

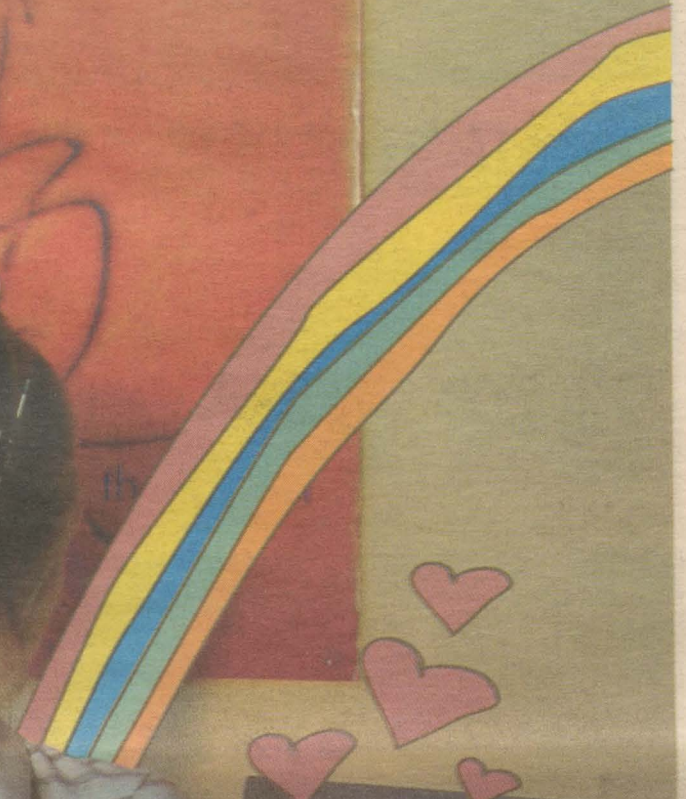
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SEPTEMBER 15 - 22, 2005

ISSUE 138-02

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette



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# How The Gazette Works

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- Have a need for a creative outlet?
- Want your voice heard?
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# Peace, Order and Good God that's expensive

## Wondering why your post-secondary adventures costs so much? Here's why



CHRIS LAROCHE  
Editor-In-Chief

A long time ago — too long for any of us to remember — Canada's central powers sat down at the grand table of Federalism, and invited Canada's regional powers to join them.

Their goal was to broker a deal that would ensure affluence, opportunities and peaceful living for generations of Canadians to come.

The unsigned contract at that table would later be called a constitution; the pawns, pieces and chips being moved around were nothing less than Canada's health care, powers of taxation, social programs and post-secondary education.

The two sides couldn't come to an agreement, and neither party got up from that table for decades. Some political scholars have said the results are like a nation-wide checkerboard — good for some, bad for others. Some argue that no one has left the table at all.

In the next few weeks, many of you will log in to Dal's online banner system to check your account status — and you'll become woefully aware of the checkerboard at the table.

Paying tuition fees in Nova Scotia is an experience not all that unlike highway robbery, and it's nothing but the product of an asymmetric federalist system that favours some provinces over others.

Welcome to the land of the have-nots.

Although Halifax is a relatively booming "minitropolis," and Nova Scotia receives federal equalization payments plundered from the coffers of richer western provinces, direct federal investment to the provinces

is, for the time being, based on how many people live there. Nova Scotia's lump health and social transfers are not based on a complex formula-like equalization — one that aims to be fair in a federal sense — but on simple math that pays per person.

All would be quiet on the eastern front, too, if Nova Scotia had demographics resembling the rest of Canada.

Instead, this province attracts more post-secondary students per capita than any other. Dalhousie itself attracts more out-of-province students than other universities in Canada, and the numbers aren't all that different for Nova Scotia's seven other universities. Post-secondary funding to Nova Scotia, based on the per-capita formula, cannot begin to cover the huge body of students who come here to study.

Simply put, there are too many students in this sparsely populated province. The result is that students here have to pay \$2,000 more per year in tuition than the average Canadian student.

If you don't like it, I offer this advice: transfer to a university in another province.

Although sustainable PSE funding may be on the campaign agenda in next spring's provincial election, acting on this agenda will be a long time coming.

Don't get me wrong; out-of-province students aren't necessarily bad for Nova Scotia — far from it. They contribute to the local economy, pay rent, and prove that Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions can continue to attract interest from all over Canada and beyond, despite having the country's highest tuition rates.

Average undergraduate tuition fees	Stats Canada		
	1990/1991 (\$)	2000/2001	2005/2006
Canada	1,464	3,447	4,214
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,344	3,373	2,606
Prince Edward Island	1,874	3,499	4,645
Nova Scotia	1,941	4,631	6,281
New Brunswick	1,925	3,585	5,037
Quebec	904	1,819	1,900
Ontario	1,680	4,256	4,881
Manitoba	1,512	3,219	3,272
Saskatchewan	1,545	3,668	5,062
Alberta	1,286	3,907	5,125
British Columbia	1,808	2,592	4,874

But this is only half of the picture. As tuition fees continue to rise, post-secondary accessibility worsens. For PSE-hopefuls in Canada's poorer demographics, many of whom live in the Atlantic Provinces, attending university is becoming more of a pipe dream.

Many families cannot afford the steep tuition fees here, and they can't afford to send their kids halfway across the country to study, either.

Effectively, these PSE woes are a federal problem. In 1995, faced with a crippling debt and one of the worst credit ratings in the Western world, then-Finance Minister Paul Martin and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien slashed and burned much of the federal government's expense sheet. This wasn't much of a problem for provinces with solid finances — Alberta, blessed with oil, and Ontario, blessed with automotive manufacturing, missed nary a step.

Nova Scotia, blessed with the near extinction of codfish, the collapse of the local coal industry, a non-performing steel plant, a corrupt Liberal government and, of course, crippling debt, did not fare

so well once the reins were cut lose. A good economy Peggy's Cove and the Cabot Trail do not make.

But placing blame for Nova Scotia's post-secondary problem is not easy. Because the federal government sends funds to provinces in one large, seamless sum, they can rightfully claim that it's up to provincial government to pay for post-secondary institutions, and write those paychecks.

Provincial governments, although they're constitutionally responsible for education, can complain that these seamless sums aren't enough to cover all their expenses. People often die in our hospitals, for example, and sometimes we can barely afford to give them beds.

Worse, students rarely vote. From a shortsighted political perspective, placing the values of students alongside those of those who vote is not a smart decision. The normal length of a government's term in office — four years — is about the same as the amount of time it will take you to complete your undergrad.

Although students necessarily become the voters of tomorrow, our

priorities are not high on any four-year agenda.

In short, when faced with cutting basic medical care or university subsidies, governments will always choose to do the latter.

Federally speaking, changing the formula so that provinces are funded per-student rather than per-capita is well off the radar. British Columbia, the province that benefits most from the formula because of its relatively small student population and enormous amount of retirees, has more seats in the House of Commons than all the Atlantic provinces combined.

Despite recent increases in federal student aid and scholarships you can count the federal government out of the transfer equation.

The key to improving access to PSE in Canada, if there is one, may be a matter of working around the federal formula, at a provincial level, to free up funds for education renewal.

Keeping the provincial books balanced, paying down the debt, and then slowly renewing funding to PSE and social programs should all be priorities of Nova Scotia's current and next provincial government. A spendthrift agenda is not what is needed in this province — keep that in mind next time you suit up for a tuition protest.

In the meantime, Nova Scotia's students will have to keep paying the highest tuition fees in the country. And that means that we, as members of that demographic, will have to keep footing the PSE bill. If you don't like it, well, all I can do is offer that advice again: move, enroll somewhere else, and have pity on us have-nots.

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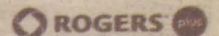
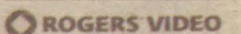
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# Increase in aid fits the bill for Dal admin, not students

REID SOUTHWICK  
News Editor

Dalhousie's administration is adding over \$900,000 in new funds to student aid — but these increases come on the heels of widely unpopular increases to professional degree tuition.

The new spending allocates a hike of around \$200,000 for undergraduate scholarships and nearly \$175,000 will go to on-campus employment opportunities, which are the big-ticket items.

"Students always rank high in the priority list when the [university's operating] budget is drafted," says Dalhousie president Tom Traves, noting that the total student aid spending of \$35 million accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the total income Dal receives from tuition.

The increase in bursaries allocated for medical, dental and law students, however, consists of less than 20 per cent of the overall hike.

Many students in these faculties argue that they were hit the hardest by tuition increases and that kickbacks in the form of bursaries will not make their programs more accessible to incoming students.

Bursaries are awarded only after a student is enrolled, and there are no guarantees for getting one.

"Accessibility is a large concern not just for students but for the larger community as well," says law student Frank Durnford.

"We are talking about professionals who are going back to the communities and it is important that those communities be representative of all economic and cultural backgrounds."

The Budget Advisory Committee's recommendation last year to increase tuition for professional students by 9.28 per cent and the international deferential fee by \$810 was loudly protested. The Board of Governors' original vote on the budget was postponed as a result of the protests.

Senior administration then scrambled to compile adjustments that were possible to make within the university's resources. An increase of \$933,000 in student aid, which was 63 per cent more than what was originally planned, was included in those adjustments.

The revised budget passed by only one vote, with 10 against and 11 in favour.

"It is not a common thing to make a huge commitment into extra financial aid," says the new Vice President (Student Services) Bonnie Neuman.

"It is especially not common for a university to do it voluntarily," says Neuman, who has worked in three Canadian universities for about 25 years.

Ontario law states that a set percentage of the fees that universities charge must go toward student aid.

"At Dal, we did it because we want to make sure that we are a university that stays accessible to the students for whom it is a challenge to pull together all of the funds," says Neuman.

Neuman says one of the most important benefits of the increase in aid is the rise in funding for on-campus employment, which now sits at about \$1.8 million.

On-campus employers are more understanding of academic responsibilities and being able to work close to school allows students to build work experience without having to waste time commuting.

"And very often, those students are in jobs that benefit other students," she says.

Breakdown of big-ticket items	Total commitment 2005-2006	Increase from 2004-2005
Undergraduate Scholarships (Entrance Renewables, Renewals, In-Course)	\$1,148,000	\$200,000
Undergraduate Entrance Leadership Scholarship	\$200,000	\$100,000
Undergraduate Bursaries	\$1,772,000	\$28,000
On-Campus Employment	\$1,809,863	\$174,863
International Student Bursaries Undergraduate/Graduate	\$124,500	\$56,100
Scholarships for First Nations and Indigenous Black Students	\$30,000	\$30,000

# Around the world in radio waves

## Former CKDU-FM worker makes noise in Afghanistan

JESS MCDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

This time last year, former Station Coordinator Shelley Robinson could be found working inside CKDU-FM's offices on the fourth floor of the SUB. A few days ago, she was driving down dry river beds littered with tanks in northern Afghanistan on her way to a meeting for observers of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Robinson flew to the war-ravaged country in February 2005, and spent her first four and a half months working at Radio Rabia Balkhi (RRB). Named after a famous Persian poetess, RRB was one of the first independent radio stations to emerge in post-Taliban Afghanistan and relies on an almost entirely female staff.

"It was about bringing women's voices to a place where it had literally been against the law a few years before," says Robinson in an email interview from Faisabad in northeast Afghanistan.

"Working with women, I didn't get the sense [that these were] poor, voiceless, oppressed people," she

**"It was about bringing women's voices to a place where it had literally been against the law a few years before."**

*Shelley Robinson, former CKDU-FM station coordinator*

says. "I knew these loud, hilarious girls who were smart and media savvy and bossy and talked about boys and taught me some bad words. They also pulled up their headscarves when men walked in the room."

RRB broadcasts to more than 200,000 listeners. Robinson says the high illiteracy rate and widespread poverty means newspapers and television are inaccessible to most people.

"Independent radio is new and loved like crazy," she says.

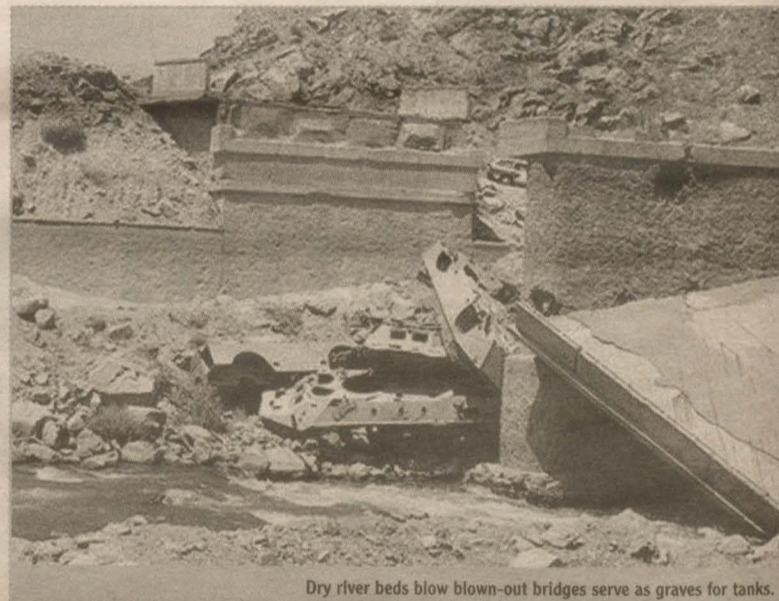
Under Taliban rule, Radio Voice of Shariah was the only national radio service and television was banned altogether. According to the BBC, today's Afghan press enjoys freedom of expression, though media watchdog Reporters Without Borders notes that regulatory bodies

are still under governmental control, and criticism of Islam and other religions is banned.

