

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette



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I'm gonna
that smile

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YOU**

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VERY MUCH AND I
REMEMBER YOU ALWAYS
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LOVE, YOUR
BROTHER-RICKY

gee
1957 1992

**WORLD
AIDS DAY**
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ERIC SMITH	04
FRUIT FLIES	05
AIDS QUILT	13
KID KOALA	14
WORLD JUNIOR	17
HOCKEY	

JUNE 4, 1958
JUNE 8, 1991

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



DSU Council Meeting

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on January 12th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Society Info

Indemnity Form Forum:

There will be a forum to discuss the Society Indemnity form in Room 224 or the SUB at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 2nd. Both the insurance broker and legal counsel of the DSU will be present to answer questions. For more information, contact Tamara Conrod, Vice-President (Internal) at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

Ratification:

If you are interested in starting a society on campus you can contact Tamara Conrod, Vice-President (Internal) at the DSU Council Office, at dsuvpi@dal.ca or 494-1276. All societies ratified last year must re-ratify. There is NO deadline for ratification.

The DSU gives out \$40,000 in Grants to students and societies each year. Each student is eligible for up to \$100 per semester and each ratified society is eligible for up to \$1000 per semester. For more information, contact Tamara Conrod, DSU VP (Internal) at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

Tiger Patrol

The DSU, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, provides students with a free shuttle service. Check out the schedule and routes online at www.dsu.ca.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Social Life on Campus by joining the Community Affairs Committee, contact Mark Szepes, VP (Student Life) at dsuvpsl@dal.ca.

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HOT WING EATING CONTEST

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3
FIRST SEMESTER LAST CLASS BASH
LIVE MUSIC with DJ W

Editorial

Quentin Casey
Editor-in-Chief

Like proverbial lemmings following each other off a cliff, the hypocrites are out in full force.

It all started with the recent announcement that the Big Texan himself—George W.—would be stopping in Halifax as part of his two-day visit to Canada. Suddenly, before you could sarcastically whisper the words “firm in your beliefs,” the turncoats were arguing over the best place to view Bush’s arrival.

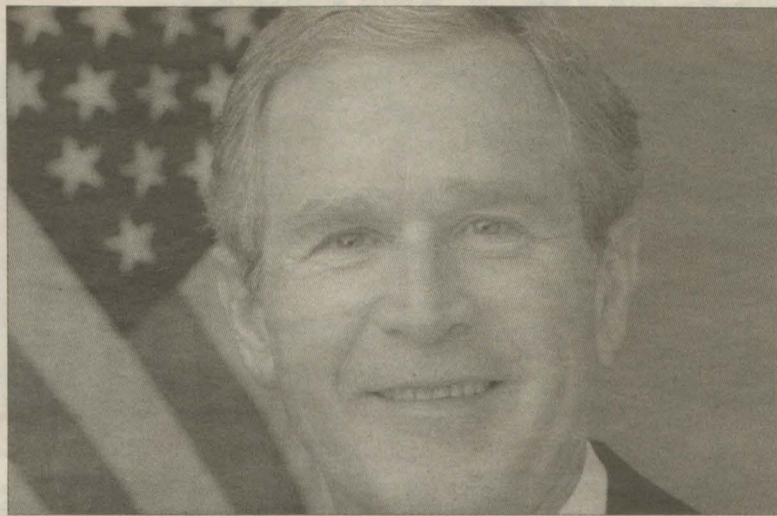
Only a few weeks ago the majority of Haligonians, Dalhousie students in particular, were lamenting George W.’s re-election. Many, if not most, criticized everything from his motives for invading Iraq to his connections to big business to his stance on social issues, like gay marriage.

But all of a sudden many of these self-proclaimed Bush haters are revived with excitement like young boys opening their first porno magazines. Why? Because Bush is coming to town, and they might be able to catch a glimpse of the President of the United States of America.

It is now easy to see who actually opposes Bush and his policies and who just claims to. The latter say that they are dead set against the evil empire of W, but at the first opportunity they will pour into downtown Halifax with big, stupid grins on their faces.

The only thing worse than a hypocrite is a star-struck hypocrite. It is as if we have suddenly forgotten that this is the same man who we were unified in condemning in the months before the Nov. 2 U.S. election.

We are so pleased that someone of “importance” has decided to come to little ol’ Halifax that we treat him like a demi-god. Just because he decided to visit our



town doesn’t suddenly change his actions or beliefs.

Now I’m not saying that we should all be down protesting with hand-scribbled signs and bowls of granola. Bush is fully aware that we, and most other countries, can’t stand him.

He simply doesn’t care.

For the most part, protest efforts are in vain. But that doesn’t mean that we should flock like brainless seagulls to line his motorcade route.

As I see it, you have two choices: get your arse out to protest or stay at home. But don’t go down to Pier 21 and gawk like a 13-year-old at an Avril Lavigne concert.

Apparently Bush wants to thank us for our help in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and our contribution in snuffing out the Taliban in Afghanistan.

A recent *Chronicle-Herald* editorial claimed that we should look at the visit in a positive light: “On one of the worst days in American history, Atlantic Canada was a place where communities and individuals reached out to help Americans spontaneously and instinctively. If that isn’t the bedrock of good relations, we don’t know what is.

“If Mr. Bush’s recognition of this generosity can help nudge

Canada-U.S. relations into a more positive groove, where the focus is on fundamentals, and not cheap shots, what’s wrong with that?”

