Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Local poet blossoms
Tanya Davis performs in international festival

Killam burns, students wait for coffee 19.6

Mike Smit hacks DSU hacks pg. 7

Howe and Risley square off for charity pq. 14



-

WEEKLY DISPATCH

VP Finance and Operations Search:

The DSU is currently recruiting for the position of VP Finance and Operations. The VPFO is a full time executive position with the DSU that starts on May 1st. We are looking for a responsible, organized, and motivated individual. Previous experience with budgeting, accounting, and the DSU is an asset, but not required. If you are interested in this position please submit a resume and cover letter to Michelle in room 222 of the SUB or email dsusec@dal.ca by 4:00 pm on Monday April 2nd. The honourarium for this position is 26,000.

Other DSU Positions:

The DSU is also looking to fill a number of other positions including Commissioners and six positions on the Board of Operations. If you are interested check out www.dsu.ca and click on Opportunities card on the front page. Deadline for most applications is 4:00pm on Monday, April 2nd.

Provincial Budget:

The provincial budget came down on Friday, March 23rd. We were expecting the government to start living up to there election promise of reducing tuition in Nova Scotia to the national average in the next four years. There were indications that this would start with a \$365 decrease for all students in Nova Scotia however, this did not come through.

The provincial budget included funding to compensate Nova Scotia universities for the allowable 3.9% increase in tuition under the significant about this is that the government has (including ALL international professional) students in this quasi "freeze". What remains to be done on our end, is to ensure that the university does not increase the international differential fee, and the professional tuition by an additional two to six percent.

The provincial budget also included a \$500 bursary for every Nova Scotia student attending a university, a doubling of the graduate tax credit, and a reannouncement of a number of the programs implemented through the Federal Infrastructure Trust Fund.

Munro Cup:

The second annual Charity Cup residence hockey game featuring all-stars from Howe and Risley Hall will take place this Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 pm. A sell-out crowd is expected at the DAL Arena, and tickets are available now at the SUB Info Desk - or from the respective Hall councils. Tickets cost \$7 with proceeds going directly to the Raise the Roof campaign to benefit the homeless.

As you can probably guess, tensions are high between the two halls, with the latest chirping coming from Howe Hall (via Facebook):

Dear Risley,

Please enjoy the time you have left with the Munro Cup, for this Saturday Howe Hall will avenge it's loss in front of the Greatest Residence Crowd Dalhousie has ever seen. Not only are we going to win, we are going to humiliate your stupid asses at the same time.

On Saturday, March 31st the Munro Cup tradition will begin when Howe Hall emerges victorious and Trojans from past, present and future taste the Golden Drink of Champions from The Munro Cup.

See you Saturday Howeligonians!











April 3rd: - 5:00 PM McCain Building 1102

Susan Forscher Weiss (Johns Hopkins University): "La piu' bella poesia per musica" -Musical settings from Petrarch to Guarini

April 16th - 5:00 PM - McCain Building 1116

Timothy McGee (University of Toronto) "Singing Poetry in Italy in the Late Middle Ages."

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

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pose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University change of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on ssues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the

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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, rac ist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of *The Gazette* staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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All contributions in this issue of The Gazette were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Joel Durling, Allison Reeves, Jimmy Kapches, Catherine Holloway, Karyn Haag, Kaley Kennedy, Anu Jindal, Hugh Wallace, Andrew Bernardo, Mark Buckley.



Coming to an end

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI Editor-in-Chief

The alarm woke me up 10 min-Lutes to 10 o'clock. I dressed clumsily, my movements slowed by the haze of beer still hanging over me. Through bleary eyes I collected climbing equipment -shoes, backpack, some water and snacks - and headed downstairs.

At the convenience store on the corner, I had to hold onto the counter to stop swaying. I plunked down my rushed breakfast of chocolate bar and milk. The clerk looked at me

"Did you look in the mirror today?" he asked.

"Um, uh, no," I managed to stutter as he took out a mirror. "I don't think so, anyway.

The reasoning behind his question came when I looked into the proffered mirror. Written on my forehead in thick black marker was

I chuckled. Emerging slowly through the throbbing in my head were festivities from the Gazette's year-end party the previous night.

That was two years ago, but I still remember the look on my friends' faces when I showed up Saturday morning ready to go climbing, still drunk from the night before with 'penis' written on my forehead and various other obscenities scrawled

all over my body.

I think I passed out in the backseat on the way to Peggy's Cove, where we were climbing. But I'm very sure that was one of the most memorably parties I've ever attended — if only I could remember it.

I started contributing to The Gazette four years ago, and since then most of my academic, social and work life has been spent in and around our third-floor office in the Student Union Building.

Some of the best days of my university career were spent up there, hanging out with a bunch of people whose only common thread is this publication.

Admittedly, the beginning was a little rough. It's hard to be the sole outsider in a room awash with inside jokes, random commentary and just plain strange behaviour. But once the fear of speaking up subsides, the inhabitants of the office are a friendly bunch.

Over the years, alongside the friends I've made in the office, The Gazette gave me the opportunity to meet amazing people from every walk of life. Some of these people are around only for the duration of a story, while others come back month after month and year after year. And still others will stay with you forever.

Add in hundreds of concerts, shows, gallery showings, movie passes and countless other events that crop up over the course of a year and it quickly becomes clear this isn't a typical meet-once-a-week society. It takes over every spare minute.

But eventually it all comes to an end. Sitting at my desk writing my last editorial, it's hard to believe my time here is over.

I've learned so much more from the people who passed through our office than I ever did in a class in university. The lessons learned from living, working and partying with good friends can't be taught in a lecture hall - I'm sure my absence in various classes can attest to that.

Along with personal growth, I discovered what I love to do and learned how to do it better. Whereas the structured nature of university never piqued my interests, The Gazette welcomed and nurtured my skills, and the people I worked with taught me countless new ones.

In the end, I can only hope that I have passed on some of the knowledge I've picked up over the years.

As I wrap up this week's editorial, the familiar smell of the Dawgfather's grill wafts in through an open window. On the sidewalk below, throngs of students stream by, heading to and from class. The trees outside the window are starting to sprout tiny green leaves and I'm reminded that as one season ends, another quickly begins.



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Dalhousie Student Union election results

A little more 3,150 students, or 21 per cent, voted in the DSU election from March 20 to 22. This year's election saw a 1 per cent increase in voter turnout from last year.

The majority of students voted in favour of a 50-cent levy increase for World University Services Canada and DalOUT!, and a \$2 levy for a campus sustainability office and coordinator.

THE RESULTS

RESIDENT	
like Tipping:	52.7%
ason Pelley:	39.9%
poiled:	7.4%
ICE PRESIDENT (INTERNAL)	
osalie Hanlon:	51.9%
enny Cooper:	37.3%
poiled:	10.8%
ICE PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)	44.000
ara Gault:	44.8% 38.3%
manda Myers:	16.9%
polied.	10.5%
ICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)	
irst ballot no candidate received a majority of votes)	
Courtney Larkin:	42.0%
ndrew Cook:	21.3%
lobert Panahi:	15.0%
AcCollins Jones:	7.7%
Spoiled:	14.0%
Second ballot	
Courtney Larkin:	52.9%
ndrew Cook:	27.8%
obert Panahi:	19.2%
SENATE	
'ictoria Jones:	24.2%
ordan Roberts:	19.5%
Christian Tschirhart:	19.2%
ric Snow:	18.3%
ustin LoRusso:	7.8%
SENATE (GRADUATE) racy Voegeli	
es:	78%
lo:	
Spoiled:	14.9%
BOARD OF GOVERNORS	
Shannon Zimmerman:	29.9%
Dave Russell:	21.3%
vler Dennis:	17.4%
Daniel Boyle:	16.5%
Gregory Debogorski:	6.1%
Spoiled:	8.7%
DALOUT/WUSC REFERENDUM	FF 500
'es:	55.5%
No:	
Spoiled:	4.1%
SUSTAINABILITY REFERENDUM	50.40
/es:	
No:	45.2%
Spoiled:	4.4%

Tipping to take over

KATIE MAY Assistant News Editor

Dalhousie students elected Mike Tipping as their student union president last week with 52.7 per cent of the vote.

