tool to protect corporate competitiveness by insuring that trade secrets remain just as they are. While there is no legal measure that subjects Pepsi to full disclosure of its contract details with the DSU, that corporate competitiveness is one of its concerns seems dubious when the many corporations that have inked agreements with Dal are subject to public scrutiny through the Freedom of Information Act.

Even if Pepsi is a generous benefactor of the DSU, which it only seems to be when it suits the company, students deserve to know under what conditions they are receiving food and beverage services and should be given the right to participate in the crafting of those services.

That the DSU – the voice of students in its public, private and administrative encounters – should bind its members to an agreement that was not crafted or agreed upon by students is in violation of the union's responsibility to serve students' best interests.

While one may contend that secret contracts are only the merit of student apathy, the first step in promoting an active campus is to promote debate and the proposal of alternatives. The DSU Executive and Council, the bodies that seem to be concerned with the lack of participation in general elections, should be encouraging engagement with the agreements the union signs with service providers, not discourage it. Such conduct seems to suggest that their priority does not rest with students.

Last week, Glenn Blake, a student senator, presented over a petition signed by over 1,500 Dal students who support a future of Dal that doesn't include secret contracts with the DSU. Councillors will vote on the motion on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

If you believe that secret contracts do not deserve a place in the future of our campus, please contact your DSU representatives and tell them to vote in favour of ending secret contracts.

An end to secret contracts is the first step to a transparent and accountable union, and to a university that represents the will of students.

*Ryan Lum is a member of Students Mobilize for Action on Campus.*

# THE HEALTHY STUDENT

## Can we watch something else now?



Katie Toth  
Sex Columnist

When I was grocery shopping last week, the number of Weight Watchers products in the aisles struck me. Recession or not, this is one company that is expanding, however insidiously.

Rather than be restricted to a weight-loss section, Weight Watchers' trademark labels rest innocently beside plumper packages in most departments: from dairy and breads to snack foods and desserts.

It bothers me how accessible and sneaky the diet industry has become. When I first heard of Weight Watchers, it was a diet program available to those who sought its help. But with its products lining shelves throughout major grocery stores, Weight Watchers is leaping from exclusive program to alternative lifestyle.

"Stop dieting. Start living," preach its advertisers.

When a massive company claims to know how to live better than you do, it's time to start asking questions.

The company's name is key to its motives. Weight Losers, for example, would be a much less intrusive name. By contrast, Weight Watchers doesn't want you to lose weight so much as it wants you to watch your weight. This is something markedly different.

I won't comment on Weight Watchers as a successful or sustainable weight-loss program.

My qualms are with its advertising – something that since its grocery store invasion, I can no longer ignore. This company explicitly associates weight watching with freedom, sensibility, intelligence and, most of all, with controlling your life. Weight Watchers goes beyond competing within the diet industry, enticing people to use food as a means to exert control in their lives.

The Weight Watchers catchphrase, "Discover weight-loss freedom," is painful-

ly ironic. Encouraging women (and men) to watch their weight is, if anything, a sure way to take their attention off worthier subjects, such as their careers, their spirituality and their active enjoyment of life itself.

Gym time, scales, mirror sessions, clothing shopping and time spent researching weight-loss tricks adds up to a whole lot of hours of not doing anything else. There is no freedom in the act of watching your weight, and tallying your food with numbers in an attempt to signify some kind of self-discipline for the greater good. No freedom at all.

According to advertising, Weight Watchers' Chocolate Brownies are "as sensible as they are scrumptious." What does that even mean? Since when were machine-made chocolate patties stuffed with preservatives more sensible choices than homemade

many aspects of life are difficult to control during these uncertain times, there are things consumers can manage – such as investing in their health and well-being.

Or investing in Weight Watchers International.

The release goes on to say that in response, Weight Watchers is "expanding their portion and calorie-controlled food options."

This is sick and sad. Trust our consumerist society to bear us into a financial system we cannot control, and then to reap the benefits of our resulting psychological state. A company like Weight Watchers feeds off social repression. The less in-control people are feeling, the more likely they are to buy into something that feels like control.

Instead of teaching women (and men) to feel comfortable in their bodies, to be

**The less in-control people are feeling, the more likely they are to buy into something that feels like control."**

brownies? Using local and whole ingredients, I'd say hearty homemade brownies are more sensible in every sense.

Other lines make further inference to our deductive powers: "Intelligent snacking never tasted so good!"

This kind of advertising encourages people to think about how their food choices relate to their intelligence, but in all the wrong ways. Healthy fatty acids have been proven to improve brain, heart and immune function. Sugar gives energy to all cells in your body, supporting all kinds of cervical processes. Opting for Weight Watchers' Soft Cookies doesn't make you smart.

Weight Watchers' emphasis on restraint and control, however, is by far the most disturbing part of this company. Their marketing strategy around control issues is plainly revealed in the following March 2009 press release.

"Consumers have a strong desire to feel more in control of their lives during times when finances feel out of control... While

assertive at work and at home, and become more mindful of their emotions and practice self-care, we have a company diving in to make money off our insecurity.

This kind of business-consumer relationship perpetuates the actual control issues happening in our society. If one woman can go to bed feeling proud, satisfied and in control, because she had a child-size machine-made control-portion cup of pseudo ice cream for dessert tonight, that's one less woman to worry about for those at the top of this financial food chain.

I watch clouds when there's a storm coming. I watch the leaves flutter like babies' hands in the tickling evening wind. I watch my cat sleeping at the foot of my bed, stretching his limbs like a drunken ballerina. I watch good friends exit and enter my life, and grow around me. I am a people watcher, a world watcher, a life watcher. Though diets and body-image issues have certainly touched my life, I am determined to overcome them. I refuse to be a weight watcher.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ben Wedge needs balance

Ben Wedge is at it again. One of his latest articles, "How not to protest," should cause concern among readers. His unprecedented far right bias is being allowed free rein in The Gazette, with no articles from a different perspective challenging his radical views. This letter is a modest attempt to correct that.

In his article, Wedge argues that the fundamental issue surrounding recent protests against government inaction on climate change is not government inaction on climate change but the protesters themselves. Indeed, Wedge concludes that "we should all take the time to view the footage (of the protest), to research what really happened, and form our own opinions."

He says that recent allegations of police brutality are exaggerated, and he hopes that the police can be vindicated and the protesters can be sent "a strong message that theatrics will not be tolerated in protests."

The problem is not the catastrophic consequences of inaction on climate change, but an alleged affront to the reputation of the police.

Did your readers see how Wedge completely avoided engaging the issue of climate change? For Wedge, the problem is not climate change. It is protesters challenging the powers that be.

I will concede that Wedge has been consistent in his articles in this respect: at root, his articles are always a defence of the rich and powerful, and always critical of non-elite groups promoting change, particularly change that threatens the established order. His argument is inherently antidemocratic and authoritarian. The incipient catastrophe of climate change is of secondary importance for Wedge when police officers are allegedly being slandered – no doubt a greater threat to humanity.

If Wedge supports action against climate change but does not support the protesters, where are his positive suggestions for effective political activism? So far as I can tell by reading this article, it is nothing more than an attempt to admonish the protesters for their excessive behaviour. Is that contributing anything other than doublethink into the discourse of climate change?

Gazette readers beware. Opinions Contributor Ben Wedge is propagating a radical vision of the world that is not clear upon a glance at his articles. The Gazette should refuse to publish his opinions without a response from someone who is not a Conservative Party sycophant.

-- Kevin Johnston, second-year arts and history

## Power Shift true to its name

I am writing in response to the Power Shift feature in the last issue of the Gazette. The article outlined certain aspects of the recent conference in Ottawa with deep subjectivity and dubious accuracy. The negativity inherent in Joel Tichinoff's article is not only wholly counterproductive to the climate movement, but it is a negativity not shared amongst vast majority of youth in attendance. In fact, I have heard the conference described as inspirational and incredibly motivating by dozens upon dozens of

attendees and have seen similar sentiments from hundreds more in writing.

