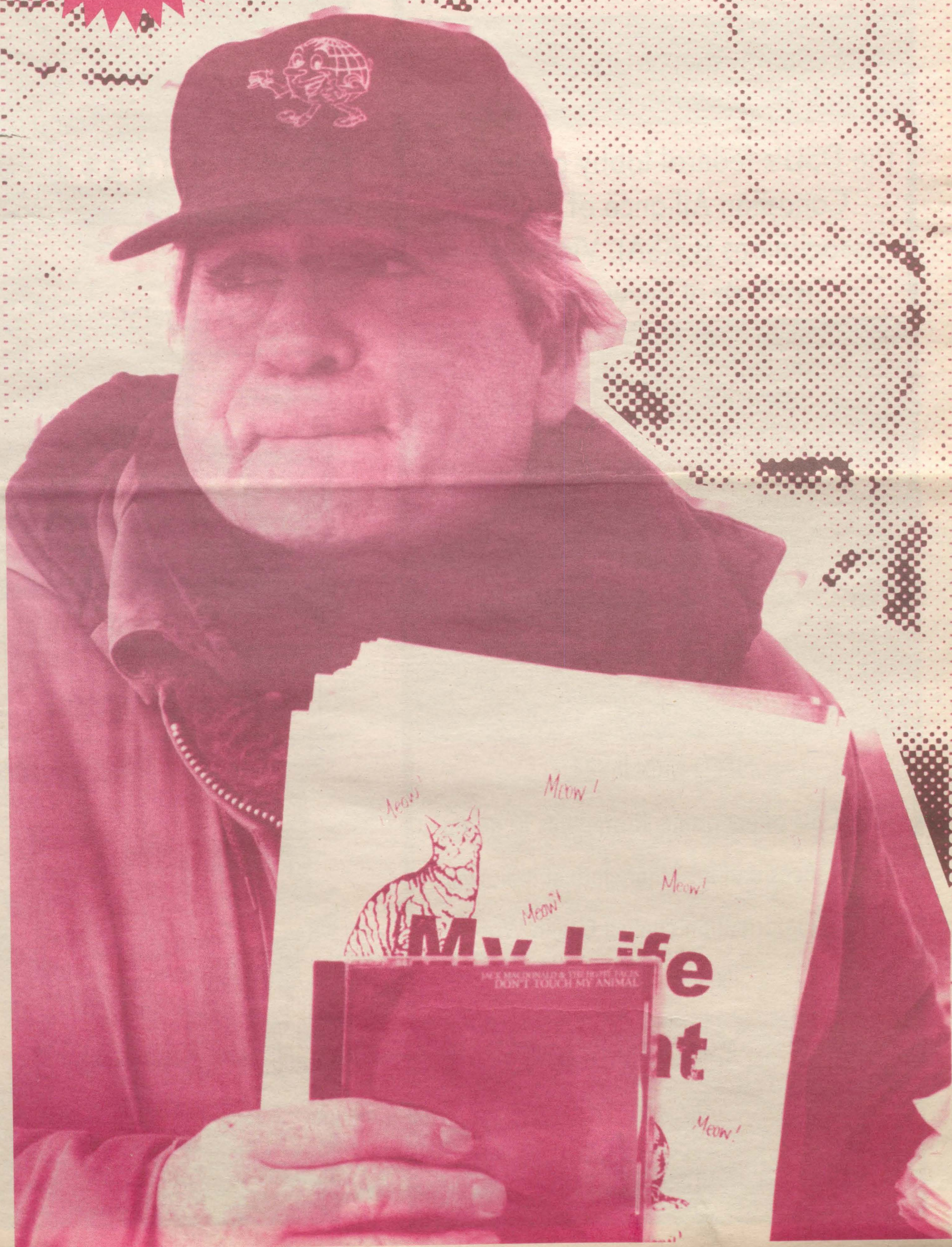


Gazette

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

January 22nd, 2004 - 136:17

FREE!



DSU Dalhousie Student Union

Check out the DSU's website at www.dsu.ca

The DSU's federal lobby group is the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). Visit our *new website* at www.casa.ca

Find out what the DSU has been up to for the past year!! The DSU will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30pm in the McInnis Room. All Students have the opportunity to vote on proposed amendments to the constitution.

FREE FOOD!!

NEED MONEY??

The DSU offers grants to students to go on conferences and for other student initiatives.

For more information contact Glenn Woods at

dsuvpf@dal.ca

DSU Awareness week will be held from February 2nd - 6th. Get involved and see what the DSU can do for you

This Space Could be Yours.

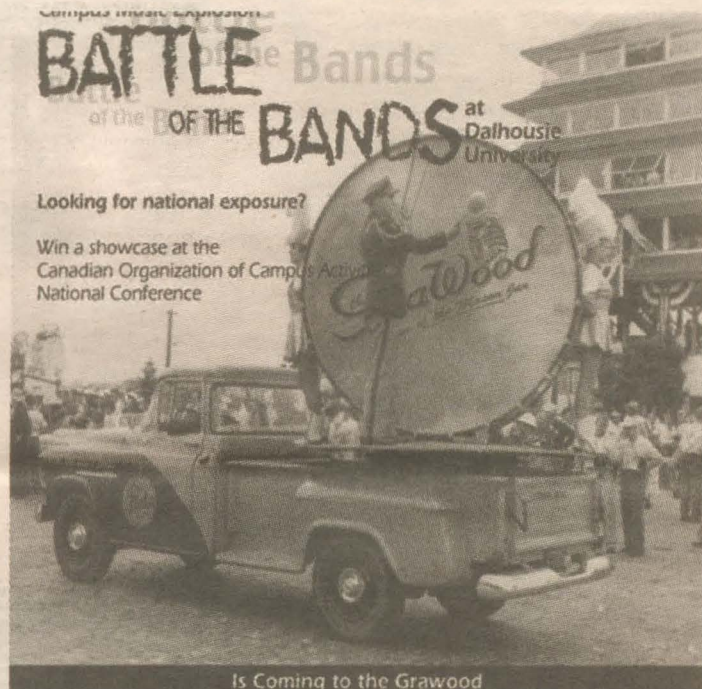
By simply calling the following number you can reach the deep pockets of trust fund kids and those with fat student loans. As well as most of downtown Halifax. Our ad rates are so low, you'll think we're INSANE.

494-6532

BATTLE of the Bands at Dalhousie University

Looking for national exposure?

Win a showcase at the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities National Conference



Is Coming to the Grawood

Round TWO
Wednesday, January 28

9PM - 1AM

See Director of Programming and Promotions, Mike Pope, at the Grawood to Register 494-3774 (must register before 5PM on January 23)

got beads?

Mardi Gras

four out of five mardi gras specialists acknowledge that compulsive bead collecting during this event plays a positive roll in winning prizes!

Jan 29 at the Grawood

There is a warning on my shampoo that states, "do not take internally." I understand the intricacies of product liability and the desire of corporations to avoid lawsuits, but I often feel like we are undermining Darwinism by catering to the idiots of our society. If someone with a hectic lifestyle thinks that they can cut corners and eliminate split ends by drinking their shampoo/conditioner on the commute to work, they deserve all the pain and suffering they endure.

Warnings on my coffee cup ensure awareness of how hot my beverage is. The instructions on my sandwich-maker insist that I do not attempt to immerse it in water while it remains plugged-in – just in case I am taking a bath and get an overwhelming craving for pizza pockets. Countless delicious items around our office, from thumb tacks to staples, carry warnings that they are "not for human consumption." Apparently curling irons are "for external use only." Who knew? How about rat-poison that is "not tested on animals"? I guess I'll stick to traps.

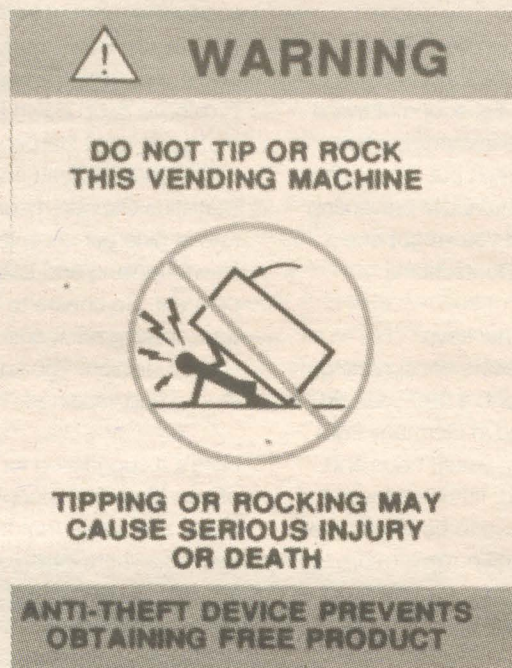
Despite all my cynicism and humour, an unheeded warning played a role in one of the most embarrassing

and potentially fatal incidents of my life. My near-death experience occurred while I was living in residence several years ago. Angry at a vending machine for eating the last of my change, I began rocking the machine violently back and forth in an effort to dislodge the pop can I swore I heard rattling inside. The next thing I knew, I was knocked to the floor by the forward lurch of the machine, and instinctively curled into the fetal position when my efforts to hold the machine upright failed.

The weight of the machine was unbelievable. I felt like I was being squeezed like a human tube of toothpaste. The only thing that saved me from certain and ridiculous death was two students in the TV lounge, entranced by my swearing and ranting at the vending machine, who managed to rush in and lift the Pepsi death-weight so I could crawl to safety. The only evidence of

damage was a Repo-shaped dent in the plastic design on the front of the machine and enough bruises to warrant a trip to Dal Health to check for internal bleeding.

