

# Gazette

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868



## ROSS MCGAIN

**HARD WORK AND DEDICATION HAVE PAID OFF FOR THE TIGERS' STAR CENTRE**

**ALSO**

**Zebrafish**  
in space  
Page 5

**Charles Crosby's**  
sexy side  
Page 18

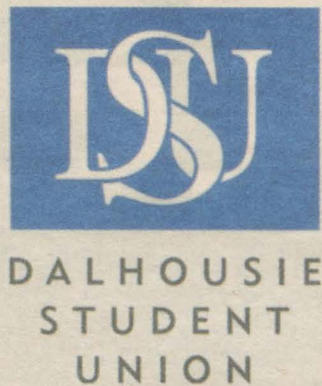
**DSU executives**  
under fire  
Pages 3, 6

**CKDU**  
beefs up  
Page 14-17

**Halifax Pop**  
Explosion redux  
Page 19



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



## DSU Legal Assistance Begins

We are extremely glad to announce that the Legal Assistance Program is up and running. If you have any legal questions, we have the answers for you. Friday afternoons our lawyer comes in to answer your questions on tenancy issues, tickets, or anything else you may need advice on. The service is limited to a maximum of two consultations per student. For information or to make an appointment contact Michelle at 494-1106. Appointments must be made prior to 12:00 noon on Thursday.

I am sure that you have noticed the construction going on beside the Grad House on Le Marchant Street between South and University. Dalhousie University and Metro Transit have joined forces to upgrade the bus stop for Route #10. Once the project is complete the #10 will be stopping on Le Marchant instead of Seymour as it currently does.

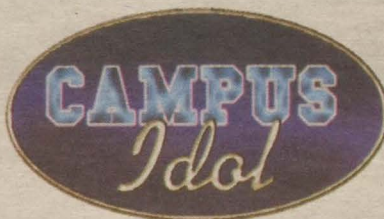
## Fall Fest Beer Tent

You may have already attended the Beer Tent behind the SUB on Wednesday. If you haven't you're in luck, we have another one this Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>. The tent opens at 4:00 and goes until the **Tigers Hockey Game** starts at 7:00. After the game CKDU and AFRICA UNITED will be kicking off the CKDU funding drive at 8:00. The night will be hosted by DJ Peter Toh and feature all types of international and local music: African Rumba, Hip-hop, Reggae, Reggaeton, Salsa, Soca and many others.

As mentioned last week, the photo contest 'A Pictures Worth \$1000' runs until November 5<sup>th</sup>. This contest is run through our federal lobby group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and you can get a submission form on their website [www.CASA.ca](http://www.CASA.ca). Submit your pictures that portray the state of post secondary education for a chance to win \$1000 or one of five iPod Nanos and have your photo displayed on Parliament Hill.

Monday in the Grawood we have a **Texas Hold'em Tournament**, as well Margatini Monday night with football on the big screens. Wednesday will be the second round of Campus Idol followed by the band Merimac and on Thursday we have Trivia.

For more details on Campus Idol check out [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



The next meeting of the DSU Council will be October 26 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

See you around campus, stop by or call anytime.

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



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# Quarter-life crises are a good thing

Having doubts about your university experience? Don't worry — aimlessness is the new ambition

CHRIS LAROCHE  
Editor-in-chief

By the time you read this editorial, the date on the calendar will have been lurched past the halfway point in fall semester — and you and your coursework will have been dragged, kicking and screaming, along with it.

Yes, folks, it's that time of year again.

And I don't mean Halloween, post-thanksgiving exercise schedules, or the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

We're at a half-way point, filled with mid-terms, anxiety, and yet-to-be-seen final marks that, according to a theory of mine, are being carefully hidden away in brain-and-electrodes-filled jars our professors keep at home, forcing us to blindly pass in assignments, without feedback, until it's too late.

Contrary to this plan, however, some of us will make it the whole year without succumbing to seductive energies of academic failure. We'll emerge from the frothy slush of the Nova Scotian December in tact — enduring the mind-numbing process of Dalplex examinations, a horror in which giant balloon-fulls of water fall from the ceiling at random, and the average exam desk has a left leg two inches shorter than the right — and we'll live to tell the tale.

But for those of us who plan to make it the whole year, reading this editorial marks a less-than-desirable juncture: the quarter-point. We'll experience another three of these doozies before we get out of here, sure enough, but this particular one is unique: armed with a month-and-a-bit of experience, we now know what's ahead of us, and we think we can handle it and make it out alive.

But many of us haven't been here long enough to really figure out what that means.

In life, quarters are generally symbols of opportunity, vocation and positivism. They are convenient for use in vending machines; and they make good bar tips. They dominate coin tosses, and they seem to be just the right size — not unnecessarily small, like the dime, and not really a waste of metal for their value either, like the nickel or penny. And they aren't too big and flat, like twoonies. Instead, they're just in that comfortable middle — they're in the pocket. And they won't fall through most holes.

A quarter of a medium pizza is a reasonable serving, and a quart of rum will have you on your way downtown merrily. Businesses use quarters to calculate how much money they've lost or gained before they nosedive an entire half. And football quarterbacks are arguably the most important players on the field.

We've even divided the year into four quarters — Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall — and hey, that did wonders for Vivaldi.

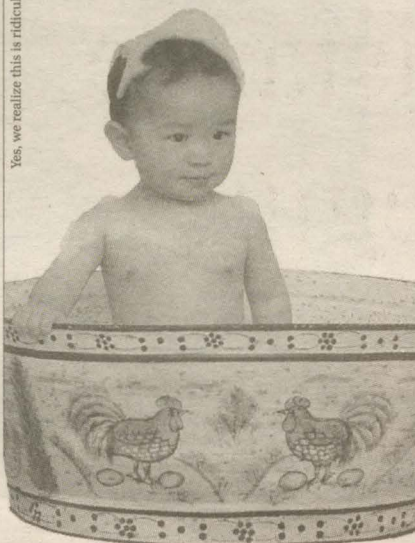
But there is a bad quarter out there, and students in particular should be aware of it: the so-called "quarter-life" crisis. If you do the corresponding math, you'll probably find out that you're supposed to be in the midst of it.

What is a quarter-life crisis? The next time you're writing a mid-term or final exam in the Dalplex, and you think to yourself, "what the hell is the point, really?" — well, you're on the cusp of it. Essentially, the crisis is that feeling that sets in when those clear life aspirations you had become murky.

We are bombarded daily by the lives of the rich, famous and successful. If the lessons of popular media are heeded as advice, we are expected to own a house, drive an SUV, have children, and live in suburbia.

The university degree, above all

Yes, we realize this is ridiculous.



“Here's some advice: if you're feeling confused, be wise not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.”

else, is supposedly seen as the gateway to this paradise, the magic card that can make all your bourgeois dreams come true.

But who wants to drive an SUV?

While studying for your next exam, many of you may wonder for a moment or two whether university is really worth all the hassle.

In some societies, the expectations imposed by older generations can appear so daunting that entire generations revert to aimlessness in protest.

In Japan, a history of isolationism, imperialism, emphasis on collective identity and a super-human post-WWII work ethic has created a society with tremendous expectations for its youth. The average Japanese student's entire career is often determined by a final high-school exam; the successful male becomes a suit wearing "salaryman," and those who fail often revert to isolation, indignation and, increasingly, suicide. Unsuccessful females — or at least those who don't marry and still live at home by the time they are 25 — are

affectionately dubbed "parasite singles."

With a shrinking population, brutally strict immigration laws and a still-stagnant economy, Japan's rigid social, political and business structures are steaming headlong into a major crisis.

Expectations in Canadian society, in comparison, seem carefree. The world is quickly changing, and the expectations of older generations — an established career, a family, a nice home and good life insurance — may soon become a pipe dream, whether we want it to or not.

For many of us, the natural reaction to societal expectations lies somewhere between rebellion and nihilism. Tattoos, piercing, hair dye, a Yeah Yeah Yeahs CD — it's all fine; we are part and parcel of a society that prides itself on individualism, after all.

But we still feel the need to go to university and get that degree, whether we like the subject matter of not.

And without money to buy

Porsches, build garage extensions or fly to Paris for a weekend, a quarter-life crisis can seem very constricting, even though it is premised on aimlessness.

Here's some advice: if you're feeling confused, be wise not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Earlier this year, in a misguided attempt to offer original advice to university newcomers, I used this space to recommend that students simply do what they want at university, and have no regard for anyone's expectations but their own.

Someone wiser than I am gave me fair criticism afterwards: can we really expect students to know what their own expectations are so early in their academic careers?

The answer is no. But not to worry: this is the answer the aimless should be looking for.

It means that even if you don't know where you're going with your academics, you're still building towards something.

As much as it hurts, this "social constriction" is a path to self-determination, not a lifeless career path. It doesn't mean driving an SUV — it means finding out who you are. If you don't like what you're studying, a career path in that field is probably not for you. But give it time. You're in a privileged position — you're at university — and you owe it yourself to make that mean something.

When you're done, that piece of paper will show you dedicated yourself to something, and you made the most of it. More importantly, you will have found out what you want to do in the process, degree-related or not.

Feeling aimless?

Relax. Take your time. But don't screw that midterm up — if you play your cards right, you'll have plenty of quarters to spend on vending machines, and you'll be doing what you want to do.

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## Student Employment Centre

### Employer Information Session

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When: October 26th, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
Where: Room 303, SUB

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP [jennifer.miller@dal.ca](mailto:jennifer.miller@dal.ca).

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for more information.

### Upcoming Events

**Workshop**

Resume and Cover Letter Prep  
Date: October 25  
Time: 12:30 - 1:30pm  
Location: Room 302, SUB

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for more information.

4th Floor • Student Union Building • 446-6136 University Avenue • Tel: (902) 494-3537  
To access job postings go to [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

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# Gazette

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THE FINE PRINT

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

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

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

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. View expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of Chris LaRoche himself. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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

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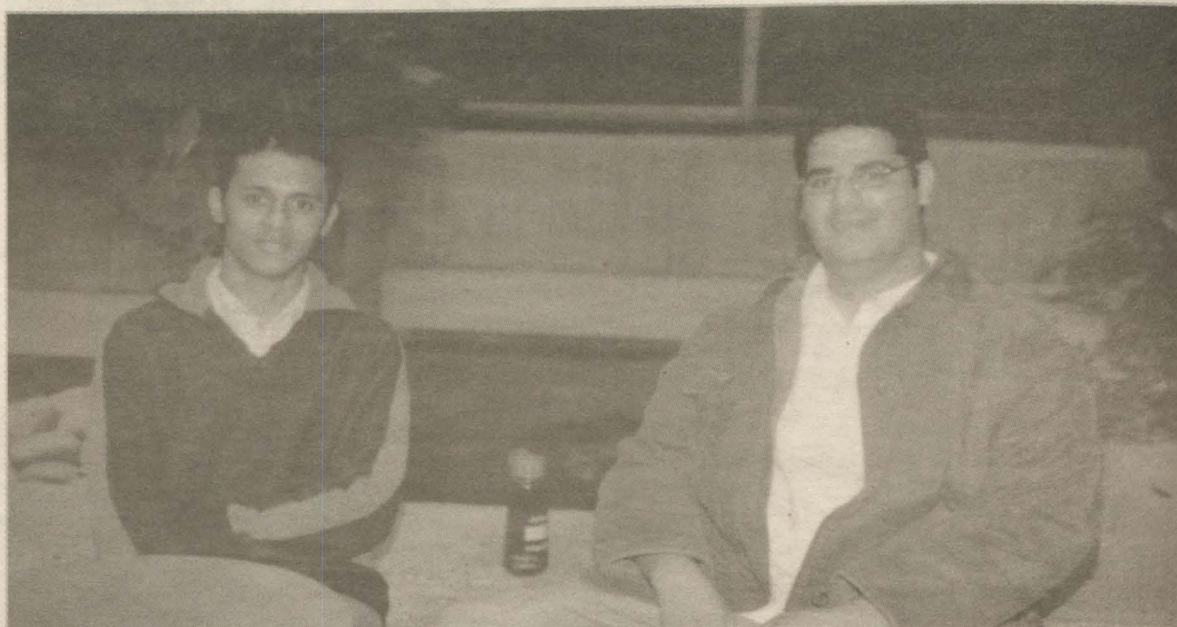
Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB. You can also drop in to our offices anytime after 5:00 p.m. on Monday or Tuesday. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

## Gazette: News

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A federal-provincial agreement allowing international students like Anando Chatterjess (L) and Hashier Khan (R) to work off-campus may be signed as early as the end of October. / Photo: Jess McDiarmid

## International student work permits coming soon

JESS MCDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

University and government officials are hoping that Nova Scotia will be the first province in Canada to offer off-campus work permits to international students.

The province is prepared, says Nova Scotia Office of Immigration senior policy analyst Megan Edwards. "We're waiting for Citizenship and Immigration Canada to have [all the forms] completed."

Edwards says she hopes the federal government will be ready to sign an agreement with the province by the end of the month that will allow international students in Nova Scotia to work off-campus for the first time.

Once the federal-provincial agreement is signed, the NS Office of Immigration can sign contracts with each university that wants to take part in the program.

Dalhousie is ready to sign the agreement as soon as possible, says International Student Advisor Margare

ret Wood, who will be responsible for administering the program at Dal.

"There's nothing holding us back," says Wood. "We have our structure in place, we're doing things behind the scenes now to try and make sure that there isn't a second's delay once they say it's good to go."

As soon as the ink is dry on the agreements between post-secondary institutions and the provincial government, students will be able to apply for the permit.

Until a policy change at Citizenship and Immigration Canada last April, Canada was the only commonwealth country that did not allow international students to work off-campus.

Students and university officials have been lobbying for the federal government to amend its rules on international student work permits for many years.

"We're well aware of the importance of financial support for international students. I think it goes beyond that as well," says Wood.

International students will be able to seek employment that is in line with their field of study, Wood says, which will enhance their prospects of immigrating to Canada and finding work after graduation.

The new work permits will allow international students to work up to 20 hours per week during academic terms, and up to 40 hours per week during breaks.

Students will be eligible if they have been studying at a Nova Scotian institution for at least six out of the last 12 months, are enrolled full-time and maintain an acceptable academic standing.

Hashir Khan, Vice President (Events) of the Dalhousie International Students Association (DISA) says the ability to work off-campus will be helpful to international students.

"I think it's perfect because international students will get more exposure to how things work here," says Khan. "It also gives us a good opportunity to get some work experience."

## DSU and ANSSA to lobby new Tory leader for education funds

JESS MCDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

Recent changes in the political landscape have opened the door for an increase in funding for post-secondary education in Nova Scotia.

Premier John Hamm's impending retirement and the Atlantic Canada premiers' announcement last week that they will make PSE their top priority when seeking funds from the federal government are encouraging developments, says Executive Director of the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) Alex Abboud.

"With Premier Hamm retiring, there's a real opportunity for the Conservatives to take a new direction and renew support for post-secondary education," says Abboud. "And there's a real opportunity for citizens of this province, and students especially, to really pressure the leadership candidates to make a commitment."

During Hamm's term in office, tuition became the highest in the country, the province's student debt reduction program was cut and funding for PSE went from an all-time high to an all-time low, says DSU President Ezra Edelstein.

"What we'd like to see [in the next Premier] is someone who can recognize the benefits these universities

are bringing to Nova Scotia and back that up with adequate funding."

The DSU and ANSSA applaud last week's announcement by the premiers of Atlantic Canada that they will shift their focus to PSE from health care when demanding money from the federal government.

"We're very happy about it," says ANSSA Chair Jen Bond, who is also the DSU Vice President (Education).

"But it's all well and good for them to say it's their priority. We have to see this in action."

ANSSA and the DSU are calling for the restoration of a dedicated transfer for higher education from the feds to the province. Funding for PSE currently comes as part of the Canada Social Transfer, which lumps funds for all levels of education, health and social programs.

The two organizations also demand that funding for PSE be issued on a per student basis, rather than the current per capita basis.

ANSSA and the DSU are seeking a national agreement on higher education that outlines the priority they say Canadians place on education.

"If that priority is that we want all Canadians to be able to access education, that's huge," says Edelstein. "That's something that's achievable with that kind of dedication behind it."

Increases in PSE funding need to happen immediately, says Abboud.

"The past 10 years have seen a dramatic reduction in funding for education by all levels of government," he says. "And that's resulted in things like skyrocketing tuition, elimination of the debt-reduction program and the accumulation of deferred maintenance."

Edelstein says that the quality of education in Nova Scotia has been jeopardized by a lack of funding.

Dalhousie's class sizes are growing and the university has millions of dollars worth of deferred maintenance, he says. A recent budget shortfall also forced the university to cut the operating budgets of each department by one per cent.

Dal's efforts to increase its enrolment are another response to a lack of funding, says Edelstein. "That's what Dal has decided to do to make up the extra money it needs to exist. That's a serious thing, the impact that has on the quality of education."

Both the DSU and ANSSA are gearing up to lobby the Conservative leadership candidates when their names are announced.

"We need to see this re-investment start now," says Abboud. "So that tuition is set at a reasonable level and all qualified Nova Scotians can afford to go to university."

## travel talk

### Gap Year Abroad

Monday, November 7th, 7 - 8:30 pm  
Travel CUTS Office - 1589 Barrington St.

### SWAP Working Holidays

Tuesday, November 8th, 2 - 3:30 pm  
Dal SUB, Room 224

Wednesday, November 9th, 7 - 8:30 pm  
Travel CUTS Office - 1589 Barrington St.

### Europe on a Budget

Tuesday, November 8th, 3:30 - 5 pm Dal SUB, Room 224

Wednesday, November 8th, 7 - 9 pm

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





Dalhousie has introduced a new program to bring in more students from Nova Scotia's black population. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

# Black students struggle for representation

BEN SAIFER  
Staff Contributor

On a daily basis, Keslyn Adams says she sees the effects of being a black student in an overwhelmingly white university.

"Working in this office, I see students come in here all the time complaining about being in class and feeling snubbed," says Adams, who works at the Dalhousie Black Student Advising Center.

"Yesterday, we had a student who was in tears because she wanted to reach a professor whom she felt was completely unapproachable. She felt this was because she was one of the few, if not the only, black student in the class."

In its promotional materials, Dalhousie advertises itself as a culturally diverse campus, yet some students wonder if this is just rhetoric.