For the more than a thousand youth who attended, who engaged with fellow delegates and with the issues, Power Shift was a truly inspiring event. Ask any of the 41 other members of our delegation. I fail to see how an individual who neglected to attend a single conference workshop is at all qualified to be passing judgment of the kind expressed in his despondent article.

I would therefore like to present a different, more widely held view on some of the points covered in Tichinoff's feature. The pessimistic picture of the Oct. 24 Fill the Hill event painted in this article is essentially inaccurate. If over 2,500 demonstrators cheering until their voices became hoarse can be described as "tepid," then Tichinoff was bang on.

Additionally, I am forced to wonder by what frame of reference Mr. Tichinoff judged speeches as being ridden with "time-worn words and catch phrases" given that this was, but his own admission, the first climate rally he had ever attended. With regard to the coverage of the opening ceremonies and ensuing entertainment there are a number of inaccuracies to be amended.

First, the keynote speakers were far from unknown. Majora Carter, for example, is one of the foremost activists on environmental justice on the planet. Those delegates expecting, say, celebrities with no real connection to the movement had perhaps come to the wrong conference. These opening ceremonies were about substance and issues.

The goals of Power Shift were to understand the magnitude of both the challenges and opportunities presented by the climate crisis; to push the federal government to pass bold, comprehensive energy and climate legislation; to prepare our leaders and our movement for the international climate negotiations in December; to develop a comprehensive strategy for continued political pressure among young Canadians and to strengthen the bonds between concerned youth nationwide. An immense amount of work went into achieving these goals. Each was pursued with passion and conviction.

Aside from briefly mentioning that Canada performs poorly on issues of climate, the feature article neglects the issues that organizers and delegates work so hard to publicize.

The seriousness of climate change, especially to developing nations, could scarcely be more real; rising sea levels, fresh water scarcity, desertification and destruction of biodiversity are but a sampling of effects already beginning to occur. Thus, Tichinoff's article is weak not only for the inaccuracies and irrelevancies that he chose to include, but also for the crucial issues he chose to omit.

If I were a young person thinking of joining the movement on climate and environment, Tichinoff's article would all but crush my ambitions. After reading this piece, the image of Canadian environmental activists I am left with is one of weakness and apathy. This could not possibly be further from the truth. We are strong, we are active, and we will persevere until the necessary policies are in place. In actively choosing the

path of overcritical negativity, Tichinoff has done a disservice to a hard working and deeply passionate movement whose sole goal is to ensure a sustainable future.

-- Will Horne, recruitment support for Power Shift Canada

## Gazette unfair to Schulich, corporate endowments

Calls for de-commercializing Dal, breaking contracts with corporations, and removing advertising have all been subjects of recent stories. For members of organizations such as NSPIRG and SMAC (as well as a small minority of unaffiliated students) one of the biggest problems on campus is the inroads they see as being made by private commercial interests. They stridently argue that the university is going to hell in a hand-basket.

These comments are unfair and closed-minded. Businesses and corporations are part of the community and contribute millions of dollars in scholarship and research funding to Dal. Many students will graduate and work for businesses one day very soon, and our interests are closely aligned.

Laura Merdsoy can complain about the "old boys" on the Board of Governors (though eight of 20 members are women), but the truth is that the board has worked hard to bridge the divide between both public and private sectors, successfully raising money to strengthen the school's reputation and to make it more accessible to students. Sadly, the relentlessly negative tone of a small minority of students belies the gratitude many others feel. There are many fine businesses and business leaders who choose to give back and to participate in the life of the university—and they don't deserve this kind of coverage.

A perfect example of this abuse can be found in a recent Gazette article under the headline "Billionaire buys himself our faculty of law." In this story Julie Sobowale writes about Seymour Schulich's \$20 million gift to the Faculty of Law. More than \$10 million of this money is designated for new scholarships and financial aid, which will eventually allow as many as one-fifth of law students to attend tuition free. But not even this is enough to get a positive review.

Instead of embracing a gift of \$20 million, which will dramatically increase the accessibility of legal education in Nova Scotia, Sobowale emphasizes that Schulich is a "capitalist" and that he is "buying" the school. But his gift involves no interference whatsoever in the curriculum or day-to-day operations of the law faculty. This is typical nattering negativism.

The Gazette is a vessel filled by those who wish to write for it. The problem is that people who believe that businesses are a vital part of our community are not voicing their opinions in these pages. Not enough people who believe in the full spectrum of community and who understand the economic reality of student government are participating in the debate.

When and if that happens, The Gazette will more accurately reflect the views of students – not just the nattering nabobs.

-- Richard Norman, president of the Dal-King's Conservatives

## Dal students "changed" by Powershift conference

Maggie Lovett  
Opinions Contributor

In the early morning hours of Oct. 23, a group of 40 sleep-deprived Dalhousie students boarded a bus destined for Ottawa. We were there to attend Power Shift, the largest gathering of youth ever on the issue of climate change in Canadian history. Why did the about 1,000 reported youth from across Canada feel compelled to gather in our nation's capital?

In recent years Canada has gained an international reputation for our refusal to adopt strong emissions reductions targets and play a constructive role in the United Nations' climate negotiations. At the two most recent Conferences of Parties, COP13 and COP14, Canada has won the satirical "Colossal Fossil" award for being the most obstructive party at the conference.

COP15 will take place this December in Copenhagen, Denmark. The importance of this conference cannot be overstated.

The International Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has assembled and evaluated the scientific data, and has determined that developed countries, such as Canada, must reduce emissions 25 to 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, to prevent irreversible effects of climate change. Our government has largely ignored the findings of the IPCC, instead committing to a nice-sounding target of 20 per cent below 2006 levels by the year 2020, which actually translates to three per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. As of 2006, Canada's emissions were actually 22 per cent above the 1990 level.

The math here is simple: Canada is not even close to doing its part. Power Shift attendees not only knew this, they were also ready to do something about it.

The conference began with a host of speakers, from scientists to prominent life-long environmental activists, each with their own unique background in climate change and environmental justice. "(Power Shift) changed my perspective from can we do something (about climate change), to how do we do something about climate change," said Tom Stayner, a Dalhousie delegate.

The following day, Power Shift delegates marched the downtown sidewalks of Ottawa to Parliament Hill where we joined with others to participate in one of the 4,000 events taking place worldwide as part of the International Day for Action on Climate Change.

The amount of people who took the time from their lives on such a cold and rainy day to tell our government that their lack of climate policy is unacceptable was inspiring. The diversity of the crowd was remarkable – parents with young children, faith based groups, students and youth took part in creative actions.

One of the most poignant speeches of the afternoon came from Gracen Johnson, a co-organizer of the event. She spoke of a hypothetical conversation with future generations.

"Where were you in 2009? your descendants ask. You were here, on Parliament Hill, fighting for them," she said. Her words were met with cheers and applause from across the hill.

Sunday was filled with a variety of workshops and preparation for lobby-

ing day. Our delegates were meeting with members of parliament, including Megan Leslie of Halifax's New Democrats. After our respective meetings we were all brought to the public galleries in the House of Commons to observe question period, not knowing what was about to occur.

Many Dalhousie delegates were seated in the gallery in which protesters began to rise up and call out phrases such as "Climate action now!" and "Sign the declaration of indigenous rights!" Security guards took the activists out, one by one, as they stood up.

Soon enough, one began a call and response chant in which many got involved.

"When I say 311, you say sign it! 311!" an activist yelled. "Sign it!" other activists in the gallery shouted back.

The protesters referred to bill C311, an NDP sponsored bill entitled the Climate Change Accountability Act, the signing of which has been repeatedly postponed by the House of Commons. The bill would commit Canada to reduce emissions by 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. The guards evicted everyone from the gallery.