Prior to this incident, I had always laughed



Weekly Photo

Editor
E-mail

Jenine Dowden
gazette@dal.ca

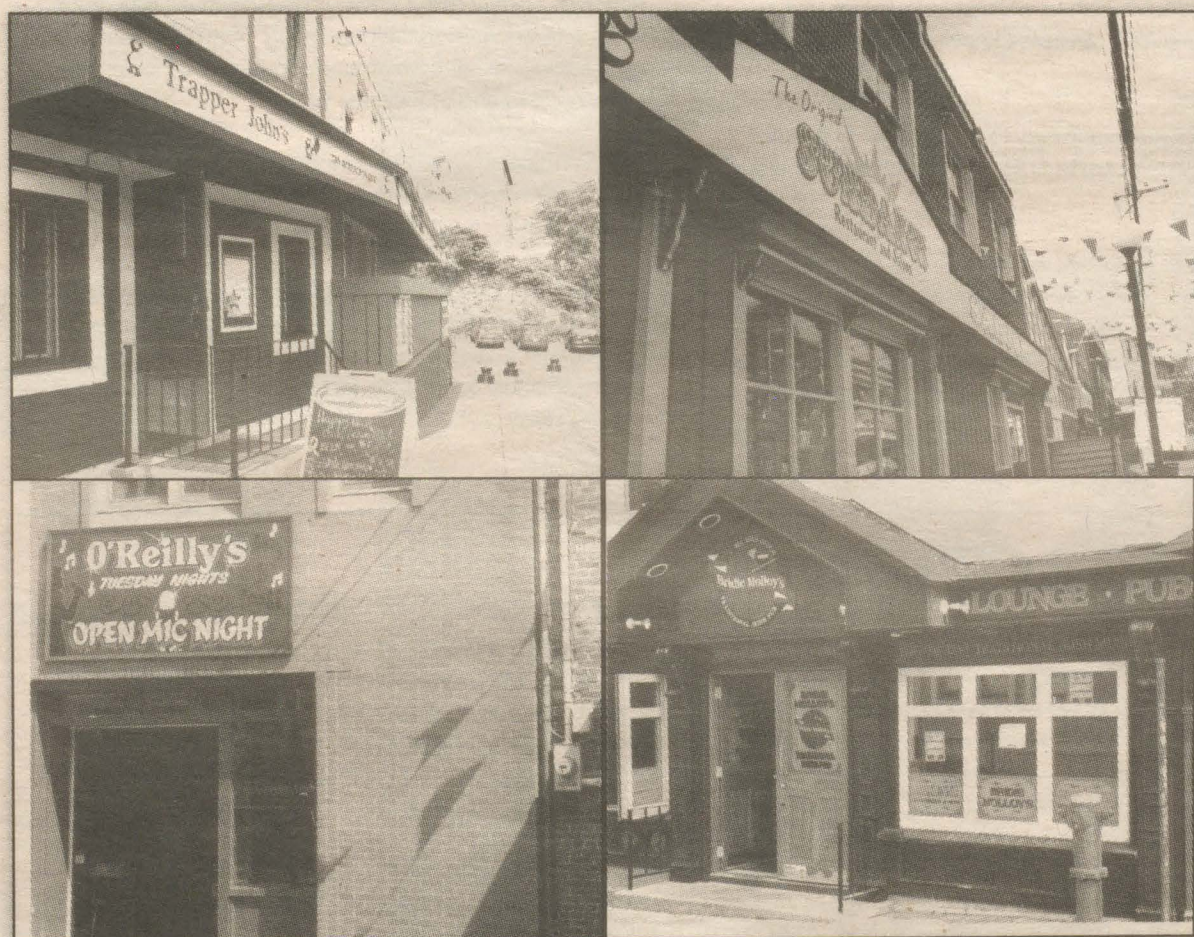


PHOTO CONTEST

The Gazette is holding a photo contest, any member of the general public is eligible to win. Please submit any photos you are proud of directly to the Gazette office, 3rd floor of the Dalhousie SUB. The deadline for submissions will be Friday, February 6th. Prizes will be rewarded to top 5 entries and the top 3 will receive prizes as well as be published on the Gazette.

A Toast to Halifax Tradition



Wednesday Night
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Quentin Casey

News Editors

Chris LaRoche, Jenn Morrison

Sports Editor

Adam Somers

Design / Layout

Loukas Crowther

Contributors

Lindsay Dobbin, Nolan Ritcey, Li Dong, Lina Hussain, Kathryn Wallace, Dave Morine, Nathan Coleman, Theresa Anne Salah, Joey Ryba, Katie Gammon

PhotographersDuncan Enman, Michael Gorman, Krista, Evan, Jenine Dowden, Rafal Andronowski, www.sxc.hu, images.google.com**Cover**

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The Gazette is a student-run publication. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University. This magazine is intended for readers 18 years of age or older.

Want to Contribute to The Gazette?

Got a burning desire to contribute to this fine paper? Want to write or otherwise put forth the effort to better our paper? Pop by our weekly volunteer meetings, every Monday at 4 in room 312 of the Dal SUB. Can take pictures and want to get some exposure? Come talk to Jenine Dowden following the writer's meetings, pop up over at around 4:30 and get in her face and start making demands, it's wicked awesome fun.

Li Dong's Apology

Staff contributor Li Dong would like to apologize for sending drunk e-mails to members of the Gazette. He also apologizes for saying Copy Editor Catherine Cooper dresses like an old woman and he is also sorry for comparing her looks to her beautiful friend Tiffany. Also, he would like to apologize for not citing Shawn Goss two weeks ago for his hilarious quote "It feels weird down there." Also, he apologizes to Lisa Friars for comparing her to a "dead cat."

INTERNATIONAL**No algae in the beer, please**

Yep, the Germans have finally done it. After inventing more efficient cars, a more efficient language and more efficient haircuts, they've invented a beer that's so efficient it actually makes you younger as you drink, thereby making YOU more efficient in the process.

I love the Germans.

The beer apparently contains spirulina algae, one of these wonder substances that strengthen the immune system while making you wonder whether it hasn't been put in everything else yet. Add that to the normal dose of cancer-preventing antioxidants most dark beers carry and you've got one bottled fountain of youth straight from Deutschland.

At least that's what brewer Helmut Fricher says.

According to the BBC, however, the beer is encountering some strong resistance from government: a 500-year old law prohibits any "beer" being produced in Germany from containing ingredients other than barley, yeast, hops and water. This is the oldest law in the world. If Fricher loses the case to beer his beer? The drink will have to be labeled as something other than beer — and if you know Germany, this could spell doom for the wonder drink.

Smirnoff Ice drinkers they are not.

NATIONAL**Idealist politicians caught lying to appeal to a broader audience; voters remain unsurprised**

Oh, how they lie.

Here's a quote pulled from one of Stephen Harper's speeches in Halifax while he was on tour in the Atlantic provinces last week:

2004: "There is an attitude deeply ingrained, particularly in Ottawa, that this region is a have-not region, it's always going to be a have-not region and that somehow it doesn't have the same potential as the rest of the country. That's just wrong."

Now lets quote Mr. Harper while on a four-year tour in Ottawa, sometimes otherwise known as holding a political office:

2002: "We've got a long way to go to break that region (the Atlantic provinces) out of a cycle of dependence and defeatism."

The difference: Harper now thinks he may have a shot at the big bad seat of Prime Minister from which he can relegate the provinces and peoples of Canada towards political and social freedom. Well, a "guided" freedom, anyway. I don't know, I don't listen to the Canadian Alliance much.

But I'll give Harper some credit. If I was a neo-conservative from Alberta with oil bubbling in my blood and bible thumping off my knee I'd be pretty averse to sending barrels worth of the good green stuff out to a bunch of lazy, welfare-mongering Maritimers who sit around all day salting cod and knitting hats.

Unless I wanted to be Prime Minister, that is. If that were the case I would simply go back on previous statements and make amends, burying my distaste for the Atlantic Provinces deep down inside with all that bubbling oil. And that's just what Harper did. And maybe — just maybe — ol' Harper does indeed have some reason to hold a grudge. Statistics Canada records the Nova Scotia unemployment rate at nine per cent, the lowest of the Atlantic province, with Newfoundland and Labrador registering at staggering 18 per cent. So cheers to Harper for rubbing this in two years ago, coming back and rubbing it in again in a pretty, how-do-you-do fashion. You know, because we had no idea the cod stocks had vanished. Thanks buddy.

Here's a suggestion for Mr. Harper. You know, in the interest of shedding that "deeply ingrained" attitude:

Run a simulation that has Alberta's oil wells dry up, cattle sent elsewhere and grain demolished. Get Rick Mercer or somebody up on a soap box saying something like "we've got a long way to go to break that region out of a cycle of dependence and defeatism." Repeat. And when Alberta becomes angry at the Atlantic Provinces, hey, we'll just chalk it up to that deeply ingrained Ottawa attitude.

We're nice people, after all.

Cough

LOCAL**Newfoundland vows to limit moose-related accidents, Bovines offer mixed reaction**

Paul Shelley, the minister responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador's wildlife, gave a statement last week saying the Newfoundland government has plans to curtail accidents involving moose over the next year. What those plans are, however, Shelley didn't know — "Everything is open, from fencing to decreasing the population, they're all open for discussion," he said. Newfoundland had 700 incidences involving cars and moose last year.

Moose reaction to the announcement was — as always — a sort of unintelligible, somber, slobbering, yawning, snoring, mooing noise.

Possible solutions to the moose-car-incident epidemic may range from forcing Newfoundland drivers to actually have licenses, to asking Newfoundland residents in transit to remain sober for as long as possible while operating a vehicle. -CLR

RETRACTION

After reading the article about the DSU in the January 15 issue, I was upset that there were a number of incorrect statements and quotations. I was quoted in the article directly as saying, "Most of our seats don't have any effect on the union's affairs, because there are only a few actually involved in input right now." I did not say this. The reporter jotted down notes while I spoke and did not use a tape-recorder. I actually stated that few councilors actively participate in discussion at the meetings and this is unfortunate. I also noted that there appears to be a small group of councilors who have emerged as the ones that most often contribute.

As well, I did not say that I believed the Day of Action would result in an increased CFS profile on Dal Campus. To be clear on that aspect, because the article would indicate otherwise, I am very content that the DSU is a member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and do not wish for us to be a member school of the CFS anytime in the near future. *Kevin Wasko, DSU President*

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Recognizing Dal's Outstanding Mentors

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor

For those of you wishing to acknowledge a Dalhousie faculty or staff member that has been very helpful in academic advising matters, now is your chance. Each year, Dalhousie president Tom Traves requests that the academic community nominate any faculty or staff member—as long as they have recently served or are currently serving as an academic advisor—that has provided outstanding academic advising to students.

Developed in order to "recognize exceptional academic advisors and encourage efforts to promote, support and improve academic advising," two awards are given out per year, one to a staff member and the other to a faculty member at Dalhousie.

According to Student Services, those individuals selected for the award will receive a plaque, a one-year membership to the National Academic Advising Association, and public recognition of their excellence, which enhances student life at Dalhousie. They feel that the presence of this award promotes and challenges academic advising services throughout Dalhousie.

A selection committee comprised of an active faculty advisor, an active staff advisor, a student representative, VP Academic, a provost and VP Student Services chooses outstanding nominees based on strong interpersonal skills, referrals made in an appropriate manner, a caring and helpful disposition and the nominee's availability to students, faculty and/or staff.

Sarah Blades, a residence assistant at Shirreff Hall and a third-year psychology student, knows first-hand how important academic advising has been to her and the students on her floor. "Their wisdom is really helpful to students," she says. "Especially first year students in residence who may not be sure what they're interested in or what to take."

Aimee Holla, a second-year microbiology and French student, recalls using academic advising a few times her first year, and believes that it was a key event in leading her to her current curriculum. "[The award is] necessary because not everybody can be an advisor and can do a good job," she says. "There are advisors that do understand and remain objective but present a lot of options to you that you might not have been able to consider on your own."

According to Student Service guidelines, nominations must be submitted by Jan. 30, 2004 to the Office of VP Student Services in Room G28 in the Killam Library. Persons wishing to nominate someone for consideration can find more information at <http://www.dal.ca/~career/advising/index.html>

International Enrollment Up from Last Year

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada recently reported that international student enrollment has greatly increased at universities across the country. Dalhousie is no exception, says Melissa Ferguson, an international student advisor at Dalhousie—but reasons for the boom may not be as simple as stricter American student visa laws.

According to Ferguson, there were 1,272 international students at the beginning of this school year. That's up from 1,051 during the 2002-2003 school year, and there may now be over 1,300 because of January's influx of new students, she says.

One of the factors university officials attributed to the influx is the change in United States immigration policy. "It's harder to get a student visa these days in the U.S. than it is here," said Romesh Vadivel, Dal's manager of undergraduate recruitment.