When Robinson left RRB about two months ago, the staff had just written a station constitution modeled on CKDU-FM's.

The former Dal student is now an external relations officer for the parliamentary and provincial council elections — to be held Sept. 18 — working under the United Nations Office for Project Services. She deals with candidates, media, international and domestic observers, political parties and other external groups. She also serves as a gender focal point, responsible for incorporating gender representation into the electoral process.

The Afghan peace-building mission is enormously challenging and



Dry river beds blow blown-out bridges serve as graves for tanks.

delicate, says Dalhousie professor of International Development Studies David Black.

"Such peace-building operations have a very checkered history," he says. "There have been some significant successes, and some tragic failures."

Robinson says that the will to succeed in rebuilding the country is definitely there.

"I am astonished by people's eagerness to participate in this process: as candidates, as voters, as observers, everything," she says.

"I think there is always hope."

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# Dal closes residences... again

JESS McDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

More than 400 beds will lie empty in Dalhousie's residences this year after similar vacancies last year resulted in revenue losses of approximately \$350,000.

Housing, Conference and Ancillary Services (HCAS) has already re-worked this year's budget twice in an effort to minimize deficits caused by the empty spaces, which included cutting staff positions, says director Heather Sutherland.

"We've had to tighten the belt anywhere possible," says Sutherland. "You won't find any of us going to conferences right now."

Several floors in Shirreff Hall are closed this year, and Studley House and O'Brien Hall have been completely shut down.

HCAS is an ancillary, which means it does not receive operating funds from the university and is responsible for the debts that it incurs. It is hoping to rent the closed building space for the year in order to keep its debts to a minimum.

Students who had jobs in the affected buildings were all offered positions in other residences. Jonathan Gaudet was bound for the Presidency of Studley House Council, with his own room, a private bathroom and an honorarium of about \$1000. When Studley was closed, he was offered a position on Howe Hall Council, but declined.

"I was pretty disappointed about it," he says. "I was frosh of the year last year. I loved it, and I wanted to be a part of it again."

"Once they told me that Studley was shut down, I just lost interest."



Empty residence halls: a Dalhousie tradition? / Rafal Andronowski

Sutherland partially attributes the vacancies to this year's decrease in first-year enrolment, saying that the number of freshmen in residence is lower than what was expected. The opening of 490 beds in Risley Hall in Sept 2004 and the end of the double cohort of students from Ontario are factors as well, she says.

Sutherland also blames the trend whereby students typically only live in residence for their first year. After shouldering the burden of 400 empty spaces in the 2004/2005 academic year, HCAS launched a campaign to encourage students to return to residence this year with some success. There are 450 returning students in residence this year, compared with 300 last year.

Lisa Buchanan, the residence representative on the DSU Council, says

that the high cost of residence is another key component of the decision to live off-campus.

"The main concern that I've heard is that it's cheaper to live off-campus," she says.

Dalhousie's residence fees are the highest of all the Maritime universities, according to statistics from the Association of Atlantic Universities. The fees range from nearly \$7,500 to more than \$8,600 for the academic year, depending on the building and whether the room is shared.

"We're already having trouble filling the beds so the costs aren't going to go down if they can't fill the rooms," says Buchanan. "If they can't fill the beds, they can't make enough money to lower the cost of living in residence. It seems like a bad cycle we've gotten into."

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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 our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older.

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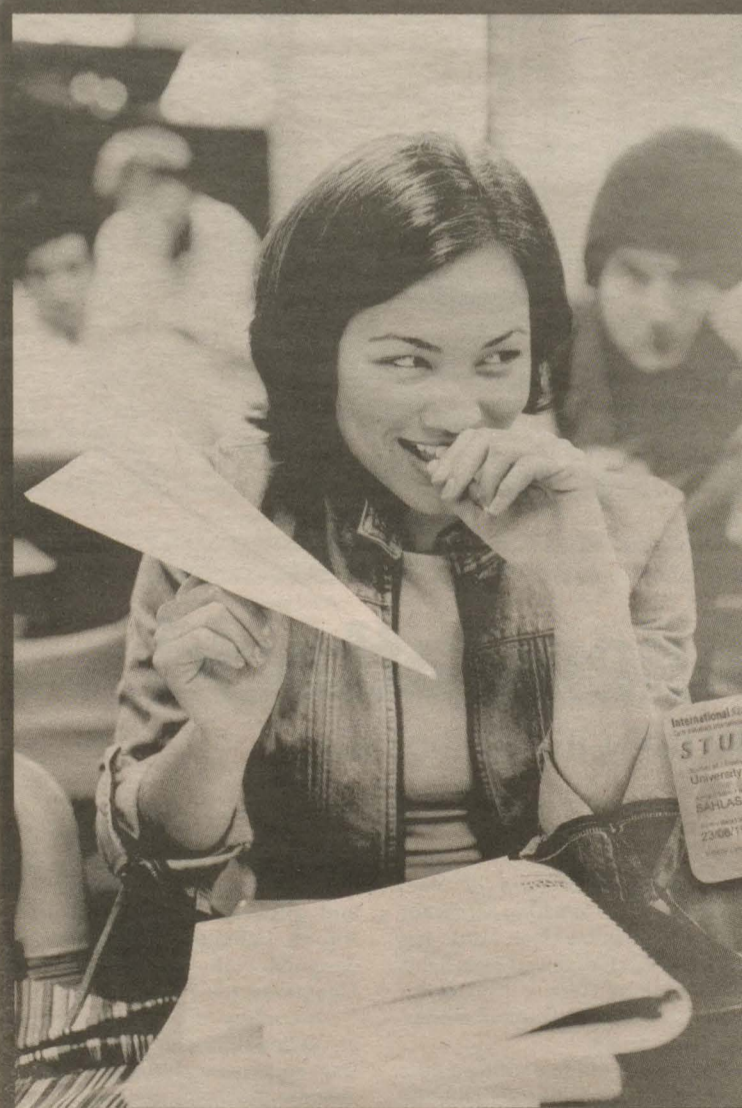
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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB. You can also drop in to our offices anytime after 4:30 p.m. on Monday or Tuesday. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

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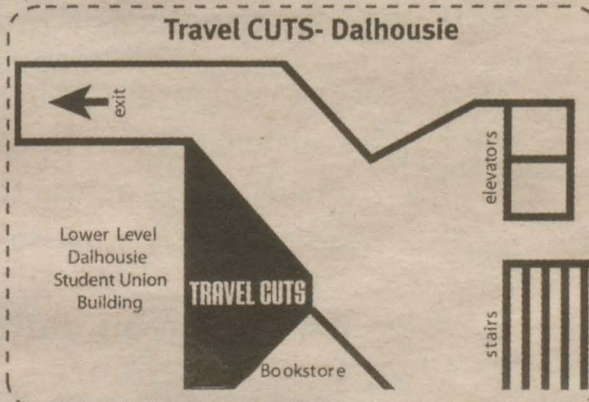
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# Dal opens door for displaced students

REID SOUTHWICK  
News Editor

Maritime universities are opening their doors to students left out in the cold by hurricane Katrina.

Acadia, for example, will provide five students with free tuition and residence accommodation, guarantee seats in their academic programs, and earmark 100 seats for students who will not have to pay the international deferential fee.

But Dalhousie — the university that offers the widest range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the Atlantic Provinces — has not set a limit on how many students it will take in, said Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby.

Students will be assessed based on their financial means, and how badly they were affected by the storm that devastated three American states and left about three dozen universities with varying degrees of damage.

"We would be prepared to do a lot more for someone who lived in New Orleans and whose family assets had been wiped out than someone who had not faced a financial impact other than losing access to their school and therefore their money invested in terms of paid fees," said Vice President (Student Services) Bonnie Neuman.

Dal will streamline the admissions process, waive the international student deferential fee, and may offer "significantly" discounted residence fees and expanded class sizes, depending on the circumstances, she said.

But the medicine, dentistry and law programs are full and can't accept



Tulane University, submerged in flood waters, has been evacuated.

any more students.

To send the message that Dal is willing to aid its American counterparts during the aftermath of a hurricane that displaced more than 180,000 students, the university's senior administration has been working through the Association of Atlantic Universities and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

These efforts have already reached a number of students, including a native to the Caribbean who was registered to study architecture at Tulane University, New Orleans. Her father contacted Dal on her behalf and the university is willing to enroll her.

According to Neuman, it is too early to tell if she will make the north-bound trip.

Many Nova Scotian universities agree that it is not likely they will receive a large influx of students. A website called CampusRelief.org lists more than 750 American universities and colleges who are willing to increase their enrolment.

"But it is important to show support to our fellow institutions in the [United] States," said Neuman. "And it is an important message to our students as well that we reach out to people in trouble and help in any way we can."

## Nova Scotia's Response

### St. Francis Xavier University

St. FX. is currently trying to establish contact with Xavier University of Louisiana and determine its needs. Communications manager Helen Murphy says that, given St. FX.'s small size — roughly 4,700 full and part time students — it has decided to scale down its contributions to a single university.

"We do realize time is of the essence to help out for this term so we are going to stay on top of this until we can determine how to make a meaningful contribution," she says.

St. FX. had not reached its American counterpart as of Sept. 12.

### Mount St. Vincent University

The Mount will be raising money for a single university in Louisiana to help repair buildings and replace damaged resources. The university will be organizing a series of fundraisers throughout the year but it hasn't planned any specific events of its own. A committee comprised of various campus organizations will meet in the coming weeks to select the recipient university.

### Cape Breton University

CBU's primary focus will be assisting with recovery efforts in affected areas. CBU researchers have developed an inexpensive solar water treatment system that could be used to sanitize the water.

Other CBU researchers can offer officials responsible for pumping contaminated water out of the affected areas with insight into ocean currents and organism survival in

contaminated water.

Finally, CBU offers a crime prevention program that enables professionals to recognize individuals at risk of committing a crime before they offend. University officials say that this program could help decrease the inclination to commit crimes that is currently an issue in affected areas.

### Université Sainte Anne

Sainte Anne will waive the international student deferential fee and, depending on the demand, will open another residence to accommodate as many as 75 people.

### Acadia University

Acadia is offering free tuition and residence fees, as well as guaranteed spots in Academic programs for five students. The university will also waive the international deferential fee and reserve seats for 100 students.

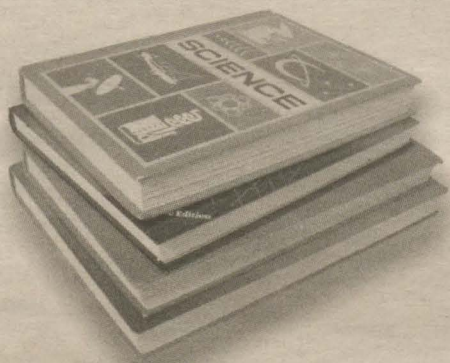
On a case-by-case basis, Acadia will consider either paying for travel accommodations upfront or reimbursing students once they arrive.

### St. Mary's University

SMU will assess students on a case-by-case basis. The university offers a variety of scholarships and bursaries that it's prepared to award displaced students. "We are willing to do whatever it takes," said public affairs officer Paul Fitzgerald.

SMU has also called upon its 34,000 alumni to donate to the Red Cross or United Way to help with the relief efforts.

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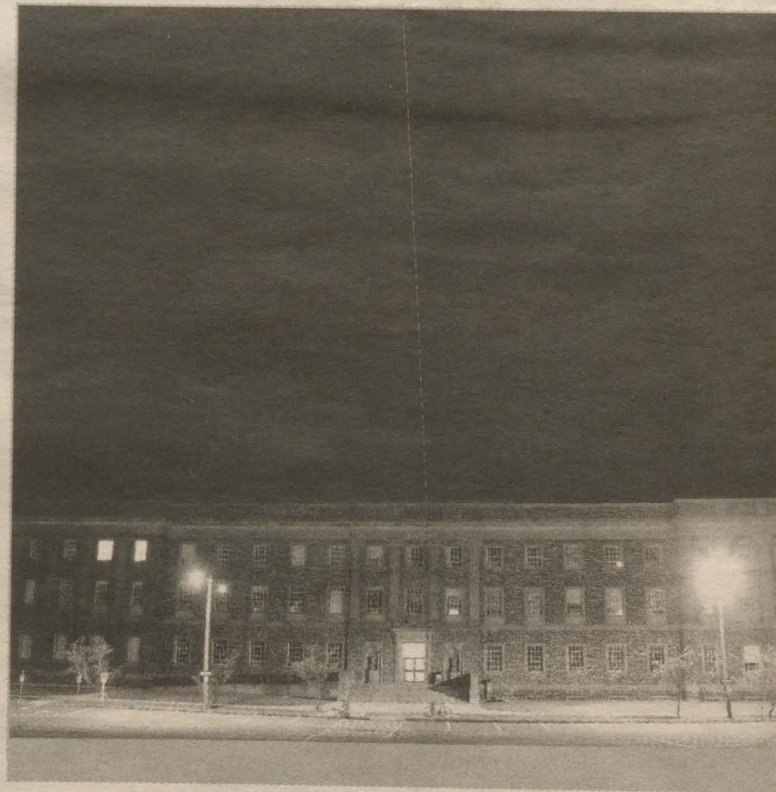
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## Aliens attack! Not really, it's just the Lidar

JESS MCDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

The long green beam of light that can be seen stretching across the sky over Halifax on clear nights has been mistaken for many things: lights from the Atlantic Jazz Festival, aliens landing in Nova Scotia, or an incoming nuclear attack.