Fair enough. I agree with these sentiments—we should look at this visit with optimism. I detest Bush as much as the next guy, but the citizens of his country elected him. In other words, he was chosen to lead by those whose opinion on the subject actually matters—Americans. We should therefore respect, even if only quietly, the choice of our neighbours. He was re-elected, and now Canada, as a leading nation in the global community and a neighbour of the U.S., must work with Bush as best we can.

This doesn’t mean following him blindly into another war in another country under another false pretense. But like it or not, he is the President, and we have to face our allies’ decision. And, like it or not, we share a 6,000 km border and one billion dollars in daily trade. We have no choice but to make an effort to get along.

Nevertheless, I won’t be downtown looking for Bush like a hungry dog eyes a bag of Milk-bones. I’ll let Paul Martin deal with him—that’s what we pay him for.

Gazette

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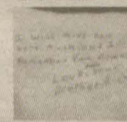
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COVER



AIDS quilt cover by Loukas Crowther.

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If you are interested in contributing to the Gazette, feel free to email us your article to: gazette@dal.ca or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312, Dal SUB.

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<http://www.dalgazette.ca/forum>

“Where are the printouts?”

“Where is your section?”



Upcoming Events...

**Employer Information Session
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Please go to www.dal.ca/sec
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THIS WEEK’S JOB NEWS STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

Summer Job of the Week...

The Centre Juno Beach located in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France, is currently recruiting students for the **Juno Beach Centre Guide Program**. If you have knowledge of Canadian history, and in particular Canada’s contribution to the Second World War, then this job could be for you.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please go to www.dal.ca/sec and search summer job opportunities.

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AIDS Awareness in the Atrium

Meaghan MacSween
News Contributor

Eric Smith sits in the Killam Atrium, surrounded by the chatter and the chaos of the noon-hour lunch crowd. Readers may have seen him before: with an array of condoms displayed on his small table, he is difficult to miss.

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every weekday he sits at the same table. This has been his routine for 12 years. "When I come here in the morning, no one sits at this table," he said. "Everyone knows it's 'my' table. If I don't come in for a couple of days, the students start asking the staff at Second Cup where I am."

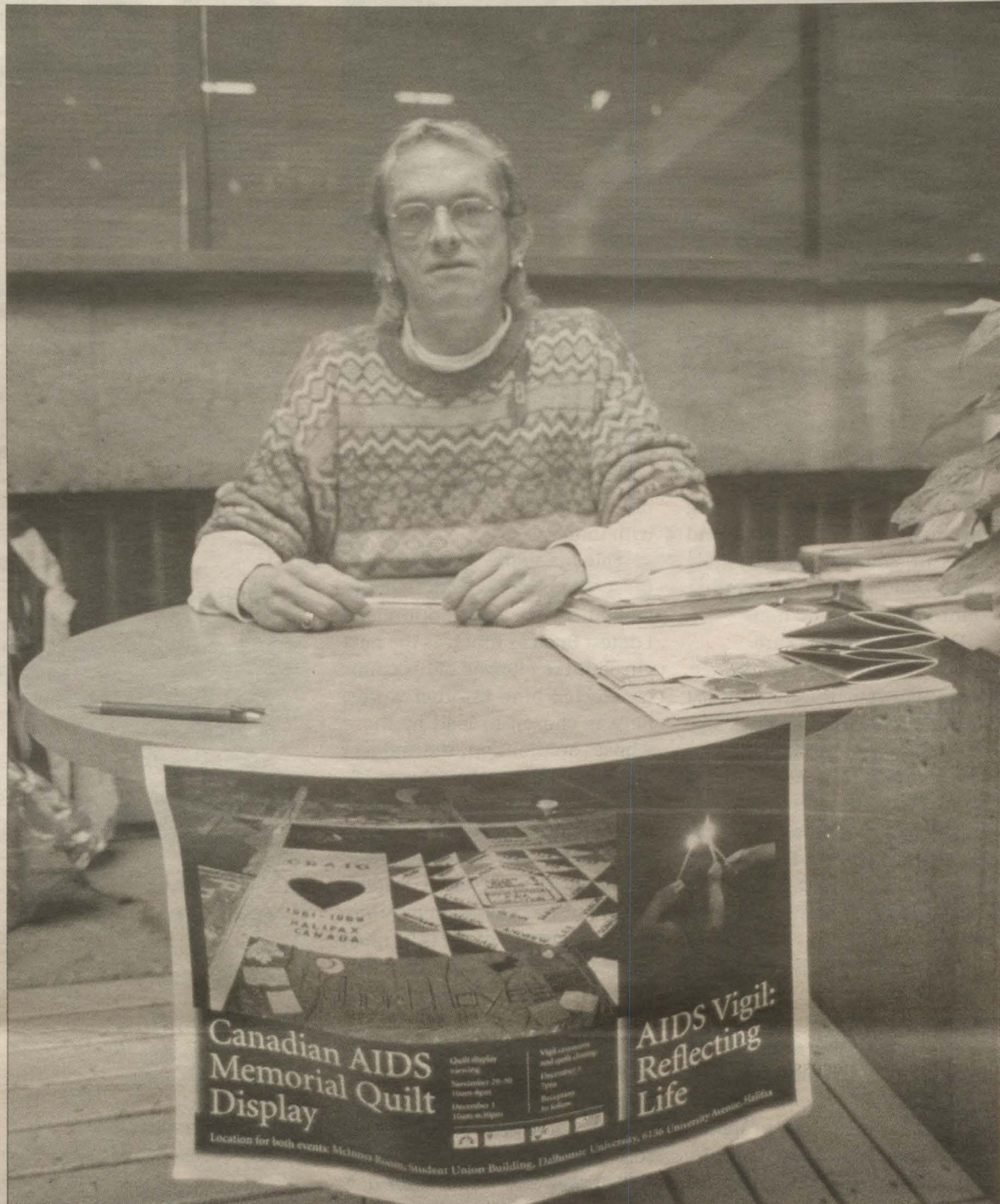
With sexuality-related resources around him, the common assumption is that Smith spends his time in the Atrium researching issues related to safe sex and sexually transmitted diseases, but this is not the case. "Actually, what I'm doing here does not relate to AIDS at all," he says.

