

GAZETTE

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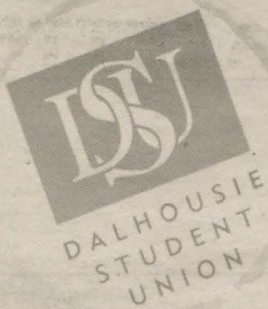
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WEEKLY DISPATCH

Building a Better Dalhousie Community

One of the most important responsibilities of a student union is to create and nurture a university community. Here's part of a speech I gave on that subject in June to a conference of Dalhousie university administrators. It's a long read, but an important subject.

Dalhousie's future lies with improving and selling its student experience. Over the coming years, changing demographics mean that students will not be coming here from the same places they have in the past. We must continue to attract students from across Canada and we must increase the number of students we attract from around the world. Creating an environment that attracts and retains students is no longer just a priority, it's what will allow Dalhousie to survive.

An improved student experience that will attract these new students, not to mention improve the lives of the students that are already here, starts with a better Dalhousie community.

The word community is thrown around a lot, and it's used as shorthand for a lot of things - better relationships between students and professors, more university pride, and a more engaged and engaging student union for example. I'd like to take this opportunity to lay out what I think a better university community is and some steps we can take towards that goal.

First of all, a better Dalhousie community takes place in the larger community of Halifax. At St. Francis Xavier, for instance, students participate on campus, follow their athletics closely (and give each other ugly rings) - and part of the reason for that is that there's not much else to do in Antigonish. Here at Dal, we're in the heart of the cultural capital of Atlantic Canada. Our campus bars, for instance have to compete with dozens of other pubs and bars and nightclubs within walking distance. We always need to keep that relationship in mind.

Secondly, a better Dalhousie community is not monolithic. It is the product of hundreds of small communities each based on fields of study, areas of interest, ethnicities, religions, personal attributes or places of residence. Dal is a large, diverse university, and students naturally look to these smaller groups first when thinking about what their community is.

Third, a better Dalhousie community will not be created by the administration, staff, or faculty of this University. It will be created by the students. Everyone in this room can assist in creating this community, but you can't be the fuel or the engines of that change. For instance, the best communications and community-building tool that links Dalhousie students together was not created by the university, it was created when students, of their own accord and en masse, decided to join Facebook. I include the student union in this assessment as well. Anything we try to build without greater student support is useless.

So what, specifically, can we do, keeping these things in mind, to make those necessary improvements to the Dalhousie community?

First, create programs and projects that take advantage of the wider Halifax community and link that to the Dal experience. One of my favorite courses of all time was Marketing for Non-Profits, a class where students assisted community organizations in developing marketing plans.

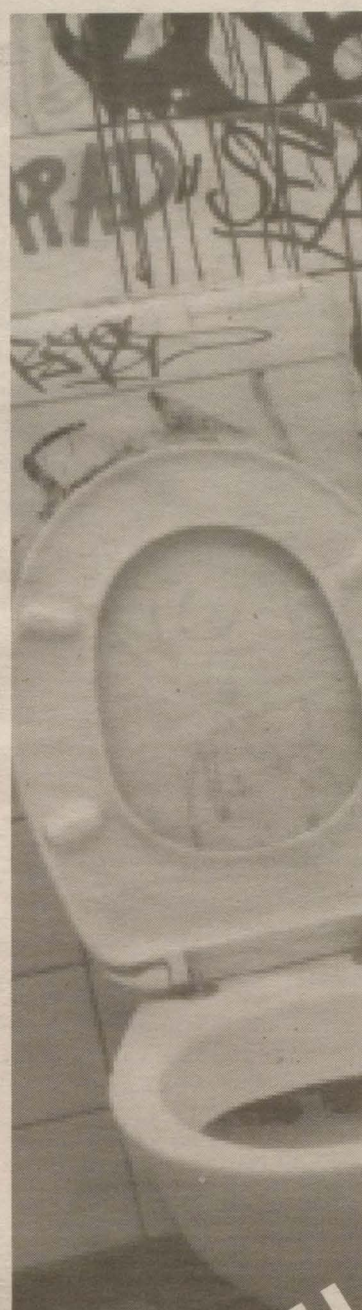
Second, we need to encourage the many varied Dalhousie communities to work together in ways that work for them. The Dalhousie Student Union hosts 225 separate student societies, encompassing everything from students who are taking marine biology to students who enjoy drinking tea. It the union's job to create tools that allow them to interact, share ideas, and advertise their events that everyone can use. For example, the DSU will be holding a student leadership conference in September that should help students to take their own societies from good to great.

Finally, we need to recognize that any community here will be driven by the students. Last year, students didn't necessarily vote against the student space referendum because of the merits of the proposal. Many of the students that I've talked to think it was probably a good idea, but they opposed the plan because they felt it was being sold to them through a top-down PR campaign rather than a student movement. Keep your eye on sexton campus this year to see a different model in effect. If student space is improved there, that change will come from the engineering students and their student societies.

I'd like to end with one last thought about our community. Students now graduate with an average of \$29,000 in debt and that's just for their undergrad. It's tough to be involved in clubs or sports or even your own academics when you're working three part-time jobs. Even if someone manages to afford Dalhousie, they aren't necessarily able to afford to be a part of our community. That's a kind of accessibility that isn't talked about often enough.

If you have any thoughts on how we can improve the Dal community, please let me know.

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THE FINE PRINT

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

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

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

Staying out of the ghetto

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My first encounter with student housing involved a staircase that sagged at an eighty-degree angle. It led to an apartment above a convenience store that had been split into three bedrooms.

It was my brother's first apartment at Queen's University in Kingston.

This dwelling, along with several others that featured ugly tiling, weird floor plans and in one instance, raccoons in the ceiling, was where he lived during his undergrad degree. These apartments were in the area north of Queen's that make up the student ghetto.

While the houses and apartments in the ghetto were pretty ugly, the idea of students having their own community really appealed to me.

During one of my first walks off campus in my first year at Dalhousie, I struggled to find any distinct student area. Walking north of Coburg Road, I saw a lot of sidewalk chalk, minivans and children's hockey sticks, but not so many couches on porches or cheaply constructed decks that would indicate a student ghetto.

So I wasn't surprised when I heard about all the noise complaints in the community. People living around the university were naïve to not expect to hear the drunken hollering of students.

It was only when I started looking for housing outside of residence that I began to realize the character of the student area of Halifax. It's not as concentrated as the student areas of universities in Montreal, Toronto or Kingston.

The vague boundaries of where most Dal students live stretches from about Coburg to Quinpool Road and Oxford to Robie Street. In this area, students are dispersed between fam-



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

During one of my first walks off campus in my first year at Dalhousie, I struggled to find any distinct student area.

ilies and other full-time residents.

This gives our student community a wholesome dimension I wasn't used to, like when I'm struggling to finish an essay and the kids next door are playing ball hockey on the road.

To add to this community contrast, students tend to stay up and wake up later, due to partying or studying, and don't get to know their neighbours. Or they only get to know them as the people who knock on the door to tell them to shut up or take in their garbage that didn't get picked up.

The full-time residents that surround student houses help keep them in better shape. Residents usually take pride in their communities

and don't want to let houses fall into a state of disrepair, whether it be from a crummy paint job or just neglected garbage bags.

But what do full-time residents get in return for tolerating students? I spoke to my neighbour, Robert Bérard, who has lived in the area for 32 years.

Essentially, he says, residents get to live in a community that's within walking distance of the university, downtown and other amenities.

He says students began moving into the area only 12 or 15 years ago. "[Before] you found a much more professorial population," he says.

Bérard was a professor when he moved into the neighbourhood. He started working at King's and could

walk there in a few minutes.

He says some professors began to rent or sublet their houses and soon began to make more money as slum landlords than profs.

His main contention is not with students but with landlords, Bérard says. He has to tell students not to park their cars in his driveway or when to put out their garbage, even though that's a landlord's responsibility.

A building's general appearance is also the responsibility of the landlord. If one block of a neighbourhood becomes student slum-housing, most of the residents move out and never move back. This can cause houses to become more and more dilapidated and attract vermin.

When it's the community norm, many students don't think to speak up about things like rotten stairs or chipping paint.

Since students only live in these communities for about four years, there is relatively little they can do to change them. However, they can keep them from permanently becoming slums by simply doing things like not leaving their garbage out if it doesn't get picked up and reporting building problems to their landlord.

A distinct Halifax student ghetto could arise from student and landlord laziness, and we could lose a part of Dal that makes us distinct from other universities.

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Students push feds for more scholarships

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie students need to pressure the federal government so it doesn't shut down a national scholarship fund worth more than \$300 million annually, post-secondary education lobbyists say.

On Oct. 10, one of the Dalhousie Student Union's external lobby groups launched a campaign aimed at forcing the government to put more money into the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation before the fund expires within the next school year.

The foundation, a private organization created by Parliament in 1998, has so far this year awarded nearly 135,000 grants to students across the country. Nova Scotia students received roughly 5,400 of those, worth a total of \$11,690,000 in the province.

The program was set up to operate for 10 years, and the money will run out between 2008 and 2009. The program has distributed more than \$2 billion to Canadian students since it began.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), of which every Dal student is a member, is collecting video testimonials from students across Canada who received a Millennium scholarship or bursary. The lobby group will play winning videos for government officials in Ottawa during its annual conference beginning Nov. 11.

Dal students on financial aid, along with thousands of others throughout the country, will suffer if the governing party does not put more money into the program before it expires, says the vice-president (education) of the Dalhousie Student Union.

Tara Gault, who is also a representative for CASA, says renewed funding for the program is necessary because its scholarships go to low-income students who need them most.

"Students all across the country care about this issue and not only that, students are making the public care about this issue," Gault says. "The government knows now there's someone watching."

On Sept. 27, seven student lobby groups, including CASA and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA), met at the foundation's general meeting in Ottawa to show support for the fund.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
DSU VP (education) Tara Gault is helping launch a campus campaign in support of more funding for the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

The government hasn't publicly decided to scrap the program, nor has it made any commitments to maintain it.

But Gault says now's the time to ensure students continue to benefit from the non-repayable federal fund. She wants to see the program remain exactly the same, keeping its "recognizable" name, even if political power changes hands.

"We've got it now; it's working now - let's keep it," she says. "It's not enough to wait for the government to say no. If we did that, we wouldn't get anywhere."

Gault, who is also chair of the academic and external affairs committee that's currently organiz-

ing campus events in support of the scholarship renewal, says the DSU is focusing on securing more money for the program because it's a short-term goal that affects many students.

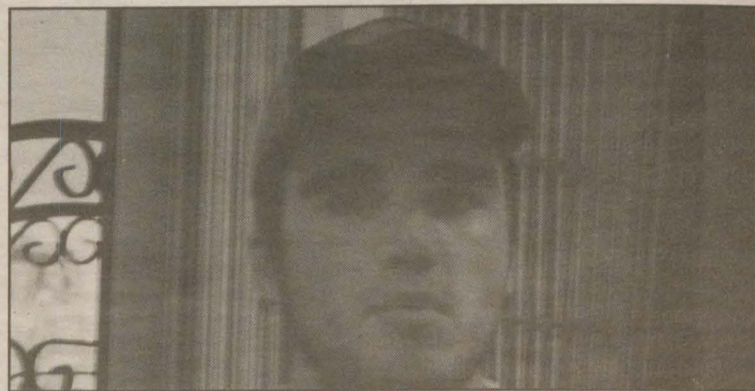
Fourth-year student Aretha Black has received a total of four Millennium bursaries in addition to her Ontario student loan. The international development studies and psychology major says the "free money" makes paying her tuition much easier.

"In my case, it makes up a large portion of what I get from the government," she says. "I just found out they were planning to get rid of it and I was appalled."

The deputy leader of the federal Liberal party, Michael Ignatieff, spoke about Canada's identity to a full audience at Dalhousie's law school on Oct. 4. As a follow up, *The Gazette* asked students which Canadian or international politicians they want to visit Dal.

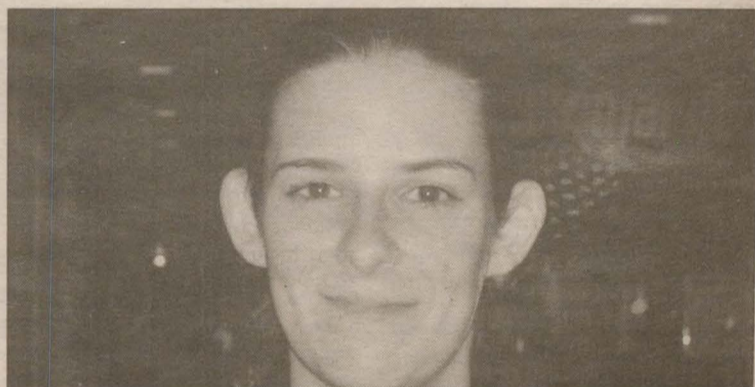
NEWS STREETER

Which politician would you like to hear speak on campus and why?



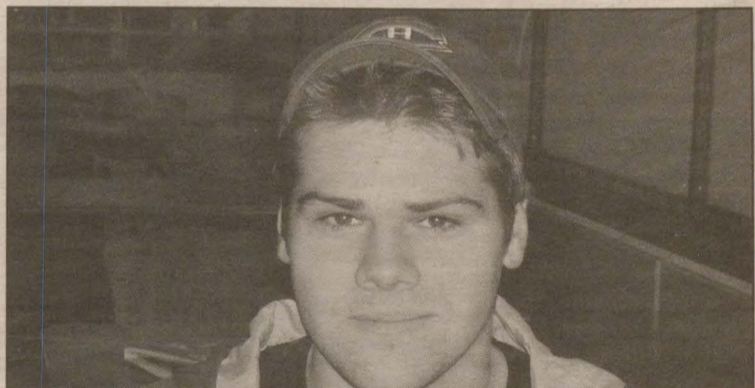
“Ron Paul, Republican presidential candidate. “Stuff I read about him seems interesting.”

Patrick Murphy, third-year chemistry



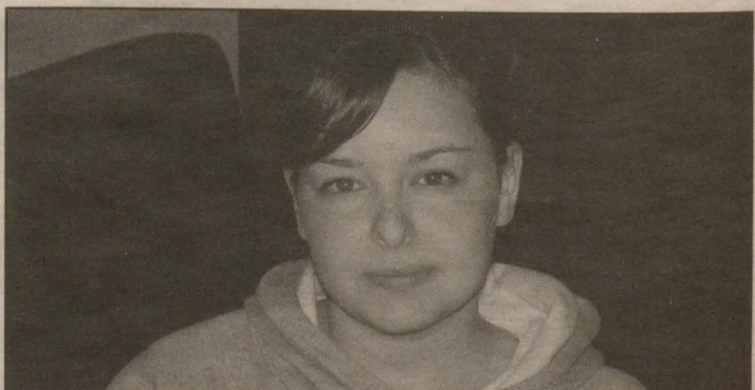
“Frank McKenna, former Canadian ambassador to U.S. I like that he's doing pretty well for himself and the U.S.-Canada relationship is a big deal right now.”

Diana McCallum, fourth-year acting



“It doesn't really matter. I watch debates on TV but I probably wouldn't go to hear (politicians) talk. It's the same rhetoric you'll get from them on the news.”

Mark Neily, fifth-year engineering



“Hillary Clinton, Democrat presidential candidate. “Her campaign and her running is so controversial right now.”

Sarah Carter, second-year psychology

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Student runs for mayor

A University of Calgary student is so disappointed by the city's government that he's running for mayor in the upcoming election.

Jeremy Zhao, 19, is an engineering student and a first-generation Canadian born of Chinese parents. He doesn't have much political experience, but he hopes to beat out eight other candidates, including Calgary's current mayor, Dave Bronconnier, who has already served two terms.

Zhao decided to run for mayor after learning only 18 per cent of eligible voters went to the polls during the city's last municipal election in 2004.

"I have one life to live, so I might as well make the most of it and try to contribute to society as much as I can," Zhao told *The Gauntlet* student newspaper. "Even though I'm young, I'm still passionate about it, and I encourage people to take action because I don't see a lot of adults in this city taking action."

The municipal election will be held Oct. 15.

Concordia staff demand answers after unexpected resignation

Faculty at Concordia University are upset the university has not offered an explanation for its president's resignation last month.

Former president Claude Lajeunesse resigned suddenly after a private meeting with the school's Board of Governors (BoG) on Sept. 18. Montreal community representative Paul Gauthier also resigned inexplicably after the meeting.

Charles Drainin, president of the university's faculty association, wrote an open letter to the BoG declaring its secrecy and closed-door policy "unacceptable," and demanded to know how the school will fill those two important positions, *The Link* student newspaper reported.

After the letter was published in the *Concordia Journal*, Drainin had a meeting with the BoG chair to discuss the resignations, but he would not publicly disclose any details about the meeting.

Several members of the school's senior administration recently announced their resignations, including the academic provost, the dean of engineering, the director of libraries and the vice president of external affairs.

University plans to open law school in Waterloo

Wilfrid Laurier University wants to open its own law school and start a new law co-operative education program.

University administration applied to Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for approval to begin offering law degrees in June, but the process is on hold until the province's Law Society finishes its review of program requirements next year.

The program would focus on technology and practical training for lawyers, school officials say, and would help the university attract more graduate students to boost enrollment.

In 1979, the University of Calgary was the last institution in Canada to open a law school.

Sources: *The Gauntlet*; *The Link*; *The Cord Weekly*.

U of California starts student loan rating system

The University of California implemented a student loan policy that will inform students about preferred lending agencies.

School officials announced the policy last week in response to a U.S. student loan scandal last spring, during which universities allegedly accepted bribes in exchange for recommending certain lenders to students.

U of California was not named in the scandal, but the administration said it wants to ensure students and their parents have comprehensive information about loan agencies when they decide where to borrow money.