But the laser is something a little less dramatic: officially called the "Lidar", the green beam is really just a series of light pulses sent from a laser on top of the Dunn Building on Dal campus.

The Lidar, which stands for laser radar, is used primarily to measure pollution in the atmosphere over the

province.

"Nova Scotia is known as the tail-pipe of North America, and for good reason," says Tom Duck, a physics and atmospheric sciences professor at Dalhousie whose students designed, built and now operate the Lidar under his direction.

According to Duck, trans-boundary pollution is a big issue right now. Data gathered with the Lidar will enable the processes that move pollutants to be better understood.

According to Environment Canada, air pollution that travels here from other places is the single largest contributing factor to poor air quality.



Rick Reimer at Sept. 10's Cannabis Liberation Day: not exactly your father's "Blowin' in the Wind." / Rafal Andronowski

## Pot smokers vow to fight the law

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI  
Photo Editor/ News Contributor

For anyone who became lost in a haze and missed the posters tacked on every pole in the city, here's some news for you: Sept. 10 was Cannabis Liberation Day.

Taking place at Grand Parade, the day's events featured speakers from across Canada and aimed to increase marijuana awareness. Despite extensive advertising, only about 50 people showed up, but many others drifted through to see what the fuss was about.

Alex Neron, a founding member of Quebec's Bloc Pot party and the

Marijuana Party of Canada, came to Halifax in hopes of uniting marijuana users across the country.

"We need to do more," he says. "We have to stop fighting between ourselves and fight [the law] together."

With the arrest of Mark Emery several weeks ago, marijuana supporters in Canada finally have a rallying point, says Mike Patriquen, the organizer of the Halifax event. He hopes this type of event will bring movements together across the country and raise awareness that marijuana should be legislated by the government, much like alcohol and tobacco.

"The law is not working, not accomplishing what it's supposed to do," says Marc-Boris St-Maurice, the president of The Marijuana Foundation.

"Law is supposed to decrease weed usage rates but it's not. Legislate to better control. Prohibition is the absence of control."

The speakers urged the gathered group to take active part in the fight to legalize marijuana by joining political parties and lobby groups.

Others, such as St-Maurice, had less conventional ideas: "The best way to oppose this law is to break this law and break it often, with a smile on your face!"

## News Briefs

### Dal Briefs

#### Girls Gone Wild bus seen near campus

Dalhousie spokesperson Charles Crosby received four separate reports on Sept. 9 from students that they had seen the *Girls Gone Wild* bus in the campus community.

Crosby contacted the Dal Women's Centre, which plans to wage a protest against the traveling soft-porn studio if it pulls into town. Coordinator Elizabeth McCormack called local media outlets to put them on alert and notified 10 volunteers from the Women's Centre to be on stand-by for action.

McCormack spent Friday and Saturday night driving around Halifax checking locations where the *Girls Gone Wild* crew might appear. However, the infamous auto never turned up.

#### Shinerama misses fundraising target

Shinerama Day at Dal this year raised \$37,044.55 for cystic fibrosis research—a sum significantly less than last year. DSU Vice President (Internal) Phil Duguay estimates that the total raised in the 2005 campaign will be about \$45,000 compared to more than \$60,000 in 2004.

"There's no science to charity," says Duguay, who cites the disaster in New Orleans and soaring gas prices as possible reasons that this year's campaign came up short.

#### New legal service unveiled

The DSU announced its intention to add legal advising to its list of student services. A lawyer will be available for a few hours per week to advise students on legal issues, particularly those surrounding the Residential Tenancies Act and problems with landlords.

Similar services already exist at other universities and are popular, says DSU President Ezra Edelstein. The service will start around the beginning of October. Appointments

can be made through the administrative assistant at the DSU.

### Canadian campus shorts

#### New millennium access grant in effect

The government of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation's new bursary program is now in effect. The Millennium Access Grant, announced in July 2005, allocates \$6 million over the next four years for students whose parents contribute less than \$1,000 annually to their education.

Eligible students will receive up to \$2,500 to reduce needs unmet by student loans, as well as up to \$1,000 to reduce student loan. The NS Department of Education estimates that the grant will assist 1,027 Nova Scotian students.

#### NB denied new med school

Proposals for establishing a medical school in New Brunswick were quashed recently by the Conservative government.

NB and Prince Edward Island are the only provinces that don't have their own medical schools. NB would need about \$80 million to set up the program, said Health and Wellness Minister Elvy Robichaud, and that is something that the province can't afford and isn't contemplating.

#### Putting some muscle into it

As MBA students at Queen's University hit the books this fall, more than just their studies are waiting for them. New MBA students are undergoing physical fitness assessments and certified personal trainers will give them advice on how to get into shape, all included as part of their program.

The goal is to promote fitness to future business leaders and is being called a Canadian first. Queen's says it will help prepare students for the business environment's stress and will help draw new students to its program.

### UBC students get stuck with Coke

The University of British Columbia's 43,000 students will have to drink Coca-Cola products on campus this semester and the soft drink company won't be paying a cent for it.

UBC signed a 10-year exclusivity agreement with Coke in 1995 for \$8.5 million, but students were required to drink 33.6 million bottles by this year or else the agreement would be extended for two more years without additional funding.

By the end of the contract students had only consumed 17 million bottles, or nearly six million litres, of Coke.

The deal was unpopular at UBC, where protests and boycotts were held, particularly when Coca-Cola's CEO visited the campus.

### South of the border

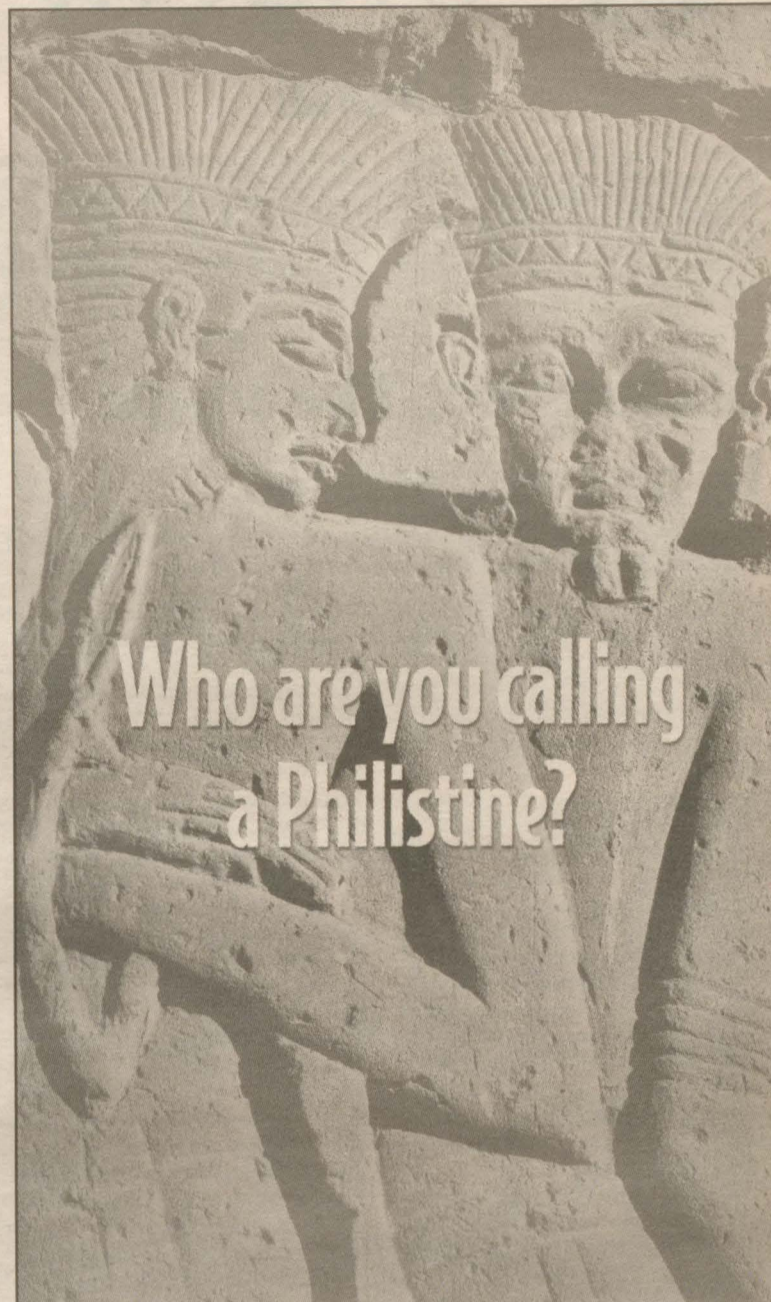
#### New Orleans schools cancel semester; 100,000 students displaced

Hurricane Katrina has caused universities in New Orleans to cancel the fall semester, affecting over 100,000 students according to the American Council on Education.

At the University of New Orleans, one-third of campus buildings are submerged, and at Dillard University, the entire campus is covered by eight feet of water. Dillard officials fear they have lost all student financial records.

Tulane and other schools have already collected millions of dollars in fall tuition fees and want to keep that money in order to finance their recoveries. Students who have already paid \$20,000 in tuition at Tulane are faced with paying fees a second time at the universities they transfer to.

Roughly 120 schools have offered to waive fees for students from the affected regions; many others are making less generous offers for the out-of-state students.



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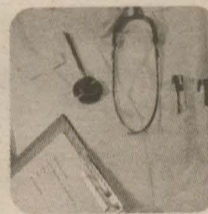
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# Gazette

## Editorial

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

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

The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

## Students won't be bought by new financial aid

While additional financial assistance promises to lessen student-debt at Dalhousie, unfair tuition hikes made to professional degree programs remain unaddressed.

Dalhousie's recent commitment to increase financial aid represents crucial progress made toward improving student life.

The extra \$300,000 allocated to undergraduate scholarships should allow both prospective and returning students to reduce their financial burdens.

The establishment of scholarship programs for First Nations and indigenous black students also clearly represents a landmark in the history of Dalhousie university finances.

Indeed, Vice President (Student Services) Bonnie Neuman says that a major increase in student aid — such as the \$933,000 Dal earmarked in this year's operating budget — is quite rare. Neuman would know — she has worked in Canadian universities for more than 25 years.

More importantly, this commitment of funds demonstrates that Dal's senior administration appreciates the disadvantaged position that financially burdened students increasingly find themselves in. On behalf of his colleagues, president Tom Traves recommended the Board of Governors approve a 63 per cent increase over what was already budgeted.

This new commitment, however, merely serves as window dressing for a larger issue that cannot be swept under the rug.

The controversial 9.28 per cent rise in professional degree tuition fees was central to the Board of Governors' decision to postpone its initial vote on the budget last term.

The law school alone demon-

strated that much of the evidence the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) provided in support of the increase was potentially flawed and incomplete.

The committee stated that Dal's law tuition fees for 2004/2005 were comparatively lower than other leading universities in the country — and thus an increase was warranted.

But Richard Evans, then co-chair of the law department Student Finance Committee, found that roughly \$2,500-worth of auxiliary and incidental fees were left out of the BAC equation. Had they been included, Dal would have been given a higher tuition fee ranking.

The BAC also cited that favourable job prospects for recent professional degree graduates represented further criteria for its recommended tuition increase. The committee, however, did not provide any information that guided its findings.

While this paper understands that a lack of meaningful government funding for post-secondary education imposes considerable constraints on the university's budget, it holds fast in calling for greater transparency in the calculation of future tuition fee increases for professional students.

Tuition fee increases for some programs and not for others should not be an approach taken by the administration if it plans to ameliorate Dalhousie's standing at home and abroad — especially when evidence cited for those increases is proven questionable by trustworthy sources.

## Residence fees keep students away

For the second year in a row, Dalhousie's residences will have about 400 empty spaces, racking up considerable debts for Housing, Conference and Ancillary Services (HCAS).

Despite the efforts of HCAS to cut its budget and raise money through other operations, residence fees — already the highest in Atlantic Canada — will have to make up some of the lost revenue.

Living in residence is already expensive. The fees for an academic year range from roughly \$7,500 to more than \$8,500, which means students pay about \$900 to \$1,100 per month for their accommodation, food, and bills.

HCAS wants to make up for a low number of first year students by increasing the number of returning students. Expecting upper-year students to return in numbers great enough to fill the vacancies, however, is naïve.

