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G E T T E

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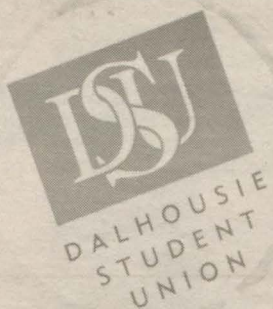
Texting proposed as security protocol Page 5

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Warning-shooting
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WEEKLY DISPATCH

After Imagine

If you didn't get a chance to attend the Imagine: Societies event on Tuesday, there are still plenty of ways to get involved and make sure your voice is heard. Several issues were discussed, the main ones being the role of non-Dal students in DSU societies and the issue of society governance.

Option A:

Visit the website at dsu.ca/imagine to learn more about the process and to post your comments.

Option B:

Send VP Internal Rosalie Hanlon an email at dsuvpi@dal.ca to get on the email list for further updates or to join the ad-hoc committee that will be writing the policy.

Option C:

Contact your councilor. Every student at Dal is represented by one or more representatives at the DSU council, the body that will eventually vote on the new policy. Consult the list below to find your councilor's contact information. This list may change over the year, and an updated one will be available at dsu.ca.

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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.

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.

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views 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 James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. 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.

Do you
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GAZETTE

Story meetings
are held every
Monday at
5:30 p.m. in
room 312
of the SUB.

Our first meeting
is September
10th.

The art of bullshit

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After standing in line for half an hour last week, I paid my \$3,641 of fall tuition. It took me about a month and a half of working at my summer job to pay for the next four months of education.

When you're paying thousands of dollars for something, your expectations for what you get back should be pretty high. But after two years of university, I'm starting to doubt if I'm getting my money's worth.

University is a fantastic part of life, if not the best part. For most of the year, nobody expects students to get a job and they can spend their time learning about things that interest them. Not to mention, many of them are at the peak of their physical attractiveness and will be having

more sex than ever before, or again.

However, there is a deep-rooted part of university experience that has made me question why I'm spending so much money: the long-winded essays and exams.

Dalhousie requires every first-year student to take one designated 'writing class,' which ideally will put them in good stead for the slew of essays that make up a huge chunk of their marks over the next four years.

During my first year, I had the misfortune of taking three of these writing classes. Some months I would write an essay each week. At times, two or three would be due within days of each other.

I wrote way too many essays that year. And while I was learning how to properly structure, stylize and cite them, I realized they're bullshit.

Essays are a good way to argue

small, contentious points. But these academic papers are detrimental to students when profs use them to measure how well their students learn.

Often times, they'll have an unnecessarily long minimum word or page count, which keeps students from simply stating what's relevant. Long essays force students to drag out simple points with pretentious and unnecessary language.

Students waste further hours on these tedious exercises doing research. Unfortunately, a lot of published academic work is confusing and pretentious and takes just as long to get to the point as students do.

After students have finally raked enough bullshit together to make their points seem true, it takes a few days, a few Red Bulls and an all-nighter to finalize it. But once it's

done, nothing matters but the mark.

Students have to spend so much time researching and writing essays that they can't get readings done and fall asleep in lectures.

Exams also take up too much time and cause too much stress. The question, 'Is this material important?' has long been replaced by, 'Will this be on the exam?'

Exams take a toll on students' health. When you're extremely tired and stressed, haven't eaten properly in days, are wearing a robe and reading notes spread across your floor, it's frustrating to realize you're paying to do this.

Essays and exams aren't the only way to test students' aptitude.

In my second year, I've received several major assignments that weren't essays or exams.

One particularly kind professor

assigned a take-home test to be done in groups.

Working in groups allows students to hear and internalize contrasting arguments and figure out the best response.

Another assignment allowed students to be creative by translating what they learned in the class into a fictional story.

More creative methods are an easier way to get good marks and allowed me to learn more. I had to think in new ways rather than just spew out the same formulaic essay or lose my mind studying for days on end.

All it takes to make university more interesting and pleasant for students is a little bit of creativity on the part of the instructor. When we're paying such extraordinary prices, we should be getting a better learning experience.

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in room 312 of the SUB

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Sexton campus plans new building

Students 'kept failed referendum alive': Dean

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

When Dal students voted against a multi-million dollar campus makeover in a school referendum last March, the university's plan to build student-funded study space died.

Scott Blake was disappointed. Then he decided to do something about it.

The Sexton campus director teamed up with society representatives from the faculties of engineering and architecture and planning to design a new student building on the school's downtown campus.

"We've reached out from the Dalhousie engineering society and kind of just taken a hold of it and said 'OK, well you're not going to do it for us, so let's try to do something,'" he says.

The original referendum proposal would have seen each student pay up to \$100 more per course to cover the costs of several renovations and three new buildings, one of which the university proposed as a workshop area for Sexton students.

Students on that campus still desperately need the space, says Blake. Since the referendum failed, he's been meeting with students and society heads from roughly 20 campus groups to examine the current lack of workspace and determine their exact design needs. At this point, they're keeping a long wish list of project ideas. But Blake says the new building is "doable" because it's student-driven.

"We've taken into consideration the spaces that were originally proposed for the referendum question and we're going to try to model our building according to the space and locations that are available," says the fourth-year materials engineering student. "Even if it takes us an extra year to do it because we're students, I

think we'd like to do that. We'd like to be able to learn what it really means to create a building right from the ground up."

As for getting the several million dollars needed to carry out the student plan, Blake expects, like the referendum proposal, that most of their funds will have to come from student fees.

Engineering students already pay a \$15 annual fee toward the Sexton Campus Endowment Fund (SCEF), which students apply for when they need new equipment. Blake suggests raising that fee to \$50 per student. The planning group has also lined up at least one corporate sponsor for the project, and the students are banking on getting alumni donations as well.

The Sexton advisory committee plans to have a physical model of the proposed building ready for the student-alumni meeting it will hold Oct. 5 to mark the 100th year of Dal's faculty of engineering.

"Obviously there's going to be a lot of past graduates that are going to be coming back and we hope that they see the problems that we're having now," says Blake. "They were students at one time and they went through the same thing."

Blake and his team have the support of Rosalie Hanlon, Dal student union vice-president (internal), and the dean of engineering, Joshua Leon, but they haven't yet asked the university for its necessary co-operation.

Leon says Sexton students are "very vocal" about their need for better project space, though he adds the new building plan is more about creating the right kinds of workshop space than constructing more student areas.

"From the faculty's perspective, we believe that we need a new building for learning down here. A lot of

our buildings are old and rundown," he says. "When that (referendum) project didn't go forward, I think a lot of our engineering students saw the value in the proposed plans and they've kept it alive."

But Leon says it's still "unclear" whether the university will approve the project and help allocate funds.

"Where the money comes from is probably the single biggest question. I would hope the province and the university would put some money behind it," he says. "At this point it's not a university priority."

The president of Dal's engineering society says he hopes the student effort will send a message to alumni and eventually develop the campus into "something more modern."

Scott Wetton says students have done all they can to push for a new building before asking for university approval.

"We don't really know where we go from here," he says.

University President Tom Traves says Dal has no current plans to consider alternate funding for any of the projects it introduced in last year's campus development campaign.

"We were pretty clear. We said the only way we could proceed with this is quickly, is if we had resources to do it. The student fee was the source of the resource to proceed. The students said 'don't do this,' so we respect that. No means no," Traves says. "If students want to change their mind about that, they have a student union ... If the student union wants to raise the issue again the student union will raise it."

Traves adds the university could have better handled the student referendum.

"We might have conducted it more effectively, obviously the campaign was unsuccessful so we learned some lessons about campus politics."



JOSH BOYTER/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie spokesman Charles Crosby says limited parking space is a problem throughout the city.

Campus parking a "rare commodity"

HANNA BUTLER
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Many students and staff say Dalhousie lacks adequate parking space. But most of them aren't bringing their complaints to university administration.

There aren't enough empty spots on campus, even for those with a parking pass, says French professor Driss Aissaoui.

"I am really not happy with the current lack of space at Dalhousie," Aissaoui says. "It seems like the streets are always filled up with cars, even on Saturdays or Sundays on LeMarchant Street, for example."

Regular parking permits cost students roughly \$145 in total for the academic year, while faculty and staff pay an extra \$15 for daily daytime parking.

But, as Dal's spokesman says, a pass doesn't guarantee a spot.

"It's gonna be a fight for space, especially in the downtown core, and that's not specific to university. That's a situation metro-wide," says Charles Crosby. "It's a commodity, and it's an increasingly rare commodity."

Crosby adds he hasn't heard any student complaints about Dal's parking facilities.

"We don't get a whole lot of comments around the parking issue. You just hear anecdotally that there is no parking around here."

Bahlbl Malk says the two-hour time limit on metered spaces is a hassle for students. Malk says many students likely don't know how they

can get more access to parking on campus.

"Parking is really frustrating," the international development student says. "I got two parking tickets and each one was \$50."

"I don't have much choice but to pay the ticket and move on," adds Malk. "I would like to know where to go if you have a complaint."

Despite student parking frustrations and general support for more environmentally-friendly transportation, this year the university has issued 417 less bus passes to Dal and University of King's College students. Last year, roughly 12,200 students had a city transit pass.

The university's parking regulations, which are posted on the Security Services webpage, state that Dal is not responsible for providing additional parking spaces if existing lots are under construction.

The school has removed and subsequently replaced three campus parking lots over the last five years, Crosby says. He adds that Dal tries to maintain the same number of spaces each year and put in underground parking where possible to make up for lost spaces.

Mount St. Vincent University added more parking areas to its campus several years ago, and the school's chief of security says recently students aren't taking advantage of the available lots.

"The parking lots here never fill up completely, and there are always extra spaces," Glenn Hollett says. "If you build it, they don't always come."

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CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Classes cancelled after bathroom wall threat

Professors at the University of Winnipeg cancelled nearly 100 classes on Sept. 26, saying they don't feel comfortable teaching after a student found a threatening message scrawled on a campus bathroom wall.

According to CTV news reports, the message threatened to "shoot up this place on Sept. 26." City police have been heavily patrolling the campus since Sept. 19, when the school reported the threat.

The university remained open, but made student attendance optional that day while police blocked several school entrances, checked each student's I.D. and searched personal belongings.

School administration also increased video surveillance in response to the threat and aired security warnings to students across campus.

Strike looming at Acadia

Acadia University's faculty association recently failed to reach an agreement with the board of governors about teachers' salaries and maintaining the number of faculty positions available.

The association will hold a strike vote Oct. 1 to Oct. 4 to decide if faculty should abandon their duties to lobby for their concerns. The provincially-appointed conciliator who attended the discussions is soon expected to file a report, after which the university will either be on a legal strike or in a lockout.

Association president Peter Williams told *The Canadian Press* if the group approves a strike, it can't guarantee faculty will walk out.

Carleton staff back to work

Hundreds of support staff at Carleton University returned to work Sept. 19 after nearly three weeks of standing on picket lines.

The CUPE union ratified a deal with school administration that allows for more union representation at staff interviews before disciplinary hearings, something the union had focused on during the negotiation.

"We won that and we're very happy," CUPE spokesperson Wiz Long told *The Charlantan* student newspaper. "The general consensus is that we did the right thing. We walked out, we stood strong and we did not back down. As a consequence we got a fair deal."

Long added that student rally plans to push both sides for an agreement did not force the union to make a snap decision, but that there was "a lot of pressure coming from all angles."

Sources: *CTV.ca*; *The Canadian Press*; *The Charlantan*.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Computer geeks sell themselves to attract girls

Computer science students at Washington State Univer-

sity are trying to recruit more women into the program by offering their technical skills in exchange for dates with sorority girls.

Members of the university's biggest computer club organized a "nerd auction" as part of a public relations stunt to improve the image of computer science students.

The club's 213 members are offering to sell themselves to sorority members so they can improve their social skills.

"You can buy a nerd and he'll fix your computer, help you with stats homework, or if you're really adventurous, take you to dinner!" Ben Ford, president of the Linux Users Group, said on its website.

Police search campus for suicidal gunman

The university of Wisconsin-Madison cancelled some evening classes Sept. 25 while local police searched the campus and university hospital for a teen they claim was trying to provoke a shootout with police.

Police showed up at the hospital after officials reported a suicidal person claimed to have a gun. The university warned students to stay at home after police confirmed the man, 19-year-old Jesse Miller, has a history of mental illness and was serving a work-release jail term for armed robbery.

"This gentleman indicated that he wanted to be killed by the police," assistant police chief Dale Burke told the Associated Press. "It looks like one of those cases where somebody is trying to create a scenario for that to happen."

Students were back in class the next day, though police were still searching for the suspect.

Student Republicans try to overthrow newspaper editor

The editor of a Colorado State University student newspaper threatened to sue for his right to free speech if the university fired him for writing a controversial editorial.

David McSwane wrote an opinion piece for the *Rocky Mountain Collegian* that included the words "Fuck Bush" in its headline.