The protest received national media coverage and sparked fierce debate. Green Party leader Elizabeth May came to the defence of protesters, stating, "The youth in the gallery showed more leadership than the MPs on the floor."

NDP leader Jack Layton, who had been interrupted by the protest, said, "I think a lot of people are very emotionally concerned about the issue, and they have got the science behind them."

While there was a focus on the injuries sustained by some of the detained protesters, there was also attention paid to the Climate Change Accountability Act: what it is, what it means and how it has been stalled.

As we gathered on the bus to begin the journey back to Halifax, the energy from the conference filled the air. We had been changed by those short three days in Ottawa.

With a resolve stronger than ever to make an impact on our government and continue to advocate for environmental justice, we discussed ideas on how to keep the momentum going. One of the ways we have done this is through weekly Climate Mob Mondays, where students gather at a location on campus to bring attention to climate change and the importance of COP15 negotiations.

We have stripped down to our swimsuits to sing and dance, frozen in place with cell phones ringing loudly – ignoring the call on climate change just as Canada has been, and have silenced ourselves to represent the number of people, nations and wildlife that face the most severe repercussions of climate change because of the greed of developed nations.

Educate yourselves on the facts of climate change. Contact your member of parliament or the Prime Minister himself (toll free: 1-866-599-4999). Get involved with one of the many groups on campus and in the community, such as SustainDal and the Ecology Action Centre. Tell a friend about Canada's record on climate change – it may surprise them!

Just do something. Write the letter. Make the call. At this critical moment the world is, quite literally, in our hands.

Maggie Lovett is a member of SustainDal.



## Arts

## Arts

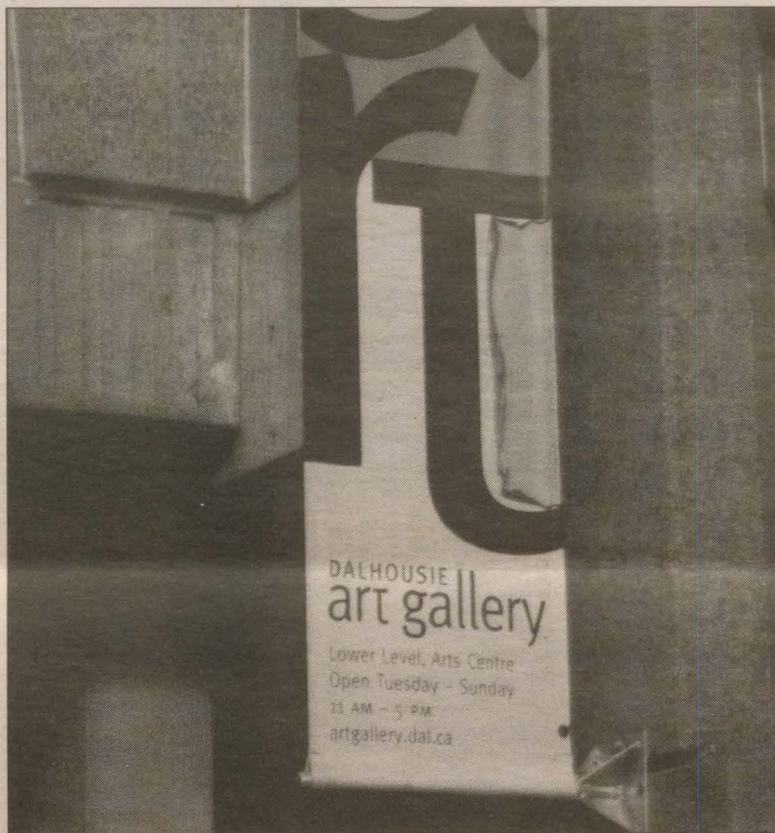
## Art Attack

Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni art show aims to paint a portrait of Dal

Photo by Andi Lo  
Staff contributor

Peter Dykhuis is preparing for what he believes to be the "hardest show ever to install." As Director and Curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dykhuis has organized his fair share of exhibits. But he knows that the 56th Annual Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni (S.S.F.A.) exhibition is going to be a challenge.

The show, which started in 1953, has existed for as long as the Gallery has been open. According to their website, the S.S.F.A. exhibit began as a way "to showcase University artistic talent and firmly identify the gallery as a university facility." With no visual arts department at Dalhousie, this type of event continues to provide a necessary outlet for the school's creative students. "A well-rounded university touches on all aspects of contemporary culture and life," says Dykhuis. "What we're providing to Dalhousie is the visual arts component that basically every other larger university has." The event is open to all members of the Dalhousie and King's communities. Contributors can submit up to three pieces of work, which can include painting, photography, mixed media, video, sculpture and crafts. Although the event organizers aim to include all submissions, they require that artists rank their pieces. If an abundance of work is received, the artists' number one piece will be shown. "I don't stand around going, 'This is in. That's out,'" says Dykhuis. "It's really meant to be a portrait of the community." Dykhuis also sees the event as a great opportunity for non-professional artists



According to the Art of Inclusion application form, their hope is "to create a deeper comprehension of the changing demographics at Dalhousie and raise awareness about the importance of a welcoming and inclusive environment." The program aims to represent a vast range of religions, races, cultures, sexual orientations and disabilities.

"That's the second layer of experiment," says Dykhuis. "To see what

Dykhuis relates the set-up process to a game of Scrabble. "When you start a game, you just kind of dump all the tiles," he says. "At the end of a game, everyone has their tiles, and they've made words, and you've got this complete conversation. Everything links off of each other." Dykhuis says he searches for the artists' intentionality when organizing this exhibit. He then analyzes the work to find commonalities in terms of subject matter and material. "I want it to look good, but there should also be an intellectual pragmatism as to why things are beside each other," says Dykhuis. "If you leave the person confused as to what it is they're looking at, you've failed." Dykhuis hopes that the Student, Staff, Faculty, and Alumni show will tell a story through the collective work of the Dalhousie community. "This is our way to reach out to the community, and just have a conversation with our neighbours," he says.

Submissions can be made to the Dalhousie Art Gallery between Nov. 3 and Nov. 30, during regular Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends, noon to 5 p.m.

**"What we're providing to Dalhousie is the visual arts component that basically every other larger university has."**

to have their work shown to the public. "It shows the work that people do for themselves," he says. "They may not sell the work, they may not want to sell the work, but it's still absolutely worthy and socially interesting to display." New to the show this year is the Art of Inclusion segment. This is a collaborative project between the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Student Accessibility Services, International Students and Exchange Services and the Black Student Advising Center.

comes in from their jurisdiction and then whether or not it ends up being an exhibition within an exhibition or whether that work is spread out throughout the main exhibition." Organizing the main exhibit also has its difficulties. Dykhuis says part of the challenge comes from the wide range of voices present in this type of show. "It's multi-authored," says Dykhuis. "If you have 40 or 50 artists, you have 40 or 50 voices."

## Arts

Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. E-mail Laura or Matt at arts@dalgazette.com to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor  
arts@dalgazette.com

Dal's new Musicology branches academic study and popular culture

Most Serene Republic float across the ever-expanding universe

Nick Laugher  
staff contributor

Bombarded with images of scantily clad singers, lip-syncing bubblegum pop songs, it's not hard to see why the world is hesitant to consider contemporary music as anything more than frivolous entertainment. On the other side of the coin, we are given a picture of stuffy old composers, writing absurdly complex symphonies that scare people from even talking about music for fear of appearing uneducated. However, Dalhousie is taking a stance and embarking on a quest to quell some of the myths and misconceptions about popular music.

In offering a new graduate studies program in musicology – the first new graduate program at Dalhousie in over a decade – the university hopes to unite the contrasting factions of academic study and popular music. The program will allow students and faculty to look at the social and cultural impact of music entwined with history, gender issues, race and politics.

"It's a look at music on the broader scale," says Steven Baur, a professor of Musicology at Dalhousie. "Soundtracks, songs in advertising or political campaigns, composers ... they effect us and the culture around us and we don't even realize it."