His research started as a grade 10 history assignment on Canadian election statistics. Now, 30 years later, it has become an independent project that Smith hopes can be used as a research tool for political scientists to find complex election information in one concise database.

The display of condoms relates to Smith's other passion: AIDS awareness. In the mid-1980s, Smith was diagnosed with HIV. Since then, he has become a well-known advocate of AIDS and HIV awareness.

This passion began after Smith's diagnosis was made public. At the time, he was an elementary school teacher in his small Shelburne County hometown. In May 1987, when parents of his students heard he had HIV, a concerned group was formed. The group captured the media's attention before medical experts could be brought in to prove that Smith was not a danger to his students, and as he describes it, "things got messy."

Smith and a group of dedicated advocates began a four-



Chances are you see this man everyday... but do you know his story? / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

year protest, forming a coalition to protect Smith's rights. At the end of the battle, the provincial government decided it was in everyone's best interest to prevent Smith from returning to his teaching position.

"After four years, most of the parents understood there was no danger. But because there was so much publicity surrounding it, they decided that I couldn't come back, that I had made the community look bad," he says.

As a kind of trade, government leaders gave him some

compensation: the provincial Human Rights Act was amended to include a clause protecting prejudice against sexual orientation in the workforce.

Because of Smith's case, public opinion about AIDS and homosexuality also began to change. "Once we started being on television, and we were the average ordinary-looking Joe, many people realized that there wasn't anything to be afraid of," he says.

After the initial publicity 15 years ago, Smith is disappointed

that that the issue of HIV/AIDS captures such little public attention today. "I think the problem we have now is that the issue has dropped off people's radar screens. It was much easier to get people involved when the crisis was going on and people were sick all the time. Today, most people think everything is under control. Now that the crisis is over, no one's really paying attention."

Smith relates this problem to a lack of public education. Government funding for AIDS

awareness programs has significantly decreased in Nova Scotia. Meanwhile, the number of Canadians being diagnosed is increasing once again. The nature of the disease is changing too: In the '80s, AIDS was considered to be a disease affecting the male homosexual community, but Smith explains that this is no longer the case. "Something that most people don't know is that one-third of the new infections in Canada are women," he says.

And then there is Africa. "When we talk to people, they say 'Yes, there's still a crisis in Africa,' but there doesn't seem to be the willpower to do anything about it, or to get our government mediums to do something," Smith says. While some governments are trying to help, Smith feels they sometimes take the wrong approach. For example, the Bush administration created a plan to give 15 billion dollars to AIDS treatment and prevention programs in Africa over the next few years, but one third of that is to go towards abstinence programs. "In cultures where women have no sexual rights, what is the point of sending five billion dollars to teach women how to say no if they're going to get in shit if they do?" Smith asks.

After losing about 450 friends and a partner to the disease, Smith has felt the tragedy of AIDS too many times. Still, it doesn't seem to be in his nature to dwell on the injustices of the past. Instead, he looks forward to the future.

With a healthy blood-cell count, Smith is relatively well, and keeps an active routine. Besides his independent research project, he coordinates workshops and participates in local AIDS awareness activities, such as DalOut's candlelight vigil on Dec. 1 and the memorial AIDS quilt.

As Smith describes his activity with the AIDS quilt, his eyes tear up. Many of the names on the quilt, represent leaders in the original crisis awareness in the 1980s. "If those people were alive today, they would be truly amazed by how far we've come."

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For Dr. Vett Lloyd, the world just may need more fruit flies... / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Dal's Fruit Fly Cloning

Publicity not all it's cracked up to be

Katie Maskell
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie has become the talk of the scientific town because of a recent run-in with clones: in a lab on the seventh floor of the Life Sciences Centre, Dr. Vett Lloyd and students Andrew Haigh and William MacDonald succeeded in creating an exact replica of a single fruit fly—with cloning still a debatable scientific and ethical issue.

But despite the international publicity and recognition that Dal has received from this scientific advancement, little support has been given to those students and departments who really deserve and need it.

Andrew Haigh, a PhD student in biology, conducted the majority of the actual work along with William MacDonald, another PhD student.

"The basic idea of cloning is you're transferring all the genetic information, all the genes, from one organism into another. It's not terribly mysterious, you're [basically] forcing identical twins to happen," says Lloyd.

The actual cloning of the fruit fly was, to some extent, a side project, she says. The main interest of the lab is developmental biology, focusing on genes and their development from egg or embryo to adult organism.

"It was sort of a 'hey, let's see if

this works,'" Lloyd says. "I had a good idea about how to do it and [Haigh and MacDonald] were super duper guys with injecting things, so they tried it. With the actual experiment we got our clone in two weeks, which for science is incredibly fast."

Haigh and MacDonald prepared the flies necessary for the project, among their other responsibilities—but despite their dedication to science during their time at Dal, they have not been well rewarded, Lloyd says.