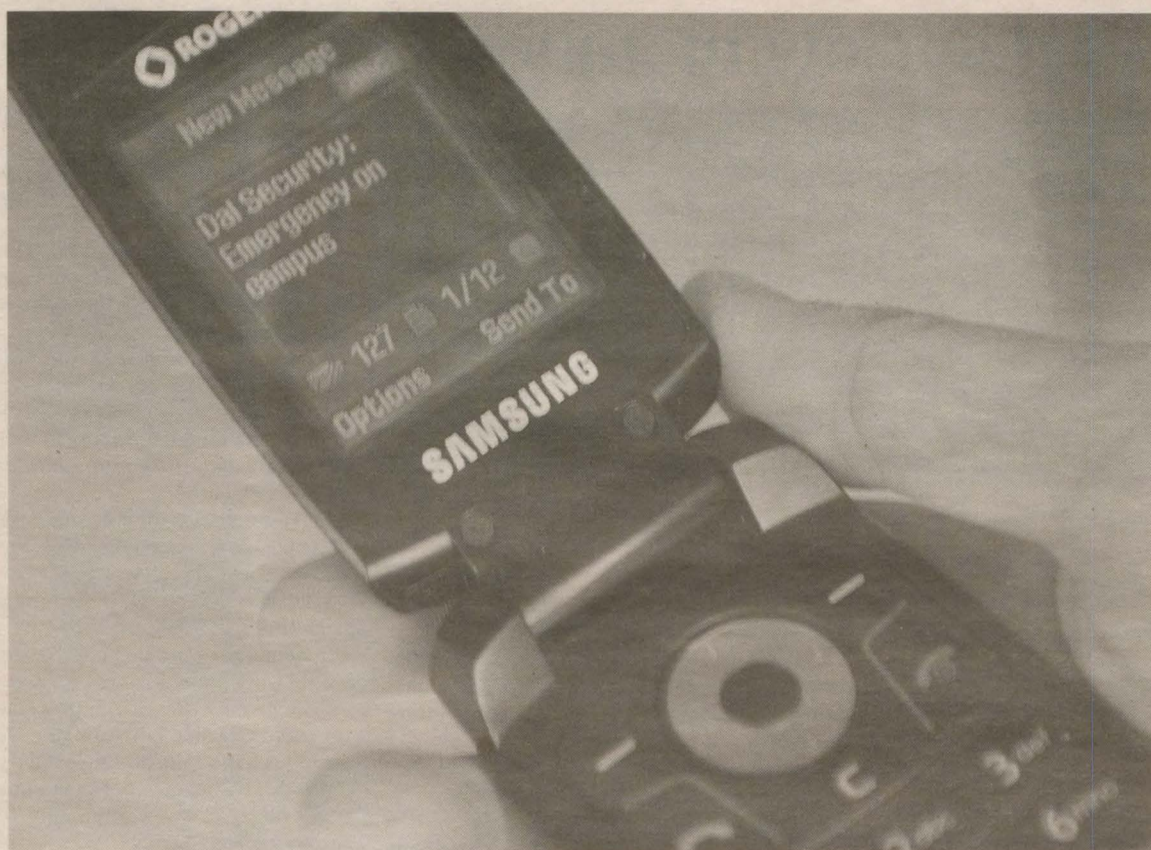
A Republicans society at the university started a petition pushing for his resignation, claiming the editorial caused advertisers to pull several thousand dollars worth of ads, resulting in job cuts for paper staff.

The bylaws of the board that oversees the paper say university officials cannot censor newspaper content or punish the occasional use of vulgar language.

"Just because it offends somebody's grandmother's sensibilities, and in this case, apparently, 300 to 500 college Republicans have had their sensibilities offended, oh well, it's just too bad," McSwane's lawyer, David Lane, told *CBS News Denver*.

The paper's advisory board held a hearing on the matter Sept. 26.

Sources: *The Associated Press*; *cbs4denver.com*.



JOSH BOYTER/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Some students are concerned Dal's plan to set up a security text messaging system would exclude students without cellphone.

Proposed messaging system faces obstacles

JAMES MUNSON
GAZETTE STAFF

Dalhousie students with cellphones may be safer during campus emergencies if the university follows through on its plan to deliver security alerts via text messages.

Dal is currently developing a cellphone messaging system that could quickly ensure students' security in emergencies, school officials say.

Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby says the university may send out text messages to students who voluntarily submit their phone numbers to the administration in case of fire, severe weather or violence on campus.

"It's still in the discussion phase, but it's looking increasingly like we're going this route," he says.

But before Dal can implement a widespread alert system, the university needs to consider the cost, Crosby adds. Students may have to pay for emergency alerts they receive under local cellphone service providers.

"The way the system is set up right now, for example, is if a text message goes out, it would be charged to the person who owns the cellphone," he says. "We're trying to work around that."

Troy Saunders, a third-year computer science student, says he wouldn't be worried about the messaging cost.

"Honestly, I would be willing to pay if something were to happen. It sounds like a good safety precaution."

But some students are concerned the system would exclude those who

don't have regular access to a cellphone.

"Myself, I don't have a cellphone so I wouldn't be able to take advantage of it," says Chris Girouard.

The second-year commerce student says all students should have the same access to security information.

"If not everyone has a cellphone, not everyone would be able to take advantage," Girouard says.

Crosby says Dal will continue to inform students by mass e-mail, classroom phone lines and loudspeakers, such as the ones already installed on some campus patrol cars.

Another hurdle in the project, Crosby says, is making sure text messages would be able to reach students throughout the school's three campuses.

"There are certain parts of the campus where right now, cell access is not 100 per cent, like the basement of the LSC (Life Sciences Centre), for example," Crosby says. "So you can't rely entirely on one system, because every system will have gaps."

Crosby says there are other options if text messaging doesn't do the job.

"It may seem almost trite, but having a security officer go out and broadcast something over a megaphone can work," says Crosby. "It may sound overly simplistic, (but) sometimes you need to do everything you can."

John Sherwood, executive director of University Computing and Information Services, says student participation is key to running a school-wide text messaging service

because students would have to volunteer their phone numbers and personal information.

Sherwood also says Dal officials wouldn't be able to determine the likelihood of a cellphone network overload in an emergency unless the system were to crash.

Maintaining full cellphone service was a bigger priority than implementing a text message security system for the administration at Dawson College, a Montreal school where a fatal shooting claimed the life of one student last year.

Donna Varrica, a spokesperson for the college, says the school spent a quarter of a million dollars on other security initiatives before considering text messaging as an emergency response system.

"We're assessing the SMS (short messaging service) system to see if it's working in other schools. It's not in the plans right now," says Varrica.

She says more pressing security needs included rewiring many communication systems in the building as well as putting in an expensive announcing system and adding 27 new cellular antennas.

"A cell phone crash is unlikely, which is what happened last year," she says.

Varrica says the main reason the school is considering a text messaging system is because in the immediate aftermath of last year's shooting, students spread word of the crisis with their cellphones.

"A lot of the evacuation was thanks to the informal chain of students text messaging each other."



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Computer science students at Washington State Univer-

Sources: *The Associated Press*; *cbs4denver.com*.

Students try to hold non-Dal society members accountable

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Students have more questions than answers as they try to help create a student union policy that could dictate new rules for nearly 250 student groups at Dalhousie.

Roughly 50 Dal and University of King's College students, as well as a few interested community members, gathered to point out problems with the union's current policy while discussing possible solutions at the DSU's 'Imagine Societies' public consultation Sept. 25.

The existing society policy, which was written in 2004 and has never been enforced, prohibits non-Dal students from holding executive positions within societies and does not allow them to vote at society meetings. At least 30 Dal societies currently break those rules, so the union decided to consult students before it rewrites the policy later this year.

The students, many of them society representatives, debated in small groups two questions the union asked: "Should non-Dalhousie students be able to hold DSU society executive positions?" and "Should there be a different means of selecting DSU society executives



JOSH BOYTER/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Roughly 50 students attended the DSU's Imagine event to develop a new society policy.

other than a majority vote?"

Fourth-year student Brian MacInnes, like most participants, tackled the first question.

"I don't have a clue how to solve this problem," the Dal Commerce Society president said, after recommending the new policy consider King's students separately from other society members who don't pay student union fees. He echoed popular sentiment when he said King's students have a special relationship with Dal students and widely contribute to Dal societies.

Colin Conrad, secretary for Dal's debating society (SODALES),

said that society has several King's students as members and requires student involvement from schools across the city.

"This is extremely restricting in the sense that we are limiting inter-school relationships," Conrad said. "The King's-Dal relationship is the most important thing."

First-year Dal student and fellow SODALES member Vikram Rai agreed.

"We hope our society will still survive when we leave (these discussions)."

Many students from both Dal and King's suggested students from other schools pay at least a portion of the DSU's annual \$113 full-time student

fee. Others discussed the possibility of implementing a Dal student quota for society memberships, similar to the King's Students' Union society mandate which states that a minimum of one executive member must be a King's student.

Melissa Buote, a non-student employee of the campus radio station CKDU (a C-Level society that collects a direct student levy and doesn't have a seat on council), said the new policy should overhaul the DSU's existing society hierarchy. Instead of one general policy for all DSU societies, she said, the union should have different guidelines for

each society level so groups can follow the rules more easily.

"Instead of saying, 'change all your society policies,' say 'change the type of society you are.'"

But for Chris Kolmatycki, DSU council representative for the commerce society, the solution may be enforcing the existing policy.

He said the union should consider allowing time for societies that are currently temporarily ratified to change their constitutions so they fall in line with the ban on non-Dal executive members.

"The constitutions of the (individual) societies need more changes than the overall policy," he said.

Rosalie Hanlon, DSU vice-president (internal), said after the event she hadn't yet found a solution that would work for everyone.

"In some cases it's appropriate for non-DSU members to be on Dal societies," she said, adding she's trying to find a balance between equal opportunity and accountability for the new society policy.

The student union plans to collect student responses and form an ad-hoc committee, which is open to all students, to formulate a new policy and implement the rules starting next school year.

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Shock therapy

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

A disturbing incident took place at the University of Florida this past week. Student Andrew Meyer was demanding answers from former presidential candidate John Kerry at a speaking engagement when campus police Tasered him.

The response of campus police, caught on tape and currently circulating in several popular videos on YouTube, was a clear overreaction to any threat Meyer may have posed.

For law enforcement officers to Taser someone while they are clearly subdued, and at an academic forum no less, is a reprehensible act that we as citizens in a free society ought not to tolerate.

Even as I am utterly appalled by this incident from a moral standpoint, I have to admit I found myself fighting to restrain laughter as I watched things unfold on the video.

Having endured four full years of university, I've run across countless individuals just like the Tasered young man.

I've had one too many classes disrupted by pompous, discussion-hijacking twits, and I've dreamt of brutalizing more than a few of them myself.

It's not that I support the actions of the police officers, who were wholly in the wrong. It was simply pleasurable to watch a secret, long-repressed fantasy of mine play out before my eyes.

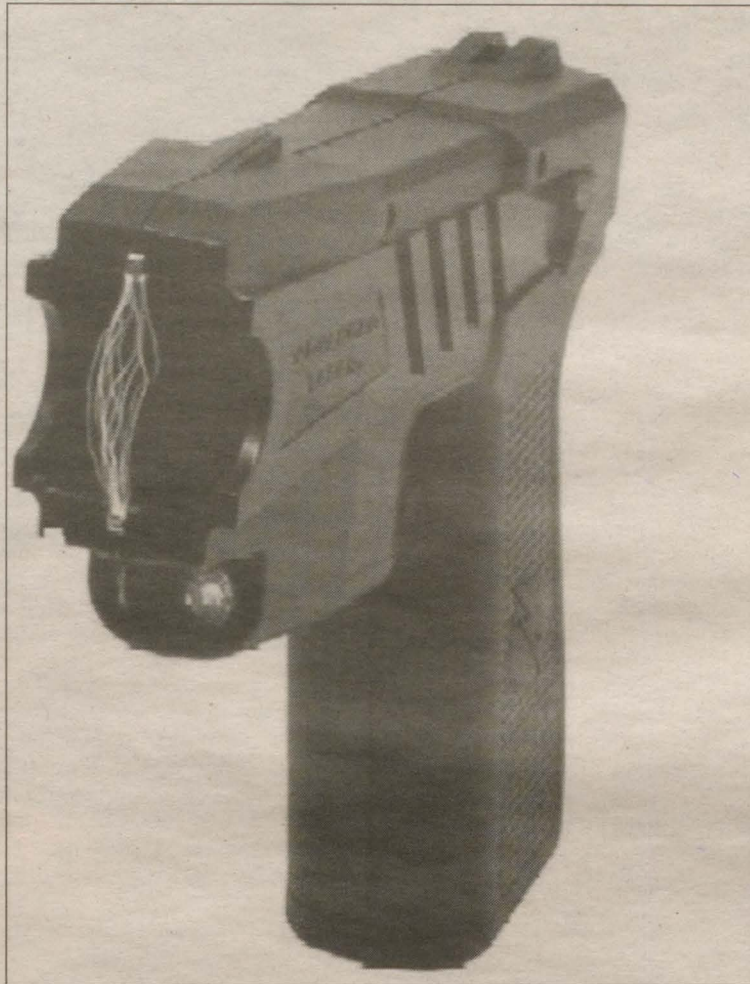
This got me thinking - could it be possible to use the joy of watching guys like this howl to help 'shape' free speech? I believe I may have the answer.

Envision this if you will. It's your Friday tutorial and things are winding down to a close. Just as you are discretely starting to pack up, the Michael Moore fan in your group hijacks the discussion for the eighteenth time this class.

As he attempts the long, convoluted task of relating *The Canterbury Tales* to the war in Iraq, you realize it will be sometime Saturday afternoon before the professor manages to shut him up.

You look around the classroom and notice many of your fellow classmates reaching for their handy remote controllers. Grabbing your own device, you eagerly input the speaker's seat number.

If 50 per cent of the class agrees his time is up, he receives a jolt of public opinion.



Volts, not votes, are the key to democracy.

Welcome to the world of the Democra-Shock system.

All classroom seats will be wired to emit excruciating bursts of electricity upon command. Every student will be assigned a number and a seat at the start of class, and provided with a handy remote controller.