Ferguson concurred: "A large number of students that would make the U.S. their first choice aren't even applying because they know that now with immigration regulations being tightened, the process of getting the student permit is just too difficult, so they're going to places like Australia and Canada," she said. Both Vadivel and Ferguson said that no statistics have yet confirmed this pattern.

But Dalhousie is far more than a default school for international students, many of whom choose the university because of intensifying recruitment efforts. Vadivel said that Halifax—a growing city with a rich immigrant population—is an attractive destination for students.

"We recruit in a couple of key regions, certainly in the northeastern United States. We've [also] been going back and forth to the Middle East," said Vadivel. Recruitment trips usually take place in the fall every year, and Dal sends one representative to each region. "We each have our regions. It depends on our specific focus for that year, or what's happening in the region," he said.

Under the recruitment program, Dal representatives meet with students and parents and give public presentations. They also recruit at fairs that can be organized by third parties, trade missions or other universities—all crucial elements to attracting an international student body, Ferguson said.

"Once the recruiting is started, then you have more students in a country who also go back to their country, and it's word of mouth," she said. "They go back with a Dal degree, and tell two or three family [members] or friends, and it starts to filter."

Mwansa Njelesani, an international student from Zambia who has been at Dal for almost four

years, said she came to Dal as an alternative to England. "I found information about Dal through the Internet," she said. "[In England] you have to start the medical degree right after you graduate from high school. At the time, I wasn't ready to make such a commitment, and decided to come to university in Halifax." Dalhousie being closer to Europe than Africa and having milder weather than the rest of Canada helped Njelesani to choose Dalhousie, she said.

Although Njelesani did not enroll as a result of the international student recruitment program, she has noticed a difference in the international student presence at Dal since she arrived. "There has definitely been an increase in the number of international students over the last few years," she says, adding that there are more international students now than she has ever seen in her four years at Dalhousie.

An increased amount of international students at Dalhousie is also good for the university's finances: international students like Njelesani pay much more for their Dalhousie education than Canadian students. In addition to tuition costs, international students pay differential fees, meaning they spend thousands of dollars more per year than their Canadian counterparts. "Each student that comes to Dal [from Canada], the government gives the university money to supplement their tuition costs, but the international students, because they're not Canadian taxpayers, don't have the advantage of having the Canadian government supporting them," said Ferguson. A recent story in the National Post said that, because of these differential fees, foreign students are an "attractive option for cash-strapped universities."

Cash-strapped or not, Dal is spending money in the hopes of recruiting international students. Dal has had subsidies from the province to recruit internationally, but funding from an Economic Development Bureau initiative ran out this past year, so the possibility of future government money is up in the air. However, Vadivel said that dedicating valuable resources to the university's recruitment program does not take away funds from other areas. "It's not funneling resources away when you consider it's bringing more diversity to campus," he said. "If we were to just simply stay static, we would lose students."

Sociology and Social Anthropology Unit Review

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2004, a Review Committee is examining Sociology and Social Anthropology. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on February 2, 2004, from 10:30-12:00 or 1:00-4:00. Please contact Ms. Mary Morash Watts (494-6595). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

Professor Fred Wien
Frederic.Wien@dal.ca
Chair (Sociology and Social Anthropology Unit Review Committee)
Maritime School of Social Work
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 2A7



NSPIRG Opt-Out Period

Full-time Dalhousie students are all members of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group-Dalhousie (NSPIRG-Dal). Students voted through referendum to create the organization, in an effort to provide resources and opportunities for students to get involved in human and environmental rights work, and also in recognition of the fact that balance in academia requires the understanding of alternative perspectives. All full-time Dalhousie Students who paid full DSU fees are entitled to receive \$2 per term if they wish to "opt-out" of funding the NSPIRG-Dal.

Drop by the nspirg office (Rm. 320 SUB) from February 2nd - 13th between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

1000's of Posters
THE ART EXPO • PARK LANE MALL
492-7128 • 5657 Spring Garden Road
(Downstairs next to the theatres)

Academic Programme Fair



January 29, 2004

Explore majors, honours and minors programmes!

Meet over 50 departmental advisors from across campus!

Connect programme choices to career plans!

Molnes Room, Student Union Building

11am - 7pm

Prospective students and their parents also invited 4 - 7pm.



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The Good, The Bad and the Ugly

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

I eschew thinking in black and white; I much prefer shades of grey, or even Technicolor. Lately, I have been questioning whether it is possible to analyze personalities in such a simplistic manner. I now doubt that people actually have a pure angelic goodness or devilish badness at their core. How can it be possible to ever be truly good or truly bad when, like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, we harbour both elements within our personas?

We often use the language of goodness to justify our questionable actions, or the actions of those close to us—especially when it comes to relationships. “I know he/she cheated on me,” the saying goes, “but he/she is still a really good person.” This need to justify becomes elasticized as we grow up, lose our innocence and thus push the boundaries of defining good and bad while trying to remain assured that we can [insert rebellious behaviour here] or associate with those who [insert rebellious behaviour here] and still sleep soundly, knowing that we, and our associates, are not serial killers.

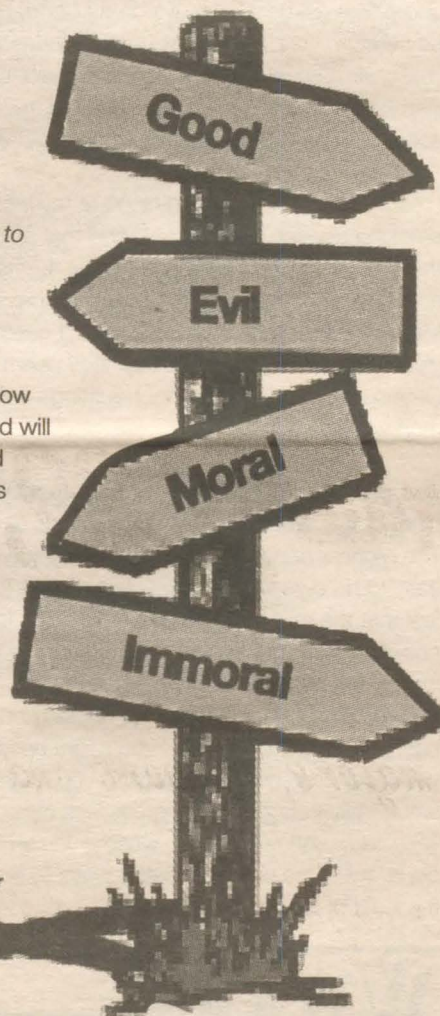
Which is where Charlize Theron comes in. *Monster*, her new critically-acclaimed film, has not yet opened in Halifax, but those of us eagerly anticipating its arrival know Theron plays Aileen Wuornos, a prostitute-turned-serial killer who was executed in Florida in 2002. At a press conference in Toronto last week, Theron explained that Wuornos spent her life desperately in search of love. While Theron did call her on-screen alter ego a bad person who did “horrible, inexcusable things,” she stressed that “her life is not as black and white as we’d like to hope. And we have to come, I hope, to a place of not sympathy for her but empathy, of understanding.”

This blurring of good and bad lines makes images of Friedrich Nietzsche dance in my head. Called the first postmodern thinker, he celebrated moral relativism. He believed in a “master morality” and a “slave morality,” both created by a society’s power structure, and both juxtaposed within everyone. In *The Genealogy of Morals*, Nietzsche argues that “the judgment ‘good’ did not originate among those to whom goodness was shown,” but rather, it was society’s masters who used the language of the good to express their power.

Maybe Nietzsche is right: it is all just semantics, and our judgments of good and bad are frivolous. But if we do not use these terms, how can we differentiate between people at all? If everyone has different standards of what constitutes acceptable behaviour, then it is infinitely harder to pinpoint innate goodness or badness.

Take Michael Jackson, for example. When he sang “I’m bad, I’m bad,” did his badness signify that he was rebelling against the confines of race, family, and popular music? Or was he “bad” in the sense that he molested children? Denzel Washington in *Training Day* poses another dilemma. Is a crooked cop still good, because his being a cop cancels out his badness? Or does his occupation make his bad actions worse?

I thought I was shallow for leaving open-ended questions in the air. So I looked up “good” in my *Oxford Companion to Philosophy*, hoping to find a clear definition. I found this: “Clearly, the issue of how we know what items are good will be much influenced by the view one has of what it is for something to be good.” A vicious cycle, perhaps?



Streeter

CATHERINE COOPER Copy Editor
LI DONG The Shy Guy

If you could create your own Dalhousie policy, what would it be?



Change the time of the spring break so that all people from Halifax can party at the same time. **Janna Crawford, first-year sciences**



We should have an open-door policy in the computer labs. It’s hard to get in there and those guys give me dirty looks. **Deza Ghettocks, third-year sciences**



The president of the university should teach at least one class a year and be paid the median amount of all the other professors. **Dr. McGonagill, Classics Professor**



We should have a week-long break in the fall semester. Just so it evens it out for each season. **Jocelyn Mallard, third-year commerce and golden-key laureate**



Make the basketball courts more available and have free cardio-room passes. **Elias Faltenhing, an eighth-grade student we found in the SUB**



Put more focus on the quality of undergraduate classes. **Tim Wall, first-year sciences**



I would ban people whose noses whistle from coming to class. **Sam Nijjar, third-year arts**

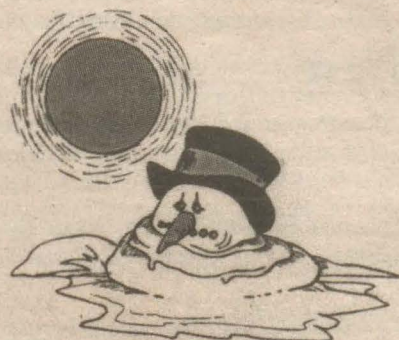


Change our campus bar to the Palace... because of the sluts. **Chris LaRoache, seventh year astrology**



DALHOUSIE University Student Employment Centre

Did you know that winter is the best time to look for a summer Job?



Job postings updated daily. Check them out online at www.dal.ca/sec

THIS WEEK'S JOB NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Resume Quick Critique- Wed. Feb 4th and Thurs. Feb. 5th
Drop in and get a professional opinion on your resume
20 minutes sessions- first come first served
Feb.4th 2-4pm and Feb. 5th 9:30-11:30am
Student Employment Center, SUB, room 446

Summer Job Fair - Tues. Feb. 10th
--- www.summerjobfair.com ---
A great way to jump start your summer job search
Feb.10th 12-7pm
SUB, McInnes room
*DAL, SMU or MSV student ID required for admission



www.dal.ca/sec

Chain Smoking Weed Train

NOLAN RITCEY Staff Contributor



Photo: stock.xchng

Smoking weed is a lot like masturbating. Most people try it out when they're about 13 or 14; it's something to do when there's not much else to do; you can do it pretty much anywhere, but you'd better look to make sure no one's watching before you do it; you can do it by yourself, but it's more fun with friends; it's a good way to relax after work; your parents know you do it, but rarely say anything; it might not be physically addictive, but it sure seems like it; and you can do it every day and (for the most part) no one will ever know. But unlike masturbation, habitual use can have far-reaching adverse consequences.