Up until this year, Haigh says the financial support that he has received from Dalhousie to conduct his research has been lacking. "In years past, and while we did the initial cloning work, I was paid directly from my supervisor's grants," he says. "I've basi-

of those involved in the cloning. "We approach the researcher on this and it's up to the researcher to speak up for the [students]," says Crosby.

"Speaking to the researchers, we've heard of no issues around the project. Anything like that is news to me."

But not only is there frustration among some science students about a lack of financial support from Dalhousie, there is also frustration that, despite the way that Dalhousie is attempting to promote the university, there is an apparent lack of care for the biology department as a whole.

"I'm frustrated...that our work is being used to promote a department that has seen better days," says Haigh. "Professors and lab instructors are leaving

The future of science lies in biotech—and our department is falling behind.
- Andrew Haigh, PhD biology student

cally been working as quickly as I can to get all this finished as soon as possible as I haven't received the same support as my fellow students."

Charles Crosby, who directs public relations for Dal's Communication and Marketing and who wrote an article on the cloning publicity, says the university was not aware of the frustration

or not teaching, and in some cases students are being used to fill their places at lower wages. When [Lloyd] leaves [in a few weeks time], I believe there will be a distinct lack of upper-level genetics courses, which is insane," he says.

"The future of science lies in biotech—and our department is falling behind."



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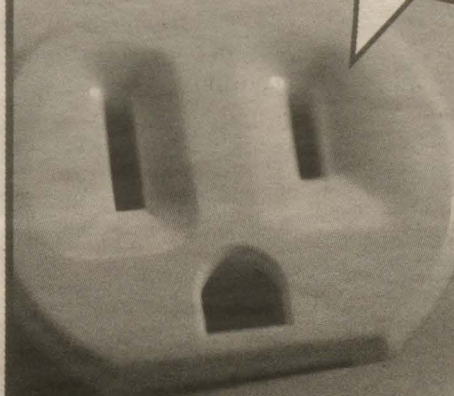
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New Master's Program Could Cost Chinese Students a Pretty Penny

Neal Cody
Sarah Vanderwolf
Staff Contributors

If the thought of paying the second half of your tuition in January makes you cringe, imagine paying \$25,000. This is the cost of a newly proposed Master's in Health Services Administration-International (HSA-I) only available for international students from China that, if approved, could be implemented by the 2005/2006 academic year.

Because there are no such degree programs existing in China, the HSA department at Dalhousie wants to provide an opportunity for Chinese students to participate in a 12-month Master's program that they could use in China.

Dr. Thomas Rathwell, professor and director of Health Services Administration, describes the program as a "modification" of the existing Master's degree in HSA.

Can-Zhong International Education, Culture & Business Consulting Services, a China-based company that recruits Chinese students to study in Canada, approached the department of Health Services Administration and described China's desperate need for more healthcare professionals.

"It's not a new program, it's a new theme to an existing program," said Dr. Jan Kwak, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Kwak said that although the MHSA-I won't undergo the same review as a completely new program would, it will still have high admittance standards.

Rathwell said that Dalhousie's current MHSA program has "the odd international student" amongst its approximately 20 students each year, but Dal is hoping that a program designed especially for them will encourage more international students to seek training in health administration. Dean Kwak is hoping for an additional 20 MHSA-I students a year.

The new MHSA-I program will have a slightly different curriculum than the original MHSA program. "The core content is similar to the regular program, [but] the Canadian content will be edited out," Rathwell said. Since the students will be expected to return to China, the Canada-specific content of the regular program would be of little use. Because of China's deficient health care system, Dal is "trying to tailor the course to the needs of [Chinese] students," so they will be able to make meaningful changes in that system, said Rathwell.



DAGS President Dennis Stavrou: "Why is it only for Chinese students? Let's open it up. Canada is a mosaic, we don't believe in segregation." Photo: Jenine Dowden

The MHSA-I will not offer students internships or residencies, and graduates will not be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. This lack of accreditation would be a hurdle for those seeking employment in Canada, but the students would have no difficulty finding employment in China.

The degree will not be recognized in the Maritimes, either. "By saying it's only a 'program modification,' the university doesn't have to get the degree approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission," said Dennis Stavrou, president of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students.

Cost is another major discrepancy between the two versions of the MHSA program. Tuition for the current 18-month MHSA program is around \$12,000; if the international program is implemented, it will cost students around \$25,000 for 12 months of study. The reason for the high cost is because the Nova Scotia government would not provide any funding for the program; the students' tuition would have to pay for all costs, including professors' salaries, learning materials and classroom equipment.

"It's a cash-cow program," said Stavrou. "It's intended to bring the university money."

Stavrou, himself an MHSA student, believes the reason for creating the new degree is to support the school's regular MHSA program.

The School of Health Services Administration, located in the basement of Fenwick Towers, has only one working computer, two break rooms and one classroom. Stavrou wonders how the school will be affected.

"Will [the MHSA-I program] bring the university new money without affecting our current students?" he asked.

"Why is it only for Chinese students? Let's open it up. Canada is a mosaic, we don't believe in segregation."

Two graduate studies committees have already approved the MHSA-I program proposal, with student representatives strongly objecting to both. The proposal next goes to a Senate sub-committee, then the Senate and finally to Dalhousie's Board of Governors. Stavrou said that university administration hopes the proposal is approved quickly so that it can send a team to China in January to interview applicants.

Can-Zhong is already the exclusive agency in China for promoting two degrees from Halifax institutions, Dalhousie's MEng in Internetworking and St. Mary's University's MFin.

