

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE

## DION DODGES DAL DEMOGRAPHIC

### DION PUSHES DRUG PLAN NOT STUDENT DEBT

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Green garden greets guests pg. 16

Alliteration alienates audience pg. 1

Photo: Josh Boyter Person who operates the 'layout' machine: Susan Maroun





# WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hi Dalhousie students!

Apologies for the blank spot in last week's *Dispatch*; the content was not invisible, as any of you took lemon juice to it might know, but was in fact lost in transit.

The first week of September was, as usual, very active for the DSU and its societies, and as activity is increasing on campus, now is the time to decide what you are interested in for extra-curricular activity this year.

With involvement in mind, keep an eye out for posters and pamphlets indicating the dates and times for Annual General Meetings of societies you are interested in. They frequently involve free food, and offer positions within society executive or council that will put you right into the drivers seat for your extra curricular interests. Info and contact details of all ratified DSU societies are available online at Tiger Society, accessible from [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca).

Involvement is also encouraged in our Imagine DSU event taking place on September 23. From 4-7 p.m. in room 303 of the SUB, students are welcome to answer the question: "What should the campus of the future look like?" Help the DSU to develop a campus that meets your needs by having your say on this issue.

This Saturday, the DSU is hosting residence council training in the SUB. All members of residence councils are encouraged to attend; the training starts at 9 a.m. and runs until 1 p.m.

Right after that session, the DSU encourages all to take part in the Shoreline Cleanup project in Point Pleasant Park. A group of us will be meeting up at 1 p.m. in the SUB to walk down.

On Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> the Halifax Student Alliance will be having a day-long student forum to gather input from students across the Halifax Regional Municipality about how to make our city a better place. The issues we will be tackling include urban transportation, student safety concerns, and student housing problems faced by students living in and around our city. If you've had trouble with these issues, or feel we aren't addressing the right issues, make sure to contact your Vice-President (Education), Mark Coffin, at [dsuvped@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvped@dal.ca) to register.

The second annual DSU Leadership Conference is now open for registration at the SUB info desk. This event is taking place all day on Saturday, September 27. Registration is \$10; check out [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) or contact [dsuvpi@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpi@dal.ca) for more details!

Treasurer training will be taking place on October 2 at 6 p.m. This will be an opportunity for anyone interested in keeping a society's books in order to learn from and ask questions of our VP (Finance and Operations), Matt Golding.

In online news, Dal has been selected to participate in Myspace Canada's Secret Shows contest. Go to [www.myspace.com/telus](http://www.myspace.com/telus) and vote for Dal to win us a free concert!

As always, the Grawood is a great place to stop for lunch throughout the week, and both the Grawood and T-Room provide fantastic programming for your evenings. Check out this week's details online at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca).

Remember that the deadline for opting out of the DSU Health Plan is September 26 at 4:30 p.m. Opt-out can be done online at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca), or in person at the Health Plan office across from Campus Copy in the SUB.

Check back next week for more news, and as always, contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



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### THE FINE PRINT

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# Sunglasses for the self

JULIE SOBOWALE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Atlantic Canada Fashion Week wrapped up with a closing party last week while the Atlantic Film Festival was hosting its annual red carpet opening gala. Both events have something in common: people dressed to impress.

We love to profess our style and self-expression through clothes. Fashion has become such a mega business that even slobs have distinct looks of their own.

While the Atlantic Canada Fashion Week held its inaugural event Sept. 8 with little fanfare, one of fashion's most prestigious events, the fall New York Fashion Week, was taking place. The September issue of Vogue, the bible of fall fashion, was also released earlier this month with nearly 700 pages filled with ads on what's in and what's supposedly cool.

What we wear has become so important that our personalities can be tied to one item. Apparently sunglasses are the accessory of the year for men and women to make a fashion statement. It's hard not to notice the increasing number of students on campus strutting with their shades.

For a moment, let's assume sunglasses tell us something meaningful about a person. What are the personality traits of sunglasses? Maybe wearing reflective shades means



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Federal Liberal party leader Stephane Dion says the Canadian economy need a reality check.

you're hip and trendy. Dark shades are for control freaks, those who like to see the world without the world seeing them. People who are open and friendly wear light-coloured or transparent glasses so people can their happy faces. The adventurous

and outgoing wear bright-coloured lenses, like red or yellow, to attract attention. Big, simple frames are for the introverts and small, flashier frames are for the extroverts.

I may be taking a leap with this analysis thing, but the idea that we're

judged according to what we buy is nothing new.

Recently a Scottish study from Heriot-Watt University revealed that people with distinct personality traits listen to certain types of music. Apparently indie music lovers are

creative but not hardworking, with low self-esteem, while heavy metal fans are gentle people. The researchers received some backlash from the public as people proclaimed that their tastes in music can't be explained by a formula. Like fashion, people can have unique and eclectic tastes. They don't like to be lumped together in one category.

The problem with defining who we are by what we wear is that the meaning can change rapidly. Fashion trends change as quickly as Halifax weather - you could have something new every day. Jeans were once the uniform for hippies and rebels and now skinny jeans are more of the Torontonians student staple. Sunglasses used to be the quintessential luxury item if you had a yacht, but now even little kids walk around with star-shaped shades. I don't think one item can define a person, nor would I assume that someone wearing sparkly shades was into the whole bling thing. This kind of analysis usually lands in the hands of marketers who make their living loving consumers.

This can be useful when working with large groups but when it comes to contacting people face-to-face, judging a face by its shades doesn't make much sense. I like my brown sunglasses because they keep the sun out of my eyes but they're not so dark that the whole world turns into night. What that says about me, I have no idea.



## TIGERS AT HOME

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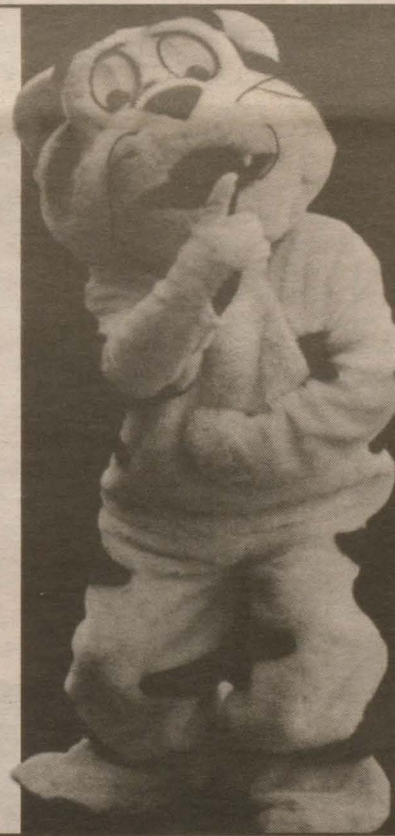



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# Dion sidesteps student debt at Dal

Liberal leader later promises more bursaries, loans

MELISSA DI COSTANZO  
RUTH MESTECHKIN  
NEWS EDITORS

Federal Liberal leader Stéphane Dion pledges to pump the country with money, promising all Canadians access to meds. And his party is footing the bill of \$900 million.

"In the Canada we want, Canadians should not be forced to sell their house to buy the prescription medicine they need," Dion said Tuesday morning at the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building. "Not in our Canada. Never."

Dion proposed a \$900 million drug plan for Canadians with chronic illnesses unable to pay their medical bills. He promised to work with the provinces through the Council of Federation to determine the level of catastrophic drug coverage that should be provided as a national standard. Provinces already providing that level of coverage will be compensated, enabling them to invest that money in their own health care system.

"Our plan will make a huge difference in the lives of Canadians, especially for those in Atlantic Canada," he said. "Our plan is about people and our drug plan will help Canadians and their families facing the hardship of a catastrophic illness and expensive medication."

Dion added the problem is most acute in Atlantic Canada, citing one-quarter of the population as having no drug coverage at all.

"Women battling ovarian cancer and battling chemotherapy have to rack up crushing credit card debt to afford anti-nausea pills that can cost up to \$60 a single dose," said Dion. "Sick people are forced to ration pain medication because they just cannot afford their pills. When the drug cost of an illness becomes too much for a family to manage, the federal government should be there to help."

Speaking at the same site where federal NDP leader Jack Layton announced Monday his student-oriented five-year plan of \$1 billion to boost the numbers of doctors to 1,200 annually, and nurses to 6,000 annually, along with the forgiving of student loans for family practitioners for a decade, Dion's address didn't specifically target students.

He said his party will have a "good plan for student loans" but that on Tuesday the announcement was about catastrophic drugs.

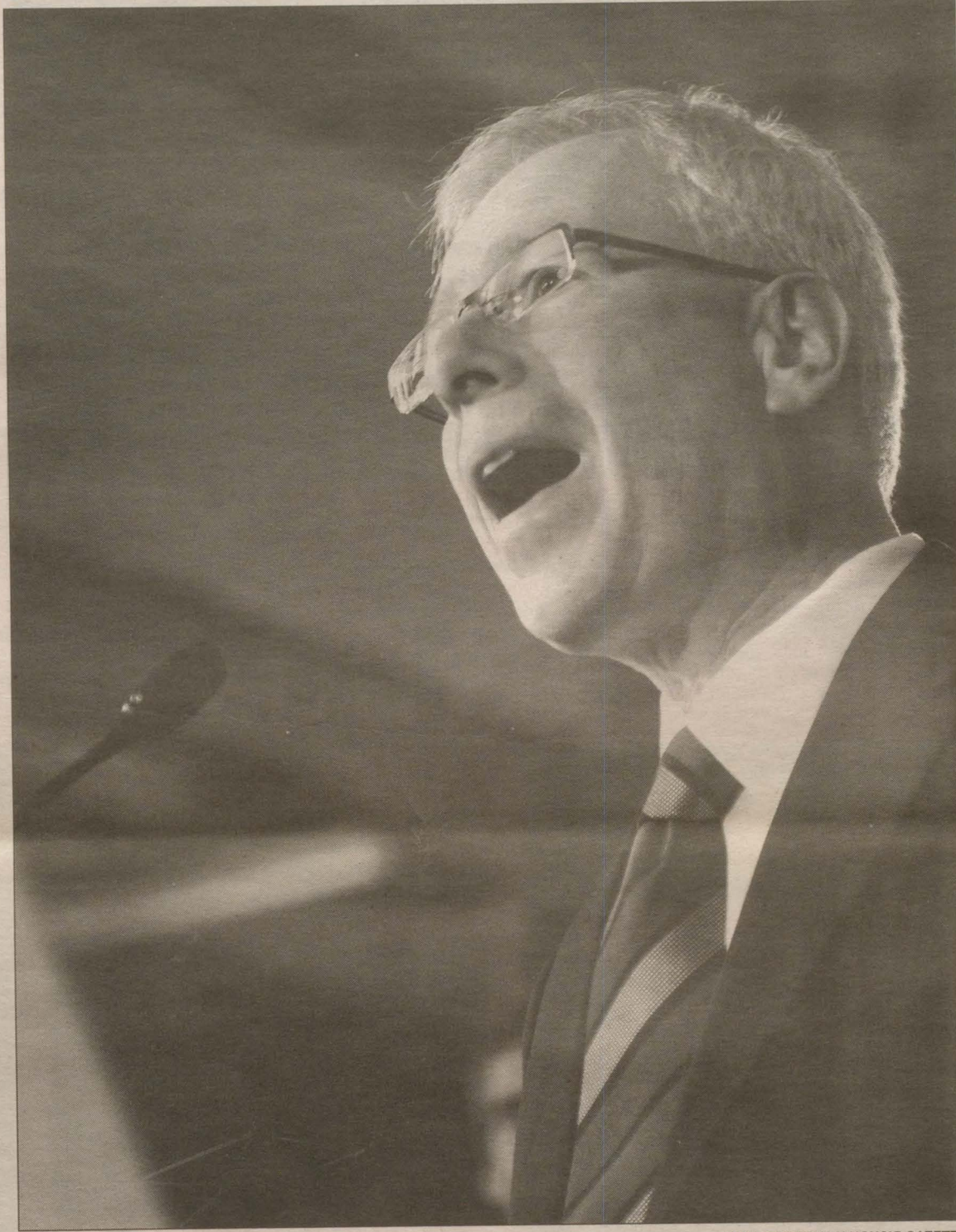
"To have a strong economy, you need to have top class universities but you need to tap into the talent and skills of all our youth. And to provide them the ability to go to colleges and universities and to not be stopped by a matter of money," he said. "And that's why we will do something for that."

On Wednesday at the University of Western Ontario, Dion offered up some details about his student-based plan, with funding for bursaries and grants, and said he will ensure that every post-secondary student is eligible for a \$5,000 loan.

But he didn't match the NDP proposal of forgiving loans altogether. He also didn't speak to the long-standing dilemma of the lack of doctors in the country.

Mike Savage, Liberal MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, said Canadians need more family doctors, echoing Layton's statement Monday that five million Canadians don't have access to family doctors.

"I'm a very strong believer that if you have the family doctors in place, then people don't end up in emer-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Federal Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion says his party will ensure every post secondary student is eligible for a \$5,000 loan.



BLAKE MACEWAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Federal NDP leader Jack Layton, speaking at Dal on Monday, promised to forgive student loans for family practitioners for 10 years.

gency. It's a bigger cost to the system and more of a burden on individuals," he said. "I strongly believe everyone should have a family doctor. It's better for them, it's better for the system to have a regular interaction with a family doctor who knows your

history and to steer you wherever you need to go for secondary care."

Halifax NDP candidate Megan Leslie attended Layton's speech on Monday, and said she recognizes that wait times, doctor shortages and student debt are all crucial issues.

"The reality is students going through med school can't afford it. They come out to be GPs (general practitioners), family doctors, they can't afford to pay the debts," she said. "We have health care line-ups, we have huge wait times, we have

folks who don't have doctors."

She believes students are at the root of the solution to the issue of the lack of family doctors.

"So why don't we invest in students? Why don't we invest in making sure that students can get into the health professions?" said Leslie. "And you know what that does? That reduces wait times, it makes people healthier, it ensures that we can have a health care system that promotes health rather than deals with sickness."

Dr. Paul Doucette, an emergency room doctor at Dartmouth General Hospital, who also treats patients with chronic pain for the Centre for Pain Management in Dartmouth, finds fault with the NDP \$1 billion proposal for more doctors.

"It shows a lack of understanding of the situation," he said. "It's unrealistic to try and increase the number of medical trainees so quickly."

He explained over the last few years medical associations have tried to increase the number of students being trained in medical schools across Canada. But they've had difficulty in increasing class sizes from even 10 to 20 percent because training a doctor from admission to practice is not quick and simple.

"We need more doctors, that's for sure," said Doucette. "But there's no way we could possibly get doctors as fast as Mr. Layton is promising he can."

Dion's promise targets the problem of chronic diseases. Doucette would like to see the government concentrate on helping Canadians avoid disease.

"We focus way too much on the super-expensive treatment centres or heart surgery suites when instead, we should be focussing on how to prevent disease in the first place and how to keep Canadians from getting sick to begin with," said Doucette.

Leslie holds a similar view.

"I do recognize that there are some chronic illnesses where you have no control over them happening to you. This is the way things go," said Leslie, making a distinction between diseases that can be prevented and diseases people are born

with. "But we also need to have a system of health that does look at health prevention and health maintenance and not just treating."

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With files from Julie Sobowale.

# Rally revs local Liberals

ESTEE TRUDEAU  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A river of red and white flooded the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic this Tuesday as Nova Scotia citizens rallied for federal Liberal party leader Stéphane Dion in his plea to become prime minister.

The late-morning rally, following Dion's press conference announcing the Liberal party's proposal for a \$900 million drug plan covering medication costs for chronic diseases, was not without political jabs.

"Mr. Harper, he speaks better English than me, OK," said Dion. "But I say the truth better than him in both official languages, English and French."

Approximately 150 people gathered to support Dion and the province's Liberal MP candidates, including Toronto MP Bob Rae.

Although Dion's speech was subtle, he maintained the high energy of the cheering crowd that Rae's aggressive speech, which preceded Dion's, had created.

Dion spent substantial time addressing the issue of the economy, given the events on Wall Street last Monday with the collapse of one of the world's largest investment banks and several others close to bankruptcy. He continued to blame Prime Minister Stephen Harper specifically, calling for a reality check of the difficult time ahead for the Canadian economy given the current global financial crisis. Dion said that while Harper was in office during the first half of this year, he oversaw the worst economic performance within the G8 countries.

Halifax Liberal MP candidate Catherine Meade welcomed the party's guest speaker, Rae, to the rally. The overflow of the election campaign hype south of the border was evident, as Meade adopted an Obamaism calling for "change" in leadership in Ottawa. Meade's ending note, "Canada deserves better," received an enthusiastic applause.

Rae's speech was the highlight of the rally as he spoke confidently, a much-needed boost to the Liberal's current election campaign. Criticism from within the Liberal party has been growing against Dion in the last week for not presenting a united party to the Canadian electorate. Dion has been criticized for leaving out many well-known Liberals who could bring energy to the campaign and is instead running the show himself.

Rae's presence at this rally answered calls from within the Liberals to bring other members to the forefront of the campaign to add enthusiasm and present a Liberal party supportive of its leader.

The Toronto MP also made it clear during his time on stage that Harper is the Liberal's main target in this election.