Professor Baur, like many of the faculty in the musicology program, is a relatively new addition. Only in the last 10 years has Dalhousie garnered a huge following in the area of musicology, marking an influx of new professors, or as Baur refers to them "fresh musicology blood."

The intention of the Musicology program, which has already attracted a slew of international attention, is to investigate the way music affects our world.

"We don't just look at the way music relates to social and cultural events over the course of time," says Baur. "We look at how it contributes to these things."

The program is largely interdisciplinary, not only allowing but heavily encouraging students to take courses from other faculties. Baur, who also co-edited the book *The Beatles and Philosophy*, is adamant about the idea of studying music in relation to different fields of study. Not just content with borrowing insights from the social sciences or philosophy, musicology aims to provide a new angle on these issues.

The appearance of musicology

has always been archaic composers, using mystical language to seem authoritative and alienating people from talking about it" says Baur.

The program aims to remove that air of arrogance and intimidation that musical studies carry with it, believing that music is an extremely universal and expressive thing that has infiltrated our culture and history for centuries.

Beginning with general introductory, courses that outline things such as research methods, bibliographies and the history of musicology, the program then opens up and students have the opportunity to take specialized courses that are tailored to each professors' area of expertise. There are experts on everything from pop music, to opera, to contemporary Canadian composers.

Professors have been offering a new Music and Culture lecture series to the public in an effort to introduce the new field of study to the Dalhousie community.

David Schroeder's lecture on the use of the piano as a seductive instrument in Hitchcock films was one such introduction. Schroeder's lecture gave the public a preview of the type of material the program would offer, and served as an intro to the symbiotic relationship between music and culture. While Schroeder used the piano to expose the rhythmic way in which silent movies were composed, other professors will draw their own connections from music to anything from racial inequality to the way we interact as a society.

"This is a new, brighter era of Musicology," remarks Baur. "We're offering a very wide range of topics in an effort to amplify the idea of Musicology, so people realize how relevant it truly is."

The program is open to the idea of what can be called music by setting aside the lingering classical bias and accepting a diverse array of music.

"Musicology, traditionally, was largely taught by the specialists for the specialists," Baur says regretfully. "Music is deeply relevant to our culture and we want to be the translators; we want to make it accessible."

To read more about the new, progressive program and Dalhousie's contributions to the world of Musicology, as well as to keep up to date on the Music and Culture lecture series, head to <http://music.dal.ca>.

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# When Did You Last See My Mother?

## 1964 play deals shares issues with the present.

Anna DeMello  
staff contributor

The month of November was a good one for theatre and performance enthusiasts in Halifax. It marked the first (and hopefully annual) theatre festival at Theatre Nova Scotia's performance space, The Living Room, on Agricola Street. The month-

it was very kind of risqué and shocking, and was this huge expose on a very frank dealing with homosexuality. The way the characters consider themselves and the way they think about their own sexuality and personal identity seemed surprisingly contemporary to me. They have this kind of modern sensibility and are pretty relaxed about who they're sleeping with versus who they're in love with ... or

**"The way the characters consider themselves and the way they think about their own sexuality and personal identity seemed surprisingly contemporary to me."**

long event, The Live In, is being held by DaPoPo Theatre, and has featured skill-share workshops, play readings, as well as a live performance of *When Did You Last See My Mother?* a play by Christopher Hampton.

The festival began on Nov. 1 with an opening gala and has since included such events as Taxes for the Self-Employed Theatre Artist, Introduction to Neutral Mask and Mask (a workshop on mask performance and the con-

who they go to bed with when drunk at a party or something. That's why I thought this wasn't just a dated piece. And we aren't trying to present this as a period piece, because the themes and topics of the play are very contemporary. People have been talking about and struggling with these ideas for like the past 50 years.

Bourque is from Nova Scotia and grew up just outside of New Glasgow. He attended Bishop's University in Quebec and graduated from their

however, unclear about a venue for the performances, and ended up delaying production. The entire play occurs in a living room setting, and Bourque felt as though Theatre Nova Scotia's The Living Room was the perfect venue. He also decided to make the most of the rehearsal space for the month.

"This was more affordable than other spaces," Bourque says, "When we booked the space for the month we realized that even if we rehearsed for eight hours a day, there's a lot of time that other things could be happening in it. We decided to fill the time with other activities. This place is really well suited to the play readings, but it's hard to produce a conventional play here. There's no real backstage, so we decided design-wise to just deal with the space."

As we talk I can see that there are old television sets and video cameras set up around the room, filming the set. Bourque says that televisions and cameras have become such a language and medium for us in the early 21st century. He says that they're part of the set as a way to present how we look at the past—namely through television documentaries or old TV shows.

Bourque says he didn't tweak the play

to make it more modern, although that was considered originally. He thought about omitting all of the dated references, and British terms like "bugger off" or "I'm going out with this bird." However, a lot of changes would have been necessary and he was unable to obtain the playwright's permission. Rehearsals began in September for this month's performances.

When casting roles, Bourque says he looks for actors that are open in several senses of the word: "They need to be open to discussions with the director to portraying different characters. I like to take the time to work with people in an audition to gauge how we establish a dialogue. That kind of influences my decision about who I'd want to work with, rather than if they'd necessarily fit the role right away. It's so hard to tell in an audition of 5 to 10 minutes. An actor will evolve from when they first start rehearsing to the finished product."

Bourque himself has a small role in the play, alongside four other actors—Sher Clain, Ambyr Dunn, Blake Prendergast and Iain Soder. Prendergast, a University of King's College student, is in his final year of a BA in political science, and has starred in various shows with the King's Theatrical Society.

Bourque says that this is probably one of the best casts he's ever worked with as a director or an actor, and after seeing the play myself I'm sure he was being sincere. This production is truly entertaining and unique. It deals with relationships between roommates, friends, family members and lovers. It deals with forbidden love, relationships forever changed by sexual encounters, sexual identity, economic hardship, and family tension and expectations.

The dialogue is smart and Iain Soder steals the show with his amazing performance as the lead character. All of the actors are sensational, and seeing the play in such a tight setting is a treat. Bourque agrees that the intimate feeling of a small venue is part of what makes theatre so special, and that here in Halifax a theatre-enthusiast can satisfy their craving for a good show at a decent price at locations such as the Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street, as well as The Living Room on Agricola.

*When Did You Last See My Mother* runs until Sunday, Nov. 29. To make a reservation, email [DaPoPoLiveIn@gmail.com](mailto:DaPoPoLiveIn@gmail.com), or call 497-0385. Tickets are 10\$ and worth every cent.



nection of the mask to the body), and Voice Work for Actors and Non-Actors.

The play is directed by Steven Bourque. It was actually written nearly 50 years ago by Christopher Hampton, but Bourque saw many parallels between its subject matter and issues dealt with by people in today's society.

"What drew me to the play originally was the story of this one character, Iain, who is a really interesting character," says Bourque, "Everyone is sort of a satellite to him in this play. The play was written in 1964 but it's so contemporary in the way people talk to one another. At the time

Drama program. His interest in directing came while at school, and he says that, because the department was fairly small, there were many opportunities for student initiatives, such as coordinating festivals, and writing and directing plays. Upon graduating in 2005, he returned to Halifax and eventually became involved with DaPoPo Theatre after meeting with Garry Williams, Artistic Director and founding member.

Bourque says that Sher Clain, now an actress in *When Did You Last See My Mother?*, originally approached him about producing the play. They were,

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Arts

# Dragana's Inferno

Hilary Beaumont  
Copy Editor

Dragana Varagic's bright, brown eyes dart from side to side, as if watching a hummingbird flit around her sparsely decorated Dalhousie Arts Centre office.

"It's not what you expect," she says slowly, with a reticent smile.