On Another Campus

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

Date-rape drugging on the rise

A study by University of British Columbia researchers shows that instances of date-rape and drugging have increased in the Vancouver area.

The study found that for every year between 1999 and 2002, there were 10.7 drug-facilitated sexual assaults per 100,000 people. Between 1993 and 1998, however, only 3.4 incidents were reported annually.

Police say that although they have seen the number of reports rise, it is often difficult to lay charges because common date-rape drugs, such as Rhyinol, cause amnesia.

The UBC study examined 246 cases of drugged date-rape, but researchers believe the problem is likely much more prevalent. A 1993 Statistics Canada study showed that less than 10 per cent of sexual assault victims ever report the incident to police or hospitals.

More student protests in Quebec

Riot police rebuffed hundreds of students as they protested outside of the Quebec Liberals policy convention in Montreal on Nov. 20.

Over 230 people were issued tickets for "illegal assembly," while between 50-60 others were detained, photographed and taken by bus to small metro stations outside of the downtown core.

The students gathered to protest the Liberal government's proposal to shift \$130 million of worth of post-secondary funding from grants to loans.

The Montreal protest was the second in just 10 days; a Nov. 10 gathering in Quebec City drew 3,000 demonstrators.

Despite the recent demonstrations, the Quebec government says it will not recant its decision.

Last month, Liberal premier Jean Charest was nearly ambushed by angry students at the University of Montreal. Student protestors managed to enter a cordoned-off building where Charest was about to speak. The students stormed the stage and chanted slogans while Charest's bodyguards hurried the premier away.

Amnesty International scolds UNB-St. John students

A student group in St. John may be in trouble with influential human rights organization Amnesty International after blocking the creation of a spiritual group.

The St. John Students' Representative Council (SRC),

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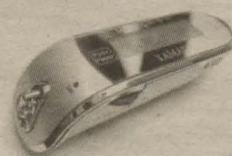


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Board of Governors Notebook

Rankings that won't go away, money matters, international student fees and research

Kevin Wasko
Staff Contributor

The Board of Governors, Dalhousie's highest governing body, convened on Nov. 23 for its fifth and final meeting of 2004. On the agenda: the *Maclean's* university rankings, financial updates, international student fees and increasing research grants from the private sector.

- Dalhousie University President Tom Traves began the meeting with his report to the board, and the *Maclean's* rankings took up most of his time. Traves said that, while tracking university performance in specific areas creates valuable measures, ranking schools means minor differences get translated into large discrepancies. "Marginal differences here get magnified," he said.

Traves announced that a committee has been formed to look at how universities provide *Maclean's* with their data. It is possible, he said, that the data submitted from various schools may not be consistent and that Dalhousie

might be shortchanging itself with the numbers it reports to the magazine.

- Following the president's report, Bryan Mason, Dalhousie's vice-president of finance and administration, presented a report to the board on the university's finances. Mason reported that revenue from 2003-04 was \$377.3 million, almost a \$30 million increase over the previous year. Of that revenue, the operating grant that the university receives from the provincial government made up the largest portion at 28 per cent, followed by tuition fees at 20 per cent. Dalhousie posted a \$728,000 surplus for 2003-04.

Government grants comprised 49 per cent of Dalhousie's operating income. This is a marked decrease from 1990-91, when government grants made up 82 per cent of the income. It is also lower than major universities in other regions of the country: Government grants made up 50 per cent of the operating income at the University of Toronto,

64 per cent at the University of Saskatchewan and 74 per cent at the University of British Columbia.

Mason also reported that Dalhousie now has \$283 million in endowment assets, ranking it seventh in the country. Dalhousie spent \$14.9 million of its endowment last year, with \$6.2 million going towards student support.

- Sam Scully, vice-president academic and provost of Dalhousie, presented the report of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). The BAC was formed in 1992 to advise the university president on financial matters. Its 30th report, released in mid-November, focuses on international students at Dalhousie, particularly international student fees. Scully noted that international students now make up over eight per cent of the student body, a 57 per cent increase since 1998. Over this period, the provincial government has not increased its assistance to help finance the costs associated with interna-

tional students. International student fees at Dalhousie are among the lowest in the world, but the BAC is recommending that Dalhousie reconsider the way in which it calculates fees for international students.

- Carl Breckenridge, Dal's vice-president of research, rounded out the series of presentations. Breckenridge focused on research opportunities and challenges at Dalhousie, noting the university received \$63 million in research grants last year, an increase from the \$55 million it received the year before.

Dal competes well, he said, in terms of tri-council funding from the three major federal government research councils: NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR. He pointed out that Dal could be performing much better in soliciting research funds from the private sector, however. Addressing this challenge, Dalhousie has created the Office of Industry Liaison and Innovation, which will cooperate with other Atlantic universities.

On Another Campus

Continued from Previous Page...

which acts for students at the University of New Brunswick's St. John Campus (UNBSJ), denied a request to allow a Falun Gong club for UNBSJ students.

"They can't just arbitrarily deny the freedom of expression and association," Amnesty International Canada spokesman John Tackaberry told the UNBSJ student paper, *The Baron*. "That's a direct violation of human rights."

Falun Gong, a spiritual movement that promotes health and meditation, was outlawed in 1999 by the Chinese government, which feared that the popular movement had political overtones.

The Chinese government since suppressed a number of Falun Gong protests and has imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners, often violently.

SRC vice-president Xiaolin (Brandon) Zhan pushed hard for the rejection. "Let's assume the Chinese government found out about a student practicing Falun Gong on campus," he told *The Baron*. "What happens to him and his family? I don't want to put any student at risk."