Committees made up of campus financial aid officers, senior administration and students will evaluate lenders based on the university's rating system, including factors such as interest rates and eligibility requirements. They will distribute the first lists this winter.

University makes dorm life mandatory

Future first-year students at Louisiana State University will be required to live on campus.

The school's board of supervisors voted Oct. 5 to implement a residency requirement for freshmen beginning in 2009 as a way to help the university maintain its undergraduate enrollment levels.

The one vote against mandatory dorm life belonged to the student government president, who argued many of the school's residences need renovations that won't be finished in two years. But administration told *The Daily Reveille* student newspaper it will improve campus parking and security lighting before the policy comes into effect.

First-year students who are over 21, married, or have children or another compelling reason not to live on campus will be exempt.

Sources: *The Daily Californian*; *The Daily Reveille*.

ACROSS THE POND

Homosexual bullying 'blatant' at Scottish school

Homosexual staff and students at the University of Glasgow report being bullied in school, according to a recent university survey.

More than half of lesbian staff members who responded to the random, anonymous survey said they'd experienced bullying, while the study showed gay male employees were three times more likely than straight men to receive unfair treatment at the university.

The teachers' union and university administration told *the Glasgow Guardian* student newspaper the survey results are "worrying" and they are taking them seriously. In response, the school set up an equality and diversity committee, the first of its kind in Scotland, to tackle the discrimination allegations.

The vice president of the school's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered student association said the findings recognized bullying as a legitimate problem within the university.

"The figures do look appalling, but I'm not surprised - which is an appalling thing to have to admit to," Andrew Motherwell told *The Glasgow Guardian*. "Blatant bullying can take place, particularly in halls of residence."

Source: *The Glasgow Guardian*

Have suitcase, will travel:

Theatre prof goes from stage to classroom

MELISSA DICOSTANZO
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Susan Stackhouse has never won an Oscar.

But for the chair of Dalhousie's theatre department, receiving recognition for her teaching skills might be just as good.

Stackhouse, an actor and voice coach, shared her theatrical expertise with reality TV contestants in Toronto as part of the CBC's new show, *Triple Sensation*. She was the only staff member of a Canadian university that executive producer Garth Drabinsky invited to mentor the hopefuls.

"I call it my one little bonus in life," she says enthusiastically. "I was thrilled for Dal."

The series, a talent search in which the winner will receive a \$150,000 scholarship to a performing arts school, premiered Oct. 7 on CBC and will air as three two-hour episodes.

Appearing on TV is only one aspect of Stackhouse's multi-faceted career.

She was a professional actor for several years before becoming a teacher, and has been a recurring fixture in Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival for 16 years.

But she prefers teaching to acting. For now, her main stage is at Dal, her alma mater.

The wife and mother, who has been teaching at Dal for 11 years and served as department head for the last two, won the 1999-2000 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching, an honour she says was "like an Academy Award."

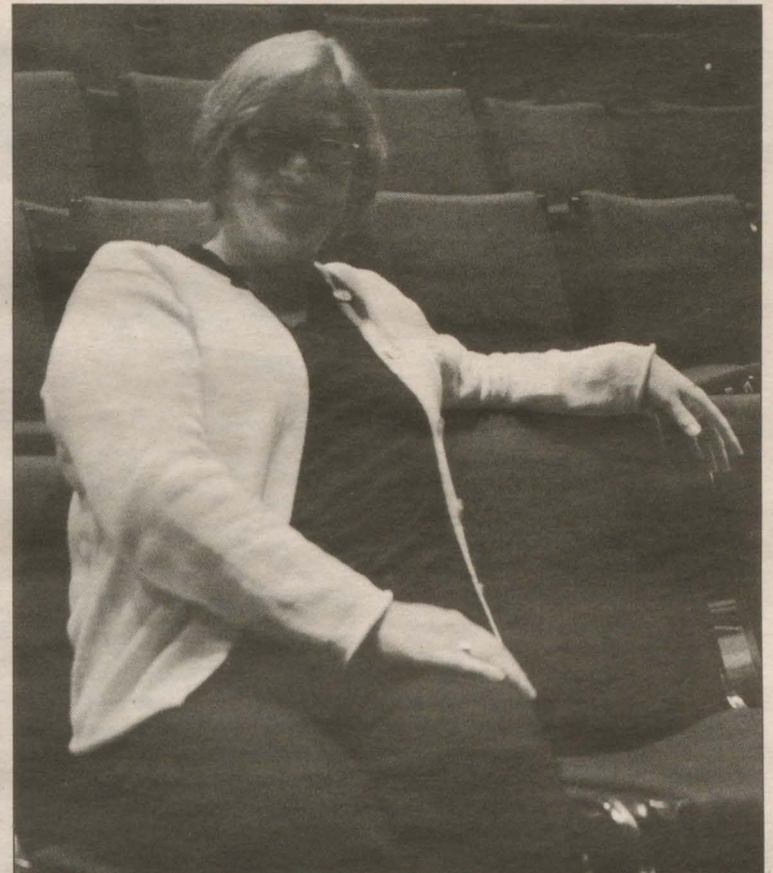
Stackhouse, director of several DalTheatre productions - including *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Seven Stories*, *Our Town* and *Pride and Prejudice* - says she was meant for the hubbub of acting.

"It all began when I was just a kid, in either Grade 1 or Grade 2, and I won a scholarship to go to theatre school in the summer," she says. "I was bitten by the theatre, way back then."

She was born in Middleton, Nova Scotia, but declines to disclose the year. Her father was in the Armed Forces and relocated the family to Halifax just in time for her to begin university.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree, Stackhouse left the province for the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. From there, she went overseas to the University of London's Central School of Speech and Drama, then to Toronto to realize her dream of acting professionally.

"I always knew I had to leave [home]. I'm always aware of it, be-



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"I feel as if I'm expressing myself without any inhibitions and I'm doing more good in the world as a teacher," Susan Stackhouse says.

cause I know how hard it is for present-day students to make that decision and I see people struggling with it all the time," she says. "I say, 'Have suitcase, will travel.' You've got to be brave and pack that suitcase and go where the work is in order to get your resume built."

Yet, Stackhouse worried about her future in such an unstable industry.

"I was afraid work would dry up," she says.

So she started teaching at George Brown College in Toronto in 1990 and returned to Dal as a professor six years later - a move she has yet to regret.

"Acting is in me and I've been acting for most of my life," she says.

After working as a voice coach, Stackhouse says she realized very quickly she could accomplish more as a teacher.

"I went, 'Oh my gosh, maybe I'm better at teaching than acting.' I actually feel freer as a teacher. I feel as if I'm expressing myself without any inhibitions and I'm doing more good in the world as a teacher."

Stackhouse's hunch has proved correct, the theatre department's academic advisor says.

"As chair of the department, she is excellent at tackling the detail while keeping the big picture in mind. The positive 'spin' she places on things is truly refreshing," Lynn Sorge-English writes in an e-mail in-

terview. "[Stackhouse] is a great colleague and an excellent chair of the department - we are lucky to have her."

Fourth-year acting student Kelly Collins, with two years of Stackhouse's tutorials behind her, agrees.

"She's got a lot of input into the voice and speech aspect of acting. She's taught us a lot about ourselves," Collins says. "She's a fun teacher to be with."

Stackhouse feels the same way about her students.

"Over the years, students have done something in class, which just grabs you. They're just so good and so brave and so willing to surprise themselves," she says. "Those are tremendously inspiring moments. I love being surrounded by young people."

But the cutthroat nature of the field throws up countless barriers for young actors, Stackhouse says, including the need to move away from family and friends, just as she did after graduation.

Determination is key, she says, insisting acting is an important part of life, not just for her, but for everyone.

"Everything we do in life, when we're interacting with one another and we've got relationships with one another, that's exactly what it is in the theatre world," she says. "We are bringing to life some experience or some event."



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The cost of bingeing Chug this

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

As a fourth-year student, I can't even begin to think of the property I may have damaged since I entered university, let alone the number of cops whose time I've wasted. What shocks me most is how I didn't consider drinking to have any cost at all.

In an article published in the *Globe and Mail* in March, Margaret Philp discovered Canadians were drinking more than ever before and were ignorant of that increase. This, she argued, was aided by shifting social views on drinking and its promotion in government regulated liquor stores.

According to the article, the national health care bill for alcohol related illnesses and injuries is \$3.3 billion.

In a world of keg parties, cheap downtown drinks and beer funnels, it may be hard for students to recognize the cost they impose on society.

The cost of death, disease, disability, hospital stays, missed days at work and police time added up to a national cost of drinking of \$14.6 billion in 2002.

It's easy to forget the time and effort the police force puts in during the month of September, when throngs of students return to class. Constable Brian Palmeter is the community response officer for the area around Coburg Road and Spring Garden Road. He says drinking fines have increased this month as police give out tickets for underage drinking and drinking in public.

There were over 300 noise complaints in September alone, says Palmeter. This is double the amount in August, which makes you realize what a bunch of shitdisturbers some students can be.

Jurgen Rehm, a source in Philp's article, is the Chair in Addiction Policy in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. Rehm identifies a real problem in how Canadians perceive alcohol, as he examined a study released earlier this year by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

"It found that while the social and economic costs of drinking are more than double those of illicit drug use, only one in four Canadians rate alcohol abuse as a 'serious problem' while close to half consider drugs as such," Rehm says. "And the more people drink, the less apt they are to regard alcohol abuse as a pressing issue."

Studies in the article show that most Canadians do not think of



STOCK PHOTO

The total cost of drinking related illnesses and injuries is \$3.3 billion.

themselves as alcoholics or heavy drinkers. However, the facts tell a different story. We are drinking more than ever before, in new social conditions that encourage drinking at a whole new level.

It's a commonly held view that the drinking students do in university is a coming-of-age thing, which we will

outgrow once we graduate and enter into a world of jobs and families.

Our generation may be unique in that we will be entering into adulthood in a world with a newfound fixation on alcohol. We should use the facts to shift our perspective so we can recognize the dangers of heavy drinking.

JENNA CONTER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Unfortunately, those who are the least experienced with alcohol usually drink to excess, as they are unaware of how alcohol will affect them. They don't know their body's tolerance.

Reader's Digest simply defines binge drinking as the consumption of "five or more drinks for a man and four or more for a woman on a single occasion." Done mostly by people between the ages of 15 and 25, excess drinking has been rising steadily since 1998.

According to the 2004 Canadian Campus Survey, the number of students who report a "pattern of harmful drinking" has risen 32 per cent. And according to the 6,282 full-time students polled, this peak in heavy drinking can be attributed to student lifestyle, if nothing else.

Dr. Edward Adlarf, who shared the results of his cross-Canada survey with CTV News, says, "very often we have students with their first year of freedom...They are living without parents so there is a notion of youthful excess."

But how does excess drinking cause one to develop a tolerance and what does it mean to have a tolerance to alcohol?

I decided to ask my father, Dr. Howard Conter, to find out the medical explanation for alcohol tolerance.

"Tolerance of alcohol is simply the rate at which your liver can metabolize the alcohol," Conter says. "The enzyme system of the liver can be taught to move at a faster rate with the increased consumption of alcohol."

If one does build up a tolerance to alcohol by drinking excessively, side effects of this consumption, such as slurred speech, may be less noticeable even though the body is still being damaged.

Those with an 'impressive' tolerance be warned: a student who binge drinks three to four times weekly in the four years of their undergraduate degree has an increased risk of developing irreversible liver damage in the first 10 years after graduating.

Conter says a damaged liver could lead to two serious consequences. One of these is an increased liver metabolism, which could affect how critical medications are transported to the bloodstream. For example, drugs prescribed for ADD and ADHD, such as Ritalin and Dexedrine, can become metabolized

faster in the liver and consequently, can't reach the brain and perform their proper function.

Medication used to regulate cholesterol and blood pressure also seems to be rejected by the body. This can lead to high cholesterol, which could, if gone unnoticed, lead to fatal heart attacks.

The second effect is the opposite, where the liver's metabolism decreases. Drugs prescribed for depression such as Prozac and Paxil are not absorbed fast enough. This allows these medications to accumulate in the bloodstream, which can cause symptoms similar to those of a drug overdose, such as unconsciousness and, in extreme cases, death.

Another harmful consequence of binge drinking is alcohol poisoning. Alcohol poisoning, says Conter, causes damage to body cells. Alcohol poisoning damages cells in the kidney, liver and brain, among other organs. This prevents the body from ridding itself of toxins and pollutes the blood stream.

As when other poisons are absorbed into the body, when people get alcohol poisoning they experience decreased levels of consciousness, may complain of a headache, and nausea that may lead to vomiting. It's important to recognize alcohol poisoning is a serious medical condition. If you witness someone who has been drinking heavily experiencing these symptoms, swift medical attention could save their life.

With all the warnings about alcohol abuse and binge drinking, it's easy to forget the benefits of alcohol consumption. A glass of red wine each day can have positive cardiac effects.

In an article by Dr. Harvey Finkel in the online magazine *Wine News*, Finkel says, "The antioxidants in wine and grape juice favorably modulate the blood clotting that climaxes heart attacks and strokes; they help further by relaxing blood vessels and inhibiting the oxidation of LDL (the "bad") cholesterol to its dangerous form."

Finkel adds that a glass of wine could prevent stomach cancer and other cancers.

University can be the most enjoyable time of life. It's more than an education. The experiences we share with university students across Canada plant the seed for lasting memories. Let's not drink to the point of forgetting them.

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STOCK PHOTO

It's up to students to educate themselves about their most beloved pastime.

Binge drinkers need to educate themselves

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Derrick Enslow is a health educator for Dalhousie Health Services. Last month, he decided to find out more about the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission's (NSLC) anti-binge drinking campaign, geared toward university students.

He was shocked by what he encountered when he questioned the young people setting up shop on campus.

"I approached them and asked them questions. They received no training at all on the dangers of drinking or the health effects of alcohol," says Enslow.

The students promoted the campaign's website, www.lotsofways.com, and a \$5,000 contest. Yet Enslow found no trace of any educational motive behind the promotion.

"If they aren't training (the students), it's not doing anybody a service," Enslow says. "I take issue with the way NSLC runs their promotional campaign. They're not doing any education. They're getting their name out and selling the product."

His beef with the NSLC highlights the problem when an organization that sells a potentially harmful product tries to warn of its dangers. The organization's promotional interests may be intertwined with the risk awareness campaign, and the educational element can be sidelined. Or in this case, completely neglected.

It's a bit of a letdown to know the NSLC did such a shabby job with its anti-binge drinking campaign, especially when the number of students who drink heavily has been increasing.

Research has shown that education-based incentives to decrease heavy drinking are ineffective overall. A public health research and policy book, entitled *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity*, found that "School-based alcohol education programmes have been found to increase knowledge and change attitudes toward alcohol and other substances, but actual substance use remains unaffected."

The book says alcohol abuse prevention campaigns run by institutions that sell the product also fail to alter consumption.

The Nova Scotia Health Promotion website says recent research shows drinking among young people is encouraged by "a subculture that glamorizes drinking and intoxication."

It's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to celebrate life with a couple, or a couple dozen drinks. This is a freedom I feel students should have as rational adults. But they do themselves a great disservice by ignoring the effects of something they partake in so often.

It's up to students to make sure they know about the dangers of drinking, especially when the NSLC isn't properly educating its customers about the dangers of its product.

To beer is human

JOHN HILLMAN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

It was to my great dismay that I learned the theme for the opinions section this week would be student drinking. This presented a problem for me. I'm not a drinker.

Whereas others can share compelling stories of adventure, indulgence and addiction, none of my beverage-related experiences deal with anything more potent than a Dr. Pepper. However, I have realized it is my blandness that qualifies me to represent one of the groups at Dalhousie most afflicted by alcohol-related problems: the non-drinkers.

Now, I could very easily write an article on the various inconveniences related to abstaining from alcohol (being the awkward sober guy at the party, for example, or only hooking up with attractive people).

But I have a more serious goal in mind. I hope to expose one of the darkest, least talked about side-effects of not drinking; an issue that calls into question the very soul of the non-drinker.

As any drunken classics student will surely tell you, the history of humankind is inextricably tied to the history of beer. In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, one of the earliest known literary works, beer is depicted as the drink that defines humanity, separating civilized man from beast.

Extreme as this portrayal may seem, I fear it might indeed be true. Could those of us who do not consume alcohol really be depriving ourselves from some of the more sophisticated elements of human thought?

Consider the following—a typical conversation you are likely to overhear at any given time, no matter where you are on campus:

Guy 1: Man, I got so wasted last night.

Guy 2: I hear ya, bra.

Guy 1: No, dude, you should have seen how plastered I was.