Rae's message to the Halifax crowd was lucid: Harper's record shows he can't be trusted. Rae used the example of Harper's promise in 2006 not to hold an election until Oct. 19, 2009, as well as his taxing of income trusts after promising in his campaign not to do so. This was followed with the argument that Harper cannot be trusted to pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan by 2011, as Harper has recently promised.

The direct attack against Harper in Rae's speech allowed Dion to concentrate on discussing Liberal policy during his time on stage.

Although the carbon tax plan and green theme have been promoted as the Liberal's core areas to target, Dion steered his focus from it. Many criticisms against the Liberals have been aimed toward the confusing, unclear policies within the Green Shift plan to fight climate



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Federal Liberal party leader Stéphane Dion says the Canadian economy needs a reality check.

change. Instead Dion focused on the importance of involving more women in politics, putting more money into art programs and his \$900 million chronic illness drug program.

Rae's speech filled the needed space to address the Liberals' greatest threat in this election, Harper's Conservatives. He portrayed Harper as the wolf disguised in grandmas' clothing.

"There's something about the way Harper looks at us on television and says things about income trusts and says things about fixed elections and we know they're not true,"

said Rae. "And we have what's called the Little Red Riding Hood factor at work. As we look at Harper and we instinctively say, 'Grandma! What big teeth you have!'"

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# DSU loses Pepsi profits

LUCY SCHOLEY  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Like any year at Dalhousie University, students will be able to buy Pepsi at vending machines, meal halls and other venues around campus. But this year, Pepsi won't provide funding to the university or the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) in return for advertising and selling Pepsi products.

It's a beverage contract Matthew Golding, DSU vice-president (finance and operations) describes as "lucrative."

Dal signed a 12-year contract with Pepsi 10 years ago. If the university advertised and sold a certain amount of its products, Pepsi would supply funding to the university and the DSU would profit based on sales. Lately Dal hasn't been selling the target amount of Pepsi products, so the university hasn't received Pepsi funds since Aug. 31 of this year.

Because Dal signed a confidentiality contract with Pepsi, Golding couldn't disclose details like Pepsi's target range or the amount of funding Pepsi provided to the DSU. But he didn't downplay the contract's size.

"This is, by far, the largest contract we have," says Golding. "It's the largest of the DSU."

Golding says this target volume was "unreachable" and a 12-year contract was too large for the university because market trends in the beverage industry are unpredictable.

"Obviously, when the contract was signed 10 years ago, the people who did sign it did believe that the volume could be met," he says, adding the ideal contract would be limited to a three- to five-year time period. This, he says, will make it easier for the university to meet its targets.

Students will still see Pepsi products and advertisements on campus over the next two years because the contract hasn't ended. Golding says Dal and the DSU will be looking to sign a new contract after two years, possibly with a different company.

He also says students shouldn't be concerned about the large funding loss because there's enough money in the DSU's budget to cover the next two years. The DSU has been preparing for the past three years by saving a percentage of its Pepsi funds. Golding says those funds will now be moved to the union's budget.

"From a financial side ... there's no change within the DSU. The only thing is we're not receiving any fresh money," he says, adding students won't notice any drawbacks in the



ASIEL AL-AAS/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Pepsi products and ads will still be on campus for the next two years.

DSU's services over the next two years.

He says he's currently working with members of Dal administration to determine what the university and the DSU want in a new contract.

"Obviously what we want is very similar to that of the university," he says. "We're looking for a good amount of financials, we're looking for a company that will support a lot of our events, that will want their logo on the tickets that we'll sell."

Shannon Zimmerman, Board of Governors representative, doesn't see such similarities between Dalhousie and the DSU. She says she thinks there's potential for problems between the two with regards to a new contract.

"The university is quite different from the DSU," says Zimmerman. "Having to work with them might create some difficulties... I just hope that the university listens to and follows the lead that the students are taking

on it and starts to listen to what the students want around campus."

Zimmerman says the next contract should be smaller and that Dal should try negotiating a contract with other companies. She says contracts with larger corporations provide a lot of sustainability and support to the DSU and the university, but she would like to see negotiations with smaller organizations such as local and organic food companies.

"It has to happen together. I think that you need the contracts with larger corporations, but I still think that more time and more money should be spent on bringing in local and organic food," she says, explaining a combination of the funding that large companies provide and the food and drink options that smaller companies supply would be ideal.

Golding says the university and the DSU are planning to examine contract options during the next eight months.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal Liberal Club President Victoria Jones says politicians need to better address environmental concerns.

## Political societies push for student voice

AFTON AIKENS  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Student political societies at Dalhousie University have a lot on their plates as they prepare for the upcoming federal election. And they're urging the student body to get in on the action.

This year, many societies have targeted one critical issue that they want to see addressed before Canada goes to the polls on Oct. 14: the environment.

Dalhousie Liberal Club President Victoria Jones says politicians need to do more to address environmental concerns.

"What's good for our environment is good for our economy," the 21-year-old says. "Currently the Liberal Party has the Green Shift plan, which...is pretty much the only solid plan out there right now."

Jones explains the Green Shift plan involves a cut in income taxes, which will then be shifted to tax individuals who pollute.

Student conservatives, like Tyler Dennis, president of the Dalhousie-King's Conservatives (DKC), aren't so optimistic about this idea.

"Let's make an authentic environmental plan Canadians want," says Dennis, 21. "That's what the Conservatives are proposing, not just this tax and spend policy."

Dennis also says candidates should talk about issues that directly affect students.

"My big preference would just be them advocating the issues for the students, what they can do for the universities, the towns," he says. "Just talk with the students for a change."

William Demers, treasurer of the DKC, highlights finance as a major student concern.

"For a lot of students it's not easy to afford everything here," he says. "What the Conservatives would like to see is that (students) are able to pay (their loans) off more quickly by taking less from you...so that you can gain more autonomy and conduct yourself in an independent manner."

Demers also wants to see more cordial behavior when talking politics.

"I'd really like it if people would actually talk about the issues rather than just...snubbing each other, which has kind of been a trend recently," he says.

J.D. Hutton, president of the Dalhousie-King's NDP Society, agrees with the other society heads that the environmental issue is crucial. But he also wants to see the problem of homelessness addressed.

"It's an issue that's not really touched on," Hutton says. "The UN (United Nations) has declared Canada's homelessness problem to be a national disaster."

Hutton isn't happy with what the Harper government has done for Canadians either.

"We've had \$50 billion in tax cuts, while one in eight children lives in poverty," he says. "The environment's being destroyed, and we're paying record-high gas prices, so it needs to change."

The former Dalhousie Green

Party Society won't be participating in the election preparations this year. Dale Prest, a former member of the society, explains why the group has disbanded.

"We found that we were unable to dedicate the time to the society that it deserved," he says. "For example, Mark (Coffin) was elected as one of the VPs for the DSU this year, which required significant commitments."

The remaining society heads, such as Jones, aren't convinced that the timing of this election is right. But she does say an election is long overdue.

"We have the fixed election date law, which Mr. Harper brought in. He now of course has broken that. It shouldn't be acceptable to Canadians," she says. "While I believe (the election) is overdue, due to Parliament not functioning, due to the Conservatives not wanting it to... it still shouldn't (have) happened the way it did."

NDP Hutton doesn't see any reason for the election. "Basically, the government just wants a majority," he says. "So now you have all these leaders trying to make up issues to make the election seem like it had a purpose."

Conservative Dennis says the election was called because the legislative committees in Parliament weren't functioning properly.

"We've seen... a Liberal opposition which would badger our government and do every possible thing to condemn us," he says. "At the same time you have the NDP party vote against us on everything and meticulously work to take our government down."

Dennis wants students to understand that if the Conservatives secure a majority government this election, the opposition will still be there to hold them accountable.

"We need a steady hand, I can't say it enough, especially for a lot of us students," he says. "You need a government that's going to be there... to get the legislation through what we need. What happens if a big economic problem (occurs) and we're in a minority Parliament where none of the parties can agree?"

The societies are also encouraging students to participate in the process. Liberal candidate for Halifax, Catherine Meade, will be on campus and the NDP society plans to bring Jack Layton in late October as well as Megan Leslie, the NDP candidate for Halifax. The DKC hopes to host Ted Larsen, Halifax's Conservative candidate.

Dennis and Demers hope to see dialogue happen between politicians and students.

"We are the future... leaders of this country," says Dennis. "Better we learn now so more people are educated and involved."

Many students have their complaints about government. Jones says the best way to get a complaint resolved is to vote for the party that best represents your ideas.

"We're at a point in our lives where we actually have a say in how this country is run," says Jones. "You need to know that there are parties out there that decide your future, and you need to have a say in that."

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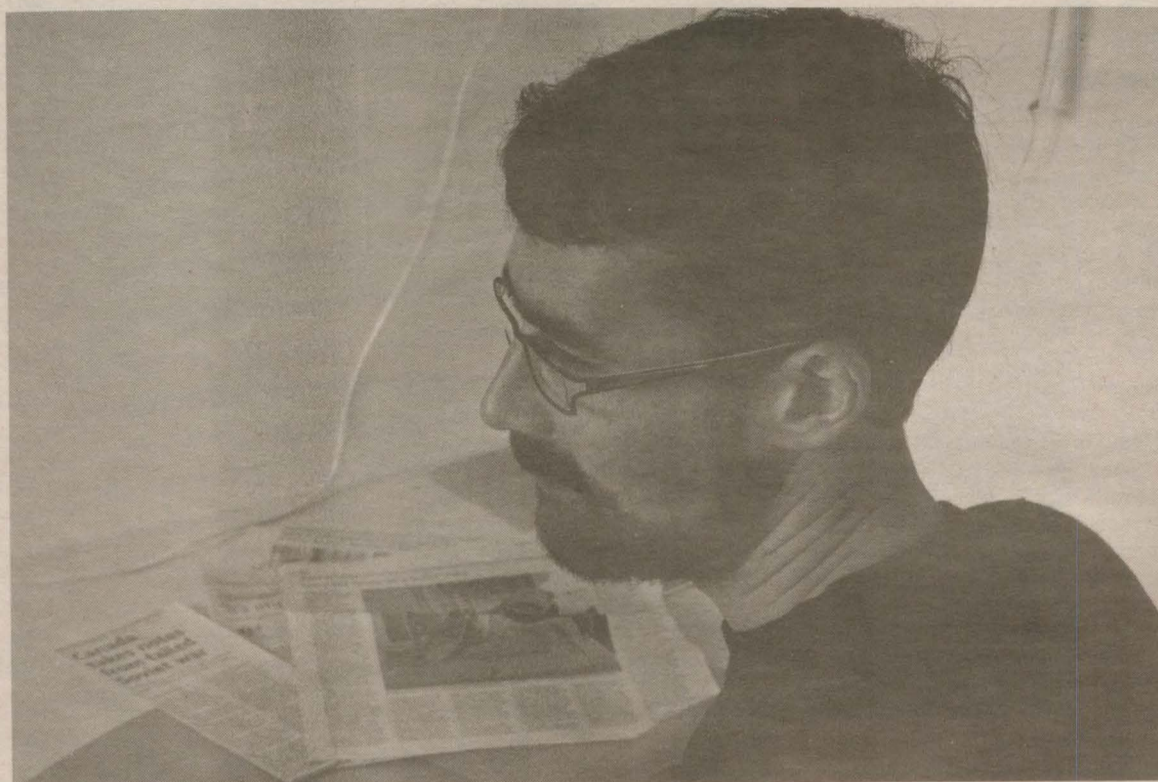
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SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Ariel Nasr travelled with camera in hand to have a look at the same stories Canadians see in the newspaper.

## Filmmaker captures Afghan devastation

KRISTINA MARTIN  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When filmmaker Ariel Nasr started shooting for his documentary about Afghanistan, he filmed a building he thought was a private school. But the building was actually headquarters for the secret police and Nasr was escorted out by five armed policemen.

He laughs when describing the event now, but at the time he says there wasn't much laughter.

Nasr, an Afghan-Canadian and University of King's College grad, travelled with a camera in hand to look with fresh eyes at the same stories Canadians see every day in the newspaper.

"What I saw was a lot of devastation. Bombed buildings, poverty, joblessness, homelessness and lack of medical care. The worst sorts (of) cruelty," he says.

For two weeks, Nasr spent eight to 12 hours a day filming and talking to local citizens and government workers in Afghanistan. His finished product, *Good Morning Kandahar*,

is a 50-minute documentary which premiered in Halifax on Sunday at the Atlantic Film Festival.

In the film, Nasr speaks to Afghans working directly with the military and Afghans who are opposed to the military. The documentary is built on three of their stories, along with a look through the eyes of Afghan-Canadians.

Nasr explores the lives of Afghans living in Canada to understand how they try to make a difference from so far away. Some end up working with the Canadian military.

In his film he uses the example of an Afghan-Canadian man named Sharif, who works in the small town of Wainwright, Alberta, home of a large Canadian Forces Base.

"They have essentially built a miniature Kandahar on the prairies," he says.

Nasr was granted special inside access to the base where there were ongoing training exercises for the troops with special effects such as fake bombs and landmines, makeup artists for suicide bombers and little villages built out of plywood and

steel. Afghan-Canadians are hired to play the role of Afghan villagers and even a mock Taliban to co-operate, or not co-operate, with the training military.

Nasr also says the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Afghanistan has changed.

During his visit to Afghanistan in 2005, Nasr sensed that there was still much hope that NATO could help Afghanistan find its feet.

"When I went back this year, a lot of that hope was gone. It was quite sad to see," he says.

The general consensus Nasr sensed from the locals in Afghanistan was that the international help is, in fact, not helping.

Nasr also says the role of Canadians in Afghanistan is not helping much. He explains that there's not a lot of optimism among the locals.

The educated Afghans Nasr spoke with believe Canadians have positive intentions to help their country. But, he explains, they also realize despite these good intentions, the international presence is not making a tangible and positive difference.

## Take a walk on the child's side

MIRA GOLDBERG-POCH  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine there was a war going on in your backyard and no one seemed to care.

Now stop imagining. It's a daily reality for the Acholi people of northern Uganda, where rebel leader Joseph Kony has been commanding his Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in a civil war for more than 20 years.

The LRA, created in 1987, is fighting a guerilla-style war to bring down the current government and establish a new one based on the biblical Ten Commandments.

The army's strength does not come from willing recruits. Instead, much of the army is composed of abducted children. An estimated 20,000 children have been abducted and forced into war or sexual slavery since the LRA's inception.

In 2005, two young men from Toronto, Adrian Bradbury and Kieran Hayward, heard of – and soon saw – the children and decided to take matters into their own hands. Or their own feet, to be more specific.

The two started Gulu Walk, an international march to raise money and awareness for the plight of northern Uganda's children. Because of the constant threat of abduction by the LRA, children in northern Uganda are not safe at home, or even in the Internally Displaced Persons camps where nearly two million people live. In search of a safer place to sleep for the night, about 40,000 children make a daily trek of up to 20 kilometres to reach the relative safety of the city of Gulu. These children are known as the Night Commuters.

Approximately 70 cities now participate in Gulu Walk internationally after three years.

Caity Sackeroff and Tory Scholz organized the Halifax walk, slated this year for Oct. 25, and other events

including a Picnicface performance at YukYuks on Oct. 7 and a screening of the movie *War Dance* at the Dalhousie Art Gallery on Oct. 21.

Scholz, a fourth-year International Development Studies (IDS) and health studies student, says the walk is both educational and helpful.

"Before Gulu Walk, no one had really heard of the region of Gulu and the conflict in northern Uganda," she says. "I'm a big advocate of the raising awareness part of the campaign."

After spending some time in northern Uganda, Sackeroff, who studies IDS and history, says Gulu Walk and its partner organizations are taking a step forward in sustainable development.

"I'm proud to raise money and awareness for the cause," she says.

The money raised by GuluWalkers will go toward helping four major non-governmental organizations in northern Uganda: African Medical Research Foundation, War Child Canada, Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief and the Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Keri Kwakernaak, a second-year chemical engineering student, recently became involved with Gulu Walk.

"I've only known about (Gulu-Walk and the conflict in northern Uganda) for a year. The idea that such a humanitarian crisis goes unnoticed is a travesty," she says.

Kwakernaak says the walk gives a voice to those who cannot speak.

"Gulu Walk is important because it raises awareness about a group of people who have not been represented," she says. "And that group is one of the most vulnerable groups in society – children and youth. What's happening in northern Uganda is an embarrassment for humanity. It's about time we stood up and did something about it."

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# NEWS BITES

## CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

### McGill students protest to reclaim campus

McGill students launched a "Reclaim Your Campus" campaign with a bike protest to indicate to university administration they want more rights and independence, reported *The McGill Daily*.

Cyclists, supported by McGill's Quebec Public Interest Research Group, were speaking out against the lack of rights for students who ride bikes, citing that McGill undervalues bike culture as cars have been given more priority on the road instead of students.

The Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) organized the campaign with other student groups. The society is worried about the university administration cutting down on student space. The SSMU is also rallying for a Board of Governors that is elected democratically as well as compensation for teaching assistants.

Source: *The McGill Daily*

### Carleton home to eco-friendly cafeteria

Extensive renovation to the Aramark Fresh Food Company cafeteria gives residence students at Carleton University several new food stations, wireless Internet and a chance to be green.