Now don't get me wrong—I'd never support any other drug use over marijuana, (maybe with the exception of caffeine). Marijuana has its ups—it's not physically addictive, it costs about the same price as going to the movies by yourself, and stoned people are usually much less aggressive, and cause much less trouble than other drug users. But I think that there are two inter-related problems with being a habitual pot smoker: it's very easy to smoke every day and, for instance, hold down a job, or go to school and you can easily spend most of your time (and money) smoking weed when you could be doing something else.

So, what's the problem? Since there's not much else to do in Halifax anyway, why not smoke weed? And, if you can get high everyday and go to work or school, what could be better?

A couple of weeks ago, a visiting student from Korea asked

me if I ever smoke pot. "Not any more," I told him. "Is it good?" he asked. "Yeah, it's pretty good, but you've got to be careful." I explained that I smoked weed for about six years, starting when I was 15, but gave it up the fall before last. And it was tough. In fact, I had to travel across the continent and into another country to kick the habit.

I'm not alone in this. When I look at my friends who started smoking dope in high school I find that about 90 per cent of them smoked chronically (every day) at one point in their lives, and at least three quarters of that number are still chronic. Many of them want to stop, but can't seem to get motivated, given that there is little else that they deem worthwhile. Others don't even think about quitting—for them it's just a money management issue.

So my advice to those of you who are thinking about getting high, or are already smoking casually, is to do so with caution. The biggest drawback to smoking marijuana is that it's so easy to do every day. At first, and maybe for a long time, you feel that the relaxing/ stimulating benefits far outweigh any possible consequences, and you seem to be saving more money than your friends who go downtown every weekend. But you might soon notice that "picking up" is first on the agenda every evening, and you might notice that the rest of your agenda is non-existent, and you might notice that your smug indifference is making you less attractive as a person. Take care, and respect the weed if you smoke it, and if you don't, there are probably better ways to spend your time, not the least of which is masturbating.

Growing Up

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor



Photo: stock.xchng

For the last few months I've been sitting at a moral crossroads. My younger brother had been bugging me for ages to let him use my ID so he could go out with his friends. For a while I'd flat out told him no. I was of the opinion that if he got into trouble or something happened to him, that it would be partially my fault for providing him access to the downtown dens of inequity in the first place. But it so happened that last week I found myself needing a favour, and so my brother and I blackmailed one another to get what we each desired. He got his—well, technically, my—ID, and I got a timer for my swim meet. I gave him the ID with very simple instructions: don't go to Merrill's (I know people who work there) and don't go to the Grawood. Naturally, he went to the Grawood. The next afternoon, after I got a call informing me I would need to get a new licence, I got to thinking about this wild process of growing up we all go through at one point or another.

I can remember in years past how I was scared as hell because I didn't know where I was going or what I wanted to do. But now that I actually do, and I'm just three months away from graduation and being forced into doing these things, I'm ready to wet myself with fear.

For the fact is, when we are just starting out here at school like my brother and his friends, we can't wait to grow up. We sit around fantasizing about what we're going to be doing in four or five years and how we're going to get there. Now that I'm actually there, all my friends and I can do is marvel over just how good we have it right now and dread the notion of having to move on to the ever-impending total independence and the subsequent responsibility that goes with it.

I like not having to be certain places at certain times if I don't want to be. I like having a minimal number of bills to think about. The prospect of cars, and houses, and kids and all the other responsibilities associated with being a "grown-up" can wait just a little longer as far as I'm concerned. So while my brother may be in a rush to grow up—and let's face it, when you associate growing up with being able to shake it like a Polaroid at the Palace, who can blame him—I'm happy enjoying my dwindling time as a kid, which, by the way, I maintain I will be until I turn 30. I wonder if Peter Pan has any openings in his club for lost boys.

STAYNER'S WHARF

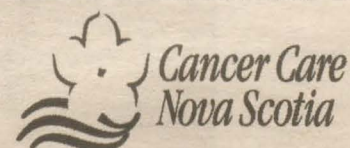
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"Fan" Mail

The World Needs More Of You

As someone who has worked as a graphic designer in newspaper publishing (and has also been a journalist), I'd like to let you know that I have been very impressed with the sophistication, experimentation and quality of the page layouts, photo selection, and typography in The Gazette this year. The editorial as well is fresh, funny, occasionally inspired and rarely irritating in a whiny or ranting way as some student papers can be. Last year, I couldn't pick the paper up. This year, I look forward to it each week. You've grabbed the interesting issues and done a good job at addressing them from the student point of view. Keep up the amazing work. - *A Dal Staffer*

Tuition Freezes

Dearest Gazette Editor,
I have noticed the buzz around campus for a rally in support of a tuition freeze. I say to hell with it. Higher tuition fees for higher education. Think about it. How many full-time students does Dalhousie have? 50,000? If the school jacks up tuition say...to \$20,000 per student, then the school would bring in approximately one billion dollars. That's roughly the volume of trade between Syria and Turkey each year. Do you have any idea what Dalhousie could do with one billion dollars? We could have Limp Bizkit write and record the craziest school song ever: "I did it all for the 'Housie! C'mon! The 'Housie...etc." Instead of textbooks, we would have virtual reality headsets that give us a first hand experience as to what it feels like to be a Greek soldier in the Trojan wars, or what neutrons see every time they metamorphasize with an electron....or something like that. We'd be the most pimpin' university on the South Shore. The university of Lethbridge would just give up because they'd be so jealous of our majesty and resources. The weather is already cold enough to freeze the pipes in my basement, don't let it get to my precious tuition fees too. - *Jordan Lester*

The World Needs More People Like You As Well

Dear Dalhousie Gazette,

I often read the campus newspaper to pass the monotony of a day on campus. My mom told me to say something nice or nothing at all. Regardless, things need to change, bros and sisses. For instance, in the arts and culture section, I believe the "report card" is far too lame for serious consideration of music. In terms of music, what is this about "fashion statement" that is a consideration at all? Are you there to go see a band or go see someone's clothes? I recall a long while back when Montreal's finest band, The Dears came in to town and played two shows. It was said that The Dears "did not have enough gas in the tank." Now honestly, I saw this concert and it totally ruled and everyone in the whole place was really getting off on the music. In terms of, "get it on ability" as you folks like to say, what is that really? Music that allows you to drink enough beer so that you can get it on with someone? That's not edge at all. That is completely lame.

Why would I want to say "Oh my god! There's an axe in my head!" in 35 languages? The environment is under enough stress, and it can be seen in articles like this one, just how much is gained by turning trees into that kind of uselessness. The Mix CD is consistently quite good though. It is good to see names like Kraftwerk and Talking Heads and Ween on there, definitely. It's too easy to just say, "here's a bunch of popular songs that sell a lot of CDs," and I applaud that there is at LEAST some consideration of other music scenes.

I do agree with the calling of Joel Plaskett for mayor. He is really busy rocking the country though. So my vote goes to Rob Benvie.

I don't agree with the term, "opinions editor." That term is bogus. To think about this, to edit an opinion is to create misinformation by obstructing matters that interfere with your argument. One person's opinion is only one opinion. Why would someone want to edit their opinion? It is their opinion. This suggests that the "opinion" given is indeed not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The Greatest Acts of Revenge in History

LI DONG Staff Contributor

With the upcoming vengeance-driven *Kill Bill Vol.2* coming soon, viewers may be wondering what it is that makes committing an act of heartless revenge so satisfying. No-names like Sir Francis Bacon and Gandhi might tell you that revenge is self-destructive, but what about the real postmodern philosophers like Jigga and 2-Pac? Well, Jay-Z simply states that, "if you shoot my dog, I'ma kill your cat" while 2-Pac's legendary words, "revenge is like the sweetest joy next to getting pussy" sum up the instinctive drives of all men.

The truth is that in its purest form, revenge brings a balance to the world like nothing else can. The idea that "two wrongs don't make a right" is an inherently lazy one. In actuality, two wrongs are only the beginning. Machiavelli saw the revenge-driven individual to be the most dangerous, and warned that as a prince, if you were going to wrong someone, you should do it in such a way that their vengeance need not be feared. Admit it, if the Count of Monte Crisco didn't end the way it did you would have rioted right there in the theatre.

Upon researching the subject I've concluded there are two things that make an act of vengeance complete. The first is that it must be administered in the same fashion that the initial attack was received (secretly, ruthlessly, cunningly etc.). The second condition is that the target must get it worse than you did in the initial incident.

There are some prime examples of gratifying acts of revenge throughout history. If there's one thing that these events can show us, it is that although we may be through with the past, the past definitely isn't through with us.

1. Midway: The United States Navy vs. The Japanese Armada

With Pearl Harbor fresh in their minds, the Americans were out for blood, despite being outnumbered by a navy that hadn't been defeated in 350 years. Luckily, the United States cracked the Japanese code and cleverly hid three American aircraft carriers. The Japanese arrived on schedule and, after a few bouts, convinced themselves that the battle was won. Enter unexpected U.S. dive bombers to rain (no pun intended) on their charade. The Americans destroyed four of Japan's best aircraft carriers and most of their good pilots. This

decisive battle put the Japanese on the defensive for the rest of the war and wholly avenged the deaths at Pearl Harbor.

2. The Trojan War: Troy vs. The Achaean Fleet

When world-renowned chump Paris secretly ran away to Troy with Helen (the queen of Sparta) it made the Greeks crazier than a raped ape (you can all thank Shawn "Steve" Goss for that disturbing image). The Greeks rounded up 1,000 of their best ships and set sail to ravage Troy for the next 10 years. However, no matter how hard they tried, the Greeks could not break through the walls of Illium. The battle continued until Odysseus convinced his fellow Greeks to hide in a wooden horse and thus be escorted into Illium. The Greeks killed all the citizens and set fire to the capital that night before heading back. When Helen was later asked why she ran off with Paris in the first place, she sheepishly explained that it must've been Aphrodite's spell which made her act all wacky. The Gods, meanwhile, had a good hearty laugh about the whole ordeal.



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"Fan" Mail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

completely honest. To edit an opinion is an idea suggesting propaganda. The content of the opinions section I have no bones with though.

I hope that there are more letters like my own that will try and suggest that things should improve at *The Gazette*. It is understandable that the people who write *The Gazette* would not be able to cater to every one of their readers, but I hope that more readers will respond to *The Gazette* with hope for improvement. The key here is that I'm not trying to criticize what *The Gazette* is presently, but instead I am trying emphasize what *The Gazette* could someday be. I have heard from many people what they think of the student newspaper, and they have had opinions that really should be heard. I suggest that perhaps there should be more emphasis in the paper as to people's suggestions as to what should or should not be in the paper. There should actually be a large ad in the paper that actually says, "do you have any suggestions? email at..."

My final suggestion, make the paper a bit smaller. There is a blatant disregard for trees here, as I mentioned earlier. Ridiculously huge adverts are not necessary and the print size is pretty large. Quality is the important factor.

Thank you, very much,
Pat Ryan

"The Trouble with Islam" Response

LINA HUSSAIN Staff Contributor

After my article, called "The Trouble with Islam" was published in the October 16 issue of *The Gazette*, I received a letter from Mr. Fielding, challenging my accusations against Miss Irshad Manji, the author of *The Trouble with Islam*.

While some people might have thought that I was rudely accusing a perfectly reliable author with invalid attacks, in this piece I am going to try and clarify myself.