Why would students live in resi-

dence when they can live off-campus for the same amount of money, or perhaps less?

While living in residence costs a lot, it offers little. Students sleep and study in cramped, often shared rooms and 10 to 20 students use one bathroom.

The décor is aesthetically criminal, strict liquor policies are imposed and at least one person per floor feels the need to assault the house with their bad taste in music.

Perhaps, worst of all, is the food that is responsible for the "Aramark Runs" — the state of rez students' digestive systems for the first few weeks of school while they adjust to cafeteria dining.

HCAS needs its residences to be full to make ends meet. Since students aren't going to be enticed back by the quality of residence life compared to off-campus options, there needs to be some other lure — it has to be cheaper.

## Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

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

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

While it's great to buy a textbook for half the amount you would pay in the Bookstore, two things about this service really bug me.

Firstly, the annoying online form letter that says, "I am interested in purchasing your copy of [insert title here]" infuriates me. What kind of

moron is able to design a website but unable to spell the word "purchasing"?

Secondly, trying to find the person you agreed to sell your book to amidst the hordes of people milling in front of the SUB is enough to drive one mad. At least you're not

alone: there are always a few people leaning against that concrete block, their eyes searching the crowd while they restlessly adjust their textbook in the hopes of making themselves more conspicuous to the person who agreed to buy it.

VENT: Tigerbooks Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

# What I didn't do on my summer vacation

JENNIFER MORRISON  
Opinions Contributor

At elementary schools across the land, sun-baked children are comparing notes on their summer vacations. They are likely regaling each other with tales of cottages, beaches, grandparents' houses, outdoor sports and ice cream cones. I certainly hope they enjoyed their precious months off, because the summer vacation is fast becoming an endangered species.

As a sociological experiment — also known as sheer post-graduation exhaustion — I took the summer off to recharge my batteries for law school. No work, no school, lots of play. In fact, it's easier to list what I didn't do this summer than what I did do. I didn't get a job, because I had worked all year and saved enough money to finance a social life.

When September rolled around, I was proud of my decision and not ashamed of my self-inflicted unemployment. In the grand scheme of things, after all, having a tiny gap of relaxation on my resume won't

impact my chance to have a stellar legal career.

I didn't read deep insightful books either, because I had just spent four years doing that and I wanted to read fluffy girly books instead. I didn't do anything exotic, like backpacking in Europe, but I did see plenty of Nova Scotia. I didn't get up early, because I knew sleep would be a rare commodity in the Weldon world of 8:30 a.m. classes and late-night reading (and drinking) sessions.

I know I was lucky to have a pretty luxurious summer — too many students need to work multiple jobs all year if they want to finish university. But how can overworked 20-somethings arrive in September refreshed and ready to learn if they haven't even had a weekend off since May? There's something to be said for the elementary school way of doing things, where students (and teachers) are rewarded with an extended break during the nicest time of the year.

But, if anything, the West is moving farther away from valuing vacation. I recently read that a majority

of Canadians don't take all of their vacation time, because they fear punishment from their bosses. And in France, that bastion of the leisurely work ethic, the treasured 35-hour workweek is disappearing as economic interests trump concern for citizens' wellbeing.

Even at Dalhousie law school, the talk is already frantic about summer jobs — summer 2006, that is. Before I began orientation week, I received emails about applying ASAP for law firm jobs starting next year.

It all makes me question the moral underpinnings of our work obsession, and wonder what the rat racers are missing on their climb up the corporate ladder. If everyone took a breath, picked up a glossy magazine, and had a weekend get-away every once in a while, wouldn't school and office life be a lot easier to handle? Stress breeds stress, especially in a society where people are primarily defined by their degrees and job titles.

Money, experience, and ambition are all fine and dandy, but not when vacation dreams have to die.

# In pot we trust

SARAH VANDERWOLF  
Opinions Editor

Only the deaf and blind could have walked by Grand Parade Square last Saturday without noticing the great commotion taking place as a result of Cannabis Liberation Day.

From 12 until 5 p.m. on Sept. 10, attendees of this event enjoyed live entertainment and scheduled speakers, all thanks to an organization known as NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Canada). Since cannabis' presence on any university campus is, admit it, as endemic as alcohol and cigarettes, this is an issue students should think about.

While the aim of this event is clearly to encourage the Canadian government to rethink its position on marijuana smoking, it precipitated from the arrest of Marc Emery. From his humble beginnings of managing a used bookstore in London, ON, to holding presidency in the Marijuana Party, Emery has established a name

for himself among pot users everywhere.

Since their arrest on July 29, Emery and two of his associates face extradition to the US and potential life sentencing for selling marijuana seeds to Americans by mail. If the efforts of NORML are successful, Emery and his associates will stay within Canadian borders and face a less harsh sentence for their actions. Ideally, they wouldn't receive any punishment, since NORML aims to "eliminate all civil and criminal penalties for private marijuana use."

One member of NORML writes that just as gay marriage is now common when it was once forbidden, it will soon become legal to consummate one's relationship with drugs such as marijuana.

While some may consider Emery and members of NORML to be drug-crazed extremists, their views should be taken seriously. Let's face it, people smoke pot whether it's legal or not, so why not make it safer by legalizing and regulating it?

Illegalizing common practices

such as drinking alcohol, giving abortions, and smoking weed doesn't stop people from doing them, as past trends such as Prohibition have shown. Instead, people are forced to engage in these behaviours in a completely unregulated and potentially dangerous way.

Marijuana use is less harmful than cigarette smoking, and its therapeutic effects are common knowledge. Even if you don't smoke pot, consider showing your solidarity with Emery, who says he wants to stop the cultural genocide against "164,000,000 people who, according to the UN last year, cherish marijuana in their lives."

He also claims that, since 1955, 24 million people worldwide have been arrested for what he calls "their belief in cannabis."

No one is persecuted for supporting alcohol consumption (not since the 1920s, anyway), so why are pot smokers being singled out? Maybe Cannabis Liberation Day will make the federal government ask this question.

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# Knowing when to fold 'em

Is gambling the new cocaine?

DANNY MENDELSON  
Opinions Contributor

Our culture is embracing gambling at a startling rate. Poker and other forms of gambling are online and all over our television screens. Right here in Halifax there's the ever-popular Casino Nova Scotia, where gambling establishes itself in the lives of many new followers each year.

According to Stats Canada, in 2002 approximately 19 million adult Canadians spent \$11.3 billion on gambling through casinos, slot machines, VLTs, lottery tickets and bingo; this was four times the amount spent in 1992. For some, gambling has become a debilitating addiction with terrible consequences.

I can understand how substance abuse arises. Drugs are physiologically rewarding, and inevitable cycles of withdrawal and relapse can easily develop into a drug addiction.

But gambling isn't a substance. It's a behavior like playing guitar or paragliding.

Why do so many people lose con-

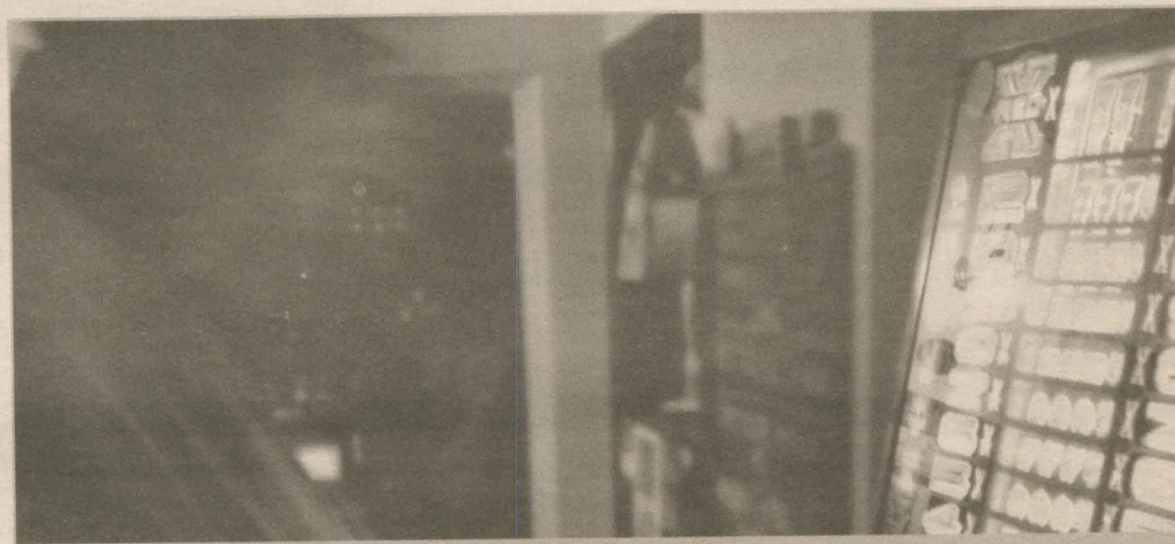
trol over a process that doesn't cause any physical withdrawal?

In our society, financial gain can produce feelings as euphoric as any response to a drug. While our ancestors depended upon food for their subsistence, we now think about survival primarily in terms of money. Gambling can be euphoric because the behavior stimulates brain processes intended to be rewarding for the purpose of survival.

There is a sense of accomplishment in defeating an opponent through clever tactics and thoughtful strategy. Just as an athlete feels an instinctual attraction to winning a competition, a gambler is attracted to the monetary thrill of being a big winner.

Unfortunately for the public, the casinos and online poker sites are aware of gambling's addictive properties and they create an environment intended to manipulate our instincts and prey on desired behaviors.

Some casinos pump oxygen to provide the customer with "energy." Drinks are usually cheap because



Is this man being slow-played?

alcohol impairs rational decision-making and judgment.

Anyone can gamble conveniently on any computer where hands are dealt in fractions of a second. This constant stimulation can lead any gambler down the slippery slope of addiction—the same consequence as the effects of drugs such as cocaine and heroin. When you walk into a ca-

sino, you surrender your self-control to the gambling industry. To make things worse, there are no direct health consequences to gambling, so it's difficult to recognize.

To self-diagnose a gambling problem, ask yourself these questions: Does your performance in gambling strongly influence your emotional state (are you euphoric when you

win and depressed when you lose)? Do you forgo other responsibilities to gamble, or have you lied to loved ones about your gambling? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, maybe it's time to fold 'em for good, because you're probably being slow-played.

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# Slacking off will leave you with nothing but regret

ANONYMOUS

"Welcome to Dalhousie." These are words that inspire a bevy of emotions: excitement, trepidation, homesickness, longing and in my case, regret.

I was a frosh in 1995. By 1999, I was given academic probation and asked to leave the school. It took six years, but I am back and looking to finish my degree.

I could be blithe, I could be flip-pant or I could offer any number of excuses as to why what happened, happened.

One of the benefits of age, experience and hindsight is that it affords you a particular advantage: honesty and acceptance.

I fucked up. Out of decent intentions and a freedom-induced myopia, I went a little crazy.

Dal offers a wide assortment of options for those who would take

them up. Education, and subsequently grades, can very easily take a back seat if you let them.

While at Dal, I wrote two stories a week for *The Gazette*. I was also on DSU council, the Judicial Board, and the University Senate (the highest Academic body in the school).

I was president of two different societies, I organized pub-crawls and keggers, and I ran for DSU President (but lost). I also worked various part time jobs and was a fixture in the Grawood.

I cheered on the Tigers and became involved in provincial politics. I even helped organize a protest against something or other.

The one thing I didn't do much of was schoolwork.

It was never one big decision. If it had been, I would never have made it. But no one ever puts a gun to your head.

It's always a series of small deci-

sions that roll onto each other like a snowball rolling down a mountain.

Tonight I won't do my paper on "Thatcher: Fascist or Courageous Conservative." Instead, I will drink my brains into train oil. It may seem like one night and one paper, but it's a mindset — what I want to do versus what I need to do.

You can have it all. I knew a girl back in 1999 who was involved in life outside of school and managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA. She, however, knew when to say enough is enough. She knew when to say no. Her first consideration was always her education, and everything else she squeezed in around that.

I got lucky.

Despite leaving Halifax under a cloud, I fell into a \$100,000 job and a fair amount of regret. Despite being a nationally recognized expert in my field, I quit the job and came back, because I can't live with the regret.

# Meaningless sex is not the answer

SARAH VANDERWOLF  
Opinions Editor

As per usual, sex-lady Sue Johansen made her rounds to various universities' frosh weeks, including Dalhousie's and Mount Saint Vincent's, to offer eager students tips and information on how to maximize their sexual potential.

Anyone who missed her appearance at Dal can peruse her extensive website and find a gamut of information on topics from anal sex to zygotes. The breadth of her site is awe-inspiring — anyone seeking information on the "A-spot" in males, Chlamydia, pornography, birth control, kegel exercises, impotence, and even jelqing (stretching the penis) will not be disappointed.

While Ms. Johansen's openness and frankness about such personal issues is to be lauded for its instructional value, Sue Johansen seems to epitomize the common attitude that

sex solves all. Are you lonely? Find someone to have sex with! Are you and your partner arguing? Have great make-up sex and your problems will disappear! Stressed out? Have sex and stress will be just a memory!