Green aspects of the cafeteria include a "tray-less" system, which was requested by students at housing and food committee meetings last year, reported *The Charlatan*.

The cafeteria also boasts fluid and organic waste stations, both of which are expected to significantly decrease food waste, which is mulched and composted. The cafeteria has already lowered the amount of waste they put out: On the weekend of Sept. 5, waste decreased by 1,310 pounds.

"We'll measure probably within a month, but from what we see now, we estimate that waste has probably been cut down by two-thirds," said Ed Kane, Carleton's assistant vice-president (university services).

The removal of trays from the cafeteria has seen a decrease in water and electricity bills.

Source: *the Charlatan*

## NATIONAL HEADLINES

### Halifax Conservatives announce new candidate

Ted Larsen, past communications advisor to former premier John Buchanan, will be the new candidate for Halifax's Conservative party for the Canadian federal elections set for Oct. 14.

The Conservative party hand-picked Larsen, along with three

other hand-picked candidates within other N.S. ridings.

The CBC reported Larsen replaced Rosamond Luke, who resigned last Tuesday as two criminal convictions related to her became public.

An executive director of the All Women's Empowerment and Development Association, Luke was convicted in June 2007 of violating an undertaking and was subsequently fined \$50. In July 2006, she was also convicted for uttering threats, which resulted her being sentenced to 18 months' probation.

Source: *CBC*

### Liberals vow immigration system overhaul

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion is promising to revamp Canada's immigration to be fairer and faster if his party is elected Oct. 14.

The project, which is slated to cost \$800 million, would clear the backup of immigrants waiting to come to Canada, introduce a visitors' visa system and launch programs to help immigrants learn either English or French. Dion also promised that immigrants' professional credentials would be recognized, reported the CBC.

Dion argued against the changes the Stephen Harper government brought in with the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, saying they were unfair.

The Liberal leader also denounced the current system, explaining the minister of immigration has arbitrary powers.

"The success of the Canadian economy largely depends on the success of our immigration strategy," said Dion. "This strategy must be built on fairness, not arbitrary powers of the minister of immigration."

Source: *CBC*

### P.E.I. docs urge ban on energy drinks

Prince Edward Island doctors want the provincial government to ban the sale of energy drinks to children, reported CTV.

Dr. Bill Scantlebury, the president of the P.E.I. Medical Society, said caffeine causes behavioural and health problems in children.

"We see kids, youth and some athletes drinking two or three of these before an event, believing they're going to get more energy out of it," said Scantlebury. "But they're really putting themselves at risk for some heart rhythm disturbances and blood pressure issues."

New Brunswick neurologist, Dr. Greg MacLean, agrees and says all provinces should follow suit.

"I can't think who thinks it's a good idea to give stimulants to chil-

dren and send them to school," MacLean said. "Certainly, the amount of caffeine in some of these drinks is what we would regard as toxic levels."

The P.E.I. Western School Board will vote on a proposal to ban energy drinks from its schools this week.

Source: *CTV*

### Toronto looks to limit coffee cups

The City of Toronto is trying to find ways to limit items such as coffee cups, takeout food containers and plastic bags which continue to clutter up landfills.

The move is an extension of Toronto's plan to divert 70 per cent of its garbage from the landfill by 2010, reported the Toronto Star.

"They may not be very heavy, but they take up a lot of space," said Geoff Rathbone, general manager of Toronto's solid waste department.

Proposals include a ban, a levy or tax on the items, or a deposit-return program, which is similar to the provincial bottle return program, where consumers get some of their money back if they return their recyclable container.

Last week, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario took a stand against excessive product packaging. The Association said it costs municipal taxpayers more than \$150 million a year in disposal costs.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

### International news by the numbers

**1,200** Russian servicemen are still stationed at 19 checkpoints and other positions in western Georgia, 12 outside South Ossetia and seven outside Abkhazia.

**309,000** barrels of crude oil from the United States' emergency stockpile are being sent to two refineries, running short because of hurricanes Gustav and Ike, in Texas from the U.S. Energy Department.

**200,000** pilgrims made the trip to Lourdes, France for Pope Benedict XVI's first papal Mass at the shrine on Sept. 14.

**170,000** people were evacuated from their homes in eastern China, as Typhoon Sinlaku battered Taiwan on Sept. 14.

**\$40 million** might buy Merrill Lynch for the Bank of America.

**1,500** people crowded downtown Dena'ina Civic and Convention Centre in Anchorage, Alaska, to support Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin on Sept. 13.

Sources: *The CBC, CBC, BBC, Toronto Star, CBC, Toronto Star.*

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# Vote or die

JOHN HILLMAN  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Last March 84.1 per cent of Dalhousie students exercised their democratic right to sit on their asses and not waste a single nanosecond voting in the DSU elections. It's easy to get caught up in the excitement and drama of the multiple elections coming up in the next few months, but we should probably take a moment to consider our own abysmal electoral failures before we get back to talking about the latest animated avian to poop on Stephane Dion.

There have been a lot of fingers pointed over the long-standing problem of student apathy. Voters complain that Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executives sit atop ivory thrones, far from the daily concerns of the common student. Elected officials despair about a student population that seems doomed to wallow in blissful indifference until the end of days, no matter how many times council approves new communications initiatives with the word "Tiger" worked in somewhere.

There's nothing like a new year for a chance at redemption though. Yes, I am well aware that a solid 25 to 30 per cent of the student population would not vote if the re-animated, flesh-eating corpse of Hitler was running against Ellen DeGeneres, but I also know that there is a sizable group out there that just needs a little motivation and a basic idea of what the hell is going on past the first floor of the Student Union Building.

Your first real chance this year to get involved in the democratic process is coming up very soon. On Tuesday Sept. 23, the DSU will be holding its next "Imagine" event. This, in essence, will be a three-hour get-together during which students are invited to come and share their



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE  
The DSU's "master plan" will probably not include installing a death ray atop the Henry Hicks.

opinions on issues with councillors, executives, and DSU functionaries who feel compelled to attend out of a reasonable fear that DSU President Courtney Larkin will emerge from their closets at night wielding a machete if they dare skip out. Please go. I'll admit, for the last few years I have

not attended these events. I assumed them to be little more than a flimsy dressing of legitimacy designed to improve the public image of the aristocratic class of the DSU - that and, you know, I had things to do.

After having the chance to peek inside the halls of power, however,

it seems that I had it all wrong. The executives are desperate for your input. Trust me, they are dying to figure out how best to pander to the potential voters keen enough to come out to these things. Bring along a big enough group of friends, and you can probably convince a few vice-

presidents to eat live worms.

Don't worry about how much - or ridiculously little - you know about the DSU. No one is expecting that those in attendance are going to be well versed in the major philosophical differences between the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations - we elected Mark Coffin, vice-president (education) to memorize that pointless crap for us. Just show up.

Not convinced? Perhaps you might like to know that one of the major discussions at this event is going to involve a shadowy plot known only as the "master plan." Now maybe I'm jumping to conclusions here, but that sounds suspiciously like some fiendish scheme hatched up by the likes of Dr. Doom or Lex Luthor. Who knows what this "master plan" might entail? Is it a long-term vision to guide the development of our campus, or the blueprints for a massive death ray to be installed atop the Henry Hicks clock tower? One thing is abundantly clear: Tom Traves and the DSU executives will reduce your favourite campus hangout to a heap of smouldering ashes if you fail to attend the next Imagine event!

From the good feeling you get when you participate in the democratic process, to the ability to sleep at night without fear of death rays, and machetes, there are reasons aplenty for everyone to come out and take an interest in your student government!

See you Tuesday.

*John Hillman is a history graduate student who requires a sense of humour from his readers. He refuses to say Courtney Larkin's name three times in front of a mirror in a darkened room.*

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## The Scientific Skeptic

### Bad vibrations



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

This week's skeptic is interactive! Go pick up a copy of the *Nova Scotia Good Health Directory*, available at the Coburg Coffee house or wherever quality freebies like *The Gazette* are lying around. Although the directory is filled with questionable health practices, I'll narrow my investigation to those that use terms from my favourite branch of science: Physics.

First, let's examine "vibrational science," on page 8. A company called Aroma Crystal Therapy sells hand and face creams as a health product under the premise of having vibrational science. On its website, the company describes vibrational science as using "Resonant Light Technology" and "Sonic Tuning," and that its products use "high-frequency essential oils." I e-mailed the company owners to ask whether this means their products emit sonic or electromagnetic waves and they gave me a hilariously confused description of quantum phenomena.

Searching for "resonant light technology" on the web leads to a British Columbia-based company called Resonant Light Technology Inc. It sells what appears to be a \$5,000 plasma pulse tube - a neon light - that is supposed to control "micro-organisms." No scientific evidence is provided on either the Aroma Crystal Therapy's or Resonant Light Technology's website proving that this does anything against bacteria or any nasty micro-organisms, and Health Canada does not allow Resonant Light Technology to sell its devices for human health therapy.

Next, look for the reference to biophotons on page 35. Nordic Living Water Systems sells copper pipes and bathroom fixtures that are supposed to revitalize tap water. The main evidence behind this product, according to the company, is that biophotons in water treated with their products are much more luminous. A biophoton is a correct scientific term for light emitted by a cell, but an increased number of biophotons in your water does nothing for your health. It means that there's something living in your water and that those living cells are being stimulated.

Nordic Living Water Systems claims, on its website, that the double loop of its shower heads are healthy because spirals appear in nature and are the path of least resistance. Spirals are certainly not the path of least resistance, and

just because something occurs in nature does not make it healthy: Deadly bacteria also use a corkscrew motion to move.

The company's special copper pipes cost around \$2,500, whereas a similar copper pipe from a plumbing outlet costs \$100, and the evidence the company provides for its claims consist of grainy, unscientific before-and-after shots of a customer's hair, as well as a Grade 8 student's science fair project.

Finally, find the infrared breast cancer detection section on page 24. Compared to most treatments and products advertised in the *Good Health Directory*, infrared breast cancer detection, or thermography, has quite a bit of scientific literature behind it. Breast cancer cells require a lot more nutrients than normal cells, so they need to expand blood vessels around them and this can be observed in an infrared picture. However, infrared images are still very blurry and cancerous growths need to be fairly large for detection. False positives can be stressful, so you're probably better off going to a real doctor.

If you're thinking about using one of the products or therapies listed in the *Nova Scotia Good Health Directory*, buyers beware. Make sure you research what you're getting into before you go and don't mistake made-up terminology for science. After all, there's a reason why most of these products are still just "alternatives."

# Let the hooligans vote

MICHELLE HAMPSON  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Who wants those beer-drinking hooligan students voting for mayor? All of the students who left for the summer but still spend the majority of the year in Halifax are out of luck if they want to participate in the municipal elections on Oct. 18.

Provincial legislature says a person can only vote in municipal elections if that person has been "ordinarily resident in the municipality for three months prior to ordinary polling day."

Is this just a coincidence that such a specific population is left out of the polls? There are more than 20,000 students in Halifax and many leave for the summer.

It is true that students do not always make the best choices. Sometimes we choose to party instead of study on Wednesday nights. Sometimes we get caught up in our extra-curricular activities and do not get around to cleaning the bathroom, angering our roommates (sorry Shannon).

But if lawmakers are going to call a country a democracy, they should not exclude a large minority such as students, even though they can sometimes get distracted.

Look at the United States. Should people who care disproportionately about family values while ignoring foreign policy be allowed to vote?

If they are allowed to vote George W. Bush into power, twice, then students who spend two thirds of the

year in Halifax should certainly be allowed a vote at the local level.

Water and electricity, public transit and public safety are all municipal responsibilities that deeply affect students. They should have a voice in these matters.

Another excellent point, brought up by Halifax Student Alliance chairman Mark Coffin in an interview with *The Chronicle Herald*, is that students leave to find jobs. If they had some say in municipal elections, maybe they could shape the future of the city so they would not have to leave.

It may be true that a lot of students do not care or do not follow the municipal elections, but if we live in a democracy, they should be free to make that choice.

# Campus faux pas

SCOTT MONEY  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

There is nothing more refreshing than walking through the campus quad on a nice Nova Scotia afternoon. The air is crisp; the grass is waving like the arms of a gleaming green mob, welcoming you back. Due dates are weeks away and you have time to socialize, exercise and have a few cold drinks.

The atmosphere is great until someone or something taints it.

There is a huge variety of things that get to people, and everyone reacts in different ways. I have become more observant in my later years at Dalhousie. Things that once made me livid now make me chuckle.

Let me start with my number one campus faux pas: The always inconvenient sidewalk hogs.

You're rushing to class because you woke up late and three or four brainiacs are walking toward you taking up the entire sidewalk. Instead of simply dropping back into pairs or into single file, they continue babbling and walking.

Your choices are to bash through them, which could start a rare early-

morning campus brawl, or to detour through a mud puddle leftover from the recent rain shower in your brand new white Adidas. Thanks guys. What a great way to start the day.

Please people, when you're walking in a big group down a sidewalk, try to be more considerate of those around you.

I will now move on to the classroom, where there are a number of things people do that they shouldn't. I was in class last Tuesday surrounded by at least five female students, which is not something I would normally complain about.

In this case, however, you might complain as well. The girl on my left was texting up a storm, the girl on my right was chatting on MSN with about 17 people and the girl ahead of me was looking at her buddy's photos on Facebook. He went camping with friends and dedicated a whole album to their skinny-dipping experience.

Throughout all of this, I'm expected to pay attention to the professor going on about atrocities for which the Taliban are responsible. It wasn't happening.

The situation was funny, but why do people bother going to class

when they just want to text and go on Facebook?

Lastly, I want to talk about cars, specifically SUVs.

If you are like me, you do a lot of walking around campus.

Well, some people don't. Instead, they drive, which sucks for them; they have to pay for gas, insurance and parking.

My problem is not with all drivers but merely with young students who drive \$80,000 SUVs.

You've seen them. They bomb around University Avenue like it's the goddamn Daytona 500 or downtown Toronto.

I was almost killed by a teenaged girl driving a BMW SUV. She probably didn't see me through her oversized Dolce and Gabanna sunglasses.

I want to meet the geniuses that gave these people licenses so I can give them a glancing blow to the skull with a hammer. Harsh? Perhaps.

I also want to congratulate the parents of these individuals for buying them a nicer car than I'll ever own. God bless arts students!

Scott Money is a fourth-year political science major from Mississauga, Ont.

## Letters to the editor

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Letters

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, The Gazette may invite the author to revise the submission. Please submit to opinions@dalgazette.ca

### Articles

Submissions to The Gazette opinions section must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit a list of sources along with articles to opinions@dalgazette.ca. This publication only prints submissions its editorial board deems to be void of libellous and/or defamatory material. Submissions are due at noon on the Saturday prior to publication.

### Harper will shit all over you

Re: "Public Service with a smile", Sept. 11:

You know, I have to hand it to John Hillman. He sure knows how to construct an ad, but I think I have a better one for Stephen Harper. It starts like this: Dawn in Halifax and suddenly the camera pans out to a view of all of Nova Scotia, and then all of the Atlantic provinces. Out from the west, you see something. It's off in the distance - you can't

quite tell what it is. Until: Yes, it's a puffin, with a gigantic big Conservative "C" blazoned on its chest. It swoops down, looking around Atlantic Canada. What's it doing? Why is it here?

Then, it takes one giant shit all over the Atlantic and the Conservative logo appears with the tag line "Stephen Harper: He'll shit all over you."

Glen Krueger  
First-year law

### Make The Sextant respectable

It's nice to see *The Sextant* is again providing the sort of hollow claptrap I've come to expect from it. The back page of last week's issue of *The Gazette* contained the same drunken sexual boasts and insulting of arts students that is so common in the engineering campus' journalistic output, as well as the inarticulate bellows of a local pub crawl. Instead of at least attempting to clothe those important themes in their own words, the editors just slapped

"Godiva's Hymn" onto the page and - one would presume - went back to the bar. The whole thing would be offensive if it wasn't so lazy.

In the future, perhaps *The Sextant* could provide some information about events or research happening on Sexton campus. If not then I would hope we could unburden these poor engineers of the unfathomable task of filling up a single newspaper page with respectable content.

Corey Moore

### Students can and should vote

Re: "Do you think students should be allowed to vote in Halifax municipal elections?", Streeter, Sept. 11:

Students can and should vote in the Oct. 18 election. Eligibility for students is the same as eligibility for everyone else: You must be 18 years of age on Oct. 18, a Canadian citizen and have lived in the Halifax Regional Municipality since July 18, three months prior to the election.

Students who lived in other communities within the Halifax Regional Municipality or other places in the city and have just moved, or students

from other places who were here all summer are free to vote and should vote. Nova Scotia is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of democracy and younger voters, in particular, are being encouraged to vote.

One suggestion: If you turned 18 or changed addresses since the last election you are probably not on the voters' list so it is a good idea to take two pieces of ID to the polls; a photo ID like a driver's license and something like a bill that shows your current address. Questions? Call the HRM elections office at 490-1383.

Beverly Miller  
HRM Council Candidate District 13  
Northwest Arm-South End

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## NEWS REPORTER POSITION.

The *Dalhousie Gazette* has a job opening in the news department for the News Reporter position.