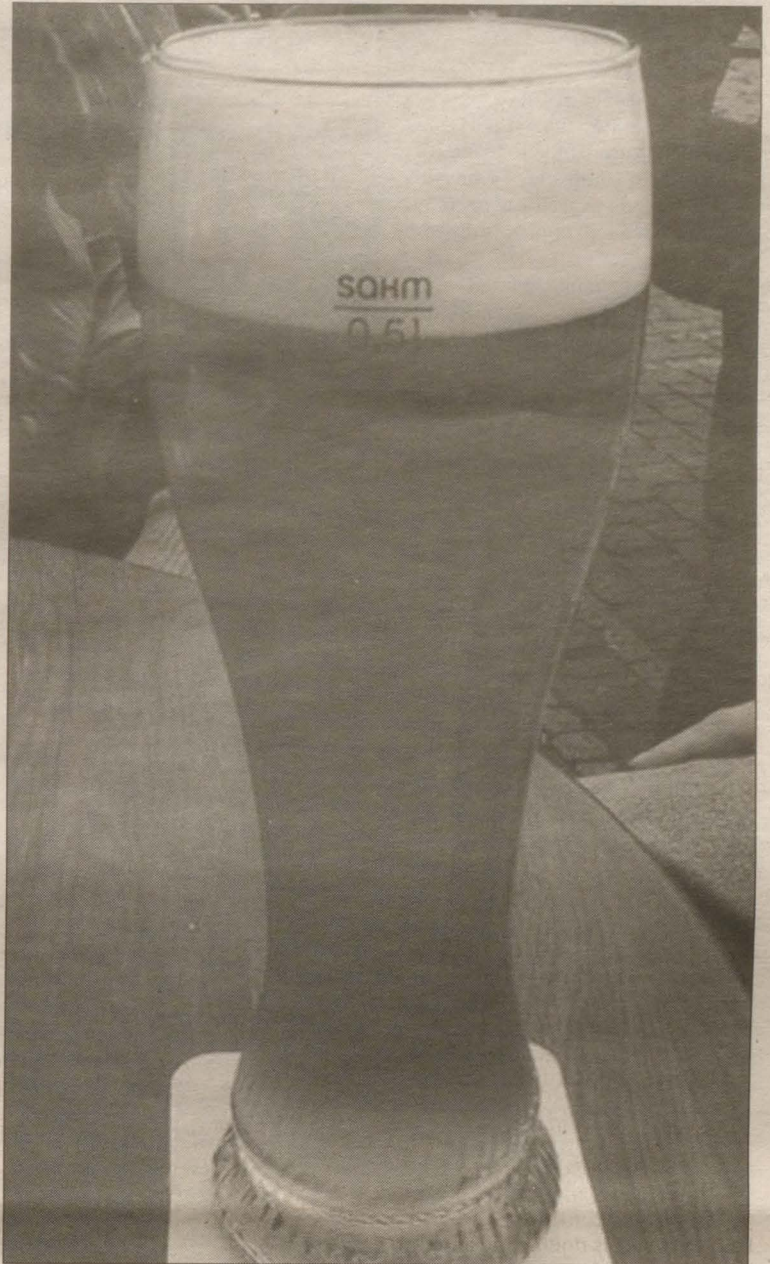
Guy 2: I know. The photos are up on Facebook.

Guy 1: Sweet.

Girl: Hey guys, I'm totally getting wasted tonight! Who's in?

(Everyone exchanges high fives.)

As profoundly important as these conversations are to the cultivated



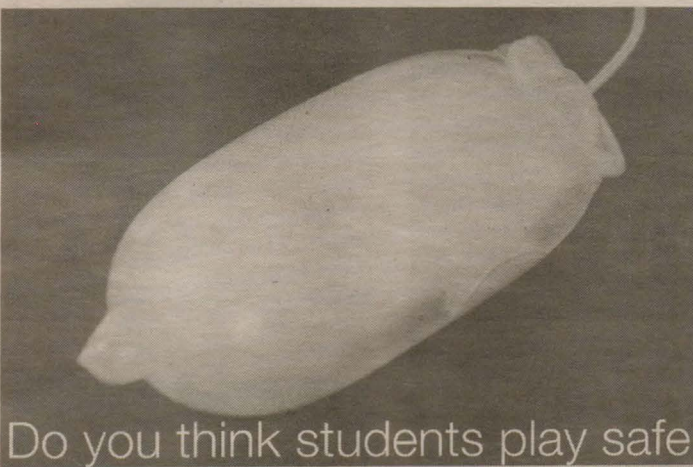
STOCK PHOTO

Beer is the cornerstone of civilization.

minds that share them, they sadly do not resonate with those of us who don't drink. Given the frequency of these types of conversations at Dal, students must be proud that some of us are fully participating in Man's eternal relationship with alcohol.

Thank goodness some students are paying more attention to our

drinking habits than, say, the military crackdown in Burma or the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. It is the curse of the non-drinker to be forever unable to understand the sublime meaning of exchanges like the one above. To us, they all just sound like pointless attempts at shoring up insecure egos.



Do you think students play safe

omnibine?

Send in your opinions on internet privacy, copyrights, social-networking and anything else you think students should be aware of online to opinions@dalgazette.ca

Defensive Drinking

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Aside from besieging their own livers when they drink heavily, alcohol lovers in Halifax face violence from the outside as well - especially when their locale of choice is downtown.

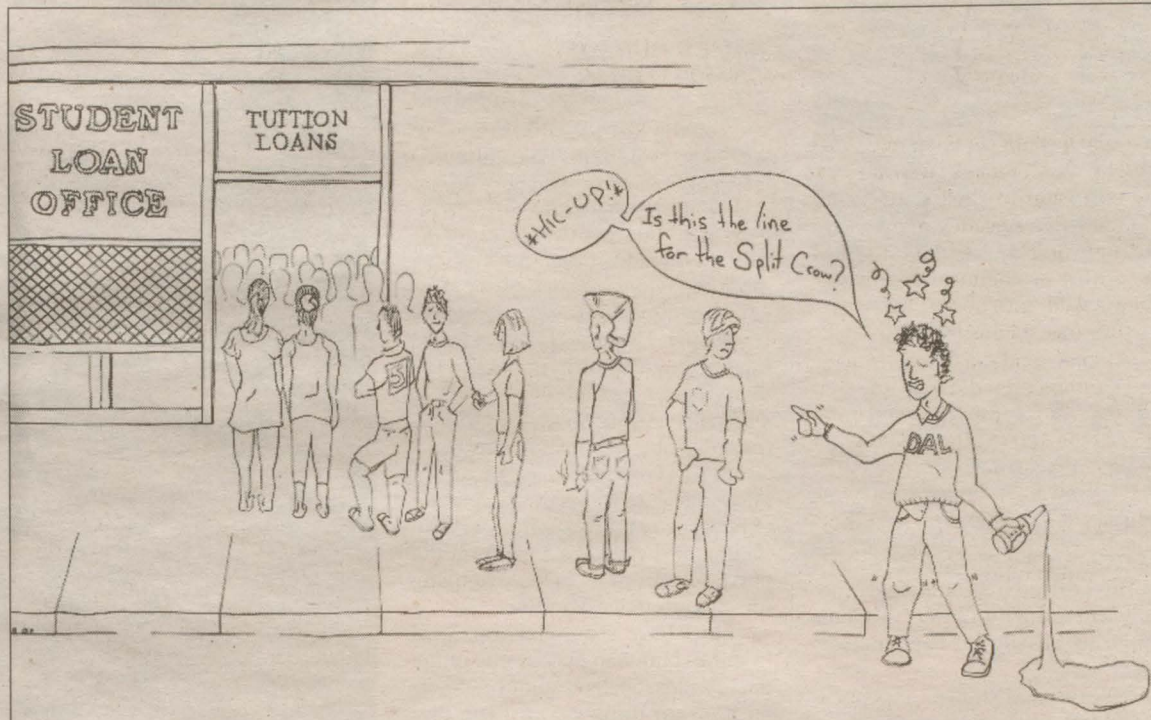
Last year, alcohol-related violence figured so prominently on local and national media that City Hall called an impromptu summit to discuss violent crime-related issues in the downtown core. A roundtable working group was also established, which met in the spring of this year.

Paul MacKinnon is the executive director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission and a member of the roundtable group. MacKinnon says the roundtable is hoping to release recommendations sometime this fall. In the meantime, he explains the main problem with late night violence doesn't have to do with the drinkers themselves, but with those lurking outside the bars.

"One of the new alarming trends was the so-called swarmings. A kind of situation where it wasn't the downtown drinkers who were causing it, it was basically the people drinking in the bars who were being targeted as victims," says MacKinnon. "These were teenagers who were too young to drink. As you come out of the bar, you look vulnerable because you've had a couple drinks and they were beating people up."

MacKinnon says an immediate police crackdown on problem areas like Pizza Corner had a significant effect.

"People were coming in in vehicles. They would jump out of the van, beat somebody up and then



JAMES NADEL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

drive away. So the police did a crackdown in Pizza Corner, where they restricted the vehicles coming in there," says MacKinnon.

While immediate responses seem to have been effective, it's a frightening reminder that drinking heavily on a night downtown is not just about watching your own behaviour but the kind of situations you might find yourself in.

It reminds me of when I got my driver's license and was told I couldn't count on skilled driving alone to be safe. You would have to be a 'defensive driver' to drive safe-

ly. Students should think similarly when going downtown.

One reason students drink to the point of making themselves vulnerable may be what the bars and restaurants call the "price wars." Nova Scotia has no minimum pricing standard for alcoholic beverages, despite a restriction on how bars can advertise a price drop.

But an alarming new trend has businesses dealing with a larger number of very intoxicated customers. Thanks to informal social networking sites like Facebook, the most recent information on which

bars are selling cheap drinks is spreading much faster and to more people. Bars, in turn, are competing by lowering prices even more, says MacKinnon.

"They're competing a lot more on price even more than they were even a number of years ago," says MacKinnon, adding most businesses would like to see a minimum pricing standard. "They're saying we're not making any more money [by lowering prices]. It causes a headache for the bars. They would rather get the \$20 with five drinks rather than 20," he explains.

This new trend is a cause for concern and a warning for students to drink with caution. An encouraging drinking environment in the bar might be a problem when it comes time for students to make their way home. MacKinnon says the roundtable has discussed providing more late-night buses for drinkers, but Metro Transit seems reluctant to show any initiative. MacKinnon adds that Halifax has a taxi problem when it comes to late-night drinking as well.

Students should make sure they have a good group to walk home with, or know where to find the few cabs during the late evening hours.

Students should be wary of drinking themselves blind, because the bar itself might not be so safe. Currently, bouncers and bar security have no minimum training requirement and it's up to the bar to choose who bounces and who doesn't. This makes it difficult for students to be certain the bars are letting in the right people, and that violent situations will be dealt with as professionally as possible. The roundtable is currently discussing this issue.

In the meantime, students should be aware that the staff who will be taking care of them if they should drink beyond their limit may not be experts in dealing with their drunken asses properly or safely.

Be aware of these realities when getting shit-faced at one of your favorite downtown watering holes. Each drink will make you less capable of assessing a dangerous situation responsibly, and without new regulations and recommendations in place, it's up to you to make sure you don't let a good night go sour.

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

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

Warnings from beneath the surface

Halifax is playing host to a new international conference on munitions dumped at sea. The First International Conference of Chemical and Conventional Munitions Dumped at Sea is taking place from Oct. 9 to 11 at the Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre.

While Haligonians might be unaware of the dangers lying below the surface of our harbour, warnings from experts should raise alarm bells and spark action from local and national levels of government.

Halifax is arguably the best place to hold this conference. A warship haven during two World Wars and a military base since its inception, our harbour is a treasure trove of unexploded munitions and weapons.

According to the Chemical Sensing of Explosive Targets in the Bedford Basin report, released in 2001, many of the munitions present during the Halifax Explosion on Dec. 6, 1917 did not detonate during the blast. A man-made tsunami followed the explosion, which damaged many more ships and allowed large amounts of explosive material to fall into the sea.

The report also says that during the Second World War, Halifax was the primary port for ships sailing to Europe. Weapons sometimes went overboard, ships crashed and sank and several other explosions caused mounted guns and cannons to drop into the ocean.

There is an ongoing cleanup effort in the Bedford Basin by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), but the report says that most explosive

material has not yet been recovered.

The conference's website says the corrosion of shells and rounds dumped five decades ago is "progressing quickly," and that "major quantities of chemical agents [will have leaked] into the sea by 2005."

Terrance P. Long is the host of the conference and has lead research and ordnance eradication missions around the world. In the conference's blog, he says the 1945 two-day Bedford magazine explosion "would have thrown 20-millimetre rounds, mortars, depth charges, naval shells, bullets, all that kind of stuff and much, much more."

"I'm surprised nobody has been killed in Halifax to date," Long says in the blog.

He adds that there are over 3,000 munitions sites around Nova Scotia, and even a site with depleted uranium near Halifax's harbour.

In the summer of 2003, the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans discussed the issue of munitions at sea. During the meeting, Senator Gerard A. Phalen said, "The situation looks like a disaster waiting to happen."

The cost of munitions leakage includes extensive environmental damage and the prevalence of toxic substances in the food chain, beginning with plankton.

We hope this conference brings the dangers of dumped munitions not only to the attention of Haligonians but to the world. This is an issue that has lain dormant, literally, for more than half a century. If the experts are right, we will be reminded more and more often of the long-term costs of munitions dumping.

Hold your fire:

Why targeting soldiers is unfair

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

For the last month, Fredericton has been up in arms over some very contentious little yellow ribbons. The ribbons symbolize support for Canadian troops in Afghanistan, and have been appearing on city vehicles, such as fire trucks, and in the windows of local businesses.

Fredericton Peace Coalition member Tracey Glynn has been crusading against the yellow ribbons. She told CTV that those who use them become "cheerleaders for the war."

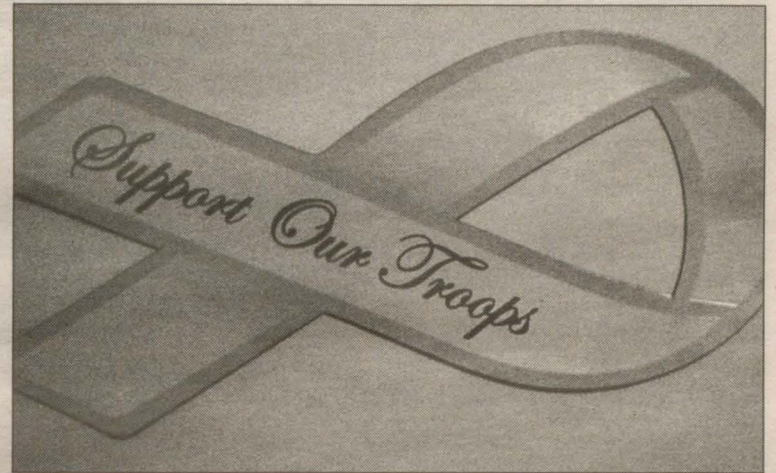
On Oct. 4, the Peace Coalition's weblog posted the following: "We will be asking local businesses and churches to reconsider what displaying a yellow ribbon really means. For those wanting to show their support for the troops, but not the war, we will be offering another image that states 'bring them home.'"

But 'Bring them Home' will seem just as politically contentious to others as "Support our Troops" sounds to Glynn. Glynn misunderstands what it means to support troops in Afghanistan and pushes the envelope by putting words in the mouths of others.

Supporting Canadian troops in Afghanistan doesn't have to have anything to do with endorsing the war against the Taliban or the occupation of another country. It is simply displaying much needed support for those who pay the highest price under our Maple Leaf flag.

Frustration with the war should not be directed toward troops but toward the political framework that decides when and where they fight.

Troops might be more supportive of the war than most Canadians, but this is certainly not written in stone. Ron Paul, the only U.S. Republican



Presidential candidate to advocate a swift withdrawal from Iraq, recently received more campaign donations from members of the military than any other Republican candidate, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Indeed, soldiers are an important source of insight when it comes to assessing the merit or morality of a war. Soldiers from Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s were an important part of America's decision to leave the Southeast Asian country. We should be listening to what soldiers have to say rather than ostracizing them.

The other night at The Split Crow, a navy officer stationed in Halifax was explaining to me how his friend serving in Afghanistan believed in the mission. He says the soldiers find meaning in the mission in things like playing soccer with Afghan children, which was banned under the Taliban, according to the kids.

If you're demonizing soldiers while they learn to cope morally and physically with the duress of war, you're not being fair. While I feel I'm informed enough to debate whether or not the war is justified, I am much

too ignorant to say I know whether these men and women are doing a good or a bad thing by serving in it.

I've laid down my life for very little if nothing at all, and I have no clue what it means to leave a family, a home and a country, knowing I may not return.

The main reason it makes little sense to target soldiers is because they are acting on our behalf. Soldiers are something we have as citizens of this country. They aren't a group of war-mongering imperialists.

Soldier bashing is much too easy. Recently, the University of Victoria's Students' Society voted to ban military recruiters on campus. It is beyond me why being a soldier is considered improper or below the standard of any other job.

Everyone can make up their own mind about whether they support the war or not. Dissent and insight should be directed toward the general public and the political arenas where the war is debated. But keep in mind that the Canadian Forces aren't some rogue mercenary group like Blackwater. They're our troops.



Faculty of Science Senate Review November 14-16, 2007

The Dalhousie Senate is conducting a regular review of the Faculty of Science. The purpose of the review is to improve academic activities and provide information for planning, budgeting and other decision-making processes.

The Senate Review Committee for Science (chaired by Dr. Tom Gill, Process Engineering & Applied Science) is seeking information from all interested parties and is open to your comments and concerns. All faculty, staff and students of the Faculty of Science are particularly invited to participate in the review. Appointments can be arranged to meet with the Senate Review Committee on Monday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 23 and/or two external reviewers who will be on campus from Wednesday, November 14 to Friday, November 16 for a site visit. The external reviewers are:

Dr. Gill Wu
Professor of Kinesiology, Health Science and Biology
York University

and

Dr. Peter Sutherland
Director, Arts & Science
McMaster University

Any person wishing to meet with the Senate Review Committee is asked to contact Lavina Davar by October 17, 2007. Any person wishing to meet with the two external reviewers is asked to contact Michele O'Neill by November 2, 2007.

Lavina Davar (till Oct. 19, 2007), E-mail: lavina.davar@dal.ca
Michele O'Neill (from Oct. 22, 2007), E-mail: ONEILLMA@DAL.CA
President's Office
Dalhousie University
Phone: 494-2586
Fax: 494-1658

Written submissions are particularly welcome and should be addressed to the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Science and forwarded to Michele O'Neill at the above address no later than November 2, 2007.