The current vice president (education) defeated his sole opponent Jason Pelley by a margin of nearly 13 per cent in an election that saw 3,155 students, or 21 per cent, cast ballots.

"My friends and I, we ran a really positive campaign," Tipping said while celebrating with supporters in the Grawood after the announcement.

He said managing the union's new board of operations will be one of the major challenges he'll face as president.

"We have a great executive going into next year," Tipping said. "There's a bunch of big changes coming up for the DSU, and it's going to take a lot of work."

Pelley wasn't present for the announcement, but he later said he will continue to be involved with the DSU. He said he learned a lot running in the election.

"It was really tough to control the message," said Pelley. "A lot of people had me pegged as an environmentalist, and I wouldn't consider myself one."

Pelley said both he and his opponent ran "clean" campaigns, though he faces over \$40 in fines for campaigning during the voting period.

He said his website designer removed his site at the end of the campaign period. But the designer left a link to the original draft of the web page on his own site. The committee also deemed a Facebook posting from one of Pelley's friends a violation of campaign rules.

Pelley said he respects the committee's decision, but feels it should clarify regulations for online endorsements before future elections.



DSU President-elect Mike Tipping surrounded by supporters on election night. / Photo: Josh Boyter

"It was a bit excessive to get both of the fines," he said. "[But] it's no big deal."

The presidential vote had the lowest number of spoiled ballots — roughly seven per cent — out of all four elected executive positions.

Gault steals tight race

KATIE MAY Assistant News Editor

In the closest race of four executive positions, Tara Gault emerged victorious as the Dalhousie Student Union's vice president (education) with 44.8 per cent of the vote.

Voter turnout reached 21 per cent in last week's DSU elections. The vice president (education) vote had the highest number of spoiled ballots of all elected positions with nearly 17 per cent.

"It was a really tough election call, but I loved every minute of it," Gault said after the announcement. "It was scary but I had a lot of friends around me."

Gault's opponent Amanda Myers, who lost by a margin of 6.5 per cent, agreed the results could have gone either way.

"It was close," she said. "Either way, this is a positive thing."

She said she has no regrets about her campaign and she's not too up-

Amanda Myers said she's not too upset about losing the DSU elections because it means she can focus on her studies / Photo: Josh Boyter

set about losing because it means she can focus on her studies and graduate within the next year.

Gault said her efforts to reach students through classroom talks and debates made her successful at the end of a competitive campaign.

"[Myers] fought an awesome campaign, and it was great to be a

part of it," she said.

Gault said as vice president (education), her first challenge will be developing better relationships between students and the DSU.

"I really enjoy having that oneon-one conversation with students," Gault said. "It's something that I've done but that I have to improve on."

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Rosalie Hanlon celebrates her victory for vice-president (internal). / Photo: Josh Boyter

Hanlon takes internal

News Editor

Screaming supporters gathered around Rosalie Hanlon as her victory in the vice president (internal) race was announced at the Grawood on March 21.

Hanlon secured nearly 52 per cent of student votes, while her only opponent, Jenny Cooper, received a little more than 37 per cent.

The fifth-year environmental engineering student said her ties to Sexton campus helped give her an edge over Cooper.

"I'm an engineer and Sexton campus has been wanting representation for a long time," said Hanlon. "The mere fact that I ran made Sexton an issue, and every candidate mentioned it in their speeches."

Hanlon said she was fairly confident in her campaign, though she was nervous because many people told her it was too close to call

'I had my eyes closed when the results came in," she said. "But then the people around me were screaming and jumping up and down."

Cooper was in rehearsal for her

final theatre project, and wasn't present for the announcement.

She said in an interview a few days later that she was disappointed with the result, but knew the race

"It was a 50-50 chance going in: It wasn't a shock to my system," said Cooper. "Naturally, I was disappointed. But I actually didn't cry, which is a bit of a surprise.

Cooper said her course load prevented her from meeting with as many students as Hanlon.

Cooper said she thinks they're both qualified for the job, though she has stronger social skills.

"I have better people skills than her and would have been more suited to the social aspect of the job, which is a big part of it," she said.

Hanlon said her top priority will be offering leadership training programs for student societies. As 2006/2007 co-president of Dal's chapter of Engineers Without Borders, a non-profit group active in developing countries, Hanlon said she's received dedicated leadership training and believes the DSU needs to start offering similar programs.

Larkin sweeps student life

REID SOUTHWICK News Editor

ourtney Larkin swept the student ⊿life executive race with 25 per cent more votes than her nearest competitor after a second ballot count.

'I've been very confident that I could do the job throughout the past the year and during campaign week," the former student life commissioner said after the announcement.

The Dalhousie Student Union's preferential voting system requires the winner receive more than 50 per cent of the vote. On the first ballot, the four candidates running for the postition split the vote. Larkin only achieved 42 per cent, while her closest competitor, Andrew Cook, captured a little more than 21 per cent.

Officials removed runner-up McCollins Jones from the ballot and counted students' second preferences. Larkin received nearly 53 per cent of votes on second count, while Cook trailed with almost 28 per cent.

Larkin said her experience and work ethic earned her the post.

"I worked my ass off during the campaign," she said shortly after the announcement. "I proved to people that I'm the best person for the job."

She said running a successful Orientation Week and improving the relationship between the union and residences top her priority list.

Cook said he's confident Larkin will succeed as the DSU's newest vice president (student life). He said he didn't campaign as hard as Larkin, and his demanding school schedule prevented him from reaching as many students.

But the two-time candidate for student life executive said he isn't discouraged from running again



"I worked my ass off during the campaign," said Courtney Larkin./ Photo

next year.

"I can do a lot of good for the student union. If I didn't, I wouldn't be running in the first place," said Cook. "I'm going to try my hardest to get it next year, and if I get it, I'll be thrilled. If I don't, well then, I don't.'

Cook campaigned on the commitment to bring a secret band to Dal if he were elected. But after his loss, he declined to reveal the name of the band.

"I'm going to take that to the

Robert Panahi, who received a little more than 19 per cent of votes after the second count, said he ran "a good campaign," though he acknowledged Larkin worked harder to attracting votes.

Panahi, who promised he would perform the Napoleon Dynamite dance in a cage at the Palace if he was elected, said students will have to wait for another opportunity to catch his performance.

'It's not going to happen in the Palace cage, but it might happen sooner or later, at the Grawood or the Dome," he said.

Gazette

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Students give hand scanners thumbs down

Carleton University wants to replace student cards with palm readers

The administration is considering installing the biometric devices at cafeterias and athletic facility entrances. Students would scan their hands instead of swiping ID cards.

The devices, which measure hand size and compare measurements in a pre-recorded database, would cost between \$400 and \$500 each. Carleton would have to fork out thousands of dollars, says the university's assistant vice president (university services).

Ed Kane told The Charlatan student newspaper the technology would benefit students who forget to carry their student cards.

But some students say hand scanners would be a frivolous expense. They say the university should focus on improving food services and fitness equipment.