To apply, please drop off your cover letter, resume and three writing samples (preferably clippings) to either Julie Sobowale, Editor-in-chief or Ruth Mestechkin, News Editor in room 312 in the SUB or e-mail

Julie at [editor@dalgazette.ca](mailto:editor@dalgazette.ca)  
and Ruth at [news@dalgazette.ca](mailto:news@dalgazette.ca).

Thank you.

### Duties include:

- Within every four-issue block, write at least one article per issue or two feature articles (at least 1,500 words each)
- Develop story ideas
- Create database of contacts
- Attend all DSU council meetings including Board of Governors meetings, Senate meetings and any other related events
- Assist News Editor in any additional newsgathering

### In order to qualify, candidates must:

- Have previous journalistic writing experience
- Be familiar with CP style
- Able to write clear, clean copy with minimal editing required



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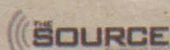
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# STREETER

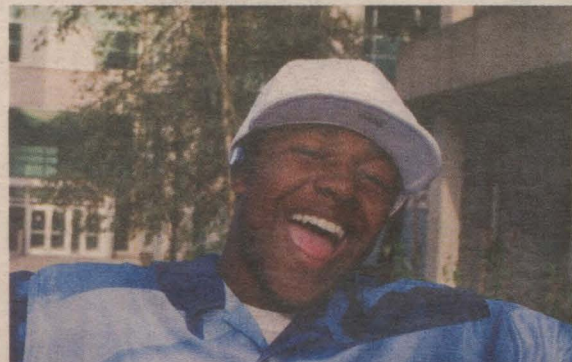
What's your worst school year vice?



**“I'm vice-free.”**  
Allie Kepkay, Second-year IDS and environmental science



**“Substituting sleep with caffeine.”**  
Gilann Lafreniere, First-year undeclared



**“Trying too hard to fit in.”**  
Vernon Jackson, First-year nursing



**“Preying on first-years.”**  
Spencer Fowle Third-year environmental science and IDS



**“Spending money on the wrong things.”**  
Konstantin Lakovlev, Third-year German and philosophy



**“Picking up at the health clinic because that's where the bad girls go.”**  
Antony Dobrzensky, Fourth-year theatre



**“Putting grades before the doctor's orders.”**  
Chelsea Quinlan, Fourth-year psychology



**“Something mildly obscene and satisfactorily funny.”**  
Nick Khattar, Twenty-fourth-year jokes

# HOT OR NOT

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>HOT:</b> The cute girl beside you   | <b>NOT:</b> Her smell                          |
| <b>HOT:</b> Reduce, reuse, recycle     | <b>NOT:</b> Reading, writing, arithmetic       |
| <b>HOT:</b> Particle collision         | <b>NOT:</b> The empty wasteland of a black     |
| <b>HOT:</b> Your parents' love         | <b>NOT:</b> Their genetic curse                |
| <b>HOT:</b> Dinosaurs                  | <b>NOT:</b> Extinction                         |
| <b>HOT:</b> PDF                        | <b>NOT:</b> PDA                                |
| <b>HOT:</b> The Atlantic Film Festival | <b>NOT:</b> Three Ninjas IV: The College Years |
| <b>HOT:</b> Bottling the pain          | <b>NOT:</b> Uncorking in the bathroom          |
| <b>HOT:</b> Christian Slater           | <b>NOT:</b> Christian slaughter                |
| <b>HOT:</b> My gambling                | <b>NOT:</b> My debts                           |

## DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Overheard at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes attributed to Nick Khattar in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and do not necessarily represent views held by Nick Khattar himself, *The Gazette* and/or its staff.

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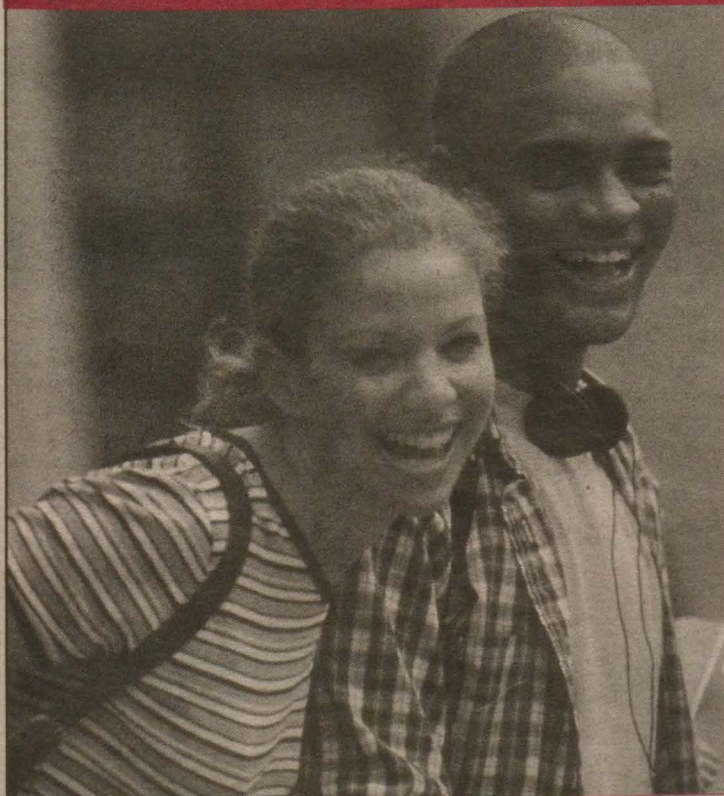
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MUSIC REVIEWS

Bloc Party – Intimacy

COLIN BOYD  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

It's been only three years since Bloc Party released its highly impressive debut album, *Silent Alarm*. Produced by Paul Epworth, the 2005 debut garnered the British quartet much critical praise, thrusting the lads into the spotlight. The chart-topping record left fans and critics waiting with mounting expectations for the follow-up, *A Weekend in the City*, released in February 2007 and produced by Jackknife Lee.

Again the new album was met with glowing reviews, but some fans were left wondering what happened to Bloc Party. *A Weekend in the City* was the band's clear departure from the raw, dance rock sound of *Silent Alarm*. This release instead favoured soaring guitar riffs and incredibly vulnerable lyrics that made fans feel like they were listening to a personal journal.

But the band didn't allow much time for listeners to ponder its apparent change in style. Their newest effort, *Intimacy*, was released digitally just a year and a half later.

The new record was produced collaboratively by Epworth (*Silent Alarm*) and Lee (*A Weekend in the City*) and contains distinct traces of each previous Bloc Party release.

There is a much stronger electronic element in this album, and while the darkness conjured with *A Weekend in the City* remains, the lyrics are far more reticent. The chaotic album opener "Ares" and lead single "Mercury" both show Bloc Party experimenting with sound, and the heavy-beats recall *A Weekend in the City's* "The Prayer".

The tracks "Halo" and "Biko" each return to the sounds of *Silent Alarm* and *A Weekend in the City* respectively. "Trojan Horse" lives up to its name with some truly heartfelt lyrics amidst the pulsing guitars that are so characteristic of Bloc Party's sound.

This combination of excellent writing and instrumentation holds firm throughout the album and style



fusion makes this a remarkable record.

"Signs" is a chilling song, yet it seems to inspire hope at the same time. It sounds something like a Hot Chip remix of Sigur Rós. Then the listener is promptly returned to the *Silent Alarm* era sound that is present on "One Month Off", which packs a catchy hook that will have fans singing along after the first listen.

Up next is the beat-heavy "Zepherus", that again shows the band's willingness to experiment. The song focuses on lead singer Kele Okereke's grief over lost love with the help of a chorus of background vocals.

Perhaps the gloomiest track found on *Intimacy* is "Better Than Heaven". Okereke delivers many of the lyrics for this song in an eerie spoken-word style, describing heartache through references to Adam and Eve.

The album closer "Ion Square" clocks in as the longest track on *Intimacy* at six and a half minutes. Okereke once more sings of heartbreak and his desire to go back and change the past while the beat builds up then breaks with a soft, gradual ending.

Die-hard Bloc Party fans will hear the best of both *Silent Alarm* and *A Weekend in the City* on this record, which is sure to impress. *Intimacy* contains a high attention to detail and its sudden electronic release comes as a wonderful surprise. It's a new peak for the boys of Bloc Party and it holds high appeal for fans of many different genres – making *Intimacy* an essential listen.

MUSIC REVIEWS

Epic Elephant rock

JASON COHANIM  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

If you're looking for a band that delivers three-minute radio friendly pop ballads, stop reading this right now. But if you are a fan of powerful symphonic productions, then Elephant should be the next band your hit list.

The Toronto quartet definitely lives up to its classification of "epic rock" with its debut album *The Violet Hour*, coming out strong with a 50-minute sojourn into the realm of hard-hitting, melodic trance inducing rock and roll. Elephant's deep and moving melodies bring the band's soft vocal style and avid use of beautiful harmonies to the next level.

Toronto artist Joy Broadbent created the album cover, giving it the impression of Van Gogh lost at a psy-



chedelic carnival.

*The Violet Hour* makes heavy use of slow and powerful buildups that culminate into rocking crescendos that would probably inspire NASA to explore even deeper into our solar system to find out where this band's motivation actually comes from.

Check out this album. Your head will thank you.

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# A weekend in this city

## Bloc Party gets intimate with Marquee crowd

HILARY BEAUMONT  
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Technicians in black uncoil spools of thick wire, moving under the spotlights like wildlife rushed by approaching headlights. Curling smoke drifts through bright cones of light over skeletal instruments below. A sound technician's glasses flash white as he hastily assembles the final bits for British band Bloc Party's second Halifax gig.

Fists lift beers and lips sip straws. The Marquee air is thick with the voices of a capacity crowd. In the dim light, every face watches the distant, now empty stage.

A loud, echoing cheer erupts at the front of the floor and sweeps through the club.

An electro beat begins, followed immediately by rhythmic clapping that quickly gains momentum. The band takes the stage.

"We're Bloc Party," lead singer Kele Okereke announces, his casual voice amplified over the booming crowd. He draws his guitar strap over his shoulder and launches into the catchy riff of "Hunting for Witches," a fan favourite from the band's second album *A Weekend in the City*.

When they arrived in the city over the weekend, the four members of Bloc Party had no knowledge of Halifax, the second stop on the band's first Canadian tour. They explored the waterfront and Citadel Hill in an attempt to absorb some culture before the first of their two sold out shows. Unfortunately singer Okereke attended the wrong history lecture. During a one-on-one interview at his hotel, Okereke weighs in on his Halifax learning curve.

"Someone was telling me yesterday that there was this magical anchor that flew three miles and landed," he says, mistakenly referring to the Halifax Explosion. "And this magical anchor flew and it killed 2,000 people and landed in a sacred spot."

Seeing the comical expression on his media advisor's face, he stops.

"Is that not true? And did it not kill 2,000 people in its descent?" Okereke laughs. "I'm glad no one got injured."

After performing at the Marquee on Sunday at the band's first club show in two years, Okereke says he threw out his expectations.

"I remember initially thinking everyone's kind of smiling and clapping but no one's freaking out - I wonder if they're enjoying this?" he says. "As a British band we're used to seeing people really freaking out at our shows, and if that doesn't happen you can think you're not connecting."

But he makes it clear that the Haligonian crowd didn't disappoint him.

"Different places have different ways of responding to the music," he says. "Just because they're not hitting each other in the face and going crazy doesn't mean they're not enjoying it - it just means they're listening. And that's good for us 'cause we need to really focus on playing the songs well."

Luckily for the Monday night ticket holders, Okereke's impression of a tame first show the previous evening resulted in a vast improvement to that night's set.

"Halifax, this is the second of our legendary shows," he announces after receiving an enthusiastic response to the first three songs. "We've reviewed our set so there might be a few surprises."

Okereke's screened white tee contrasts his calm face. His dark dreads swing side to side as the "Banquet" beat takes him. Silhouetted as if in a midday sandstorm he chants, "I'm on fire!"

Facing the stage, heads roll and

nod. Two kicking, unbalanced surfers rise and fall, heading forward on a surface of stretched arms and clapping hands. A skunk-like aroma wafts from a thicket of patrons the security can't penetrate. The tune ends.

"How we doing, how we doing, how we doing?" Okereke inquires. The fans roar.

"This next song's dedicated to the flying anchor," he jokes before the band members begin a beat from their third and newest album, *Intimacy*.

Back at the hotel, Okereke divulges his thoughts about the new release, agreeing it's a blend of Bloc Party's first two albums.

"I see all of the records as being connected," he says. "In my mind (the new album) isn't such a radical departure, I see it being linked sonically. Maybe musically the instrumentation in some of the songs is bolder and more adventurous."

Okereke says he's proud some of the songs on the album don't sound like they're products of a rock band. Many of the new songs have a much greater electronic element than the previous records, a sound strongly reflected in the Monday night show.

*Intimacy* was released online on Aug. 21 and the physical copy will be released on Oct. 27.

"That's a really good thing, giving it to the fans before giving it to anyone else, because then they form their own opinions immediately," Okereke says. "You kind of remove the critical aspect because you're giving it directly to them. They're not being told what to think, they're kind of making up their own minds, and that's really, really great for us."

So far the fan feedback has been positive, he says.

"They truly like this record."

But the lead vocalist is more invested in his music for his own purposes, saying he "always, always" writes for himself before his fans.

"That's what I do to rationalize my anxieties," Okereke says. "Some people go to a psychiatrist, some people go to a life coach and stuff. I put my dark thoughts into music and then, once it's there, you're kind of removed from it."

Unfortunately the therapeutic approach in his lyrics carries consequences now that Okereke is part of an internationally celebrated band.

"There isn't that kind of division between your private life and your public life," he says. "The emotions that you have are exposed and they're not really yours any more. It can be really cold, I think. That's the downside. You don't really get that closure or resolution that you would get in your private life if you had to deal with it without putting it on display. It just means I shut off a part of myself."

When he takes the stage the thought of privacy leaves his mind. He's spilled his most intimate and erotic thoughts into each Bloc Party release, so he says his primary concern during a concert is whether or not the audience is having fun.

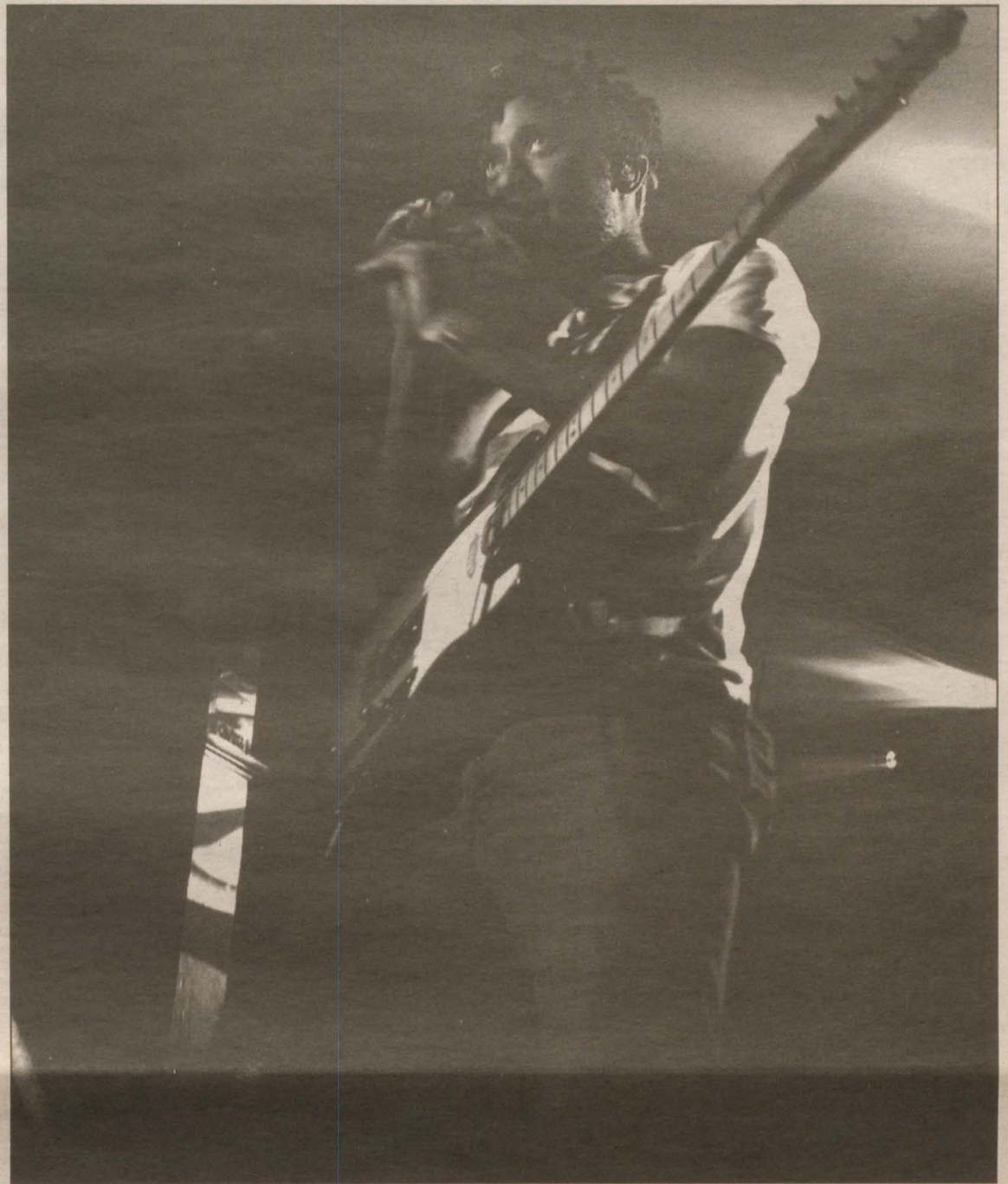
"That kind of putting your heart on your sleeve and that displaying it to people is something I've been doing for the last four years, so I don't feel uncomfortable about being honest."