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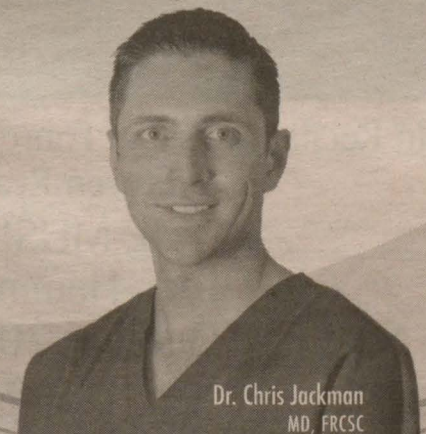
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Sidewalk etiquette keeps things moving.

STOCK PHOTO

Don't sidestep your fellow students

JENNA CONTER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

During my four years at university, I have been forced to put up with many hardships. Watch-less professors letting class out five minutes late without a care in the world, crazy house parties my friends plan to take place at my apartment and people in front of me at Coburg Coffee who snatch up the last gingerbread man.

With the help of friends, family and some heavy counseling, I have been able to weather most of these tough moments. All except one, which I continue to struggle with.

Though I try to ignore it with every fibre of my being, I merely become more and more bitter. This irrational behaviour is more than a mere pet peeve. It's a crisis waiting to happen.

People at Dalhousie simply do not know how to use a sidewalk.

I have a very demanding class schedule. Being of short stature and

cursed with little legs, I find that the 10-minute gap between classes just isn't enough for me to scamper from building to building.

The poor time management skills of the previously discussed professors, in combination with the sheer volume of people on the sidewalks makes it hard for those in a hurry to get around campus.

Therefore, I would like to implement some sidewalk etiquette guidelines. Firstly, upon entering the flow of a sidewalk, one must yield to those who look angry and frustrated.

Secondly, once merged with the masses on the sidewalk, be mindful you are not blocking one of the people described in guideline one.

Thirdly, always remember to keep to the right. Nothing is worse than finding yourself on the wrong side of the sidewalk and being reduced to sidewalk-kill.

Fourthly, if you see a friend approaching in oncoming people traffic, please have the common decen-

cy and selflessness to step out of the line of the flow and onto the shoulder of the sidewalk.

I do not want to waste ink describing the many times I was imprisoned behind two strangers discussing the past evening's endeavours. These stories don't only shrink the limited brain space for worthy knowledge, but it irritates my soul and makes me the angry and frustrated person described in guideline one.

Finally, and I think most importantly, the sidewalk is not for Sunday strollers. When I am in a hurry, bustling around campus, weaving in and out of the crowd to save precious seconds, nothing is more of an impediment than a human wall of saunterers.

This isn't Toronto. We don't have four lane sidewalks with traffic signs, dotted lines or express lanes. We're a simple city with simple sidewalks.

So remember, if you're going to slow down the ride, please step aside.



Everything is exponential

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Singularity is to computer science nerds what the rapture is to born-again Christians.

Inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil predicts the Singularity will occur when a computer that costs today's equivalent of \$1,000 can match the computational power of all humans on earth – an event he has scheduled for the year 2049. Kurzweil based this divination on trends of computer development from the past century.

In the 1970s, Intel's Gordon Moore noted that the number of transistors per integrated circuit, per minimum component cost doubles every two years.

Moore's Law, as this observation is called, has been remarkably accurate – not just when applied to computer power, but in almost every area of technology. Hard disk capacity, internet hosts, traffic and bandwidth, even US patents tend to multiply predictably like bacteria or viruses.

Kurzweil also contends that exponential trends extend beyond information technology. He believes all human progress is also exponential, from our evolution to our economy. It took 3 billion years to go from the origin of life to the first multi-cellular organisms; it took only one billion more to reach present-day humans.

Similarly, about a million years passed between our ancestor's first use of fire and tools, while less than 100,000 years more was needed to invent a written language and only 5,000 years to reach the industrial revolution.

Both the cost of sequencing a base pair of DNA has been decreasing while the number of base pairs sequenced has increased exponentially. GDP around the world has

been increasing exponentially, especially in third-world countries, even when adjusted for inflation.

The beginning of an exponential curve appears to be very linear, which is why progress has typically been described as being slow and increasing at a steady rate. However, Kurzweil believes we have reached the 'knee of the curve,' where it becomes undeniable that progress is exponential.

The idea of the Singularity is endorsed by many people in the computer business, including Bill Gates and Bill Joy, co-founder of Sun Microsystems.

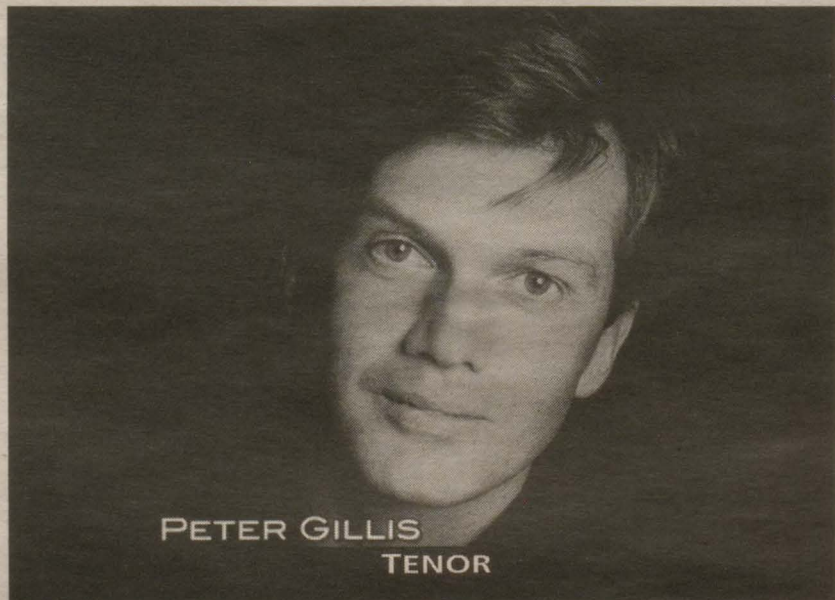
It has made its way into pop culture, too. Canadian band Our Lady Peace's album, *Spiritual Machines*, was inspired by an earlier incarnation of Kurzweil's book. It also has a sub-culture of followers called 'trans-humanists,' who welcome the use of technology to improve the human body.

The Singularity will have many effects. We will have computers that are compatible with our brains. We will be able to radically extend life. With virtual reality, we will be able to live any life we could possibly imagine.

Our knowledge might not ever be boundless, but in the Singularity, its expansion will only be limited by the speed of light. It will come at a predicted year, when most people in university now are expected to retire (but only by today's standards), a year which Kurzweil expects to be alive to see.

It's important to remember Kurzweil's ideas are predictions, not plans. Predictions about the course of technology have failed before because they overestimated – think of the 'homes of tomorrow' and flying cars of the 50s.

However, if Kurzweil's trends continue into the future, we may see revolutionary changes within our generation.



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Having a heart to heart:

Girl: So when will I know if he's my boyfriend?

Guy: When your Facebook status changes.

At the Grawood:

Patron (talking to server with kilt): Hey, do you have anything on under there?

Server: Yeah, your mother's lipstick.

In the Henry Hicks:

Girl: All my friends are sluts.

Friend: No, all your friends just like to have fun.

Outside the Grawood:

Girl: If you don't give me back my ID, I'll never come back here.

Bar staff and security erupt in laughter.

At Split Crow:

Guy: So... wanna make out?

Girl: ... no?

Guy: Well, are you going to give me your number, or what?

Girl: No.

Guy: How do you expect to make friends if you don't give out your number to people?

At the Killam:

Girl: Ugh! You've been bugging me all day. And now I have to give you a piece of paper?

In class:

Guy: Hey, what's up?

Girl: Nothing much.

Guy: Really? Because you have sex hair.

Girl:...

In a bathroom

Girl: (very loudly) Hey, there's nothing wrong with wearing pyjamas to a bar. I got laid last time I wore pyjamas to a bar!

On cell phone:

Girl: MOM! I can't add Grandma to Facebook!

French Class:

Prof: Pour le passé composé, tu peux utiliser.. euhh. J'ai mangé le bébé. J'AI MANGÉ LE BÉBÉ!

Translation: For past tense, you can use, umm.. I ate the baby. I ATE THE BABY!

In CIVL 3300 class:

Prof: You think this is a bird course. But come exam time, you will be a bird. A dead bird.

In the McCain:

Guy: But would you date someone who said they'd like to burn you at the stake?

Girl: It depends on the context...

Psych 2000 lab:

TA: So in your lab report, what shape would represent the structure of your introduction?

Guy: A hamburger?

TA:.....

Guy:.... you know, with the meat in the middle?

TA: Umm, no... the correct answer is a cylinder.

In Shirreff

Girl1: Order the food.

Guy: Okay, someone pass me a phone.

Girl2: You're holding one.

Guy: ...so I am.

In Cell Bio lab:

Instructor: So sometimes, you can see the sea monkeys swimming around clasped together, and that's when they're mating. And they actually do this for quite a while, sometimes for about a week. And it's kind of like a date, so it's nice to think about it like that.

In the Killam:

Guy1: Yeah man, my computer is messed. I need a new hard drive.

Guy2: Too much porn, eh?

Guy1: Yeah, Jenna Jameson crashed the party that is my hard drive in a major, major way.

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Dave Mundy, second-year commerce



“Get the Dawgfather to sell coffee.”

Geoff Tobin, fourth-year journalism



“Build another Tim Hortons.”

Simren Gill, first-year engineering



“Have another Tim Hortons on the other side.”

Krista Leonard, second-year science



“Have a Tim Hortons vending machine.”

Samantha Snow, first-year arts



“More employees during peak hours.”

Holly McDonald, fourth-year neuroscience



“Get them to use reusable cups and plates so people aren't waiting for their things to be packaged.”

Naryn Davar, first-year science



“Start a coffee bean salmonella scare.”

James Munson, ninth-year crowd management

Professor Dean Irvine has been with the Dalhousie English department since 2003. His interests lie in leftist literature, editing theory and Canadian literature.



Prof Talk

Q. When did you first realize you were going to become a professor?
A. When I was a student at University of Victoria, I was taught by literary titans. They brought in great authors to do readings and so the atmosphere was really attractive. I've always found there to be valuable literary and intellectual influences in the academic circuit.

Q. What's your favourite Halifax bar?
A. Tom's Little Havana. It's reminiscent of the old bars in Montreal. It isn't a youth bar and it has great food.

Q. What do you do when you aren't teaching?
A. I walk my miniature schnauzer, Zelda. I like travelling to see friends and family in Toronto and B.C. Also, I really enjoy combing used bookstores.

Q. What are your musical tastes?
A. Of all time, David Bowie, R.E.M., Radiohead, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. Recently, Spoon, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, DeVotchKa, Beirut and The National.

Q. What course do you dream of teaching?
A. I'd love to lead a seminar class that mingled Canadian literature, modernism and leftist politics. There would be between eight and 10 students and they would all be really interested in all of those topics.

Q. What are your pet peeves?
A. Cheapness. And intellectual laziness.

Q. Is there anything you wish every student knew?
A. That the plans they have for themselves when they walk in the door of Dalhousie University have no bearing whatsoever on their ultimate destiny.

Q. How can a student suck up to you?
A. Through praise of my books.

Q. If you could change one thing about Dal, what would it be?
A. I'd love to communicate to non-humanities students the relevance of humanities.

Q. What's your favourite cereal?
A. Historically, Shreddies and Raisin Bran. Recently, Cheerios.

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Music's not medicine:

Matt Good talks about *Hospital Music*

KARYN HAAG
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Matthew Good isn't holding back. With his fall tour across Canada, aptly titled *Nothing to Hide*, Good plans to traverse the country, get intimate with his audience and maybe ruffle a few feathers along the way. Good is slated to play The Marquee on Oct. 11 to showcase his most recent recording, *Hospital Music*.

The album follows Good's personal battle with depression, his divorce and other trials the Vancouver musician has struggled with in the past year.

"I remember being in the shower drinking a beer thinking to myself that something wasn't right," Good declares in his album biography. "It didn't cross my mind at the time that the reason for my state was of my own doing, just that I felt terribly wrong."

But Good maintains the album did not come from his need to recover.

"It was more an expulsion of things. I wrote half the record before I was in the hospital and half after I came out," Good says. "I've never really in my life, artistically, had the experience of producing anything that helps with any personal recovery. I think for me, art has always been more about documenting things more than searching for solace."

Good is an avid documenter. Through daily updates on his blog, Good speaks about his politics and



PRESS PHOTO

"For me, art has always been more about documenting things more than searching for solace," says Good.

his thirst for information. Fueled by his own questions, Good invests his time in discovering the truth behind the actions of Canadian politicians, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the condition of the world.

He says he doesn't broadcast his findings, mostly concerning geopolitics, for the benefit of his fans, but as a personal quest for self-fulfillment.

"The point is not to impart infor-

mation on people," he says. "It's just taking up the responsibility we all have to inform ourselves."

In his attempt to find personal satisfaction in his music, Good takes a stand and risks alienating his fan base. His theory is if he simply speaks his mind accurately, intelligently and passionately, those who respect him will continue to do so, and those who don't never really mattered.

"I am trying to collect a gathering of people who are willing to listen to me as I keep changing, and they'll sit here because they are a fan of the band, and they'll be open to that change and the boundaries that they explore."

Good realizes his fan base is thinning into a respectable crowd. As a solo musician with reasonable influence, Good is afforded the space to

take such a dramatic stand.

At a recent concert in Thunder Bay, Good's commentary on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was reportedly met with blank stares and disgruntled grumblings. But Good maintains that freedom of speech is worth risking alienating some of his fans.

"Why should I limit myself as far as what I talk about and what I don't talk about?" Good asks.

Good's politics have garnered him a surrounding of supporters, both musically and politically. He wants to use his acoustic set to reach out to even more people.

"When you play acoustic shows it's cool because people feel that they are part of something rather than that they watched something," Good says.

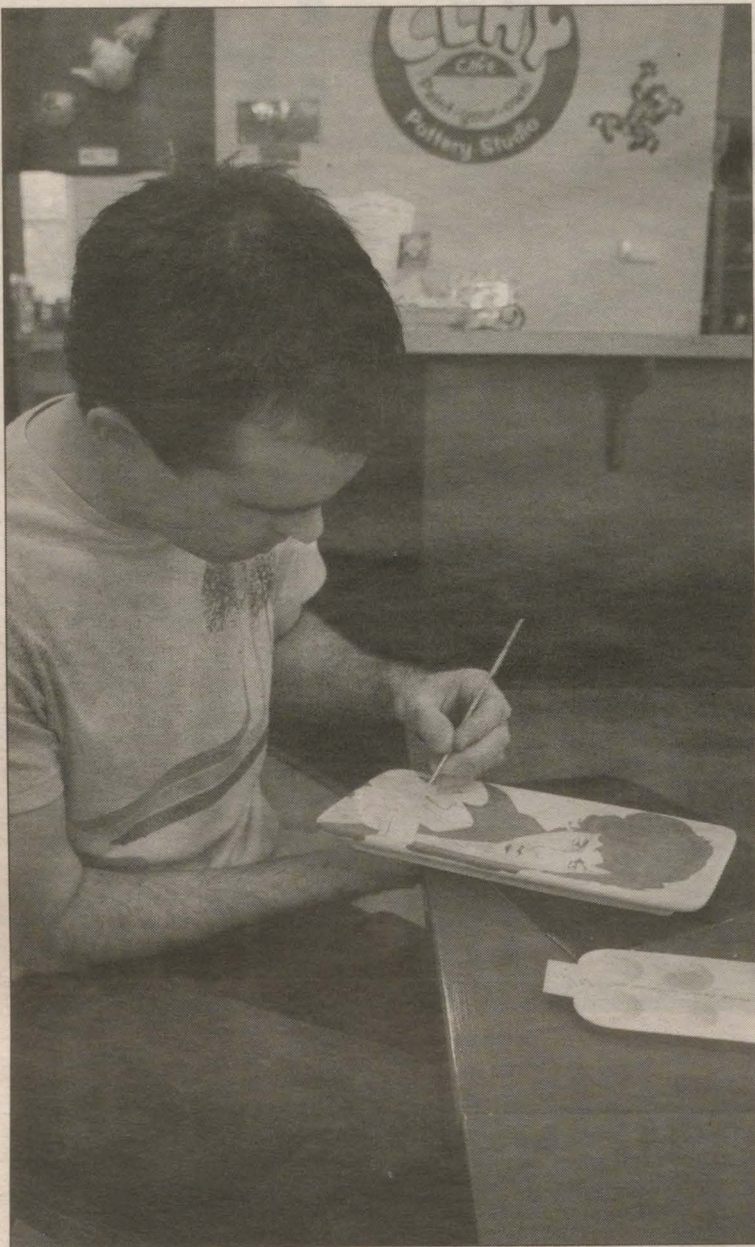
It's clear Good is well on his way to recovery. His acoustic shows and the success of his tour have boosted his enthusiasm. With his spirits riding high, it's hard to think it's only been a year since his collapse into depression.

Good has come a long way, but he hesitates to offer advice to others suffering from mental illness.

"The thing about it is that mental illness, like anything, is a sickness. You have to remember that," he says. "It's just not realistic to expect that people can fix themselves by simply wanting to."

Good's road to recovery will bring him to Halifax on Oct. 11 to play a sold-out acoustic set with opening act Dala at The Marquee.

Wash it down with 



STEWART RAND / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Clay Café offers a different kind of messy Friday night.

Creative spending

ALYSE HAND
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Friday nights are getting a whole lot messier in Halifax – if you're at the Clay Café, that is.

Every Friday, starting at 9 p.m., the Clay Café on Quinpool Street offers a night of painting and live music. Whether you're on a date, out with friends or looking for a little 'you time,' it's the perfect spot to enjoy yourself, minus the hangover.

You can head in to the shop, choose the clay piece you want to paint and the friendly and knowledgeable staff will get you set up with everything you need.

There is no need to rush your pottery painting experience, as you can always put your piece away and come back to it another time. Once you're satisfied with your creation, the staff will fire up the kiln and your piece will be ready for pickup two to three days later.