'I think it's an obscene waste of funds," residence council president Patrick Watson told The Charlatan. "There are other priorities the university should be focusing on, not on this ridiculous spending adventure.'

Top agricultural university

The University of Guelph will be the first post-secondary institution in Canada to ban the use of caged hens' eggs from its food

University graduate Bruce Passmore said the policy, which comes into effect in September, represents a step in the right direction for all consumers.

The science is clear, hens suffer in cages," said Passmore, coordinator of the Vancouver Humane Society's Chicken Out! project. "Battery cages represent one of the worst forms of animal cruelty in our society, but the problem is also one of the easiest to fix."

More than 90 American universities and colleges have already banned caged hen eggs and the entire European Union will prohibit hen battery cages beginning in 2012.

Bomb squad called to Ryerson

Police dispatched an emergency bomb squad to Ryerson University over a fake threat and a suspicious-looking box.

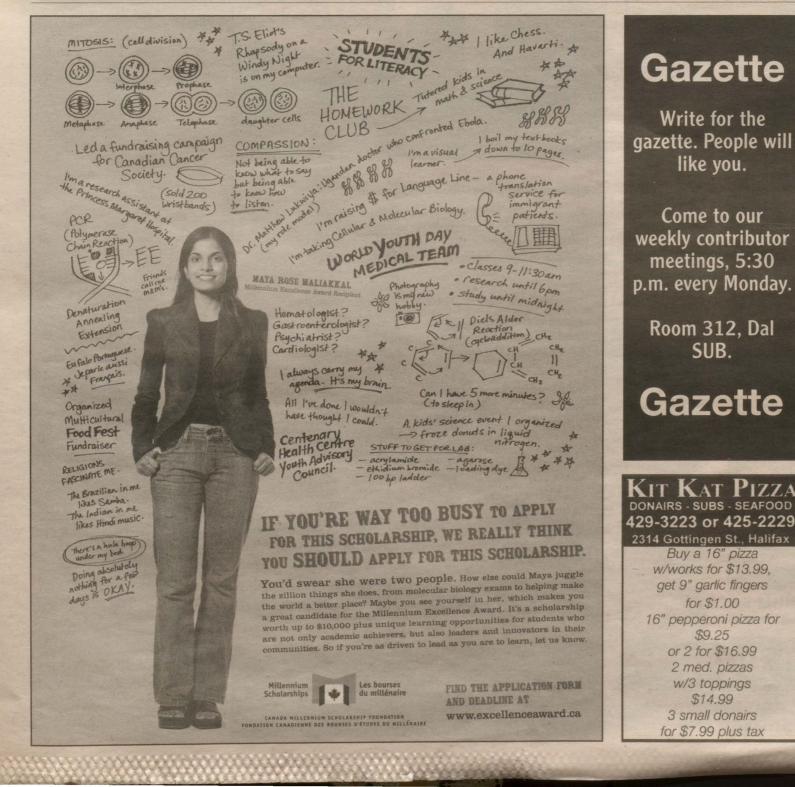
An anonymous student used a public phone to call in a bogus bomb threat at a Rverson cafeteria on March 15.

Toronto police investigated the scene and found a box full of batteries and circuit boards. Constable Victor Kwong told The Eyeopener student newspaper the device looked like a disassembled robot, and was likely unrelated to the threat because of the amount of dust on it.

Complying with bomb threat procedure, police called in the bomb disposal unit. The squad evacuated the cafeteria before it deemed the box harmless.

Kwong said if caught, those responsible for the threat could face up to five years in prison.

Sources: The Charlatan, The McGill Daily, The Eyeopener, University of Guelph press release.



Fire, vandalism strike Killam library on same day

ASHLEIGH GAUL Assistant Arts Editor

The Killam Library took a double hit on March 21, when a fire broke out in the basement just hours after opening staff discovered several first-floor windows had been smashed during the night.

The combined cost of the damages is roughly \$10,000.

Charles Annie, a fourth-year English major, was one of the first students to enter the Killam on Wednesday morning.

"I go to the same computer all the time," he said. "I automatically sat down in my usual spot — and into a pile of glass."

Annie said at least seven windowpanes overlooking both firstfloor computer labs had been broken by fist-sized stones.

"There were a few rocks on the floor and glass all over the place," he said

As a safety precaution, Dalhousie security evacuated Annie and other early-morning students from the smaller computer lab. Security also temporarily closed off a section of the main commons.

"It was an exciting morning," said Annie.

Then a fire broke out. At roughly 2:30 p.m., smoke wafted up from the basement, triggering the fire alarms. A floor-by-floor public announcement supplemented the alarms.

Librarian William Maes said the smoke began to rise when one of three transformers that power the Killam's ventilation system suddenly ignited.

"We smelled the smoke, alerted the fire department and evacuated the building immediately," he said.

Students were slower to react. Elise Ryan, supervisor of Second Cup, said students stayed in line long after the alarms sounded.

"[Students] were flashing their Dal cards as if the system could possibly work when the power was out," said Ryan. "Even when the fire trucks arrived, students were standing in groups inside the library doors. I kept thinking, 'Hey guys, you know what to do, you did this in high school."

At 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, security escorted select students through the smoky building to retrieve materials they left behind during the evacuation. Most students waited overnight to collect their scattered belongings from the library.

The library opened again at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Though Maes said the Killam was probably safe to enter as early as Wednesday evening, the smell of charred material lingered for several hours.

The fire department is still investigating the cause of ignition, but Maes said he's not surprised it happened.

"The building is 35 years old," he said. "The transformers tend to catch fire." Just two years ago, a similar fire

occurred after a transformer combusted.

"We've had the transformer re-

Smoke began to rise in the Killam on March 21 when one of three transformers that power the library suddenly ignited. / Photo courtesy of Facilities Management

placed," said Maes. "But of course, it had to be incorporated into the old configuration."

In the meantime, the loss of the transformer won't disturb the library's operations, as a locally leased generator is powering the building from the front lawn.

Maes said a new transformer is on order from New Brunswick, but

Gazette

likely won't arrive before the end of the academic year.

The university did what it could to keep the library open after the two incidents, he said.

"At this time of year, we can't afford to close the library down," he said. "It just goes to show how dependent we all are on our spaces, and on these systems."

Write for the gazette. People

will like you.

Uni-Briefs

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Student steals computers to buy drugs

An Indiana University student allegedly stole school computer equipment to pay off his drug debt.

The Indiana police department is still investigating the case and will not release the graduate student's name. Detective Dave Hannum told the Indiana Daily Student the suspect was caught on a security camera, stealing computers from the school's technology office where he worked.

"When interviewed about the theft, he admitted to stealing computers to pay for a drug debt of crack cocaine," Hannum said.

The student led police to a trailer in which he kept the stolen computers. Officers on the scene also found large amounts of cocaine, marijuana and prescription drugs.

Police arrested the three trailer residents on charges of felony related to drug dealing. The student faces theft charges.

Student faces felony for dog torture

A Cornell University student faces misdemeanour charges of animal cruelty for torturing a

Alexander Atkind, who is currently serving time at Tioga county jail for drug possession, is set to appear in court on April 17 for allegedly beating and pouring bleach on an animal that was in his care while its owner was

Police told *The Cornell Daily* Sun the dog suffered head injuries, chemical burns and digestive problems as a result of the beating.

Atkind may face stricter felony charges of aggravated animal cruelty if a grand jury indicts him at the hearing next month.

Several national animal rights groups have written letters to the court judge in support of bringing felony charges against the student, who planned to graduate at the end of this year.

Residents fear lab would spread disease

Boston University will appeal to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court next month for permission to build a laboratory to study deadly diseases.