The procedure for shocking an individual will be familiar to anyone who has used the Classroom Performance System at Dalhousie. But instead of answering multiple choice questions, students will be able to input seat numbers of those they wish to see shocked.

As we ought to maintain the right to free speech, everyone will be granted immunity from shocking the first time they contribute in class each day, up to a maximum of two minutes.

The percentage of class consensus needed to initiate shocking will start at 95 per cent, and for each subsequent interjection, drop by ten

percent, to a minimum of 50 percent.

If a person feels the need to talk more than five times in one class and they have nothing useful to contribute, a simple majority is all you need to send a 5,000 Volt request for moderation. It's direct democracy in action. The Athenians would be proud.

If the Democra-Shock system is successful at Dal, we can expand the concept to the rest of the world. Imagine if jackasses everywhere had to face the consequences of their unrestrained speech.

No longer would rowdy teenagers ruin trips to the movies for the rest of us or would hockey parents get away with screaming obscenities at five-year-olds.

This system would end the establishment's monopoly on shocking and give (electrical) power to the people. If things went especially well, we could even consider wiring the halls of the political elite.



Don't show me the Benjamins.

Parity paranoia

JUSTIN LORUSSO
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday of last week, the US dollar and the Canadian loonie reached parity for the first time since November 1976.

For those of you still scratching your heads, wondering what parity means, it is a one to one ratio. Not one to a half and not one to three quarters, as you were probably more accustomed to seeing the value of the Canadian dollar in your lifetime.

If you're a frequent border bargain hunter, this is a dream come true. Travelling all the way to Maine just to shop at outlet stores actually seems worth it, when you compare the price of your purchases to the cost of gas.

For the small American student population at Dal, this is an absolute nightmare. Many of us students from below the 49th parallel came to Canada as a last effort to find affordable and credible academic institutions. It was a good idea at the time, considering that many in-state tuition rates far exceed Dal's exorbitant cost.

I was able to maintain a small sense of calm when we students received the news each year that fees would be increasing by approximately \$1,000 per semester.

We American students were still getting an exchange rate of \$1.50 to \$1.25 for each US dollar we took out in loans. This means our debt didn't change whether we were studying in Canada or the U.S.

Sadly, this time has passed and many of us Yankees are scrambling to find that extra dollar stuck in a couch, a credit line or a credit card. Even a poorly thought-out pyramid scheme seems like a good plan in

order to avoid resorting to Kraft Dinner, prostitution or actually budgeting our spending cash.

The loonie's parity with the US dollar exacerbates the already dire financial situation of many American students paying their way at Dal. I'm not looking forward to paying my loans in a system rife with fraud and debt, meant to keep banking institutions in students' pockets for decades to come.

Avoiding this fate is up to you. I advise my fellow foreign students to research various debt relief and refinancing options for post-graduation. Contact your loan officer and find out what sort of consolidation options you will have upon completion of your degree. This is the best way to avoid paying loan debts while your children are thinking of post-secondary education.

This is also a great reason for everyone to start paying attention to what goes on at the DSU and what is being proposed on the BAC (Budget Advisory Committee) report, so we can do something to stem the never-ending rise in our differential fees.

Simply comparing the difference in loan debt between Canadians and Americans is enough to keep my attention. The average Canadian student's debt after a four-year bachelor's degree is approximately \$22,000.

For an American like myself, the average annual loan is \$20,000 to \$25,000. After four years of a bachelor's degree, this adds up to roughly \$80,000 to \$100,000.

This scary situation is only made more daunting by the loonie's parity to the US dollar. Stay informed and get involved so you can keep out of debt.

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The Scientific Skeptic

Welcome to the modern skeptical movement

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

We can be so easily manipulated if we don't question what we want to believe. As long as there are people or belief systems that take advantage of the unskeptical, there will be skeptics, like me, who seek to debunk them.

Last August, British biologist Richard Dawkins switched his focus from his controversial views on evolution and atheism to astrology, life after death mediums and spoonbenders in his documentary, *The Enemies of Reason*.

Dawkins believes these beliefs emotionally manipulate their followers and are an affront to scientific thought.

Dawkins is not alone. For many years, a small yet vocal minority of self-titled 'skeptics' have been gathering together and taking on pseudoscience and the paranormal. They are the modern skeptical movement.

Perhaps it would be better to refer to the 'skeptic' movement as scientific skepticism. Skeptics believe reality is best investigated by scientific method and that all claims should be held in doubt until they can be proved by experiment.

In this case, skeptics of global warming do not belong in the skeptical movement because evidence is not on their side.

Harry Houdini is generally considered to be the pioneer of the modern skeptical movement. After his mother died, Houdini developed an interest in communication with the afterlife.

He was disappointed by the simple magic tricks used by so-called mediums. Houdini exposed the acts of many famous mediums and psychics. He desperately wanted to believe in the afterlife, but he didn't want to be fooled.

Before he died, Houdini made a

pact with his wife that if there was a way to come back from the dead, he would use it to deliver a 10-word message. Despite the attempts of many spiritualists to convince his wife that he had sent her messages, she never fully believed Houdini had returned.

Following in Houdini's footsteps is Canadian magician James Randi. Starting in the 1960s, Randi has offered a million dollars to any psychic or medium who can successfully demonstrate their abilities in a controlled and pre-agreed upon arrangement.

When performer Uri Geller claimed he did his tricks by psychokinesis and other psychic powers, Randi demonstrated the same tricks could be done using stage illusions.

Randi was also responsible for the 'Project Alpha' hoax. The McDonnell Laboratory for Psychological Research was financed by an eccentric millionaire in 1979. Researchers in the lab observed people bending spoons and tried to prove they weren't doing it by magic.

'Project Alpha' is the code name Randi gave to planting two of his prodigy magicians in the project. They used conjuring tricks to fool the researchers, proving that even 'observant' and 'educated' people can be duped.

Around the world, amateur skeptics are gathering together through organizations, annual conferences and podcasts. Shows like Penn & Teller: *Bullshit!*, *Mythbusters* and *South Park* are considered to be 'skeptical' shows. They seek to debunk urban myths and commonly held views in our society. In the United States, there are two magazines, *Skeptic* and *Skeptical Inquirer*, devoted solely to skeptic issues.

However, modern skepticism is a movement run by human beings, who are not perfect judges of reality. The best we can do is always question our beliefs.

Facing my (in)securities

JENNA CONTER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Growing up in Halifax has made me about as safety conscious as the happy-go-lucky Cleaver family of the 1950s. That is to say, not at all. Attending primary to Grade 12 at a sheltered private school did little to change this perspective.

My first close encounter with a campus that didn't feel like Bayside from *Saved by the Bell* came when I attended Queen's University for the first year of my undergraduate degree.

One night, someone was stabbed in a bar that was frequented by students. That's just one example of the crime committed in Kingston while I was at Queen's. The following year, when I became a proud Dalhousie student, I couldn't help but feel safer in my familiar Halifax bubble.

That bubble was unceremoniously popped when at 1 a.m. on Sept. 11 of this year, a man was found stabbed and bleeding in the bushes that frame the Common. Although I was already aware of the Common's violent reputation, the event got me thinking about the risk of such violence in the university community.

Campus violence exploded in

Montreal in early September 2006. A gunman entered Dawson College and opened fired on students. He killed one woman and left 19 people injured.

This was a reminder to campuses all over North America that they were not the safe institutions people imagined them to be. Another reminder came the following year in Blacksburg, Virginia, at Virginia Tech.

Though I'm not trying to sound like a fear-mongering American newscaster, I find it hard not to think violence could occur on our campus.

Blue Light security posts attempt to make us feel safe around campus in the event of an emergency. But I can't fully depend on these to feel safe. I find it hard to imagine myself running across campus, trying to escape an attacker and having the time to stop, make a phone call and wait for campus security - especially given their inadequate response time.

Campus security must also be present to let ambulances into residences. Amanda Reid, who used to work front desk at Gerard Hall, witnessed the downside of this ridiculous regulation.

"Some kids were messing around in the elevator and ended up getting pretty hurt," she says. "It wasn't an emergency or anything, but we had to wait for campus security to show up before we were allowed to let the paramedics in. If they didn't wait, we would have been fired."

She added that the same rules would have applied even in the event of a more serious accident.

I don't feel completely satisfied with the Tiger Patrol, either. It offers a walk home service between 6 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., leaving students to fend for themselves for the rest of the evening. The Tiger Bus runs during the same hours, but will only pick you up if you're close to campus. It will refuse to pick you up if you are outside of its route. We shouldn't have to wait for a tragedy before Dal improves this system.

Though it pains me to admit it, Halifax is not the *Pleasantville* I grew up in. Security on campus is simply not up to the standards current social realities demand. I myself have snuck into several residences on campus without a problem. Though I was merely visiting friends, it scares me to think what a person with ill intentions may be able to accomplish.



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In Risley Hall:

Girl: I love having a watch 'cause when the prof lets us out early, I can look at it and say, "Hey! He let us out early!"

In the Dunn Building's computer lab:

Student: Is the midterm going to be hard?
Prof: I expect mass suicides.

In the Killam:

Guy holding a bagel: This is some thick butter.
Girl: Umm, that's cream cheese.

On Barrington Street:

Girl: She said she doesn't want to speak to me anymore.

Guy: Why?

Girl: She said I'm a horrible person.
Guy: Oh.

In History of Science and Technology:

Prof: So, can anyone tell me what a chair essentially is?
Student: Something to tie hot chicks to.
Class: (silence)
Prof: Well, there are lots of things you could tie hot chicks to.

In Shirreff Hall:

Guy 1: So is the guy that wants to fight you big?
Guy 2: Yeah.
Guy 1: I'm sure you can take him, you're a varsity swimmer.

Guy 2: Yeah, but we're fighting not swimming!

In Risley Hall:

Girl: Absinthe? Like, 'absinthe makes the heart grow fonder'?

Outside the Killam:

Girl: I'll try to help you, but I'm not smart.

On Jubilee:

Guy: Here's my theory about smoking: it's like eating hot dogs. If you eat a pack a day, you're gonna get fucked up, but if you eat one on the weekend while you're drinking, it's OK.

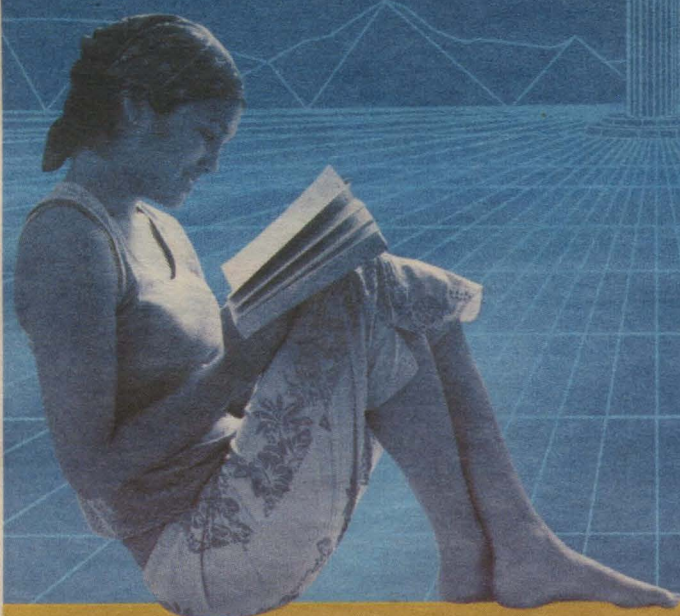
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Word up

JEN BOND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I let out a squeal of delight when I walked into the Cunard Centre for The Word On The Street festival. The organizers divided the convention centre with street signs indicating various literary 'landmarks.' As I wandered down 'The Yellow Brick Rd.,' I started to wonder if anyone was as excited as I was.

Word On The Street is a national literary festival that takes place in various cities across the country, including Halifax. It brings together groups that are interested and involved in literacy, both from commercial and non-profit sectors.

Publishing houses have stands alongside miniature bookstores. Next to these are stands for groups promoting adult literacy. The variety of groups present at this annual festival demonstrates that literature is still relevant.

Some people have declared the death of the written word. They are willing to cast it aside, deeming it slain by an internet insurgency. I am more optimistic than that, prepared to believe reading and writing can co-exist with text messages, web boards and amateur bloggers with no copy editors.

A panel discussion, hosted by comic bookstore Strange Adventures, addressed the relationship between different literary forms. J. Torres, Mike Lobel, Ramon Perez and Christopher Jackson from the *Degrassi* graphic novel series sat down to talk about how the book has evolved.

One of the topics they touched on was the relationship between the *Degrassi* comic and the TV show, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

The comic, they said, has the luxury of being able to develop sets and costumes the show just doesn't have the budget for. The comic also has the ability to 'fill in the blanks' in the show's story line.

Fans can go online to discuss



JOHN PACKMAN/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The cartoonists behind the *Degrassi* graphic novel sign autographs for fans.

character developments and plot twists on the show's website. It's a great example of how technology can interact with literature - yes, comics can be literature - and hopefully encourage a generation that doesn't only read what their Grade 9 English teacher assigns them.

Another example of how technology has helped to increase the availability of the written word could be found at the VoicePrint booth. VoicePrint Canada is a national reading service that broadcasts stories from various print sources both on TV and online through its websites.

Voiceprint makes the written word available to people who have

low literary or bad vision. By the organization's estimate, roughly 8 million Canadians make use of the service. That's 8 million more people being exposed to print media than there would have been without this technology. Peaceful co-existence at work. It's a beautiful thing.

The written word is not dead. It's just attempting to evolve and find its niche within our technology-driven society. We shouldn't shun it because it may not look quite like its former self. We should embrace it and be thankful it's still around, and thankful that festivals like The Word On The Street come to Halifax to remind us of that.