The live music helps to get your creative juices flowing as you paint your mug, picture frame, ashtray, flowerpot or any one of the 300 pieces they have available for your pottery painting pleasure.

There is also juice to get your creative juices flowing, as well as pop, coffee, tea, granola bars and chocolate, all for a small fee. Or you can bring your own snacks.

The singer-songwriter musicians performing on the evening I attended were local artists Kim Langille and Carole St. John. The music was light and easy to listen to. It was the perfect atmosphere for painting and chatting.

As a student who enjoys a night on the town here and there, it was nice to not have to compete with the music for a change.

The full Clay Café experience will run you about \$20, depending on the piece you paint. This includes all the paint you need, brushes, stencils, glazing and firing.

The staff, Martin, Jessica and Evva, were always on hand to answer questions. It was exciting to see so many young people, guys and girls, who were hanging out and having a great time painting and mingling.

It turns out you actually can have fun in Halifax on a Friday night without the dollar shots and two-dollar draft.

To check out Clay Café's hours, go to www.claycafe.ca.



Organized travel from Paris to Pompeii

CHARISSE ROZA
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

My ideal European excursion does not involve drinking every night or constantly going from museum to museum. I wanted my trip to be balanced, and I got that with a holiday group called Contiki.

I had an unforgettable experience, formed amazing friendships, travelled for two months around 13 European countries by myself and did it safely and on a reasonable budget.

Contiki is a holiday group for 18 to 35-year-olds that organizes tours throughout North America, Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

There wasn't a recording or person at the front of the coach droning on about this and that, making me fall asleep. The tour managers and coach drivers knew a lot about every city's nooks and crannies and were wonderful people.

A common misconception about organized trips is that there is a strict curfew and you must attend every-

thing, but this was not the case with my tour. One afternoon when I was out in Paris, I actually ran into a couple friends from home and decided to leave my group and go out with them for the rest of the day.

My excursion turned into an all day, all night adventure. I enjoyed a four-hour lunch, followed by galleries, shopping, patisseries and more espresso than most people could imagine. We then spent the evening dining at a fabulous atelier and dancing at the best clubs until 6 a.m.

There were organized events or sights to see every day, which were either included in the original fee or could be paid for as an optional excursion. I recommend going on as many of these extra trips as you can, because the price you pay with the group is always cheaper than if you pay for it yourself.

I went to the Moulin Rouge in Paris, toured Pompeii in Italy, went on a full-day island cruise in Greece and a gondola ride in Venice, and went to many wine tastings. I had

outdoor adventures like paragliding, parasailing, jet skiing and whitewater rafting.

One of my most memorable days was in Barcelona. My friends and I were out until 6 a.m. the night before and I just didn't want to go on a walking tour, so I called a taxi and asked to be dropped off on Las Ramblas.

I proceeded to walk around the city of Barcelona by myself for hours and had a true taste of the culture and society. My friends from the tour group were still in the city, each doing their own thing, so I felt safe knowing there were people close by if I needed them.

Travelling with Contiki was great for me because it offered a sense of security when I was alone in an unfamiliar country. Trips range from three to 47 days, backpacker-style or in hotels. There are also special holidays in Spain for the running of the bulls, in Italy for the Tomato Festival and in Germany for Oktoberfest. And their snowboarding trips in the winter are absolutely incredible.

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The Luyas aren't faking

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

A rough year in Halifax for Jessie Stein, lead singer of The Luyas, served as inspiration for their new record, *Faker Death*. Now the fledgling band is ready to take on Halifax as a united front.

The Luyas are a Montreal-based trio, including Stein (guitar, vocals), Stef Schneider (drums, keys) and Pietro Amato (French horn, pedals, keys).

All the members of the band are part of other bands as well. Schneider is in Bell Orchestre. Amato is part of Torngat and Bell Orchestre, and recently turned down an opportunity to become a full-time member of Arcade Fire to pursue his other projects. Stein is also a member of Miracle Fortress.

With so many side projects, scheduling time for The Luyas has been difficult. However, Stein says she believes experimenting with other bands helps the individual members grow as musicians. "We are lucky to have such problems," she says.

Faker Death is a confident effort of the indie rock variety. Schneider and Amato's jazz background blend with Stein's poetic guitar style and sweet, haunting vocals.

Stein's personal struggle in Halifax in 2006, was a catalyst for the record.

"I left [Halifax] feeling like I'd gotten my ribs removed, and the songs on the album are all iterations of things I tried to say to an old close friend," says Stein. "I wanted to



PRESS PHOTO
"I left [Halifax] feeling like I'd gotten my ribs removed," says Luyas' singer Jessie Stein.

communicate my misgivings and my love, and the feeling that I had been wrongfully betrayed by idealism."

After returning to Montreal, Stein tried to sort out what had gone wrong and ran the gamut of perspectives on what actually happened to her in Halifax.

The result is an album that reflects those perspectives with an array of musical styles, ranging from the delicate "Cats in a Bag" to the chaotic and punchy "Play Dead."

While all the members of The

Luyas have played Halifax with other bands, this will be the first time the band has performed here together. Stein is hopeful their music will resonate with a Halifax audience.

"We want to play well and the rest is up to other people," she says. "As far as I am concerned, I think the bands I am playing in now are the most successfully pulled off ideas I have ever been party to."

The Luyas will be playing on October 14th at Gus' Pub at 9pm.



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO
The Superfantastics perform at The Attic Tuesday October 16th.



PRESS PHOTO
The Moist Towelettes play Tribeca Wednesday October 17th.

Must see acts at the Halifax Pop Explosion

ADAM MILLER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Halifax Pop Explosion is almost here, and its time we broke it down before the 115 bands lay siege to some of the best bars in Halifax.

Tuesday, October 16
The Superfantastics

This is a great band to check out on the first night of the festival. They are an authentic indie powerhouse with intense, melodically-hypnotizing jams. The duo is comprised of Matthew MacDonald and Stephanie d'Entremont, who tie together an indie rock vibe with MacDonald's wailing lyrics and d'Entremont's tribal drumming. Kick off your festival festivities with The Superfantastics at The Attic on Tuesday, and thank me later for the tip.

Wednesday, October 17
Brother Ali

His album *Undisputed Truth* dropped in April of this year, and unlike most rappers of his genre, he has the balls to take his show to Halifax. Brother Ali is an albino from Madison, Wisconsin, and is legally blind. His unwavering lyrical skills have made him one of the fastest rising MCs this year. For proof of his ability, you need only look at some of his freestyle videos on YouTube. We need to give this rapper a chance to show us his lyrical talent, because he took a chance on the Halifax music scene. Check him out on Wednesday at The Attic.

The Moist Towelettes

'Wow' is one word to describe the totally unique sound of this band. They're straight from Tokyo, Japan with sharp, poppy jams that switch from English to Japanese lyrics. Their heavily synthesized techno sound hits a nerve that will definitely

get the crowd moving. Comprised of singers Emi and Yuko, musical producer Dave and guitarist Mike, The Moist Towelettes will totally rock your world with their eerily funky electronic jams. Check them out on Wednesday at Tribeca and again on Friday at The Seahorse.

Thursday, October 18
Apostle of Hustle

This is a great show to see for some chilling music. Grab a beer and listen to the funky indie-rock style of Apostle of Hustle, a very talented and underappreciated band from Toronto. Combining thoughtful lyrics with an upbeat rhythm section, their chilled out funk-rock sound will definitely please your ears.

Grand Theft Bus

Performing as a tag team with Apostle of Hustle, Grand Theft Bus have proven time and time again that they are worth checking out. Any band that plays frequently in Halifax by choice deserves some respect. They have a sound that is almost indescribable because they incorporate many musical styles. There's something for everyone, from funky sets to emo-styled rock that doesn't suck. This double show is definitely high on my list of essentials.

Friday, October 19
The Museum Pieces

Another one of the must-see shows of the festival, these guys have a sound that is unlike anything to ever come out of Halifax. They combine progressive indie-rock with heavy psychedelic undertones and a layered lyrical section that is borderline folk. The Museum Pieces will not disappoint anyone in search of new and original music in Halifax. Check them out at Hell's Kitchen on Friday night.

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YouTube Review

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

"Walk it out Fosse now and then" is a must see.

They've taken a modern day hip hop song, "Walk It Out" by Unk featuring Jim Jones, and matched it up to a 1970s talk show dance performance.

It's scary how well they complement each other. It could sub in as a weird, flared-pants-bright-pastel music video of Unk's.

The moves these 1970s ladies are pulling are so ahead of their time it's ridiculous. All head nods, pelvic pumps and leg jiggles were choreographed by Bob Fosse, who is famous for his work on Broadway shows.

"Walk It Out" goes so much better with this dance than the original song, "Mexican Breakfast." The music the dance was choreographed for seems to be the origin of elevator music. It's too light and breezy for such distinct, in-your-face moves.

The entire thing is very humorous. Watch it for a good laugh with friends.

Do you have a funny YouTube video that you want reviewed? Send the link to arts@dalgazette.ca.

Celebrating the man on the can

ALYSE HAND
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Just 212 years ago, Alexander Keith was born. During his illustrious life he roamed the streets of Halifax, greeting friends and offering up some of his cold India Pale Ale to anyone who stopped by his brewery.

It's a little different now. Usually it's a bartender or NSLC employee handing us our IPA, but it still goes down the same way.

The legend of Alexander Keith continued this year as Keith's lovers young and old painted the town red, Keith's Red, that is. Oct. 5 marked the annual celebration of the brew master's 212th birthday party.

Alderney Landing hosted a free concert on the Dartmouth waterfront to kick off the night. The show began with Nova Scotia's own Classified, who rocked out with new and old hits.

Classified, whose real name is

Luke Boyd, recognized all the Ontarians in attendance before performing his classic single, "The Maritimes." Keith himself may have stirred in his grave as Classified performed the song about Canada's east coast, "known for Alexander Keith and the donair," to a roaring crowd.

Keeping with the Atlantic Canada theme, The Novaks, made up of Mick Davis (vocals, guitar), Chuck Tucker (vocals, guitar), Mark Neary (vocals, bass) and Elliot Dicks (drums, shak-

ers and tambourine), were next to perform.

They made sure to tell the crowd about their "rocky roots" before they played a string of songs the band has described as "electric, raw and magnetic." As the sun went down, the band rocked it out to a growing sea of people and a harbor full of late-night sailors and ferry passengers.

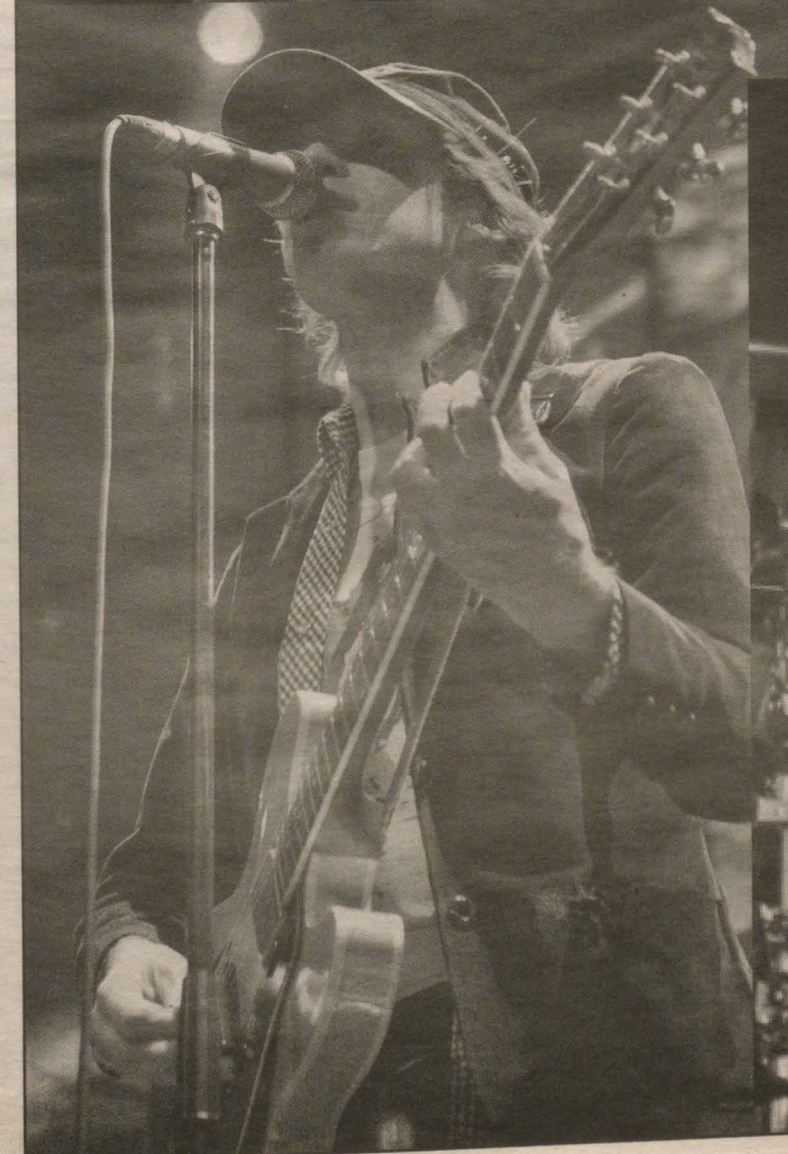
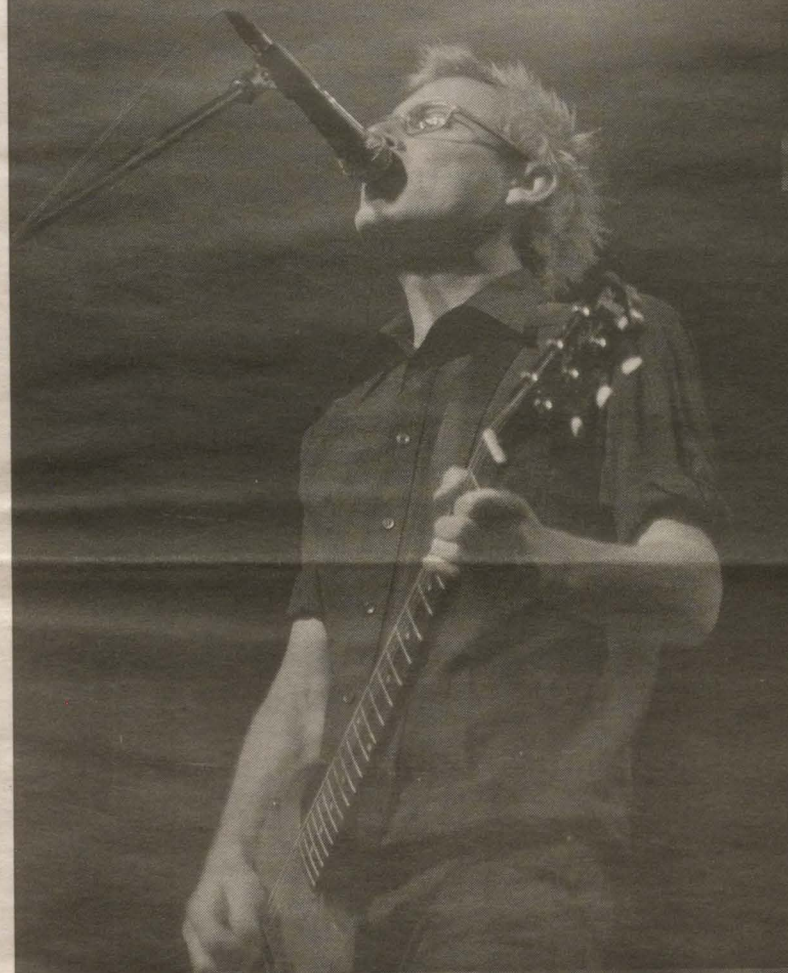
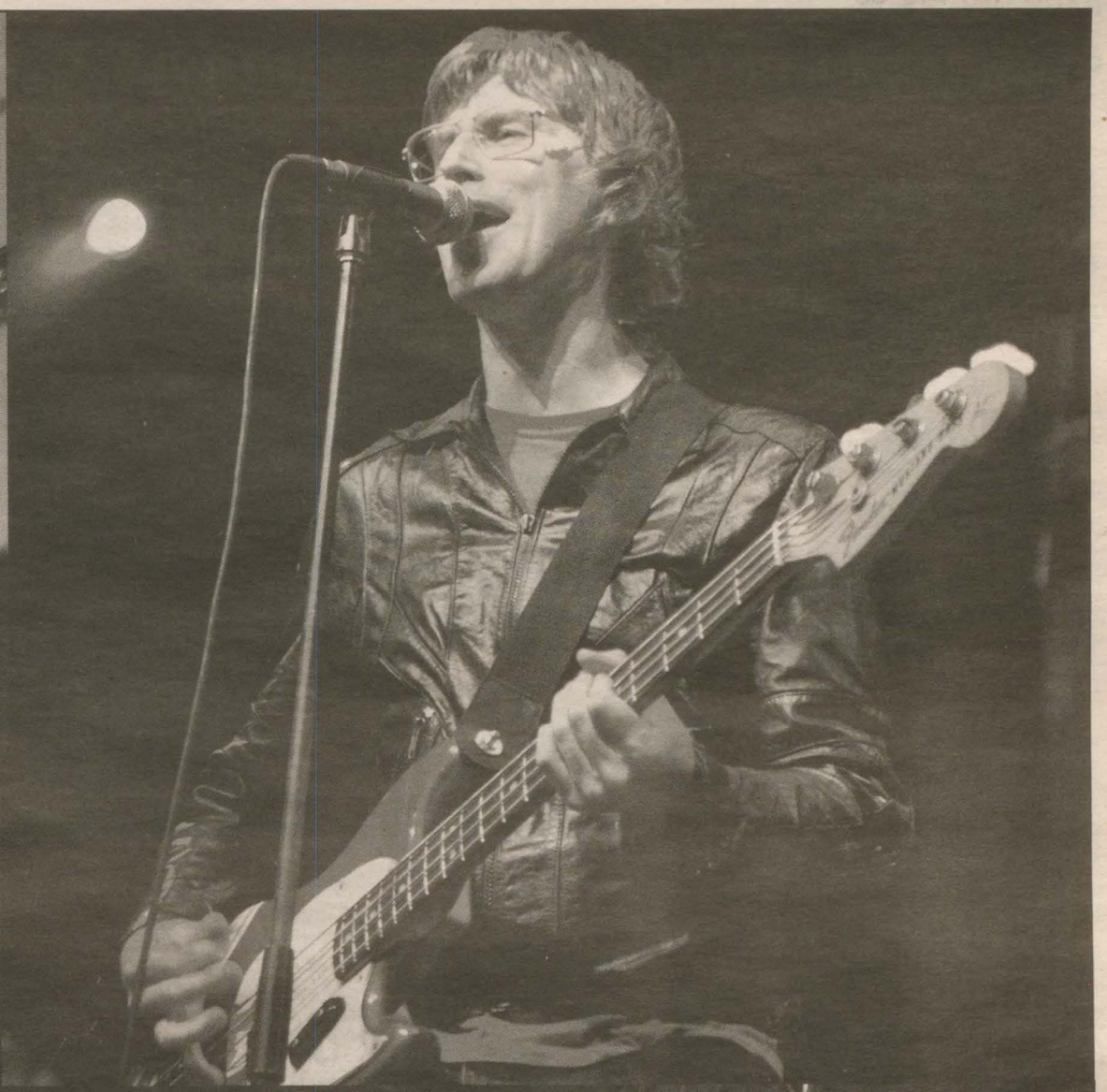
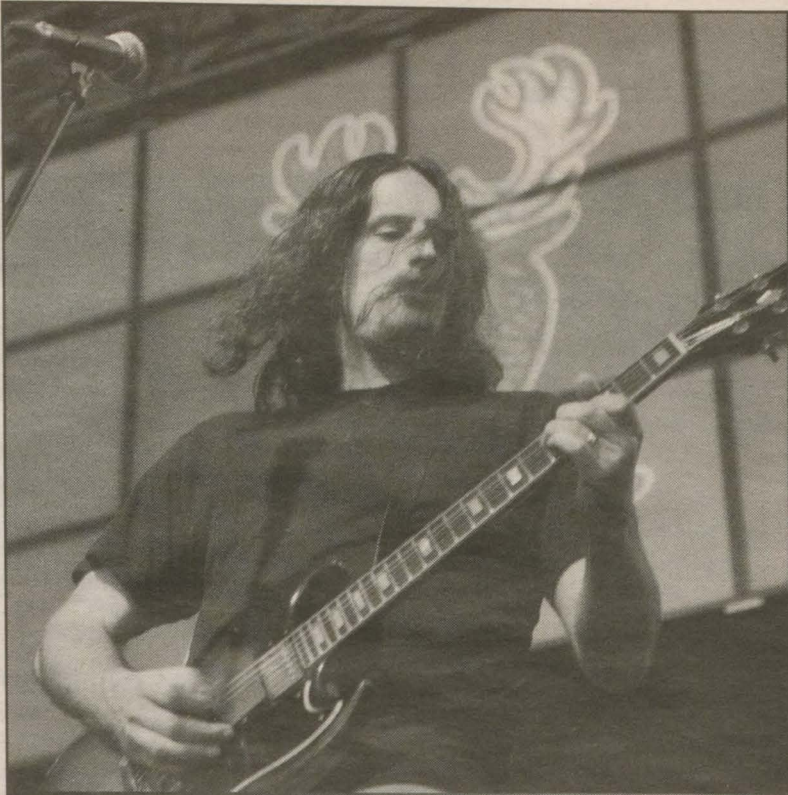
Halifax's own Sloan hit the stage next as the headlining performance of the night. Cries of "Sociable!"