"I don't see [black students'] needs being met or even addressed on campus," says second-year law student and member of the Dal Law Students' Association Patrice Barnett.

"They have token positions on council for the black student positions, but it's just that, token positions. But what exactly the rep can and can't do... I was the rep last year and I still can't figure that out."

Charlene Theodore, a black law student, says that realizing meaningful representation of blacks is difficult to achieve.

"I think there is a definite attempt to address the issues of black students on campus," she says. "Are their needs being met? That's a different question. It's not an easy question to answer. That's not an easy problem to solve."

The lack of senior black figures on campus has an effect on the students, says Professor David Divine, a senior black Canadian studies researcher. And these senior figures are necessary to combat the popular stereotypes of blacks, he says. "Such figures are important be-

cause they give a message that blacks can achieve, blacks can be president of a university, blacks can be chairs of a department, blacks can be professors," says Divine. "That's why it's important at the university that the students see such individuals who are able to positively reflect that black reality."

As a member of the Black Law Students Association, Barnett is aware of the obstacles faced by black students on campus, and she says that the lack of black professors has a direct impact on students.

Barnett says that most of the discussions in her law classes are open to interpretation and different perspectives. As a black female, she says her perspective often differs from the status quo, which is taught by the professors.

"You don't have professors who want to bring that discussion to the forefront," she says. "They don't want to touch it. It all goes back to the fact that Canada is very subtle with their racism."

A recent commerce graduate, who would prefer to remain anonymous, says there was pressure in her program for her to adopt the view of the majority. "It's very polarized. Even though you're integrated, you're still segregated within that framework."

The university is aware of its need for a diverse faculty and works hard to achieve this goal, says Bonnie Best Fleming, Dalhousie's employment equity officer. The office was created in 1990 to review the university's employment systems for signs of systemic discrimination.

Dalhousie's hiring policy employs affirmative action and has been approved by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. Candidates for faculty positions who fall into one of four designated groups — aboriginals, visible minorities, persons with a disability, or women — will be hired ahead of equal candidates who aren't from one of the designated groups.

Affirmative action is designed to remedy the effects of discrimination against members of these designated

groups and to equalize the job opportunities for all employees.

Fleming says that the administration has not yet figured out how to completely diversify the Dal faculty, but is attempting to address it through an open and accountable system.

Along with a lack of black faculty, black students make up a small minority of the campus community.

As the administrator of the Black Student Advising Center, Adams says the lack of black students feeds the common misconception that that Nova Scotia is an extremely white province, a belief shared by many university students.

Adams disagrees with this idea, saying that there is a large black population in Nova Scotia, which has been here for hundreds of years, although there aren't a lot of black students on campus.

Dal Vice President (Student Services) Bonnie Neuman says the university is aware of this problem and is starting a number of programs to bring in students from Nova Scotia's indigenous black population.

Dal introduced new scholarships for indigenous black students this year, says Neuman. The university is also setting up a mentoring program for these students, to help them make the transition to a new environment, and has recently hired a consultant on a four-month contract to get the program moving.

"Our commitment for special funding is for indigenous black students of Nova Scotia, recognizing the historical barriers that this group has faced and that their families have contributed to the tax base that supports Nova Scotia post-secondary education," says Neuman.

Barnett says she hopes that this isn't just rhetoric, and that the university actually implements effective programs to diversify the campus.

"It does really affect you when you're walking around and you don't really see anyone else like yourself in a school, or it's very rare," she says. "It's a problem."



David Hutchings of Foreign Affairs Canada says the crisis in Sudan does not meet the legal definition of genocide, but crimes against humanity are taking place. Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Federal officials set sights on easing tensions in Sudan

JENA MARTIN  
Staff Contributor  
Kyra Bell-Pasht  
News Contributor

Canada is taking a new approach in helping to alleviate the crisis developing in eastern Sudan that has left nearly 400 villages destroyed in two years.

A concentrated focus on diplomacy, development and defense forms Canada's 3D approach that aims to ease tension in the battered region, according to three government officials who spoke at the Dalhousie University Club on Oct. 14.

Lt. Col. Fred Aubin, back from his recent post in Sudan, described the African nation as a country the size of France with many weapons, extreme poverty, little to no infrastructure, a large and diverse population and a long history of violence — a recipe for civil war.

Aubin stressed that Canada's military presence in Sudan is only to provide guidance and capacity to the African Union's Mission in Sudan (AUMIS), which aims to create peace and security in the region.

"The AU knows what is best to do on its own continent," said Aubin. "And anything we can do for the AU to provide security in its backyard will help international security."

Between 2003 and 2005, rebels fighting in Sudan destroyed 396 villages, said Aubin. Since the AUMIS has been on the frontlines, only four villages have been destroyed over a period of six months, a sign that the organization has had a positive impact on the region, he says.

In addition to Canada's indirect military assistance, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will continue to provide humanitarian aid to the entire country in order to help pacify feelings of

- Canada is giving 198 million to Sudan; 20 million is for humanitarian purposes.
- More than 2 million people either fled or were forced out of the country since 2003.
- More than 50 000 people have died since 2003.
- The ceasefire agreement signed between government and Darfur rebels April 2004 failed to stop violence.

marginalization that are believed to have spurred the rebellious uprisings, said David Ross, CIDA's program manager in Sudan.

CIDA has three separate areas of concern. The first is assisting the displaced population, returning to Darfur with food, providing educational facilities and clearing mines.

The second is continuing support for the comprehensive peace agreement that works on ending the lingering conflict between the Arab North and the African South.

The final area of concern involves preventing a second Darfur in the East, which Ross says has the same symptoms as the conflict-plagued western area of Darfur.

Ross also indicated that guidance in civil engineering and good governance forms another key contribution of Canadian aid.

Canada's official position on the crisis in Sudan is that it "doesn't meet the legal definition of genocide, but there are crimes of humanity taking place that are just as bad," said David Hutchings from the department of Foreign Affairs.

According to Hutchings, Darfur was originally seen as a conflict of relatively low intensity that mushroomed into something larger. In order to prevent history from repeating itself, Canada has adopted a holistic approach to the crisis in Sudan.

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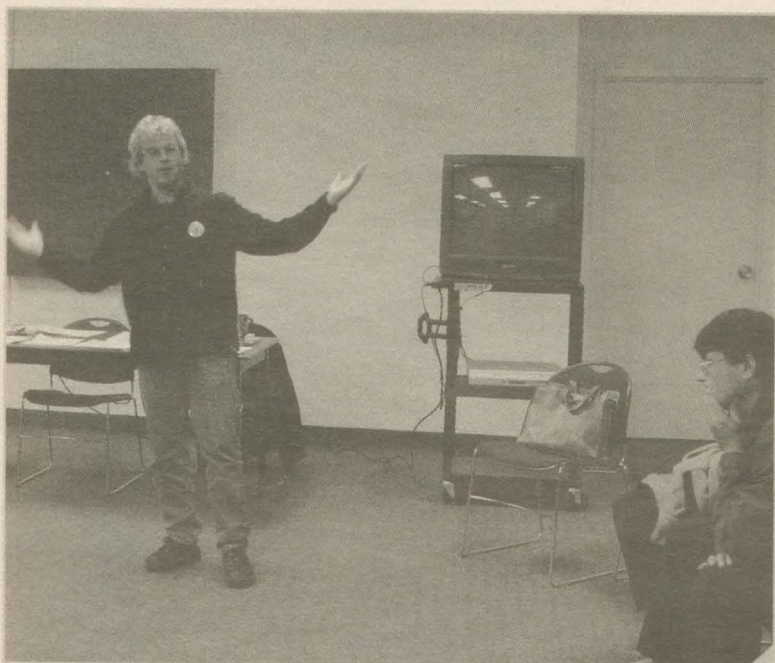
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Interim leader Michael Oddy says he's confident that the Green Party of Nova Scotia will collect enough signatures to run in the next election. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski



The DSU suffers from divisions between executive members and a lack of professionalism, according to this year's first performance review. / Press Photo

## Green Party gears up for provincial elections

ALICIA LAUERSEN  
Staff Contributor

Ecologically minded Nova Scotians met at Dalhousie last week with hopes of giving the Green Party of Nova Scotia official party status in time for the next provincial election.

"People are beginning to have the vague sense that something is wrong," Michael Oddy, the interim leader of the Green Party of Nova Scotia, told roughly 30 people at the meeting.

Oddy said people are looking for answers to everything from Hurricane Katrina to depleted fisheries and are unsatisfied with the standard political rhetoric from mainstream parties. The Green Party may have a place on Canada's political stage in the future, he said.

The Greens have to obtain 20 signatures from at least 25 of Nova Scotia's 54 ridings to register as an official party. They must also have a candidate running in each provincial riding in order to be able to take part in the general debates prior to the next election.

Oddy, who ran as a candidate for the Green Party of Canada in the 2004 federal election, said that he and his fellow Greens are confident that they can achieve their goal.

In the 2004 federal election, the Greens secured 4.3 per cent of the popular vote, which entitles it to federal funding under Elections Canada. Since then, the federal party has encouraged provincial groups to form.

The Green Party's platform involves implementing ecologically sustainable practices in industry and

society, and reforming government structure to proportionally represent the population.

Oddy says a Green government would increase gasoline tax and funnel the additional revenues into the public transportation system, making it cheaper and more efficient. Given the choice between high gas prices or cheap bus fares, people will choose the more environmentally friendly bus option, he said.

The Green Party also views education as an investment that must be made, said Oddy, and would abolish tuition fees for undergraduate students.

Dal student Alexis Assein said he feels a kinship with the ideals of the Green Party. "I'm concerned with the same issues that the party traditionally stands for," he said.

Assain plans to collect signatures to help the Greens achieve official party status.

Ashley Janes, a member of Young Tories of Nova Scotia, said the Green Party is taking the wrong approach.

According to Janes, the Greens' policy of raising taxes will not achieve the environmental goals that the party has set. She says the Conservatives put the environment high on the agenda without tax hikes.

"The Conservative Party [stands] for lowering taxes to put more money into the pockets of all hard-working Canadians," said the Dal economics student. "I personally only see the Green Party as a fringe party that does not hold much strength in the political arena, but simply acts as a well-organized interest group to voice a particular concern."

## Review finds union exec approachable, not visible

AARON GILLIS  
Staff Contributor

The DSU executive emerged from its first performance review of the year relatively unscathed, although very few students and only a handful of council members participated in the exercise.

The Executive Review Committee, chaired by student Senator Candace Salmon, interviewed each executive member and conducted a separate survey for students and union councillors in an effort to compile recommendations aimed at improving the way the executive operates.

Just 56 students and 14 council members informed the committee's findings.

"Everyone in the current executive seems to be, on the whole with the students, widely accepted," says Salmon.

While students rated the approachability of each executive member favourably, President Ezra Edelstein received the lowest score at 3.5 out of 5 points. The report reads, however, this "hardly exhibits a serious problem."

Students gave the entire executive relatively low ratings for overall performance, representation of student interests and on-campus visibility.

"Visibility needs to be increased a bit, and [the executive] needs to perhaps be more active in things that are going on around campus," says Salmon.

Vice-President (Internal) Phil Duguay says most of the review is accurate, and that accessibility and

campus visibility will be improved in the coming months as the union hires more staff.

"We're not able to be the politicians we want to be because of paperwork and responsibilities within the building," said Duguay. "I would love to get out on campus more."

Duguay says a newly hired staff will soon carry out the duties currently conducted by the five executive members, allowing the executive to spend more time on student-related issues.

"I'm looking forward to the next couple of months," he says. "I think things are going to change a lot around here."

The most damaging conclusions of the review committee's final report refer to the lack of professionalism and poor relations between the executive members.

"It is apparent that there is a significant division in the executive," the report reads. "The entire executive needs to put past wrongs behind them and remember that all their colleagues deserve respect. Anything else is counter-productive."

Duguay, however, disagrees with how this aspect of the review was conducted.

"I don't think making an executive review highlighting [conflicts between members] is going to make anything better," he says. "In fact, it was tremendously awkward for all members of council to have to deal with those things. There was a better way to do that, and it should be done better next time."

According to the report, execu-

### Student survey

#### Approachability of executive members (score out of five)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| President Ezra Edelstein                    | 3.5 |
| Vice President (Internal) Phil Duguay       | 4.0 |
| Vice President (Finance) Chad LeClair       | 3.8 |
| Vice President (Education) Jen Bond         | 4.4 |
| Vice President (Student-Life) Tara Berthier | 3.8 |

\* above are average scores of all respondents

### Council survey

#### Approachability of executive members (score out of five)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| President Ezra Edelstein                    | 3.4 |
| Vice President (Internal) Phil Duguay       | 3.5 |
| Vice President (Finance) Chad LeClair       | 3.6 |
| Vice President (Education) Jen Bond         | 4.5 |
| Vice President (Student-Life) Tara Berthier | 3.9 |

\* above are average scores of all respondents

tive members must also be mindful of the manner in which they conduct themselves while on the job: "Swearing, sexual comments (even as jokes), and table hockey games should be minimized during office hours."

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Minister Geoff Regan announced \$4.5 million to support medical researchers at Dalhousie last Wednesday.

# Dal health-care researchers receive millions

JESS MCDIARMID  
Assistant News Editor

The Canadian Institutes for Health Research has awarded more than \$4.5 million to 25 Dalhousie health-care researchers, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced last week.

"Their work will help generate new knowledge that will improve the health of Canadians, help our health-care system to function more effectively and help attract and retain some of the best researchers," said Geoff Regan, speaking on behalf of Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh.

The \$4.5 million earmarked for Dal researchers is part of a roughly \$354-million health research package announced by Dosanjh last Wednesday. Other institutions received about

\$200,000 out of the total \$4.7 million dished out in Nova Scotia.

Dal researcher Dr. Frederick Burge was awarded more than \$140,000 to continue his work on improving end-of-life care for cancer patients.

About 150,000 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in 2005 and 70,000 will die of the disease, said Burge. The number of people who die of cancer is also expected to rise because of the aging demographic of Canadians and the overall population growth.

Burge said that although research shows that 80 per cent of people dying of cancer would like to do so at home, only 30 per cent are able to.

"Improving care for those at the end of life is a long-neglected area of health care and research that is now receiving much-needed attention,"

said Burge.

The conference highlighted the projects of two other Dal researchers. Dr. Francoise Baylis is currently working on the ethics of clinical trials in gene transfer and stem cell research in neurosciences. And Dr. Kenneth West is investigating the role of dendritic cells in organ transplant rejection.

Dalhousie's Vice President (External) Dale Godsoe said the three researchers represent "the tip of the iceberg as far as Dalhousie's CHIR funding recipients are concerned."

"All of the research done here is a credit to the university," said Godsoe.

"Their work and the work of other outstanding researchers is increasing our knowledge of health, disease and improving treatment and outcomes."



Zebrafish are expected to be aboard a NASA space shuttle within the next five years.

# Dal zebrafish soon to be space-bound

HAZEL WALLING  
Staff Contributor

Tropical fish will soon join dogs, monkeys and mice in the roster of animals that have flown to outer space. And two Dalhousie professors will be waiting in anticipation to see what happens to the fish's bladder when it leaves the atmosphere.

For the last four years, biophysics professor Roger Croll and anatomy professor Frank Smith have been researching how the zebrafish's swim bladder functions, and hope to discover the effects that a zero-gravity environment will have on this organ.

Croll, Smith and a group of Dal students form one of many scientist teams across North America who will study zebrafish once they are sent into space. Researchers in New Jersey, for example, will be looking at what will happen to the fish's inner ear.

It's expected that these aquarium pets will leave the launch pad on one of NASA's shuttle missions over the next five years, but it's unclear when the organization will have the necessary funds.

Once they leave the atmosphere, a collection of zebrafish will find a second home on the International Space Station. When the fish breed, Croll and Smith will be able to look at how the swim bladder develops.

The swim bladder is an air-filled sack inside the fish that inflates and deflates to keep the fish at a specific depth. When the organ functions properly, the fish doesn't need to frantically swim to maintain its posi-

tion.

"We're looking at the mechanisms of how the animals can adjust their buoyancy," says Smith.

In an environment without gravity, there will be no water weight upon the zebrafish, eliminating their ability to sense change in pressure at different depths.

Smith and Croll are interested in determining if fish that have developed in space will learn to use their swim bladders when they are brought down to Earth, and what the effect on their nervous systems will be.

In preparation, the two professors are studying everything from how the muscles and nerves are arranged around the swim bladder to the size and shape of the organ itself.

Despite the wacky method of sending zebrafish to space, Croll says the research has practical implications.

"In aquaculture, one of the biggest deaths of fin fish is that they do not inflate their swim bladders. Nobody really understands why that occurs," says Croll. A better understanding of the fish's biological makeup could thus be applied to commercial cultivation.

Benjamin Lindsey, a masters student who works under Croll and Smith, says zebrafish serve as a primitive model to what happens to humans when they're in space for prolonged periods of time.

"Obviously it's quite a jump," says Lindsey, "and there's a lot that needs to be done in between."



Roughly six activists gathered outside a foreign policy seminar at the Dalhousie University Club on Oct. 16 to protest Canada's involvement in Haiti. According to Stuart Neatby, the Haiti Action Halifax organizer, the federal government used the "responsibility to protect" doctrine to justify its involvement in the overthrow of Haitian leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Neatby also claims the RCMP-trained Haitian National Police are responsible for human rights abuses.