Gazette

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

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

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

University must research before implementing text message security system

Dalhousie needs to do what it can to keep students safe and ensure the aftermath of any security crisis is dealt with using the best and most effective means available. Dal can't prevent tragedies like the ones at Dawson College and Virginia Tech, but it can do its best to make sure its response is quick and professional.

Before implementing a text messaging security system to warn students of an emergency, Dal must temper its temptation to use the newest technology with the cost-effectiveness of such a system. It must determine whether texting would fill a gap in security response and evaluate whether it's the best option.

Presumably, texting would be most useful during the moments immediately following an emergency. It would warn students unaware of the danger to avoid a certain part of campus.

But is there a cheaper and equally effective system that could be implemented? If security officials can secure an area or part of a building, they could warn students in person.

A spokesperson for Dal said security staff could use a megaphone to keep students away from danger once campus security is aware of a crisis. Another method would be to use a PA system. This would perform the same job at a much cheaper price than a text messaging system.

However, to ensure that as many students as possible are safe from danger, a text messaging system could reach students who can't hear a megaphone or see security authorities.

A preliminary task that Dal would have to undertake before implementing the system would be to ensure that there wouldn't be a cellphone network overload and that all

parts of the campus are cellphone-accessible.

Security officials at Dawson College addressed both of these concerns. They've implemented new antennas and cellphone carriers have assured them that a crash is highly unlikely. They've also ensured that cellphone range is clear everywhere on campus, including the school's four basement floors.

Here at Dal, cellphone coverage does not extend to every corner of the campus. Officials at Dal aren't sure if a cellphone crash would occur either. Both these issues must be dealt with before a text messaging system can be put in place.

Dal must also evaluate whether enough students have cellphones on campus to warrant a texting system. The school must also find out how many students would actually volunteer for the program.

Dal says a text messaging system could be used to warn students of severe weather and school closures. But e-mail and postings on the Dal website are sufficient to warn students about dangerous weather, if looking out the window wasn't already enough. School closures are hardly a life-or-death situation.

Before we add another costly layer to Dal's security strategy, Dal has to determine that texting fills a need that can't be met by any other means. However attractive the speed of texting might be, cruder methods may be just as fast and effective.

Reaching as many students as possible is important, but Dal must assure students that they would actually receive a text message if they were in danger anywhere on campus.

Perhaps we should take a lesson from Dawson College, which devoted its time and funds to developing and improving other security systems before spending it on texting.

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Here's an excerpt from the Chronicle Herald September 14th, 2007

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STREETER

Should students with the mumps be quarantined in cages or on a small islands?



“Island, because they could keep each other company.”

Brechen Macrae, first-year arts



“A small island. Cages seem a bit inhumane.”

Laura Achenbach, first-year theatre



“A really small island, so they can only affect a small population with their disease.”

Jessica Waters, fifth-year science



“A small island, they're warm and there's water.”

Courtney Phillips, first-year science



“I would only feel safe if they were kept in separate cages on an island.”

Travis MacLean, first-year kinesiology



“I think island, you could make a good Survivor game out of it.”

Ben Irvine, first-year arts



“Cages, I think it would be easier than putting them on a island.”

Evan McCarvill, fourth-year biology



“A caged island, a cross between Jurassic Park and an infirmary.”

James Munson, half-year health promotion

After receiving his MA at McGill and his PhD at Waterloo, Jason Haslam is now an assistant professor in Dalhousie's English department. His courses include first-year Intro to Literature and a second-year science fiction course. Next term, he'll be starting a course on modern utopias at King's.



Prof Talk

Q. Who are some of your favourite authors?
A. Samuel R. Delany, Octavia Butler, Jack Kerouac, to name a few. I reread Frank Herbert all the time, who wrote the *Dune* series. When I was young I also read a lot of bad Jim Morrison poetry.

Q. Which is Dal's coolest department, other than your own?
A. I have some friends in Classics. When I was in high school, though, a friend and I did a research project on yeast reproduction – we made beer – and that was at the Dal Bio department. There's a lot of coolness there for that reason.

Q. You took FYP at King's when you were a student. What do you think is the difference between King's kids and Dal kids?
A. That's a dangerous question. Individually, there is no difference. Culturally, it's different to be at a more community-oriented university like King's than a bigger institution like Dal. Both have their positives and negatives, but the positives of each outweigh the negatives, for both universities.

Q. What are your favourite shows?
A. Geek shows. I like the new *Doctor Who*, *Battlestar Galactica*, Joss Whedon's stuff. I also like *NCIS* and *The Passionate Eye*.

Q. Are you on Facebook yet?
A. Yes. In fact, I've even seen myself quoted on 'Overheard at Dal.' But I have a policy of not having current undergrads as Facebook 'friends.'

Q. Is English an art or a science?
A. It's a humanities study. It falls between the two. In the first half of the 20th century there were those who tried to make it a science, but these attempts are always doomed to fail. I always tell my students that in some studies you get your own floor or section in the Killam, but in English, because our foundation is language, you have the whole library.

Q. Is there a course you'd love to teach?
A. I'm already teaching great courses. A full-year sci-fi course? That doesn't happen. I'd like, though, to do an undergrad course on prison literature, particularly modern prison literature.

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Even in his youth

NICK KHATTER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Kurt Cobain was one of the world's most beloved grunge rockers and manic-depressives.

You can watch the TV specials, read the books and obsess over his diaries, but nothing will bring you closer to the heart and soul of him than *Kurt Cobain About a Son*.

The film played on Sept. 19 as part of the Atlantic Film Festival. Directed by AJ Schnack, *About a Son* is an impressionistic portrait of Cobain's life.

Narrated by conversations taken from over 25 hours of recorded interviews by journalist Micheal Azerrad, this pseudo-documentary is a showcase of Cobain's reflections on his life and the world around him.

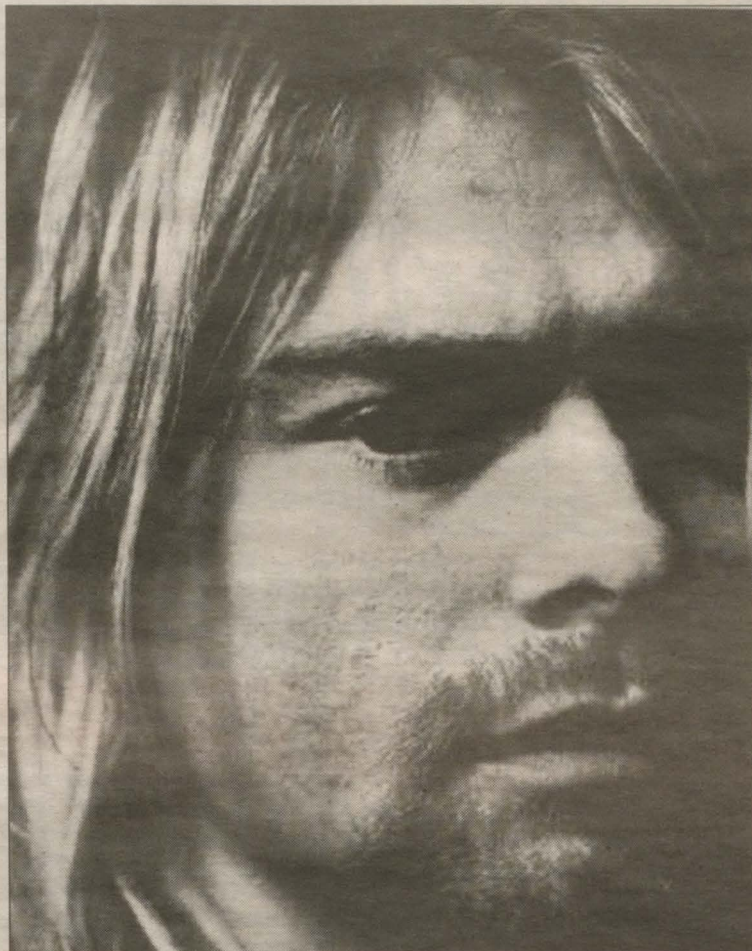
The interviews, which Azerrad held between 1992 and 1993 for his book *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*, had never been heard before.

The film is not really a documentary, but rather a slideshow smeared with the feelings and reflections of a misunderstood artist and accompanied by a sound track composed according to Cobain's musical taste.

Artists like Iggy Pop, David Bowie and Arlo Guthrie play over pictures of industrial Aberdeen, flamboyantly artistic Olympia, and dreary Seattle. Death Cab For Cutie's Ben Gibbard and Nirvana producer Steve Fisk composed the rhythmic, wave-like score.

The movie starts off slowly, but perks up within the first 20 minutes with obscure animation resembling Cobain's own artwork. The film combines this animation with Cobain talking about how he felt like an alien his parents adopted.

Cobain talks about his mischievous



Kurt Cobain *About a Son* takes never been seen footage and shows Cobain's life through slide show and musical backdrop.

childhood spent throwing cans of rocks at police cars and how he liked people thinking he was gay in high school because of the conflict it presented.

In Cobain's anti-drug spiel, he speaks of how his paranoia and desire for drugs faded with the birth of his child.

When you see the picture of Cobain in his white pajamas playing

with his daughter and wife, you can't but help shed a tear.

About a Son is a rollercoaster of Cobain's thoughts and feelings, as he expresses his love for Courtney, bitter feelings towards his father and uncertainty for the kids of the next generation.



Made in Jamaica's inconsistent filming style takes away from the film's message.

Atlantic Film Festival: Made in Jamaica

CHRIS METLER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Jérôme Laperrousaz's *Made in Jamaica* is an engaging, if flawed, look at the social, cultural and economic factors that are currently impoverishing Jamaica. The film, which played on Sept. 16 at this year's Atlantic Film Festival, explores how those factors have influenced the musical sounds and styles native to the island.

Made in Jamaica begins with a news report of the gang-related murder of a well-known dancer known as Bogle. The murder of the popular dancer stunned members of the Jamaican community.

Laperrousaz then aims the camera at the artists and lets them speak their minds. They discuss where their music came from, how their society has played a part in their evolution as musicians, how their music helps their communities and where Jamaica is going as a nation and as a musical hotbed.

It features the music and insight of such reputable reggae and dance-

hall artists as Bounty Killer, Elephant Man, Capleton and Bunny Wailer.

While these themes typically combine to make an effective formula for music-based documentaries, *Made in Jamaica* lacks the true craft to be considered in the same league as such landmarks as *The Last Waltz*, *Bob Marley: Rebel Music* and *Rhyme & Reason*.

The film is uneven, with Laperrousaz moving from artist to artist and back again without establishing any cohesiveness between them.

This is not to say what they believe is unimportant, only that it begins to be repetitive without any real structure.

As a result, music becomes the film's main focus rather than the issues the artists talk about.

The music is infectious and there isn't a hint of Jamaican-based music that is ignored or unexplored. With the aid of captions, the often hard-to-decipher lyrics of dancehall reggae are given relevance by revealing some truly socially-conscious lyrics.

Made in Jamaica is an enjoyable look at the musical pulse of a nation.

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Reservation Road

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Reservation Road displays that nothing is heavier than the weight of guilt or stronger than the bonds of love.

The film, shown on Sept. 20 as part of the Atlantic Film Festival, depicts the lives of two family men - college professor Ethan Learner (Joaquin Phoenix) and lawyer Dwight Arno (Mark Ruffalo).

In an accidental hit-and-run, Arno's SUV kills Learner's son, Josh, at a gas station in a quaint Connecticut town.

Learner embarks on a frenzied pursuit to identify his son's killer, as Arno desperately attempts to hide his blame.

Phoenix does a remarkable job of playing a grief-stricken father, immersed in a world of suspicion and chat rooms, desperately seeking resolution.

Sharing his spotlight is Ruffalo, portraying a recently divorced dad

who cherishes time spent watching Boston Red Sox games with his son, Lucas (Eddie Alderson) during his weekend custody.

Director Terry George provides a beautiful contrast in this film, as Josh's death causes Ethan to isolate himself from his wife and daughter, but forces Dwight to strengthen his relationship with Lucas.

Twists punctuate the grim plotline as both protagonists suffer weakness.

The solution to this weakness is articulated during a talk between Dwight and Lucas: "Sometimes you gotta stand up and be a man."

The film boasts a supporting cast that includes Mira Sorvino, Jennifer Connelly and Elle Fanning, the younger sister of Hollywood wunderkind Dakota Fanning.

Through heartbreak and forgiveness, *Reservation Road* tells an entangled story of the people worth fighting for and fighting against. It illuminates that the most significant struggle of all is the struggle within yourself.



Jenn Grant & Great Lake Swimmers

KARYN HAAG
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Jenn Grant has come a long way in the past few years. Grant graduated from NSCAD, recorded *Orchestra for the Moon* at Halifax's CBC studios, appeared on the cover of Halifax's weekly, *The Coast*, and graced the pages of *The Globe and Mail*.

She's got to be feeling good, and it translates to her live show.

In spite of shoddy sound for her set at St. Matthew's United Church on Sept. 18, Grant danced through her set, playing selections from *Orchestra for the Moon* with the usual giggle and girlish charm that has

won her so many admirers.

Great Lake Swimmers had the audience mesmerized from the first note. The band released its sophomore album *Ongiara* in March, full of more melancholy lullabies.

St. Matthew's was, as always, the perfect venue for the band to lull the crowd away from their everyday cares and into a state of relaxation.

Since its most recent Halifax show at last year's Halifax Pop Explosion, Great Lake Swimmers has evolved.

The band dared to experiment with more prominent instrumentation, and its ethereal sound reached the highest rafters of the church.