The university aims to overturn a lower court's ruling in favour of an environmental review before construction on the lab can begin,

Residents in the densely populated area where the university proposed to build the lab are concerned. They worry the biologically harmful substances that researchers will handle in the lab will put them at risk for fatal diseases.

Critics of the construction plan say city officials haven't implemented adequate emergency services to protect the population if the lab were to cause a viral outbreak, reports the university's student newspaper, the *Daily Free Press*.

Sources: Indiana Daily Student, The Cornell Daily Sun and Daily Free Press



info@spacesselfstorage.com www.spacesselfstorage.com



Democracy by coercion

JIMMY KAPCHES Staff Contributor

There's a knock at your door, you I fail to look through the peep hole and the person on the other side is now your problem.

"Whatever you're selling, I'm not buying," you say, when their smiling face confronts your own. "Oh, I'm not selling anything, it's election day and I'm here to collect your vote."

What do you do? You vote by embarrassment.

When someone sticks a blackberry knock-off in your face and tells you it's your right, and consequently your duty to vote, you'd probably go ahead and do it. Even if you didn't want to vote, when people are hawking democracy and getting in your face about it, you would certainly feel obliged to vote.

That's what happened during this year's Dalhousie Student Union election. Student volunteers stopped passers-by in locations across all three campuses, asking them to cast their votes on handheld Treos.

This was democracy by coercion, and election by subversion. People need to seek out the vote or else they're a liability to the electoral process

Why did the DSU spend time and resources sending people around campus to collect votes? Was it to artificially inflate the number of students interested in the union's petty and profitable politicking?

It's clear that adding hundreds of undecided voters to the mix would create incredibly unstable and inaccurate electoral results. To coerce people into casting ballots is to force

them to vote randomly or rely on the half-forgotten names of people who disturbed their classes for weeks.

It seems like a method to get the most voluble spokespersons elected simply because they managed to impress their otherwise unremarkable names on a few first-year students.

But the greatest evil of this system of forced voting is the human aspect.

Who do these errant polling clerks know, who did they vote for and how talkative are they?

There is nothing democratic about a secret ballot when someone standing before you influences it by name-dropping their best friend into an executive position worth tens of thousands of dollars.

These elections, despite being boring and annoying to the vast majority of students, grant people titular positions worth upward up to \$26,500 a year.

That student politicians get such massive honorariums is reason alone to make the electoral process one where people seek out their right to vote, instead of ticking a ballot under the scrutiny of some hawk-eyed supporter of so-and-so.

Congratulations DSU, you've done it again. You've proven that all you're really interested in is funds and figures, facts and percentages, so that your paper politicians can tout the benefits of their governance and get paid.

These days, every time someone gets "voted in," they do it under a dark cloud of mischief and uncertainty. I say we try again, for a truthful version, and throw these vote-pirating palm-pilots in the trash.

Failed candidates can only blame themselves

MIKE SMIT DSU Veteran

 S_{21} per cent of them — and the DSU has a new executive. Mike Tipping, Rosalie Hanlon, Tara Gault and Courtney Larkin take office on May 1, alongside a yet to be appointed vice president (finance and operations).

DalOUT finally won its levy (third time's the charm), and WUSC tagged along for the ride. And the DSU has a shiny new (err... recycled) sustainability office. It should be an exciting year for the DSU.

Excitement is good, because the election itself was completely unremarkable. Perhaps the most noteworthy news is that no one has challenged the results, which is not something we've taken for granted in recent DSU elections history.

There were moments of drama and, as usual, a few candidates evoked a good laugh. But there was no epic battle of the well-qualified titans, no struggle of "good" versus "evil," no power struggle between several strong leaders.

There were just a bunch of people who wanted to be elected.

I hoped online campaigning would allow candidates to give me more to be excited about, but was disappointed. Only eight candidates bothered to create any kind of web presence outside of a "lol vote 4 me" Facebook group completely void of meaningful content.

I followed the election closely and gathered every detail I could. I visited Facebook groups and candidate websites several times a day. I had dozens of people e-mailing me information and updates, I offered opinion polls and forums and I published five daily comments on anything remotely newsworthy.

Five days later, I can't even remember all the candidates' names.

It's not that they were egregiously bad candidates - I tend to remember those. They were just uninspiring. Unimpressive. Unoriginal. There were notable exceptions, as always, but in general I had to look hard to find interesting news to report.

I'm not alone in my general indifference. Compared to previous years, the spoiled ballot rates were quite high. And it's even worse when you add in ballots that were left blank. The ballot for vice president (education) was left blank or intentionally spoiled by 28 per cent of all voters, with the other executive positions not far behind at 15 per cent, 20 per cent and 24 per cent.

Nearly 1,000 students looked at the two choices for that position and essentially said "No thanks" or "Oh, gotta run, Jericho is on." It's hard to get enthusiastic about an election when you're voting for the lesser of "who cares.

Of course, the untold story is of the nine candidates who won't get a chance to battle the new self-appointed DSU watchdog, Gregory Debogorski, failed board of governors candidate. Fortunately for them, they have other options.

If they don't want to worry about pesky things like voters or constituents, they can get themselves appointed to sit on the DSU's board of operations. There they can form their very own two-year oligarchy, just like the Central Committee all the best Politburos had.

Unless, of course, they are computer science or engineering students, as co-op students need not apply. They'll just have to get one of those summer jobs in Ontario our new vice president (education) promised us in her campaign. It's cool — the DSU has always been Dalhousie's arts and science society. I see no reason to kowtow to those pesky co-op students.

Getting back to the candidates, I have one message for you: better luck next time. Try to avoid running a campaign destined to fail. If you lost and are looking for someone to blame, you need only look as far as the nearest mirror.

We didn't set a record in terms of how far we lowered the bar, but we came pretty damn close. If you couldn't clear it, you can blame only yourself.

Some factors that swing elections are out of your control, but the majority are completely up to you. It takes little effort to research the position you desire, meet with the current holder of the position, visit classrooms, post a website and craft a platform with interesting and relevant ideas.

You have voters and pundits alike who are begging to be excited, to be inspired, to have strong feelings about an election.

We're tired of spoiling our ballots. Dalhousie students, if you've ever wanted to run for DSU office, now is the time to start. You have 11 months and three weeks to get ready to give the university something to be excited about.

Mike Smit is a Dalhousie graduate who has been involved with the DSU for over seven years. He developed the DSU's online voting software and has provided technical support ever since. Smit's website, MikeSmit.com, was a focal point of election commentary.

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Gazette

Write for the spoof issue!

Carleton students need representation

JOEL DURLING Staff Contributor

oes anyone recall the "What's your beef?" segment on CBC's consumer advice show Street Cents?

I remember it, and I've got beef as big as a herd of cattle with the total disregard for Dalhousie's Carleton campus.

Students recently went to the polls to elect next year's Dalhousie Student Union executive. With the exception of Chris Ide, current vice president (internal), I've seen a complete lack of representation of Carleton students in the DSU.

Health sciences students are supposed to have two representatives on council, but one of those positions is currently vacant.

Mobile voting personnel were in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building last week encouraging students to vote. It was nice to see the DSU make its yearly appearance. I felt like telling them to ram their Blackberries, but I figured I shouldn't shoot the messenger.

There was a complete lack of campaigning on this campus. But during my weekly venture to the Studley campus, I was barraged with candidate posters.

If it weren't for The Gazette, I wouldn't have known anything about the candidates - or even that the election was taking place.

In the recent campus construction referendum, students voted against increasing their fees to improve student spaces. Considering only 28.2 per cent of the student



Carleton students need to rally together to create a stronger identity. / Photo: John Packman

population voted, I'd be interested in knowing how many health sciences students cast ballots.