Photo: Rafal Andronowski

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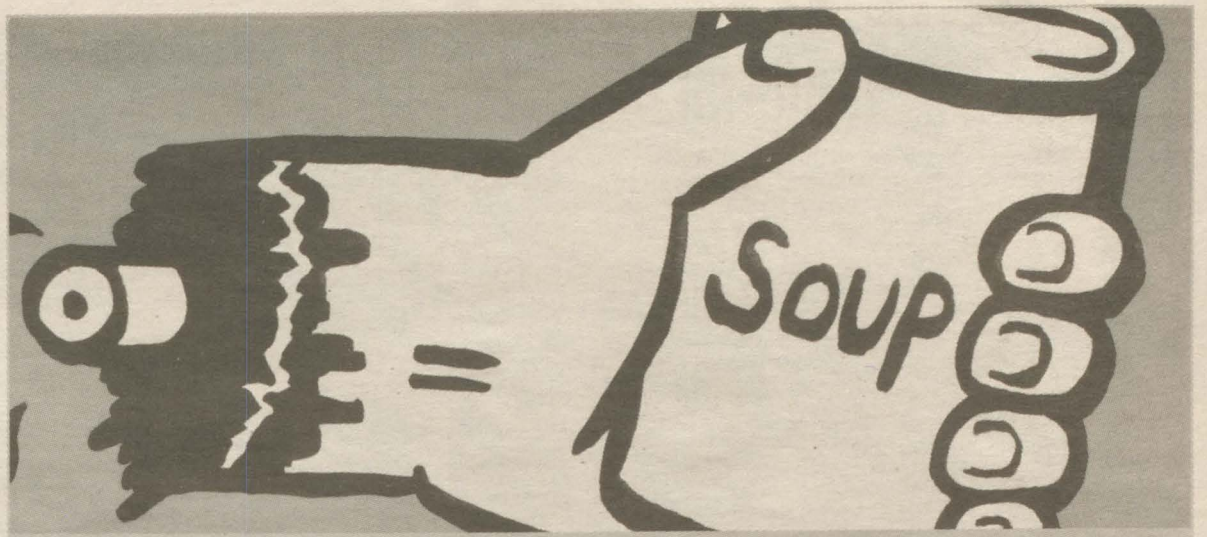
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"BE a treat and help out. Because on Halloween, some kids crave more than candy," says Meal Exchange Director Rosalie Hanlon.

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## Students gear up to gather 10,000 pounds of food

LI DONG  
 Staff Contributor

This Halloween, Dalhousie students will take to the streets to raise food donations for local organizations.

The event, known as "Trick-or-Eat," will be launched by the national charity, Meal Exchange, which focuses on mobilizing the talents of students across the country to help solve hunger problems.

"Last year, 80 Dalhousie students raised over 2,300 pounds of food," says Rosalie Hanlon, director of the Halifax chapter of Meal Exchange. "This year, we're hoping to get over 400 students to go out to raise 10,000 pounds of food."

Students will travel in groups of

four throughout the city to collect non-perishable food items on Oct. 31.

Lisa Friars, a third-year microbiology student, who participated in last year's Trick-or-Eat, says that she found the experience "very rewarding."

"I thought we were only going to get six cans of food," she says. "I was overwhelmed with the community support."

Meal Exchange, which won the rookie society of the year award at last year's DSU Student Appreciation Night, is organizing the event in collaboration with Parker Street Food Bank and Feed Nova Scotia.

Of the 40,000 people who use food banks in Nova Scotia, 40 per cent of them are under 18 years old.

Last year, the program raised 218,000 pounds of food in total, which is the equivalent to 87,200 meals.

Hanlon says the number of people using food banks in our province and across the country is staggering.

"We as students have a lot to offer organizations working to help these people and it is our duty to do what we can to help them," she says. "Besides, who doesn't want another excuse to get dressed up on Halloween?"

"So be a treat and help out," she says through a beaming smile. "Because, on Halloween, some kids crave more than candy."

For more information visit [www.trickoreat.ca](http://www.trickoreat.ca), [www.mealexchange.com](http://www.mealexchange.com), or email [dal@mealexchange.com](mailto:dal@mealexchange.com).

## Uni-Briefs

### Dal Briefs

#### Comedy competition open to students

Halifax-based Comedy Dawgs will host the College Comedy Competition, open to university and college students in the metro area, on Oct. 26 at Ginger's Tavern. Judged by Davey Kemp of CKDU-FM's Comedy Spot, Cal Johnson of Strange Adventures and a final surprise judge, acts will be assessed for stage presence, material and originality.

### Canadian Campus Shorts

#### Playboy visits McGill

Playboy Magazine held a photo shoot at McGill after the Montreal school made the magazine's "Top Ten Party Schools" list. The shoot was held at a hotel suite near campus last week and attracted roughly 15 female students.

McGill officials downplayed the magazine article, saying they viewed the ranking as dubious. Students suggested McGill for the "party" list because of Montreal's nightlife, liberal atmosphere and low drinking age.

#### Fake Acadia degrees widespread in Korea

Fraudulent degrees bearing the name of Wolfville's Acadia University are being widely distributed in South Korea and local authorities are beginning to crack down on the crimes. The degrees are being forged and given to North American ESL teachers who don't have a university degree so that they may legally obtain a work visa.

The Department of Foreign Affairs reports that at least 50 Canadians were caught and deported in a crackdown last month. The Canadians were searched and detained for several days in Seoul jail cells, carving "Acadia Rocks" into the walls of their cells as they waited to be sent home.

Officials from Acadia say they are

aware of the situation and are helping by examining diplomas and sending transcripts to clear the names of innocent suspects.

#### Ontario tuition freeze ends

Tuition fees at Ontario universities will increase next year for the first time since April 2004. The province has not indicated the size of the increase expected for September 2006, but has suggested it will reflect the general inflation rate in the province, which is between two and three per cent.

Student groups fear a repeat of the increases that occurred under the Harris government, where tuition levels tripled between 1995 and 2002. A final decision on the fee increases will be made in December.

#### Strikes close Quebec colleges

Janitors and receptionists at Quebec schools walked off the job earlier last week, cancelling classes for tens of thousands of public school and college students. The unions representing the 30,000 support workers say they are protesting the government's unwillingness to negotiate on key issues.

Student groups say they support the striking workers but may change their stance if their educations are threatened.

#### South of the Border Berkeley sued in evolutionary theory scuffle

A California mother is suing the University of California at Berkeley for having religious content on a website that deals with evolutionary theory.

The site, designed to provide teachers with tools for teaching evolution and intelligent design, is in violation of the First Amendment, Jeanne Caldwell said, by asserting that most religious denominations

find no conflict between their religious doctrines and evolutionary theory.

The section of the site in question has a cartoon of a priest holding a Bible shaking hands with a scientist.

Caldwell said the material will force students to abandon their beliefs in order to accept a "government-sanctioned version of evolution."

UC Berkeley spokesperson Bob Sanders said that the university stands behind the site and its content.

#### Cupcake Spy Agency investigates wranglings and relations at Ithaca

A staff writer for Ithaca College's student newspaper in New York recently went undercover to investigate a mysterious spy agency that circulated thousands of flyers advertising its services in September.

The reporter hired the Cupcake Spy Agency to track his girlfriend for a week.

The four detectives from the agency tracked the reporter's girlfriend for seven days, after which they presented him with a report detailing her schedule, appearance, contact information, photos, home address and a brief history.

The report also included what the reporter described as "some personal information about our love life — some very personal information."

The reporter was dumbfounded as to how the amateur agency had gleaned the information until several days later when he learned that one of the founders of the Cupcake Spy Agency was a good childhood friend of his girlfriend.

The Cupcake Spy Agency has solved roughly half of the 20 assignments it has taken on to date, including a laptop theft and launching an investigation into a false death threat.



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# Gazette

## Editorial

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

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

The views of the Editorial Board are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

## VP (Internal) portfolio in need of reform

The recent DSU Executive Review underlines fundamental problems currently facing our student union.

The report is damning: DSU executive members lack professionalism in conducting themselves in their public offices, and some animosity between them undermines their ability to operate as a cohesive group.

More specifically, the review indicates that students and council members perceive Vice President (Internal) Phil Duguay as difficult to deal with in a professional environment.

In the review, Duguay is reported as having a divisive relationship with his executive colleagues. He is accused, by three separate respondents, of raising his voice to a Shinerama volunteer. And a councilor and a student both suggested that he belittled society roundtable attendees.

In fact, a handful of those interviewed for the review said that they "avoid working directly with Phil."

These comments are deeply disappointing and stand in stark contrast to what should be said about a member of our student government. Duguay's portfolio involves extensive communication with societies, the union as a whole and the university's administration.

While the Executive Review is correct in pointing out these inconsistencies in Duguay's performance, the report fails to sufficiently indicate the structural problems the Vice President faces in fulfilling his mandate.

Plagued with an overwhelming amount of paperwork and data-entry to ratify societies, Duguay spends a great deal of his time and energy on administrative tasks, which prevents him from focusing on more central elements of his portfolio.

Duguay is responsible for organizing the Shinerama fundraiser, setting society policy, chairing eight committees and ensuring and encouraging communication between societies and the union and between societies themselves.

Many of these tasks — setting an effective grants policy, to name one — were not given sufficient attention, in part, because of the mass amount of bureaucratic chores Duguay has carried out so far this year.

In order to help his successor meet these challenges, Duguay plans to post society ratification and grant applications online by April of next year. Such a move will ensure

transparency in these procedures as well as significantly reduce the paperwork, time and hassle currently needed to guarantee that they are carried out properly.

In addition, the responsibility of the Vice President (Internal) to organize and run the Shinerama campaign is excessively taxing and, as the Executive Review points out, deserves the undivided attention of a single officer.

Indeed, Duguay's Shinerama campaign raised \$16,000 short of the threshold set by his predecessor last year. And he largely blamed the shortfall on a lack of volunteers when he was directly responsible for recruiting enough students to ensure the fundraiser was a success.

By the end of the year, students will have paid Duguay roughly \$21,000 and consequently deserve to know that their elected official did everything in his power to carry out his duties.

However, it should be remembered that Dalhousie is the only university outside of Ontario whose contributions to the fundraiser this year ranked in the top five in the country. The University of Alberta, for example, has a much larger student population and raised roughly \$29,000 less than Dal.

In order to maintain the university's national leadership in the Shinerama fundraiser, the DSU must hire a separate organizer in 2006/2007.

The new position must also come with an expanded mandate, which should include a more robust campaign during Orientation Week, involving more than Frosh. Students from all academic levels should be engaged at some level of the fundraiser and more events need to be held. Possibilities range from organizing concerts to holding a telethon via CKDU-FM.

While these recommendations serve to bring a positive change to the DSU, they do not in any way aim to diminish or discount any lack of professionalism that may be exhibited by the union's executives this year.

As the Executive Review indicates, DSU execs are often forced to bite off more than they can chew. This is evidenced best by the union's overwhelming VP (Internal) portfolio.

If the DSU plans to make substantial improvements to its own operations this year, reviewing all executive portfolios should be made a top priority.

## Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

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

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VENT: The fucking weather in this fucking town

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

Every week, without fail, there's at least one (and lately a lot more than that) day when the wind blasts, the rain pours, and it's impossible to venture outdoors without getting entirely soaked.

Last month my \$75, so-called "windproof" umbrella turned inside

out several times in the wind before I smashed it against a tree trunk in anger, thereby breaking the handle.

My new \$9.95 umbrella has turned inside out countless times and the support wires are totally shot, leaving me both wind burned and soaked.

I especially love walking near the Citadel.

There, the wind is particularly strong and blows the rain at you from all sides, making your already ineffective umbrella still more useless.

Fuck this Maritime climate!

# Freedom of speech not to everyone's taste

SARAH VANDERWOLF  
Opinions Editor

As Westerners, we pride ourselves on living in what is likely the wealthiest, most privileged, highly educated, and technologically advanced free society to ever exist.

Unlike many other societies, all historically disadvantaged groups such as women, blacks, and religious minorities enjoy complete freedom in Western nations. These include basic freedoms such as freedom of assembly, freedom to pursue education, and freedom of speech.

In order to continue to take pride in our legacy of freedom, however, we must ensure that our hard-won freedoms are preserved.

Freedom of speech, for instance, is integral in any society because it allows for the free exchange of ideas, open discussion, and ultimately discoveries and progress.

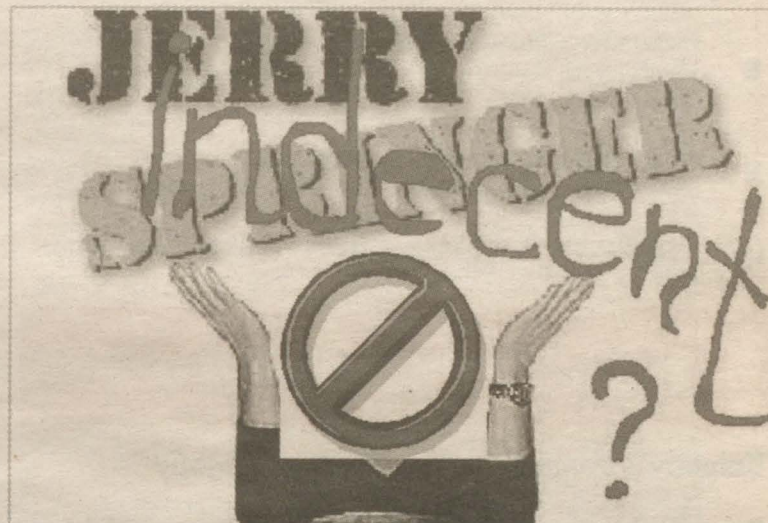
Despite its unarguable importance, freedom of speech is slowly eroding in our society, and will likely continue to do so unless we do something about it.

Examples of stifled freedom of speech abound, even here at Dalhousie. When I stopped at an awareness booth for the Take Back the Night march in the SUB a couple weeks ago, I saw that the young women running the booth had clipped a recent Streeter from The Gazette and had circled a response to the question "What is your frosh name?" This particular frosh said her name was "Sensor," meaning girls at Shirreff Hall have legs that are like automatic doors — when something moves, they open.

"Freedom of the press, or incitement to rape?" the women at the Take Back the Night booth had scrawled across the newspaper clipping.

I told them I thought this was clearly freedom of the press, but they were having none of it. "What if the Gazette printed 'nigger hater?'" they asked, would I still consider that freedom of the press? Although I would, I could see there was no point in my saying so, and quickly made my exit.

Later, I thought of a scene from the television show *Roseanne* I had seen on a commercial. Roseanne's sister Jackie is sitting at the kitchen table reading a newspaper, when she turns to Roseanne and says, "A woman has been charged with stabbing her husband 57 times!"



Who should decide what gets bleeped?

“While our society should by no means tolerate violence, limiting people's freedom of speech will not solve the problem. If a violent crime occurs, the person who committed it is obviously at fault.”

"I admire her restraint," Roseanne responds.

Is this considered incitement to murder? Maybe Roseanne should be arrested as a man-hater and barred from appearing on television ever again! If the women at Take Back the Night had their way, I suspect this might come true.

Dr. Andrew Irvine, a philosophy professor at the University of Victoria, has published numerous articles on the importance of freedom of speech.

In one such article, which appeared in the *Victoria Times Colonist* in 1995, Irvine writes, "By identifying harassment and discrimination with that which simply causes offence, we inevitably reduce what were once serious allegations to trivial matters of subjective preference."

Indeed.

Roseanne's comment is more hilarious than threatening, and the same goes for the Streeter (my favourite was the Fed-Ex guy who said he picks up by day and delivers by night).

Irvine also points out that because "almost any comment in any context might be viewed by someone to be offensive... there will be no end to the number of unjustified allega-

tions concerning harassment and discrimination under such circumstances."

Who's to say that the word "nigger" is considered offensive to everybody? One of my friends (an Asian female) loves rap music. A song she listens to contains the lyrics "Motherfuck that nigger, motherfuck that bitch!" repeated several times. And a black man is singing (if you can call it that) the song!

Clearly, offensiveness is completely relative. This rapper and many of his fans aren't offended by the lyrics.

Since the words are not harming anyone, who's to say that his right to say them should be revoked? Obscenity is rampant in our society, and what may be offensive to some will be acceptable to others.

While our society should by no means tolerate violence, limiting people's freedom of speech will not solve the problem. If a violent crime occurs, the person who committed it is obviously at fault. It makes no sense to blame, say, a rap song or a newspaper column for causing violent repercussions in only a tiny minority.

That minority is the problem, not the media.

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# TOP 10

- 1 **NAMING YOUR BAND "CHIXDIGGIT"** Worxdossenit?
- 2 **ALEX RODRIGUEZ GETTING CAUGHT AT AN ILLEGAL POKER CLUB** Talk about taking one out of left-field... all-in on bottom pair? Say it ain't so!
- 3 **DAL RESIDENCES TEAMING UP TO CLEAN UP THE TRASH AROUND CAMPUS** Guys, why are *The Coast* boxes still here?
- 4 **THE CREATIVITY-DESTROYING FACTOR OF STRESSFUL MIDTERMS** Um... really, really... bad.
- 5 **ZEBRAFISH IN OUTER SPACE** NASA should really stop making its space projects sound like bad indie punk bands.
- 6 **DANIEL CRAIG STEALING JUDE LAW'S ROLE AND HIS GIRL** Headline: The world is not enough for Daniel Craig.
- 7 **THE REVIEWING PROCESS OF THE DSU EXECUTIVE** Like getting hobbits to review Lord of the Rings.
- 8 **PARIS HILTON CONTINUING WORK ON THE SIMPLE LIFE** Somebody tell her that getting "canned" means something different in TV land.
- 9 **STEVEN SPIELBERG WORKING ON A VIDEO GAME** Why do I get the feeling Tom Hanks will soon be digitalized?
- 10 **IS THE GAZETTE GETTING THE REPUTATION OF BEING THE NAY-SAYERS?** Hells no.



**Knightly's Domino**

**Free candy**

**Casino Royale**

**Fur collars**

**Proline**

**Potting plants**

**Men who sweat**

**Batshit crazy**

**Domino's nightly**

**Grumps who say "trick"**

**Internet poker**

**Fur-lined hoods**

**Pros doing lines**

**Pot plants**

**Men in sweatpants**

**Regular ol' crazy**

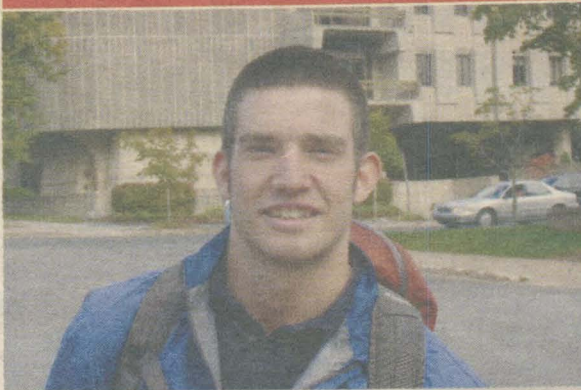
Suggestions? [hotornot@dalgazette.ca](mailto:hotornot@dalgazette.ca)

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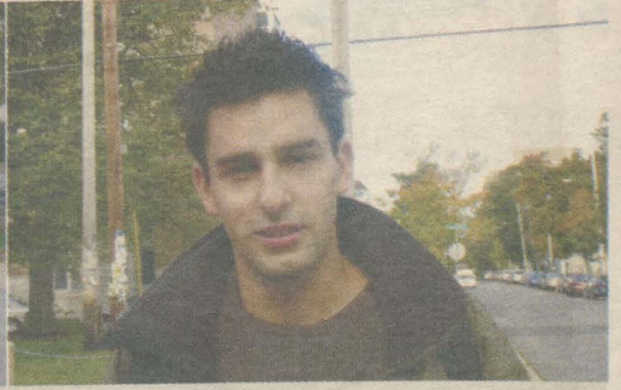
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# STREETER

If you could get your tuition money back, what would you do with it?