Varagic is directing Dal Theatre's winter production of *Dante's Divinus Inferno*, which opens the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 24. The short script by Serbian playwright Nenad Prokic is a post-modern interpretation of the first of three poems in *Dante's Divine Comedy*. Inferno follows Dante and Virgil into the depths of hell to meet sinners whose eternal punishments fit their crimes during life.

"Hell, with all the people there suffering, is humanly warm," Varagic said. "So the whole script actually calls for that humanly warm place. When you read Dante, you see that hell is populated by so many people from his time and his own Florence. So the hell is the city. So we all have our own hells. It's a call to examine our own hells."

Varagic said she hopes the audience will pick up on this undertone. She learned early in her theatre career to "see" rather than "watch."

"The script was written in 1993 when my country, former Yugoslavia, was falling apart," she said. "The entire script is actually a call for people to be more aware, to feel, to love, to suffer, to be human."

At 21, the Dante director began acting at Yugoslavia's National Theatre, playing Shakespeare's Juliet, then Natasha from *War and Peace*. Through theatre and film, she was able to travel all over the country. But when ethnic war broke out in 1991 between the Serbs on one side and



The Cellist of Sarajevo was the book that inspired Dragana Varagic's vision. The play is performed behind a white, mesh screen, which obscures the stage slightly. | Photo by Hilary Beaumont

Albanians, Croats and Bosniaks on the other, Varagic protested openly against the government. She felt it was her calling to make people aware. So she left the theatre, and subsequently, left Yugoslavia.

Dante was exiled from Florence and never returned, she explained. She can relate.

"He has that identity or persona of a modern immigrant. And throughout the script there is a tremendous longing for coming back."

Varagic moved to Toronto when she was 35. She still feels an urge to speak out against war.

"It's like the world is pregnant with tension," Varagic said. "*Dante's Divinus Inferno* is the call to be more aware of what's going on in the world and take it seriously. If I make a comparison to my country: no one believed. We all thought it would just go away. It's not true. It's not possible."

The theatre department chose the play and approached Varagic to direct. She says she agreed without hesitation. But it hasn't been an easy task. She

struggled through seven days of swine flu last week. She estimates half of the students involved in the production have also caught the virus. It's been difficult to schedule rehearsals around sick students.

Yet Tuesday evening, the fourth-year class of about 20 dedicated drama students gathered in the Dunn Theatre to rehearse. While a few who weren't in the scene sat in the audience, the rest lowered themselves onto their bellies and slithered like snakes from the sides of the stage, creeping closer to the centre where a blonde actress stood projecting prose.

Varagic said the playwright chose characters from *Dante's Inferno* and put them into a narrative. For this reason the play does not have all nine circles of hell, which represent the levels of sin. Fans of Dante expecting to see a live version of his poem are in for a surprise.

The director's commanding voice ended the scene, and her students scurried from the stage. A man holding a cello walked centre stage, pulled up a chair and

began to play. Seconds later, a crowd descended on the scene. The actors walked quickly past the cellist as if unaware of his presence and music. He continued to play as if for an attentive, or empty, room.

"I have to tell you something that I didn't want to tell you, but now I'm going

to tell you," Varagic said with a little laugh. "When I read the play, the first image that came to my mind was the cellist from Sarajevo. There is a book, which is published in Canada, about the cellist from Sarajevo, and he is the cellist that played everyday at the square in Sarajevo. So that was the image I had in mind for the play."

In the book by Steven Galloway, the cellist plays fearlessly while all around him the world is falling apart.

"With what can we confront or face the destruction?" Varagic asks. "With beauty. That's all we have."

Keep Varagic's intent in mind when you "see" *Dante's Divinus Inferno*, the Canadian premiere, playing from Tuesday, Nov. 24 to Saturday, Nov. 28. Tickets are available at the Rebecca Cohn box office. \$6 for students and seniors, \$12 regular admission.

This article was originally published on [unews.ca](http://unews.ca).

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## Lucky are those who are poets

### Three of Brick Books' women read at Dal

Jenner-Brooke Berger  
Staff Contributor

Anne Sexton writes, "with used furniture poets make trees." This is true of three women who read at the DUASC reading series in the University archives on Wednesday Nov. 18. Carolyn Smart, Carol Langille and Sue Goyette are all published by Brick Books, the Canadian all-poetry publisher.

As well as a poet, Carolyn Smart is a professor of Creative Writing and Canadian Literature at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. After years of confessional writing, Smart is now writing narrative poetry. Her fifth collection, *Hooked*, narrates from the point of view of seven infamous women, "each of them was hooked on, and her life contorted by, an addiction or obsession."

In the poem "Written on The Flesh," Smart writes from the point of view of the British murderer of children, Myra Hindley. During her childhood in England, Smart's father would read headlines from the London Times about the murderer. Smart also drew on her own feelings of anger to cre-

ate the murderer's voice. "Written On The Flesh" addresses the classism that took place in England during the time of the murders. Biting and poignant social criticism comes through Hindley's voice re-created in Smart's poem.

Carol Langille and Sue Goyette are two poets and professors of Dalhousie's Creative Writing Department. All women spoke on the importance of their own lives coursing through the veins of their work, or becoming it. For Goyette, "there is a difference between autobiography, and the truth. I tell small lies in my work to tell a bigger truth. What's not written is equally important." Smart now combines her own emotions with her artistic temperament in order to produce biting narrative poetry. On the cathartic opportunity to document life, Langille says, "lucky are those who are poets."

You can find Carolyn Smart's *Hooked* at local booksellers. More information on how to acquire the books of Langille, Smart, and Goyette is available through Brick Books. [www.brickbooks.ca](http://www.brickbooks.ca).



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Both Sides of the Brain

## 4.48 Psychosis gets a 10

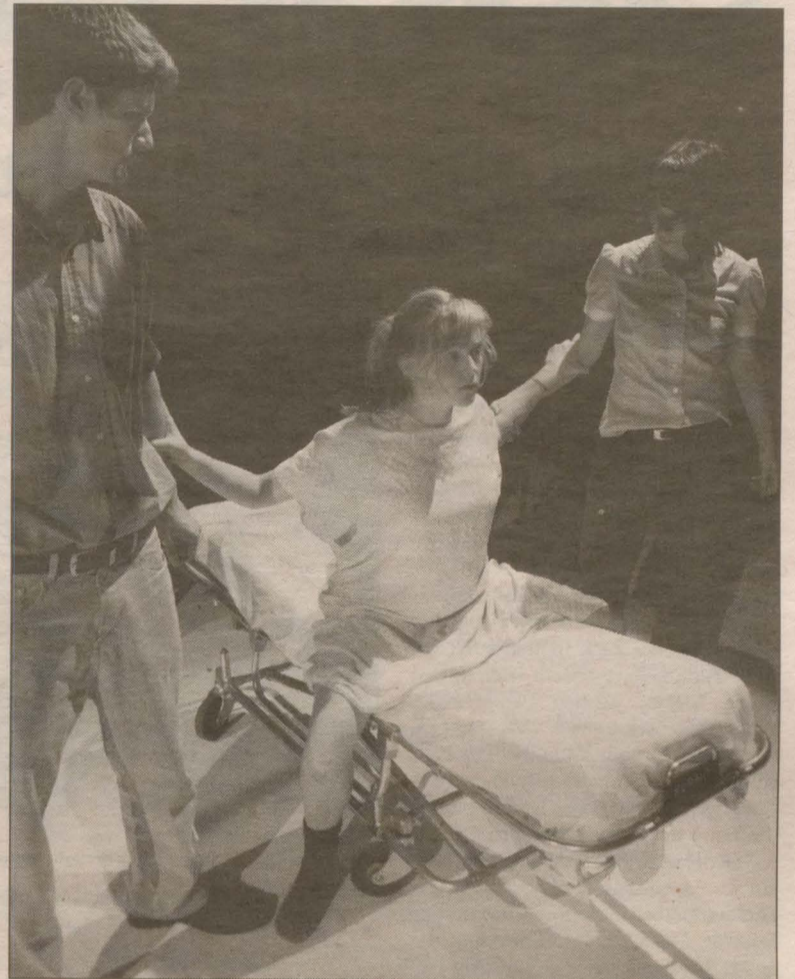
Delia Macpherson  
Staff Contributor

In 1999, English playwright Sarah Kane hung herself in the bathroom of a hospital. The last thing she wrote was a book of poems about the mentally insane called *4.48 Psychosis*.