Darkness floods the empty Marquee stage. The crowd, drenched in sweat, begins stomping and clapping to a beat that grows louder and faster as they wait for Bloc Party to return to the stage.

"Mer-cur-y! Mer-cur-y! Mer-cur-y!" the audience chants in a deafening call for an encore.

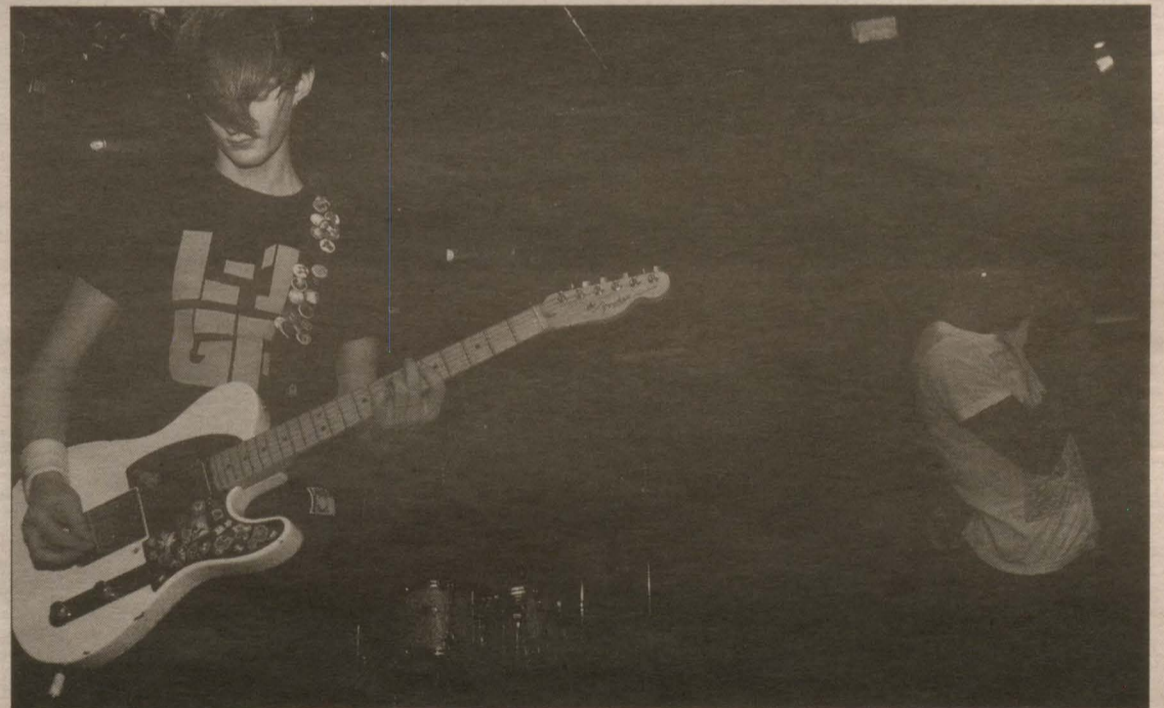
One by one the musicians emerge from behind the velvet curtain. White flashes from digital cameras briefly illuminate the band washed in a purple haze.

"War, war, war, war!" Okereke de-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kele Okereke played encore after encore at the first major stop on the band's first Canadian Tour.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Catchy riffs echo through the packed Marquee at the Bloc Party's second of two sold out shows.

clares into the microphone, as "Ares", the first track on *Intimacy*, churns the fans into a fanatical dancing mob.

Three songs later the band again retreats from the stage, returning just moments later to confuse the dispersing audience who can't decide which way to turn.

The crowd sloshes back to the stage like water in a bathtub. Again Bloc Party whips up a beat-happy blur of sound that sends the Marquee into a seizure of dancing.

The lights dim. The band members put their arms around each other and take their final bow. Again the stage is empty for only a minute.

"This is a special occasion," Okereke says, leading the band back

out under the spotlights for another teasing encore.

"Thank you so much," he says finally. "We'll see you next time, we will!"

He turns on the spot, then stops. "Oh fuck it, let's do another one," he shouts.

During the real finale Okereke launched himself from the stage into the pulsating crowd singing "she got a red pill, blue pill, red pill, blue pill."

With hands grabbing at his sticky body he pushed through the club, mic in hand, hurdling over railings and finally diving into the reaching arms of his screaming fans.

Before leaving the hotel for the

tour bus, Okereke has time for a few final questions about his weekend shows in Halifax.

So who does he think had more fun at the Bloc Party concert: the band or the fans?

"Hopefully there was mutual satisfaction for both parties," he says suggestively. "You know it would be no fun if we just got off."

The lead singer says he's enthusiastic to come back to Halifax.

"I definitely would love to come back 'cause we had a really great response here," he says, then laughs. "And I didn't see the magical anchor, but I'm sure it exists somewhere."

E-mail editorhilary@gmail.com.



PHOTOS PAUL BALITE / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Agriculture, music and the love of food come together at the SeeMore Green Garden.

# Seymour green at Dal

**JASON COHANIM**  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The SeeMore Green Collective Garden on Seymour Street was the setting for the "Harvest Hoedown", an evening aimed at celebrating the fall harvest, local art, locally grown food and good ole Halifax bluegrass music.

The event, organized to inform students that there is a functioning public gardening space on campus, was also meant to highlight the opportunity for community inherent in the garden, says co-ordinator and garden doula Jayme Melrose.

"(It's) a place for people to come and learn more about gardens and how food is grown," says Melrose. "It functions as a space for education as well as demonstration on not only gardening and growing food, but food security issues and any aspect of sustainable living."

The small shaded backyard space is an example of sustainable urban

living. The shed at SeeMore Green Garden was constructed from straw bales and reclaimed theatre chair backs and maintains a living green roof. The garden also has rain barrels that can collect up to a half a ton of water to help sustain the medley of veggies and herbs grown in the garden itself.

The "Green", as it is referred to by its loyal green-thumbers, is not the typical community garden where there are individual plots and everyone does their own growing. It is open to all students and it's considered a 'collective' garden, which according to Melrose, differs from a community garden.

"We all garden together and we all harvest together," says Melrose.

The main idea of urban agriculture as a means of urban sustainability lies in creating a means of producing resources within the urban center, such as food, that make the residents within that center less dependent on outside resources.

While some students may be hesitant about starting their own garden, Melrose is a firm believer that anyone can grow food.

"Seeds want to grow. If you give them half a chance they'll grow," says Melrose. "Once you learn the basics of how to garden, all of a sudden the world opens up!"

The "Green" is a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), a society that runs education and awareness campaigns and workshops on a variety of social justice, environmental, political and food security issues.

The garden is funded by NSPIRG, which receives a \$4 levy from every Dal student's tuition payment.

Through NSPIRG, members of the "Green" run workshops all year long on food issues and gardening, from tips on growing medicinal plants to how to get a composting worm farm started.

Issues surrounding food security have prompted greater discus-

sion surrounding urban agriculture. The topic of urban agriculture is of particular interest in Canada, where development trends for most cities are resulting in depleting local farmlands surrounding urban areas.

Clara Stewart-Robertson of the Planning and Design Centre, who is also a former environmental planning student at Dal, agrees with the importance of urban agriculture to the future of cities but she's hesitant to say everyone in the city will become gung-ho gardeners and jump on board.

"Urban agriculture happens in many places. Take for instance a large number of Chinese cities, where no other food growing options exist," she says. "But when we have more money not everyone is as connected and concerned. So what will be the tipping point that makes people realize its importance?"

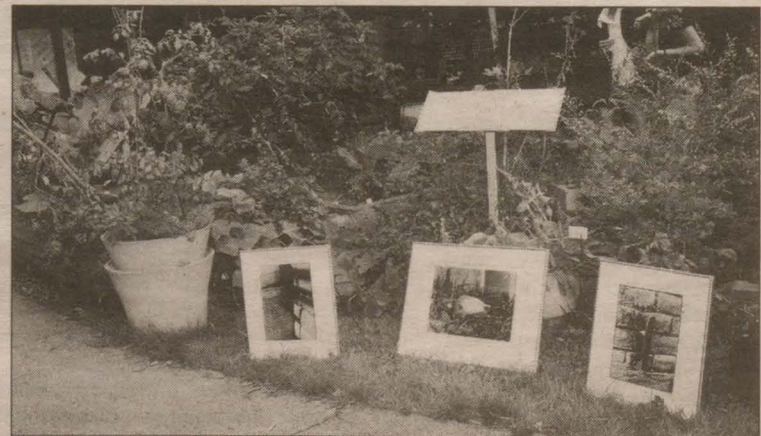
SeeMore Green on Dal's Studley campus is not an isolated case for collective gardening projects.

Acadia University has also recently developed its own student-community garden.

The environmental society at the University of Western Ontario in London was allotted a large plot of land behind its sports field to create a garden, which got such favourable feedback that the society negotiated a deal with the university's food provider, Aramark, to provide it with small amounts of produce for catering functions at school events.

While Dal's SeeMore Green is not yet large enough to take on the roll of providing food for the university, the "Green" could be a step toward a fully sustainable campus. And, as Melrose says, "fresh food just tastes so much better."

*SeeMore Green Garden is located at 1411 Seymour St. Weekly gardening hours are Tuesday's from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Workshops are free and open to the public.*





# Come on do the skut

LAURA DAWE  
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

If David Lynch fused with *Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job* and that new entity had an affair with AIDS Wolf, their baby would talk and walk like skut TV, a series of film shorts on YouTube produced by Dog Day's Kc Spidle and Seth Smith.

"We got bored on our last tour and we just decided it'd be fun to do some skits in some hotels," says Smith of one of skut TV's Hotel series. "We were doing that tour with Eric's Trip so we tried to incorporate their crazy personalities."

In the first minute and a half of *Hotel Part 3* two men are running down a hotel hallway in slow motion. As though pursued, they clatter down a stairwell. The soundtrack is a drum and a passing car. Cut to the two men in a hotel bathroom. One, Smith, is sitting on the toilet with his pants down. The other, Spidle, is standing in front of him, ironing. In the manner of actor Crispin Hellion Glover, Smith is instructing Spidle to "steam, then press. Steam, then press." The phone rings and Smith has a confrontational conversation with his mom. Cut to Nancy Urich, on a hotel bed. She is holding a single red rose saying patiently into the phone, "I am not your mother, but it is our anniversary."

The project is one of an almost countless number of art paths traversed by Spidle, Smith and their sphere of friends.

Dog Day, a Halifax pop cult band signed to Germany's prestigious Tomlab records, is a mash up of prolific Halifax indie superstars.

The band includes Spidle on drums, Smith on guitar, Urich on bass and Crystal Thili on keys. All of the band members are multi-instrumentalists and have been involved in other musical projects. Notable past endeavors include the Burdocks, Attack Mode, Made in the World, and punk heroes The Hold.

Smith is also an entrepreneur and half of the silkscreen poster magnate Yo Rodeo Poster Co.

At the time of this interview Spidle's getting ready to leave on a tour for his solo project, *Husband/Knife*, and his CDs are not ready. His brother Darcy Spidle, founder of Halifax label Divorce Records and Distribution is out procuring enough album covers to get Spidle through the trip. He hopes his CD sales will earn him some money to add to the mere \$70 he has to bring with him to Guelph and back.



PRODUCTION STILL

Skut TV's hotel tomfoolery on YouTube.

Smith, however, is unperturbed by Spidle's economic strife and sits with the slouch of a hanger in his north end studio. Smith has toured with Spidle in Dog Day enough times that he knows lacking records and lacking funds are nothing to sit up straight about.

It would seem that these two young men have enough on their plate without a foray into film. But between Spidle's love of making others uncomfortable and Smith's history in film — he currently creates flash animations under the name Cut Off Tail — the progression of skut TV was a natural one.

"We've been doing this stuff since the conception of Dog Day," says Spidle. "We have a whole movie, a Dog Day movie. We made a short film like 45 minutes long based on Vincent Gallo stuff. It's not really skits. But it's a full-on trip. We'll never release it."

After deciding that full-length movies were too much work with their already hectic schedules, the members moved to shorter films, Spidle says.

"Then we started doing profiles. That was the beginning of skut TV. Other people's profiles, of people we met on tour. So we did a few of those and then we ended up getting harassing e-mails," says Spidle.

One of two such "harassing" cases in which the band was asked to remove the profiles from YouTube, included death threats toward Smith.

"The angle is just to manipulate and mutilate these films until it's —" Smith pauses. "It turns out not being very flattering."

"But I don't think anything with ourselves in it is flattering either, that's the whole point," adds Spidle. "Some

people can't take it."

They took the character profiles off YouTube after they decided to "just embarrass ourselves," says Spidle.

*Hotel Part 3*, is, as the name implies, the third in a series shot in hotels.

The videos serve as a talisman against boredom at parties as well as on the road.

"If you're at a party and there are a lot of strangers there that you really don't know, I enjoy pulling out a camera and doing a skit in front of them, and they're just like 'what the hell is going on,'" says Spidle.

It doesn't take long to shoot a short, but when watching the skut TV channel on YouTube, one wonders how such busy people find time to edit, manipulate and create soundtracks for what's now more than 10 videos.

"It's a refusing to sit down on a couch and watch TV. I have to always do something," says Spidle.

"It's an artistic outlet," Smith agrees. "There's just something rewarding about it."

The rewards, in the case of skut TV, are not monetary. But the guys manage to survive. Dog Day does pretty well financially, but like most arts, the money is not consistent.

"There's times you're rich," says Spidle. "There's time you're so broke you're eating your shoe."

Speaking to the fact that he is in several bands, is a writer and works on video, Spidle sums up his creative drive:

"You gotta have as many irons in the fire as you can when you're an artist," he says. "Something's gotta pay off eventually."

# Skate punk and destroy: A night of nostalgic pop punk

MATTHEW RITCHIE  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The first live show by punk band Lagwagon to grace the East Coast in 13 years filled up the Marquee club on Sept. 10.

The night started with a re-sounding thud as British act Tat took the stage for a set filled with guitar frivolity and all around hair metal inspired shenanigans.

Tat's approach to hard rock was generic at best. The band members, clad in all black, sang songs about "champagne, cocaine and strawberries," and pulled moves straight from the playbook of Poison when the front woman played guitar behind her head and ended nearly every song by jumping off of the drum kit. Bass and drums overpowered the guitars and vocals, which may have been a good thing considering Tat only really offered Megadeth-influenced call and response hard rock.

But the stage banter offered some enjoyment.

"Anybody ever heard of us before?" asked the British front woman. Dead silence and two raised hands answered her question.

"That's OK, I've never heard of Nova Scotia before," she said, continuing. "That's a lie. I saw you guys on a map while flying over."

The crowd became increasingly dense and rowdy once Only Crime took the stage to play a more hardcore inspired punk set. The set started off fine, but soon the audience began complaining about the sound. First there was too much feedback, then not enough sound in the monitors and finally the crowd alienated two people in the audience who were talking too loudly during the set.

As the music progressed, Only Crime stirred up the crowd and showed strong musicianship by allowing them to sing along to their more popular songs.

Halfway through the set, singer Russ Rankin garnered laughter from the whole audience when he asked, "Anybody here 19? Dude, last time I was here you were six!"

After a quick set change, MxPx took the stage. In a mixed crowd of elitist punks, frat boys and people

who just wanted to hear the same music they listened to when they were in junior high, the Washington state band members set themselves apart by showing their true rock colours.

As the stage went dark, the sound of The Who's "Baba O'Riley" filled the Marquee to the cheers of some and to the exasperation of many. As the guitars kicked in, the whole band immediately launched into its set, following along to the recording.

Though few of the punks in attendance appreciated it, MxPx members showed the audience they could be fun with a humorous and lighthearted performance.

The band jumped back and forth across the stage, playing popular songs from its vast career as the audience moshed along.

The band ended on a high note, playing an adequate cover of The Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go", "Responsibility" and "Punk Rawk Show". Afterward the band's front man ran to the merchandise table to meet fans and pose for pictures.

Finally Lagwagon took the stage. Lead singer Joey Cape started off discussing how awesome his new moustache was, then the band launched into a set of songs spanning its entire career.

"These mother fuckers can throw down," remarked one audience member of the local punk scene.

And throw down they did. They played songs off of almost every Fat Wreck compilation most people grew up listening to — even track 10 from Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2.

Lagwagon demonstrated its progression over the last decade from a fun pop punk band to a complex act. Its set was the highest quality of the night and a lot of the band's songs sounded even better than the original recordings did 13 years ago.

As the crowd finally dispersed, fans rushed to buy Lagwagon shirts, likely replacing the band tees they wore in high school.

It was a nostalgic evening for the crowd who grew up listening to the skate punk of MxPx and Lagwagon. Without the boring opening acts, the show likely would have gone down in Halifax punk history.