“Blow it all on kegs.  
Tom Martin, fourth-year health promotion



“Invest it in one large party, held in the Rowe building.  
Andrew Mader, fifth-year health promotion



“Take my kids to Disneyland.  
Jaime Haslam, first-year nursing



“Spend it on next semester.  
Amanda Crowell, first-year nursing



“I'd spend more time at Tom's Little Havana.  
James Fitzgerald, second-year political science



“I'd travel around the Greek islands.  
Mary Randle, fourth-year commerce



“I'd open a stall in the Farmer's Market selling arts and crafts from China.  
Jane Roycroft, third-year history and international development studies



“Cash it in for singles... then go to Ralph's.  
Chris LaRoche, seventh-year shifts and giggles

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# Academic freedom under attack

SARAH VANDERWOLF  
Opinions Editor

While the freedom to express thoughts that are potentially offensive is an important aspect of freedom of speech, the freedom to express controversial ideas in academia is just as important — and just as vilified in some cases.

At the convocation ceremony at Simon Fraser University last May, Dr. Doreen Kimura, a professor emerita of neuroscience and former president of SAFS (Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship), delivered a speech praising the importance of freedom of speech among academics.

Kimura cited several examples of threatened freedom, such as a York University professor who had “observers” attend his lecture on the evolution of behavioural differences between men and women. These observers were “members of special interest tribunals,” who were clearly determined to ensure that the lecturer made no comments that could be construed as sexist.

Dr. Kimura also referred to a watchdog committee set up at the University of Toronto “to ensure that no reference is made in textbooks that could be construed as unfavourable to any minority, no matter how factual or well established such references are.”

Two particular instances of “factual and well established” ideas receiving widespread criticism spring to my mind.

The first is an idea that I discussed in a previous issue: namely, the controversy regarding evolution and intelligent design. The disgust and hostility many people have toward the evolutionary theory is comparable to how the public responded to other scientific ideas when they were first introduced.

For instance, the Catholic Church condemned Galileo for suggesting that the earth moves around the sun, and Alfred Wegener’s theory of continental drift was initially rejected and even ridiculed within the scientific community a century ago.

More recently, Harvard University president Larry Summers received a backlash of criticism upon his suggestion that the reason fewer women than men participate in science is because of innate differences between the sexes.

In an article in the Vancouver Sun last year, Kimura wrote, “The responses to Summers indicate once

again how little respect many in academia really have for the principles of academic freedom and rational discussion. Even had he been mistaken, the reaction should have been more moderate, but as it happens, he was not.”

As an expert in the field of sex differences in the brain, Kimura is a reliable authority. She explained in her article that “men are, on average, better on such spatial tasks and on mathematical reasoning than are women. Women, in contrast are better, on average, on tasks requiring verbal memory.”

Since spatial and mathematical ability are essential in fields such as physics and engineering, this seems to account for the disparity between men’s and women’s participation in these subjects.

Yet another example of infringed academic freedom occurred in Australia several years ago when a professor at Macquarie University alleged that African migration increased crime rates. The University subsequently attempted to buy out the professor’s contract. When that failed, the Vice Chancellor made a public apology.

While I can’t account for crime rates in Australia, it’s common knowledge that crime rates are higher amongst African-Americans in the U.S. than amongst Caucasians.

Am I going to be fired now for saying this?

“To ensure that the truth can be told, we have to allow a wide margin of error, sometimes suffering the expression of ridiculous or even repugnant ideas, in the certainty that if thoroughly discussed, bad ideas will eventually fall by the wayside, and good ones remain,” says Kimura.

She concluded her article by stating, “We should not fear the expression and discussion of either mainstream or alternative points of view. What we should fear above all else is punishment merely for the expression of an opinion.”

Whether an academic’s opinion pertains to evolution, continental drift, the characteristics of various races, or the differences between the sexes, the threat of punishment for expressing it recalls the policies of censorship and repression pervasive during the Nazi and Communist regimes in the 20th century.

I would rather live by a principle that Voltaire famously expressed: “I disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.”

# Nova Scotia not a smoker’s paradise

SARAH VANDERWOLF  
Opinions Editor

“D-day for smokers,” proclaims last Friday’s issue of the *Chronicle Herald*. “N.S. aims to ban smoking in all indoor public spaces by Dec. 2006,” the headline continues.

The new ban on smoking prohibits this now-infamous, yet ever popular activity in all “legions, bars, restaurants, and casinos,” as well as in “sidewalk cafes and patios, private clubs or in workplaces.”

Naturally, many bar and restaurant owners expect their business to suffer to some degree once the ban is implemented. Despite the health risks, smoking remains popular with Canadians. According to Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, Canadians have already consumed 26 billion cigarettes this year.

To make matters worse, bars and restaurants that built smoking rooms in compliance with the Smoke-free Places Act, which took effect Jan. 1, 2003, will not be compensated for the cost.

The new ban on smoking is not a popular one amongst smokers. Many smokers are frustrated with the ban, which will force them to smoke out on the street. “Don’t we have any rights at all?” complains a woman who spoke to the *Chronicle-Herald*.

For an expert’s opinion on tobacco, there is no better authority than Dr. Jeffrey Wigand. The once



Smokers know where to go

high-ranking executive within the tobacco industry achieved national prominence when he “made the truth known to the public about the industry’s disregard for health and safety,” reads his website.

Wigand’s former employer, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corp., sued him after he made public the industry’s negligence regarding the addictive properties and other health risks associated with cigarette use.

In an interview with *Time* magazine last February, Wigand expressed his support for widespread tobacco bans. When asked if he thought smoking bans had gone too far, he said the only freedoms that should be limited are those that inflict harm upon others. Unquestionably, second-hand smoke meets this criterion.

This idea is not new — it was first published in the treatise *On Liberty* by John Stuart Mill in the 19th century.

It’s questionable, however, whether a complete ban on smoking is necessary to prevent second-hand smoke from harming non-smokers.

Anyone who frequents bars knows that smoking rooms are effective. Sure, smoking rooms reek of cigarettes, are hazy with cigarette smoke, and are often freezing cold because the windows are left open.

But if you don’t smoke, you don’t have to go in there.

Smoking rooms leave the rest of the bar smoke-free, and provide those who do smoke with a refuge that is a lot better than smoking on the sidewalk.

It’s true that I cough and gag when in an enclosed space with a lot of other smokers, but I do have the freedom to leave the room. Let smokers have the freedom to smoke in certain public areas, instead of literally throwing them out on the street.

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Contribute!

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



Bismillah Irrahman Irrahim

# The Passing of the Tongs

I want to let the student body know that I will be on the road, travelling to Timbuktu and returning in the next few months. I am officially "passing the tongs" onto Mustafa, who's been entrusted with taking care of all students. Thanks for all your support in September and I'll have a "LOVE YA BACK" special when I return. Also, I plan to start the book bursury upon my return.

Please email me (thadawgfatherphd@hotmail.com) while I'm on the road at and look for my updates in this space in the coming weeks.

- Tha Dawgfather Ph.D (Professional hot. Dawgger)



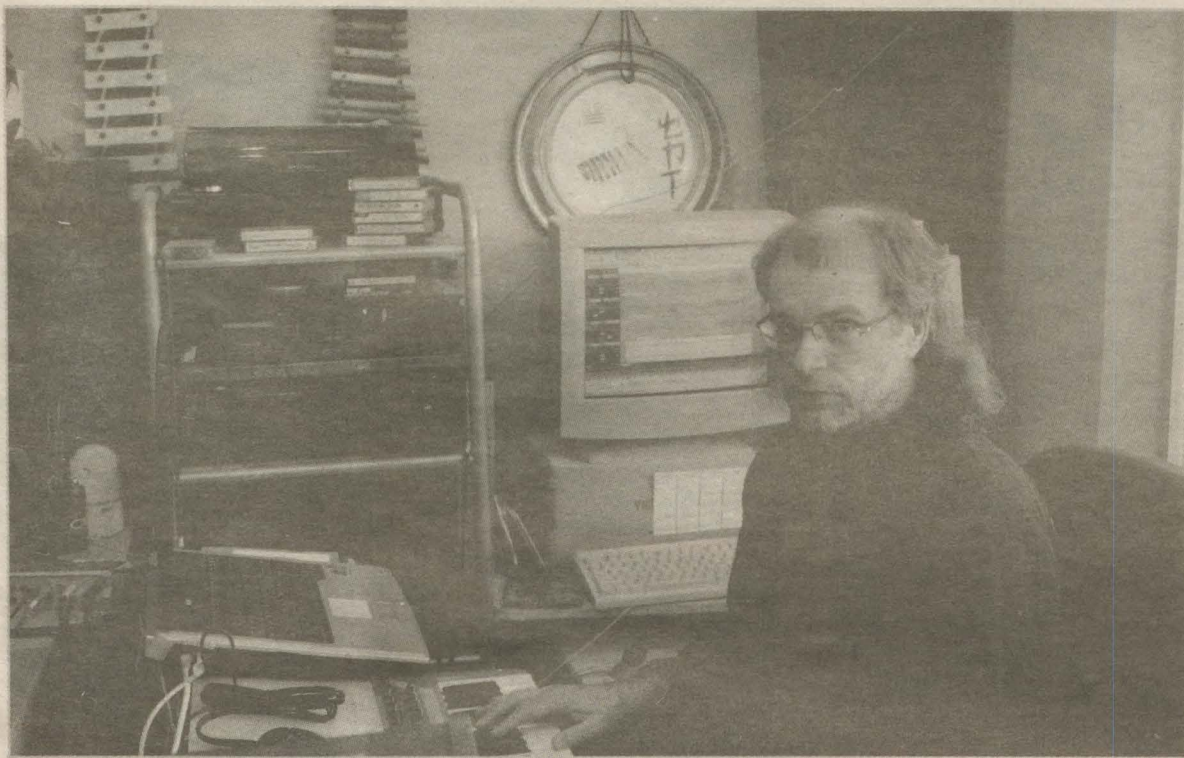
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Steven Slater creates abstract sounds in his home studio, pictured above. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

# The living history of CKDU-FM

## Station programmer remains on air after 19 years

REID SOUTHWICK  
News Editor

When Steven Slater aired his first show on CKDU-FM, Sloan's Jay Ferguson was 15 years old. The Monkees were on their 20th anniversary tour, Black Francis and his band of surly rockers were forming the Pixies, and "Hip to be square" by Huey Lewis and the News was topping the charts.

Since the day he stumbled into the CKDU-FM offices to run his first program in the summer of 1986, Slater has witnessed musical talents such as Ferguson and Sarah McLachlan move from the station's studios to eventually realize international acclaim.

Slater, 49, saw an entire era of Halifax's music scene rise and elapse from the fourth floor of the Dalhousie SUB.

But the bands that he has met and the music that he has played aren't just what make this Surrey, Eng., native the living history of Halifax's only FM campus community radio station. It's the changes he observed and helped forge with his own hands.

### Solidifying a radio station in its infancy

CKDU was formed with the spirit of a strong community between its members. New recruits were constantly told the station belonged to them, and they were responsible for its survival and success.

"We were being told all of the time that it was democracy and it was up to the members to decide things," he says.

"But in fact it was the board of directors who mostly appointed themselves and the station manager who made all of the decisions."

In the early 90s, Slater met Waye Mason, now executive director of the Halifax Pop Explosion, and the two saw eye-to-eye on the contradictory way the station was run.

Over the course of a year, Slater and Mason agreed, with the help of a committee, on how to make CKDU's constitution more democratic.

In 1993, station members ratified the new binding charter that featured measures by which members could exercise decision-making authority and overturn board decisions.

Slater tells the stories of the radio station's history, like this one, in the same vein that a grandfather would tell his grandchildren what he accomplished generations ago. What he did with his life influenced other people, however slightly, and his actions had consequences.

In 2000, the board of directors fired former station manager Fiona York for reasons that Slater says still remain unknown.

Using the powers Slater and Mason invested in the membership seven years earlier, programmers and staff members discussed York's dismissal and voted to rehire her.

"So, when we changed the constitution to make it live up to what he had been told it did, it had an impact," says Slater.

The station's Annual General Meeting was held the following week and the existing board didn't run for reelection. If the meeting was scheduled for a different time, Slater says, the members would have voted to fire the board.

### Sticking around to provide alternative radio waves

Unlike the dozens of volunteers who have moved on to work for

commercial radio or CBC after putting their stamp on the character of CKDU-FM, Slater has stayed the course.

"The reason for that could be as simple as saying that I have no other social life," he says with a laugh.

"But in terms of going somewhere else, you have to be dedicated as a professional. And I am not that dedicated to working hard," he says, laughing harder.

CKDU-FM's relaxed atmosphere and the freedom to play whatever music he wants has kept Slater coming back to hold his Monday night show, "Come Over Hear."

The program features, in part, what he calls sound art or abstract music, which can sound much like the static and chaotic turbulence that resonates when a radio dial is caught between multiple channels.

"I have had people who have called in to let me know that the transmitter sounds like it's broken," he says.

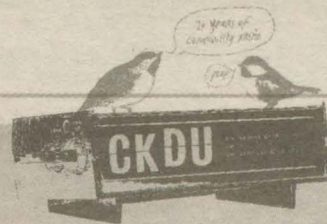
"I also have had people who call up and want the show taken off the air."

But the quirky music Slater plays represents the very code that CKDU-FM stands for. The station is mandated to provide an alternative to public and private radio.

And although Slater says that spearheading the change of the station's constitution will be his legacy whenever he decides leave, he takes pride in giving exposure to performers who share his strange musical tastes.

"Being able to present their music to other people is very rewarding," he says.

"Hopefully, I am a service to somebody."



## Top 10

Tune in at 97.5 FM www.ckdu.ca

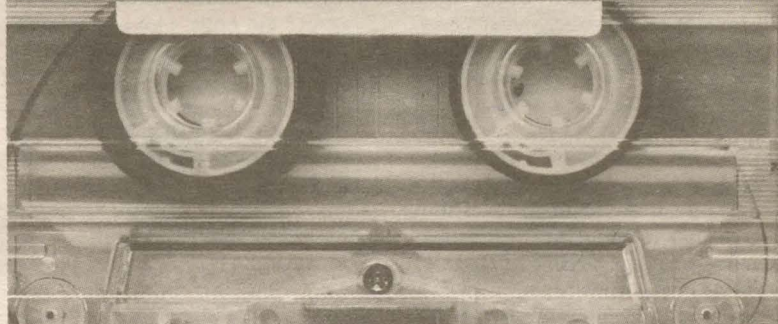
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|--|---|

### Tune in to...

**Big Band Funding Drive Launch / Monday, Oct. 24, 12 to 1 p.m.**  
The Dalhousie Big Band will perform live in the SUB lobby. The performance will be broadcasted on 97.5 FM and hosted by Charles Hsuen of The Swing Arrangement.

**CKDU Smart Patrol Funding Drive Insanity / Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:30 p.m.**  
Renowned for insane funding drive shows, tune in to the CKDU Smart Patrol and pledge your money to Kid Savini.

## Burn Baby Burn



### Nostalgia for the Top 10s

#### SIDE A: The Late 90s / KRISTA KONCINSKY

Remember those songs that you couldn't get out of your head for the latter half of the 90s? Whether it was because you grew up with these songs, or if you just have a partiality to pop rock, you know these tunes by heart and could do karaoke to them all night long.

1. "The Way" - Fastball
2. "Mr. Jones" - Counting Crows
3. "Good" - Better Than Ezra
4. "Save Tonight" - Eagle-Eye Cherry
5. "Tubthumping" - Chumbawumba
6. "Santa Monica" - Everclear
7. "I'm Just a Girl" - No Doubt
8. "Dammit" - blink182
9. "One Headlight" - Wallflowers
10. "Semi-Charmed Life" - Third Eye Blind

#### SIDE B: MuchMusic Mix / CASEY DUNN

Recently, while packing my things up for university, I stumbled across an old mix tape with songs traced with nostalgia and childhood. Those were the days of aspiring to be like my older sister and religiously watching top 10 music videos after school everyday. But underneath all of this nostalgia is some decent and not-so-decent music. If you want to take a ride down memory-lane, here's a mix for you:

1. "Sex and Candy" - Marcy Playground
2. "Champagne Supernova" - Oasis
3. "Freshman" - The Verve Pipe
4. "Brick" - Ben Folds Five
5. "Barbie Girl" - Aqua
6. "MmmBop" - Hanson
7. "Truly, Madly, Deeply" - Savage Garden
8. "Zoot Suit Riot" - Cherry Poppin' Daddies
9. "The Impression That I Get" - Mighty Mighty Bosstones
10. "Bitch" - Meredith Brooks

What's on the mixtape of your life? Send to: arts@dalgazette.ca

### Celebrity Quote of the Week

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff."