Highlights of proposed improvements included a studio space on the Sexton campus and a new student building adjacent to the Student Union Building. Sounded good for Sexton and Studley students, but what about Carleton students?

They would have only seen improvements in two of many student spaces on the campus, which are already meeting student needs. Essentially, the plan ignored Carleton

Why is it everyone thinks the administration ignores Sexton campus? Perhaps it's not exactly in the spotlight, but at least students have recognized this and rallied to change that.

The Sexton campus houses the popular T-Room and has its own section in The Gazette.

I have nothing against Studley campus. In fact, I'm envious because I truly wish Carleton students would rally to create a stronger identity. We need more representation and more inclusion within the existing infrastructure. At the same time, we need to build our own identity.

THE WORD AT DAL

In the King's quad...

Girl 1: My mom sprayed air freshener on my gerbil cage...and it ex-

Girl 2: Your gerbil exploded?

Girl 1: Well it sort of poofed up first, then popped. (Pause) I know they say they don't test on animals, but that's one time I'd want to know, you

In a Risley Hall Cafeteria...

Guy: Ham isn't even a meat, is it? I don't think it is...

In the SUB...

Girl: I feel so...blah today.

Guy: Want to go make fun of a hobo? That always cheers me up. Girl: Nah... not today. Thanks though.

In a residence...

Girl: If someone dies, what happens to their Facebook?

On the bus...

Guy: So I'm going on Acutane.

Girl: Oh really? I've heard that girls have to take birth control when they take Acutane.

Guy: Really? Why?

Girl: 'Cause, like, Acutane can give you babies.

Guy: Oh. Bummer.

In the King's Wardroom...

Girl: Yah, but haven't you ever wondered what breast milk tastes like?

In the Howe Hall cafeteria...

Girl1: I forgot to take my pill yesterday, and we had sex...

Girl2: Oh

Girl1: But I took it, like, the second we were finished so it's ok!

Girl2: I don't think it works like that...

Girl1: No?

Girl2: No...I think you're thinking of the morning after pill, not the birth control pill.

Girl1: ...Shit!

HOT / INOT

HOT: April fools

NOT: Cruel friends

HOT: Spring flings

NOT: Spring cleaning

HOT: Personal hygiene

NOT: Patchouli oil

HOT: Prof. evaluations

NOT: Being the kid who has to collect them

The wake 'n' bake

NOT: The fake bake

HOT: Celebs in rehab HOT: The Mod Squad NOT: Quitters

NOT: The DSU Vote Squad NOT: Knowing it's all going to the Dome staff

HOT: Tax refunds

HOT: Risley neighbourhood clean up ANOT: Drunk tank clean up

HOT: The copy editor

NOT: News editors

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STREETER

WHAT'S THE WORST APRIL FOOLS' DAY PRANKYOU'VE EVER FALLEN FOR?



66 My best friend telling me they were moving away."

Ryan Koroscil, second-year political science

Waking up with gum in my hair."

Kaylie-Anne Adamski, first-year arts



66 While I was in Niger, a friend of mine told me my mom had just travelled to the U.S. and that she had just called. I had seen her just the night before, too."

Ejibola Fajimi, second-year medicine



One time my roommate put Italian dressing my orange juice. I was a rude awakening."

Nate Lyons-Fisher, fourth-year history



66 My brother came running into my room with blood capsules all over his body telling me he was dying. I just about called an ambulance."

Emily Dodge, fourth-year IDS



66 My dad convinced me it was a snow day so I ran outside

Sarah Stanley, fourth-year political science and IDS



1 was in bed with my wife and she tells me our landlord bought us a new oven. I was stoked, but when I asked to see it she said I couldn't, then she covered me with the sheets and told me it was a dutch oven."

Nathan Elliot Doucet, comparative religion grad



66 I was locked in a room with two hot girls and they started getting suggestive. Then they said April Fools' and left."

Joey Ryba, twenty-sixth-year blue balls



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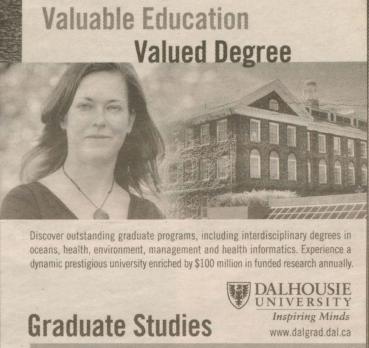
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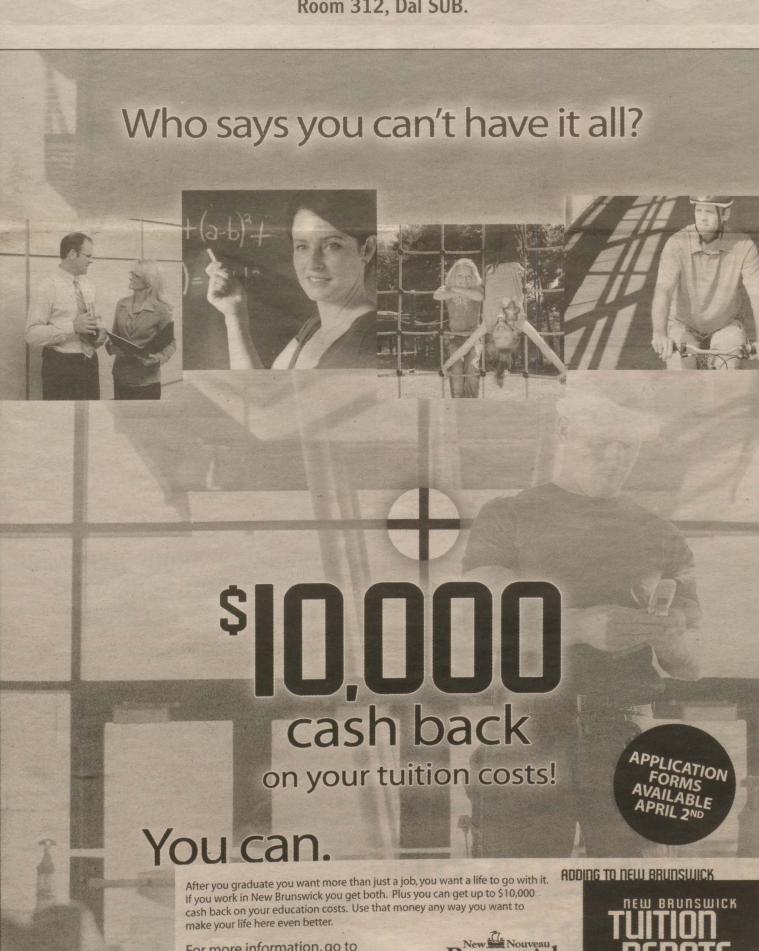
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Tanya Davis blends words and music

Local poet and musician performs at Writer's Festival

KARYN HAAG Staff Contributor

Tanya Davis was born to write. As a little girl, she wrote. She writes in groups and alone. She has presented her literary works from Nova Scotia to Ontario, and she's about to perform at this year's Halifax International Writer's Festival.

Davis is slated for March 30 at the Lord Nelson Hotel where she will be joined by poets Lorri Neilsen Glenn and Agnes Walsh.

Davis's career is just beginning to blossom, but she says she had a head start.

"My mom always wanted me to be a writer. Always, when I was little girl, the first thing I said I wanted to be when I grew up was a writer," she says.

With her love of writing came a love of reading.

"I was one of those kids who read all the time, I read a book a day," says Davis. "I'd go to the library and I could only get one book at a time, so I went every day and got a new book. I really liked Roald Dahl books, like the BFG, and Beverly Cleary books."