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# The winds of change

LAURA WALTON  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Fashion is always changing. New seasons bring with them new trends, colours and waistlines. University campuses, however, seem to have a fashion timeline all their own: That slippery slope from September-fabulous to October-comfortable.

Students return from summer vacation with glowing tans and updated wardrobes. All over campus, girls and boys alike are donning their new jeans, bright shirts and gladiator sandals.

Overall people look fresh, put together and eager to start the year with newfound enthusiasm. But as leaves start to change colour, so does the amount of scrutiny with which one dresses for class. Jeans are traded for sweats, new shirts passed over for old hoodies, and shoes become less about style and more about easy access – the saving grace of the ever present Ugg boots.

Plenty of students have strong opinions about this dramatic seasonal dress-down attitude. Lindsay McKenna, a third-year psychology and sociology student, observes the downward spiral of effort people put into their outfits as the semester progresses.

"It definitely starts to change," she says.

The trend to start strong and fade to fashion faux pas may simply be a result of the student lifestyle, says Jackie Rivers, a third-year student also majoring in psychology and sociology.

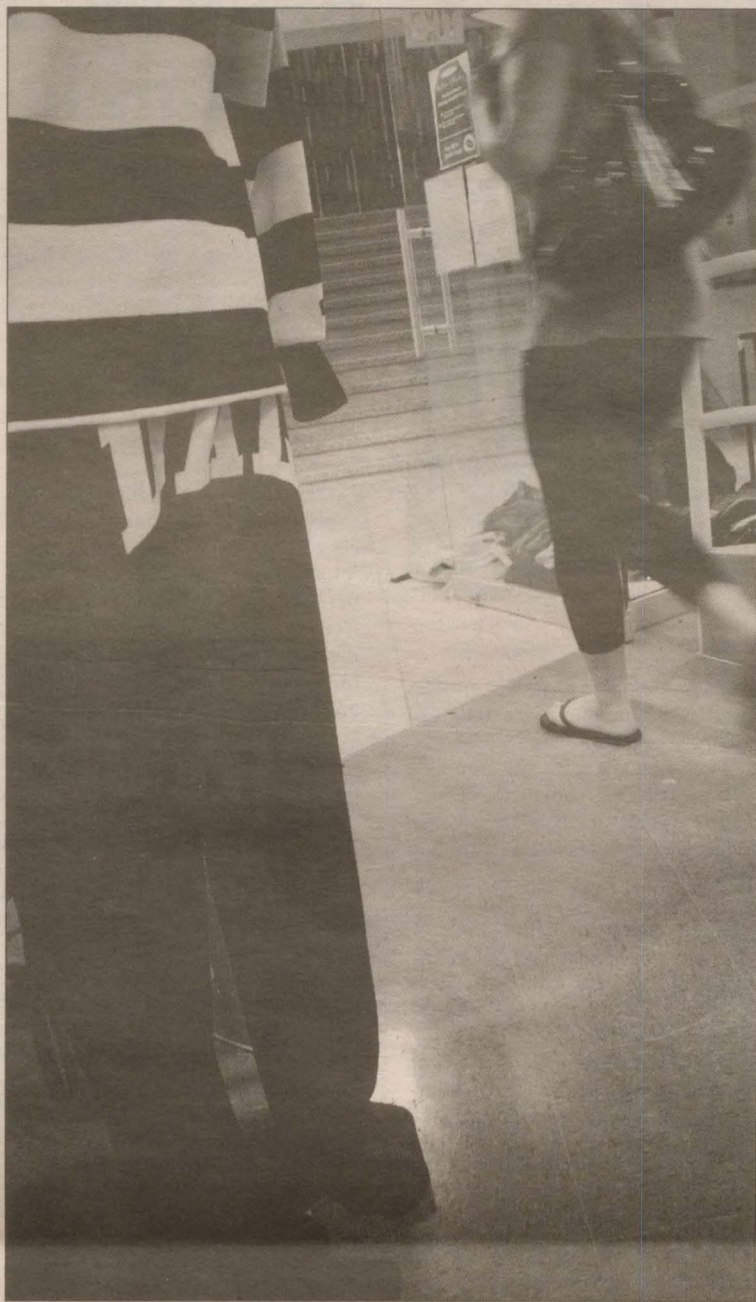
"They're lazy, hungover, or just don't feel the need to impress anyone anymore. At least look like you've seen a mirror before leaving the house," says Rivers.

She also feels strongly about the number of students who wear sweat-pants to class.

"It's disrespectful to other students and especially to professors who are always dressed well, says Rivers. "Being a full-time student, school is like my job. I would never show up to work in my pajamas."

Ben Porta, a fourth-year Spanish and English student, noticed a big difference in the level of dress while studying in Spain last winter, versus the dress code he became accustomed to seeing at Dal.

"Over there, everyone always dressed really well. It made me feel the need to also look good and dress a little classier than I would have here and it was nice," says Porta. "I



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Don't duck away from your Friday night crush in your Monday sweats.

felt good putting effort into how I presented myself."

Porta feels it would be great for Dal students to adopt a similar attitude toward their self-presentation.

"It would reflect well on the student population and make us look more professional," he says. "It's not just superficial. It's about sophistication."

Amber Townsend, a first-year arts student, is on the opposite end of the spectrum, saying it's fine for students to wear pajamas and sweat-pants to class.

"I paid to be here so why not dress how I want to?" she says. "Students are broke already – who wants

to spend money on their clothes?"

While the comfort and familiarity of your favorite sweats is appealing, taking those extra two minutes to choose an outfit in the morning goes a long way. Class may not be the most exciting place to dress for, but looking good makes you feel good too. It may even give you the courage to talk to that cutie two seats over, or spend more time chatting on campus instead of ducking away from your Friday night crush in your Monday morning sweats.

Either way, keep it up Dal. You are looking great. And as fall rolls in, don't take it out on your duds.

## High fall fashion

KATIE NATION  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There is no denying that it's starting to seriously feel like fall. Though in some ways that's a sad thing, it can be brilliant if, like me, you've been eagerly anticipating the seasonal explosion of new fashion. And this year it'll be easier than ever to transition from spring to fall with the high volume of summer looks that are bleeding into the coming season.

One of the freshest trends from the fall runway is the recurring shape that showed up at the likes of Emporio Armani and Bottega Veneta, with a slight flare over the hips starting at either the natural waist or the top of the hip. Seen on the runway in the form of structured jackets, dresses, tops, etc., this bell curve look can be easily mirrored with the flowy or otherwise long and voluminous tops you've been pairing over shorts all summer by belting them at the waist and pairing them with pencil skirts or skinny jeans. The pouffy hip and

skinny thigh combination is a current and flattering celebration of a woman's natural curvy shape and will hopefully not die out as quickly as most modern trends.

If a hippie look isn't for you, pay homage with the rest of the fashion world to the late great Yves Saint Laurent by holding on to the feminine menswear look in honor of *Le Smoking*, the famous tuxedo suit for women. Keep your summer vests autumn-appropriate by pairing them with blouses or long-sleeved hippie dresses, which also let you rock the hippie-bohemian look that's still holding strong for fall – just look at the Gucci show.

Every spring it seems like one of the major trends is the predictable floral theme that keeps popping up, but this fall the same look has taken a surprising turn as one of the predominant trends of the winter season. Absolutely everyone – from designers such as Derek Lam and Anna Sui to just about every fashion maga-

zine on the newsstand – is reveling in this pretty, optimistic look. Hang on to any of your summer florals that have darker tones and mix them with warm, heavy fabrics to stay 100 per cent current.

The major trends for fall 2008 have classic elements that scream durability – all those lovely textures of wool plaids, thick knits and tweeds. Think British countryside, think grandfathers, think warm. The look absolutely dominated the runway, so try it in modern cuts and unexpected layers to stand out from the crowd.

Other trends to look out for this fall include minimalism, superheroes – bright colors, shoulder pads and webbing – as well as that pop of brilliant jewel tones that we saw in spring, but all showing up unexpectedly underneath layers of fall colors.

Make sure that you scour your summer wardrobe for these looks before storing it all away. You'll continue to look hip and your wallet will thank you.

# NAOMI KLEIN

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Ondaatje Hall, 6135 University Ave  
Doors open 7PM | Lecture begins 7:30PM

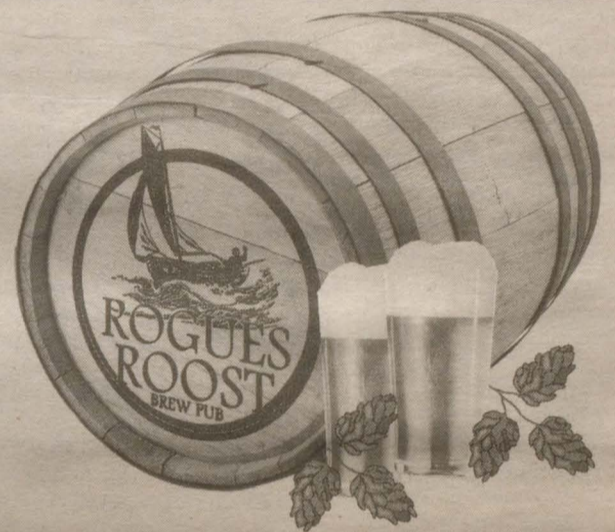


Naomi Klein is notable for her prominent work as an anti-globalization activist, and as an award-winning author of the international bestsellers, *The Shock Doctrine: the Rise of Disaster Capitalism* and *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies*. She also writes a regular column for *The Nation* magazine and *The Guardian* newspaper that is syndicated internationally by The New York Times Syndicate. In 2004, her reporting from Iraq for *Harper's Magazine* won the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism.

This event has been made possible through the generous support of our sponsors: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), and King's School of Journalism.

The event will be followed by a reception at the Gradhouse. Tickets to the reception are \$15 and are available at Outside the Lines Bookstore. Reception proceeds go to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives & the Halifax Peace Coalition.

For further information on regional events challenging disaster capitalism: [www.stopatlantica.org](http://www.stopatlantica.org)



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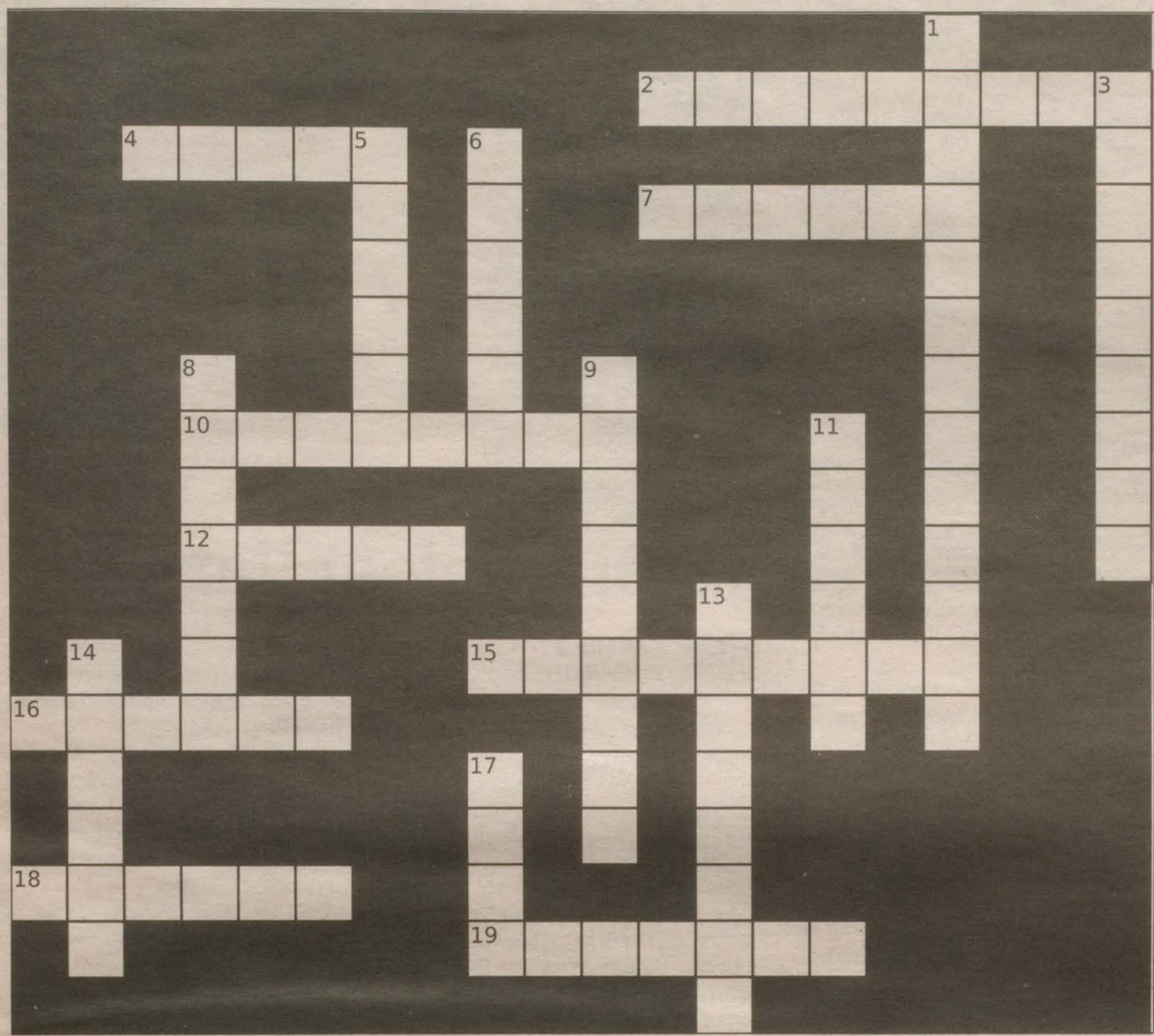
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# CROSSWORD HOROSCOPES

Homage to the 1990s



- Across**  
 3. He's our hero, Gonna take pollution down to zero!  
 5. "Not the Mama!"  
 8. Danny \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. Late Seattle songwriter  
 11. Endowed *Saved by the Bell* geek  
 12. *The Blue Album*  
 13. "The very best thing of all, there's a counter on this ball!"  
 16. Red-garbed fighting reptile  
 17. "I wish you would step back from that ledge

- my friend."  
 18. Culk-in classic  
**Down**  
 1. Six's best friend  
 2. Michael Keaton as Christian Bale  
 4. "Baby Bye Bye"  
 6. Tacky hair tie  
 7. \_\_\_\_\_ Little Pill  
 10. Fresh Prince's butler  
 13. Not "Iris" or "Black Balloon"  
 14. Game banned from your school  
 15. Killer Nintendo 64 game

6. Scrunchie  
 7. Jagged  
 10. Geoffrey  
 13. Slide  
 14. Pogs  
 15. GoldenEye

Down:  
 1. Blossom  
 2. Batman  
 4. Nsync

Across:  
 3. Captain Planet  
 5. Dinosaurs  
 8. Tanner  
 9. Cobain  
 11. Scream  
 12. Weezer  
 13. Skip It

Crossword Answers:

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**VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)**

This is the time of the year to peel your banana and climb out of your skin. Get your beef off the scale and make room for the vegetables. You have a healthy dose of adventure calling your name, so be sure to stay well-rested and well-fed. You cannot afford to feel rundown during this time of year. Love will lift you higher and higher. So listen when Mufasa tells you to go back to your kingdom. Your reign as prince is finally about to move into the final stages of royalty. The only real currency in life is the un-cool, so go ahead and rock head-to-toe plaid. Nothing's ever made you look finer.



**LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)**

Flowers grow from rain, but that don't mean that love is going to grow from pain. Put a little more sugar in your tea and you'll find life tastes a little sweeter. There's no need to cry when you have a remainder left over from your long division. There are bigger fish to fry. A talking llama seems to be telling you to get involved in a contact sport. So don't be afraid to get hurt and get out there.



**SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)**

When people told you that you "soled" out, they weren't talking about your classes; they were talking about your shoes. That means you'll cruise the streets with the greatest style and ease, making you the one with the greatest of steez. So no need to get angry as you Scorpions tend to do. The cheddar smokies you've been cooking are about to ooze with goodness, so open your mind and get ready for the unexpected.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)**

Consumerism gives you a sense of independence, but what it doesn't give you is a sense of substance. Forget about money and get jiffy with the fact that you can have fun without the almighty dollar. Have you ever tried chasing a butterfly? It's more fun than it seems and a lot more interesting then standing in a bank line. You're the kind they like to meet, not eat. So stop acting like they're trying to stick a fork in you. You ain't done yet.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)**

It is all happening and you know it. Should you stay or should you go? It's time to make the big decisions between pleasure and success. You know that life, if you are paying attention, leads you down the right path, so stop all your worry. Whatever it was that was troubling you will work out for the best. Especially when love hits your once-blue moon up yonder. They call you a hopeless romantic but now you're the hope for future generations.



**AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)**

Kanye West said it best. Keep your love locked down, and your temper will follow. Don't act so surprised when that deal you've been cookin' comes sprinkled with extra mozzarella. Mr. Potato Head is upset with the way you managed his parts; some rearranging is in order. The election is coming up and people are going to want to put your name on the ballot as the person whose personality sparkles best.