-Mariah Carey

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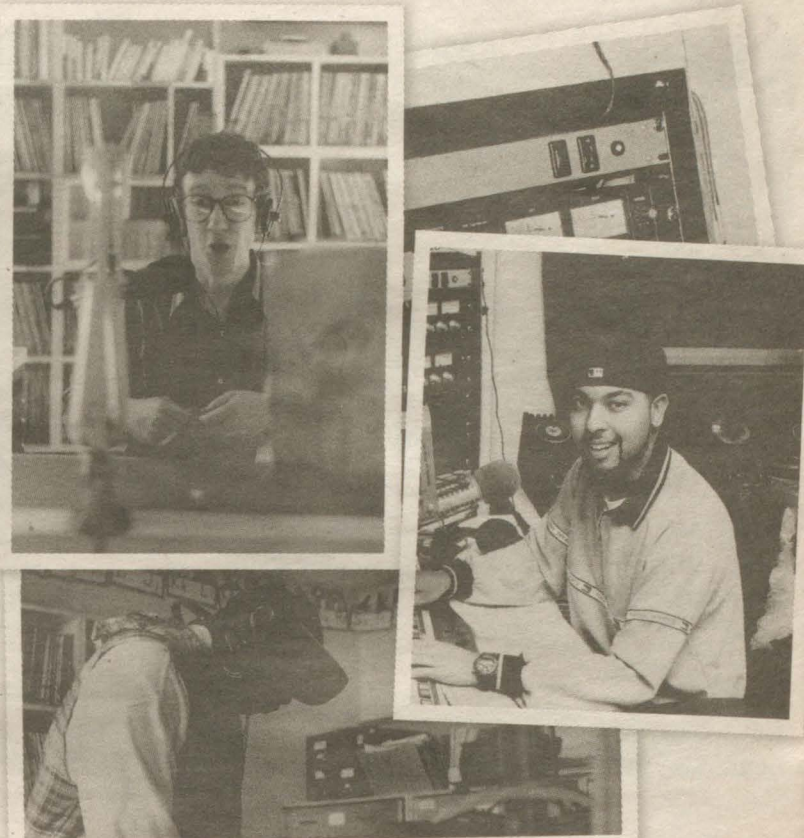
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Catano, Whyte, Kelly, and Buote (L-R) take a break from busy campus radio schedules. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski



## Radio People

### CKDU-FM's staff gives us the lowdown on life in FM

**Michael Catano**  
Station Coordinator

**Life at CKDU-FM:** I've been volunteering at CKDU since the summer of 1991 when I was 14 years old. My friend Graham MacDougall and I met on a trampoline at a party and decided that same night to look into volunteering. I started doing a weekly show the following year.

I've been a volunteer and programmer at the station ever since, hosting a variety of shows over the years. After moving back to Halifax following a stint on the West Coast, I started doing a show again.

I guess the uppity-ups liked the cut of my jib, as I wound up taking over as Station Coordinator this past January.

**Life before CKDU-FM:** Before coming on board as staff here at the station, I spent a lot of time packing myself into cramped vans with other sweaty people and driving around playing music.

**Life outside CKDU-FM:** "In my spare time I like to hang out with my lady pal, ride with my bike crew (BDC represent!), play crazy rock music, and generally find ways to trick myself into forgetting that I'm almost 30 and living in abject poverty."

**Melissa Buote**  
Program Director

**Life at CKDU-FM:** I have been working at the station as Program Director since January 2004.

**Life before CKDU-FM:** Before

working at CKDU, I worked with the Halifax Pop Explosion and Halifax *On Music* in various capacities. I worked as a publicist with various independent music labels and artists and I did quite a lot of freelance writing and content development for some websites.

**Life outside CKDU-FM:** I still do some freelance writing and build websites. I occasionally promote shows. I also go see a lot of shows that other people promote.

**Jessica Whyte**  
Music Director

**Life at CKDU-FM:** Whyte has been working at the station for two years.

**Life before CKDU-FM:** CFRU in Guelph, and when I first came to Halifax I worked at the Bella Muse and Gus's Pub.

**Life outside CKDU-FM:** I also work for NSPIRG (the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group) as their Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, I DJ occasionally, and I've just become involved with a tambourine art initiative.

**Stephen Kelly**  
Broadcast Technician

**Life at CKDU-FM:** Kelly has worked as a staff member for two and a half years and as a volunteer for five years.

**Life before CKDU-FM:** Kelly studied art at NSCAD (BFA, focus on

sound art, electronic art, and sculpture), worked for SUNSCAD (NSCAD Student Union), and worked for Halifax Regional Library.

**Life outside CKDU-FM:** Kelly works as a practicing artist. He also plays and records music in The Just Barelys and Telephoners.



"As much as we as staff appreciate a little bit of media interest in our roles at CKDU, we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our volunteers even more."

Melissa Buote  
CKDU Program Director

### Locals reflect on their favourite CKDU memories

The Gazette asked Halifax Locals ([www.halifaxlocals.com](http://www.halifaxlocals.com)) members, "What's your favourite CKDU memory?" Here are some of the best answers:

**Rob MacIsaac, former host of "Behind the Green Door":** "I enjoyed the Sloan Concert in the Dal SUB sponsored by Q104 or one of the other local stations... the between-song chatter from the band was a discussion of what their favourite CKDU show was — I think 'Bhangra Beats' won, and it was pretty slammin' back around '97."

**Jeffrey Brown, avid CKDU listener and drummer for Deerfield:** "Life just isn't worth living without 'The Cosmic Haligonian Music.' Aaron Petrie was, as Dan Baugh once put it, 'the hub' — and all us fans of insurrectionary country, folk, roots, soul, garage blues and glam/Eurotrash were merely spokes in the wheel. I literally dropped everything and ran to my radio whenever I realized it was Thursday at 15h30 and I didn't have it tuned in. Friends and enemies come and go, but the songs, they still remain. Thankfully, Joel Wright and Don Adams still carry the torch with 'Honky Blues (Radio Show) After Dark' and Car Bomb to the Heart', respectively."

**Wayne Mason, Director of the Halifax Pop Explosion:** "'Girl Gang Greaseball Opera.' I was really happy to... be the tech on this show, with Dan and Jane Kansas as hosts. We routinely raise \$3-5 thousand for funding drive, had buttons, T-shirts. It was an amazing show. It went down when all the politics happened. My one spoken part was, weekly, for Jane to say, 'And thanks to our straight but not narrow technician, Wayne Mason. Wayne, are you ready to come out of the closet this week?' Wayne: 'No, not this week, thank you Jane.'"

**Tobias America-Rochman, co-host of CKDU "Smart Patrol" and Be Bad band member:** "My favorite CKDU moment was when Troy and I had two 9 year-olds (one male, one female) phone in and demand to do a freestyle rap battle on air. They did, but the contest was officially called a tie when the shocking truth that the two contestants were actually dating somehow slipped out on air."

**Kristina Parlee, bassist of the Maynards and host of "Downbeat for Danger":** "A great moment, I remember, involved the live broadcast of a Piggy show: live via someone phoning the station, getting patched through on air and holding the phone up in the venue to try and catch the band sounds. It sounded like a really old scratchy record — awesome. It might have been on the 'Avacado Surf Lounge,' which in itself was a great, silly, fun show. Also there was a show ['Where Evil Grows'] where they did an all Louie Louie episode. They played some of the many versions of that song and also solicited cover versions of Louie Louie from local bands."

**Chris Parsons, avid CKDU listener and singer of Get Tested:** "During the funding drive, Ian Hart and Ryan Greeley (they hosted 'Both Guns Blazing' on Saturday nights at midnight) would do crazy shit with their friends in exchange for donations. Mostly punching each other in the face, running into walls, etc. One year Ian said he'd jump out the window of the CKDU offices if someone pledged \$300. But no one did."

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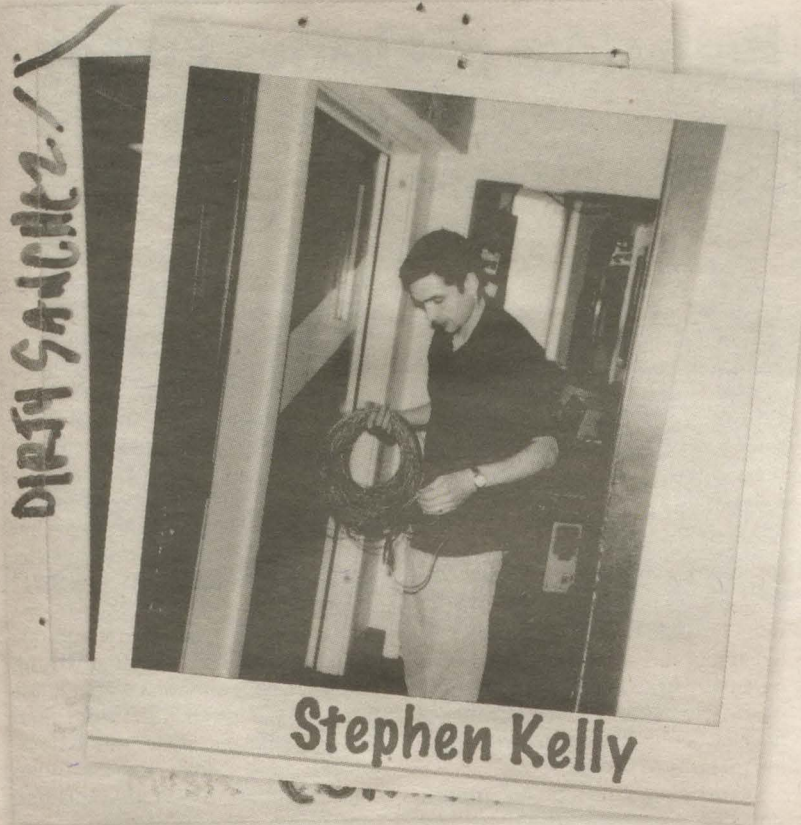
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Stephen Kelly

**CKDU Timeline**

1964 - Dalhousie's radio club is formed.

1969 - Radio club moves to newly built SUB and broadcasts throughout the building.

1975 - Radio club becomes CKDU and broadcasts through closed circuit to Dal residences.

1983 - Dal students vote to convert CKDU to FM status.

1985 - CKDU-FM begins broadcasting to Metro area on Feb. 1 at 4:00 p.m., and Halifax's first, and only, FM campus-community radio station is born.

1993 - Halifax Pop Explosion founder Wayne Mason and programmer Steven Slater spearhead a dramatic change in CKDU-FM's constitution to give members more decision-making authority.

1994 - CRTC grants CKDU-FM a conditional license renewal in response to complaints that the station had broadcasted explicit material in the early afternoon during its "All Day, All Gay" program in 1993.

1995 - CKDU-FM receives the Programming/National Initiatives award, a national award for excellence in campus and community radio broadcasting.

1997, 1998 - CKDU-FM wins Campus/Community Radio Station of the Year from the Canadian Music Association.

1999 - CKDU-FM receives the Community Involvement Award in recognition of the station's program entitled, "Through Arab Eyes."

2000 - CKDU-FM membership votes to overturn a decision by the board of directors and rehires station manager Fiona York.

2005 - CKDU-FM receives the Local Talent Development Award in recognition of its concert series, live broadcasts and compilation CD entitled, "It Came from Halifax Harbour."

**1994 - CRTC imposes long-term restrictions**

According to programmer Steven Slater, the CRTC's decision to impose restrictions on CKDU-FM programming for four years in response to the station's "All Day All Gay" 1993 series was rooted in a similar controversy that emerged the year before.

In 1992, the "All Day, All Gay" program, which commemorates Gay Pride Week in early summer, featured a show that described "fist-fucking techniques" in great detail, says Slater. Responding to pressure from the CRTC, the station agreed it would no longer play explicit material before 9 p.m.

But when Brenda Barnes aired a lesbian-themed show during the early afternoon of the 1993 "All Day, All Gay" program, listener Wayne Harvey complained about the material that was broadcast: "The reference to gay sexual preferences was totally unacceptable."

Following CRTC policy, the station responded to the complaint and forwarded the responses to the commission. Barnes, however, mistakenly assumed the complaint was in regard to sexually explicit material and wrote in her response that, because of the nature of the day, the explicit material she played during her show was acceptable.

Had Barnes specifically responded to the attack against airing a lesbian-themed show, the station would have been off the hook, according to Slater.

Instead, the CRTC employed restrictions on CKDU-FM when it applied for a license renewal, forcing the station to provide two weeks warning when it planned to air controversial material for a period of four years.

Slater says the "All Day, All Gay" debacle forced the station to become more conservative with its programming. "Some people will be more cautious because we have already been slapped once."

**2000 - Staff member reinstated**

The CKDU-FM membership took advantage of its decision-making power when the board of directors fired station manager Fiona York. A collection of programmers and staff members discussed York's dismissal and voted to rehire her.

The station's Annual General Meeting was held the following week and the existing board did not run for reelection out of fear of reprisal from the members, according to programmer Steven Slater. If the AGM wasn't scheduled on the heels of York's rehiring, members would have voted to fire the board, Slater says.

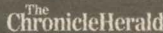
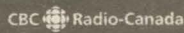
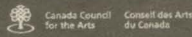
**Dates in depth**

**1993 - Station's constitution changes**

CKDU-FM was formed with the spirit of a strong community between its members. But the board of directors and the station manager made most of the decisions that shaped the character of the station until Wayne Mason and Steven Slater led the move to re-write the constitution.

As a result of the duo's work, CKDU-FM members now have the power to overturn board decisions with a vote by the majority.

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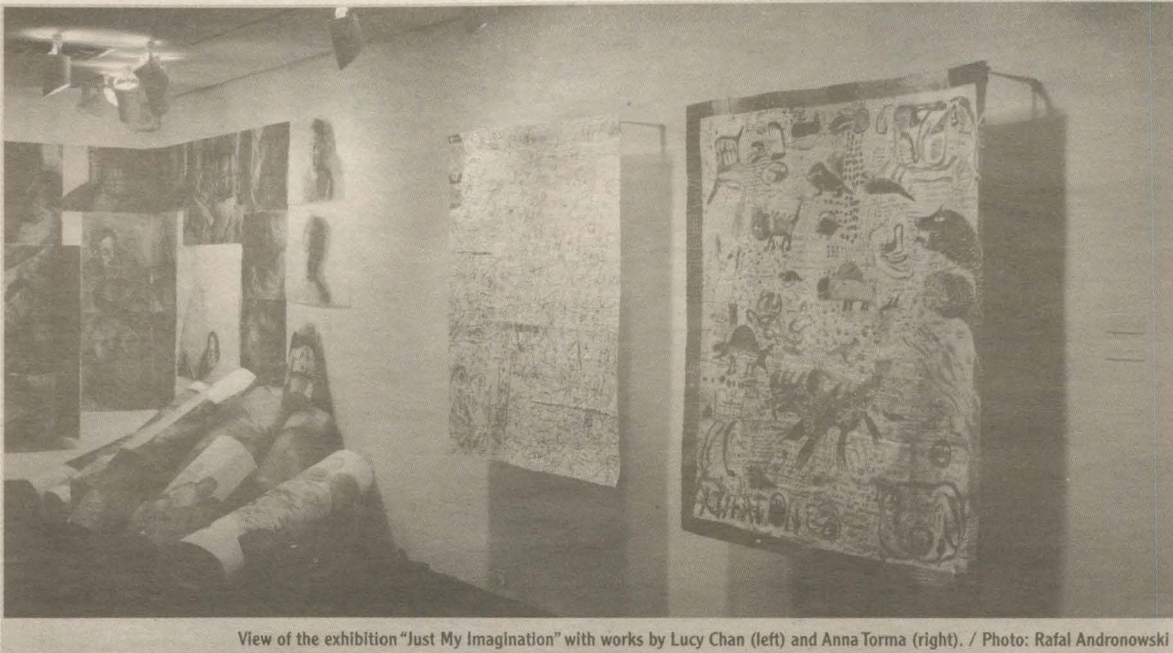
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View of the exhibition "Just My Imagination" with works by Lucy Chan (left) and Anna Torma (right). / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

## Double Take

Contemporary drawing exhibit showcases provocative pieces

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN  
CHRISTINA STEFANSKI  
Art Junkies

With the help of the Museum of London and the MMB collective, curators David Merritt and Kim Moodie have collaborated on the "Just My Imagination" contemporary drawing exhibit, which parades across the walls, floors and around ever corner of the Dalhousie Art Gallery. *The Gazette's* Bridgette Sullivan and Christina Stefanski investigate what contemporary drawing is all about:

"Just My Imagination" is Dalhousie Art Gallery's latest foray into the world of contemporary art. It's described as an exhibit on contemporary drawing, however the reality of the show is far from what the term "drawing" conjures.

I certainly wasn't expecting dioramas, photos, quilts and short films. It's clear that a British influence on a contemporary art event tends to be a good thing in terms of bringing together extremely thought-provoking pieces.

One of the most bizarre works on display comes from artist Candice Tarnowski. Her dainty drawings and

delicately assembled dioramas are fascinating to look at, and are accompanied by large photos for close-ups of the adorable little guy she features in her artwork.

Further along the walls, aggressive and commanding drawings showcase deformed and distorted bodies.

The human-like beings twist into unearthly positions, sometimes swallowing one another whole.

"Just My Imagination" offers up something different on each wall. Monotony is just not in the cards when there is yet another image that calls for you to lean in just a bit closer.

-BS

"Just My Imagination" demonstrates diversity of creativity through different media. To categorize this exhibition as a collection of drawings doesn't give credit to the carefully crafted mystery puzzles, painted fabrics and the giant textile spider.

The most striking piece is a large canvas by Alison Norlen, which represents an amusement park in the mountains defined by sharp lines of blue and grey covered in dreamlike dew. Also, Anna Torma knit two ex-

quisite quilts that exhibited vibrant colours interwoven through intricate hand embroidery.

Other notable artwork consists of Cathy Daley's piece, which reveals 19 skirts flowing up in 19 different positions, and Stephen Andrews's 24 separate drawings of a firefighter taming 24 fierce flames.

Raphaëlle de Groot's piece is unquestionably attention-grabbing. This project consists of four people on four separate televisions, each with their face covered in a white cloth that they painted over in black with a roller.

Students were asked to emulate and reproduce these real-life models in drawings.

The different techniques used to express their ideas ranged from thick, coloured lines to dark, pencil sketches.

From abstract drawings to representations of animals, "Just My Imagination" provides provoking visual pieces that allow for originality in the viewer's interpretation.

-CS

"Just My Imagination" runs until Nov. 23. Visit [artgallery.dal.ca](http://artgallery.dal.ca) for more information.

## Both sides of Charles Crosby

Dal media savant bares the sexual and peculiar in his creative works

MEAGHAN MACSWEEN  
Arts Contributor

Interviewing a writer who's also a public relations voice is like being handed a special journalism present.

From the moment that Charles Crosby began to speak, the words flowed effortlessly from his mouth, onto my page, in a way that was almost magical.

Enigmatic, perceptive, and subtly satirical, Crosby is everything you'd imagine a writer to be

As the Manager of Media Relations for Dalhousie, Crosby relies on his ability to use and operate words on a daily basis. And, as a long-time playwright — and more recently, a novelist — he has been writing for the majority of his life.