She says her enthusiasm was put on hold after high school. At university, she stopped reading because she was supposed to read so much. But with her passion for writing, Davis says her disenchantment couldn't last.

"Writing, I feel, is a thing that writers can't get away from," she says. "It's this thing we can't not do.

"I love reading books by writers about writing. There's just something about the fact that there's all these other people sitting there, at desks or in their room or in coffee shops. It's so solitary, but at the same time there are so many other people who have to do this, too."

Davis mixes poetry with more participatory arts, such as music, spoken word and performance. She's always felt drawn to both music and words, and she feels she combines the two without sacrificing her identity.

"I remember it was really frustrating when I was first being recognized as a poet, before people knew that I played music," she says. "I wasn't frustrated with them, I was frustrated with myself because I wasn't just a poet and I couldn't walk away from that part of myself."

Davis rarely reads poetry alone,



Tanya Davis says the melding of music and words has always come naturally to her.

often performing her written art to music. Sometimes she plays a cappella, but often she performs solo with instruments, and sometimes with a band.

Davis will also perform at the upcoming Bringin' It Home Tour in Dartmouth. Her show on April 13 at Port Wallis United Church includes musical accompaniment by Jenn Grant, Dan MacKinnon and Thom Swift.

Devon Strang of inHouse Publicity says Bringin' It Home was created by Music Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage to encourage small communities around the province to host local musicians.

"This was fours years ago and the program is still going strong," he says.

Davis's work is brazen. She laments on lost loves, religion, growing up gay and the loneliness of sleeping alone, and says she's not apprehensive presenting her personal odes.

Davis is a bit nervous about performing lyrical spoken word poems in front of a literary crowd at the writer's festival, and hopes poets in the crowd will perceive her differences as benchmarks of originality.

But people are there to see the

poetry, she says.

She learned to adapt her performances to different crowds, while touring Ontario with her musical partner, Catherine MacLellan.

"We were playing a lot of older folksy crowds where acoustic guitars seemed more acceptable," she says. "I had my little electric [guitar], and I felt a little like, 'sure they might like my voice or part of my songs.' And that was the first time I thought maybe I shouldn't play this song or that song."

Fellow Bringin' It Home performer Jenn Grant says Davis is a "contant source of inspiration and comfort."

"Her songwriting blows me away and takes me to a special place where there is art and beauty and love," says Grant. "Her voice is equally soft and strong.

The way she speaks, it is like there are ribbons and drums behind her. What a magical wonder she turned out to be."

The third annual Halifax International Writer's Festival runs from March 28 to April 3 at locations throughout the city.

Davis is performing Friday, March 30 at the Lord Nelson Hotel at 7 p.m. with Lorri Neilsen Glenn and Agnes Walsh. Worried about paying for your education?

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Dancing across the finish line

King's Dance Collective plans last show

Laura Trethewey

Arts Editor

During one of the more chaotic weeks of the school year, the King's Dance Collective is busy rounding up dancers for its annual year-end show.

"It's hard because everyone's really busy with other schoolwork and not necessarily ready to make a commitment to the show," says Safia Haq, an executive member of the collective. "[Our last show] was a lot of commitment. We were sort of traumatized by it."

In January, the King's Dance Collective embarked on the project of performing Dante's *Inferno* in dance form at the King's Fringe Festival. Despite the wearying level of commitment it took, the collective accomplished the feat.

"People were surprised at how good it was," says Haq. "They would come up and say, 'Wow, I didn't think it would be that good."

Fourth-year journalism student Jessica Davey-Quantick is one of the collective's most avid contributors. She's in the midst of organizing one last dance piece before her university career is over.

"The piece I'm working on right now is a salsa, tango, hip hop [mix] involving chairs," she says. "I wanted to go out with a bang, I guess."

She says dancing in the collective helps decrease stress, rather than contributing to it.

Gazette

"You're not thinking about that bad grade, that deadline, your plans for dinner, the amount in your bank account, any of the things that muddle up your brain usually," she says. "The best [dance pieces] I've done usually involve me working out whatever is going on in my life at the time."

The loose organization of the dance collective is open to participants creating and choreographing their own pieces. A massive e-mail list brings a disparate group of dance enthusiasts together to produce the final show for the collective.

"The dance collective normally does a recital-type show where people can perform whatever they want," says Haq, who joined the collective right before last year's final performance, when she suddenly had the desire to perform a Bollywood dance.

Davey-Quantick is trying to put together her own piece while she still can, taking advantage of the collective's liberal structure.

"I hope that wherever I land, I can find something like the collective. Where you can say, 'Hey, I want to do a dance show all about prostitutes,' and people go, 'O.K., yeah,'" she says. "I don't know where I'd be without it."

The King's Dance Collective will perform its final show this Sunday, April 1 in the King's Dance Space under the King's Gym. The show will begin at 8 p.m. and admission is free.

Gazette

Gallery Deluxe Gallery hosts strange and familiar

The Gazette reviews Halifax's smallest gallery

KALEY KENNEDY Staff Contributor

In the main space

To call Will Robinson's installation at Gallery Deluxe Gallery "overwhelming" would be an understatement.

The mirrored walls, disco ball, oddly arranged sculptures of body parts, ambient music and several empty beer cans of "allay allay" make for a surreal experience in the main space, a tiny attic that's ceiling is less than a metre high.

Still trying to get my bearings in the small area, I was told Robinson suggested people climb into the attic, close the door and drink a can of beer.

Sitting alone in the dark space, it's hard to resist looking at the sculptures. There's an arm extending from the wall holding a flashlight. In another corner, the head and arms

of another sculpture have flashlights for eyes.

Perhaps the most compelling figure was the bottom half of a puppet with a flashlight extending from the groin.

While the obvious sexual undertones paired with the beer and the general feeling of the room are unsettling, it seemed quite clear that this was entirely intentional.

It's well worth the time it takes to look at Robinson's installation, but do so on a good day. It's not a place to be if you're already feeling low.

In the diorama space

There's something very familiar about Rebecca Jenkin's piece, "Bus Pass Spy." Everyone has waited for a bus and eavesdropped into the conversations of others around, and knows the feeling of drifting in and

out of the lives of strangers.

The 28-inches-square display depicts a bus station with dozens of tiny characters that are each drawn with one line of conversation attached. A magnifying glass allows the viewer to drift from character to character, looking every one individually.

Just like at a bus stop, the viewer can concentrate on the words of one person in a crowd of muffled voices.

The miniature characters are familiar, too. They seemed like me, my friends, my parents, my classmates and everyone in between. It would be easy to sit there for hours and get to know these tiny characters one by one.

Even if you don't have hours, take a little peek in on "Bus Pass Spy."

Exhibits runs till March 31 at Gallery Deluxe Gallery.

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Shannon left the University of Saskatchewan to study Cartography at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) at NSCC's Annapolis Valley Campus. She excelled, winning the National Geographic Student Award and the International British Cartographic Award.

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International Produce: Samamido / But This Chicken Proved Falsehearted



In 1932, the father-son team of John and Alan Lomax journeyed through the southeastern United States, in penitentiaries, on porches, down back roads, in fields and chain gangs, recording folk songs for the Library of Congress.

They were responsible not only for discovering blues and folk artists such as Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie and Muddy Waters, but for tracing and documenting the very roots and traditions of early American culture.

True to the roughshod, patchwork quality of the Lomax's venture, Sam Amidon and Thomas Bartlett culled their own versions of these

traditional American folk songs for But This Chicken Proved Falsehearted

The duo behind Samamidon achieves more than a retracing of the Lomax's steps with these cover songs. Amidon and Bartlett's treatment deepens the incantatory effect of the source songs, slowing the pace and incorporating scant, nearly subliminal ambient touches and a liberal smattering of keyboards and electric guitar.