Director Simon Bloom took the poems and turned them into a play. He gave it characters, stage direction and blocking. Bloom, a fourth-year student at the University of King's College, said it was a collaborative effort.

"A lot of it came out through discussion with the actors," says Bloom. "We would sit down and look at a scene and say, 'What's actually going on in

**"4.48 Psychosis ... took risks and was set in a controversial environment that made you uncomfortable, which captivated the audience."**



The reality bending mind of Sarah Kane | Photo Kiki Wood

over "doctors." They had a clip-board that they passed back and forth. Their fingers curled and they walked on the heels of their feet. They were absolutely terrifying.

"It was awesome," says Bloom. "I happened to get to work with Louis, Ella and Jennalee and each one of them has their own individual strengths. They're all multitalented. That's what's so amazing about them – they can do both the movement and the acting."

The lighting in the show was particularly interesting. Fluorescent, hospital-looking lights hung from the ceiling, lighting the entire room up brightly. The audience was completely visible. Not just a little bit. It was as if we were all sitting in a hospital room watching this sick woman who could feel all our eyes on her. So effective!

The lighting changed back and forth from dark with spotlights in the centre to bright fluorescents. Each time this happened, the audience members cringed slightly while their eyes adjusted.

One scene that was particularly difficult to watch was when Jennalee and Ella stood in the centre a foot or so a part and both

were lit by two different spotlights. Jennalee played "Ella's body," while Ella played her mind. Ella began saying violent words: "Flicker, slash, burn, dab, punch, ring."

She repeated the same words over and over Jennalee, in the mean time, had choreographed specific body movements and jerks to each word. Ella spoke faster and faster. Jennalee's body is thrashed about.

The audience could feel the pain and relentlessness and lack of control of the mind through a physicalizing. So fascinating. It gave me chills.

"I wanted to try and capture the feeling when you're lying in a hospital bed and you look up and you see all these healthy people standing around you," says Bloom. "It created a really interesting dynamic."

*4.48 Psychosis* was the best piece of theatre I have seen in months. It took risks and was set in a controversial environment that made you uncomfortable, which captivated the audience.

"The play is uncompromising," adds Bloom. "It shows you depression and it shows you illness and it doesn't pull any punches."



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Sports

# Sports

Sports

Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. E-mail Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff Sports Editor  
sports@dalgazette.com

## Dinos dismantle Huskies in final four match-up

St. Mary's 14 - U.C. 38 in Uteck Bowl

Joel Tichinoff  
Sports Editor

The script for this year's Uteck Bowl was worthy of Hollywood. Former St. Mary's head football coach, Blake Nill returned to Halifax at the helm of the University of Calgary Dinosaurs to do battle with his former protégé and offensive co-ordinator Steve Sumarah, who stepped up as head coach after Nill abruptly left for the west.

Nill and Sumarah worked together for years going back to the early '90s at St. Francis Xavier. Both later moved to St. Mary's, piloting two Huskies teams to back-to-back Vanier Cup titles in 2000 and 2001. But the Nill/Sumarah comrades-turned-enemies story would only serve as a B-plot in the build up to the 2009 Uteck Bowl.

Since leaving the Huskies for the Dinos last season, Nill has lured no less than six Huskies football players into transferring from St. Mary's to U.C., including star quarterback and 2007 Hec Crighton Trophy-winner Eric Glavic. Once the jewel in the Huskies football crown, Glavic mysteriously pulled up stakes following the 2008 season and transferred to U.C. sighting "personal" reasons. In 2009, Glavic and Nill led the Dinos to a 9-1 regular season record, and the six-foot-six star pivot was once again nominated for the Crighton as CIS football's MVP in 2009.

Calgary edged the University of Saskatchewan in the Canada West championship 39-38. SMU easily handled the X-men 31-22 for the Atlantic championship title. The Dinos finished the regular season 9-1 and ranked sec-



The university of Calgary Dinosaurs brought former coach and star quarterback to Halifax Photo by Andri Lo

ond nationally. The Huskies went 8-1 and finished sixth in CIS rankings.

While conventional wisdom would give Calgary the advantage, the Huskies have won seven consecutive AUS titles and have advanced to the final four nine times in the last 11 years and have made it to the Vanier Cup five times in the last decade. Whatever the rankings, St. Mary's is a football powerhouse with a strong championship pedigree.

Yet the hype around this year's Uteck Bowl was focused on the drama of the field; Glavic, Nill and the five other former Huskies who jumped ship were coming back to face their old team in the stadium and city where they were once hailed as heroes. To top it all off, those most keenly following the epic

storyline dared to dream one step further; could sophomore QB Jack Creighton, Glavic's replacement on the SMU roster, thrust into this storm of bitter rivalry and resentment, emerge in a "star-is-born" moment as the bona fide next Eric Glavic and propel his team past the Dinos to Vanier Cup game?

As often happens with hyped up events, reality did not measure up to expectation. The Huskies imploded in the first quarter. Glavic's role was superseded by Calgary's Offensive and Defensive teams' domination of SMU in virtually every aspect of the game. The receiving Dinos drove the Huskies back to the Calgary 49 on the kick-off return and Huskies all-Canadian defensive linebacker Dan Shutte, the keystone of

the SMU defence, went down with an injury before 80 seconds had elapsed in the first quarter. Battered back deep into their own territory, the Huskies quickly surrendered a Safety following two incomplete passes, the first of many, from Creighton. A Dinos field-goal followed quickly putting Calgary up 5-0 early.

The high-water mark of individual drama and the Huskies hopes came early in the first when SMU receiver Ahmed Borhot intercepted a Glavic pass, Glavic himself being forced off the field with an injury following an aggressive sack by SMU's Devon Hicks, which drew an unnecessary roughness penalty to the Huskies. Former Dino starter Deke Junior, who had only seen enough playing time since 2008 for 23 passes, replaced

Glavic in the shot-gun position as Sumarah and Nill exchanged heated words on the side-lines. Whatever advantaged the Dinos had momentarily evaporated amid wild taunting from the Husky faithful with Glavic out of commission.

However Glavic returned and the Dinos quickly silenced the home crowd. UC's Michael Lau, one of many Dinos touted as future CFLers, intercepted a Creighton pass and the resulting possession was turned into long pass to Dino Richard Snyder deep in the Huskies' zone to give Calgary a 12-0 lead.

The Dinos made SMU look sluggish and ineffective from the start and strong defense left Huskies' offence stifled while UC's offensive line fiercely protected Glavic, giving him plenty of time to make passes and complex plays. With 59 seconds left in the first quarter Glavic handed the ball off to Matt Walter, who found a gap in the Saint Mary's line, breaking free for a 69 yard run for his 10th touchdown of 2009. In total Calgary had 198 net yards in the first 15 minutes of play. SMU had 17 and did not complete its first pass until well into the second quarter.

The Gaels of November

Queen's University beat two-time defending Vanier Champions Laval 33-30 at Richardson Stadium in Kingston in a major upset. Laval allowed a total of 60 points to be scored against them in total in the 2009 season and were heavily favoured to repeat as national champions. The Gaels will meet the Dinos in Quebec City for the 2009 Vanier Cup on Saturday, Nov. 28.

## Murderball

Kim Keitner  
Sports Contributor

The gymnasium floor echoes around the sound of 14 rumbling wheels. Several voices jockey for attention. "Over here! Pass it to Steven! Go for the corner! Cover Gordie!" But Gordie, cradling the ball in one arm and spinning with his free hand, finds an opening and wheels across the marked blue line to the cheers of his teammates.