What people can't seem to see the difference between is the line between Islam's teachings and the practices of its followers. This is the thin line that divides Islam and Muslims. There is a huge difference between what Islam preached about thousands of years ago and how Muslims today interpret it. You may ask, well, shouldn't one learn of a belief through one's practice of it? Sure, that's what is supposed to happen; however, the problem here is the people, not the belief. It's not fair for Miss Manji to generalize that Islam is a corrupt and barbaric religion, just because some Muslims lead this type of life. I mean, come on, it's like saying all priests are child molesters. Claiming that Muslims bash Jews, support slavery and treat women as inferior is a making a generalization based on only a percentage of the people who call themselves Muslims.

To answer Mr. Fielding's question, I don't know what book you should read to educate yourself about Islam other than *The Qur'an*. There are translated versions of it. So go ahead, read it. That is where all the truth about Islam lies. In it you will find that nowhere does God say that it's OK for Muslims to kill innocent people based on their religion or nationality. Nowhere does God say women should be treated as inferior, or that Jews are to be disrespected. In fact, Islam preaches for the respect of all people, regardless of religion, nationality, colour or sex.

There is corruption in every society, not only in the Muslim one. There are Muslim extremists who twist and corrupt the face of Islam by imposing domination over women and beating them, just as there are Christian priests who molest children.

All I'm saying is that I question the credibility of the claims of such a "great" author who is selling thousands of copies when she feels that blocking a challenging letter (from my friend—whom, by the way, did read the book) is the answer. Wouldn't you?

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The Disappearing Venues Act

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

The recent closing—either temporary or potentially permanent—of four Halifax venues has left students with few choices for weekend outing deliverance. Although the shut-downs may be a blessing in disguise for remaining local hot spots, leaving them with less competition during these slow winter months, many people have been left in a state of despair.

The Marquee, the Khyber, Bella Muse and the Lotus have all, within close proximity of each other, closed their doors. These dismal closings only aggravate the problem that students face each weekend when they find themselves doing the same old thing every Saturday night—a problem that the Halifax underage population has been learning to deal with since last winter.

The serial bar closing began exactly one year ago, with the Pavilion closing its doors due to the building's not reaching the city's fire code regulations. Since then, the city-run all-ages club had been under construction, but to no avail. When several teenagers got together to have a meeting with Mayor Kelly this past December, he and a couple of representatives from the Halifax Recreational Department told the kids that he was planning to take action. "They said that on January 1 they were going to put out an open proposition so that whoever wanted to run the Pavilion and who fit the criteria needed by the city could propose to do so," said Justin Poulain, one of the teenagers who spearheaded the young group. Now, a month and a half later, the high school students are still in the dark as far as the fate of the Pavilion is concerned. "We haven't heard a thing," Poulain said.

After the drama of the Pavilion, the shock of four more venues closing their doors was perhaps less than it otherwise would have been. The pain of losing the famous Retro Wednesdays at the Marquee or the Scratch Bastid and Friends hip hop weekly at the Khyber still somehow permeates through our thick skins.

In a letter featured on the Halifax Locals homepage, dated January 12, 2004, Craig Ferguson gracefully informed the world of the Khyber's closing. The owner/operator gave two reasons for the club's sudden hiatus, stating that there is a need for "renovation and restructuring," and that he "will be moving on to pursue other ambitions." The bar held its last show on January 14 as a goodbye party for Chris Lloyd,



who was finishing his term as Administrative Director of the arts spot. The reopening date is open-ended for now, but no matter how short a leave students have to take from the venue, their time there will be greatly missed.

Perhaps the most daunting of all the shut-downs is that of the illustrious Marquee club. Finishing on a high note with their last sold out Sam Roberts show on January 24, the club will see the departure of longtime manager/booker, Greg Clark, and the arrival

of several new interior changes. According to reports, Gord Lapp, head of numerous venues owned by Victor Syperek, said that the Marquee will undergo renovations for a new smoking lounge on the top floor. The bar's intentions are to draw in a larger crowd, as they usually only get one third of its capacity for concerts. Clark told The Gazette that he had been trying for the past couple of months to make a deal with Syperek to take over the venue, but the plans were not "coming together." "Vic decided to run the joint himself and upscale it a bit," said Clark. "The Marquee has never been accused of being upscale, so those plans don't include me."

As if the closings of the Marquee and the Khyber weren't enough, two smaller venues are now also defunct. As of this month, the Bella Muse, home to North End dreamers, and the Lotus, an arts spot located in Dartmouth, have also shut their doors. This is not the first time Bella Muse's Tobin Belanger has shut his doors, but it may be the last. The owner has been unavailable for comment.

The irony of Dartmouth's Lotus makes the venue's closing almost predictable. According to Poulain, the house was hosting an all-ages concert when it got busted for being over-capacitated. What an analogy for the city: the saturation of underage kids dying to fulfill their right to entertainment is what sees the death of the very means Halifax has to offer for them to do so.

Are all these closings just a coincidence? Are the streets to become home to abandoned drum sets and Hoegaarten mugs? Or is the venue crisis simply an effect of the slow off-season? Only time will tell.

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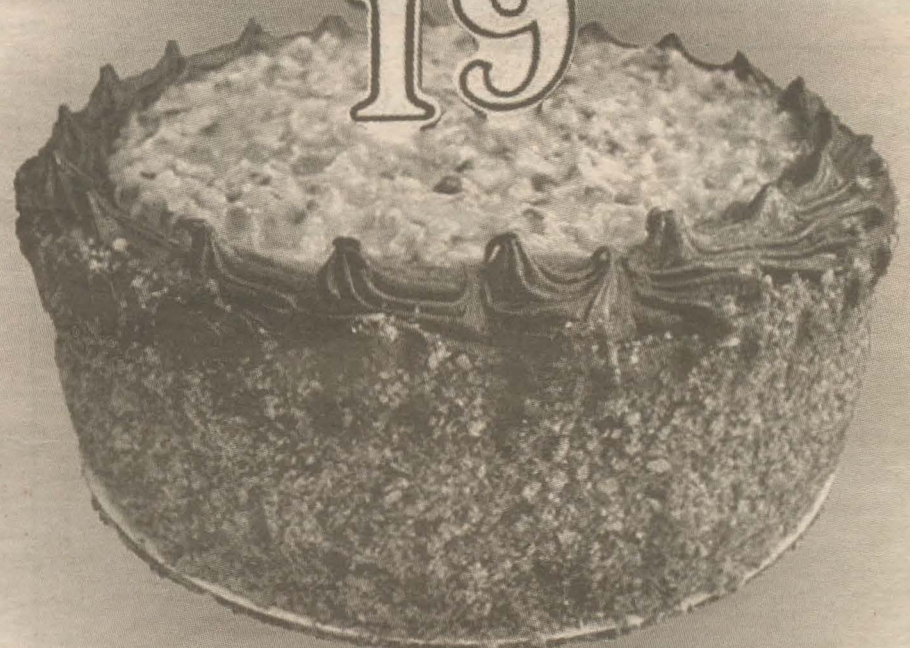
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Big Game Hunt: Open Season on Halifax Music

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor



Report Card

Bullfrog



Date: January 10th, 2004
Venue: The Marquee
Reporter: Kathryn Wallace
Photographer: Krista
Stage Presence: B
Get-It-On-Ability: A+
Sound Quality: A
Effort: B- (Not all band members present)
Crowd Reaction: A+
Overall Score: A+

A year after the close of their three-year tour, Bullfrog is back at it, visiting the East Coast to test out their latest creations featured on their second LP out in September 2004.

They are "predominately a live band [rather] than a studio band," says front man Robinson. Robinson told me Saturday, prior to performing that how the crowd reacts is what matters, and what can lead them to cut up songs and even re-write them. "More crap on the radio fuels me to write something...honest music. Whether good or bad, I write about those things rather than something superficial."

If you couldn't get tickets to their sold-out show, you really missed out. Kid Koala warmed up the already-heated crowd prior to Bullfrog's joining him on stage, and despite two members not braving the nine-hour snowstorm, the sexy growls of Robinson certainly held their own. Creating a soulful atmosphere with new Brazilian influences woven into their jazz-roots, they got the floor bouncing, and kept everyone hanging around



Photo: Press Photo

Heavy, stoner rock is not an easy genre to pull off, and for this reason there aren't a lot of bands doing it in Halifax right now. One band that is though, all the while showing everyone else how it should be done, is Big Game Hunt (BGH).

Formed about two years ago, BGH consists of Jordan Rose on vocals and guitar, Roger Nelson on bass, Wayne Muise on guitar and Matt Duncanson drumming. As good as they are at what they do, Nelson admits that in the beginning one of the biggest difficulties was finding places to play and bands to play with. "It took a while for me to have the confidence to approach different venues with the idea of Big Game Hunt. It was easy to slip into the Seahorse, but we get turned down by a lot of people," he said. He also added that some of Halifax's premier heavy bands haven't felt as though the fit on the stage with them, making them feel at times a bit like a black sheep. "The Heelwalkers heard us and told me they didn't get what we were doing at all," Nelson said.

But this fact aside, the band has been getting positive feedback from people outside the city and is pleased with crowds' reactions to a sound Nelson describes as "mid-tempo heaviness you can bang your head to, but not hurt your neck."

It is this type of reaction, as well as a strong belief in what they are doing that continues to encourage the band. "A lot of my friends won't come to our shows, but I feel Big Game Hunt is very unique in this town and there's not really people pulling off what we're doing. Some of the acts you see at the Seahorse, you can't really tell apart. So it's nice to sort

of stand out a little," said Nelson.

The band is currently in the final stages of mixing their first album, with hopes of finishing around the end of February. In the meantime, BGH is continuing to write. Duncanson attributes most of the song-writing to Rose, who often brings melodies and riffs for the band to finish together, but Muise and Nelson also share songwriting duties.

For his own part, Duncanson, who has replaced the band's original drummer Neil MacKenzie, said he feels very much a part of the band. "[It wasn't] difficult picking up from Neil. These guys practice in the same house that I live in. I heard Wayne working on the CD for months, and I just knew the songs already. I do add something, and have qualities that Neil doesn't, and Neil has qualities that I don't, but I think that it was a pretty good trade off."

When the album is done, the plan is to tour. Nelson wants to make a point of taking time to plan a successful tour. "Just figuring out where you can play in Halifax with BGH has been challenge enough, but touring is a major goal for the band," he said. Duncanson agreed that it is important for the band to tour. "I think we more or less have to be playing. I think when the album is done it will do well, but we're a better live band. If people see us live then we've got the album sold." In the end, though, Nelson says it all comes down to playing the music. "Mostly we're just trying to have a good time. We're trying to play music that we feel represents ourselves and represents what we want music to be and allow other people to enjoy good music—or what we perceive to be good music."

You can catch Big Game Hunt Saturday at the Attic and February 6 at the Idiot. To get your Big Game Hunt rocks off, check out www.bgh.ca

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Super Sex in the Super City: Shaving

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Since the dawn of time, pubes have been on our bodies to keep our genitals warm during sex, encouraging and fostering the successful transmission of sperm to egg. Today, pubes are a topic of modern beauty, especially with respect to shaving. No longer is pubic hair shaving something restricted to the lives of porno stars. For some, shaving has become a necessity. Reasons for shaving vary. Some men shave down under because it makes their penises look bigger. Others prefer a shaved region for matters of comfort. But for most of time, it has been women who have been more responsible for shaving their nether regions.