**PISCES (February 20 - March 20)**

Baby you're like cheddar cheesy. Cut out all the crud before the milk curdles. You've been churning the butter the wrong way. You seem to be oblivious to the fact that they asked for cream cheese, not melted butter. Stop trying to be something you are not, and be all that you can be. The true you is what the people really crave. The rhythm method has been telling you that you're off tune, but that don't mean that the melody is not praising your approval.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20)**

Pills aren't your friend, words are. Shout it out and the stain will be removed. First you drink it, then you pee it. So don't be too fazed if you've ingested more purple stuff than your stomach can handle. Simon and Garfunkel met Julio down by the schoolyard, but you will meet your new mate up by Spring Garden's boulevard. So keep your eyes and oranges peeled and let fate do the rest.



**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)**

You look lovely as can be. Better yet, you are rad. You know what's what and you know why. The Notebook portrays an unrealistic story of love. Or does it? You know that everything looks better in the rain. Now show them that you can do it better in the rain. It's not only going to be drizzling cats and dogs outside, it is going to be raining pennies from heaven. So have your umbrella upside down and your hard hat on.



**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**

You have been acting like a darn kiwi this week. You are sweet then sour. You oughta start listening to Miss Manners when she tells you that you win more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. Time spent away makes the heart grow fonder but it tends to make the mind wander. You were off chasing rabbits, but the hookah-smoking caterpillar has given you the call back to reality. Green is the new black. It's time to show them why they nominated you chief green leaf.



**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**

You've been working in the coal mine, working all the time. If you feel like you cannot cough up the dig decisions don't fret it or sweat it. Just sit back on the rocking chair and enjoy the world stroll by. Time is ticking in your favour and you will have the ability to slow it down. So fly a kite and watch the wind blow you in the right direction. Fate has a funny way of arranging the stars to look like a cowboy.



**LEO (July 24 - August 23)**

Your big toe has started to look bigger than your big head. So be careful in crowded bathroom stalls. Penny Lane told you to follow the yellow brick road, but John Lennon told you to imagine. The world is your peanut butter cup, so go ahead and get nutty with it. If you find yourself allergic to the nuts, that's fun. Get an epi-pen and spread it like butter.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

# Karate kicks off

NICK KHATTAR  
SPORTS EDITOR

While Tony Tam was a student at Dal, he earned bachelor of commerce and law degrees, practiced his black belt karate and started up a student sports club that's now going into its third decade.

But the Dal Karate Club founder and sensei doesn't consider any of those student achievements to be his greatest. Now, his real pride comes from teaching his own students, watching them achieve "self-perfection."

"Each student that I see get their black belt, it's such a momentous occasion for them. Achieving their goal; that's the highlight for me."

Tam started karate in Truro in 1973 and arrived on campus already equipped with a black belt looking to continue his training. Originally he planned to train alone, but soon decided to help others learn about the martial art he loved, and started the club with his brother Danny, also a black belt.

"I felt it was important to spread the art on campus and given the large population of Dal, it was a great opportunity to do so."

After some handmade posters and word of mouth publicity, Tam's first class had about 30 or 40 people, a number he says was incomparable to any other club at Dal at the time.

"There may have been a Judo club, but nothing of the caliber that we offered as we were associated with the International Shotokan Karate Federation, which is an international organization."

Shotokan karate is the oldest and most traditional form of all the Japanese martial arts.

From that first class in 1979, the club began to grow rapidly. Now that he's taught hundreds of students - many alumni still a part of the club - Tony credits some of the success and popularity of the club with the popularity of martial arts at the time; the 1970s being the Bruce Lee era.

"It was starting to blossom at that time so the popularity was very high; there were many different clubs in Halifax at that time," says Tam. "But there wasn't really any organized clubs at Dal, which really surprised me."

His passion for the art kept him dedicated to teaching and reaching out to new students, and what began with 30 or so members now has a membership of close to 120.



NICK KHATTAR/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The diversity of Dal's karate club has a bonding effect on members.

Regardless of the size, the themes and goals of the Dal Karate Club have remained the same since day one.

"What we try to achieve here is not dissimilar to what the faculty at Dal tries to promote - a healthy learning environment," says Tam.

The club promotes the importance of a strong mind and a strong body. Karate, or Karate-Do, its formal name, means "way of the empty hand", but it also means "empty mind."

What that means, Tam explains, is that to promote a strong character and good morality "you will have a clear mind," which you can apply to karate and everything else.

The eastern philosophies engraved in the karate lifestyle is something that helped attract club member Sandra Znajda to the sport.

"Our senseis integrate a lot of philosophy and I really like the eastern philosophies which sort of got me into the martial arts to begin with."

Znajda, the current secretary treasurer of the club and a brown belt, joined the club in 2005 as a Dal biology PhD student and has remained ever since.

"What I really like about the training is that you don't just focus on the physical. It's about training the physical side, the mental side and the spiritual side," she says. "For me it's a lifetime pursuit, it's a way

of life, not just a sport you go to for a couple of hours. It's part of everything that you do; for me I am going to keep going until I'm not walking."

For others in the club, like President Philip O'Brien, a computer science grad and a brown belt, karate was a way to escape and meet new people.

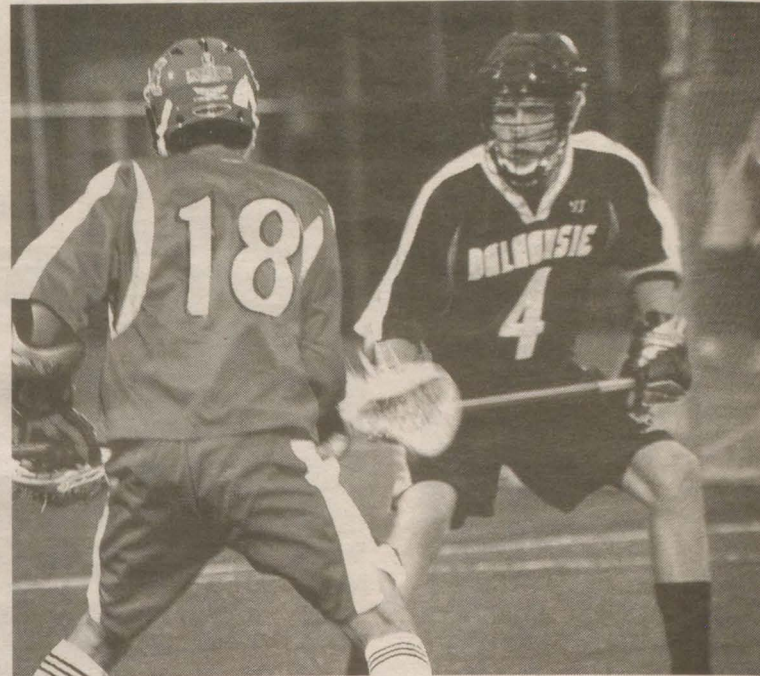
"I came here and met a lot of different people... there's dentists, lawyers, stay at home dads, retired men and women; you meet a lot of different people that you wouldn't normally run into," he says.

The diversity of the club has had a bonding effect on the members, creating a genuine sense of community. Both Znajda and O'Brien say this sense of community is one of the biggest reasons why they have been with the club so long.

The club tries to organize social events as often as possible, and welcomes new members as warmly as a grandmother with an apple pie.

Tam says he hopes to see the club expand to accommodate all potential members and provide various levels of training for every type of student.

The club meets every Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the basement of the University of King's College gym. Members are currently offering free classes for the next week to recruit new members.



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Tigers lacrosse team pummeled the visiting Acadia Axmen 15-4.

# Tigers defeat 'laxmen'

DYLAN MATHIAS  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's lacrosse action came home last Friday night with a lot of noise and plenty of scoring.

The Tigers pummeled visiting Acadia Axmen 15-4, making it the so-far-undefeated team's second victory after the Tigers' 10-8 win against Saint Mary's University on Sept. 7.

It didn't look like a blowout when it began, though. Wickwire Field was nearly empty as the teams lined up to play. A number of Acadia fans had made the trip and the event looked to be a quiet affair.

Dal started off quietly too, not opening the scoring for almost six minutes.

As the first quarter wore on, fans slowly entered. The noise level really exploded when a small support group started cheering for Dal, heckling the "laxmen" and attempting to unnerve the Acadia goalie.

Calling itself the "Coburg street elite," the small group tries to come out to every Dal sports game, not just lacrosse, to cheer on the Tigers. The ringleaders are all from Toronto and are supporters of West Ham United, an English Premier League soccer team known for its passionate fans.

Dal coach Nick Bradley said it's good to see a bunch of Tiger supporters at games.

"It really makes the guys proud to be playing for their school, to be

playing lacrosse," said Bradley. "It's really good for the guys to have their school behind them and their friends behind them."

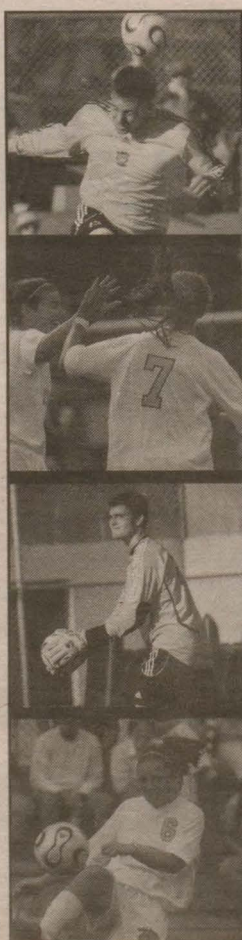
The first half ended 4-2 for Dal, with the Tigers scoring a late goal and Acadia pressing. Dal had gone up 3-1 before Acadia's Jeffrey Blake took a pass into the front of the net and directed it home.

The Tigers outplayed Acadia in the first half but were unable to really pull ahead despite dominating possession and chances. That changed in the second half when Dal scored at 1:58 in the third quarter, adding more points at 8:49, 11:07, and 17:20 to lead 8-3.

Maybe it was the fans, the chilly night, or just fatigue, but Acadia seemed to wear down. Acadia goalie Ross Grimes, who was constantly reminded that it was "all your fault" by Dal supporters, gave up two sloppy goals late in the game.

Coach Bradley said the Tigers, who won the six-team lacrosse league in 2005 and were runners up in 2006 and 2007, are going to be "one of the better teams in this league."

"With a talented group like these guys, an experienced group like these guys, and a motivated like these guys; you're really able to work on the smaller things, and that's what makes championship lacrosse," he said. "We really feel this is a championship team."



**TIGERS AT HOME**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
SOCCER VS. SFX, W @ 1PM, M @ 3:15PM

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
SOCCER VS. SMU, W @ 1PM, M @ 3:15PM



ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH ID

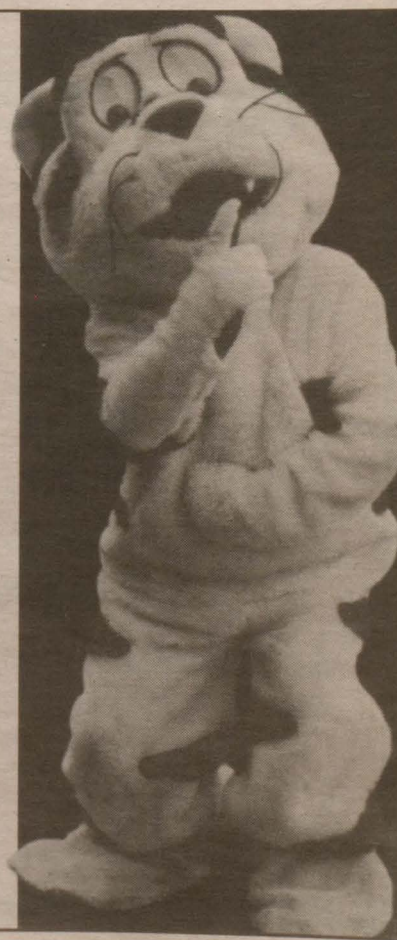
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# Shoot to thrill

KRISTINA MARTIN  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Skaters, filmmakers and photographers from all over Canada competed less than two weeks ago in the Redbull Shoot to Thrill skateboard video competition.

In effort to unite skaters country-wide, the Redbull energy drink company has put together a film competition with 10 professional teams

representing Canada's biggest cities.

Each team, equipped with 16 mm camera and 10 rolls of film, had a total of 72 hours to land the best tricks, while exuding fresh style to create a skateboarding masterpiece.

Once this year's best film is determined, the winners will collect a wicked \$8,000 in prize money. The winner for best still photo will also receive \$2,000. This is the second year Redbull has put on this compe-

tion, and Halifax skater Josh Clark says last year's was not nearly as big.

The boys shredding on film along with Clark for team Halifax in the pro-division are

Andrew McGraw and Justin Al-lain, directed and filmed by Jason Auger.

Unfortunately the talented group faced a few mishaps during their three days of filming. "Our generator broke down, and we had a ton of

rain, which sucked," says Clark.

Aside from Halifax's familiar rainy weather and technical difficulties, the pro skater says it was still a good experience.

Amateurs with a taste for talent also got to participate in this competition by entering a three- to five-minute video segment of their best footage. The winner for this division will be determined by online viewers, who can still vote now at [www.](http://www.redbullshoottothrill.com)

[redbullshoottothrill.com](http://www.redbullshoottothrill.com). The team that receives the most votes will win \$3,000 in filming equipment.

All the action from the Redbull Shoot to Thrill competition will be airing in about a month on MTV. Until then, keep your eyes wide on the streets in Halifax this week for Clark, who will be skating around shooting for SBC magazine.

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# The foiled sport

NICK KHATTAR  
SPORTS EDITOR

It's rumoured to be Dalhousie's oldest sports club, and the sport itself is one of the oldest forms of combat: Duelling, or fencing, as it is more commonly known.

Watching the small but mighty group of Dal fencers hone their skills, they hardly look anything like century old saber yielding, street fighting Dukedoms, but more like spry modern day foil-swinging Tigers.

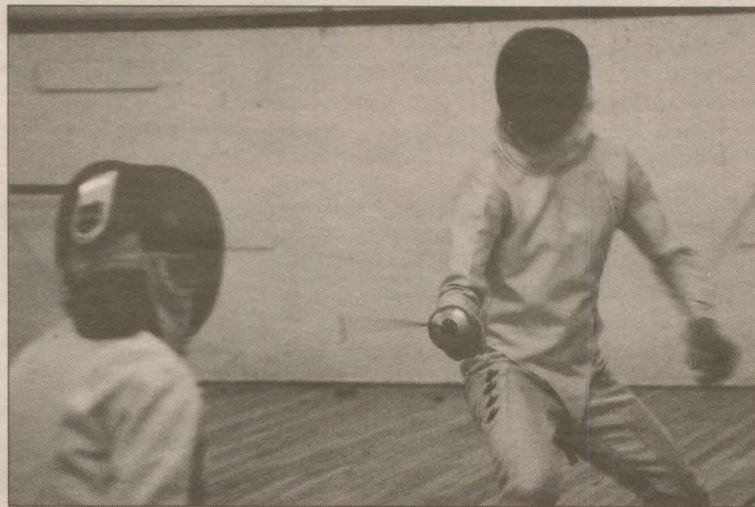
Like all clubs at Dal the Fencing club is open to all students, but unlike most other clubs, there is no membership fee, says club President Devin Monajem.

"We provide all the necessary gear and equipment so you don't have to worry about much except for showing up," says Monajem, who has been president for a year and has been fencing since he was 10.

For a sport that is based around the use of what was considered the deadliest weapon of its time, the fate of Dal's fencing club hangs in the air. With president Devin Monajem already graduated and no new president yet in the works, members aren't sure where club will be in the future. For now, the club lives for its seven or eight regulars.

Monajem says it all started after he saw a fencing presentation in Toronto, which then sparked his passion to become a "Knight of the Round Table."

He says when he was 16 the fencing in Toronto was quite strong, but feels that Nova Scotia and the Maritimes now have a stronger scene and



NICK KHATTAR/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The fencing club isn't just about friends dueling over the rights to the last can of Campbell's Chunky.

that fencing here at Dal helped him get to know himself a little better.

Marc Lelacheur isn't a Dal student, but that doesn't mean he isn't into "epic duelling," which he says is his favorite part about fencing.

Andrey Kostylev, a third-year engineering student at Dal agrees that "epic duelling- learning to duel and throw down a glove," is what attracted him to the sport.

The Dal Fencing Club isn't just about friends dueling over the rights to the last can of Campbell's Chunky.

Just ask 16-year-old Penelope Buote, who is currently ranked 19th in the country in the under 20 division, and 13th in the under 17 division. She's been yielding a foil since she was 11, and has her sights set on

making the national team when she turns 19.

The smooth-handed athlete says the sport is very physical, but that she likes the mental aspect of the sport.

"It's kind of like chess," she says.

The only other competitive fencer in the club, a sparing mate of Buote's, is Eric Dilcher, a Grade 12 high school student.

Dripping in sweat after a back and forth match against the barely five-foot-tall Buote, Dilcher says he got into the sport after his best friend's father introduced him to it. Now, six years later, Eric is ranked first in the country in the under 17 division.

## Sport retort

### Paralympic power



NICK KHATTAR  
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics may have just ended but the best part has only recently begun. Saturday Sept. 6 marked the opening ceremony of the 2008 Summer Paralympics, which involved 320 hearing-impaired dancers clad in magnificent white dresses moving magically to the vocal of a blind singer.