Crosby says he's in his profession because it was an opportunity to write. Over 50 per cent of his job entails writing media releases and speeches. Crosby has turned this well-honed skill into an art form.

And lately, people are beginning to notice.

As a husband, father, and professional, Crosby's life is full of adventure. For him, discipline is key.

"Whether I'm talented or not, that won't be decided for years and years," he says. "What is required right now is the discipline to write."

Crosby's characters are often described as sexually deviant or open-minded. "Apparently, I tend to write very peculiar stories with very peculiar characters," he says. "There's nothing normal about them. Every-

one's weird, or twisted."

Crosby doesn't throw sex into the plot without valid reason. For instance, he says the hero in his novel, *italics, mine*, needs extreme acts to justify the way he feels. And when including these over-the-top actions in his writing, Crosby never self-censors.

"It's what makes my writing interesting," he says. "I'm never going to say 'that's not appropriate,' or 'what would my mother say?' the way that many other writers do. If it's good, I leave it in."

Crosby says there's a stigma attached to Atlantic Canadian writing and it's rural foundation — the Maritime story is often little more than "cutesy." Images such as kitchens, lobsters, and fiddle music saturate the perception of Atlantic Canadian literature.

Crosby says these stereotypes are all well and good, but the region isn't evenly represented. Having been born and raised in Halifax, he can certainly speak to this issue. "I'd like to see more writers come from Halifax," he says. "For many, *italics, mine* was the first time they'd seen Halifax as an urban reality."

In our city, he says, we have to start thinking like urban people. "We're not just a fishing village, we're an urban centre, with urban centre problems."

Crosby's writing presents Halifax as vibrant and thriving — with both the good and the bad elements of a large Canadian city.

A book review by Megan MacSween

*italics, mine*  
Charles Crosby

I never thought that getting my paws on Charles Crosby's *italics, mine* would be a day's event.

It all began Saturday morning when I stumbled out of my North-End apartment into a light drizzle. The rain soon became sheets, and eventually, I was soaked.

I hailed a cab and asked the driver to take me to the bookstore.

Sold out.

Luckily, I had asked my cabbie to wait. I got back in the cab and we headed to bookstore number two. Intrigued, the driver asked what I needed. I sensed that this previously-solo undertaking was becoming a team event. He began to speed through traffic with new resolve. When we arrived, I was once again told, "Sorry, we're out."

At bookstore number three, we got it. I bought the book, cabbied it home, and congratulated my stellar driver.

The next eight hours were spent reading — interrupted only by bathroom breaks, trips to the kitchen, and an epiphany: I realized, three hours in, that I was

still sitting in the wet clothes of my earlier adventure.

At one point I checked and rechecked the stove because I became so swallowed up in the escapades of the novel's obsessive compulsive disorder hero, Andrew Kierans.

As the officious Kierans is increasingly controlled by his illness, he withdraws and eventually turns to S&M in an attempt to find meaning and maintain control.

Interestingly, the dirtier the S&M gets, the less pronounced his OCD becomes. Without being able to relate to either of these acronyms, you will be able to relate to the hero in a meaningful way.

We all have odd idiosyncrasies that are difficult to integrate into the mainstream world.

Unlike any other local novel you will read, *italics, mine* will challenge your mind, whet your perversions, and strangely warm your heart. Take a day out from assigned readings, curl up on the couch, and fall into Kierans' unhinged world.

You'll enjoy *italics, mine* immensely... but good luck finding it.

## This Week's Picks

An Entertainment Pick by Saman Jafarian



Video on Trail  
MuchMusic

For many students, trashy programs on MuchMusic rank second only to *The OC* on a list of guilty pleasures. *Video On Trial*, one of the channel's new shows, is either a shining example of this or the one exception — meriting its many airings throughout the week. Either way, it's a lot of fun and definitely worth the watch.

The premise of the show is simple: a panel of five "judges" (comprised of musicians, video directors and comedians) evaluates five music videos during the half-hour show.

Think *Fromage*, minus Ed the Sock.

*Video On Trial* isn't meant to provoke deep thought. The fact that half of the ever-changing panel is comprised of comedians is your first clue.

Even though the judges do occasionally delve into social commentary, the tone is kept light.

The videos chosen are obviously there to be mocked. Nothing is sacred, and all lines are crossed.

Of course, it's impossible to miss the delicious irony of the show: MuchMusic gets ratings with a show that points out all of the flaws in the very videos that caused people to change the channel in the first place.

But, really, where else are you going to see Chris Murphy proclaiming his undying love for Usher?

Video on Trial airs Mondays at 9 p.m. on MuchMusic.

Local Crop by Ashleigh Gaul

THE MAUGHAMS  
SECRETS OF FORTRESS - FORTUNE COOKIES MAN - LAYARD - WAK BARRIS  
BUBBY - GARDEN OF LOVE - FRENCH COGNAC - SPANISH COGNAC AND MORE

The Maughams  
Golden Hits



A little irony can go a long way. At a hypothetical cocktail party, a well-timed and affectionate reference to Burt Bacharach can demonstrate the speaker's worth in savvy palaver. While the Maughams do reference Burt Bacharach, the band's delivery in its first full-length album, *Golden Hits*, comes off more like the guest of said party who begins every conversation with, "What's new pussycat?" and immediately bursts into paroxysms of laughter.

The Maughams's irony is shallow and alienating.

They seem to rely on the mere existence of wonky instruments, such as the bassitar, to generate interest instead of maintaining it through earnest performance. While the steady percussion and guitar arrangements are admirably simple, the vocals are simply unnerving. Mary Cobham's cold, amphibian voice too often jerks like a frog through songs such as "Jay Bird."

"Frantic Waddle," a two-minute heightening recorder tour-de-force, is the best song on the album — if only because Cobham's waver on-the-verge-of-laughter is finally cast into the background, at last offering the listener a chance to share in the album's pleasure.

In the end, though, the condemnation of *Golden Hits* comes affectionately, because the Maughams are not without talent, and because a Burt Bacharach fan should never go to waste.

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# Halifax Pop Explosion Reviews

TREVOR MURPHY  
Staff Contributor



THE MUSEUM PIECES

**The Museum Pieces/Hunter Valentine/  
Don Vail**  
Wednesday, Oct. 12 @ Stage Nine

For the first half of its maybe too-extended set, The Museum Pieces started off with a solid mix of folk and rock, distancing itself from the lighter sounding Tyler Messick compositions of old. The second half was Messick's attempt at indie-based improvisational guitar-rock, which fell flat compared to the lyrically-based folk rock of the first set.

One of the best surprises of the festival, Hunter Valentine, blended its brash pop songs with soulful singing, charming harmonies and a hard-hitting drummer that strengthened each number.

Don Vail was exactly what you would expect former members of Chore and Treble Charger to sound like: Chore-esque guitar riffs and tones, with melody thrown in thanks to the guy who wrote "Red." Interesting album? Yes. Interesting live show? No.

THE SWEET TENDERS



**On Vinyl/Yellow/The Sweet  
Tenders/Death by Nostalgia**

Thursday, Oct. 13 @ Hell's Kitchen

Due to a security mix-up that delayed the doors, only about 30 people saw Fredericton's On Vinyl kick off the night with its riff-laden pop rock. Despite the minimal attendance, the band blistered through a tight set that glitched only during "On The Road," a slower number. Audience be damned, On Vinyl delivered the goods.

Yellow kept the energy going with its modernized version of classic rock.

Fronted by a singer with a deeply powerful voice akin to Grace Slick with a little less warble, the Sydney-based band cranked out guitar solos and harmonies that would make Q104 proud. Yellow ain't your daddy's classic rock.

The Sweet Tenders took the classic rock motif back even further with its incredibly fun 60s garage rock.

In their striped shirts and 3D glasses, band members rock and rolled like nobody's business, incorporating just that little bit of weirdness Halifax has come to expect from the bands on the Just Friends record label. Saxophones, flutes, and xylophones, oh my.

The little I saw of Death by Nostalgia killed the energy in Hell.

With many people retreating upstairs to see North of America, DBN's strange bass/keyboard/drums combo was a little too eclectic for this night.



TED LEO



NORTH OF AMERICA

**North of America/Ted Leo + the  
Pharmacists**

Thursday, Oct. 13 @ The Marquee

Playing to a huge hometown crowd, North of America made its triumphant return to Halifax. Math-rock sing-a-long at its finest, NoA served up a mix of songs mostly from its last album, *Brothers and Sisters*, and offered a few new goodies. Intense and ecstatic, the band played as if its members had never been apart.

Ted Leo interspersed lines of "Farewell to Nova Scotia" between his first four or five songs to rouse the already hyped crowd, but he didn't need it. Extremely energetic and buoyant, the band roared through its short indie-pop songs with fervor. Despite three other showcases taking place before Thursday, Ted Leo + the Pharmacists' fun-yet-political rock was a welcome "grand opening" of the festival.



SPECIAL NOISE

**Special Noise**  
Friday, Oct. 14 @ Stage Nine

Adding two extra members to the band for this show — Mark Gillis (Sharp Like Knives) on bass and Christian Simmons (Burdocks) on extra guitars and drums — may have been a one-shot deal, but it helped deliver the fullness and intensity that lacks in the Special Noise two piece. Shedding its minimalist luster proved that beyond its amazing jittery technical abilities, Special Noise has the ability to write some of the best songs this city has ever heard.

**Turnstiles**  
Friday, Oct. 14 @ The Attic

Anyone who went to the Attic Friday to see a jam or funk band would have been let down by Turnstiles (formerly Ted Neely Beard), Moncton's answer to rock 'n' roll. The band's original Elton John meets lightweight Jimi

Hendrix style encapsulated simple verse/chorus/verse rock songs with intrigue and charm.

Turnstiles' star shone brightest during its final number, a heavier piece that saw everyone in the band singing, "My town is on fire."



DOG DAY

**Dog Day**  
Friday, Oct. 14 @ The Khyber Club

Shy, modest and clever, Dog Day's take on pop rock was a surefire bet for the Pop Explosion. Not a stranger to the Halifax indie-rock scene (the band is one half Burdocks, one half The Hold), Dog Day played an enthusiastically classy set, back-dropped by the warm red glow of the Khyber. Ranging from subliminal pop with songs like "Use Your Powers" to straight up indie rock with songs like "Thank You," Dog Day did not disappoint (adroit alliteration intended).



JAPANHER



HEXES & OHS

**Japanther/Hexes & Ohs/The Letter  
Unfolds**

Saturday, October 15 @ The Seahorse  
Tavern

If you sought originality at the Pop Explosion this year, Japanther was the answer. A bass and drums duo from Brooklyn, NY, Japanther sang through its custom-made ruby-red telephone microphones and played along to back-up instrumentation and quirky samples on tape. Strangely positive, the band blew through a half-hour set of two-minute songs that saw the bass player using a debit card as a pick and the drummer wiping his face on the skin of his snare drum. Engaging and persuasive, Japanther was perhaps the most fun band at this year's festival.

Hexes & Ohs were proof that playing along to a laptop full of pre-recorded, layered ambient music won't necessarily translate into a good band. The Montreal duo's emotionally-toned electronic pop was reminiscent of a combination of Death Cab for Cutie and the Postal Service (yes, I know it's the same guy) but fell short of a stellar live performance. Hexes & Ohs would be great to listen to on your CD player, but not at the Seahorse.

Too heavy to be screamo, but too screamo to be metal, The Letter Un-

folds is Halifax's best-kept underage secret. Cutting up the stage with its At the Drive-In meets Alexisonfire moves and sporadically crunching riffs, TLU was a bright light in the all-ages showcase. With TLU's crazy timings, smart dual vocals and ridiculously heavy guitars, it's hard to believe they're all still in high school.



**A Northern Chorus**  
Saturday, Oct. 15 @ Sam the Record  
Man

Beautiful and graceful, A Northern Chorus packed its talent onto the tiny stage at Sam's for an afternoon in-store special. Playing without drums made for a less powerful performance, especially on songs like "The Sheppard and the Chauffeur," but the intimacy of its serene mood

music was perfect for a rainy afternoon.

**Ghosts of Modern Man/Terratomb**  
Saturday, Oct. 15 @ The Pavillion

Wrapping up its month-and-a-half-long tour, Regina's Ghosts of Modern Man rocked to a small crowd at the Pavillion as a result of headliner's Gruesome Feast's cancellation. Showing shades of smart post-punk, the band played a loud set without fatigue or strain. Excellently heavy, Ghosts of Modern Man would sound great in a place with better sound.

Know what's metal? It's when the power goes off, and you keep playing the song, and the power comes back on, and you finish the song like nothing happened. Terratomb is a metal institution in Halifax, and it shows. Its brand of speed metal is so fast that the riffs are nearly indecipherable and, combined with high-pitched growling vocals, it has garnered the band's success all over the world for good reason. Rain, power outages, darkness — this was Terratomb's territory.

All photos by Trevor Murphy.

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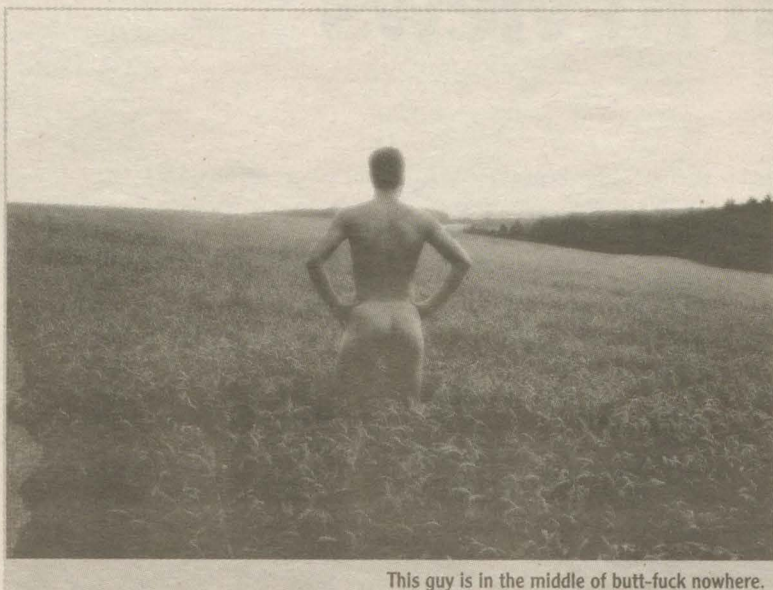
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This guy is in the middle of butt-fuck nowhere.

## SuperSex in the SuperCity Butt Nothing!

DAVE WENTWORTH  
Captain Coitus

This week's collection of questions comes down to one thing: anal pleasure. Our butts are the key to many sexual arousals and tapping into this often-overlooked erogenous zone can oftentimes open up a whole new exciting area of sex play.

**Q.** I want to give my boyfriend anal pleasure. How do I approach this without freaking him out?

First you need to define anal pleasure. For some, anal pleasure can be the caressing or spanking of the buttocks. For others it may involve anilingus (rimming), which is oral anal stimulation. Finally, for the majority of people, it often refers to anal intercourse.

I would advise against blurting out to your boyfriend that you want him to jump right in and nail you in the ass. Rather, I would be a bit subtler. For example, during sex you could grind your ass into his dick and moan, make him see how hot you are for him and how great your ass feels rubbing against his member.

Then again, the way your question reads you may be looking to actually give him the pleasure and penetrate him. I'm unsure of your gender, but if you're a guy it should be more direct.

If you're a female, and you want to bring in hardware, such as a strapon dildo, you will probably have a bit more negotiating to do. If this is your situation, I'd recommend starting slow in sex play. A lot of guys are up-

tight about their assholes, so I would suggest starting with fingering or rimming. With fingering, you could insert your pinky finger and work your way up, making sure to use lots of lube and protecting his butt from your fingernails by using a condom.

If you want to rim him he will quickly realize for himself how much pleasure is in his butt without having to be invaded by a big faux penis.

**Q.** Before anal sex, do people actually lick the person's anus? Why? Isn't that kinda sickening for the licker?

Rimming is not compulsory for anal sex. Some anal aficionados enjoy it before intercourse, while others skip it and get right down to business. Frankly, it's up to the individuals. After all, lots of times a guy doesn't go muff-diving right before intercourse; he just initiates penetration from the start. In that aspect, rimming prior to anal sex is very similar.

The main purpose of rimming can be two-fold. For the receiver, it can help to relax the anal sphincter muscles before penetration. For the licker, it can be arousing because they are watching their partner squeal in delight. After all, the anus and its neighbors like the perineum are loaded in super sensitive nerve endings.

As for whether or not it's sickening, that is only a matter of perception. You may be uncomfortable with this type of sexual behaviour. For others who enjoy it, however, let them. Let's be honest here, rimming is a very intimate thing.

On that note, if you want to explore, do it.

## Report Card

HPX Hip-Hop Show / Oct. 15 at the Marquee Club



**Reporter:** Christina Stefanski  
**Photographer:** Kelly Clark  
**Stage Presence:** A  
**Audience Reaction:** A-  
**Sound:** B+  
**Effort:** A  
**Get-it-on ability:** B+

Jesse Dangerously started off the Marquee stage with tracks off his new album, *Inter Alia*. EMC and DJ Shinook warmed up Hell. EMC proved that he's more than just a renowned beat-boxer when he integrated rapping and singing into his set.

Anonamys interacted with the audience in Hell and Recyclone spat abstract lyrics in a tempo that became progressively easier to follow. Fax 4 got the Marquee ready to party

then Universal Soul dominated the crowd with their high energy. In Hell, Alpha Flight came as expected with GhettoSocks and Mr. Bix kicking raps over freshly-crafted beats with cuts provided by DJ Jabba Tha Cutt.

K'naan packed the main floor as he recited poetry, sang, rapped and played bongo drums. K'naan is indeed a prolific emcee who is making a lasting impression and beginning to raise awareness about international humanistic issues.

Performances were not staggered between the Marquee and the Hell stage, making it difficult for spectators to catch all the acts. But the whole event was still unforgettable.

## One Part Cereal Fiction

A comic artist eats bran in the first of three weekly fiction installments

ASHLEIGH GAUL

If the phrase "you are what you eat" has any verity, and it probably does, then it does this morning, as Quentin Spurlock is about to eat bran.