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Further information is available from our website www.dal.ca/cvs or by contacting



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orthoptics@iwk.nshealth.ca
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Vent (Li Dong / Quentin Casey)

The epic puddle that forms in front of the Killam whenever it rains

Although I unconsciously wandered into this geological phenomenon, I did verify—at the price of my wet pants—two religious certainties: 1) That I am not Jesus (because I couldn't walk on top of the water) and 2) That I am not Moses (because I couldn't part the water at my will). L.D.

Protesting President Bush in Halifax

What's all the hype about? He's just here for a tiny photo-op before he heads back to War-shington. Do you really think he's going to leave thinking something like, "Hmm, those people in Halifax really didn't agree with me, maybe I should re-think this whole invading the Middle East idea..."? L.D.

Ho Canada!

Our Labour Department currently places "exotic dancers" on the endangered species list of jobs within Canada... thus making it easier for foreigners to emigrate and fill these jobs. Despite the shortage of strippers, the conservatives are still against this sort of labour favoritism. Obviously, the conservatives have never met Candy. L.D.

Don Cherry, a Great Canadian?

What have the CBC executives been smoking? He played in one NHL game and doesn't have a Stanley Cup. He was voted higher than John A. Macdonald—a man who essentially created the country. Don Cherry has done more for this country than its creator? Bullshit. Don Cherry: Icon? Yes. Annoying? Yes. Great? Give me a break. Q.C.

Judgment Day



Photo: Li Dong

Li Dong
Opinions Editor

It's teacher-evaluation time once again, a chance for students to stick-it-to-the-man in an organized and well-mannered fashion. But how much influence do these bubble sheets really have on the destinies of our educators?

The professors whom I spoke with will all admit that the evaluations have a significant impact if they're up for promotions or teaching awards. However, if a student's main goal is to have their prof publicly flogged for ineptitude, it's going to take some effort on the student's part. For profs to be considered for punishment by their faculties, the teacher would "have to do consistently bad over many classes," says one history professor.

I suppose I could have contacted the faculties and asked them to comment on their department ratings, then called the dean's office and get a statement

from them, but by that point, I had done about as much "real" journalism as I could handle.

Enter ratemyprofessors.com. I heard about this site from a history professor, and later learned that the *Gazette* had done an article on it a few years ago. Anyways, the wise prof who told me about the website said that for the most part, the ratings were "accurate."

Students can log on to this site and grade their profs on clarity, easiness (in terms of how they mark), helpfulness and physical hotness.

There's also a handy comment box where you can elaborate on your ratings. Notable excerpts include, "not only is the textbook a better teacher, it also has a better personality" and the far more simplistic, "she hates you already."

A quick count reveals psychology to be the most gorgeous faculty on Dalhousie campus. The small but solid history + classics combo comes in second,

while engineering rounds out the top three.

Although there aren't many votes from Dal students up there right now, with enough input, ratemyprofessors.com has the potential to become a legitimate tool in teacher selection. It's even worth looking at for a laugh at how many "best professor(s) ever" there are at Dalhousie. I encourage all of you to check it out and support your prof/faculty because you never know who could benefit from your experiences.

As for the other evaluations prepared by the school, I find it's a good way to vent your frustrations and I'm sure that our personal opinions do go on to serve some higher purpose (whatever that may be). But if you want to confront your prof more explicitly, I suggest posting on ratemyprofessors.com: as the evidence has shown, profs do check there to see how they're doing—now if only there was an emoticon for giving the finger.

The Greatest Tragedy in Life

Josip Vaci
Opinions Contributor

I was amazed this summer when I learned that Canada had one of the world's highest suicide rates: for every successful suicide, there are 100 attempts, and may Canadians are killed by abortion before they even live. These problems very often come about as a way for people to cope with the tragedies experienced in life.

It seems that in this first world country, life is reduced to a meaningless pursuit of plea-

love. No matter how cliché it may sound, it is true that pure love conquers all.

Another great quote comes from the movie *Serendipity*, in which one of the characters says that during funerals the ancient Greeks would only ask one question about the deceased: "Did they have passion?" This question, authentically Greek or not, captures the importance of passion and at the same time it ignores most matters which we find important in the present. I believe that if you haven't truly loved you haven't completely




No matter how cliché it may sound, it is true that pure love conquers all.

sure. The culture of today reduces life to a worthless experience, and discontinuing life is the solution when tragedies come knocking. This thought led me to ask the question: "What is the greatest tragedy in life?" I remembered a powerful question that I came across a while ago. Since most people reading this likely plan on having children at one point, I think this question is very relevant: "Why would you bring a child into the world if you know how much the child could suffer?" This is a very sobering thought, because each one of us can relate to life's physical pain, rejection, anxiety, depression, etc.

As bad as the suffering of the child could be, it could all be worth it if they could experience

lived. True love is to will the good of another. It is not plastic, and when it is superficial it does not satisfy. A wise carpenter once said that the truth has the power to set you free, if you let it. There are plenty of people who know the truth about love, but do not live it, and therefore do not let it set them free.

As scary as all of the tragedies around us may seem, the only true tragedy in life is not experiencing true love. The worst tragedy of life is not learning how to accept and to give love. If we are going to truly love, we must lay down our pride, forgive, be charitable, understand each other, and never, ever judge others. Failing a course, having financial troubles, pale in comparison to not having love or to not loving.