Pubic shaving reemerged as early as the 1980s after a long absence from the public eye. Its revival was sparked by the American pornography industry. Women were the first porn stars to practice shaving, however men soon followed. In addition to shaving, some of the more adventurous also shaped their pubes into patterns or shapes. Shortly thereafter, dyes arrived on the scene.

For those out there that want to experiment with pubic grooming, there are a few vital points to go over. First, there needs to be a distinction between shaving and shaping. Shaving is clearing the area of all hair, whereas shaping is more geared towards shortening the hair and making clean edges.

Shaving the pubes requires attention. This isn't something to be done in a rush. For first timers, you can start with an electric razor and guard or a pair of scissors. This will minimize the amount of hair down to a very short base. If you want to continue for a completely natural look, you should begin by taking a long warm bath. This will soften the hairs and will be key in achieving successful results. After bathing, rinse the pubic area with cool water and pat dry. Work up a

lather with hypoallergenic shaving foam and allow it to sit for a few minutes. Then you can take a new, sharp razor and begin shaving. I've heard some people say that first going against the grain and then with the grain gives smoother results. Frankly, I feel it is a matter of preference, because everybody has different hair growth patterns. Regardless, use as few strokes as possible. When you increase the strokes, you magnify the risks of irritation, which could lead to infection. You can finish everything off with a hypoallergenic moisturizer.

Shaping is much less complicated, and should come easily to anybody with Chia Pet experience. You can start with an electric razor and guard. Start with a high number guard and work your way down. Once you've clipped away a comfortable amount of hair, you can finish off the process using smaller clippers, scissors and a comb. Some people just leave a small box of hair, while others graft elaborate patterns.

There are other choices out there, and it is important to stress that grooming can also apply to other parts of the body. Increasingly, more attention than ever has been paid to back, chest and leg hair. Two of the main choices for these areas are depilatories and bleach.

There is not a lot to say about depilatories. These lotions are available in drugstores and have specific instructions on each bottle. The chemicals in the bottle can be strong, so they may not be suitable for everybody. Most irritation occurs when a product is left on too long. Usage should not go past 10 minutes. You can always reapply later. Also, read the bottle, as some lotions are not recommended for use near the nipples, genitals or anus.

Bleaching also comes with risks, due to the strong chemicals involved. Don't use these products for more than 10 minutes. You can always reapply to achieve lighter results. Bleaching must be avoided after a warm bath or during humid conditions, as open pores can increase the risk of infection and/or irritation. Although this doesn't remove the hair, it has been popular amongst many fair skinned adult entertainers because it looks less noticeable.

Shaving and grooming can be a part of anybody's regular hygiene for a number of reasons. Those who do it tell me that it is about comfort and cleanliness, and that it makes oral sex more enjoyable. Body adomment and grooming has always been a part of human existence. It is nothing to feel ashamed or embarrassed about, so enjoy it.

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Sartorial Eloquence

JENN MORRISON *Glamour Queen/Assistant News Editor*

When I read that the 1964 fashion bible *Elegance*, by Genevieve Antoine Dariaux, was being reissued, my first thought was that, like photos of Audrey Hepburn, the advice therein would be as timeless, yet as fresh, as a little black dress. But, to put it bluntly, I was oh-so-dead-wrong. Here are a few of her gems that have not stood the test of time, complete with Sartorial Eloquence analysis...

On Eccentricity:

"What is original may become elegant, for it is simply something new; but what is eccentric will never be elegant, because it is by definition "off-center" and therefore lacks the balance that is indispensable to elegance. The eccentric woman doesn't at all wish to be imitated, but only to make herself conspicuous. Usually she is a rather anti-social person, endowed with a very strong personality, who manifests her scorn of the mass of humanity by refusing to become a part of it in any way whatsoever."

Elegance is a foreign word these days, especially in the wardrobes of university students. And it should likely stay that way. The fun of fashion is to be "conspicuous," and unique, and not the same as everyone else. If that means that we may cringe at pictures of ourselves now when we are 80, so be it.

On Figures:

"Reduced to its simplest form, the feminine figure is either an I or an O or any one of the infinite number of intermediate stages...if you are a Capital I—over 5'9", for example, and weighing no more than 120 pounds...All you have to do is to find yourself a man your own size and you will be the happiest of women."

Apparently in 1964 you could scoop a man off the racks like a pair of slacks, but was it really worth starvation? And what lady wants to be told that she looks like a letter of the



alphabet?

On Nightclubs:

"The customary attire for an elegant night spot is therefore a low-cut, short evening dress, made of a rather rich material or trimmed with beaded embroidery. The dream is for it to be accompanied by a matching evening coat, but a little fur jacket of mink, sable, ermine, or chinchilla, is also acceptable."

or comic strips...The current collective adoration for the big bust and the publicity given to the monstrous measurements of certain movie stars is a phenomenon perhaps worthy of the attention of a psychiatrist, or the jury at a livestock exhibition—but it certainly has nothing to do with either fashion or elegance."

I personally think the vamps of gangster films are sexy, nothing "so-called" about it. And a woman who feels comfortable in her own skin is elegant, even if she wears next to nothing. However, I agree on the big bust thing—which is the only subject where I see eye to eye with Genevieve.

While *Elegance* conjures up images of ruby red lips, shiny white pearls, gloves, satin dresses and diamonds, it also bursts individualist bubbles of style, and, even though the author denies it, seeks to impose a cult of uniformity on the women of the world. What's the fun in fashion if there's no room for play?

Low-cut is still customary, but leaving a chinchilla fur jacket in the Palace coat check would be risky, to say the least.

On Sex:

"So-called 'sexy' styles are never truly elegant, but only suitable for the vamps of gangster films

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Photo: Michael Gorman

The Gospel According to Jack

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor

Jack MacDonald has a lot to say—you just have to give him the chance to say it. That's exactly what Nick Bevan-John discovered four years ago. Disillusioned with the music scene and ready to give up making music altogether, the former early member of The Guthries stumbled across MacDonald en route to pawning his guitar.

Jack was stationed, as always, on his famous corner outside the CIBC on Spring Garden Road, selling his stories. Bevan-John was intrigued, and asked Jack for a poetry reading, and at that point inspiration struck, and Nick invited Jack to record some of his poetry. For Nick, it seemed like the logical thing to do. "There is a guy standing there, selling poetry on the street. I was surprised I was the first guy ever to get him to read it," he said. "I loved the poems, and I loved his voice when he read."

Nick thought the work should be documented, but also thought it would be a good idea for the local street poet to be able to have a CD to sell of his spoken word. This led to the idea to record songs, and thus the conception of Jack MacDonald and The Hotel Faces. For his part, Jack credits Nick with the whole idea. "Nobody else but Nick would [get me to sing songs]. I don't know if he's a genius or an idiot," he said. But with a smile quickly added that it's probably the former.

Don't Touch My Animal, like all his other albums, is written completely by Jack, with most of the music written and performed by Nick. This creates a fascinating meeting between the lyrics and the music. At times, they fit together seamlessly, with Jack's lyrics floating through Nick's painfully beautiful melodies. Other times, the two seem to compete for supremacy.

Nick recognized the music's uniqueness at once. "It's so different than everything else I've ever done. I don't know

what to compare Jack's stuff to, and I like that," he said. "I like listening to music that doesn't sound like a knock-off pavement band. To me, that's the most exciting thing about Jack's stuff. It's its own force,"—a force with many shapes.

At times, Jack seems give the listener glimpses of his life. On "Milky My, Milky Me," he sings "But now the sidewalks are my home/On the sidewalks I'm all alone," while on "I Miss Being Young," Jack seems to recall his youth. "Out of the Darkness" finds Jack making his way through a song almost as if he were composing it that very moment. There is something very fragile and delicate about listening to his thought process as he sings, "Some day I'm going to get it right/Someday I'm going to do it right." The force is completely different on songs like "Born to Boogie," "Zombie Proof" and "Don't Touch My Animal," where it's easy to see why Jack at times reminds Nick of "Iggy Pop on a crack pipe."

Hearing Jack speak about his music and the experiences it has given him, it's impossible not to feel his passion. Asked about performing live and the relationship he has established with Nick and the rest of the band, Jack lights up with the enthusiasm that kids experience when they receive their first guitar. "The music to me is where it's at," he said. "It's been a great learning experience for me. I'm the one that's really learning. I'm the young one in this. I started liking the music and then you couldn't get me away from it. I became fixated on it."

He's also grateful for what Nick has done for him. "Once I met Nick, it opened doors for me," he said. "I've been getting great feedback and having a lot of fun with the process. I'm lucky to have come across Nick. I can't say enough about the music he comes up with, and the things he does."

You can't help but be taken in by this passion and

enthusiasm. It takes just a few minutes of talking to Jack to realize just how much there is to him. He's not some guy who lives on the street pushing stuff on people. He's an artist—an artist with a home, who works on the street and has a lot to offer the community, or anyone willing to stop and chat.

Interestingly, if you ask Nick, it seems Jack has done more for him than he has done for Jack. There was a time when Nick hated playing music. He was sick of the whole industry and wasn't having fun. With Jack, it's different. "I actually find myself having fun, hanging out, joking around," he said. "Before, with other music, it always seemed like a stressful business. I like [this] music, I listen to the music."

It's clear he's been fully captured by Jack's passion. The man on the corner he was drawn to has turned into a good friend whom he deeply respects and admires. "I feel strongly enough about Jack's stuff that I'd like to just put it out there and see how people respond to it," he said. "As a Canadian entertainer and poet I see him in the lines of Leonard Cohen. I think as a Canadian artist, I've never seen anyone else like him."

Nick would also like to produce a book of Jack's writing. He is impressed by the way Jack's work moves people—whether it makes them think, be happy or laugh. "It's a damn special thing that a lot of people can't do any time," he said. "So I'm just trying to spread the gospel of this man."

Jack and The Hotel Faces play the Idiot on February 13 and then Reflections every Wednesday in April. You can get a CD at Sam's, Revolution Records, Jack or his website:

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The Flying Buttresses

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

Arm an earth scientist, two architects and an engineer with some instruments and a microphone and what have you got? The Flying Buttresses. Having only moved here from Ontario in September, the group has only had a few chances to expose the East Coast to their mellow, folksy and rhythmic tunes.

The composites of the group—Jim Barr, Brian A. Urbanik, Jonathan Tyrrel, and Don MacKay—share the roles of guitarist, drummer, vocalist, and bassist, creating an equal-opportunity atmosphere that goes well with their down-to-earth melodies and lyrics. In addition to these traditional instruments, the band also incorporates such underrated gems as the banjo, harmonica, violin (not fiddle-style), mandolin and piano, which together indulge the audience with their familiar bluegrass appeal.

The songs, however, do not conform well to any one genre. The style of the vocals depends on the songwriter, and since each member contributes to this role, there is frequent variation. The members always sing their own songs, a quality that lends clues to the listener regarding each member's respective influences. So while the vocals are often soft and moaning, there is sometimes a shift to a more rock-folk style reminiscent of Neil Young.