As I watched from a crappy television set in the Winnipeg Greyhound station, I was incredibly inspired to see gold medalist Hou Bin lighting the torch.

The one-legged wheelchair track and field athlete used a pulley system to ascend 100 metres, hand over hand, to ignite the flame cauldron.

This is why I love the Paralympics much more passionately than

the regular Olympics: Here we see people achieving feats at an international skill level while doing so with some form of mental or physical disability.

Perhaps more fiercely competitive than the Olympics, the Paralympics demand physical and mental discipline and performance far beyond the limitations of non-disabled athletes.

Sport science has become vastly more interested and involved in the area of "sport for and including persons with disability." The growing interest and work into this area of sport science means that we might see the performance of disabled athletes intensify exponentially in the future.

This is a bit of a scary and mind-boggling when you consider that the skill level of these athletes is already incomprehensible by the average person.

I mean, just think about it. Have you ever tried doing anything with even the slightest debilitating injury? If I sprain a finger I am bed-ridden for days, pleading for someone to spoon-feed me.

The Paralympic athletes are on par with the heroes of my childhood; blind swimming, sitting volleyball? As if Bravestar or the Lone Ranger could have pulled these

things off.

Have you ever tried swimming full force as fast as you can with your eyes closed, knowing full well that there is a concrete wall somewhere in front of you? Are you kidding me?

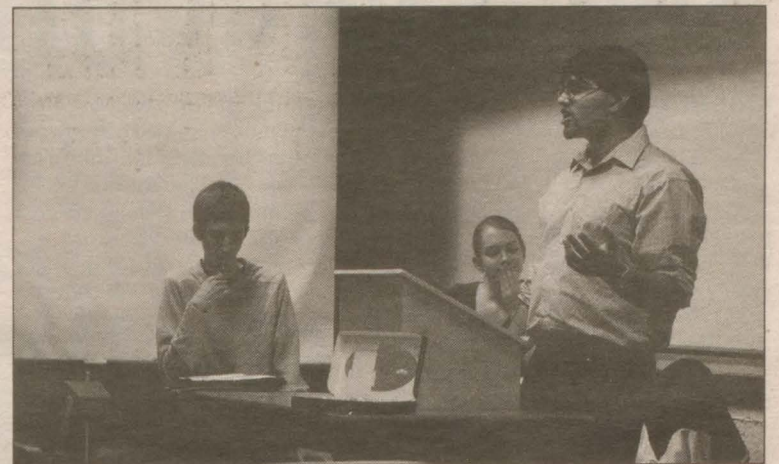
These athletes are to Olympic sport what Stephen Hawking is to universal physics.

The Paralympics were born in 1948 when Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sporting competition involving Second World War veterans with spinal chord injuries. In Rome in 1960, Olympic-formatted games were organized for athletes with disabilities and dubbed the Paralympics. In 1976 the first Paralympics Winter Games were held in Sweden.

Today, the summer Paralympics Games includes more than 4,000 athletes from 148 countries, competing in 20 sports and battling for gold medals in 472 events.

Team Canada consists of 143 athletes and 120 coaches, with a goal to rank within the top five in the medal count.

So next time you are flipping the channels, and are about scoff at the Paralympics, just remember that those "disabled" athletes are performing at a level you and I can only fantasize about, and they are kicking ass at it.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Vikram Rai argues against children's advertising at last week's Sodales debate.

## Dal debates

DYLAN MATHIAS  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

They may not have landed a goal with a satisfying thud in the back of a net, but Andrew McCoom and Vikram Rai feel like they scored a game-winner.

That's because the duo won the first debate of the year Sept. 11 with the Dalhousie Debating Society, also known as Sodales. The debate may have been what's known as a 'show debate', but the atmosphere of room 206 of the Life Sciences Centre didn't lack any competition. The topic: Restricting children's advertising.

McCoom started it off, linking the topic of 1970s rock band AC/DC to children's advertising, arguing advertising should be restricted to very specific forums.

"(Children) are incredibly susceptible to being taxed and told to buy things. 'This candy's going to taste great, this pop is going to taste great'. They want to have it for themselves because they think this is important; they're incredibly susceptible," he told the audience.

"We think, morally, this is not that different from walking into an AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting and saying 'Who wants a drink, guys?'"

Allison O'Bryne struck back for the opposition, challenging that the 'pro' side was fear mongering and

that it might be beneficial to advertise to children, or even to parents.

"Why shouldn't condoms be advertised to children from the age of 11 or 12 years old? This is the time when they're going to begin sexual education in schools," argued O'Bryne.

That point went over well with judge Jon Dulong, who said "children don't get everything that they want and I thought that that was what has made the most sense so far."

He also would have liked a little more consideration of the impact of children on the economy and criticized 'pro' side member Rai for his argument that Canada could set a good example by restricting advertising. "I didn't buy your construction at all... it just seemed corny."

Dulong commended the opposing side's Gavin Charles for his point that peers are the biggest influences among children. While Charles' peer pressure point was important for his argument, it wasn't enough to win the debate.

Judge Laura Townsend criticized the opposition for not clearly identifying who the consumer was. "At one point they were saying 'well, children are consumers,' and then at another, 'children aren't consumers,' and at another point they're saying 'well, parents act as filters, so parents are the consumers'... and those things kind of conflict with one another."

### DEBATE SUMMARY:

**PROPOSING SIDE:**  
Andrew McCoom  
Vikram Rai

**OPPOSING SIDE:**  
Allison O'Bryne  
Gavin Charles

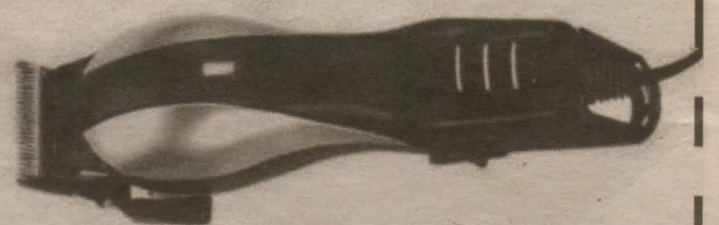
**ORDER OF SPEAKERS:**  
Andrew McCoom (7:06)  
Allison O'Bryne (6:24)  
Vikram Rai (7:20)  
Gavin Charles (10:11)  
Andrew McCoom (3:18)  
Total Debate Time (38:18)

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# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## T-Room Trivia

THOMAS AND STAN

Dear engineers... No. No. That's far too informal... Hey there, engineers. Thomas here. Some of you may know me as one of the hosts of T-Room trivia, alongside my hirsute co-host Stan. Every Friday night the two of us stand up on that big T-Room stage and rattle off useless facts for the entertainment of you and your fellow Sextonians... Sextonites? Sextagonians? Regardless of the nomenclature, the libations flow, "a jackal" is guessed a few dozen times, and you rack your brain for the capital city of the Confederate States of Micronesia. If you're lucky, your team may even emerge victorious, not only gaining you bragging rights and lavish prizes, but granting you the opportunity to have the promiscuity of your friend's mother announced to the entire bar as your comically off-colour team name is read aloud.

Certainly, T-Room trivia is an ex-

perience all its own, and if you have yet to partake, Stan and I encourage you to come out and see for yourself. We like to think of it as a nice escape from the drudgery of the school week, even for those of you without an expanse of trivial knowledge. I mean, writing "a jackal" forty times might not go over so well in a work term report but it suits a trivia answer sheet just fine.

Stan and I have been contributing to trivia at Sexton campus in some capacity for the past year and a half. In that time we have discovered what people like, namely Sweet Maries, my favourite girl with nuts, and of course what they do not, Big Turks. Big Turks are gross. But even more than their taste in chocolaty confections, we have discovered that the T-Room's patrons are quite discriminating in their taste for trivia. As such, we have instituted the first big changes in the trivia format since our predecessor Brennan McVeigh spouted the questions in 2006. This

year's T-Room trivia will deliver two themed rounds of twenty questions each, employing both audio and video, with lavish prizes for the top two teams in each round. But even if you don't win a round of trivia you certainly won't go home empty handed. We still have call-out questions to fill your hearts with joy and your bellies with an array of junk food, which I must say is a perfect complement to the T-Room's selection of fine ales and spirits.

Now I'll pull Stan away from his work term report to conclude this letter with any final thoughts he might have...

Hay guise, thomas n aye we have lots moar cool stuffs planned for dis semester, liek music video intermissions, and wekely contests to make shur you guys have da best time on ur friday nights!!1!one! maeby mai grammar not liek thomas' grammar but you get the idea! Now we gots to hand in dis article on tiem so see you friday night at trviaz! Kthxbai

## Get yourself out to the T-Room!

EVAN THOMPSON

For those of you who don't know of our illustrious campus bar, the T-Room is located just below the sexton gym. The T-Room opens its doors at 4 pm on Thursdays and Fridays, and has power hours from 9-10 and 11-12.

For all of recent memory, Friday nights have been a battle of wits during the weekly trivia nights. Few things can beat impressing your classmates with what would usually

be considered useless knowledge.

Thursday nights on the other hand, play host to some of Halifax and the Atlantic provinces best indie music talent. Coming up on Thursday, September 25th is the local funk band, Truth, featuring Luke Arsenault, one of Halifax's best lead guitar players. The following Thursday features the rocking guitar licks and vocal melodies of The Gypsies, for which engineering's own Dan Egilsson sings and plays that Rick-enbacker guitar.

Thursday this week, the T-Room plays host to an open mic night, so come out and play a song, or just have a beer and listen to some local talent. If you don't feel ready to play this week, get practicing, as every third Thursday of each month will be an open mic night, complete with prizes for performers.

If you feel like you've got a great idea for an event, feel free to let me know. You can email me your ideas at [ethompson@dal.ca](mailto:ethompson@dal.ca), or stop me in the halls anytime.

## Practical Action for Global Human Development

JUSTIN WHELER

Poverty is not about weakness. For the 800 million people who go hungry each day and the one billion who lack access to clean water, poverty is an absence of opportunity.

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is one organization responding to this urgent and incredibly important need, helping people in developing communities gain access to technologies that will improve their lives. We believe that access to technology, when appropriately incorporated into each community's social, cultural, economic and political context can help drive extraordinary change. EWB works simultaneously in Canada and in four Sub-Saharan African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Zambia, and Malawi) to promote human development.

Overseas, members of EWB partner directly with local organizations who mainly work to improve opportunities for the rural poor. Each volunteer's overseas work is uniquely tailored to fit that individual's skill set and the partner organization's needs. Each placement also builds on years of learning and experience of other EWB overseas volunteers. These volunteers are chosen for their ability to learn, to think logically and critically about complex problems, and to take action to address challenges in an effective, yet appropriate and humble manner.

In Canada, EWB has put hundreds of thousands of person hours into enhancing Canadian understandings of, and involvement in human development globally. There are currently 27 EWB student chap-

ters at university campuses across Canada (including Dalhousie) as well as 5 professional chapters. These chapters work to promote personal actions we can all take to support human development (like buying fair trade products, learning about the world and the important development issues, encouraging our leaders to make our systems and policies more globally appropriate, supporting or joining organizations doing great work all over the world). They also organize education sessions to learn more about development related issues, give presentations in schools to promote global citizenship for youth, and fundraise to enable all of this great work.

EWB, along with many other great organizations, also encourages our leaders to make Canada a model global citizen. A recent exciting example of this is Canada's commitment to untie all food and development aid. This means that without increasing development spending a cent, Canada has added roughly \$90-180 million to our aid spending, simply by eliminating the inefficiencies and waste of tied aid.

Here at Dalhousie the vibrant EWB chapter is ready to jump start another great year of learning and action on the most pressing human development issues. This Tuesday, September 16, (7:30-8:45pm - SUB Room 303) the chapter will be having its kick off meeting. All are welcome to come meet the team, learn more about this year's plans and all of the opportunities for involvement, and become part of the team.

The following Thursday, September 25 (7:30-8:45pm - SUB Room 302), EWB Co-CEO, George Roter,

and Coordinator of Chapter Development, Catherine Dorval, from the National Office will be in town and will be giving a presentation on EWB's work in West Africa.

This year's chapter leaders are: President-Heather MacKenzie (International Development graduate studies), Co-VPs Member Learning - Emily Stewart (Environmental Science and International Development - check out her blog from her summer as an EWB overseas volunteer - [www.Emily-in-malawi.blogspot.ca](http://www.Emily-in-malawi.blogspot.ca)), Laura Payne (Engineering), Co-VPs School Outreach: Meghan Swanburg (Engineering), Ashton Roscoe Ferguson (Engineering), VP Finance: Richard Plourde (Engineering), VP Fundraising: Danielle MacDonald (Engineering), VP Public Outreach: Amanda MacDonald (Engineering).

Currently there are openings for others to take up the roles of VP Events, VP communications, webmaster, and there is always room to define a new role or become a general volunteer or event director. Check out [www.EWB.ca](http://www.EWB.ca), [myewb.ca](http://myewb.ca), or email [dal@ewb.ca](mailto:dal@ewb.ca) for more information on the organization and how you can contribute to human development and poverty reduction.

Many EWB volunteers come from an engineering background, but engineering is definitely not the only source for the passionate, thoughtful and practical people that make up this organization. There is also a healthy mix of members from a variety of backgrounds. Everyone interested in critical learning and practical action to promote global human development is welcome!



September 18th - Open Mic Night  
September 19th - Trivia

September 25th - Truth, with Mike Redden  
September 26th - Trivia



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Mobile One  
Atlantic Superstore  
650 Portland St.  
Nova Communications  
167 Trider Avenue  
Wacky Wheatley's  
122 Main St.

**DIGBY**  
Peck Audiotechnics  
163 Hwy. 303

**ELMSDALE**  
DownEast Communications  
269 Hwy. 214

**FALL RIVER**  
DownEast Communications  
Fall River Plaza

**GLACE BAY**  
The Rolling Phones  
Peoples Mall

**GREENWOOD**  
DownEast Communications  
Greenwood Mall

**HALIFAX**  
Alliant Store  
Halifax Shopping Centre  
201 Chain Lake Dr.  
Spring Garden Road  
CBCI Telecom  
380 Bedford Highway  
DownEast Communications  
Maritime Centre  
Sobeys, Halifax Shopping Centre Annex  
DownEast Accessories  
Halifax Shopping Centre  
Mobile One  
Scotia Square  
West End Mall  
Wacky Wheatley's  
201 Chain Lake Dr.

**LIVERPOOL**  
MacPhersons  
137 Bristol Ave.

**LOWER SACKVILLE**  
DownEast Communications  
Sobeys, 752 Sackville Dr.  
Mobile One  
Atlantic Superstore  
745 Sackville Dr.

**NEW GLASGOW**  
Alliant Store  
Highland Square Mall

**NEW MINAS**  
Alliant Store  
County Fair Mall  
Wacky Wheatley's  
8961 Commercial St.

**NORTH SYDNEY**  
The Rolling Phones  
North Sydney Mall

**PORT HAWKSBURY**  
The Rolling Phones  
Shediac Plaza  
Sobeys, 622 Reeves St.

**PORTER'S LAKE**  
DownEast Communications  
5528 Hwy. 7

**SAULNIERVILLE**  
Seashore Electronics/  
The Source by Circuit City  
Saulnierville Mall

**SHELburne**  
Video Focus  
32 King St.

**SYDNEY**  
The Rolling Phones  
331 Charlotte Street  
516 Grand Lake Rd.  
Mayflower Mall

**SYDNEY RIVER**  
The Rolling Phones  
Value Check Plaza

**TANTALLON**  
DownEast Communications  
Sobeys, Hubley Centre

**TRURO**  
Alliant Store  
Truro Mall  
DownEast Communications  
Sobeys, 985 Prince St.  
Wacky Wheatley's  
188 Robie St.

**WINDSOR**  
Windsor Home Hardware  
Fort Edward Mall

**YARMOUTH**  
DownEast Communications  
Yarmouth Mall  
Tri-Star Electronics  
88 Forest Street

**Bell** hook-ups  
just got  
better

Offer ends Sept. 30, 2008. Available with valid student card. Available with compatible devices within Bell Mobility high speed mobile network coverage areas. Weeknights Mon-Thur, 9pm-7am; Weekends Fri 9pm-Mon 7am. Other monthly fees, i.e., e9-1-1 (75¢), system access (not a government fee) (\$8.95), and one-time device activation (\$35) apply. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply outside your local area. With data use, charges apply if you do not subscribe to a data plan or unlimited Mobile Browser and fees may apply for features, content and roaming when outside your local area. Mobile Browser does not include use of your device as a modem to connect to the Internet from your computer; additional per kilobyte data charges apply. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a 3-yr. contract term. (2) Applies to local calls and text messages to and from ten designated numbers. Received messages include local, international, roaming and service related messages from Bell and exclude premium, alerts and dial-up messages. Sent messages include local messages and exclude international, roaming, alerts, premium messages and messages sent with an instant messaging application. (3) Simultaneous use of airtime. (4) Applies to long distance calls made from and to Canada, in Bell Mobility and its partners' coverage area. Research In Motion, the RIM logo, BlackBerry, the BlackBerry logo and SureType are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and may be pending or registered in other countries - these and other marks of Research In Motion Limited are used under license.