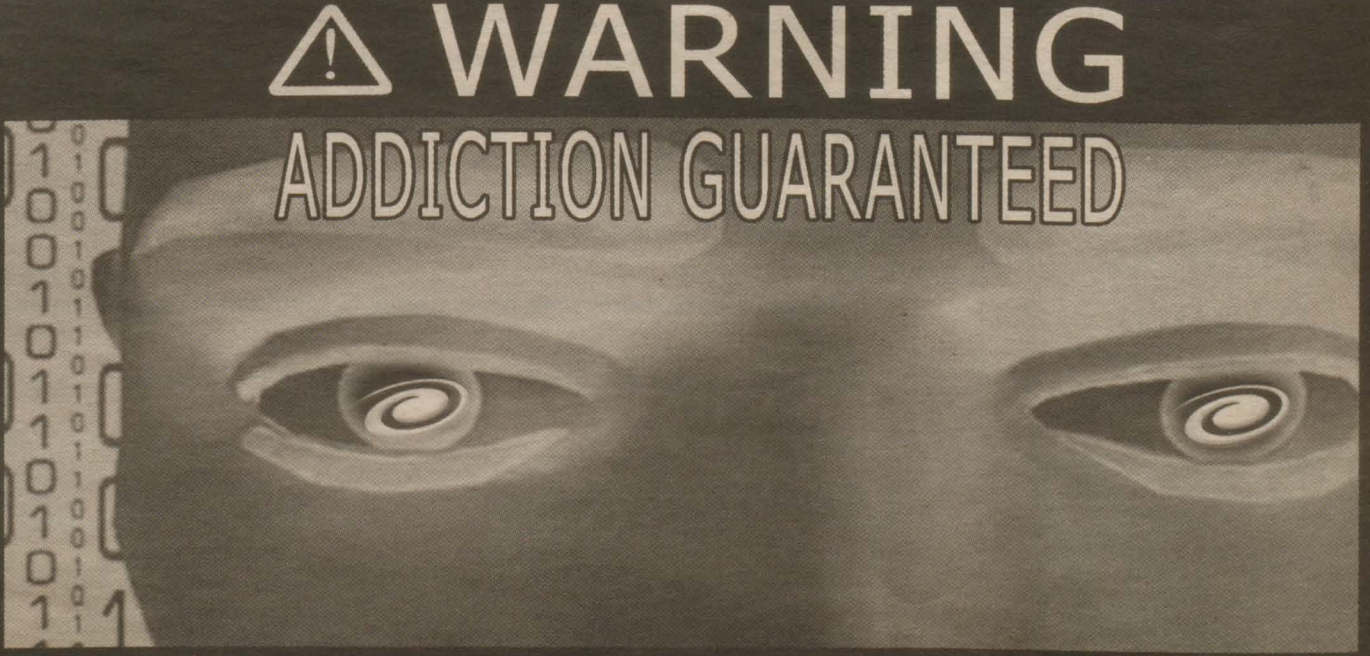


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Letters

Geopolitical Fantasies

Dear Editor,

I feel that it is incumbent upon someone to point out the error in Carter Smith's recent opinion piece, entitled "Neo-Cons and Neo-Hippies" (*Gazette* 137:11). Iran is a Shi'a theocracy, not a Sunni one (as Smith suggests), and many among Iraq's Shi'a majority would welcome a similar state apparatus of their own, and have expressed such interest in the past.

The fact that a debatable portion of the Middle East may welcome U.S. policy in practice does not mean that they do in principle. A large portion of the Middle East (particularly relatively secular states like Iraq) is deeply divided about the utility of either option, despite the fact that a U.S. puppet regime may be the more preferable to some of them.

Even if Smith's quasi-statistical claim about Iraqi preferences is true to some extent, it is not likely to remain so. After the overthrow of Saddam, Iraqis were thankful to be rid of their oppressor, and would have thanked anybody for having performed such an action (even if those people happened to be among those who once facilitated and supported Saddam's atrocities). As the occupation continues and collateral damage mounts, though, more Iraqis are seeing "insurgency" as a preferable option.

Smith admits that he may be callous in his subscription to the popular pseudo-realism which states that current casualties in Iraq are likely to play some part in yielding a better future for the country, but I will say only that he is being naïve. The U.S. has an

interest in the territorial integrity of Iraq for the purpose of effectively controlling its vast oil reserves. Given the ire and division which now characterizes Iraq, the Americans will need another dictator(s) to maintain this integrity in their proposed absence, just as they needed someone like Saddam to do so during the Iran-Iraq War.

The belief that the self-interested motives of the Americans are somehow in latent consistency with the prospect of a free and democratic Iraq is a geopolitical fantasy. Some of these "neo-hippies" may have pie-in-the-sky tendencies, but at least they've got something right. While the withdrawal of the Americans from Iraq is likely to leave a civil war, the invasion of Iraq itself has made this undesirable option the only one through which true self-determination is likely to emerge, and through which a further century of tyranny and bloodshed can be avoided.

Dave Desveaux.

T-ee'd Off!

Dear Jenny Cooper *et al.*,

After two and a half years of quietly smiling every time Torontonians become the butt of yet another amazingly obvious joke, we've reaching our breaking point. Since when is stereotyping cool?

Since when is using your editorial privilege to list off the commonalities of a seemingly obnoxious demographic right? The problem lies in the fact that it's not the first time. Is the *Gazette* really that strapped for legitimate journalistic issues that every six weeks you feel the need

to run off another poetic rant about the only group of people for whom it seems to be socially acceptable to marginalize? Does anyone care that it's utterly and completely inaccurate?