The Miracle Worker works miracles at Neptune

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

It takes time and hard work to teach a bold and stubborn person like Helen Keller. In Neptune Theatre's presentation of *The Miracle Worker*, the cast displays that knowledge is worth the effort.

Andrea Lee Norwood, who plays Keller, has impeccable characterization throughout the play. For a character who has no way of communicating, Norwood makes Keller's inner struggle apparent in the way she interacts with other characters and with her surroundings.

Keller's teacher, Annie Sullivan (Krista Laveck) is strong and witty, even as she struggles with her own past. The character of Sullivan is a good contrast to her frustrated pupil.

Eerie music and narration are used to tell the story of how Sullivan lost her brother and grew up in an asylum.

The Keller's house is the main setting for the play. The stage is divided into two parts: the dining area and Sullivan's room.

Keller's frustration and reluctance to learn are represented in a scene in which Sullivan tries to teach her table manners. Sullivan needs to break Keller down in order to start her learning process.

Sullivan's goal is not just to teach Keller proper etiquette. She wants her pupil to gain knowledge.

In the play, Sullivan says, "Obe-



The *Miracle Worker* gets standing ovation opening night at Neptune Theatre.

dience without understanding is blindness, too."

The well-known scene at the end, in which Keller finally understands the concept of water, is delivered so emotionally that several sniffles could be heard throughout

the crowd on opening night.

The play even received a standing ovation.

The Miracle Worker runs until Oct. 14. Sign language interpreters will be present at the final performance.

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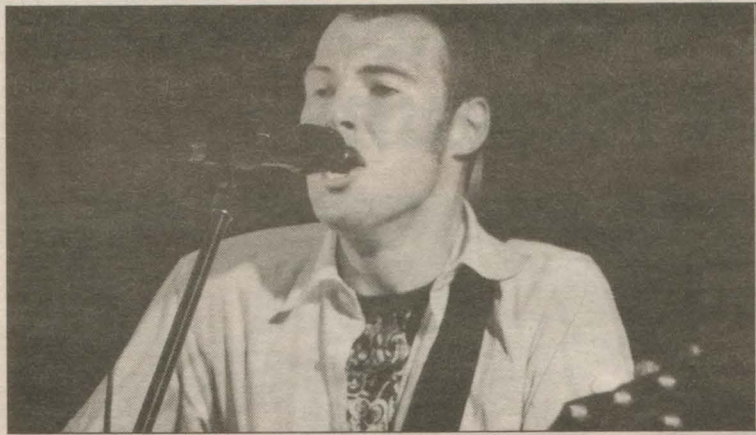
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Telfer funkifies The Frigate

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

The sounds of New Brunswick's Telfer filled The Frigate on Sept. 19. The small venue below Pégue-Fadé provided a great location for the band to play their acoustic guitar-based funk.

Telfer is Tommy on guitar and vocals, Bobby McIsaac on guitar, Jon Goud on bass and Matt Piper on drums. The 19- to 25-year-olds have a unique pop-funk sound and a great dynamic on stage.

Green opened for his band with a solo performance. Green plans on releasing his solo album by Halloween.

He has been singing and playing guitar for six years, but has only been playing professionally since March. Green describes Telfer's sound as, "nice, laid back, funk happy music."

Green writes most of the songs for the band.

"I pick up my guitar and doodle, and something will happen, and if I like it, I'll keep it," he says. "I'll play that song for maybe a year, until all

of a sudden, some idea will happen. I'll really let that feeling of the music guide the lyrics."

The band's name comes from Green's own middle name, which has ancestral routes in his family.

"I like the name Telfer because it doesn't mean anything to anyone," he says. "I want our sound to slowly, hopefully, be what you think of when you hear (the name) Telfer."

Green's philosophies come through in his lyrics. In 'Ale,' he sings of wishing humans didn't evolve to the point of self-consciousness.

He sings of being jealous of a monkey because the monkey doesn't realize it's naked and is laughing at him.

"I like to tell stories through my lyrics," Green says.

Green's fantastic voice and enthusiasm make his lyrics seem genuine. His melodic voice projected emotion in his performance at The Frigate. McIsaac displayed budding genius in his guitar solos, and the band came together with harmonic perfection in each song.

Nice night for a Picnicface

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Nothing starts a night of comedy off right like a well-placed Terry Fox joke.

Picnicface offers a hysterical multi-media show at the Sunday Night Comedy Spectacular for anyone willing to leave their political correctness at the door.

The Halifax-based sketch comedy troop has developed a cult following.

"I saw them at the Fringe Festival in Toronto" says Katie Dorian, a first-year arts and social sciences student at Dalhousie. "They are hysterical."

Every table at Ginger's Tavern was occupied on Sunday night, and the room buzzed with talk of the comedians.

When the Picnicface players took the stage, a massive cheer erupted from the audience.

The show was divided into two parts. The first part featured sketch comedy punctuated with YouTube-style videos. The second half featured a series of improv sketches.

Cheryl Hann, the only female of the group performing that night, was responsible for a side-splitting video entitled "The Glass Quill."

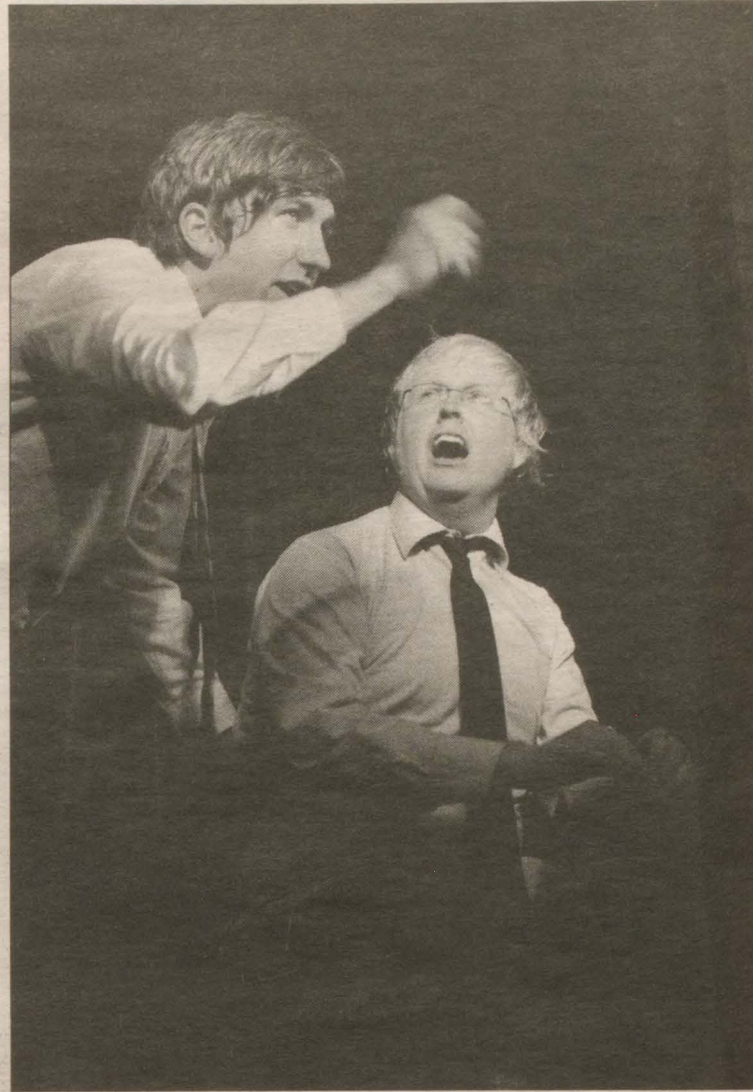
Many other Picnicface videos are available online.

Brian MacQuarrie, a member of Picnicface, had the crowd in stitches with characters like "The Douche Bag Movie Reviewer."

Mark Little, another member of the troop, is incredibly clever and a crowd favourite.

The improv sketches in the second half of the show allowed the comedians to showcase their quick wit and natural ability.

At one point during an improv sketch, the stage lights burned out, leaving the comedians in total darkness. Not missing a beat, they broke



JOSH BOYTER/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Leave your politically correct friends behind before going to Picnicface at Ginger's Tavern.

into an impromptu, old-time radio show entitled "Elliot Frank: Nazi Killer."

This is one show that is not to be missed. A night of laughter is well worth the \$5 admission.

If you love great comedy, this show may easily become a part of your Sunday routine.

The Sunday Night Comedy Spectacular takes place at Ginger's Tavern at 8pm. Tickets are \$5.

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Never Had I Ever... gotten the mumps

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

I have slight germaphobia, so last year, the scare of a widespread, infectious disease on campus kept me confined to my house. I avoided the library and other public places, except when I went to class.

Of course I was one of the people who got the mumps.

The rampant disease infiltrated my group of friends last February and the threat of it continues to loom over students at Dalhousie.

One of my friends woke up with symptoms of the mumps and was quarantined at her house, which was unfortunately connected to mine. The disease had traversed enemy lines.

After she was quarantined, I was feeling a little off, but assumed it was all in my head because I'm a bit of a hypochondriac.

The next morning, I woke up with a goose-egg-sized lump below my left ear and in horror, acknowledged this was the first sign of the dreaded infection.

My terror of doctor's offices was a problem, but I was happy to hear I was required to wear a mask while in the office. Other people would have to share the panic I felt in that little waiting room full of germs.

Proudly sporting the mask of mumps, I walked through the Dalhousie Health Services waiting room. Upon seeing me, people cov-

ered their mouths and got out of my path of viral destruction.

After I was inspected by the brave doctor, she concluded that I did, in fact, show the first signs of the mumps. I had to fill out a form.

I had to fill out a form, listing my numerous roommates, classes and after-school programs in an attempt to discover where I contracted the virus.

With the doctor's complex prescription for Advil and bed rest, I was sent back to my room for nine days of quarantined solitude.

Since a person with mumps is contagious nine days prior to showing any symptoms at all, my friends were a little worried:

"What? I hung out with her yesterday! Disgusting! Did she spread the vile disease to me!?"

"Don't go near her! She's infectious! Burn anything she's touched!"

By day two, the goose egg had a friend egg that had developed below the opposite ear, and they were taking over my neck and face. The first three days were the worst. The pain of the swelling went from excruciating in the morning to aching, fuzzy numbness in the afternoon. I was delirious and barely slept.

I was withering away from lack of appetite, but both of my salivary glands were so swollen that I looked like I was wearing a 500-pound fat suit.

Luckily, my teachers were un-

derstanding about tests and assignments, probably out of fear that I would come to class.

After days of talking to my roommates through closed doors, hearing "mump house!" yelled outside my window and watching endless episodes of *Arrested Development*, I found out glorious news:

My roommate got results back from her test. She had the mumps too.

At last! A friend to mump with.

She only had a few symptoms, so until she got her test results, she didn't think she really had the virus. So she went to The Dome and mumped those dollar drinks all night. The next day while she was studying at the Killam, she received the dreaded call from the Nova Scotia Department of Health that she had tested positive for the mumps.

My roommate and I mumped together in the living room while my other roommates overdosed on hand sanitizer and medical masks.

After five days, the pain was becoming bearable and the swelling was starting to come down. After day nine of the excruciating quarantine, I could finally go out in public. I was a bit overwhelmed by human interaction, but was thankful to have my freedom again.

If you want to avoid possible infertility, painful swelling and being treated like you have the plague, get vaccinated for the mumps at Dalhousie Health Services.



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Osheaga

NICK KHATTAR
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

What do you get when you take two hours notice, 1,600 kilometres, 50 cans of Red Bull, two friends and over 40 of the world's best bands? The answer is one ridiculous weekend at Montreal's Osheaga Music and Arts Festival.

It was Friday afternoon on Sept. 7. My class had just ended when I made the phone call.

"Hey, yeah it's me...wanna go to Osheaga? OK. Pick me up in 10."

Just like that, my friend CC and I were on our way to Montreal.

We left Halifax at around 3:30 p.m., hell-bent on making Montreal that night. I made a few phone calls and arranged a brief stop-over in Moncton to pick up a trunk-full of Red Bull to help keep us sane and on the road.

That night we ran out of gas and had to sleep in a car at a gas station about 200 kilometres outside Quebec City. After the absolute worst non-sleep I've ever had, we got up, fuelled up and continued on our way.

We reached our destination after

being delayed only once by a \$225 speeding ticket. Really, who gets a speeding ticket in Quebec?

We arrived at my friend's place at 11:30 a.m. By 12 p.m., it was time to head to Parc Jean-Drapeau.

As I walked into the park, the sounds of Brit b-boy/indie rock band Jamie-T filled the air. I proceeded to moonwalk all the way through security.

I was still fairly sober for Editors, Xavier Caféine (Montreal's own francophone rocker), Patrick Watson and Stars, but was borderline belligerent for Feist and Damien Rice. I was pass-out drunk for the Smashing Pumpkins, but I've seen them before so I didn't miss much.

Notable performances were Patrick Watson's un-amplified finale, as he sang to the crowd with nothing more than his vocal chords and a cupped hand for projection. Stars created a full-fledged dance party on stage and all over the park.

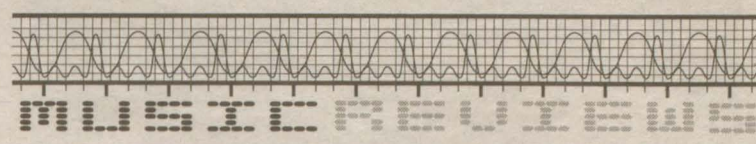
I spent the night partying, and Paolo Nutini kick-started the next day with a thigh-slapping, foot-stomping, bum-shaking set. Then Pascale Picard took things up a notch. The Montreal singer sounded like Joan Jett and looked like Peaches.