The coup de grâce is Amidon's faintly accented, rags-and-bones voice. It's high-pitched, drawling, vanilla-smooth while cracking at the right moments — and utterly disarming

Amidon is also gifted in his ability to voice the emotional core of songs without any trace of affectation. When he sings, "The sun looks lonesome on a graveyard fence, baby looks lonesome when her head is bent," on the traditional "Roll on John," the effect is emotionally rending

But the album has missteps. The

drums on "True Born Sons of Levi" threaten to drown out the rest of the song, while the bizarre choice of a drum-machine loop in the cover of Mississippi John Hurt's "Louis Collins" robs it of its tragic import.

When Amidon and Bartlett do their own journeying, covering the 1980s Tears for Fears' "Head Over Heels," they use their approach to best effect. The duo turns the song inside out, cutting straight to an evocation of pain and longing present in the original's lyrics, but often obscured.

"Head Over Heels" is the album's only departure from traditional American folk, but it sounds similar to those songs with the same brand of beaten down, blues-type emotions.

This ability to make songs resonate anew rather than seem like diminished echoes of the originals proves Amidon and Bartlett are not only artists in their own right, but unlike that figurative chicken, not at all false hearted.

—ANU JINDAL, Staff Contributor

Local Crop: Scribbler / Backitis



I've made things a bit difficult for myself. Here's a synopsis of some of the things I've said about Scribbler in the past:

Prussia [Scribbler's last release] is the best Halifax release of 2006 (Gazette, 2006). Everybody in Halifax... should be wearing giant foam Scribbler number one fingers (Gazette, 2007).

...so, I've been doing a lot of sitting in the bushes outside Scribbler's house lately... (diary entry, 2006).

Scribbler set a pretty high standard with last year's *Prussia*. To be fair in this review, I'm going to pretend that Scribbler had never released *Prussia*.

So, there's this local band called Scribbler. The members play a lot of different instruments. They all play each other's instruments, too. That might explain how a band of up to six members can sound so consistently cohesive, whether they play with their full lineup or with a minimalist arrangement of two or three.

The singer, Craig Currie, reminds me a lot of Elliott Smith, only in that he writes songs that are much heavier than they seem. His songs are screamed lullabies or sobbed anthems.

The rest of the band seems to take infinite pleasure in morphing Currie's almost objectively pleasing melodies into dance, noise, blues and bare rock arrangements, and playing them on as many instruments as possible.

Scribbler's trademark may be its malleability in arrangements, and the band is at its best when following this formula.

—ASHLEIGH GAUL, Assistant Arts Editor



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Sex with Hugh

Head on a bed

HUGH WALLACE Sex Columnist

Sucking dick, knob gobbling, catching brains or, more commonly, getting a blow job, is arguably one of the greatest obsessions of many men.

Fellatio is oral stimulation of a penis, done by rhythmic up and down movements. This is, of course, the crudest form of the act. People have diversified it and made it more complicated.

Some common tactics when performing fellatio include using hands, tongue, teeth, lube and alternative positions to enhance pleasure.

Hand techniques include masturbating the penis during oral stimulation, cupping the balls or gently pushing a knuckle into the skin behind the scrotum (the perineum).

Tongue techniques are harder to describe. One method is to circle the tongue around the head of the penis. Play with speeds, amount of lubrication and pressure to find the best combination for you and your partner. Remember that while this should be about pleasuring your partner, it should also be comfortable for you.

Lube can greatly increase sensation during oral sex, especially if you use heated, crackling or cooling lube. Just make sure it's safe to put in your mouth.

On the flip side, I've gone ahead and asked a couple of friends what they hate during fellatio.

One problem brought up was using hands without enough lube. This causes chaffing and discomfort. Rings and bracelets can be uncomfortable if they scrape or get caught in pubic hair.



Tongue techniques are harder to describe. One method is to circle the tongue around the head of the penis. / Stock Photo

Another thing we discussed was teeth, and the difference between nibbling and raking. Nibbling can be erotic and sensual, but when a person starts to rake the shaft with their teeth, you're in trouble. The penis is very sensitive, especially when erect, and teeth grating across it can be, well, unpleasant. Imagine raking a fork across your palm — get the picture?

One conclusion we all came to was that sometimes partners aren't aware their efforts are too gentle.

It's not a fucking lollipop, so don't lick it like one. Or, as another friend said, it's more of an Itzakadoozie popsicle — you just have to suck like it is going out of style.

A little pressure, or a lot, is sometimes necessary. Tight lips are essential to create a sensation similar to that of a hand. A firm grip is also an asset, but you should watch that you

don't literally "choke" the chicken.

As for positions, there's the obvious: head on a bed, head standing up, head sitting down, and so forth.

What about 69? Both partners are performing oral sex on each other at the same time. This is a very intimate and erotic act, and well worth the effort.

So, I asked myself and my fellow man friends why guys are so interested in oral sex.

The general consensus was it's something a man can't do to himself (unless he's very flexible). Fellatio is also different from the good old hand-to-gland action with which most men are very familiar.

When it comes to fellatio, you really can't go wrong if you take into account what not to do. Just find a partner with some sweet DSLs (dick sucking lips) and I'm sure the fellatio will be out of this world.

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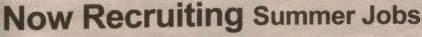
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Residences raise funds for charity

Hockey organizers hope to double money for troubled youth

JOEY RYBA Sports Editor

The Howe Hall Trojans and the Risley Bighorns are set to square off in the second annual charity hockey game on March 31 at the Dal arena.

Last year, students at both Dal residences organized the game to raise money for charity and to increase spirit and competition between the two residences.

Organizers hope the 2007 game, which completes a year of fundraising efforts, will bring in double the money raised last year and draw a sellout crowd. Money raised will be donated to Raise the Roof, an organization that helps troubled youth.

Fundraising activities have included bar nights, a hockey player auction, pie-in-the-face contests, cash donations from players and game ticket sales.

Risley coach Brendon Gill says interest at Risley has been "phenomenal."

"It's more than a hockey game,"

says Gill. "It's something we base our Risley community on because it's a new residence and we don't have a lot of tradition. We made it something cool in the building."

Risley won last year's game, and is looking to go 2-0 in the series. Gill says the Bighorns are a hard-working team

"We don't have a lot of individual superstars, but we're a team and a cohesive unit," he says. "Especially with our fundraising, we've built a lot of team spirit and I think that's going to take us over the edge."

The Bighorns are strong at every position. Jake Martell, MVP of last year's game, will return to the net. Lucas Schurman will anchor the team on the blue line, and Charles Amodeo will lead the attack up front.

Across the ice, Howe Hall is aiming to even the score.

Andrew Archibald, Howe Hall president and a player on the Trojans, says enthusiasm is starting to build as the game approaches.

"At the start of the year, not many

people knew about it," says Archibald. "But the team is out training and people see that. Guys have their jerseys on... It's looking really good."

Archibald says the Trojans lost in 2006 because the team didn't practice enough.

"We had to go off campus to find ice time, which became very expensive and time-consuming," he says. "Luckily this year, we had some guys who were committed to getting some good ice times and we had eight [practices] here at the Dal arena."

The Trojans are a fast-paced team, Archibald says.

"We've got a few weapons up front," he says. "We can roll four lines, which I think is really, really nice. I wouldn't say we have any one guy who stands out."

He says last year's team was talented, but the chemistry was missing.