Off the court, everything the self-proclaimed "quads" do is dictated by what they cannot do - walk. In Gordie's world, routine is paramount; being slow, a side effect. But here in this gymnasium he maneuvers his wheelchair expertly and it moves almost gracefully across the synthetic rubber floor. There's nothing slow about Gordie as he and his teammates wheel back to the opposite side

to start the game all over again. It's impossible to remember whether Gordie's team is up or down, no one here is keeping score. That is not the purpose of today. It's the first practice of the season and it's clear that the boys are just happy to be playing murderball again.

Gordie, Rob and Steven are the quads. Gordie throws a ball at Steven as he challenges his quad status, "Steven here's practically para," (meaning paraplegic), and jokingly implies that he's been spoiled by his extra mobility. Steven, used to Gordie's teasing, shrugs and catches the ball. Gordie had a diving accident and Steven was in a car accident when they were both just kids. Both of their accidents happened long enough ago that joking about it has become customary. Besides, razzing each other is what jocks do. They razz on the "ABs" too - the able-bodies. They also

call them "walkies". Rob's brother Stevie, Charles and James are walkies. They come because they're friends and family but also because murderball is fun.

Gordie says they're not supposed to call it murderball anymore - something about scaring off potential players. The official name is "quad rugby," though the name is about the only thing it has in common with the sport. Quad rugby is played with a small volleyball on a basketball-sized court with goal lines marked by cones. According to quadrugby.com, "the object of the game is to score a goal (one point) by crossing the goal line with possession of the ball while the opposing team is defending that goal."

Each team has four players and those players' functionality ratings, when combined, can be no higher than eight. When a quad is first injured, doctors and

occupational therapists team up and assign him/her a number between 0.5 to 3.5. It's a functionality rating based on several measures including hand dexterity, motor function and sensation.

Gordie has sensation in the chest and above and limited hand dexterity. The doctors gave him a one. He played for the Canada quad rugby team in 2006 and says keeping fit is what motivates him to play. The simple act of bending down to retrieve a dropped item can be complicated when you're in a chair and it doesn't help when you've got a gut hindering your way.

The boys play for two hours, only stopping once for water and twice when someone yells "equipment!" meaning something such as a loose wheel or a ripped glove needs fixing. They wear the gloves to protect their hands and wrists from chaffing against the wheels.

They use gardening gloves, work gloves, sporting gloves - basically any glove that has a match and isn't ripped to shreds.

On the court there is no mercy. It's a full contact sport with chair-to-chair collisions, although no personal contact is allowed. Gordie laughs every time he crashes his chair into an opponent and eventually Jamie gets knocked so hard his chair flips over. Someone says, "It's about time."

These boys are not so delicate. After the game the boys gather together to disassemble chairs, toss sweaty gloves in smelly bags and talk about how out of shape they are after a season off court. Just like any sport the physical activity pays off and it's clear that the boys are feeling great. A new season is here and today the games have just begun.



# CIS scholarships under review

## Flexible model may stop UBC from defecting to NCAA

**Rebecca Lindel**  
The Ubsysee  
(University of British Columbia)

**V**ANCOUVER (CUP) – Canada's university sports league is looking to change its scholarship rules to allow full-ride awards for student athletes by next year.

"The principle is to keep the best student athletes in Canada," said Clint Hamilton, president of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) and University of Victoria's director of athletics. "Currently, the scholarship situation is such that it's limiting our ability to do that."

"Financially, we are not able to compete with our counterparts across the line in the NCAA."

The maximum amount of award money CIS athletes are eligible for is the cost of tuition and ancillary fees. Meanwhile, the American NCAA league offers additional funding for residence and living expenses, making it an attractive option for talented Canadian athletes.

CIS is exploring what Hamilton calls "a flexible scholarship model." This model would remove the per-student cap, which would allow Canadian universities to give free rides for key players. It would still limit the total amount of money available per sport, however. For example, a basketball program could

have a scholarship budget of \$30,000 under the proposed model, and they would have to determine how many full-ride scholarships were offered out of that pot.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) has been one of the key players in initiating the review and have long considered making the jump into the NCAA because it would give the school more financial flexibility. UBC gave out over \$500,000 in athletic scholarships this year, but have argued that they are unable to keep the best local athletes in Canada due to scholarship restrictions.

While it would help Canadian schools retain talent, UBC's athletic director Bob Philip said flexibility isn't enough – the league needs to rethink scholarship eligibility rules as well. "We think they should adopt the NCAA rule and the NCAA rule says if you are eligible to play sports, you are eligible to receive an athletic award," Philip said.

CIS student athletes need to keep a 60 per cent average, be enrolled in three classes during the season, and gain 18 credits each year to be eligible to play sports. To earn scholarships, athletes need an 80 per cent average out of high school and at least a 65 per cent average at the end of your first year. Students beyond their first year must keep a 65 per cent average, with the exception of Ontario, which requires a 70 per cent average.

Hamilton said any proposals to change the eligibility rules would doom any other changes to failure when the CIS membership votes on them in June.

"I don't believe at this point that there is an appetite to want to lower the academic requirements that are on the books as part of a more expanded financial offering in terms of scholarship," Hamilton said.

Philip said that even if scholarship rules do change, there's no guarantee UBC would close the NCAA door.

The NCAA is an important brand for athletes and playing in the American league would help attract the best Canadian athletes to UBC, Philip said, adding that it would also raise the level of play.

"A Canadian student athlete should be able to study in Canada and have the same opportunities. Why should they have to go to the States?"

Still, UBC's vice-president of students Brian Sullivan said it would be an important step towards resolving some of the issues pushing UBC towards the NCAA.

"One very important positive element is the scholarship flexibility ... If that report comes back and it's a favourable action with respect to eligibility for scholarship and flexibility for scholarships ... that would be a positive influence that UBC will take into account when deciding whether or not to apply for NCAA membership," Sullivan said.

## BEAT THE KIPPER

### Questions:

1. Who is the highest scoring Left Winger in NHL history?
2. Who was the World Series MVP for the Toronto Blue Jays in 1992?
3. When was the last time that the Dalhousie Women's soccer team won an Atlantic Championship?

ANSWERS:  
1. Luc Robitaille  
2. Pat Borders  
3. 2001

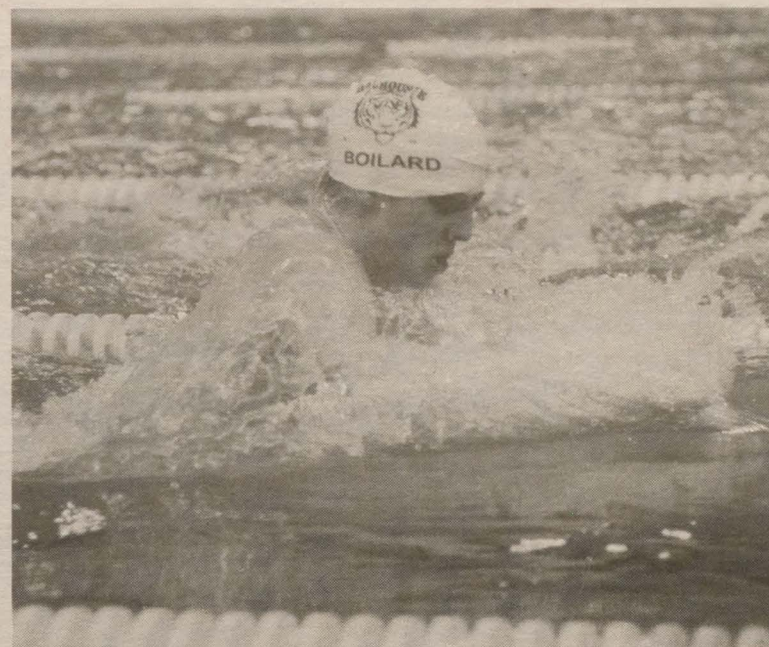


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## MEET THE TIGERS!