could be heard from bar wenches, 78th Highlanders and party goers, as the band played popular hits like "The Other Man", "The Rest of My Life" and "The Good in Everyone."

Had the crowd not already been on their feet, a standing ovation would have finished off the night. The audience raised their beer cans to yet another successful celebration for the late mayor, brew master and respected Haligonian.

PHOTOS BY JOSH BOYTER





Entrepreneur of the week:

Oli Anderson: president of Dalhousie Camping Society

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

It's about time Dalhousie had a camping society. Oli Anderson, a Dal student in his final year, has started one up as part of the Dalhousie Student Union. There is no cost to join, and no experience needed.

Anderson is an experienced camper, having spent 11 years at Camp Hurontario, five of which he was on staff. He has canoed and camped on several rivers and has done tons of trips in the Georgian Bay area.

"Getting away from the busy and loud city and being in a secluded and peaceful natural environment is always the first thing you notice," Anderson says, via email. "I guess what I often find that is so cool about camping is the lack of cell phones and the idea that everyone is in it together."

The group went for its second trip in late September at Crystal Crescent. They are hoping to have a winter camp in the next few months and a white water canoeing trip in the spring.

"We are thinking about doing one winter camping trip this year. None of us have ever done them before but we want to make igloo-like structures called quincies to sleep in. We are all a little nervous about that."

After he found out there weren't any other camping societies at Dal, Anderson seized the opportunity and created one.

"I started talking about it among friends, who all expressed great interest to help out and take part in cool trips."



OLIVER ANDERSON / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Pitch a tent with the Dalhousie Camping Society.

To be a Dalhousie society, you have to go through the processes of ratification. The DSU now has a Tiger Society website that manages the ratification processes.

By borrowing equipment and getting sponsored by Mountain Equipment Co-op, the society is able to be cost-free for group members.

"We realized there are still a lot of costs attached to renting cars, gas, food, gear and possibly park fees. The DSU, we found, can also be a little slow turning the wheels for grants, so we also plan to raise funds."

Anderson says it's a great way to meet other students, especially if you're already interested in camping. He says it's cool to get out of Halifax and see what else Nova Scotia and

the surrounding area has to offer.

"Personally, it took me a couple of years before I actually went further than the airport. But there are tons of cool places to go."

Anderson is enthusiastic about future endeavours and says he's seen a large interest in his society. After the success of the last few trips, he's looking forward to doing more.

"We have only done two trips so far but since we have so many interested members, the sky is the limit."

To check out or join the Camping Society, visit the Tiger Society's website at http://my.dsu.ca/tiger_society. Or email Oli at olliegrayanderson@hotmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



COURTESY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ART GALLERY

Check out the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for the Future Retro exhibit, on until Dec. 2.

Retro art comes to Halifax

CHLOE WESTLAKE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

With their current exhibit, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) is exploring a new niche of artwork.

The Future Retro exhibit spotlights the American automobile industry, specifically, designers of automobiles from the post-WWII era.

In the time period following the Second World War, a great deal of importance was placed on owning a vehicle, and the American automobile began to be romanticized.

American car manufacturers had studios where select designers would congregate and create images of 'dream cars.' Future Retro is a collection of these. Many of these concept cars never materialized from the page, but the drawings themselves are art.

On display are images of vehicles like GMs, Fords and Chryslers that are associated with glamorous lifestyles. Many of the images depict cars with elegant women in the passenger seats or parked outside extravagant houses.

The art gallery is trying to showcase a larger variety of different art forms, according to curator Ray Cro-

nin. Future Retro is a way of bringing in an audience that wouldn't normally frequent the art gallery and is one way for the AGNS to reach as broad of an audience as possible.

Moreover, this exhibit recognizes the artists behind these concept cars. In a way, Future Retro recognizes the art of design.

"Everything we use is the product of somebody designing it," says Cronin.

NSCAD student Matthew Somers visited the gallery because he found the retro theme intriguing.

"The ones that I like the most [are] the designs for municipal vehicles," says Somers of the drawings.

The municipal vehicles depicted included everything from futuristic tractors to what looked like a flying bus.

"There's a lot of Batmobiles," says Cronin of the images.

But these fanciful designs spark something in the imaginations of those who visit the exhibit.

Although most of the drawings are several decades old, the artists' fascination with the world of tomorrow is something people can relate to today.

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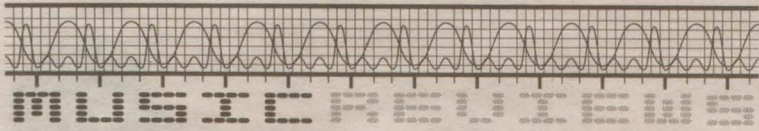
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Bright night

ANDREW MILLS
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Do you remember what indie rock used to be before it slept with The Man and had weird corporate/trendy hybrid offspring? Wintersleep returns with *Welcome to the Night Sky* to help you remember.

Their refreshing lack of marketability is quite badass. It really is about the music.

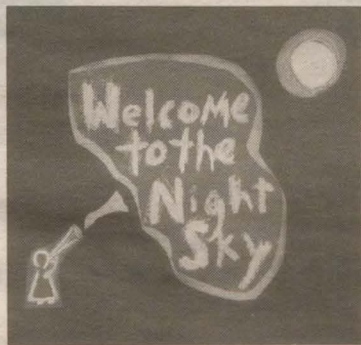
When I saw them in a sweaty club in Toronto, I grinned at the unexpected heaviness onstage. Their set was full of bruising guitars and organic momentum, whereas I had expected the subdued artfulness of their studio work.

The first thing you notice about *Welcome to the Night Sky* is the tighter production. The songs feel polished, and it's not necessarily a bad thing. Loel Campbell is still thrashing about on the drums, putting to rest any doubts about Wintersleep losing their rawness.

Paul Murphy's super distinct vocals are more expressive than ever. The album benefits from some gorgeous, big-noise orchestral moments on "Miasmal Smoke & The Yellow Bellied Freaks" and the second half of "Murderer."

Perhaps the best thing about this record is Murphy's naked and intelligent lyricism. On "Weighty Ghost" Murphy sings, "are you some kind of medicine man/cut the demons out of my head... take those knives away from me."

It's a dismissal of psychiatry that



is neither tragic nor ironic. It's outright defiant, as if by pure willpower and a sugary sing-along, he can wish those "goddamn clouds" away.

The song's dark lyrical undertow is buoyed by hand claps, an irrepressible organ and the most upbeat hook the boys have ever put to record. The effect is mesmerizing enough to make hipster scene kids wet their pants with jealousy.

The lonely heart of the record pulses in "Search Party," a sprawling ode to lost idealism. The band's magic is evident when Murphy can sing, "I used to dream about changing the world, now all I dream about is the holiday," and it doesn't feel depressing.

Staring straight into the black eye of oblivion and finding enough beauty to float an album's worth of haunting, soul-racking rock and roll is the work of poets.

Wintersleep succeeds with their darkest and most uplifting work yet. This is a *Night Sky* where the stars are burning strong and the moon ascends the lonely horizon.

Working it new-school

KATIE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

Almost all of us face at least a moment of anxiety before taking the big leap into first-year university. Nervous frosh ask themselves, "What if I don't like it there? What if I don't make any friends? What in God's name am I going to wear?!"

After a month and a half at Dalhousie, I hope most of these questions have been nicely settled and tucked away from froshies' minds. But what of the question of clothing?

Frosh have been here long enough to get a feel for the Dal look, but really, can they trust what they see during the first weeks of school? First-week-back makeover season is wearing away and our classmates' true style identities are starting to creep back out of the closets and into the classrooms.

For newbies who are a little worried about standing out in a bad way, it's not exactly clear what to wear to blend in.

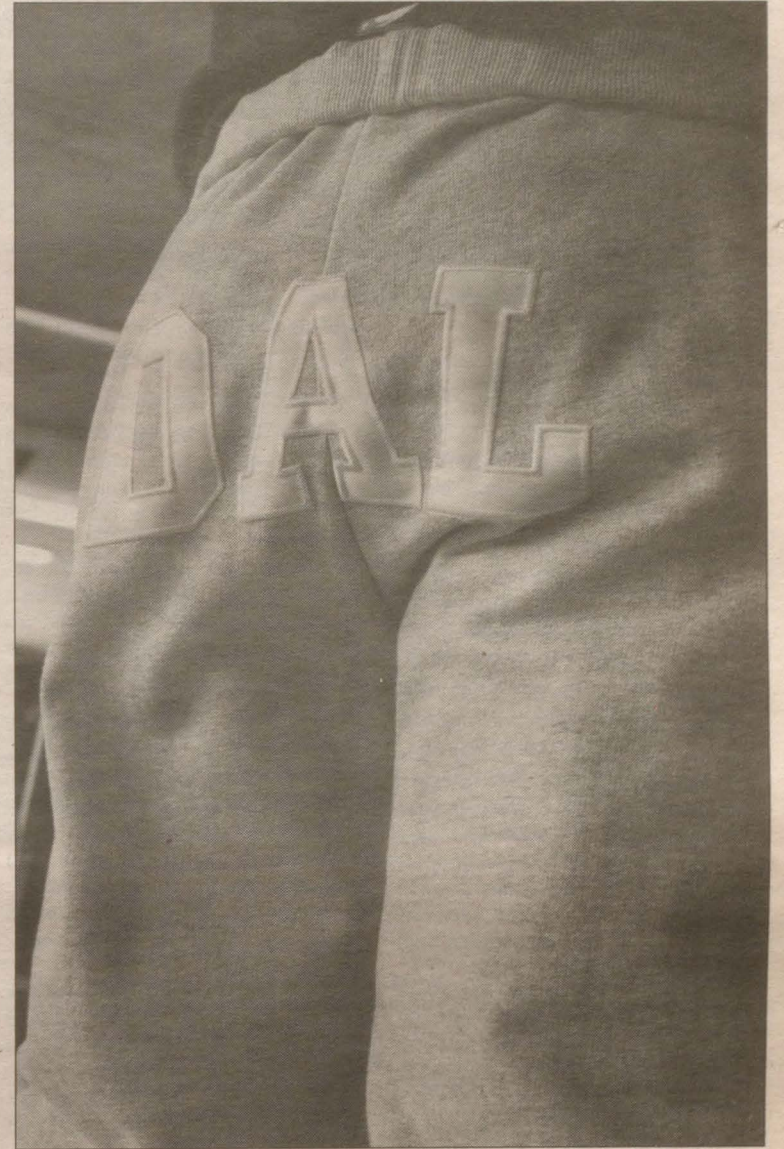
So what can you expect in terms of fashion at Dal? The unexpected, or at least, diversity.

There is an eclectic, artistic quality to the fashion at Dal. It's creative, rather than purely stylish. But at the same time, those who are interested in fashion – in trends, glamour and tailoring – are accepted.

In fact, students are open to just about anything. Dal isn't so laid back that students are scoffed at if they try too hard, nor is it so urban and trend-obsessed that those out of the loop are ostracized. I know most people like to say this about their schools, but Dal is truly a place where individual style is accepted and encouraged.

The beauty of Dal is that it attracts urban fashionistas from other big cities across Canada, like Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. But it's also the center of the Maritimes, drawing forth the casual, rural and more importantly, coastline dressers who have been wearing local and weather-appropriate gear all their lives.

This could have a lot to do with why the campus' look is so creatively eclectic. Dal is the kind of school that attracts all types – those run-



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie campus is a good place to be creative with your clothes, so leave those sweats in the closet.

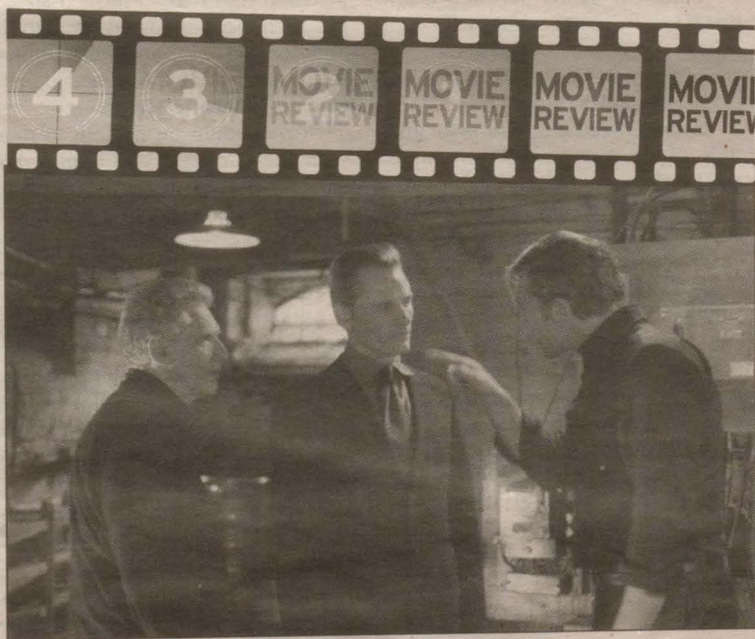
ning away from the stiffness of a big city to a place that's spacious but inviting and those leaving a small town for a city that opens doors.

Wherever we're coming from, Halifax is a great place to start fresh, which is easily reflected in our clothes.

So, what to wear for frosh who are still unsure? First and foremost, you have to abandon any rules or restrictions you felt the need to follow in

your hometown. Experiment! Shop in new places. Dig out clothes from your closet you've been dying to wear but haven't yet had the balls to.

Most importantly, keep in mind that though Halifax is filled with creative and unique dressers, it's by no means fashion-obsessed. If you don't want to push buttons and look different, there's no better place than Dal to wear the same old, same old and seriously know you're rocking it.



Eastern Promises

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Mafia movies are risky. Nothing can surpass the unparalleled *Godfather* trilogy.

Eastern Promises, however, steps to its own beat and comes out admirably.

Canadian director David Cronenberg presents the cunningly dark world of a London-based Russian gang, Vory V Zakone.