Martha Wainwright calmed things down, so I took the opportunity to get a good spot for Sam Roberts.

My feet were hurting after dancing to Sam Roberts, so I had a brief sit-down before Arctic Monkeys. This was the best decision I made all weekend, as I took a pummelling in the mosh pit. After this beating, I was very thankful for the throbbing bass and melodic post-punk sounds of Interpol. My comfort, however, was short lived.

Bloc Party's performance ended up doing more harm to my body than anything I had done to it all weekend. The Brit indie band slammed out hit songs like "Positive Tension" and "So Here We Are," their sharp, modern guitar-rock snap, crackle and popping through the crowd. I had to throw my shoes out afterwards.

I was a broken bag of slop after the day's festivities and insisted that CC drive me home to Halifax immediately. We loaded up the car and said our goodbyes. I woke up somewhere near Truro and grudgingly took the wheel for the remainder of the drive.



Wake up and smell the Kanye

DAVID NYKYFORUK
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Kanye West is always on a mission to convert a new crowd. The hype leading up to West's latest effort hinted he was looking to tackle the hipster demographic.

A performance with Peter Bjorn and John, a music video directed by Ed Banger Records' So Me, album art by Takashi Murakami and a Daft Punk sampling puts West on the brink of a genre-spanning breakthrough.

Though it's not what you might have expected, *Graduation* is easily West's most accessible album to date. At 20 minutes shorter than his last two releases, West has taken a no-frills approach.

The result is taut and concise - no more skits or sweeping instrumentals. Even the usual all-star roster of guests has been cut down to a meager five appearances, with only

Lil Wayne and Mos Def providing more than just a glorified hook.

West's production is tighter than ever, hiding sexy synth amid his signature sound.

The absence of the upstaging cinematic arrangements that producer Jon Brion brought to 2005's *Late Registration* leaves West in the spotlight.

What makes *Graduation* different is that West actually lets down his guard and displays some rarely seen maturity. Although he does spend most of the album restating his affinity for lesbians and Louis Vuitton, on both "Everything I Am" and "Big Brother," West delivers slower, more thought out verses.

Late Registration began with Bernie Mac chastising West for snoring during his class, but *Graduation* has West wide awake and saying "Good Morning," ready to proclaim his unparalleled status in hip hop.



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JOSH BOYTER/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Second comin' of Verbal Warnin'

ADAM MILLER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Even after a six-month hiatus that allowed the members of Verbal Warnin' to focus on their various side-projects and academic commitments, it still came as no surprise that Halifax's legendary dub-reggae band can get the crowd moving.

Playing to a packed house on Sept. 23 at The Seahorse, this eight-man tour de force sounded tighter than it ever has.

Surprisingly, drummer Paul Keddy says they didn't practice a note before the show.

Verbal Warnin' is comprised of eight extremely talented musicians, brought together through the grapevine of the Halifax music scene.

The band is led by the powerful voice of the friendly and mysterious Sekou Nkruma. Nkruma is an extremely talented musician. He said when he couldn't find authentic reggae in Halifax, so he decided it was up to him to make some.

This band is unique in their ability to fit so much talent onto a small stage. Verbal Warnin' features

the sharp lead guitar and vocals of Ross Burns, the solid trumpet and saxophone styles of Matt Myers and Sean Webber, the tight percussion of Zac Miller, the heavy dub keyboard and bass jams of Andy March and Alec Frith, the infamous 'dubmaster' known as Dexter and the incomparable roots-rock-reggae drumming of Paul Keddy.

The sounds that make up Verbal Warnin' can be heard in a number of different bands across the city. Frith and Burns play in the hot-jazz swing band Gypsophilia and Frith, along with Keddy, Myers and Webber also play in the funk/soul/hip-hop/jazz band The Synchronics.

March plays in Museum Pieces, and if that wasn't enough, Burns and Miller play with Halifax's original Brazilian-funk beat orchestra Zumbini Circus. Needless to say, these guys have been busy. But they always manage to put on one hell of a show.

Unfortunately, Verbal Warnin' doesn't know when it will be playing next, but keep your eyes peeled for posters around campus for one of the band's upcoming shows.

They're well worth the wait.

Shabby chic

KATIE NATION
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Remember the classic collegiate uniform? A V-neck sweater here, corduroy pants there, a blazer, a plaid scarf, maybe a cheeky beret thrown in for good measure. This look is clearly a thing of the past. The modern university student is looking edgier, trendier and above all... sloppier.

When I first started at Dalhousie last fall, I was instantly enamoured with the student style surrounding me. I would roam campus, basking in the inspiration of such individual and eclectic dressers.

But as the year wore on, the inspiration wore down, and time and time again I would find myself asking, 'When did it become okay to walk around in pajamas?'

It seemed most students, even those I'd usually looked to for inspiration, had seriously gotten out of bed, taken off their pajamas, put on a new pair and pranced out the door. When had sloppy suddenly become

the norm?

What bothered me the most when I saw nothing but sweatpants and Uggs for days was not the loss of my hoards of fashion muses, but the fact that, for many offenders, this sloppiness was clearly the product of some effort.

These weren't the students who had no interest in their appearance, but those who were clearly very aware of it. They had designer labels poking out from every article of clothing and were sure to wear their sweatpants 'just so' so that their hipbones were proudly on display.

These students were taking drabness and making it the Dalhousie uniform. For a school with a unique edge and a fun student body, this transformation caught me off guard. I couldn't help but feel as if students were experiencing a kind of insecurity that, from time to time, makes us all afraid of looking like we're trying too hard.

Of course, when I look back on this virtual uniform, I can't deny the comfort factor. We're in university

and we need to eliminate any distractions that could get in the way of our learning, and that would include uncomfortable clothes.

But believe it or not, ornamentation is not synonymous with discomfort. After all, what's uncomfortable about a necklace? Or a snug-fitting sweater in lieu of a figure-engulfing hoodie? Or even (my personal favorite) a casual dress with tights?

Leggings are also fine, as long as you remember that leggings should not be worn as pants. Ever. By anyone. Seriously.

But just when I thought Dal students had all but abandoned their sense of fashion, I come back from summer break to find a virtual smorgasbord of hipster experimentation.

As fun as it is to poke fun at hipster culture, I must say hipsters dress exceptionally well. Dalhousie is looking put-together and polished, vibrant and experimental, trendy but still individual. I honestly hope this isn't just the effect of the first-week-back makeover, but the beginning of the end of Dal's sloppy syndrome.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting

on Monday, October 1 @ 5:30 p.m. in room

312 of the SUB

Condoms, dams and gloves...oh my!

SHANNON PRINGLE

This is a column about sex, gender and desire - three things I love to talk about, think about, read about, write about, teach about and experience. I'm a Dalhousie student and a staff member at Venus Envy, Halifax's education-based sex shop and bookstore, where I clerk, facilitate workshops and write book reviews for the store's newsletter. I also worked at the Halifax Sexual Health Centre for three years before returning to university.

In this column, I want to demystify some taboos, squelch a few myths and answer some burning questions. If it raises a few eyebrows, so be it. If you learn something new, great. If it reconfirms something you already know, fantastic. Most importantly, I hope it empowers people to make good sexual decisions for themselves and gets us all thinking about sex, gender and desire in a whole new way that is without shame. For now, here's a little something for you about sexy protection.

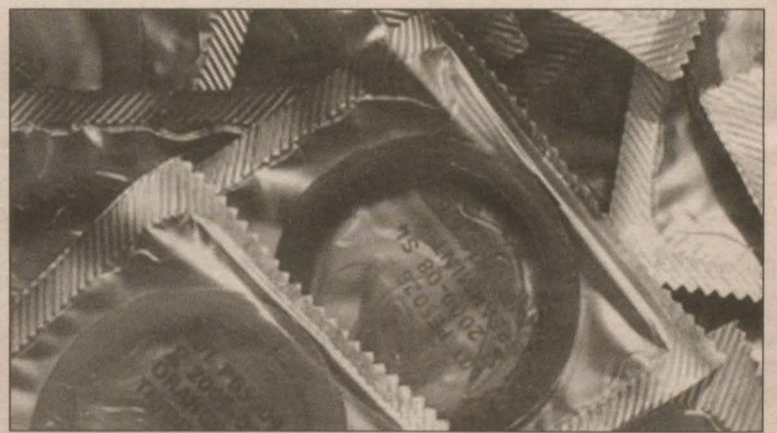
Safer sex is damn sexy. But how can that be?

Don't condoms just kill the mood, decrease sensitivity and taste bad? What the hell is a dam, anyway? Gloves? Aren't they for pap smears and prostate exams? Where is the sex appeal in any of it?

Sex appeal is all in our heads. If we start thinking about all the fun and creative ways we can practice safer sex, then it becomes a really sexy idea and not a chore. Here are some ideas to get you going.

Pack for sex

If we can carry around cell phones, iPods and laptops, we can pack for sex. A few condoms, a dam, a pair of gloves and some travel-size lube don't take up much space and you'll always be prepared. Being prepared doesn't mean you're a slut. It means you're smart, and brains are always sexy. It also shows you respect your body and the body of your sex partner.



Roll a condom on with your mouth

Warm up your lips and roll that condom on a penis or a silicone cock (dildo) with your mouth. It's hot and not hard to do. If you're nervous, practice on a dildo by yourself first or just take the plunge with a partner and laugh if it doesn't go smoothly the first time.

Make sure you kiss off or wipe off any chapstick or lipstick before trying this trick, as oil-based products will destroy condoms. Invest in some high-quality Japanese condoms for any kind of sex (oral, anal or vaginal) with a biological penis. Japanese condoms are super strong and transmit heat and sensation better than regular condoms.

Slide on a dam

You may not have heard of dams before, as condoms usually get all the attention, but I think we should set out to change our erotic culture. Dams are ultra thin, rectangular pieces of latex designed for safer cunnilingus and anal rimming. STI's are gender-neutral, equal-opportunity germs. They don't discriminate! Whatever you can contract or transmit by a penis, vulva, ass or groin, you can contract and transmit by your mouth.

Put some lube on your partner's vulva to make it more wet and slippery to transmit sensation, slide on a dam and lick away. Dams even come in different flavours. You can also split open a condom or use saran wrap if

you find yourself without a dam.

Dams are also necessary for giving anyone a rim job (oral/anal contact). The butt is gender-free. We all have one, so if you want to play with somebody's butt or have somebody play with your butt, then break out a dam.

Gloves and lube

Finger fucking is an art. Fingers can move, curve, thrust, stroke and slide in numerous pleasurable ways in someone's vagina or ass. Fingers slide into your partner's body more smoothly with gloves and lube.

Gloves and lube not only protect your partner from possible nicks and tears from long fingernails or rough hangnails, but they also protect your hands if you have any small cuts.

If you concentrate on all the sensations you can generate with your super-sliding fingers, then you will start to associate gloves with great sex. Finger cots (finger condoms) are also great if you're only using one finger.

Should you encounter a sex partner who whines about your desire to protect yourself (and them) or who tries to convince you to not use protection, pull up your underwear and leave. They're not respecting you, and if they're uncomfortable with safer sex, then they probably don't have much experience, anyway. You can certainly do better!

Email your questions about safer sex to springle@dal.ca

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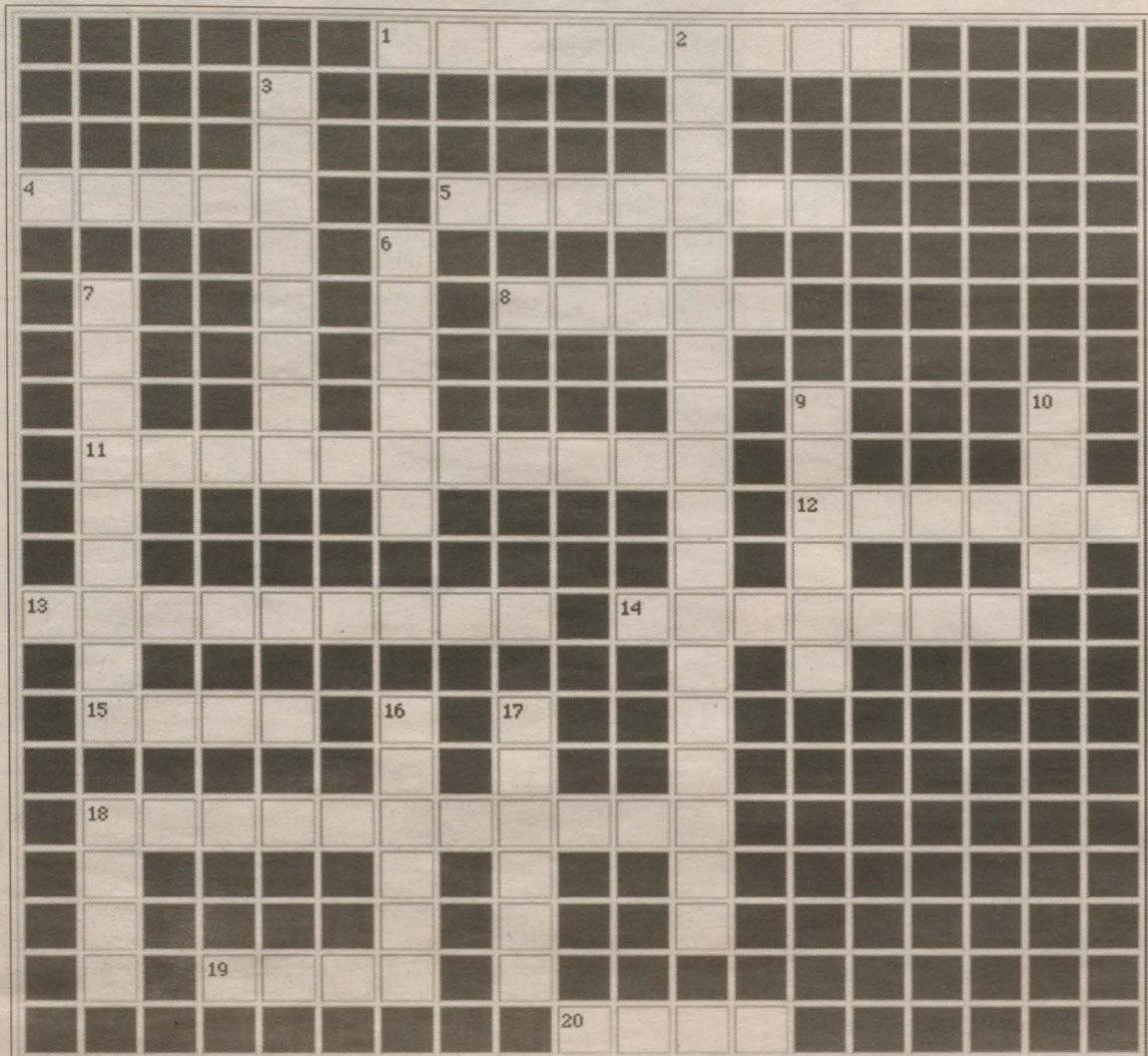
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Across