**JOCELYN LEBLANC, HOCKEY #19 Centre**

Hometown: Moncton, NB

Degree/Major/Favourite class: B.Sc/Kinesiology/Anatomy

Favourite pre-game meal: Pasta

Favourite pump-up song: Remember the Name

Lucky superstition: Always go on the ice last for games

Favourite sports hero: Jarome Iginla/ Brett Hull

Career aspirations: Physiotherapist

Words to live by: Impossible is Nothing.

**PATRICK SWEENEY, HOCKEY #97 Centre**

Hometown: Nepean, ON

Degree/Major/Favourite class: BCOMM/Accounting/Accounting

Favourite pre-game meal: Chicken and pasta

Favourite pump-up song: You're Gonna Go Far Kid

Lucky superstition: Pre-game nap after pre-game meal

Favourite sports hero: Steve Yzerman and Tiger Woods

Career aspirations: Play pro hockey

Words to live by: Don't let anyone tell you you can't do something



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# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## TEA FARMERS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IN FIELDS OF GOLD

Nick Mathiason

**Soaring demand for food and land may not stop the world's rural communities from plunging deeper into poverty**

The villagers of Thatarber Manihatty in south India knew they had no choice but to mortgage their small plots of farmland when they found they could not afford to bury dead relatives or send children to school without the generosity of neighbours.

Six thousand feet up in the breathtaking Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu, hope was thin on the ground until Sumani Subramani, a 30-year-old former office clerk, drew a line in the brick-red soil.

Quitting her desk job, Subramani organised the farmers into a co-operative. Banding together, they first negotiated better prices from local tea processing factories. Then, pooling meager profits from plucking leaves on the steep hills, the new co-op collected 20,000 rupees (£260) a month and, plot by plot, began to reclaim land from the banks.

"For 10 years we suffered because of low prices, and money makers took our land and we have to pay interest to them," Subramani explains. "So women got together to form a group and we saved money to start this business."

Shoppers in Britain, who, after Iraq, consume more tea per head than anywhere else in the world, may have barely noticed that the price of a cuppa in supermarkets has increased by 15%. Severe droughts in Kenya – the world's biggest producer of tea for tea bags – and the central Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, together with political instability disrupting production in Sri Lanka, have hit supply and sparked a 50% price surge on world markets.

For the 800 inhabitants of Thatarber Manihatty, misfortune elsewhere has proved advantageous. Higher tea prices and generous state support have enabled 20 smallholders out of 56 to reclaim their land. But nothing comes easy for the people here. Rain has fallen in Kenya

in recent weeks and, with that, tea prices have dropped. It is uncertain whether the village will earn enough for the remaining 36 smallholders to buy back their land.

"Whenever there's a shortage we prosper," says Narayanaswamy Sriram, a prominent tea broker in Tamil Nadu. "If everything is fine, we're doomed."

To RD Naseem, the energetic executive director of the Tamil Nadu Tea Board, based in the bustling tea town of Coonoor, the postwar history of commodity prices is a troubling, relentless decline (see graphs, above), creating a huge challenge. "Have you ever wondered which is the cheapest beverage in the world? Even in India?" he asks. "Tea is cheaper than bottled water. Please go back and ask your grandmothers how much they paid for a kilo of tea, and you'll be surprised that today you are paying less than what your grans were paying 50 years back."

Sentiments such as these are no doubt shared by the majority of the world's smallholders. Tea, coffee, cocoa, cotton and rice prices have all fallen in real terms over the past four decades, plunging 500 million smallholder families deeper into poverty while helping the developed world get richer.

But could this be about to change? Last week, Jeffrey Currie, global head of commodities research at Goldman Sachs, said America and Europe should prepare for huge rises in oil and food prices: "Developed markets will pay more for copper, soya beans and oil. Primarily, America will have to make significant adjustments in the way it consumes natural resources."

He added: "Emerging markets will crowd out developed-market demand. We saw a hint of it last year. Once we have a recovery in economic activity, these problems will resume. Even without recovery we will have a problem."

A growing world population, increased prosperity in emerging economies, a transfer of agricultural land to biofuel crops, and a dramatic rise in land-grabs

by China, South Korea and Saudi Arabia have combined with speculative investing to fuel startling gyrations in commodity prices on world markets.

First, there was the spike that saw oil rise to \$147 a barrel 15 months ago, pulling agricultural commodities in its slipstream. While the bank crisis saw a rapid puncturing of bubbles as banks deleveraged, analysts confirm that in the past six months, up to half of the new liquidity given to banks by governments has gone into commodities, sparking a fresh boom.

Andrew Jarvis, a former policy adviser in the Cabinet Office and now a senior research fellow at Chatham House, says: "There are a lot of stories on food markets that are all simultaneously true."

On the face of it, this should play into the hands of food producers in the developing world. But higher inputs – the cost of fertilisers, seeds and machinery – have hurt them badly. The result is that the number of people starving has risen from 830 million to one billion in just over one year, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation.

That is why, after decades of investing in infrastructure and industrial projects in poor nations, the World Bank last year announced a 50% increase in money going to farming, to \$6bn.

"The World Bank was insufficiently engaged in harnessing the power of agriculture and development and we are now gradually moving to engagement," says Mark Cackler, manager of the agriculture and rural development department at the World Bank. "Seventy-five per cent of the poor are mostly engaged in farming. To achieve a reduction in poverty we have to work with [them]."

That may be, but smallholders are having to cope with a new threat: land-grabs. Concern in China, South Korea and Gulf states over how they will feed their growing populations amid pressure on water resources and the effects

of climate change has prompted a new rush for land in Africa, eastern Europe and parts of Asia. The International Food Policy Research Institute has reported that 8.66m hectares – an area about the same size as Italy's arable land – has been snapped up in Africa by emerging economies. But the real figure could be much higher.

Commodity experts such as Goldman Sachs's Currie believe that land-grabbing is a good thing. He argues it will lead to more investment in agriculture. But others worry that the phenomenon will see farmers thrown off their land as more powerful forces move in.

The billionaire speculator George Soros highlighted the land-buying frenzy earlier this year. "I'm convinced farm land is going to be one of the best investments of our time," he said. "Eventually, of course, food prices will get high enough that the market probably will be flooded with supply through development of new land or technology or both, and the bull market will end. But that's a long way away yet."

Especially if recent UN projections are to be believed. They suggest that if the world's population reaches 9.1 billion by 2050, it will require a 70% increase in food production from 2007 levels, including a 900m tonne (43%) increase in cereal production and a 200m tonne (74%) increase in meat production.

G8 world leaders, at their summit in Italy in July, promised \$20bn (£12bn) to combat the growing food crisis in the developing world. But senior observers have suggested this will amount to just \$3bn of new money.

In two weeks, the UN will hold its second emergency food summit in Rome. Leaders of 30 countries and the Pope are slated to attend. For Sumani Subramani, the villagers of Thatarber Manihatty and the two billion people who rely on smallholder farming to eat, the world's leaders need to furnish them with the wherewithal to survive.



Note: The T-Room won Best Trivia and 2nd Best Student Hang Out at the Coast Awards!

**DSEUS** dalhousie sexton  
engineering undergraduate society

Every Friday Afternoon • EngiBEERING in the Design Commons Wear a Sweater Vest for a Free Beer!  
Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

Thursday November 26 • 100 Days to Iron Ring with 'Holdin' Up Grants' and 'Shaymaker'

Friday November 27 • Trivia

Friday December 3 • Open Mic

Friday December 4 • Trivia

### CO-OP CORNER

#### Important Dates:

- October 27 - December 31: Round II

#### Things to Remember:

- If you have found a job using your own search and not the co-op office, you need to inform the co-op office of this so you are no longer released on PlacePro.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is:  
<http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>