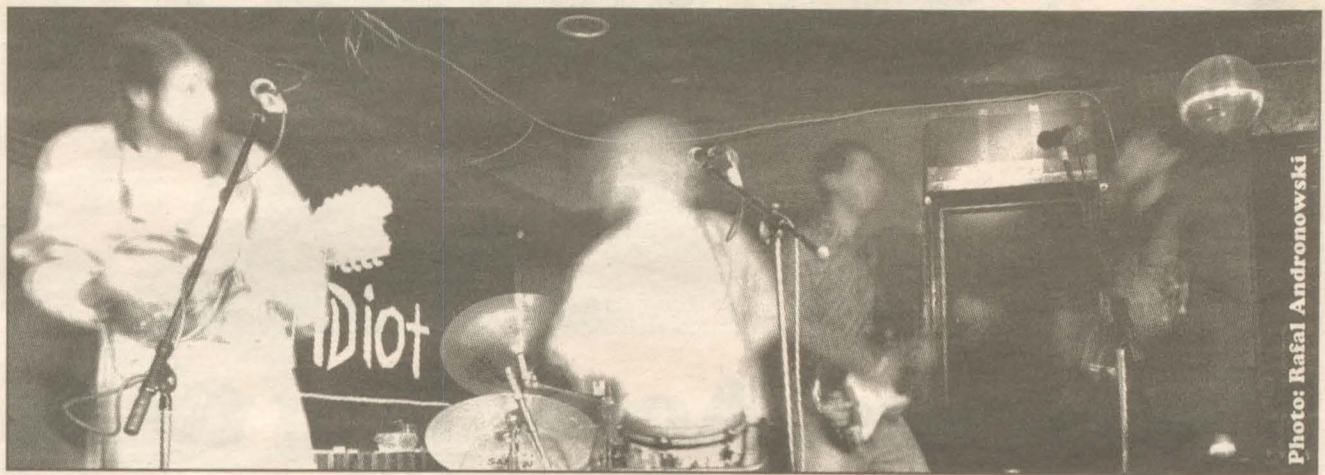


Photo: Rafal Andronowski

"If you've got four different minds writing songs, it gives it a different dynamic," said Barr. This songwriting sharing is a good technique for the Flying Buttresses, though, because the lyrics always go well with the melodies. Some songs narrate a story, while others are more poetically verbose.

The group's songs are changeable in accordance with their given atmosphere as well. "The songs change continually, and it totally depends on the venue we're in," said Urbanik. Two recent shows illustrate this point. On Saturday, at the Idiot, they played an upbeat show, but the next night at Salvation, a much smaller venue, they toned it down.

"That's the beauty of our music. [Sunday] we had a quiet night, but you get some electric instruments into our hands and it gets a lot louder," said Tyrrel.

But the group always makes sure to stay true to their own unique style, too. "One time we were playing somewhere and everyone was yelling at us to play country music, so we sort of tried to countrify our songs, but in the end we just went back to our usual

style," said Barr.

The style Barr speaks of is not the typical young band style. Behind these ebullient faces lie dormant a dense accumulation of numbers, equations, and terminology from their undergraduate pasts. All that information is brought to the attention of listeners in several unlikely ways. For instance, the group's name itself is a reference to an obscure architectural construction used in ancient Gothic churches. Its purpose was to support the heavily detailed roofs of the era. Although the guys don't regret getting a good education, they let out their frustrations with the institution in songs like "Useless Information."

Overall, the band feel that becoming musicians was a natural destiny for them, as it should be for anyone takes part in the world of artistry, for, as MacKay quipped, "why does a poet become a poet?"

The band is playing and selling \$2 CDs on January 29 at the Gradhouse, but if you can't wait to hear them, check out www.buttresses.com

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Track & Field Off to Solid Start

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor

The Dalhousie track and field teams traveled to Sherbrooke for their first real meet of the season. The men came in fourth place, and the women placed a strong second. Adrienne Power was named athlete of the meet as she placed first in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.74.

"I thought for the first meet it went real well," said Coach Dan Hennigar. "The women's team shocked a lot of people by placing second, and even though the men's team didn't have their strongest side competing, there was a lot of high points"

The women did extremely well, along with Power, Leanne Huck and Lauren Grant placed third and fourth in the 60-metre dash, respectively. These two decided to switch places in the 300-metre dash, as this time Grant got third and Huck

had fourth. Angela Alambets placed fourth in the 600-metre, while Kim McIvor placed sixth in the 1000 m run. CIS Rookie of the Year for cross-country, Janice Ashworth, placed first in the 3000 m run, by a margin of over a minute, which is like two hours in any other sport. Alicia Dobranowski and Andrea Faryniuk placed second and fourth in the 60-metre hurdles.

The women's 4X200 relay teams placed first and third, while the 4X400 relay team and the 4X800 placed second. Jen Payne placed first in the high jump and second in the pole vault. Courtney Anderson claimed fifth place in the long jump, while Lindsey Jones and Jen Payne placed first and fifth respectively in the shot put, and Jones had a fifth place showing in the weight throw

On the men's side, the Tigers were still trying to shake off the rust from the break. Jeremy Koenig placed fifth in the 60-metre dash—not too bad considering he had run four times previously that day (open heats included). Colin Duffy had a solid second in the 600-metres, while Mihira Lakshman and Nicholas McBride placed fourth and fifth in the 1500-metre dash. Ryan Salsbury placed fifth in the gut busting 3000-metre run. Dal placed third in the 4X400 and 4X800 relays. Paul Bennett and Josh Davidson finished second and fourth in the shot put, while Bennett also claimed first in the weight throw.

Look for Dal to be a National power in track and field as they get into a rhythm for the short season.

Tigers Suffer Hard Losses

NATHAN COLEMAN Sports Contributor

The Dalhousie men's basketball team proved they were fierce competitors in their Wednesday match up vs. rivals SMU, where they came out on fire with a 15-2 run and controlled the tempo for most of the game. In the final minute, however, things fell apart after several Dal turnovers led to a long-range Nelson Carvery jumper, which sealed the victory 69-64 for SMU. Monte Francois and Nick Donald combined to earn 38 of Dal's 64 points in the game, but were unable to get any touches down the stretch.

On Friday night, the Tigers were in Fredericton, where they faced a UNB squad that had handed them a devastating one-point loss a week earlier at the Dalplex. Their frustration motivated them to go out and play another tight game in which the teams went neck and neck—that is, until the second half. It was 33-32 for the Reds at the halfway marker, but by the time the final buzzer sounded, the Tigers had suffered through an 81-60 blowout loss. Nick Donald dropped in 17 points for Dal, who felt the effects

of a strong defensive effort by UNB, which forced them to shoot only 17 for 50 from the field. Tom Spink scored 20 for the Reds, while Doug Thompson provided dagger after dagger, shooting four for five from downtown.

The Tigers' current record is two wins and seven losses, leaving the team in need of a late season rally in order to earn a playoff berth in the Baldwin Division. Providing that the court doesn't flood, the Tigers will have an opportunity to snap their losing skid when they travel to Newfoundland this weekend for two consecutive games vs. Memorial.

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Rollercoaster Return to Halifax for Dal

JOEY RYBA Staff Contributor



The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team made their 2004 return to Halifax this week with a game at the Halifax forum against SMU on Wednesday and with two weekend contests against UdeM and UNB.

At SMU, Dal struggled for two periods, but cranked it in the third for some late heroics. After 40 minutes, the Huskies led 2-0, but Billy Browne cut the lead in half with a pretty goal. SMU regained the two-goal lead, but then sat back as Dal stepped up. Dominic Noel scored at 18:46 of the third and then Chris Stanley scored at 19:10 to send the game into OT. However, the late heroics were shattered as SMU scored at the 27-second mark of OT.

"I'm happy we battled back tonight," said Fabian Joseph. "We played 20 minutes of hockey tonight. It's nice to get the point, but it's a 60-minute game. We have to get hungry and play 60 minutes every night."

In Friday night's affair vs. UdeM, Dal fell behind early and couldn't gain any momentum as UdeM skated to a disastrous 6-0 victory. Defenceman Fred Belanger commented on the loss: "We really wanted this game tonight. We turned the puck over a few times and things went downhill. We have

to keep things straightforward and the bounces will come. We're not panicking, we just have to be patient."

Saturday Night's main event against UNB was one the most adrenalized battles in the history of the AUHC. The Tigers played a high energy, high tempo, physical game, and every player pushed himself to the max. Sophomore sensation J.F. Perras was at his best, stopping 42 shots. Stanley gave Dal a 1-0 lead in the first, and the score stayed that way after two periods. Stanley scored on the powerplay to make it 2-0. UNB battled back to make it 2-1 and scored again with 24 seconds remaining to send the game into OT. However, OT was a different story that night. Stanley won the draw with 11 seconds left in OT deep in the UNB zone to Noel. Finally, in dramatic fashion, Belanger one-timed a Noel pass with eight seconds left to give the Tigers a much-deserved win. The game was a total team effort, but "The Stan Man" really dominated tonight. It wasn't just the two goals and the assist by Stanley that were important, but rather the total package. The face-off wins, physical play and grinding intensity combined with the points showed why Chris Stanley is the best player in the AUHC.

"It's great to get the monkey off our backs," said Stanley. "Our whole team battled tonight. We have to play like this every night. Dust builds mountains. It's the little things that get it done in the big test."


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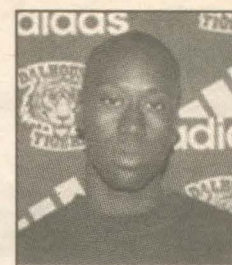
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10 Questions with Raphael Eghan

QUESTIONS BY THERESA ANNE SALAH

1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how boring is your hometown? Why?

One. State College is never boring as long as Penn State is playing.

2) What are you taking at Dal?

Kinesiology.

3) Who's your favorite athlete and/or sports team?

Lakers, #8.

4) What's the last thing you do before a game?

Listen to music (slow jams).

5) What's the worst thing you've ever done to a player on the other team?

Cleaned my bloody jersey on an X jersey (sorry man.)

6) Who's the hottest person in the world? (girlfriends don't count)

Tyra Banks.

7) What's your pet peeve?

Lineups.

8) What do you think of the sports editor?

Who's the sport's editor? (ed. ouch)

9) If you could invent one useless holiday, what and when would it be?

Clayton Park appreciation day every Friday.

10) What's the sexiest animal in the world?

The fox.

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Tigers Pounce on Competition

KATIE GAMMON Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Women's basketball team had a very successful weekend as they got four points by defeating arch rivals SMU, 56-50 and downing the UNB Varsity Reds, 72-65. This improves Dal's record to 6-3.

The Tigers hosted cross-town rivals, the Saint Mary's Huskies, on Wednesday January 15 at the Dalplex. Both teams had a somewhat a slow start to the game in the first half. The Tigers only shot 30 per cent from the floor in the first half, but were impressive at the foul line and were only trailing 26-24 at half-time. In the second half, Dal got a lot more aggressive on the court and held their own for the first 10 minutes. However, the women Tigers were still behind 37-36 at the 12 minute mark. Dal's defence then shut the door on the Huskies, as they pulled off the win in a low scoring fashion, 56-50.

Leading the Tigers were Ryan McKay with 14 points and Leslie Duncan with 13 points. All-star Julie Galipeau lead the Huskies with 26 points. Also pitching in for the Tigers were Sonya Young with eight points and Justine Panavas with five. Dal's record improved to 5-3 in the Balwin Division, while the Huskies fell to 4-5.