Quentin circles his morning place setting not like a vulture, but rather more like a wheat kernel placidly resists landing in a particularly bad patch of fallow field. While Quentin is not unusually dark in countenance, he is heavy, and so drops into his niche at the breakfast table a little more lumberingly than perhaps suggested by the wispy settling of wheat. When he chews his cereal, with plodding absence, it can only be described as being much in the way that bran would go about eating bran, were that not an improbable cannibalism.

Quentin Spurlock may seem lonely to you now, but he has not always been alone. He is, and was, one-half of an editorial cartoonist for the *Rurbania Times*. Specifically, he is a scrupulous inker, though was perhaps not an indispensable one until his partner was beaten to death at a political protest.

In the early months after the murder, Quentin kept *The Times* dependably stocked with the remnants of his partner's archives, which the editors obligingly ran as harmless, if slightly outdated. As his creative supply waned, however, Quentin awakened to the fact that he was going to have to learn how to draw.

That Sunday, he closed his eyes, flipped through an edition of *The*



*Times* and stabbed a headline with his finger: "Chretien Aims for Green Legacy." He thought about that. Certainly that was an honourable aim. Now, how to draw it? His partner had been prone to languid pedantry, and Quentin vaguely recalled a tendency to mockery: "Pick on their weaknesses" it was, if he remembered correctly.

He studied a photo of his victim. He considered the prospect of making this rather fish-like head appear even fishier. He recoiled at that thought as if Chretien the fish were right there, on his desk, gasping for air while Quentin pinned him down to exaggerate Nature's already grotesque design. And what if that fish was Aiming for Green Legacy? He couldn't be responsible for hindering it.

Casting about, he looked up the



definition of cartoon: "a ridiculously oversimplified representation." Quentin Spurlock figured he knew a lot about simplicity. He immediately set to work on straightening the wayward features of his subject's face, and when that project was not wildly unsuccessful, he normalized a candid shot of Janet Reno eating boiled eggs at a senate meeting. Eventually he settled into a career: Quentin has since leant his cosmetic pen to the famous disfigurements of Mother Teresa, Viktor Yushchenko and, more recently, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

This is Quentin Spurlock's dubious beginning as pleasantly tepid editorial cartoonist. Bland, digestible and, if anything else, non-toxic, Quentin is not unhappy to be considered a piece of bran.

Until today.



Illustrations: Ashleigh Gaul

## All the Dish

A little advice for potluck goers

JENNIFER CHOI  
ELIZABETH STOKER-LAVELLE  
*The two phat ladies*

You've been invited to a potluck and now have to decide what to take. Perhaps you didn't realize the potluck is a medieval ritual, designed to weed out weak tribe members. It's not to be taken lightly.

To help you along, we have established simple guidelines corresponding to the three core potluck personas. With an appropriate plan, you too can impress your crew, secure invites to future feasts and experience the total satisfaction of culinary superiority.

### Freeloader

Think you can get away with a bag of chips or bottle of pop? Think again. We sympathize with the limits of a student budget but this behaviour just isn't acceptable.

Here are a few money saving tips. Skip pre-made food. Substitute beans in a recipe that calls for meat, or go vegetarian. Vegetables are a great way to "beef up" recipes without breaking the bank. Cook with a friend, pool your kitchen resources and get creative. Search the Internet for ingredients you want to use up. Do you have lots of mayonnaise and cocoa?

Your search may bring up a recipe for chocolate mayonnaise cake, an odd combination with a tasty outcome.

Try these ideas. You don't want to be remembered as the person who took microwave popcorn.

### Chef Boyardee

You drool over cookbook pictures, but shudder at complicated instructions. You burn food or blow your bar money on store-bought ready-made potluck eats. Little did you know, there's a way to save your pride and your wine fund.

Buy select prepared items like a bag of pre-washed and cut lettuce. Add cucumber, peppers, cheese and vinaigrette for a complete salad. Do online recipe research: epicurious.com, allrecipes.com and yumyum.com.

For easy crowd-pleasers salvaged from the remains of your cupboards and fridge, try homemade mac and cheese, potatoes of any kind, bean salad or grilled vegetables.

If you really can't or don't like to cook, try fabulous ethnic take-out. Not a cheap option but you'll seem chic, worldly and daring.

### Martha Stewart Wannabe

Last weekend, you wanted to see Martha pumpkin race in Windsor.

You enjoy reading *The Joy of Cooking* and watching FoodTV. You're a frequent potluck host and are often told your cooking is good enough to be on a restaurant menu.

What more can you do to make your potluck better?

Try free online invitations. Use a website such as evite.com to set up your guest list and what guests should bring. You can request side dishes, main dishes, desserts and anything else you need.

This invitation option lets each guest see what dishes other people are making. The RSVP gives you a final tally of who can attend and what they're bringing. Online invites are a good thing.

The key to potlucks is thought. Take the time to look for a recipe. You have the chance to experiment, use leftovers and eat delicious food.

It doesn't take a lot to keep costs down or to come up with the right recipe. Potlucks are for kitchen novices and gourmets alike. The best part is one dish will get you many, many more.

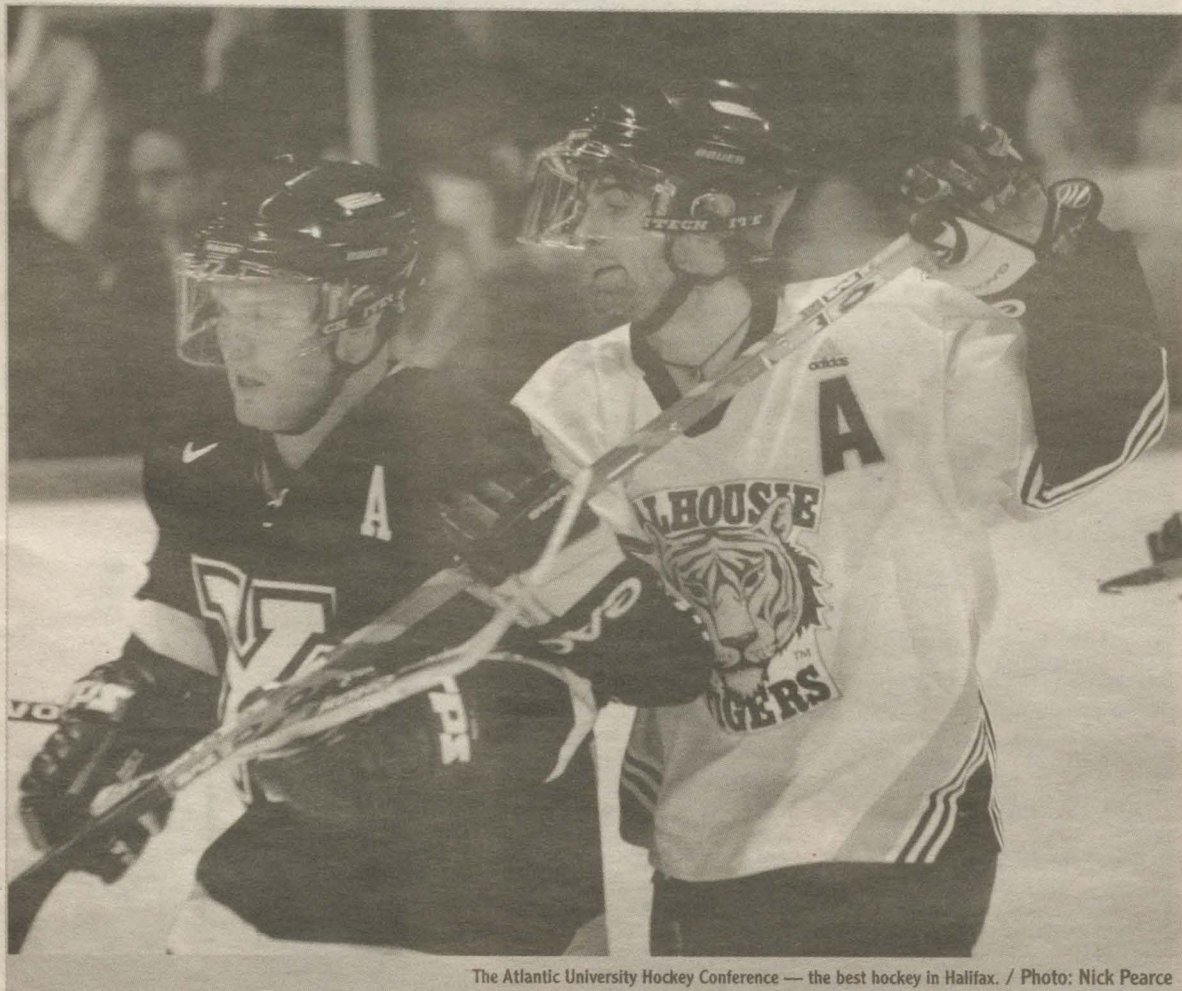
Send your food-related questions and comments to [two.phat.ladies@gmail.com](mailto:two.phat.ladies@gmail.com). This column runs bi-weekly in *The Gazette*.



|   |  |                                    |  |  |   |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Men's Hockey</b><br>Dal 2 Acadia 3<br>Dal 3 St. FX 6 | <b>Women's Soccer</b><br>Dal 1 Acadia 0<br>Dal 1 CBU 1 | <b>Men's Soccer</b><br>Dal 1 CBU 0 | <b>Women's Hockey</b><br>Sat, Oct. 22 @ 3 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs UPEI<br>Sun, Oct. 23 @ 2 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs STU | <b>Men's Hockey</b><br>Fri, Oct. 21 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs UNB<br>Sat, Oct. 22 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena Dal vs UPEI | <b>Women's Basketball</b><br>Fri, Oct. 21 @ 8 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs RMC<br>Oct. 22-23 Dalplex Subway Tournament |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|

**SPORTS RESULTS**

**SCHEDULE**



The Atlantic University Hockey Conference — the best hockey in Halifax. / Photo: Nick Pearce

## AUHC: the best hockey in town

Talk from the water cooler

JOEY RYBA  
Sports Editor

You might think that the best hockey in Halifax is the Halifax Mooseheads of the Quebec Major Hockey League (QMJHL), but you couldn't be more wrong.

The best hockey in Halifax is the Atlantic University Hockey Conference (AUHC).

The AUHC has eight teams: the Acadia Axemen, St. FX X-Men, UNB Varsity Reds, UdeM Eagles Bleues, STU Tommies, UPEI Panthers and the two Halifax additions, the St. Mary's Huskies and your Dalhousie Tigers. The AUHC features fast-paced, hard-hitting hockey on a nightly basis.

AUHC games are generally faster and more intense than QMJHL games. The primary reason for this difference is the age and maturity of the players. Players in the QMJHL and the other two major junior leagues, the Western Hockey League (WHL) and the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) are between 16 and 20 years of age, with the majority of those players at 18 or 19 years of age.

In the AUHC players are generally between 21 and 24 years of age. Most of these players have previous major

junior experience in one of the above leagues. Because AUHC players are older than their major junior counterparts, AUHC players are stronger, faster and smarter, which adds to the intensity of the product.

Another reason why the AUHC is tremendous to watch is the parity of the league. The league only has eight teams and the regular season is only 28 games. As a result, there are no easy games and any team can win on any given night.

The higher calibre of play in the AUHC should make the choice of going to see Dal or St. Mary's as opposed to the Mooseheads an easy one; however, the people of Halifax don't see it that way, which is certainly reflected in the attendance figures.

Last year, the Mooseheads averaged over 7,700 fans per game while Dal and St. Mary's only averaged about 500 fans.

One reason for the large difference in attendance is the marketing effort of the Halifax Mooseheads. The Moose have a superb marketing campaign with ads on the radio, television and billboards throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Mooseheads also have a fantastic facility in the Halifax Metro

Center, which features comfortable seating, a video score clock and lots of concession stands. The Dal Arena and the Halifax Forum (home of the St. Mary's Huskies) aren't on par with the Metro Center.

But if you're a true hockey fan, and a knowledgeable one like myself, it's the hockey that matters.

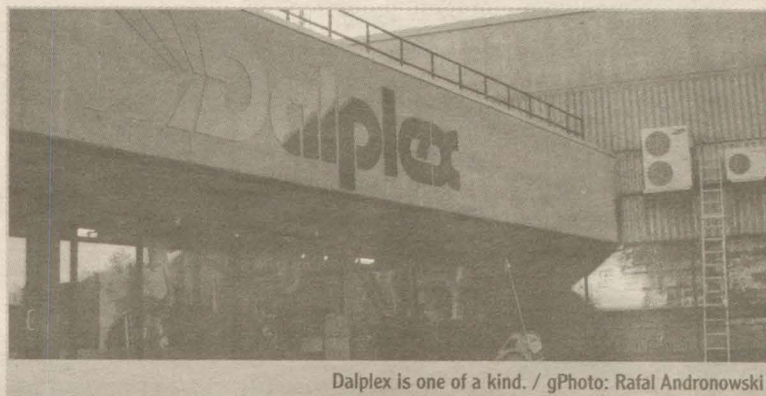
The large difference in attendance figures may also suggest that Haligonians are easily sucked-in by hype.

Personally, I prefer the AUHC over the QMJHL.

I am a regular at Dal home games and even give Dal hockey priority over my schoolwork.

Over the past five years, I've attended many AUHC games and they've all been entertaining. Some of the most memorable games were the 2002 AUHC finals, when the Dal Tigers battled their south-end rivals the St. Mary's Huskies, and the Tigers 2004 playoff-run, which led a bronze medal win at the nationals. The atmosphere at the Dal Arena at these games was electric and so was the on-ice action.

With that said, let's see some larger crowds at university hockey games.



Dalplex is one of a kind. / gPhoto: Rafal Andronowski

## Something for everyone at Dalhousie athletics and recreation

MIKE TWEEDALE  
Staff Contributor

Dalplex, Dalhousie's main athletic and recreational centre, is arguably the foremost indoor athletic facility in Atlantic Canada. There isn't any other facility that houses a gamut of resources including an Olympic-sized swimming pool, eight squash and racquetball courts, ample hardwood floor space, a cardio-training room, two weight rooms, an indoor oval running track, a climbing wall and golf cages.

A sports complex with these types of resources does not, however, cater exclusively to the needs of varsity athletes who train to compete at a performance level that exceeds recreational and intramural levels of competition.

The resources and services that are offered at Dalplex are geared to the interests of the general student population, and there is something there for everyone.

Savior Joseph, the marketing and communications director at Dalplex, supports a new and energetic Dalplex initiative that aims to generate health and wellness by offering a variety of sports and athletic programs. This initiative is directed toward making Dalplex an integral part of the university's overall package that will entice new student athletes, as well as making it a recreational resource that's accessible to all members of the university community.

"Student life is a very important consideration, and is foremost in our activity planning and resource designation," says Joseph. "Although attracting new student athletes is an objective that we must bear in mind, the allocation must be successful in making current students and faculty as happy as possible."

There are over 50 fitness and recreational programs offered at Dalplex, and Joseph encourages students who are looking for a great way to relieve stress stemming from the doldrums of physical inactivity to visit Dalplex in person, or online, and check out

the options of activity.

"We do not restrict accessibility to limited interests," says Joseph of Dalplex's open-access policy. "The programs and resources here are open to everyone, not just varsity athletes."

Dalplex offers beginner classes in such activities as kickboxing, kayaking, yoga and fencing, as well as certified courses in first aid and bartending. These programs begin at various times throughout the year.

Joseph's current job demands that he creates a user-friendly environment at Dalplex, and emphasizes that the most robust improvements are being made in customer service. Apart from ensuring that equipment resources are updated and maintained, Joseph also ensures that Dalplex doesn't intimidate interested students who are not familiar with sports and recreational activities.

"We have personal trainers who will do a fitness health assessment and help people find a program that suits their particular interests and objectives," says Joseph.

Although Dalplex is the central part of the sports and recreational infrastructure, Joseph also points out that the Wickwire Field and the Dal Memorial Arena accommodate field sports, such as soccer and ultimate Frisbee, and ice sports, such as free skating and recreational hockey.

"Dalplex is the primary venue for the majority of our programs, but some fitness classes are held in the Studley Gym, and both the Wickwire Field and the arena are used for hosting varsity sports games and intramural sports," says Joseph.

Joseph suggests that the health and wellness benefits are only part of the reward of becoming involved in an athletic or recreational program.

"Dalhousie is a great place to meet people and there are many opportunities for social networking," he says.

"Dalplex offers the opportunity for young students to meet people who are doing things that the student would like to do in their future."

## Student Employment Centre

### Employer Information Session

### Upcoming Events

**Canadian Tire Corporation Ltd.**

Welcomes 2006 graduates from Industrial Engineering and Business to learn more about the Supply Chain Analyst Position within the Supply Chain Development Program. You are invited to take part in a new era for Canadian Tire - one that sets the course for a dynamic, growing company fuelled by all our businesses working together.

When: October 26th, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
Where: Room 303, SUB

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP [jennifer.miller@dal.ca](mailto:jennifer.miller@dal.ca).

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for more information.

**Workshop**

Resume and Cover Letter Prep  
Date: October 25  
Time: 12:30 - 1:30pm  
Location: Room 302, SUB

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for more information.



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

### FEMALE ATHLETE



**JANICE ASHWORTH**  
Cross Country

Janice Ashworth's continued domination of Atlantic University Sport cross-country was nothing short of the same this weekend as she took top individual honours at the last conference league meet on Saturday at St. FX. She crossed the line with a time of 18:12 en route to a team win for the Tigers as they narrowly beat the host team by a 35-to-36 points score, respectively. Ashworth is a third-year environmental science and IDS student from Dunrobin, Ont.

### MALE ATHLETE



**CHRIS O'CONNOR**  
Soccer

Chris O'Connor posted his sixth shutout of the Atlantic University Sport men's soccer season this past weekend in a 1-0 win over the visiting Cape Breton Capers. He was also given Player of the Game honours for his outstanding net-minding and helping the Tigers climb the AUS leaderboard into third place. O'Connor is a fourth-year recreation management student from Vancouver, BC.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday, Oct. 21 to Sunday, Oct. 23  
SUBWAY CENTENNIAL TOURNAMENT  
Game times available at [www.athletics.dal.ca](http://www.athletics.dal.ca)

### MEN'S HOCKEY

Friday, Oct. 21: UNB @ DAL, 7pm  
Saturday, Oct. 22: UPEI @ DAL, 7pm

### WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Saturday, Oct. 22: UPEI @ DAL, 3pm  
Sunday, Oct. 23: STU @ DAL, 2pm

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR DAL STUDENTS WITH VALID ID



494-3372 [WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA](http://WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA)

GET YOUR ROAR ON WITH THE TIGERS!