Yet anyone with a shred of experience will tell you that meaningless sexual encounters do not combat loneliness, resentment or stress. Sex without trust and mutuality can feel exploitive and degrading.

The divorce rate in North America indicates that all is not well between partners, and saturating society with sex will not remedy the situation. True intimacy stems from knowing another person's mind, not just their body.

Still, it's hard to argue with a woman confident enough to put a condom on a dildo with her mouth in public.

Kudos to the uninhibited Sue Johansen for yet another successful year of touring.

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## STREETER

What is the biggest fashion faux-pas this Fall?



“Wearing sunglasses indoors.  
**Steve Danbrook**, fourth-year psychology



“Upturned collars and cowboy hats.  
**Jeremiah Bell**, fourth-year kinesiology



“Wearing white after Labour Day.  
**Caitlin Grzeslo**, third-year Political Science/IDS



“Girls who wear see-through shirts or show bra straps. Dirty!!  
**Sarah Amyotte**, first-year Political Science



“Girls wearing really baggy jeans.  
**Ashlee d'Entremont**, first-year Arts



“Wearing sweatpants underneath a miniskirt.  
**Daniel Rossignol**, third-year management



“Dudes in Aviators, come on.  
**Jeff Moraira**, fifth-year philosophy



“Underpants on the inside.  
**Chris LaRoche**, third-year office narcolepsy

## TOP 10

- SQUEEZING EVERY LAST DROP OF MILEAGE OUT OF SKIRT SEASON**  
The “snow-skirt” just never got enough of a foothold to blow up.
- ANY EXPECTATIONS YOU HAVE CONCERNING THE MOVIE THE MAN**  
Stick them in The Bag and flush them down The Toilet.
- RISING GAS PRICES CORRELATING WITH RISING TUITION**  
Dal president Tom Traves declares war on U of T to “fight the tuition there so we don't have to fight it here.”
- POKER TOURNAMENTS AT THE DOME**  
Throw in an all-you-can-eat buffet and I think that we've covered all of them deadly sins.
- THE POOR SHOWING AT CANNABIS LIBERATION DAY**  
Is there ever a right time to miss something because you were stoned?
- THE NEAR-COMPLETION OF THE NEW COMMERCE BUILDING**  
Who will grin and gawk and glare at the girls passing by now?
- THE CREATION OF THE DAL BOOSTER CLUB**  
Proving once and for all that it is impossible to have less than zero school spirit.
- WIENER WARS OUTSIDE THE SUB: PART II**  
Who in their right minds would want a beef with the Dawgfather?
- SLOAN RETURNING TO HALIFAX**  
Like selling out... only backwards.
- THE LOLLIPOP FLAVOURED CONDOMS IN THE FROSH PACKS**  
Ensuring all frosh will develop a candy fetish.

## HOT

Charity bracelets  
 Pubic Relations  
 Holding on to your crotch  
 Marrying a Playboy bunny  
 Asking for charity money  
 Kanye West  
 Magic powers  
 Operation Fallback  
 Jon Epworth's Paul Hammond wig  
 Arts Holes

## NOT

Actively supporting charities  
 Public Relations  
 Holding on to your ego  
 Being related to Dr. Phil  
 Asking for charity money from the homeless  
 The West Wing  
 Tragic powers  
 Operation Makeout  
 Paul Hammond  
 Assholes

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

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

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When the names Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are spoken aloud in most social circles, a chain of groans and eye rolling set forth. The stars have publicized their infatuation with each other to the point of excess.

What is it with those two? Exaggerated mutual praise, public make-outs, broadcasting their love atop Oprah's chair... is this legitimate infatuation or just Tom's mid-life crisis?

Whatever the reason, it seems public displays of affection – once found only at middle school dances and The Palace – have now become a Hollywood fad. Unlike the "Palacites" and junior high kids, these stars are (presumably) not drunk.

While it is great that young Joey from the *Creek* has found her Maverick, the self-inflicted overexposure of their relationship is obnoxious

and somewhat embarrassing. There are other ways for the two to gain publicity.

Try charity perhaps.

Another couple that seems to have missed the memo about PDA is the newlyweds Britney and Kevin Federline.

Last spring, despite Britney's activism against paparazzi coverage of her personal life, the two publicly released their personal

honeymoon videos as a television show. Oddly enough, Britney's fans were less than interested in the couple's smooches and baby talk.

The key to success in this department is clear: either take a tip from Nick and Jessica and keep it clean, or just go all-out like Paris' sex video.

Playing the middle field is a bust – not to mention annoying.

ARTS HOLE: Thumbs Down, Maverick

Sarah Bridge / Arts Contributor

# FANDEMONIUM

## SONGS IN THE KEY OF JAY

The Gazette asked local musician Mary Cobham to express her undying love for Sloan guitarist Jay Ferguson. Here are the results, in pure *Teen Beat* style.

### Questions in the Key of Jay!

Mary Cobham was selected as our choice fan of the week because of her undying and sometimes obsessive interest in Jay Ferguson of Sloan. What made her stand out? Creatively inspired by Jay, she recorded the album *Songs in the Key of Jay*. OMG! Now that's a fan!

### Mary, tell us about the album.

The album is a musical tribute to Jay Ferguson, referencing my personal feelings about him as well as a lot of the silly aspects of teen magazine culture that most North American girls have encountered at one time or another growing up.

### Silly? I think not. Why is Jay so dreamy?

He's a sweetie pie. It comes through in the way he sings, the songs he writes, the way he plays the guitar and the way he dances on stage.

### What makes you his biggest fan?

I would go further than anyone else to get his attention and adore him. And, I truly, truly think that I like him more than anyone else in the universe.

### If you could spend one day with Jay, what would you do?

I would look through his record collection and we'd put on Maureen Tucker records and dance to them in his living room.

We'd hold hands and skip through wheat fields. You know, the usual. And, maybe, just as the sun goes down, he'd serenade me with a song he wrote about me.

### What's your favourite Jay song and why?

My current favourite is "Are You Giving Me Back My Love?" because he is really singing his heart out... to me. Even though, ironically, the song seems to be about being dumped.



See Jay Ferguson and the rest of Sloan play Friday, Sept. 23, 8:30 p.m. at the Dalhousie McInnes Room. The Stills are the opening act. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance through the Rebecca Cohn Box Office.

## Letter Dedicated to you Jay

Dear Jay:

Hi! I am writing this letter to you while listening to my all-Jay mix tape! My name is Mary Aislinn Vanessa Cobham and I think you are sooo cute! Much cuter than Chris and Patrick and Andrew. You have the best smile and your eyes shine like the star that you are in my heart.

We should get to know each other. We could go to the zoo, to the movies, get ice cream (but not chocolate because I know you're allergic), and drink strawberry boost, your favourite drink. Because I am a totally clueless teen girl, I just know you're going to want to hang out with me. And after

we get to know each other better, we can be boyfriend and girlfriend! We can hold hands, kiss, and fly over a rainbow on a pegasus. The pegasus' name will be Junior Panther, like your song, and you will be my pot of gold. : ) Our lives would be so rich together!

I just know you're going to like me because I like you so much. Sometimes at night I close my eyes and I dream that we will someday live in a magical valley with a castle on the beach. You will write your songs all day as I swim with the dolphins. I will pick out your clothes and make dinner, and lunch, AND breakfast (which will be easy, since you only like to eat

strawberry boost) and we'll be just like Ken and Barbie. Or, even like Dylan and Brenda when they fell in love on 90210. But our postal code would be L-O-V-E.

I just know we're going to make it through everything that comes our way...

I can't wait for you to write me back and tell me when you want to meet.

Hearts, smiles, and stars,

Mary C.  
www.justfriends.ca/maughams

POEM FOR JAY

Jay with your eyes of blue  
You don't know how much I love you  
Your sandy hair shines in the sun  
I think we could have such fun

The songs you write, they pass the test  
Junior Panthers is the best.  
And soon Sloan will play a show  
I really hope that I can go

When I see you on the TV screen  
I think that I am going to scream  
It makes me glad to see you so  
Cute in the music video.

I wrote this poem just to say  
I want to yell hooray! hooray!  
Because you always make my day  
You are the best, my darling Jay.

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"People on campus actually have style this year." / Rafal Andronowski

# Sartorial Eloquence

The Gazette's resident fashion columnist thinks, "Damn you look fine."

NADINE LAROCHE  
Copy Editor/Fashionist

On a walk from the Killam Library to the SUB, I pass by one argyle sweater, two knee-length full skirts, three pairs of wedge heels, four pairs of adorable flats, a handful of cropped sweaters, lots of purple, no overly-faded jeans, no American Eagle hoodies, and not one mini skirt. I turn to my friend and open my mouth wide in exaggerated excitement.

"Damn," I say. "People on campus actually have style this year."

I arrived on campus two weeks ago prepared to spend the year cringing at fashion victims and observing the Halifax clone style phenomenon. This year's frosh, however, have surpassed my expectations.

Let's keep in mind that I'm ignoring all the chest-spilling halters and barely-there minis that sprinkled Dal campus during the after-hours of frosh week. I'm hoping all the young ladies got the Dome attire out of their systems and will return to clothing that doesn't require a pole to make sense.

During the day, when the T&A is resting, this year's froshettes are looking delightfully debonair in sophisti-

cated style from head to toe—well, at least some of them. Really, you have to pick the best pieces from a dozen or so and smash them all together to make one runway runaway, but still, these are the best young'ins I've seen yet.

The style bug is spreading fast across campus—it even made it to King's.

After class last week, I exited the Link through the New Academic Building and stopped to fix my bag in front of the FYP lecture hall. It was 11:30 a.m. and that means primetime for fypie hippie spotting.

The Alumni Hall doors swung open and out poured the entire Foundation Year Programme class. I tried to pull my eyes away from what I knew would be a fashion disaster, but just as we sick humans like to look at bloody cuts and car wrecks, I stared at the flood of fypies.

I braced myself for the usual wool socks and Birkenstocks, the Mason-jar mugs, the excessively patched jeans, the matted pre-dread hair, and the drawn-out speech ("that is, like, so epic")—all the new-age hippie traits FYP students are known for (even if they don't possess them).

But this year's fypies left their Ma-

son jars at home.

I'm not promoting that we all jump on the mod-squad-hipster bandwagon, but the skinny pants, Chucks, Value Village tees and vintage dresses (that, I might add, all matched) that covered the FYP students this fall were a nice, clean change from the typical haphazard Kingsian fashion.

Even the T-dotterers—my usual subjects of style scrutiny—have traded in their tired Roots sweatpants and Lulus for adorable wide-legged gauchos.

So why the sudden slip into style? I give credit to whoever is responsible for the simplicity of fashion this season.

With a few key pieces — conveniently carried over from the last time the temperature dropped — anyone can have style.

Just think outerwear and footwear. For the ladies, the trusty blazer has a new twist this season with a military flare. Footwear stays low with vintage flats topped with over-sized buckles and textured fabrics. For the men, button up in a slim blazer or zip into a mock neck sweater and slip your feet into a sleek pair of old-school Vans, Chucks or Pumas.

## This Week's Picks

An Entertainment Pick by Ashleigh Gaul

Local Crop by Mark Little



CocoRosie  
Noah's Ark

It's 1989.

The babysitter arrives at the CocoRosie Manor at 7:56 p.m.

She knocks. No answer. She enters.

The lights are out and the parents are gone.

She calls out: "Sierra? Bianca? Hello?"

She follows the faint melody of a music box into a crawl-space at the end of the hall, and sinks to peer inside.

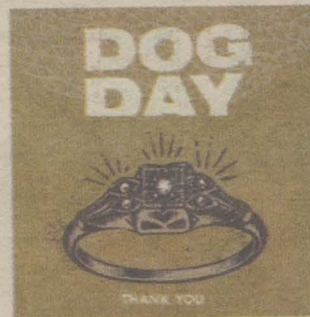
She discovers the girls painting moustaches on each other and giggling to the soundtrack of eight-year-old playmate, Devendra Banhart — who is reading Jean Genet into a plastic telephone.

Antony (pre-Johnsons) sits alone in a dim corner, shifting a feather boa and idly tinkling the keys of a toy piano in response to the surrounding clamor.

The babysitter screams and scrambles back to the hallway, pitching her algebra books in the din.

This is how Bianca and Sierra Casady — CocoRosie — would have spent their childhoods, had state borders not separated them.

Instead, they waited until their 20s to reunite and weird out babysitters all over the world with *Noah's Ark*.



Dog Day  
Thank You

In "Sharp Teeth," the penultimate track on Dog Day's first album, *Thank You*, Seth Smith sings, "I would do anything for love / Fuck off." It's as if his bitterness is not merely directed at one person, but at love in general — clichés, hyperboles and all.

This is as explicit as Smith gets.

Smith's compositions, far from the bombastic odes to woe and nevermore that dominate the love song genre, deal in irony and understatement. His playfully irreverent voice reflects his lyrics in this sense.

Bassist Nancy Ulrich's gorgeous harmonies add the melancholy, the subtext, the Pixies echoes, and the, uh, gorgeous. Her ability to compliment Smith's flippant (anti-) love songs is interesting given that Seth and Nancy, members of the Burdocks, are a couple. Spooky.