The Tigers then travelled to Fredericton to face the UNB Varsity Reds on Saturday night. Dalhousie had just recently beat the Reds the weekend before and hoped for the same outcome in this past weekend's game. The Tigers came out very strong in the first half, netting an impressive 48 points and holding UNB to only 31. The game would not change from there, as Dal maintained the lead throughout the rest of the second half with help from their impressive three point shooting.

Dal took the victory 72-65 over the Reds. Player of the game Carolyn Peppin hit all of her four three-point attempts to account for all of her 12 points. Justine Panavas scored a game high 17 points for the Tigers, along with New Brunswick native Kelly Donald with 14 points and Elspeth Cheng contributing 13 points of her own. For the UNB Reds, Amber Lenihan had 17 and Christy McBride netted 13.

The women Tigers' next two games take place this weekend when they are on the road travelling to Newfoundland to face off against the Memorial Seahawks. Dal hopes to maintain their impressive undefeated road record.

Volleyball

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor



Dalhousie hosted interlocking play this weekend, with both the men's and women's volleyball teams. The men split the weekend, defeating both Sherbrooke and McGill, but losing to Laval and Montreal. In the exhibition Dal Volleyball Classic, the women played spectacularly, losing only once in the round robin to Montreal and coming back to win the gold medal game on Sunday against Montreal in straight sets.

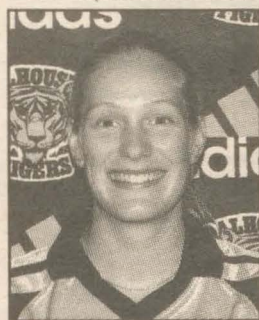
The men played Sherbrooke first on Saturday, ending up with a strong win in straight sets (25-21, 25-14, 25-19). Laval proved too strong for the Tigers, and defeated them in three straight sets, although the second set went to 33-31 before it was decided (25-21, 33-31, 25-16). Dalhousie rebounded quickly to demolish McGill on Sunday in three straight sets (25-15, 25-17, 25-20). However, the Tigers lost out to a tough Montreal team later that day in a tight match, three sets to one (25-21, 22-25, 25-23, 26-24).

Meanwhile, the women hosted the 25th annual Dal Volleyball Classic on the weekend, with teams from Acadia, Montreal, Sherbrooke and UNB. The Tigers started off well against Acadia, winning three sets to one (24-26, 25-16, 25-21, 25-23). They then kept their momentum going as they defeated last year's CIS champions, Sherbrooke, three sets to one (23-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-15). Facing a tough UNB team on Saturday, Dal was not to be denied, as they won out in a straight sets victory (25-20, 25-16, 25-13). The Tigers hit a bump in the road in their final round robin game as they lost in straight sets to Montreal (25-14, 25-13, 25-15).

After having an entire night to think about their loss, the Tigers came out fierce on Sunday in the Gold medal game, downing that same Montreal team in a dominating straight sets victory (32-30, 25-17, 25-22). Although the first game was really close, losing that long game was the straw that broke Montreal's back, and they seemed to give up, allowing the Tigers to claim their well-earned gold medals.

The men's last home game will be on Feb 13 at 7 p.m. against UdeM. The women will also play Feb 13 at 5 p.m. against SMU. Come out and support your Tigers

Athletes Of The Week



Jilliane Goulet, Volleyball

Jilliane had a tremendous weekend for the Tigers as she had a major impact on the team's success in capturing the 25th Annual Dal Volleyball Classic. The Tigers faced a tough lineup of teams, including the AUS leading Acadia Axewomen, defending CIS Champions Sherbrooke, and a Montreal team that has been nationally ranked for most of the season. Jilliane was selected by the participating coaches as the tournament MVP for the second year in a row. She led the Tigers in scoring with 70 points over the five matches, playing in 15 of the 17 sets that the Tigers played. Always a presence on the court, over the course of the weekend Jilliane collected 45 kills, 19 stuff blocks, 6 aces and 37 kills. The former AUS MVP and CIS All-Canadian is a third-year english student from Arnprior, Ont.



Jeff Weiler, Volleyball

In this past weekend's AUS-QSSF interlock matches held at Dalplex, Jeff demonstrated his skill as one of the top liberos in the country. Jeff was the Tigers most consistent and exciting player to watch this weekend, making 40 incredible digs throughout the four matches, many of which left the crowd in awe. Last season's AUS Libero of the Year has been the starting libero for the National Junior Team for the past two summers, and recently competed at the World Junior Championship in Iran. Jeff is a second-year kinesiology student from Scarborough, Ont.

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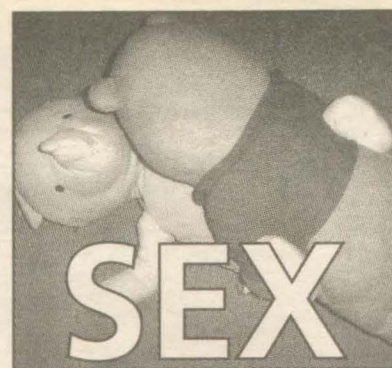




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(issue next week)

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

An Ode to Trivia

By: Chris Fedora, Editor-in-Cheif

His name is Brent. He drinks vodka and orange juice.

Remember these words, they may help you meet a future celebrity. OK, that may be a little far-fetched, but not by DalTech's standards. This robust host of the T-Room's Friday night trivia events has become an icon of sorts in our little engineering world. He doesn't play an instrument, nor does he sing or dance (thank God). No, his pedestal of mediocre fame is built on his incredible ability to stump some of our schools smartest nerds and geeks and some of its most serious students of useless knowledge.

In past years, business on Friday nights at the T-Room was at best slow. This was surprising, seeing that pitchers are only \$8 and bottles are only \$2.75 (regular). Sale prices of bottled beer and shots for \$2.25 and regular Thursday events like "Beat the Clock," with pitchers starting at \$5 could not seem to attract a steady crowd. Thursday night, with all of the specials listed above, plus a live band, were thought even this year to be unrivalled in popularity.

No one really saw it coming. When trivia was scheduled in for every Friday night, it was assumed it would only bring an entertaining, while still slow night to the bartenders on staff. What has grown from its first session is a cult following that seems to keep attracting new fans. It has grown so popular at DalTech that it has come just short of having a fan club.

It attracts engineers and non-engineers alike. All it takes is a competitive spirit, a head full of useless knowledge, and a loonie.

For those of you who don't know how this whole thing works, shame on you. I will have pity on you and explain the intricacies, however. First off, you come to the T-Room Friday night at 8:30, just to get a seat. Trivia starts at 9 and usually goes until 11 p.m. If you have no friends, who cares—you can play by yourself or you can make new friends and join an already established group (we are a very friendly people down there).

Each team is given an answer sheet. On that sheet are numbered spaces for each question. During the course of the evening, your host, Brent, will be calling out trivia questions. Answer these questions on the sheet in the appropriate space. At various points, Brent will have special trivia rounds, in which the winners get beer and other beer-associated prizes. Brent will call out a question, and if you think you know the answer, simply raise your hand. If he points at you, try your luck. If you're right, you claim your prize, if you're wrong, however, you throw a quarter into your table's trivia cup. At the end of the night, the team with the highest score wins a big prize (word to the wise, if you want a reasonable share in the prize, keep your team size to a minimum).

There are a couple of rules that must be followed on trivia night in the interests of fair play and respectfulness and so as to not piss me off because I'm there every week and I work there. These rules are:

1. Pay your loonie to the trivia cup before you start playing (Brent is a student, he spends a lot of time preparing this stuff, and he doesn't just do it for fun). No loonie, no play.
2. Don't shout answers. If you're right, you give everyone else the answer; if you're wrong, you look like an ass.
3. Answer a special round question when pointed to. Same reasons as number two.
4. If you are wrong on a question in the special round, put a damn quarter in the cup. You would gladly go grab your free beer if you were right, so give Brent his props for stumping you and drop a quarter, loser.

That's it in a nutshell. Everyone has a great time, whether they win or lose, mainly because Brent keeps things light and everyone gets hammered. So come on down to the T-Room on Friday nights, if you have nothing else to do, or before you head out to wherever else you're going.

Idiots

By: Princess Agent Smith, Contributing Writer

There are a lot of people in the world. These people are of all different types. There are different sizes, shapes, colors and backgrounds. These differences make for an interesting world. Then there are idiots.

Idiots rarely do anything to make the world a better place. Idiots occupy their time by slowing the rest of us down and breathing up all our air.

Here is a list I've compiled which will tell you if you are an idiot. Saying yes to any of these questions throws you in the idiot category. This list is by no means exhaustive.

1. You have no idea what exhaustive means (you might as well stop reading).
2. You answer your phone while doing something important (washing a baby for example).
3. You watch *The Bachelorette*.
4. You do not know the difference between "its" and "it's."
5. You tell everyone you're on the Atkins diet (no diet is great if you can't drink milk, stupid).
6. You can't see why guys find the Olsen twins attractive.
7. You have written hate mail (ever).
8. You watch Entertainment Tonight (stop that).
9. You think Celine Dion is a good person to have for a Super Bowl Halftime Show.
10. You care if Bennifer is still going.
11. You are a vegan who smokes.
12. You buy organic foods cause they're "natural" yet you still eat soy.
13. You pass on chain mail (nobody likes you anymore).
14. Your name is Elizabeth Chiu (you're right, no one wants you here).
15. You listen to Clay Aiken ("Invisible" is the creepiest song ever).
16. You are down with pre-marital sex, oral sex and contraception but are against abortion because of your religion.
17. You think Madonna is sexy (the 80's are over, now she's just an old slut).

Send suggestions to princess_agent_smith@hotmail.com

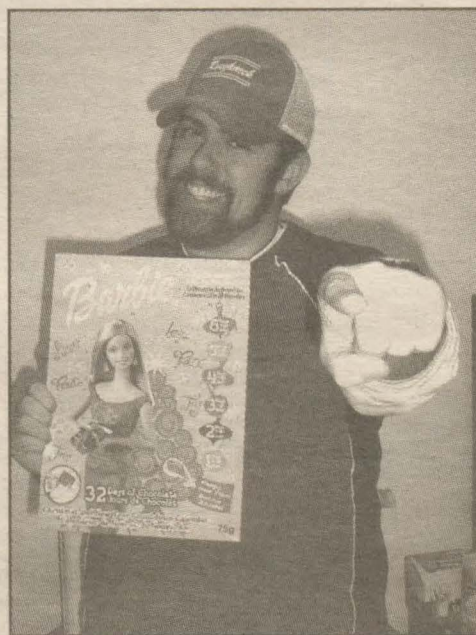
T-Room Listings

January 22nd,
Open Mic

January 29th,
Gimme Some Bass

Every Friday
Trivia Night

The Great Dalhousie Engineering Sextant Editor Search



We here at *The Sextant* need to find an Editor for next school year.

The candidate must be in engineering at Dalhousie, available both terms of the 2004/2005 school year, possess impeccable class and integrity, and, above all, harbor a deep burning desire to antagonize Elizabeth Chiu.

Auditions will be held after a minimum of five rounds of drinks at The T-Room some Thursday night in the near future. All resumes, as well as any other inquiries regarding this matter, can be sent to me at cfedora@dal.ca

Good Luck and God speed

Family Guy Marathon



Jan 28, 6-10pm, \$2 admission, and we plan on selling pizza