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

### Fitness FX

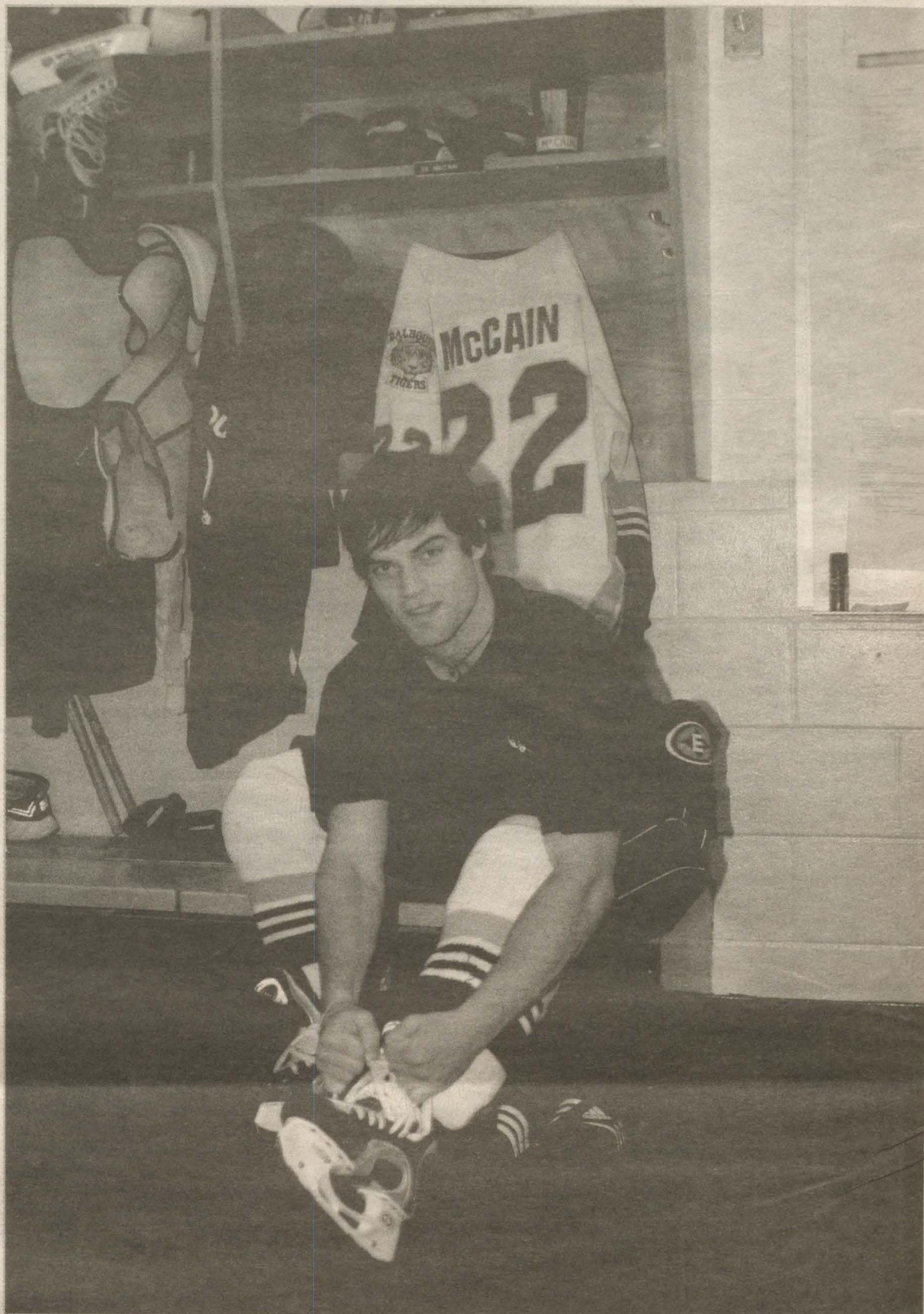
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## STUDENT DISCOUNT LIFE & SPORT SUPPLEMENTS

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Dal hockey Coach expects good things from this veteran centre. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

# Ross McCain takes on leadership role on Dal hockey team

JOEY RYBA  
Sports editor

Hard work and consistency are paying off for Ross McCain. The gritty fourth-year forward played a limited role when he first joined the Tigers.

Over the course of his first three seasons with Dal, McCain's dedication helped him earn a regular spot in the line-up and now he centers the second line between Tom Zanoski and Bobby Chaumont.

"McCain came in as the thirteenth forward battling to get in the line-up," says Coach Fabian Joseph. "After his first season, he proved he had the character to play at this level and developed into one of our hardest working players. He's a mainstay on our penalty kill."

Joseph expects McCain to continue to be productive, increasing his opportunity to play an offensive role and develop into one of the team's leaders.

"He'll definitely be wearing one of the letters," he says.

Dal captain Brad Pierce says Ross McCain is the hardest worker on the men's hockey team.

"He comes to play every night and we count on him for lots of leadership," says Pierce. "Over the past three years he's been a great teammate and showed lots of improve-

ment with his game on the ice. He's always there when you need him and he'll go through the wall for anyone."

Before joining the Tigers, McCain played four seasons in the CJHL, suiting up for the Cornwall Jr. A. Colts. The kinesiology student and two-time Academic All-Canadian from Florenceville, N.B. says he chose Dal because the Atlantic University Hockey Conference is the strongest in Canada, and that academically, Dal was the best fit.

As for kinesiology, McCain says he always wanted to study it. "With playing hockey, you're forced to learn some [kinesiology], so it was a no-brainer."

As for his career, McCain says he would like to do something related to kinesiology, but first he'd like to play professional hockey.

"I thought about a bunch of different things like physio, getting my masters degree or becoming a trainer for elite hockey players," he says. "I haven't made any decisions, but I definitely would like to play professional hockey for a couple of years after university in the U.S. or in Europe."

McCain says his biggest role model at Dal is his coach, and credits Joseph for giving him the opportunity to play on a regular basis, which has led to McCain's key role with the 2005/2006 Tigers.

"In order to do well you have to be given an opportunity and Fabian has definitely helped me in that regard," he says.

McCain also says his favourite season at Dal was 2004/2005 when the Tigers went to nationals.

"The year we went to nationals is most memorable," he says. "In the playoffs, we beat two teams, one being an upset with both games going to overtime. That whole playoff run and the experience of going to nationals sticks out in my mind the most."

McCain's best friend on the team is the always-comical Marty Gascon. "I've developed a pretty good friendship with Marty Gascon over the past four years." He says. "We've helped each other on and off the ice. I've helped him adjust to life in an English community and he's translated Bleu Nuit for me so I can understand the complex story lines," says a laughing McCain.

Continuing with the humorous side of things, McCain says he's also been inspired by the movie *Dodgeball*. "Peter LaFleur from *Dodgeball* is definitely an inspiration," he says. "All the odds were against him and he led his team to victory over White Goodman and his squad."

McCain and the Dalhousie Tigers play this Friday, Oct. 21 and Saturday, Oct. 22 against UNB and UPEI at the Dal Arena. Both games are at 7 p.m.





# The SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## The Comedy Dawgs College Comedy Competition to Benefit CKDU Radio Station

PETER WHITE  
Editor-In-Chief

This is not just news for Sexton Campus, this is news for all of Dalhousie. On Wednesday, October 26th 2005 at 8pm, The Comedy Dawgs and Strange Adventures are teaming up to find the funniest College/University student in Halifax, all to benefit CKDU's funding drive. No experience is necessary to compete in this competition. All that is required is a good sense of humour, and the guts to get up on stage and make people laugh. Lots of people think that they're funny, now it's time to prove to your friends that you're the funniest student in all of Halifax.

The contest is sponsored by the Comedy Dawgs and Strange Adventures ([www.strangeadventures.com](http://www.strangeadventures.com)) and will be held at Ginger's Tavern on Barrington St. The show will be hosted and headlined by two sepa-

rate professional comedians, so it is guaranteed to be a good time. Judging the contest will be Davey Kemp of CKDU's Comedy Spot, Cal Johnson of Strange Adventures plus one other surprise judge. Acts will be judged on three categories: stage presence, material and originality, these will be judged out of 5 and averaged between the judges. The audience will also get to add bonus points for their favorite two (3 and 2 respectfully).

There is still time to sign up for the contest, and you can do so by visiting [www.comedydawgs.com](http://www.comedydawgs.com) and clicking on the 'Young Pups' link, or by emailing Paul Ash at [comedydawg@hotmail.com](mailto:comedydawg@hotmail.com). If you don't have what it takes to perform, you can always show up to support (laugh at) those who do. If you think this might be for you, than this is your chance to break into the world of stand-up, or at least prove to your friends that you are as funny as you say you are.

## Sextant Mail Bag

PETER WHITE  
Editor-In-Chief  
ALEXANDER MACDONALD  
Managing Editor

It's midterm time again, so that means I've spent the better part of last week "studying". Of course, studying for midterms means that I've cleaned my bathroom for the first time this semester, alphabetized by DVDs, fixed the leaky faucet, checked my email 22 times every day, and turned my back on my masculinity by plucking my eyebrows.

Needless to say, I was pressed for time and neglected my obligation to you, the Sextant faithful. So I'm going to do what any respected journalist does when pressed for something to write about, use other people's ideas. I had to get Peter to be a part of this as well, since he won't put anything into the Sextant unless he thinks it's his idea.

*Dear Sextant,  
Why you gotta hate the T-Room? That place is the heart and soul of Sexton campus. You should rally behind it and encourage more people to come hang out.* - R. Wamsley

I couldn't agree with you more. You see, not all of us here at The Sextant hate all things T-Room. That honour just belongs to Peter White. He was never a big fan of the bar in the first place because he felt the lights were too bright which makes him look a whole lot less attractive than he does in the dark. He went over the edge when he thought the amount of alcohol being served was lowered, thus diminishing the beer-goggle effect that is the key to his successful love life. -AMD

*Dear Sextant,  
Have you ever realized that everything you write is just stuff? You don't tell us much about what is going on at Sexton Campus, and it seems to just be a poor attempt at being funny? Why don't you do some more important journalism?* - P. Ing

If interesting things happen at Sexton Campus, I'm not invited to them. Most people on campus are too involved with school work and studying to worry about current events, or extracurricular activities, or anything even resembling fun. This creates a high amount of stress among the students, so we try to keep things light and entertaining. This is why we don't do more "important journalism". Plus, "important journalism" takes a lot of time. On an unrelated note, go

to hell. -PW

*Dear Sextant,  
What's up? Mind if I send you an idea for a future article? Where are all the computers that were in the alcove? Does anything on our campus get done properly?* - T. Cheveldae

Not much. No. Sold to pay for the workers constantly doing the wiring on the third floor of "B" building. Not that I know of. Seriously though, that does bring up a good point, weren't those computers only supposed to be gone for two weeks commencing Sept. 23? I think someone out there should do some investigating and find out what happened to them. Oh, that's my job? Look over there, a hot frosh! -AMD

*Dear Sextant,  
Is Alexander MacDonald as good looking as he seems from his pictures? If he is, I'd love to meet him sometime.* - Anonymous

Actually, to be quite honest, Alex is a horrible mutant. We made him look presentable using a sophisticated team of computer graphics wizards and world class artists because his real presentation is much too gruesome to be put in our paper. Also, he is a female from the waist down. If you would still like to meet him, I'll put in a good word for you. -PW

*Dear Sextant,  
I'm a first-year arts student and have never been to Sexton campus. Are all of the things you say about engineering students true? You make them sound like a bunch of outcasts* -B. Essensa

That depends. If you are a girl, then no, nothing we say is true. They're just stereotypes we like to use week after week since we can't come up with anything fresh to say. You should read no further and come see for yourself right now. I'll personally show you around. If you're a guy, then I'm going to let you in on a little secret. Dumb, trappy girls believe everything they read and are really impulsive, while the smart, beautiful and under-appreciated ones usually choose to make up their own mind and always finish what they started. -AMD

*Dear Sextant,  
Have you ever thought about adding a weekly comic to your paper? With the success of comics like Dilbert, don't you think that another engineer-*

*ing comic strip might be a big hit? - D. Tosh*

To be honest, we had never once thought of adding a weekly comic to The Sextant. After reading your letter we took a moment to think about it, and we've decided against it. We only have one page a week, and there is not nearly enough room to put a comic strip in along with our articles. Also, Dilbert is written and drawn by a talented team of writers and animators, not a small group of engineering students. However, we are launching a website soon where we will have a lot more space, so if you are interested in creating a comic strip for us we will be more than happy to pretend to consider it, but then turn it down and laugh at you. -PW

*Dear Sextant,  
Why do you guys have two editors? Your "newspaper" is only a page long. How much can there be to edit?* -A. Racicot

As you can probably tell from reading our articles, not a lot gets edited. In fact, we don't even believe in proof-reading, double-checking, or any other hyphenated word that means extra work. We have two editors because we got to make up our own titles and "editor" looks a lot better on a resume than "lazy, inexperienced smartass". And we resent the term "newspaper". We prefer, "factually challenged opinion rag". -AMD

*Dear Sextant,  
According to your first issue this year, there are (at least) four people on the Sextant executive. How come only two of you ever write anything?* -D. Cook

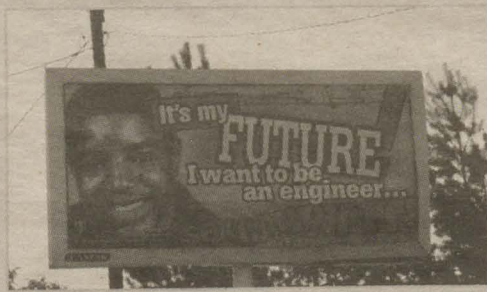
That's a very good question. In fact, it's a question that we've asked many times. I'd love to say that the other two members of the executive were busy taking care of the many duties that The Sextant has outside of this weekly publication, but that would make me a liar. The Sextant has exactly zero duties outside of the paper, and it would seem that the other two executive members are both lazy and useless. If they weren't working for free, I'd fire them. -PW

If you would like to have your questions answered by the Sextant editors, email us at [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca). If you want a serious answer to a serious question that is of any importance to you or anyone you know, email someone else.

## Random Google of the Week

We take a standard, Sexton Campus related word or phrase, and plug it into Google Images search engine. If you've never done a random Google Images search, you haven't lived.

This week's searched phrase is: "Engineers of the Future" submitted by Abby Arseneau



"If only you had any idea how long the wait really is..."

Send your suggestions for the Random Google Search of the Week to [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)

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# Dalendar

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## DALENDAR

Send your Dalhousie related events to: dalendar@dalgazette.ca

### Friday, Oct. 21

**CKDU-FM presents its first ever Multicultural Variety Night**

Enjoy cultural diversity throughout the night with African Rumba, Salsa, Reggae, Soça, Reggaetons, Hip hop, Kassav, Zouk and Coupe Decale  
8 p.m. @ the Grawood  
\$4 in advance, \$5 at the door  
info: ptoh@dal.ca

**The Division of Historical and Critical Studies presents Dr. Rebecca Schneider (Brown University)**

"Still Living: Performance, Photography and Reenactment"  
7 p.m. @ Bell Auditorium (5163 Duke St.)  
info: www.nscad.ca

### Spanish Night Geek Beer

What do you get when you cross the Spanish Society with the Computer Science Society? Complete with Spanish drink, music, and your regular geek beer favorites.

6:00 p.m. @ Computer Science Building  
info: my.dsu.ca

### Saturday, Oct. 22

**CKDU Funding Drive Piano Pop Party**  
Brent Randall & His Pinecones and Laura Peek & The Winning Hearts vegan baked goods will be for sale @ One World Café  
\$5  
info: www.ckdu.ca

### Tuesday, Oct. 25

**Measuring Security Measures**  
CitizenShift, Uberculture, and CinemaPIRG present a cross-country examination of immigration, media law, and national security in Canada.

7 p.m. @ Pier 21 (1055 Marginal Rd)  
info: www.citizen.nfb.ca

### Writer/Photographer Freeman Patterson on "The Call of Creativity"

7:30 p.m. @ Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building (Lecture Theatre C)  
info: humanities.medicine.dal.ca

### Killam Lecture Series: Can Civilization Survive Climate Change?

8:00 p.m. @ McCain Bldg (Ondaatje Hall)  
info: Philip.girard@dal.ca

### Launch of the Dal Integrated Sustainability Initiative

Elizabeth May to discuss the importance of campus sustainability.  
5-6 p.m. @ Weldon Law Building room 105,  
info: my.dsu.ca

### Wednesday, Oct. 26

**Ronald G. Smith Lecture in Business Law: Derivatives and Corporate Govern-**

### nance

4:00 p.m. @ Weldon Law Bldg. (Room 105)  
info: Prof Chris Nicholls, 494-1009

### Writer/Photographer Freeman Patterson on "Dreaming Our Way to Health"

4:30 p.m. @ Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building (Lecture Theatre B)  
info: humanities.medicine.dal.ca

### CKDU Funding Drive seems like old times: songs written before 1950

Jon Epworth, Dean Gallant, Matthew Grimson, Stephanie Johns, Laura Peek, Geoffery Pye, Brent Randall, Matt Reid, Jonathan Stewart, Mitchell Wiebe and Dave Enwenson  
10 p.m. @ Tribeca  
\$5  
info: www.ckdu.ca

### Thursday, Oct. 27

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences presents "Inequality and its Discontents in Latin America"**

4:00 p.m. @ Marion McCain Bldg (Room 1130)  
info: 494-1440

### Killam Lecture Series: Global Security, the War on Terror and the New American Century

8:00 p.m. @ Marion McCain Bldg (Ondaatje Hall)  
info: philip.girard@dal.ca

### The New Latin American Cinema: from its origins to the present

7:00 p.m. @ Computer Science Bldg. (Room 127)  
info: Spanish Dept. 494-3679

### Friday, Oct. 28

**Canada-India Relations with Indian High Commissioner Shyamala Cowsik**  
12:00 p.m. @ Kenneth C. Rowe Management Bldg. (Room 1028)  
info: Centre for Foreign Policy Studies 494-3769

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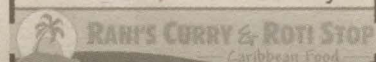


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