The music behind the vocals possesses, for the most part, a fuzzed-out punk aesthetic courtesy of keyboardist Crystal Thili and drummer Casey Spidle of The Hold. I've read Joy Division comparisons, which seem fair, but I hear Dinosaur Jr. In any case, "punk" should be applied lightly — this is still pop.

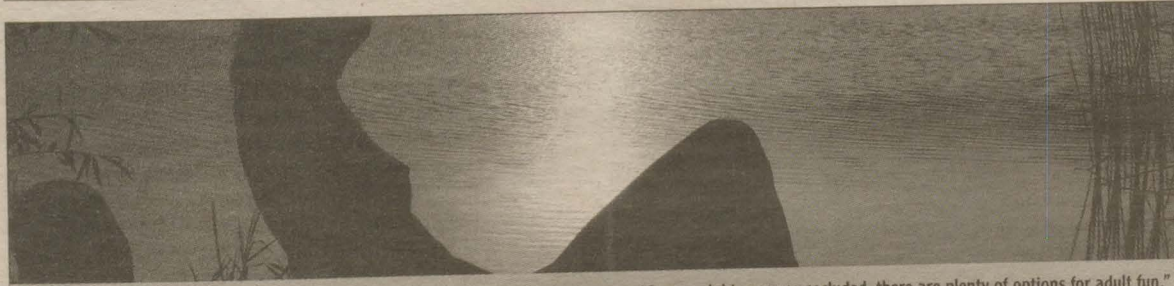
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for more info.

OR

Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 every Monday, Room 312, Dal SUB.



"Day or night, open or secluded, there are plenty of options for adult fun."

# SuperSex in the SuperCity

Getting wood in the woods

DAVE WENTWORTH  
Expert

Q. Over the summer my girlfriend and I tried sex outdoors. We thought it was hot, but it didn't end up that way. She found it uncomfortable and I couldn't keep hard because I thought we would get caught. Got any tips for sex in the open?

A. Sex outdoors is a hot fantasy sexuality that arouses most people of all sexualities. Oftentimes, the fear of getting caught is arousing and not dissuading. However, there are a few tips to keep in mind, and as always, I'm here to lend a hand.

First and foremost, I would not try any open-air hi-jinks in a place that could be considered public — no matter if it's day or night. Even if your intention is innocent, others may consider being witness to your personal escapades to be lewd. Privacy is key.

Having grown up in a rural area, I can personally attest to many ap-

propriate places for an intimate rendezvous. Such environments can include meadows, beaches, orchards and trails. But before you get to your destination, it's imperative that you are ready to bare all and risk being exposed. If you are not in this frame of mind yourself, you will not be able to go there with another. So take a few small steps before being brazen in a discoverable place.

The first way you can test the waters is to have car sex with your partner. This way, your exposure to the public is only borderline. Car sex gives you a taste without putting you all out there. With a vehicle you can also control when and where you go, so you can tailor your experience to your fantasies. Day or night, open or secluded, there are plenty of options for adult fun.

Camping can be another way to get your toes wet. It can allow you a taste of being outdoors with greater exposure than at home. Remember, however you decide to explore, it's important to go at a comfortable

pace. Once you are at ease with the idea of having sex in a public setting, there are a few ways in which you can improve the situation and make it more enjoyable. I suggest bringing a blanket — nobody wants to roll around in the dirt, especially when getting it on. Hay and sand can also prove to be irritating to the skin and is best avoided.

Also, and this is speaking strictly from personal experience here, be mindful of your surroundings. If you or your partner have any environmental sensitivities, don't let the urge strike you within the vicinity of ragweed. You will not feel sexy and it will spoil the moment.

Finally, I think there may be a misconception that outdoor sex is only viable in the warmer months. Although nothing quite says romance like sex on the beach, I can assure you that sex in the winter is very doable. Body heat from two lovers against crunching snow can be just as fiery as a midsummer's night dream.

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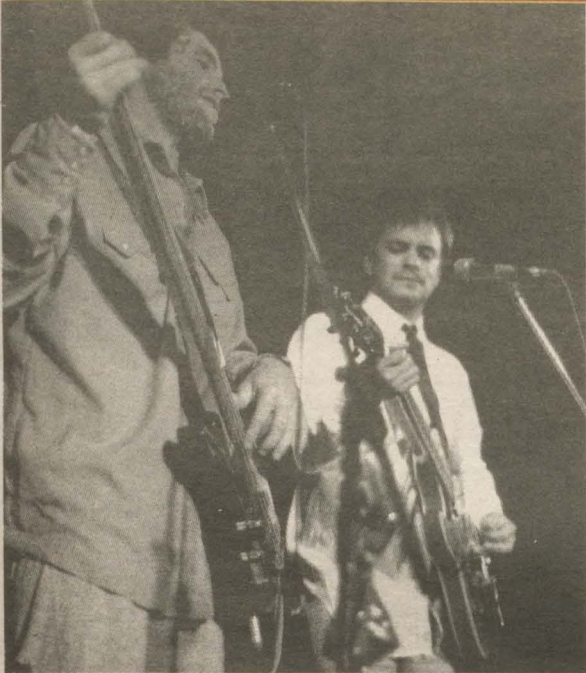
The Dawg Father

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# Report Card

CALEDONIA / Sept 9, 2005 / The Marquee Club



Caledonia adds a whole new meaning to 'Naked Gun'. Photo: Shannon Webb-Campbell

**Reporter:** Bridgette Sullivan  
**Stage Presence:** B+  
**Audience Reaction:** A  
**Sound:** B  
**Effort:** A  
**Get-It-On-Ability:** A  
**Striptease Segment:** A+

As I stood waiting for admittance into the Marquee, I happened to run into a friend of mine. When I asked her what had brought her to the lonely Gottingen Street nightspot, she told me she was there "to dance to Caledonia."

And I believe her response summed up Caledonia's entire show.

The last act to play, Caledonia was the darling of the show. They followed a few rather humdrum bands with an infectious, folksy sound that begged for stomping feet and swaying hips.

The band's music had a road trip feel. A steady beat and a predictable bass line punctuated twangy guitar that sounded more like a train cutting across the Prairies than a Gibson.

Caledonia's tunes were definitely cool, but when the gang of four disrobed for an encore, things certainly heated up. And that's the naked truth.

Looking for exposure? arts@dalgazette.ca



# Top 10

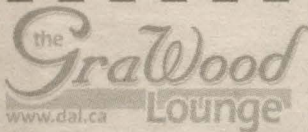
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*Thank You*  
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*What We Do is Secret*  
Black Mountain Music
- 10 **Most Serene Republic**  
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Arts & Crafts

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# Double Take

A romantic journey into the Gallery Deluxe Gallery

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN  
Assistant Arts Editor  
ASHLEIGH GAUL  
Arts Contributor

To get to the Gallery Deluxe Gallery, you have to climb a ladder and hoist yourself through a trap door. The ceiling is only three feet above the floor, and the whole gallery is a mere 30 square feet. Despite its size, however, the Gallery Deluxe Gallery, located in the crawlspace of curators Francesca Tallone and Paul Hammond's home, is no small experience.

This month the gallery is featuring the work of San Francisco artist Leah Brawley. Her creations, primarily made by using pen and marker on Post-It notes and envelopes, are a colourful look at the lives of girls, pufferfish, birds and other adorable creatures.

Beyond recent visitors Ashleigh Gaul and Bridgette Sullivan discuss the adventure of the Gallery Deluxe Gallery.

**Ashleigh:** I swear to God, my legs were shaking climbing up that ladder into the crawlspace. It seemed so secretive and, what's the word... not creepy.

**Bridgette:** Well, after seeing some photos of the gallery on the net, I was surprised to see how tiny it was. But

I was definitely surprised in a good way.

It just made the entire experience so much cooler and interesting than standing around in some boring, old, and sterile gallery where art is only being expressed within little squares on the walls.

**Ashleigh:** Experience! Yeah. The creaky ladder, the burning lights and the crab-legged, awestruck scrambling around each other. It didn't even feel weird when we forgot the art altogether and Paul Hammond started telling stories about his Willow Street "characters."

**Bridgette:** Yeah. That's what made it so enjoyable because art gets pretentious sometimes.

Someone told me that the reason people don't go to art galleries is because they don't know how to look at the art — they don't know what to say or how to act. And this gallery totally erases any inhibitions anyone would have about art and how to take it in. It's so friendly and casual.

**Ashleigh:** Exactly. Whether they meant it to or not, this gallery does that. You can't help dropping some of your hang-ups when you have to walk through someone's dirty kitchen and ugly design mistakes to get to their secret, beautiful world. It just happens. You can't be inhibited.

**Bridgette:** The art itself felt secretive and beautiful, too. It was like this artist, Leah, was letting you come along on some romantic adventure. It was so fun and cute.

**Ashleigh:** Romantic! Brilliant! That's the word I was looking for! The Gallery Deluxe Gallery: a romantic experience.

The "romantic experience" of exploring the Willow Street Manor's Gallery Deluxe Gallery is heightened by a fantastic curatorial partnership. Tallone and Hammond work together in a collaboration that would make even Wordsworth and Coleridge envious.

The pair consistently drift into creative eddies, gaining speed and intensity through interaction. They marvel at each other's plans and introduce their own with innocent animation reminiscent of childhood. The alliance of the miniature exhibition with their tiny gallery is nothing short of visionary.

*The Gallery Deluxe Gallery is located at 6015 Willow St. and is made accessible by appointment only (425-0600). Brawley's Soft Opening runs until Friday, Sept. 23. Visit the gallery online at [www.gallerydeluxegallery.blogspot.com](http://www.gallerydeluxegallery.blogspot.com).*



Curatorial team Francesca Tallone and Paul Hammond. / Shannon Webb-Campbell

# Are you on the edge of your seat?

The Gazette takes a look at CKDU-FM's new radio cryptic drama program, the Sonic Society

LAURA TRETHERWEY  
Staff Contributor

For those of you who were too busy moving furniture, scrubbing away the residual grime left behind by your sub-letters, or drowning your back-to-school blues downtown, you missed the grand debut of the Sonic Society, CKDU-FM's new radio drama.

Radio drama has a reputation for being slightly old-fashioned. My only frame of reference for radio drama, for example, is overhearing a murder mystery peppered with fake gunshots and canned screams during dinner with my grandparents.

I do remember, however, following the *Murder She Wrote*-esque story closely and feeling strangely seduced by a simple, fantasy era when the world gathered around a wooden radio for its nightly entertainment. This same feeling returned when I listened to the Sonic Society's "Soul Patrol" story last Tuesday night.

But my fondness for the show didn't go much further than luke-warm nostalgia.

Un-introduced characters, sudden and absurd plot twists and wacky sound effects characterize the recording.

The story begins when the main character, Billy, mysteriously transfers to a job in Los Angeles. L.A. quickly turns into an earthly purgatory for Billy, and she cannot escape.

Billy is somehow promoted into the Soul Patrol, which, according to the Sonic Society's website, ([www.sonicsociety.org](http://www.sonicsociety.org)) "investigates the horrendous acts which humans inflict upon one another."



Members of the Sonic Society work on an upcoming production. / Shannon Webb-Campbell

Stories that explore celestial topics are hard enough to follow in a brainless medium like film, but take away every visual aid and "Soul Patrol" is downright cryptic.

At first, I hoped all the confusing details would be explained in a later episode, but Sonic Society broadcasts an episode from a different series each week. Each show is written and shipped from exotic places — such as California — to our humble Halifax.

The goal, according to the creator of the Sonic Society, Jack Ward, is to introduce listeners to a variety of genres. This means, however, that "Soul Patrol" has no chance to explain all the random details that soared over my head last Tuesday night. I will have to be content guffawing over lines that are taken entirely out of context.

Jack Ward promises to offer a

wide array of shows from adventure to romance to comedy. Avid radio drama listeners should check out the society's website for the broadcasting schedule. The only local recording will be a comedy night performed by Ward's company, Shadowlands Theatre.

Although "Soul Patrol" failed at transforming me into a radio drama enthusiast, the society does offer something different in the already eclectic CKDU-FM schedule.

I can't see many students tuning in, but I can imagine myself, one Tuesday evening, procrastinating and listening with my eyes closed to the latest episode in the Sonic Society's archive.

*Tune into the Sonic Society every Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. on CKDU 97.5 FM ([www.ckdu.ca](http://www.ckdu.ca)).*

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



DALHOUSIE  
STUDENT  
UNION

I hope everyone is enjoying their first week back at Dalhousie. The past week has been extremely busy here at the DSU. Frosh Week was a great success, and we would like to thank the Frosh Week committee, and all the people who contributed their time and effort to helping it run smoothly. Most importantly we would like to thank all of the first year students who participated in Frosh Week this year. The week is really all about you, and if you have any comments or suggestions we would appreciate hearing them.

Shinerama was also a great success. Dalhousie frosh and volunteers took to the streets and raised \$37,044.55 in one day. There is still more accounting to be done but we should have a final total within the next couple of weeks. I would like to congratulate all of the students who gave their time and effort on September 6<sup>th</sup> collecting money for this worthy cause, as well as Amy North and all the volunteers that helped to organize our Shinerama Campaign this year.