- 1. A market in which only a few rival firms sell a given product
- 4. A minimum allowable price, specified by law
- 5. Average ____
- 8. A claim to partial ownership of a firm
- 11. An external cost or benefit of an activity
- 12. A total revenue a firm receives from the sale of its product minus all costs
- 13. A market with only a single buyer
- 14. A maximum allowable price, specified by law
- 15. Decision ____
- 18. An illegal market in which goods are sold in violation of laws (2 wds)
- 19. An economic profit that is less than zero, Economic ____
- 20. A cost that is beyond recovery at the moment a decision must be made

Down

- 2. Price elasticity of demand is zero (2wds)
- 3. A cost that varies with the level of an activity
- 6. A curve when the members of a population are ordered from poorest to richest
- 7. A cost that does not vary with the level of an activity (2 wds)
- 9. Excess ____
- 10. A gamble that's expected value is zero
- 16. George Akerlof's model
- 17. A coalition of firms that agree to restrict output for the purpose of earning an economic profit
- 18. A legal promise to repay a debt

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

It seems you have been flossin' on that purple drank. Brush your teeth 10 times longer than you normally would, because your gums seem to be inflamed. Nobody wants gingivitis. Pay careful attention to your health - you haven't been eating enough fruit. Bite into that shiny apple and enjoy it.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Be prepared for all kinds of weather this week. Make sure you have your rain boots ready and your collar popped. Something is going to try to blow you over, but don't let it. You are harder, better, faster and stronger



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

You are going to be a heartbreaker this week, so be careful whose heart you crush. You don't want it to be your own. Walk with a skip in your step. You might just find \$20 on the ground. Luck is coming after you.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Laugh out loud and cackle. It will feel good. You should get your head out of the clouds this week so you can actually get something done. There is going to be an angel on your shoulder, so you will most likely receive anything you want. Make sure not to be too hasty when requesting that electric guitar you've been after.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

They say love is a losing game, but not in your case. You are about to ignite a new flame, maybe with a friend, an old lover or your computer. Just make sure you give that relationship the oxygen it needs to breathe. If not, you could end up choking it like a chimney.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Your lip gloss is poppin' this week, and in case you do not use lip gloss, your chapstick will be ever so medicating. There is no need to cry wolf if your sheep get stolen. Little Bo Peep is just around the corner counting them.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Don't forget to take your sunglasses off when you're inside this week. You don't want everyone to think you're hungover when you're not. You could just end up running into that professor you have been avoiding. Go for a swim and do the butterfly.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Hire a cleaning person this week, or just get off your ass and do it yourself. Things are a mess both in the real world and the imaginary world you like to play in. Grab that feather duster and brush the dirt off your shoulder. It's time to get to stompin'.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Wear your bandana on your forehead and dance the funky chicken. People are watching and they want more. You have been working out on a trampoline and it's starting to show. Looks like that extra mile you regretted walking got you somewhere good.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The weather girl gets to predict the forecast, but you get to predict your life. Grab it by the horns and whip it good. A light bulb just turned on in your head, so put it to good use.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

You have forgotten to water your plants and your relationships. That hula hoop you have been spinning around your head is about to plummet to the floor. You'd better think of a different strategy to convince people you're doing what you're supposed to this week.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

This week you will be like a frog hopping from one lily pad to the next, in search of the scrumptious fly that has been buzzing around you for days. The party has been thrown in your name, so grab your green hat and get it started.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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- Across
- 1) Oligopoly
 - 4) Floor
 - 5) Benefit
 - 8) Stock
 - 11) Externality
 - 12) Profit
 - 13) Monopsony
 - 14) Ceiling
 - 15) Tree
 - 18) Black Market
 - 19) Loss
 - 20) Sunk - does not touch but such
- Down
- 1) Perfectly Inelastic
 - 2) Variable
 - 6) Lorenz
 - 7) Fixed Cost
 - 9) Supply
 - 10) Fair
 - 16) Lemons
 - 17) Cartel
 - 18) Bond
- Crossword Answers:

Tigers break slump with weekend victory

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a slow start, it looks like the Dalhousie Tigers are heading in the right direction. On Sept. 21, the Tigers men's soccer team enjoyed their first win of the season, defeating the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus 2-0.

Both goals were scored in the second half of the game. Only one minute into the second half, forward Thomas Bradley took advantage of the Aigles' defence to score. Five minutes later, Will Kozey, who was named the Player of the Game, scored the Tigers' second goal.

From that point on, the Tigers were in full control, nearly scoring a third goal towards the end of the game.

"The last couple of games we've been playing a lot better, so I think it's really good to actually get a win," Kozey said. "I think we took our foot off the pedal a little bit at the end, but having chances is good."

Last Saturday's game didn't go as well, with the Tigers losing to the Cape Breton University Capers 3-1. But according to head coach Pat Nearing, things went as planned.

"We are definitely in a bit of a slump," Nearing said. "Moncton is always a question mark, so I knew we had a good chance against them but nothing easy. I was expecting big things. Cape Breton, however, is in first place in the league, so it was a challenge."

The Tigers' win breaks a dismal losing streak. The team lost four of their five previous games before their game against the Aigles. Before the win, their best final score this season was a 0-0 tie against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

"It's hard to say why we're struggling," Nearing said. "We've been playing better, but for some reason we had a slow start to the season. We've had a couple of injuries that may have affected us."

Some of the problems could be attributed to the team's youth. With eight rookies, many of the players have little experience.

"It might take a little longer for them to settle in," Nearing said. "The



NICK PIERCE / NICK PEARCE PHOTO

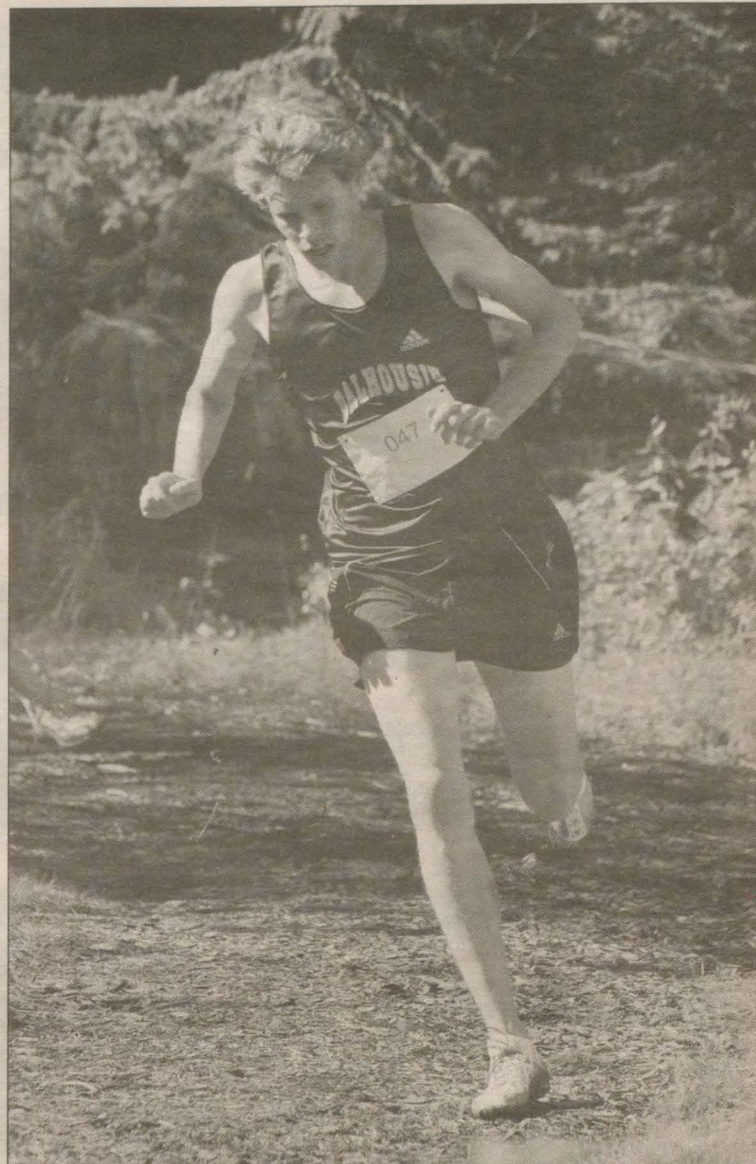
"It seems like we're building in the right direction," says Will Kozey.

guys who aren't rookies are only second- or third-year players, so it might be a lack of experience. I'm not sure. We've been working with Carolyn (Savoy), the sports psychologist as well. It could be a mental thing. If things start going the right way, then maybe they can believe in themselves."

Currently the Tigers sit in sixth place in the Atlantic University Sport rankings. Their Friday game helped move the team up to playoff posi-

tion, but with half of the season already played out, the Tigers need to carry more momentum into their remaining games.

"I think we had a pretty crammed early schedule," Kozey said. "We haven't had too much practice time. It feels like we've been kind of thrown into the fire. A little bit more practice and a little bit more time together should help us come together as a team. It seems like we're building in the right direction."



NICK PIERCE / NICK PEARCE PHOTO

This season's team will be built around Christie, along with returning runners John Corbit and Chris Alger, in hopes of regaining the AUS title.

Potential remains despite loss of star runner

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

A new season usually brings in new faces as graduated athletes leave the team. This holds true for Dalhousie Tigers men's cross-country.

Last year, the Tigers were unable to defend their Atlantic University Sport (AUS) title for the first time in five years. The four-time AUS champions did have two athletes make it to the podium, though.

Russell Christie and Robert Jewer finished first and second in the championships, respectively. With the top two scores on the team, Jewer and Christie led the Tigers to an eighth-place finish at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships.

This year, one of the two medalists has graduated and the other remains on the team. A new rookie shows potential to give the team a boost, and head coach Dan Hennigar remains optimistic for the season.

"We have a promising year ahead, much more than last year," Hennigar said. "Rob Jewer will definitely be missed. He was a first team All-Canadian and he was our top scorer. However, we have four to eight strong guys that are ready to run and bring good depth to the team."

This season's team will be built around Christie, along with returning runners John Corbit and Chris Alger, in hopes of regaining the AUS title.

"Everyone had counted us out last year and we lost the title by only one point, which was great," Christie said. "We lost our top finisher, but our top four guys this year are really close together."

As the 2006 AUS Male Athlete of the Year, Christie looks to build upon his stellar performances from last season.

"Last year went better than I could've asked for," Christie said. "After I transferred to Dal from West-

ern, I had to sit out for a year. When I competed last year, I realized I got a heck of a lot better. I didn't do much during that summer but now I'm working a lot more to improve."

The Tigers have had a good recruiting year, with rookie Peter Corrigan already exceeding expectations. Corrigan finished second in the season opener - his first-ever university meet.

"He had a pretty stellar performance," Hennigar said. "We're trying to teach him how to run at his best for the end of the year, but this kid was so anxious to do well that he sped up in the final kilometre of the race and almost won it."

The cross-country season is relatively short, with only three major meets before the AUS championships in late October. This means team members need to do lots of training while studying full-time.

"I've got a lot of work to do in the pharmacy program, so maybe my performance may be affected," Christie said. "Right now I have a midterm this week and a final coming up. It's a balance, but usually athletics loses out. I've got three weeks of no work before the CIS championships, so that's good. It's tough but I guess all student athletes deal with it."

Studying affected Alger's season for the worse. He finished in 10th place at last year's AUS championships. He's currently completing his thesis in oceanography.

"I'm pretty busy, but it's not as bad as it seems," Alger said. "For the team, we exceeded expectations, but I was a little bit disappointed with my performance. I didn't do as well as I thought I would and missed some training time."

The Tigers are doing well so far. The team is currently seventh in the CIS rankings.

"We're looking better this year," Christie said. "I think we'll beat the [X-Men] easily in the AUS championships and realistically have a shot for a top-five finish at nationals."