Nikolai (Viggo Mortensen) and Kirill (Vincent Cassel) portray two partners in crime under the power of ringleader Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl), a restaurateur by day and ruffian by night.

Anna, played by Naomi Watts, is a 30-something midwife who lives with her mother and uncle while working at the local hospital. After witnessing a teenage girl's death during childbirth, Anna is determined to discover the truth behind the girl's pregnancy. Consequently, she becomes

wrapped up in the secrets and violence of the mob.

The film begins slowly and feels slightly contrived. Nikolai is too tough, Anna too prosaic and Kirill too drunk. As the story improves, however, so do the characters.

The most consistent role was Mueller-Stahl's, whose stealthy presence is both intriguing and disturbing.

Two wonderfully powerful clips resonate. In the first, Nikolai proves to a sleazy Kirill that he is straight by sleeping with a young Ukrainian prostitute.

The second is an exceptionally grisly and flawless fight scene between Nikolai and a rival thug that even Quentin Tarantino would envy.

Eastern Promises is also aesthetically accurate. The dark, damp, cobblestone streets of London compliment the sullen plot, while bursts of red in the decor, the lighting and the blood beautifully capture what is quintessentially Russia.

It may not be the *Godfather*, but it's no *Gigli*. Thank God.

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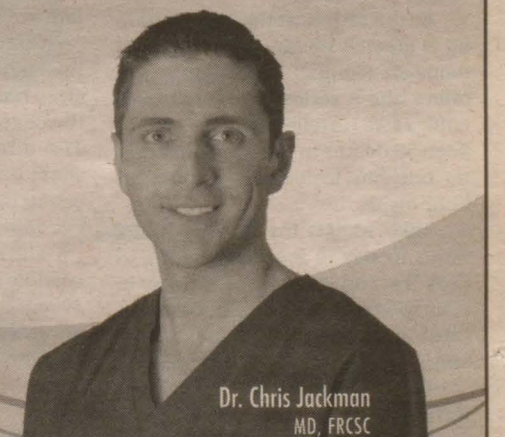
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Strong as an Ox

JAMIE NADEL
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Vancouver's roots-rock champion Ox shares the ethics and traditional sensibilities of great classic rock bands, from the old-school images in their album art to an insistence on analog and the thin, black, round stuff.

"CDs aren't music – they're files," maintains singer/songwriter Mark Browning. "We make vinyl, we tour tons, we play small shows to small audiences, we drive all night and sleep in our van."

With a sundry group of alumni and session artists, and Browning holding the reins, Ox has been an enduring member of Canada's indie underground scene since the release of its 2003 album, *Dust Bowl Revival*.

Quickly mounting the Earshot and Canadian Campus Radio charts to number one, *Dust Bowl* is the first independent Canadian record to hold that spot in decades. The album's vintage blend of folk, alt country and classic rock garnered the acclaim and respect of critics and musicians alike – not to mention two West Coast Music Award nominations.

The release of Ox's second LP, *American Lo Fi*, and a recent move from B.C. to, of all places, Sudbury, has the band burning candles, fuel and road flares at both ends.

"By definition, any show leaving from Vancouver becomes a national tour," says Browning. "The move to Ontario was designed to allow us to tour more often, and it's worked."

Evidently so. Ox has spent most of this year on the road, making a couple of Trans Canada/American caravans and doing three months of gigs in Germany and the U.K.

The constant touring manifested itself in the band's latest record.

Browning struggled with the solitary process of writing, recording and publicizing *Dust Bowl*. He says *American Lo Fi* was more of a collective progression.

"We finished our tour with a studio session. We were wilder – burnt out a little, but on a high," says Browning.

The result is a rickety, over-driven, dope-soaked folk recording. The instrumentation is sparse, reverberating and coloured by rich lyrics – equal parts Kerouac, Steinbeck and Hunter S. Thompson. The Be Good Tanyas provide the vocal harmonies.

In an age of ProTools and laptop multi-tracking, Ox does things the old-fashioned way by cramming a bunch of musicians into one room.

"The quality of a record has a lot more to do with the performance than it does with the songs," says Browning. "A song should be a piece of marble. The artist needs to sculpt it into something. A group of good artists can make dogshit sound sweet."

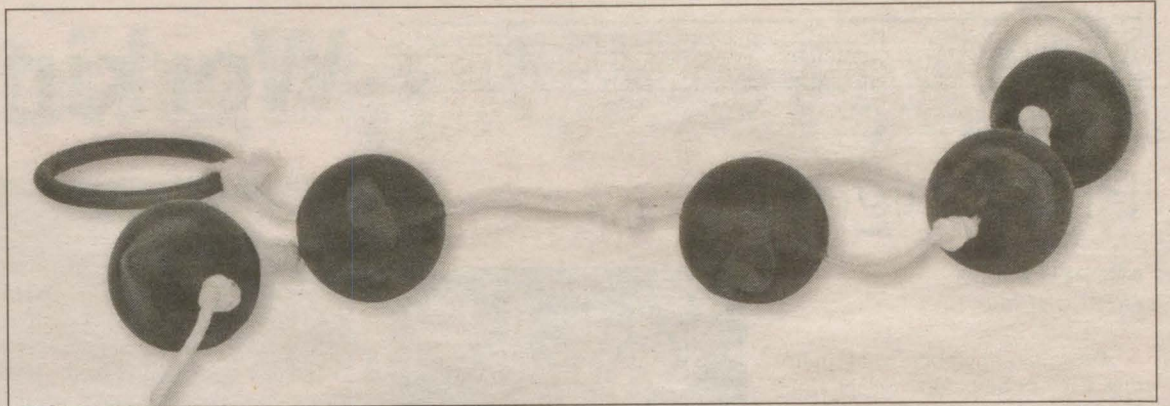
Always willing to help other musicians, Browning supports Canada's indie music scene by doing press and radio tracking for a number of bands.

The list of artists he publicized this year includes The Golden Dogs, Jim Bryson, maritimers Two Hours Traffic and 2007 Polaris Prize nominee Julie Doiron.

Following Ox's gig at the Halifax Pop Explosion, the band will head back to the U.K. for a month of shows and tea connoisseurship.

"Barry's Tea – Gold Blend. That's the good stuff," Browning says. "And tea goes with milk and sugar. Period."

Ox performs with their weewerk label mates The Barmitzvah Brothers and United Steel Workers of Montreal on Friday, Oct. 19 at The Attic.



Mix it up with anal play – but don't forget the lube.

Turned on.....

Butt love

SHANNON PRINGLE
SEX CONTRIBUTOR

The butt is gender-free. We all have one! It doesn't have a sex or an orientation. It's a sexy place to visit, along with your other sexy parts. Butt love, ass play and anal sex are fun on your own or with a partner, and can make you both come really hard!

The taboos surrounding ass play are perpetuated by myth, shame, fear and homophobia. They prevent people from discovering all the pleasure their bodies are capable of. So let's break down some common concerns that face people wanting to get to know their butt and other butts, too.

Why play with the butt? Well the pucker (anus) is as an extremely sensitive erogenous zone. There are thousands of nerve endings and blood vessels located in this small area and it feels fantastic just to touch it.

For the record, anal play doesn't need to go any further than that. There is no rule out there that says you have to be penetrated or like penetration. However, if you are open to the idea of anal penetration, this is the way to reach the male prostate and another wonderful way to reach the female G-spot.

Poop! That's what it comes down to. The fear is, if we play with our asses or the asses of others, we are going to get shit on us. Grab an anatomy diagram and let's put that notion to rest.

Most fingers, butt toys, silicone cocks and penises can only reach as far as the anal canal and beyond it into the rectum. Think of the anal canal and the rectum as passageways, not as storage facilities. As long as the person has good, regular bowel movements and doesn't need to 'go' before you start ass play, you

aren't going to encounter shit. Poop is stored up much higher, in your colon.

You would never know it by looking at today's porn stars, but everybody has hair between their butt cheeks! If you don't, it's because you shave, wax or laser it off. You should also know that the skin around everybody's anus is darkly pigmented. It's just the way we're made.

There's nothing inherently queer or gay about anal play or any kind of sex act. It all comes down to what parts you have, what parts you partner has, and all the ways you can pleasure yourself and each other.

However, many straight men fear that if they enjoy their girlfriend's finger up their butt, it means they're gay. That is simply not so. One of my favorite sex writers, Diana Cage, writes, "Well, unless that finger is actually a penis, and that penis is attached to a guy, and you want that penis all the time and lose interest in the girlfriend, you probably aren't gay."

Concerns aside, here are a few tips if you want to get busy with your butt or some else's butt. The LCRs of ass play are Lubrication, Communication and Relaxation.

You will need lots of lube for anal play, as the anus and rectum do not self lubricate.

Communicate with your partner is also key. You or your partner may experience brief discomfort as you get used to anal play, but anal penetration should never hurt. If you feel pain, stop what you're doing and move on to something else. You may want to revisit your butt at another time.

Relaxation is key for great ass play and is necessary if you want to enjoy any kind of anal penetration.

Anal penetration is best when the person being penetrated is really aroused. Begin with a lubricated fin-

ger or a small, smooth, flange-based silicone butt toy. Take your time. Make sure your fingernails are short and that your hands are smooth with no cuts or hangnails. Gloves and fingers cots will help prevent you from tearing delicate tissue in the anal canal and rectum.

You can always move on to bigger toys, silicone cocks and penises after you've gotten comfortable with anal play. Beyond the anus is the anal canal and its two sphincter muscles. The first sphincter is under voluntary control and can be opened by taking a deep breath and bearing down slightly.

A little further up is the second sphincter, which is under involuntary control. It responds to gentle pressure, so let your finger or butt toy hang out there for 20 to 30 seconds until it opens and lets you inside.

If your partner has a prostate, it will feel like a small walnut on the their anterior wall of the anal canal. The prostate likes to be stroked, not poked. If your partner has a G-spot, it can be nicely stimulated through the anterior wall of the anal canal, though the G-spot is technically located in the area called the urethral sponge.

Toys should be flexible to bend with the curves of our bodies, and toys must have a flanged base so they don't get sucked up and lost in the ass. Every emergency room has stories about patients who did not heed these simple rules!

Practice safer sex and never go from ass play to any other kind of play without changing gloves, finger cots, condoms or washing up well first, as you can transmit STIs, as well as strains of bacteria that will cause nasty vaginal infections.

Love your butt, and if you have the chance, try lovin' someone else's as well!



1408

CASSANDRA WHITTY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Based on the novella by Stephen King, *1408* is recreated on film with such intensity that it keeps audiences on the edge of their seats, right up to the shocking end.

In the film, an unknown force attacks the guest of a hotel room, using objects he has brought with him, his past and his worst nightmares.

Mike Enslin (John Cusack) is a skeptical author who writes about paranormal events. He receives a postcard from the Dolphin Hotel in New York City, bearing the warning "Don't enter 1408."

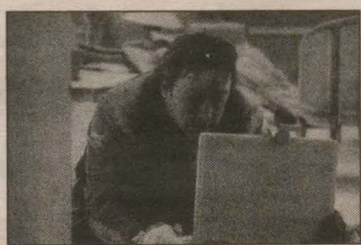
Enslin arrives at the hotel, where he is greeted by Mr. Olin, the hotel manager (Samuel L. Jackson). Olin offers him a series of bribes to not enter *1408*. He tells Enslin there have been 56 deaths in the room and that no one has lasted longer than an hour inside.

Mike accepts the bribes but still wants to stay in the room, saying to Olin, "Do you know why I can stay in your spooky old room, Mr. Olin? Because I know that ghouls and ghosties and long-legged beasties don't exist."

The manager gives him the key, warning him the room is evil.

Jackson has a small part in this movie, but it's quite memorable and he makes the character far more interesting than it was in the novella.

Cusack gives a riveting performance as Enslin, making his charac-



ter believable.

When Enslin stays in the room, it toys with his mind, creating the impossible and tormenting him as he tries to escape, not once but twice.

Enslin narrates into his mini tape recorder while he is in the room. His narration is a unique feature in the movie.

Directed by Mikael Håfström, this movie not only recreates the story but expands on it, delving into the character of Enslin and his past. The director also provides unique shots that give the movie an interesting perspective, such as a bird's-eye view of the hotel lobby.

The movie stayed true to the story while adding its own flair of chills. *1408* is a well-crafted movie for lovers of Stephen King and thriller/horror films.

DVD Extras: Widescreen: John Cusack commentary, inside room 1408, theatrical trailer.

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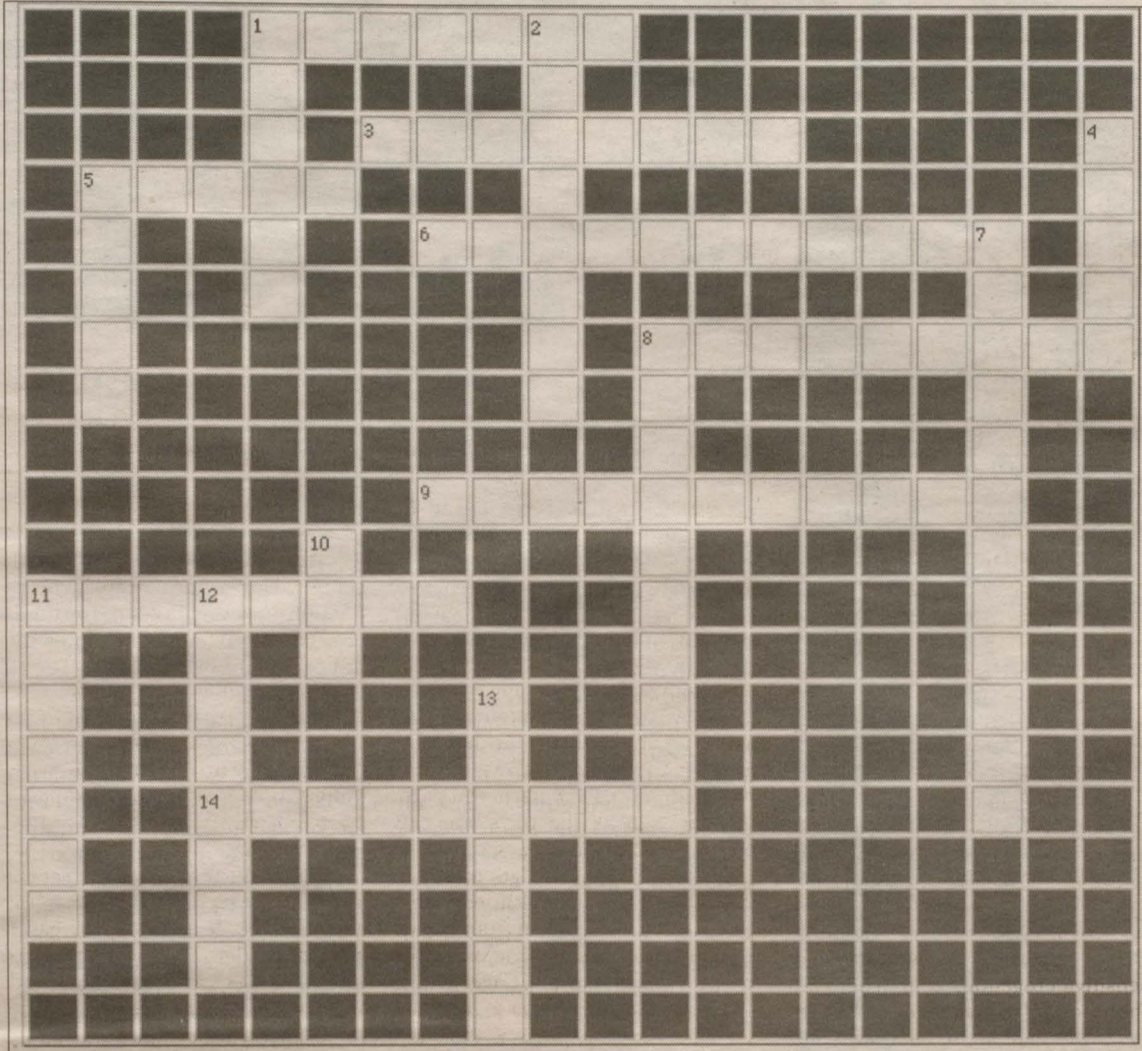
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Across

1. A word or phrase formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase
3. A story, play, poem etc. in which the meaning or message is represented symbolically
5. A disc or tape comprising several pieces of music
6. An abnormal fear of open spaces or public places
8. Pleasant; enjoyable
9. The science or practice of cultivating the soil
11. Eleventh sign of the zodiac
14. Something attached

Down

1. Sudden and unexpected
2. Tavern
4. Tolerate
5. Without others present
7. Able to use the right and left hands equally well
8. Catastrophic destruction, end of the world
10. An invisible gaseous substance surrounding the earth
11. The state of being away from a place or person
12. The surroundings or atmosphere of a place
13. The part of the body containing the stomach, bowels and reproductive organs

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Make sure to stop and smell the roses every once in awhile. They are ever so lovely, and your secret admirer just sent them to you as a surprise. Surprise! I have just ruined the surprise that you are going to be surprised at some point this week. At least it's going to be a good one that involves watermelon.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You have been having conversations with a pillow in your sleep again. A nincompoop of a person is listening closely with a notepad in hand. They are trying to gather information so they can bribe you. Just tell them you were sleeping, and whatever you said will not stand in a court of law.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

You have been on autopilot this week. Your friends have started to question whether you are a human being or a robot programmed to try and take over the world. If you were wondering if that muffin at Tim Hortons is going to eat you instead of the other way around, then you're an idiot.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

You have been searching the furthest corners of the earth, when all along what you were looking for was staring you right in the face. You have finally found the key to the cellar door. Beat up that small yet large ape that lied to you about its whereabouts.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

You are a social butterfly this week. Be careful, because someone is getting jealous. Try not to rub it in their face too much, or you might just end up getting a pie right in that melon you call a head.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

A monkey is going to try to steal your baby. Just distract it with precious, sparkly things and no one will get hurt. Make sure to do a leisurely activity this week. Finger painting can only lead to good things.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You will experience a change in air pressure this week. Perhaps it is your winning personality that's changing things. Either way, an oxygen mask will not be needed. Hold your head up high and do not forget to sing to the sky.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Grow some freakin' balls this week. If you think everything and everyone is just going to appear without any effort on your part, you've got another thing coming. The world was not made in one day, and neither was the Eiffel Tower. Streak through the library and see who follows.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You carved your turkey with the wrong device earlier this week and you're going to feel the repercussions now. The earthquake is going to be a big one. But as long as you're standing in the doorway, holding onto your hat and smiling, that porcelain statue of Elvis atop your mantle should be just fine.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You have been prospectin' for gold with no luck. But that's because you should be doing something else. You're not paying attention to your desires and the signs that have been leading you to them. Open your damn eyes and go for what you want, not what you've been told to want.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

You are going to try and balance an orange on a toothpick this week, and it's up to you whether you're going to be successful. Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, so make sure you're the one holding onto the loot. Roger Rabbit cannot be trusted.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Look down - your shoelace is undone. A trickster is out to get you this week, and they're going to try and tie your shoelaces together in class while you aren't looking. How rude. Karma is a beautiful thing.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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in room 312 of the SUB

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 - 10. Air
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 - 12. Ambulance
 - 13. Abdomen
- Across
- 1. Anagram
 - 3. Allegory
 - 5. Album
 - 6. Agoraphobia
 - 8. Agreeable
 - 9. Agriculture
 - 11. Aquarius
 - 14. Appendage

Slow start doesn't mean slow ending

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cross-country doesn't follow the conventional sports schedule. In just two short months, teams go from the season opener to nationals. This means the Dalhousie Tigers have only three meets before the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships, held Oct. 27.