Currently the DSU is looking for a member to fill the position of Board of Governors representative. The Board of Governors is the highest governing body at Dal and is responsible for overseeing all the financial decisions as they pertain to the University. Two DSU representatives plus the DSU president sit on the Board. There are approximately eight board meetings a year, and council meets every second week for the duration of the school year. The Board Reps are expected to be at all Board and Council meetings. Anyone interested in filling this position should submit a cover letter and resume to Tara Berthier at [dsuvpsl@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpsl@dal.ca) or drop it off in room 222 of the Student Union Building.

Speaking of meetings, the **next DSU Council meeting will be Sept 28 at 6:30pm in council chambers** on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm the DSU will be hosting a Society Roundtable. The purpose of this event is to highlight what the DSU is doing well and what we need to work on with respect to societies. The executive of all DSU Societies are encouraged to come. All A level societies must send their financial officer. For details on this event and many others check out [my.dsu.ca](http://my.dsu.ca).

The DSU is very excited about our upcoming **Sloan concert** on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, doors open at 8:30. The opening act will be Montréal's hottest band, **The Stills**. Anyone interested in tickets should contact the Rebecca Cohn Box Office at 494-3820, details of the show are available on [my.dsu.ca](http://my.dsu.ca).



The province of Nova Scotia is conducting an enumeration from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. This process consists of enumerators going door to door so as to confirm your address and place you on the voters list for your riding - the area that you live. In order to be eligible to vote in Nova Scotia you must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age on election day, and you must have lived in the province for 6 months prior to the date the election is called. So, if you went home for the summer, and that home is not in Nova Scotia then you are not eligible to vote unless the election is called late in the winter term. If you live in the riding of Halifax Citadel and have question you can call 425-2375. All other ridings may call 1-800-565-1504. There is also an Elections Nova Scotia website [www.gov.ns.ca/elo](http://www.gov.ns.ca/elo) which contains all the information about the enumeration process and the ridings.

If you are eligible, I would strongly encourage you to get on the voters list. Post secondary education is starting to become a priority election issue. If you want to participate in the direction that university education takes in the future, get out there and VOTE. If you are interested in helping out with future lobbying campaigns focused towards post-secondary education, contact DSU VP Education, Jen Bond at [dsuvped@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvped@dal.ca).

See you around campus, stop by or call anytime.

Ezra Edelstein  
DSU President  
Office Room 222 SUB  
[dsupres@dal.ca](mailto:dsupres@dal.ca)  
[my.dsu.ca](http://my.dsu.ca) / [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



DALHOUSIE  
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## Faculty of Graduate Studies Senate Review

The Dalhousie Senate is conducting a regular review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. 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 Graduate Studies (chaired by Dr. Len MacLean, School of Business Administration) is seeking information from all interested parties and is open to your comments and concerns. All faculty, staff and students of the Faculty of Graduate Studies are particularly invited to participate in the review. Appointments can be arranged to meet with the Senate Review Committee and/or the two external reviewers who will be on campus from Wednesday, October 26th to Friday, October 28th for a site visit. The external reviewers are:

Dr. Sheila Cameron  
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research  
University of Windsor

and

Dr. Mark Dale  
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research  
University of Alberta

Any person wishing to meet with the Senate Review Committee is asked to contact Michele O'Neill by Tuesday, October 11th. Any person wishing to meet with the two external reviewers is asked to contact Michele O'Neill by Monday, October 17th:

Michele O'Neill  
Office of Institutional Analysis and Research  
Life Sciences Centre, Rm 1336  
Dalhousie University  
Phone: 494-2328  
Fax: 494-2001  
E-mail: [michele.oneill@dal.ca](mailto:michele.oneill@dal.ca)

Written submissions are particularly welcome and should be addressed to the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and forwarded to Michele O'Neill at the above address no later than Monday, October 17th.

# Contribute!

Email us at:  
[info@dalgazette.ca](mailto:info@dalgazette.ca)

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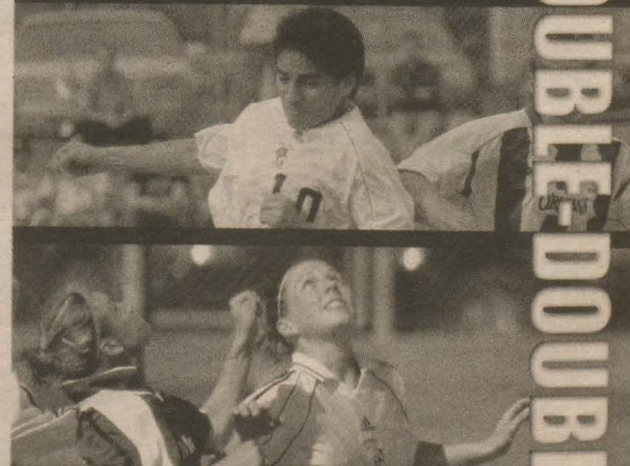
Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 every Monday, Room 312, Dal SUB.

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The

# SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## For Pete's Sake

PETER WHITE  
Editor-in-Chief

The bomb has dropped, and we are all at risk. For those of you who don't realize what this is about, let me explain. This is not about war. This is not about violence. This is an attempt to put into words what every Halifax male between the ages of 14 and death already knows. This is about The Hot Bomb.

The Hot Bomb is an explosion of attractiveness that befalls this great city every year about this time, and no matter how many times you've seen it before, you never fail to be amazed. Seemingly out of thin air, literally thousands of beautiful girls descend on this city and instantly take it over; like incredibly hot zombies in a bad horror movie.

They're everywhere, like the greatest infestation anyone could have ever dreamed.

Now, before this goes too far, I would like to acknowledge that some people are going to find this sexist. Some people are going to be offended. These people will feel that I am objectifying women. These people will not realize that the same thing could be said about the incredible influx of young males entering the city. I will not be writing about the large

influx of males entering this city for what I hope are obvious reasons, but I do encourage anyone who has an interest in young males to educate us on the subject.

Also, I would like to acknowledge that girls, as a general rule, females do not appreciate young males in the same manner that guys appreciate young girls.

I will be the first to admit that this is because girls are looking for a guy that is mature, responsible, and in control, while guys are looking for a girl naive enough to think that they are mature, responsible, and in control. Funny how that works out...

Let's get down to it. Here is the quote that is at the centre of The Hot Bomb. This is where things may get offensive.

Before I state it, I would like to acknowledge that it is not my creation. I did not write it, I can not take credit for it. My only part was giving it the catch title. Also, I would like to add that this quote describes only the physical beauty of girls, and does not delve into the endless pool of inner beauty that many girls possess. Ahem. Here it is:

"Girls entering their first year of university [or college] are at their most beautiful. They haven't yet gained the weight from their first

year of school; they're nicely tanned from the summer; they haven't yet learned to hate university guys; and they're away from their parents for the first time, ready to explore their freedom."

It may be offensive. It may be ignorant. But I'll be damned if there isn't at least a little bit of truth to it.

So now that we all know what The Hot Bomb is, how do we protect ourselves from it?

Like any explosive device, The Hot Bomb can be very dangerous, and should be approached with extreme caution.

Those most at risk to the bomb are males who are already engaged in a relationship, and of course, the elderly.

If you fall into either of these categories stay a safe distance from The Hot Bomb and try your best not to stare. Staring at the bomb for too long can result in an abundance of unwanted verbal contact and a lack of wanted physical contact from loved ones.

Finally, don't get too caught up in this whole mess because like most natural phenomenon, The Hot Bomb will be over just as quickly as it started, and things will be back to normal in no time. That is of course, until next September...



Like any explosive device, The Hot Bomb can be very dangerous, and should be approached with extreme caution.

## Passing Gas

ALEXANDER MACDONALD  
Sextant Managing Editor

It has been almost impossible to watch the news during the last few weeks without hearing about the price of fuel. I have noticed a trend during these broadcasts that the vast majority of the public seem to be very upset, but think that either the government or a magical gas messiah will step in and do something about it. Well, here's the cold, hard truth: there is very little that can be done to decrease the price of gas, and it is going to continue to increase during the coming years. Sure, \$1.40 litres are currently a thing of the past, but it won't be long before they are back for good.

The price of one litre of gasoline is made up of a number of components. For this example, let's say that the price is \$1.12 in Halifax. First, there's the cost of a barrel of crude oil which accounts for about 50 cents. This percentage is not for the gas that is already in the ground, but for what the station plans to buy in the coming weeks. Crude oil is the world's most actively traded commodity and is mainly purchased through futures contracts.

This means that traders have to speculate how much oil will be produced in the future, and based on this information, supply an estimated future price to the oil industry. It is this speculation that causes the price of crude oil to be extremely volatile.

Secondly, there's the cost of refining, which is about 12 cents. Four refineries, which account for about five percent of the United States' total refining capacity, are expected to remain shut down for an extended period of time due to the hurricane. Crude oil and refining costs were increasing prior to Hurricane Katrina

because of a heightened demand in countries such as China and India. The hurricane added to the problem by decreasing oil production by an estimated 898,161 barrels per day, putting a significant dent in the world's refining capability and further inflating its cost.

Transportation and marketing account for about eight cents of the cost.

Gas prices fluctuate so much depending on geographical location partially due to a gas station's distance from a refinery. Also, the Esso tiger doesn't work for free. Oil companies' marketing costs have to be paid for too.

The federal and provincial governments also need their cut of the gas sale so that someone can pay (among other things) road construction crews to prop up shovels while new pavement is being laid on the roads. Their combined taxes are about 40 cents. Finally, each individual station adds about two to three cents per litre.

So what can be done about the rising cost of fuel? Regulation seems to be catch-phrase of the day for the provincial government, but this really only prevents the drastic fluctuation of the price at the pumps. If wholesale prices of gas go up, the regulator is forced to approve an increase in the retail price. Otherwise, oil companies lose money and may shut off the supply, as was the case in PEI, a regulated market. Also, Newfoundland is a regulated province and it has seen the highest gasoline prices in all of Canada during the last few weeks.

Alternatively, the provincial and federal governments could lower the amount of tax imposed on gas.

Personally, I think this is an awful idea. The taxes paid on gasoline

in Canada are extremely reasonable when compared to other markets in industrialized countries. In England, 78% of the price of a litre of gasoline is taxes, and a litre there cost about \$1.90 before Katrina hit.

The Netherlands was even worse at over \$2 per litre. There is already a shortage of funds for healthcare and education, and I don't think these situations should be made worse because people want to drive bigger sport utility vehicles.

In fact, I'm going to propose a new law: the right to complain law. You have no right to complain about the price of gas if you drive an SUV. These vehicles are the most useless automobiles on the road. If you want to drive a large number of people around, buy a minivan; if you want cargo space and off-road capability, buy a truck.

An SUV tries to do both, but does neither effectively. Besides that, they are also the ugliest creations since the combination of white socks and dark pants. It must have taken a lot of creativity to design a shoebox on wheels. It's a status symbol, plain and simple.

You also lose the right to complain if you commute to school or work by yourself. From my experience, the vast majority of vehicles in rush-hour traffic have only one occupant.

There are multiple seats in a car for a reason, and pooling is only a minor inconvenience at most. Now if you violate both of these rules and commute by yourself in an SUV, you should have to pay an extra "glutton tax" of 20 cents on every litre of gasoline you purchase. And you still don't get to complain.

The price of gasoline is rising and there is not much anyone can do about it.

However, next time you jump in your vehicle consider the alternatives: walking, biking, taking the bus, or even buying a small diesel car. You may think these are things that only hippies or university professors do, but I bet they don't complain as much about the price of gas.

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<b>Women's Soccer</b> MUN @ Dal. Saturday, Sept. 17, 2:00 p.m.	St. FX @ Dal, Sunday, Sept 18, 3:00 p.m.
<b>Men's Soccer</b> MUN @ Dal. Saturday, Sept. 17, 4:00 p.m.	Sr. FX @ Dal, Sunday, Sept 18, 3:00 p.m.

Game	Visiting	Goals	vs.	Home	Goals
Men's Soccer	SMU	2	vs.	Dal	0
Women's Soccer	SMU	0	vs.	Dal	0

VARSITY SCHEDULE

SCORES

# Varsity soccer season promises action

MIKE TWEEDALE  
Staff Contributor

Last Saturday, the Dalhousie Tigers men's and women's soccer teams kicked off a new season by hosting the St. Mary's Huskies at Wickwire Field.

The women fought their game to a scoreless draw, and in the men's game, the Huskies downed the Tigers 2-0. The Huskies, having already started their season last week, played with more consistency, and in the men's game, capitalized on their scoring opportunities.

It's harder to score on Wickwire's slick turf than on other soccer fields. The scoreless first half, however, did not disappoint Tigers Men's Coach Pat Nearing.

"The difference in the game was the second half," said Nearing, who is in his seventh season with the Tigers. "After the first half, SMU stepped up their level of play and we didn't."

With only 13 regular season games, consistency is important. The

veteran coach recognizes the value of players who maintain both consistency and a concentrated effort from the game's start to finish.