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Athletes of this week

FEMALE ATHLETE

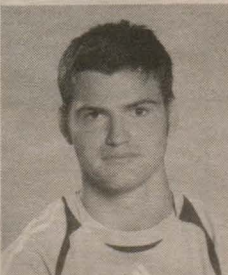


JEANETTE HUCK
SOCCER

Huck is a midfielder for the Tigers and is a key player for the team. Her consistent play throughout last week's three games helped the Tigers come up with two wins, the first against the St. Francis Xavier University X-Women on Wednesday (Dal-3; St. FX-1) and the second against the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus on Friday (U de M-0; Dal-2). Huck is a second-year commerce student, originally from Hatchet Lake, Nova Scotia.



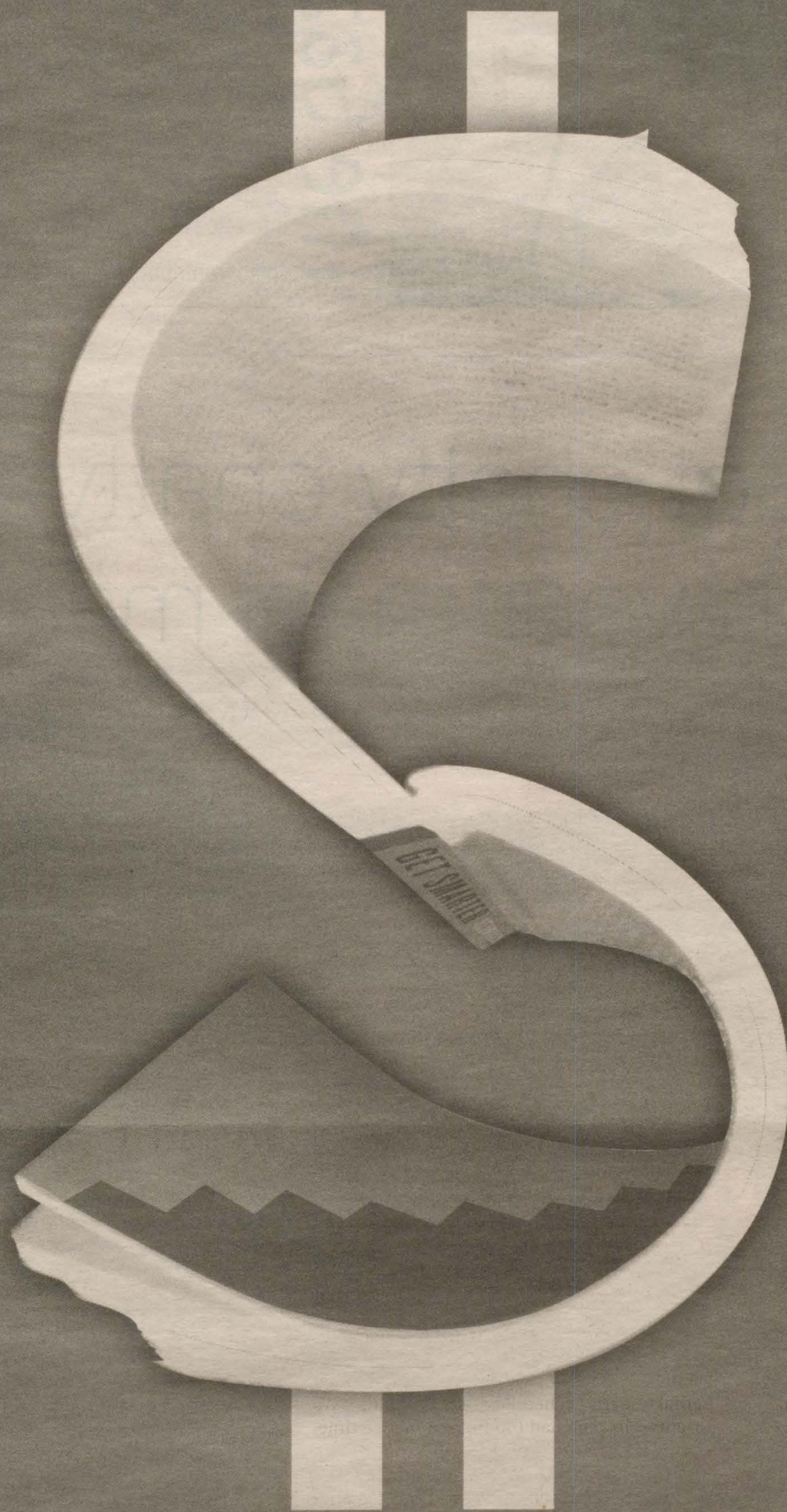
MALE ATHLETE



BEN UR
SOCCER

Ur, a keeper for the Tigers, posted two shutouts last week, providing his team with great backstopping. The first shutout was on the road last Wednesday, when the Tigers tied 0-0 against the St. Francis Xavier University X-Men. Ur's second shutout of the week happened at home on Friday against the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus when the Tigers posted a 2-0 win. Ur is a first-year informatics student at Dalhousie. He is originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia.



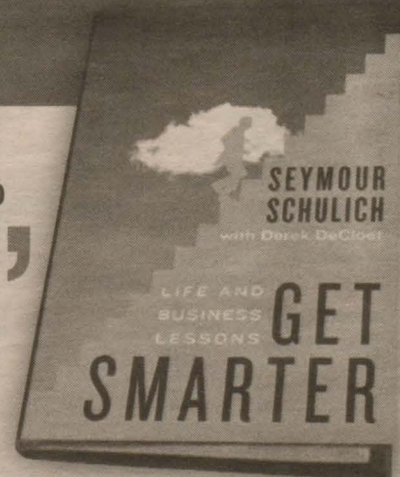


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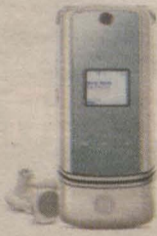
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The

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

SEXTANT

DSEUS Wrap-Up

SCOTT WETTON
DSEUS PRESIDENT

One month in the bank and the DSEUS is just getting started. We have finalized our executive for the term and are ready to get the rest of the year rolling. September brought a large-scale orientation day for all engineers at Dal, followed by a huge kick-off party hosted by the Sextant at the T-room.

The Common Room is the place to be after a long day of classes as the engiBEERING tradition continues with cheap beer, all year long, every Friday.

There are a several events to look forward to in the month of October. First of all are Sexton Campus Intramurals. Getting involved in intramural sports is one of the best ways to represent your discipline and prove once and for all who is supreme.

Not to mention the respect points you get as a bonus. If sports aren't your thing, and trust me, it is not my forte either, come on out to Trivia every Friday at the T-room and prove your talent in useless knowledge. One night to look out for is the first annual Engineering vs. Commerce trivia challenge.

The commerce society is coming down on a Friday in October to attempt to beat the engineers at their own trivia game. Come out and show your support either by crafting a new and exciting campus rivalry, or trying to get your hands on some great prizes. Make sure to wear your DAL ENG shirts for the added intimidation factor.

Keep your eyes peeled for posters advertising all of the DSEUS events, and as always, dalsexton.ca is the place to go for all your campus information. Looking forward to seeing you all at the T-Room at some point, and lets keep this momentum going.



Bands on Campus

JOEL ROBITAILLE
SEXTON CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT
DIRECTOR

It's a fact: we all love acoustic guitar. There is something about the sound of an acoustic instrument that just rings truer than its electric alternative. That is what you can expect to hear during Andy Brown's solo performance at the T-Room this Thursday.

Andy Brown is a solo singer-songwriter from New Brunswick who plays emotionally inspired acoustic songs. He will be playing to a crowd of T-Room regulars and Dal sailing students.

The 100th anniversary of engineering will also be happening next weekend bringing in the classic campus band of bygone days, the Dixie Tech Seven. The band, which started in 1968 as a faculty and staff offering at the campus Tech Revue - a student talent show - soon developed into a solid Dixieland jazz band that played

shows at conventions in town and for numerous student functions.

One of their claims to fame is that they always donated their services at student functions for the benefit of students. The bands show on Friday marks a special occasion. It is their first show back together since 1986.

This coming Thursday will be multi-band show organized by Sleep to Dream promoter Ian Mcruer. It should be a great show of some Halifax's quality indie-rock bands.

- T-Room Events Calendar
- Sept 27 - Andy Brown, solo acoustic & Dal Sailing night
 - Sept 28 - Trivia
 - Oct. 4 - TBA - Multi-band show, details soon to follow
 - Oct. 5 - Trivia
 - Oct. 11 - Ruth Minnikin and the Reels
 - Oct. 12 - Trivia
 - Oct. 18 - TBA - possible Open Mic Night
 - Oct. 19 - Trivia



The Faces of History - Coming to Life

MELANIE HOLMES

Last year I wrote an article in the Sextant called "The Faces of History" hoping to shed some light on the strangers we pass daily in the hallways.

A few months have passed and we now find ourselves only a week away from the 100-year Anniversary of Engineering at Dalhousie and the chance to meet some of this school's most distinguished alumni.

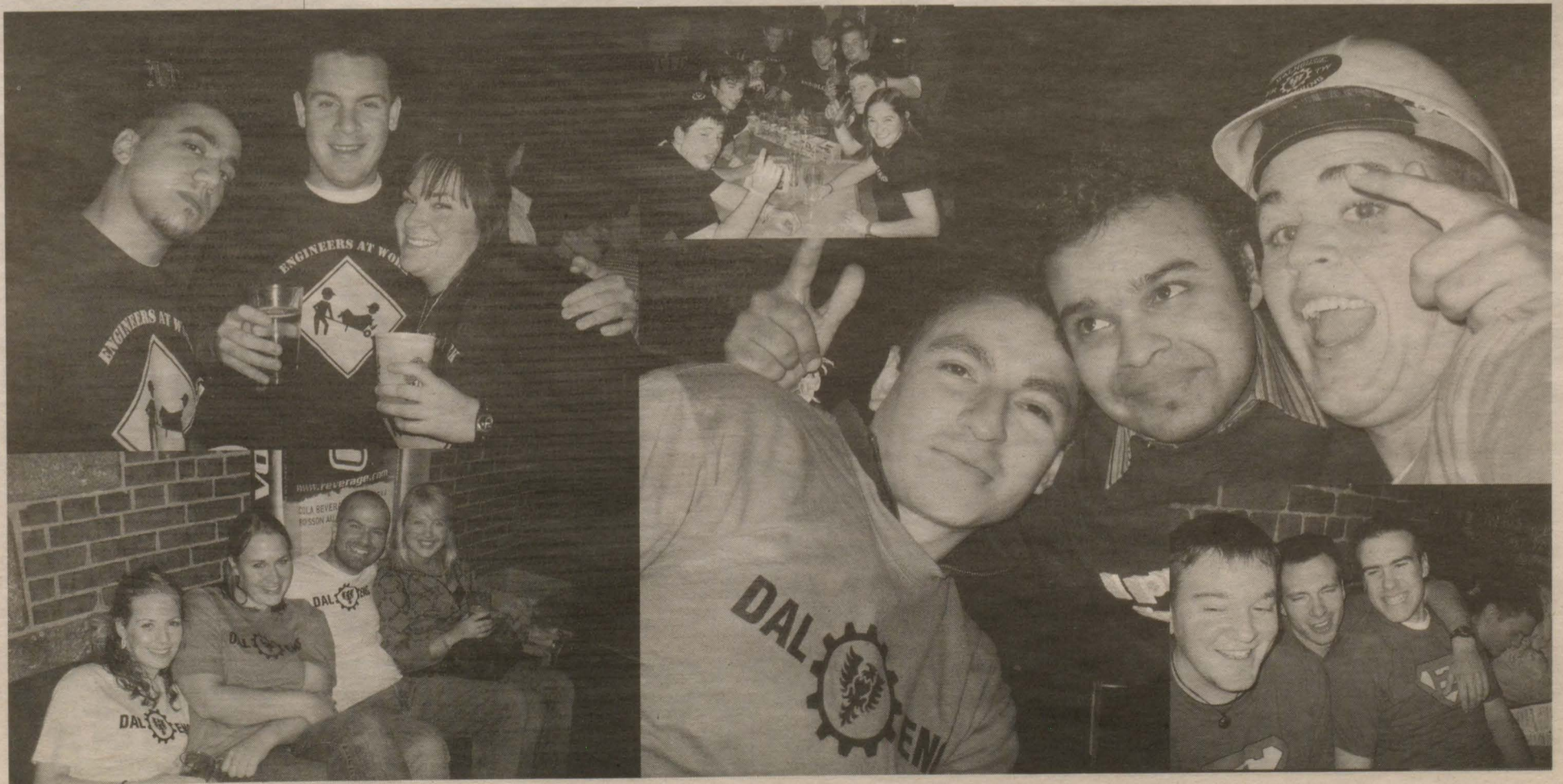
With over 150 registered attendees, I hope you will take this opportunity to meet the people who gave our campus the foundations and character it has.

Some of the guests include John J. Kinley, the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, the former Chairman of the Board of Sun Microsystems, as well as executive and members of Ocean Contractors, Exxon Mobile, Aliant, EnCana, Wilsons Fuel and many more.

Below is the list of events, coupled with some fantastic photos of the old Dixie Tech 7, as well as a look back at what was once the party of the year. Please show your support and take advantage of this fantastic celebration.

Also please contact sextant@dal.ca if you are interested in volunteering or participating in any of the events.

- Thursday, Oct 4th
 - Welcome reception, book and painting launch
- Friday, Oct 5th
 - Open House - tour Sexton Campus
 - Awards Luncheon
 - Good Ole Hockey Game, Dal Rink
- Studley Campus
 - Iron Ring Renewal Ceremony
 - BBQ with Dixie Tech 7
- Saturday, Oct 6th
 - Alumni Basketball Game, Sexton Gym
 - Gala Tech Ball & Dinner, Cunard Centre



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