"This year we stressed the team atmosphere, just having guys who are going to go out there and bleed for us."

Both teams held tryouts last October



Organizers anticipate a large, charged-up atmosphere at charity hockey game. / Photo: Courtesy of Risley Hall.

and have practiced intensely in 2007.

The game will have a professional feel. Organizers secured an on-ice referee and linesmen from Hockey Nova Scotia. The game will run in an NHL format, with three 20-minute periods and intermissions.

The event will also include opening ceremonies and intermission entertainment. Organizers anticipate a

loud, charged-up atmosphere in the building. To make sure things aren't too electric, Dal security, event staff and the Halifax Regional Police will attend the game.

Howe and Risley Halls' charity hockey game takes place @ 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 at the Dal arena on the corner of South and LeMarchant streets, Tickets are \$10.



now getting carded is a good thing

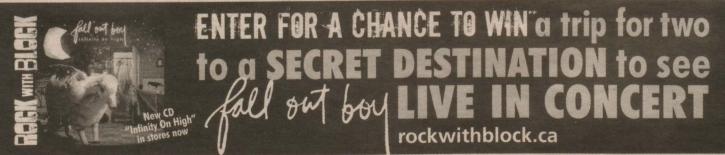
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NGINEERING

NEWSPAPER

Letter from the Editor

I have learned how to calculate the speed at which a reaction will take place in a plug flow reactor. I have learned of the heat transfer involved in an electric blanket caught on fire. I have learned how difficult it is to pass thermodynamics.

But I have also come to learn that I am terrified to write.

I suppose you could relate the feeling to one most of us have had — playing an instrument as a child or learning a language — practice makes perfect. And as soon as the practice stops, the skills begin to slowly fade. For those of you electricals, and other programming guru's, C++ doesn't count as writing with "computer language."

For the most part, it is easy to assume that the majority of people become engineers for the very reasons they do not become writers — they simply excel in a different skill set.

Apart from a few months in the sixth grade, I was never particularly good at math or science. I just really wanted to be. Fortunately, it has been that frame of mind that got me this far. It seems the sacrifice was my ability to write.

I became part of The Sextant a few months ago, when I realized I had to either stop criticizing or get involved. Those who don't vote can't complain about the outcome, right?

Since then I have met some incredible people with fantastic opinions and great stories. I have seen back issues of The Sextant, which in the early 1900s was called Tech Flash. In these issues are stories about people who have since become part of history, stories of old traditions and new beginnings.

These memories, fading with the paper on which they were written, have inspired me to keep going. And I hope that at some point, you will read something on this page that will inspire you to do the same.

As of September 2007, the Sextant will be back up and running. I sincerely hope that some of you reading this will consider contributing or getting involved. We need your help, your stories and your opinions about life on Sexton campus, as well as the rest of Dalhousie. Thanks for all of your support this year, and I hope you have a great summer.

Melanie Holmes

A Year in Review

By Christopher Davis

Another year is nearly in the books. As I'm writing this, it's 2:17 a.m. on Monday night. I'm still at school, working on one of four term projects due over the next nine days, not counting senior design... So basically, feeling the same stress as every other student in their final term.

After recalculating the drainage area for our storm water collection system for one of the above mentioned term projects for the 14th time in the last six hours and still getting a discharge from a freak rainstorm event large enough to literally rip every building in Atlantic Canada off its foundations and launch them to Sable Island, I decided it was almost time to pack it in for the night.

It's experiences like these, which on our campus occur far too often, that make us all look forward to the weekend — for our wicked cheap beer at engiBEERing followed by trivia on Friday night at the T-Room, or hitting up some kind of industry tour or structural assessment of downtown Halifax with a few dozen classmates.

The Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society (DSEUS) worked hard all year to organize

events to provide a venue for the often-overstressed engineering students to relax and socialize.

In the fall, we bought several sections of seats at the Metro Centre for two Halifax Mooseheads games. "DAL-MAN," an engineering student with a cog and phoenix painted on his chest, wearing only a black Speedo, a DAL ENG flag, and a hard hat became our mascot at these games, and joined HAL and the moose on the ice at intermission to try some crazy stunts and give away prizes.

Fall term also saw this campus's first engiBEERing in the common room, which quickly became a very popular weekly event. Winter term flew way too fast, but we still found a little time to have some fun. EngiBEERing continued to grow in popularity, and we all brought sexy back on the "Sexy Back" tour of downtown Halifax.

This year has also been a great year for our engineering students getting involved in the community, locally and globally.

The first group that comes to mind is Engineers Without Borders. The Dalhousie chapter has been very active over the last year raising funds and awareness for their cause. On a somewhat related note, long-time EWB member and outgoing EWB copresident Rosalie Hanlon was just elected vice president (internal) of the DSU.

Many other students contributed to the community this year in various ways, from donating a little time to give blood at the various blood donor clinics on campus, volunteer at the APENS Junior High School Egg Drop Competitions during National Engineering Week, pull a car around the Queen Street lot for "Pulling for the Kids" and raise money for Christmas daddies.

Our students really stepped up again this year to show the community that we care about more then our homework.

But I guess all the fun and games can't last forever. If we had much more going on around here our profs would likely just take that as a sign that we have too much "spare time" and pile even more work onto us.

That said, I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to check out www.dalsexton.ca and who got involved this year. It's been a blast!

Cheers,
Davis
Outgoing DSEUS president

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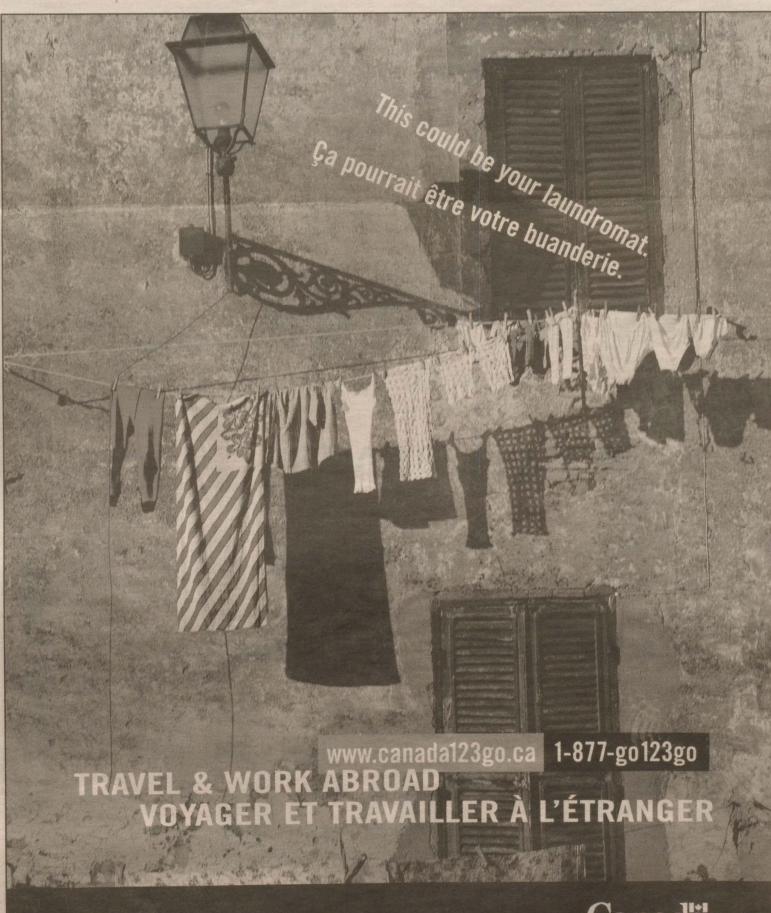
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