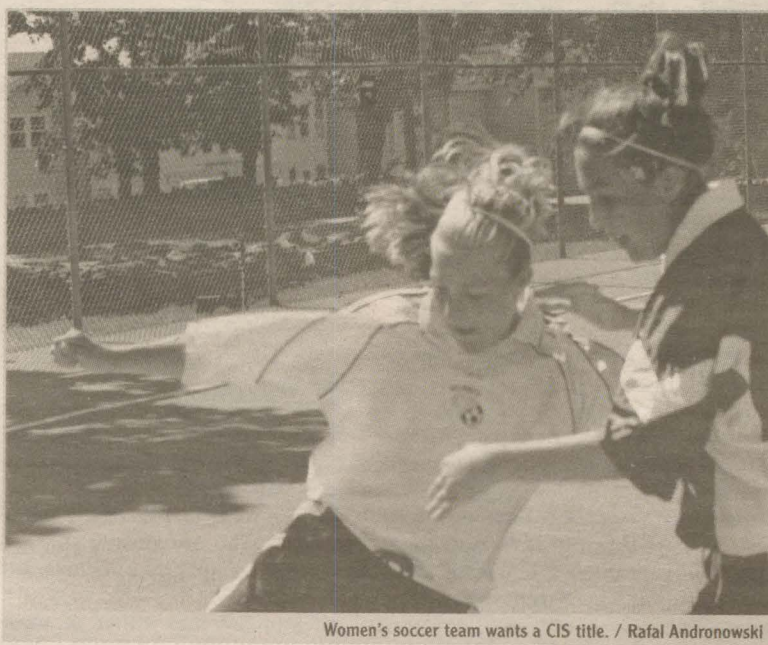
"Our defense needs to be playing at a better level and the offense needs to get the ball into the scoring area and create better chances," said Nearing.

Denis Byrne, a first-year kinesiology student from Prospect Bay, Nova Scotia, impressed his new teammates and coach with his tireless play.

"Denis ran his socks off for us today," said Nearing. "He gave us two solid halves and gave us a big contribution, and he did this despite playing in just his first university game."

Simon Richardson, the team's captain, suggests that having a tough game early in the season gives the Tigers an opportunity to make the changes necessary for the team to have a successful season.

"A loss in the playoffs would be a problem, but I don't think today's result is going to hurt us," said Richardson, a fifth-year striker. "A loss to



Women's soccer team wants a CIS title. / Rafal Andronowski

St Mary's at this time of year gives us a chance to put it right. They're perennially a good team and are often at the top, so we know now what the

target is. Today, they got a couple of sneaky ones on us that we'd like to get back. We need to work hard on offence and generate more."

The Tigers women's team are looking to get their offense going after also failing to find the back of the net in their match against the Huskies.

"We were up for the game," said Coach Graham Chandler "Today's game was our first of the season, and our performance was inconsistent."

Rookie goaltender Heather Armstrong, however, was there when called upon. A spectacular diving stop early in the first half, and another near the end of the game, not only preserved the scoreless draw, but also prevented an upset.

Leanne Huck, the Tigers' all-star striker, said that it would take a while before the team starts playing to its potential. She also said that, as suggested by Richardson, the Tigers' chances should not be evaluated by the first game of the year.

"It takes a while to get going," said Huck.

"This is our first game and problems aren't surprising. As [the] season goes on, we'll get better."

# Cross-country runners prepped for new season

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

Two of the most talented varsity teams at Dal are the men's and women's cross-country teams. Both consistently dominate the AUS and deliver strong performances at the national level.

On the men's side, the season looks promising. They will return with most of last year's team. Stan Chaisson has graduated, but star runners Matt Sheffield and Paul Chafe are back and are in top form. Joining Sheffield and Chafe is transfer student Robert Jewer, who is expected to be a strong addition.

"The men's team has improved over last year," says Coach Dan Hennigar. "We haven't lost many guys to graduation. We'll dominate the AUS but the conference will be stronger this year. Nationally, Windsor and Guelph are favourites to win CIs. We think we're strong enough to get on the medal podium but there are ten teams in the country saying the same thing — there's a lot of work to be done."

Chafe agrees with Hennigar that



Men's top two runners Paul Chafe and Matt Sheffield are pumped for a big year. / Nick Pearce

the team is in good shape and is very excited about the upcoming season.

"This will be the most bestest year ever," says Chafe. "Matt Sheffield is back and will put together another strong year. He's a damn workhorse and doesn't know the meaning of taking it easy. Robert Jewer looks good in practice and Chris Algar and John Corbit will be good as well."

Without question, Sheffield and Chafe are the leaders of this squad. The competitive duo has come from

a medal-winning performance for Nova Scotia at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina.

Dan Hennigar explains why Chafe and Sheffield are so good: "Paul Chafe has a tremendous amount of strength. He handles all conditions very well and has developed a competitive tenacity. He's a real gutsy runner. Matt Sheffield is a different type of runner compared to Chafe. He has an incredible amount of endurance and is extremely focused. Matt

is a very smart runner and knows when to make the right moves. If they both stay healthy, they will push each other."

The women's side is a bit of a different story. After winning the CIS championship last year, the Tigers will be rebuilding. The team has lost five of the seven runners that won gold at the nationals. Janice Ashworth and Caroline McInnis will be the leaders on this year's squad; Jane Simmington and Shauna Wilcox are the top recruits.

Coach Hennigar expects his returnees to perform at a high level, but knows the team will be developing new talent this year.

"After winning gold last year, things will be a bit different," Hennigar says. "Six of our top nine runners from last year have graduated. Nationally, we won't be as strong. We have to believe in our system. It's going to be a battle to win the AUS this year. St.FX. is going to have the strongest team in the history of their school."

Cross-country standout Janice Ashworth also thinks that it will be a developing year for the women's

squad, but she's very optimistic that the team will come together down the stretch.

"We lost a fair number of runners from last year's team," Ashworth says. "It's going to be a developing year. Things looked pretty good at the first practice. There's a bunch of new faces and you can tell that the dedication is there. If everyone trains hard, we'll be a different team in November."

Ashworth is the standout on the women's squad, leading last year's team to a national title. She's an All-Canadian and an All-Academic Canadian.

"Janice Ashworth is very physically gifted," Hennigar says. "She has the right body type and mental focus. She trains harder than anyone else and enjoys it more than anyone else."

When asked how she's able to be star runner and a top student, Ashworth replied, "I wouldn't be able to do one without the other. I work better with a time constraint. If I only had one thing to do, I'd be bored. Running is a great break from my schoolwork."



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Register for these workshops and more at [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec).



# Campus club gives varsity sport a boost

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

Dalhousie Tigers' athletes and coaches thrive off of fan support, and this year, there will be a campus-wide initiative to get students to come to the games.

The idea to form a club dedicated to getting students to come to the games was proposed this summer by the Black and Gold Club, an organization formed in the early 1980s that aims to help Dalhousie athletes.

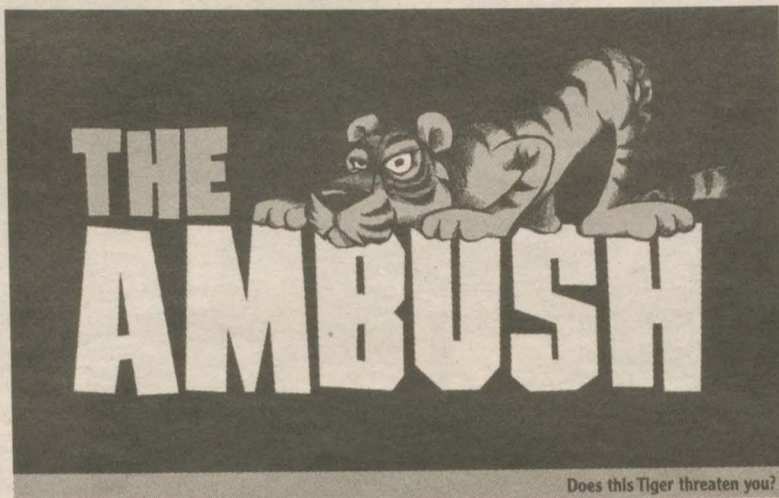
This past summer, the Black and Gold Club approached the president of the Varsity Athletic Council, men's volleyball sensation Jeff Weiler, to get some athletes involved. Weiler decided that the best person to run the booster club was his friend and fellow volleyballer, Jesse Mighton.

"I've been friends with Jeff for many years," says Mighton. "He knew that this year I wanted to get more involved with school and athletics. The more I heard about the club, the more it sounded like something I wanted to get involved with."

Weiler and Mighton then met with family and friends to decide on a name, and from there, The Ambush was born.

The Ambush's goal is to get people out to the games. Mighton hopes that larger groups of louder fans will create an atmosphere both the fans and athletes will enjoy.

"The fans that do come to the games are really great," says Mighton. "I notice that in the stands there are individual groups doing their own thing. Some of those groups are very loud and enthusiastic. We want all the fans to get together and



**“**We have great athletics at Dal. This is a great opportunity to support your school and meet new people. I think having the chance to be a part of an organization that means so much to a lot of people is fantastic.

Jesse Mighton, *The Ambush*

make noise so the players can feed off them. If the fans are enthusiastic, the players will play better. This will make the fans happy and increase the quality of the event."

Last weekend, roughly 40 Ambush members consisting of varsity athletes, students and a large group of international students cheered on the men's and women's soccer teams, officially launching the booster club. Mighton was very pleased with the initial turnout.

"The launch exceeded my expectations," says Mighton. "We thought

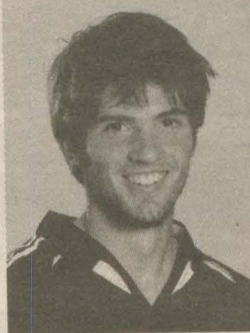
we'd have about 15 people and it turned out to 40. I hope it's a sign of things to come.

"We have great athletics at Dal. This is a great opportunity to support your school and meet new people. I think having the chance to be a part of an organization that means so much to a lot of people is fantastic."

For Tigers fans interested in more information about The Ambush, visit [www.athletics.dal.ca](http://www.athletics.dal.ca) or email [theambush@gmail.com](mailto:theambush@gmail.com). There are sign-up sheets at the Dalplex and at the games.

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

### MALE ATHLETE



DENNIS BYRNE  
MEN'S SOCCER

Byrne got the Player of the Game nod for the Tigers despite a loss as the men's Tigers fell 2-0 in their season opener against the Huskies. Byrne's outstanding effort in his first game in the AUS conference is sure to be a sign of great things to come for the rookie defender. Byrne is a first-year Kinesiology student from Prospect Bay, NS.

### FEMALE ATHLETE



ANGELA DONATO  
WOMEN'S SOCCER

Donato impressed the coaching staff with tenacious effort at her new post in the central defensive midfield position as the Tigers hosted the Huskies for their season opener. Despite a 0-0 draw with the Huskies, Donato's numerous head balls and successful tackles made her effort stand out. She was named Player of the Game for the Dalhousie squad. Donato is a fourth-year Management student from London, Ontario.

Contribute!

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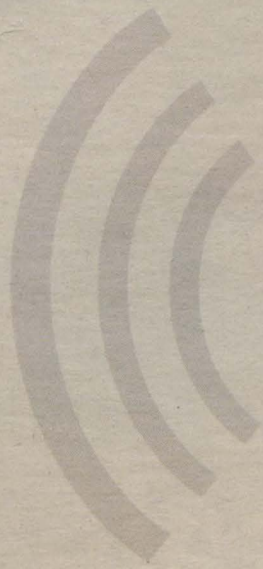
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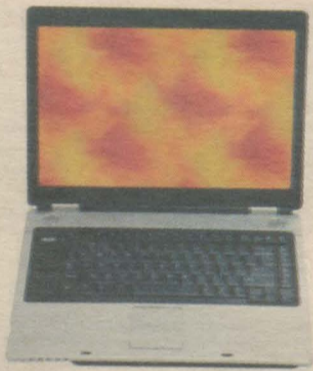
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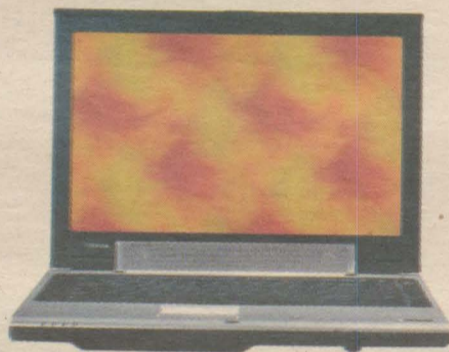
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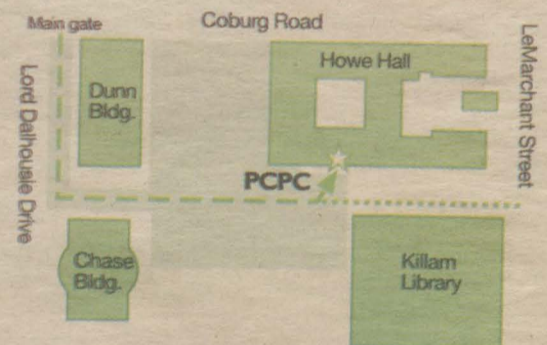
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