On the surface, a slow start in a short season would seem troubling, but the Tigers like their pace. In a year where perhaps Dal's greatest female runner ever will not be returning, things don't look so bad. According to fifth-year Leslie Marcotte, everything's running smoothly.

"We're doing really well right now," Marcotte says. "We have more depth this year and I think we'll continue to improve. It's kind of exciting."

The loss of Janice Ashworth (due to graduation) was a heavy blow for the Tigers. She was the three-time AUS Athlete of the Year (2003-2005) and the three-time silver medalist at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships during those years. Her performances helped the Tigers win back-to-back AUS titles in 2003-2004.

Head coach Dan Hennigar knows he's lost a great athlete.

"Janice was the most successful runner in Dal history and possibly in CIS history," Hennigar says. "We definitely miss her. There's just no way to replace her."

Instead, the Tigers are rebuilding the team with new runners and are relying on their group of fifth-year veterans. So far, the season has gone well. The Tigers came in second overall, behind their rivals, the St. Francis Xavier University X-Women in their Sept. 15 season opener.

Rebecca Walker was the top Tigers finisher in sixth place with a time of 19:35 minutes. Marcotte was one of the five Tiger runners who finished in the top 20.

"St. Francis beat us by quite a bit, but that's okay," Marcotte says. "We do the harder stuff last and they do the harder stuff first. They're our main rivals, but we peak later than others so I'm not worried."

The Tigers aren't trained to run with all their might. Instead, they're taught to take their time. The Tigers want to start out slowly and gradually give their best performances at the end of the season, preferably at the CIS championships in November.

"Everybody's training smart," Hennigar says. "We're staying focused and not rushing anything. We need to resolve some health issues, but if we can stay healthy, I think we



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"This is the type of training that keeps you healthy in the long run," Marcotte says.

can do well."

Runners like Marcotte are benefiting from this approach, as it protects athletes from early injuries.

"This is the type of training that keeps you healthy in the long run," Marcotte says. "When I was competing for McGill University, we would run our hardest throughout the season and I found, for me, that it took a toll on my body."

"We did shorter, faster runs in the beginning and it was really tough. Here, I just enjoyed a personal best at [the University of Maine meet] two weeks ago and I believe the training is

keeping me in the right shape."

The Tigers' final regular season meet will be Oct. 13 and will mark the return of Ellen Vessie, a fifth-year runner who took some time off from competition to complete clinical work in Edmonton. Her return will hopefully spur the Tigers to end the regular season on a high note, with the AUS championships only a few weeks away.

"It's the first time the AUS will have two berths for [the CIS championships], so that should make things interesting," Hennigar says. "We're definitely in for a dogfight."

Devon Parkinson was Player of the Game in Dalhousie's four-set exhibition win against defending national champions, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The second-year setter, in his first year with the Tigers, recorded 54 assists and 8 points.

"The setting position is absolutely key in our game," says Ti

gers head coach Dan Ota. "I think Devon did a great job in running the offense in his first match as a Tiger. If he can continue to build on this performance, our team will be in pretty good shape by the end of the season."

Parkinson is a transfer student from Camosun College and hails from Victoria.



Oldest club around gears up for playoffs

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

Rugby originated in England in 1823. The legend goes that William Webb Ellis caught a ball in his arms and caught the attention of his fellow classmates. Apparently, by breaking the rules of football, Ellis was part of the birth of rugby.

Whether this actually happened or not, rugby came to Dalhousie 58 years later, when the rugby club was formed in 1881.

As the oldest athletics club on campus, the Dal rugby club enjoyed a surge in participation and team performance this year. Recruitment numbers exceeded expectations, with 30 new students signed up. President John Hewitt says not only is the club growing, but so is the quality of players.

"We got a significant crop of guys this year who are really dedicated," Hewitt says. "There are so many guys involved now who do great cardio training and are focused."

The club has two elite teams (divisions one and two) and multiple intramural teams. Head coach Dave Illingworth describes this season as a turnaround year for both divisions. Last year, the division one Tigers didn't win any games and the division two team won only one game. This year, the division one Tigers are undefeated and the division two Tigers have only lost one game.

"It's completely different," Illingworth says. "We were never out of it

last year - we always had an opportunity to win, but this year's performance isn't even close. This year is incredible."

Hewitt was drawn to Dal rugby last year as a way to get involved on campus. He became co-captain of the division one team this year. The third-year commerce student believes the fast pace of the game attracted such a large turnout this year.

"Being on the team is the best possible experience for me," Hewitt says. "Rugby is a growing international sport that's hard-hitting, with lots of high intensity. It's a really exciting game and I think that's why we've got a lot of good guys."

The new guys aren't just your average recreational players, either. Some come from British Columbia and from other parts of Nova Scotia, with extensive experience in rugby. Yet most of them are first-year students.

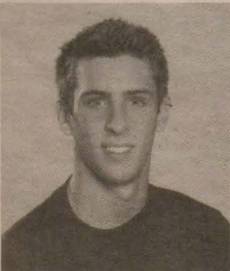
"For example, we've got Tim Loney, who's been Player of the Game nearly every game we've played in division one, and he's only 18," Illingworth says. "We've got seven rookies like that in the division one team and a bunch of others in division two. It's truly amazing."

There are six university teams in each division, with the St. Mary's University Huskies as the Tigers' main rival. Now both teams are in the playoff hunt for a league championship title.

"We take it one game at a time," Illingworth says. "We're feeling good and we're focused. We've got to carry this to the end. It's up to us now."

Athlete of this week

MALE ATHLETE



DEVON PARKINSON
VOLLEYBALL

Devon Parkinson was Player of the Game in Dalhousie's four-set exhibition win against defending national champions, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The second-year setter, in his first year with the Tigers, recorded 54 assists and 8 points.

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Parkinson is a transfer student from Camosun College and hails from Victoria.

DAL TIGERS

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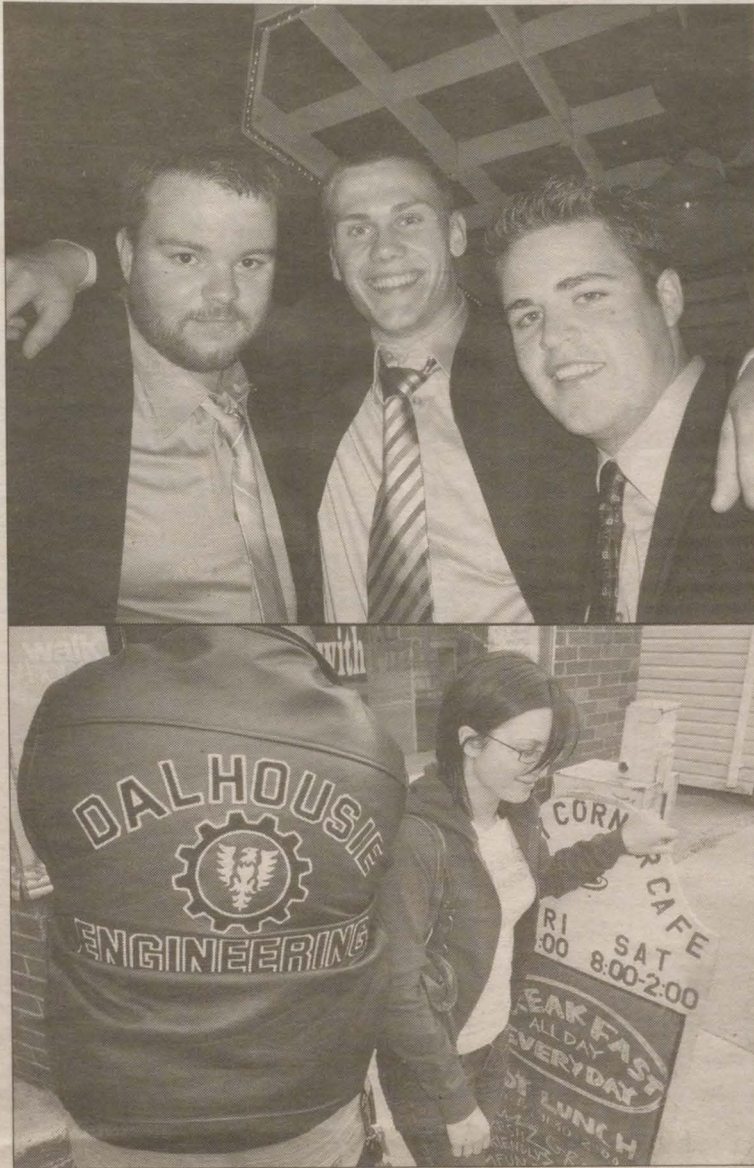




The

S E X T A N T

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R



Millennium Development Goals

ASHTON ROSCOE FERGUSON

The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2000. Since their adoption the MDGs have become the general benchmark for measuring the success of development in developing countries.

We are now passed the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and the 2015 target date and, as much anticipated, the midway progress report on the MDGs is now available. The tone of the report presented by the UN, so far suggests that there have been some success, and that success is still possible in most areas of the world that have not performed as successfully as they should have so far.

However, I am of the firm belief that what has already been achieved cannot and should not belittle how much still needs to be done to make the MDGs achievable so that the many millions of people that are still impoverished will become able to realize the basic promises of the MDGs in their lives.

With approximately seven more years to the expiration of the target date, much can still be achieved if, and only if concerted action is maintained. This leaves much to be required, however the success that has already been achieved in some countries demonstrates that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is feasible if prudent initiatives are formulated and enacted to increase investments in vital areas combined with adequate support from the international community in the form of the correct combinations of resources.

According to the 2007 MDGs report, the following are some measures of the progress that has been achieved:

-The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to less than one fifth between 1990 and 2004. If the trend is sustained, the MDG poverty reduction target will be met for the world as a whole and for most regions.

-The number of extremely poor people in sub-Saharan Africa has leveled off, and the poverty rate has declined by nearly six percentage points since 2000. Nevertheless, the region is not on track to reach the Goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015.

-Progress has been made in getting more children into school in the developing world. Enrolment in primary education grew from 80 per cent in 1991 to 88 per cent in 2005. Most of this progress has taken place since 1999.

-Child mortality has declined globally and it is becoming clear that the right life-saving interventions are proving effective in reducing the number of deaths due to the main child killers - such as measles.

-Key interventions to control

	Goal 1 Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
	Goal 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education
	Goal 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
	Goal 4 Reduce Child Mortality
	Goal 5 Improve Maternal Health
	Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
	Goal 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability
	Goal 8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

malaria have been expanded.

-The tuberculosis epidemic, finally, appears on the verge of decline, although progress is not fast enough to halve prevalence and death rates by 2015.

According to the 2007 MDGs report, the following are some of the key challenges that have to be addressed:

- Over half a million women still die each year from treatable and preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. The odds that a woman will die from these causes in sub-Saharan Africa are 1 in 16 over the course of her lifetime, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.

- If current trends continue, the target of halving the proportion of underweight children will be missed by 30 million children, largely because of slow progress in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

- The number of people dying from AIDS worldwide increased to 2.9 million in 2006, and prevention measures are failing to keep pace with the growth of the epidemic. In 2005, more than 15 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

- Half the population of the developing world lack basic sanitation. In order to meet the MDG target, an additional 1.6 billion people will need access to improved sanitation over the period 2005-2015. If trends

since 1990 continue, the world is likely to miss the target by almost 600 million people.

- Most economies have failed to provide employment opportunities to their youth, with young people more than three times as likely as adults to be unemployed.

- Warming of the climate is now unequivocal. Emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to global climate change, rose from 23 billion metric tons in 1990 to 29 billion metric tons in 2004. Climate change is projected to have serious economic and social impacts, which will impede progress towards the MDGs.

The results can easily excite mixed emotions. There is just reason for slight optimism but the driving force should be the staunch realization that a lot still needs to be done. Of the eight regions, only one is on track to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals within the stipulated timeframe.

The region recording the most substantial progress includes parts of Asia where economic growth has been most pronounced. Nonetheless, these areas still face significant challenges in areas such as health and environmental sustainability. Also, although showing some slight signs of progress, the projected shortfalls are most severe in sub-Saharan Africa.

The weekend I'll never remember with the engineers I'll never forget...

COURTNEY LARKIN
VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)
Dalhousie Student Union

Well here we all are, the first week of October. One month of school has gone by, we've all made some new friends, had some good laughs, and now midterms and cold weather are right around the corner. We all feel we know what to expect... boy was I wrong...

100th Year of Engineering celebrations and Alexander Keith's 212 birthday - really I should have seen it coming just from hearing those two events were on the same weekend. I decided to head over the T-Room around 9:30pm for the weekly Trivia night.

As soon as I entered the T-Room it was amazing! Everyone was wearing antlers, talking about the 100 years, and beer...lots of beer. A few hours go by, people are making some great statements which have already begun to end up on Overheard at DAL "I'll give you something to tag", and everyone is completely enjoying themselves.

But then I had an "idea" - to take the engineers to the Grawood... So I announce to everyone that we are

going to the Grawood, drinks on me! Now this is not something that I would ever usually say, but believe it or not, they decided to follow me.

We get to the Grawood, many pitchers in hand, singing, cheering, laughing - it truly was a Kodak moment. But those engineers, they never stop, they just keep going and going. I usually like to think that I can keep up with the best of them, but I have to say that the engineers truly had me beat.

The next day at breakfast I couldn't believe how the engineers could function, I felt like they had sucked the life out of the VP Student Life - this is not an easy thing to do! But on our day went, we all gathered again that night for the Tech Ball Gala - another amazing night indeed.

So in conclusion I 100% recommend that every Dalhousie student should hang out with the Engineers. I've been at DAL for 4 years and this weekend was definitely one of the best!! You should all go to the T-Room on a Thursday or Friday night at some point in your University experience and hang out with all of the students on Sexton campus - it will definitely be a night you'll wish you could remember.

Open letter to Christopher Boland

Dear Mr. Boland,

I was excited to see the job posting of your designated drinking buddy posted on the MSN posting network. I am familiar with many drinking systems and methods that can optimize the amount of fun you can have.

I've listed a few of my qualifications that I think are suited to this position:

By the end of this academic

term I will have completed courses on designing optimal transportation methods in order to maintain a shortest path method to ensure the highest drunken state while in transit.

I have organized several pub crawls that you have attended and that ended up with you being completely intoxicated.

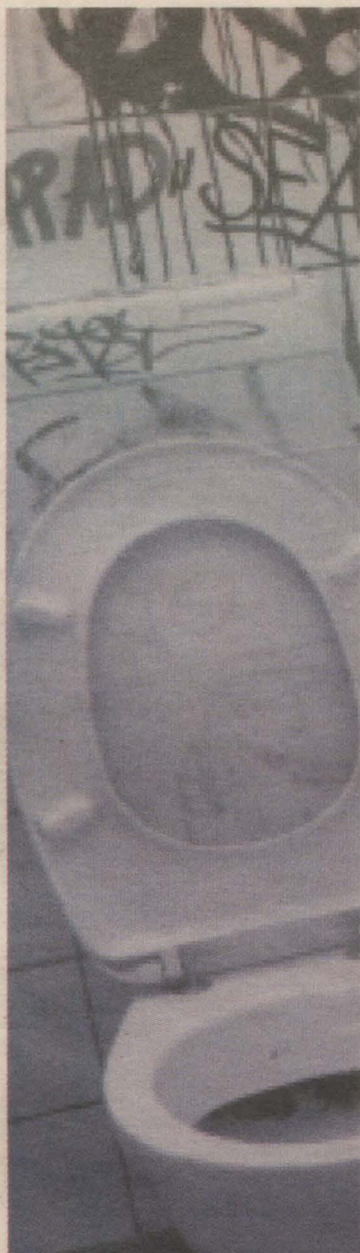
I have great oral and written communications skills from constantly dealing with customers in my

day to day business operations.

On a scale of 1 to ten, I am a "kick ass" in the ability to have a great time even if the conditions do not permit so.

I look forward to an interview to hear more about the position and how I might get the opportunity to come and drink more frequently and vigorously with you.

Sincerely,
Scott Wetton



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