Being from Toronto ourselves, we too can list off characteristics of these people you have elevated to encompass the entire "Torontonion" persona. We could tell you where they lived in Toronto, what high schools they went to and even some of our own nicknames for them. But we never for a second claim such ignorance as to push every kid with perfectly messy hair into some pathetic margin; a group of people whose very presence threatens nothing more than your aesthetic boundaries. If it was the colour of our skin and not our fashion sense you would be called a racist, whether you were one of us or not.

If the *Gazette* is supposedly representing the whole Dalhousie population it's time you realize that people from Toronto (and beyond) are part of your community. Furthermore, the people who act and dress the way you claim all Torontonians do make up a fraction of all the Torontonians who live in this city eight months of the year; and who no more deserve to be stereotyped and marginalized than any other minority group.

We get your point: no more thong bearing sweatpants or *Clueless* lingo. Now will somebody from this side of Montreal please admit that the entire fall line from American Eagle does not constitute a complete wardrobe?

Alexandra Gundy, Alli Buchanan, Mary Smulders, Katie McIntyre, Hilary Jardine

Weekly Photo



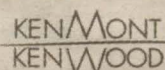
Festival of Lights-Photos: Duncan Enman

THANK YOU

We thank our contributors

The *Gazette* editors would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the paper over the past term. The time and effort you put into writing articles and taking photos is much appreciated—we couldn't do it without you. For all those who would like to contribute but haven't dragged their asses to our weekly meetings (Monday, 4:30, SUB Rm. 312), it's not too late. Come out in January and get involved. Why, you ask? How about a little thing called prestige. Okay, you got us on that one. But seriously, get free pizza and beverages (not pop) while at the same time getting a cool addition to your resume.

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What do you want from Santa this year?



A 2.0 is what I want for Christmas.
- Ryan "Tithead" Cook,
fourth-year geology



I want 100 million of these... cause
I love to chew!
- Mel Melanson,
fourth-year biology



I want a border-collie puppy, be-
cause I love dogs.
- Elaine Munroe,
third-year psychology



I want a vacation to Italy, because I
like Italian men.
- Dominique Babin-Muise,
second-year biology



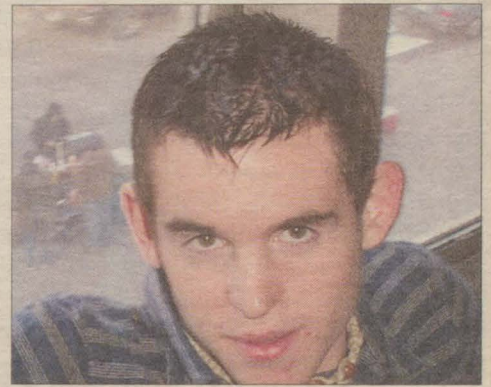
I want bagpipes so that I can annoy
the hell out of my neighbors.
- John Morash,
second-year microbiology



I want Ben Chandler's fashion sense...
he dresses better than me.
- Liz Cumyn
second-year neuroscience



I want to be in the *Gazette* every
week, just like Chris LaRoche!
- Courtney McGowan,
second-year microbiology



I want to do it reindeer-style
with Mrs. Claus.
- Chris LaRoche,
fourth-year macrostareology

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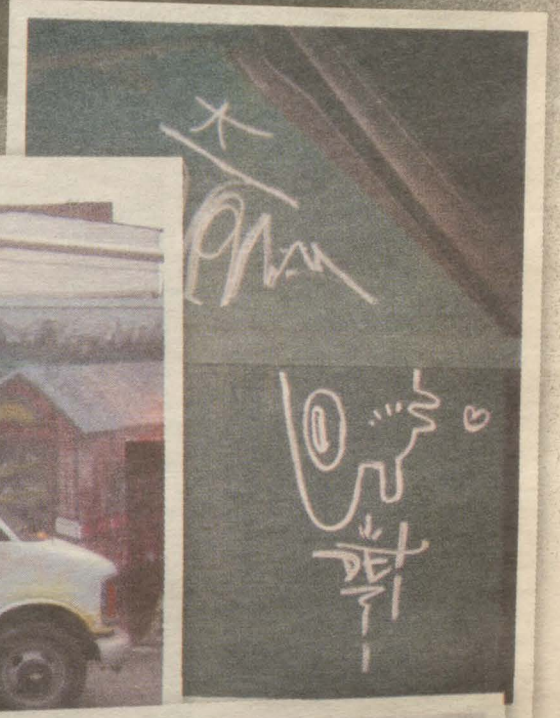
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UNIVERSITY AVENUE

There is only one reason for art: to know that you are alive.
- Lee (NYC Graffiti artist)



... emblazoned on a brick wall beside a derelict warehouse was a tag. It said "Shades' Just that; no "hands off nicaragua," no "maggie out", just a tag. An embellished *nom-de-plume* with no other purpose than its own existence. I loved it. I loved its impudence, its incongruity, its virtuosity and its vulgarity.

Ken Garland from *That Place, At Any Rate: Observations on street lettering, from corporate logotypes to graffiti*

Graffiti can be good! Not *all* graffiti, of course; my conversion was conditional. Have you never been confronted with the work of an inept architect, or poster designer, or sign writer, or shop fitter, or sculptor. Ineptitude and virtuosity sit side by side in all creative fields and we do not, surely, condemn the rare examples of the latter because of the prevalence of the former, whatever the context? ... if anyone is an anti-social menace to the community it is more likely to be an estate agent [with their signs] than a graffiti writer.

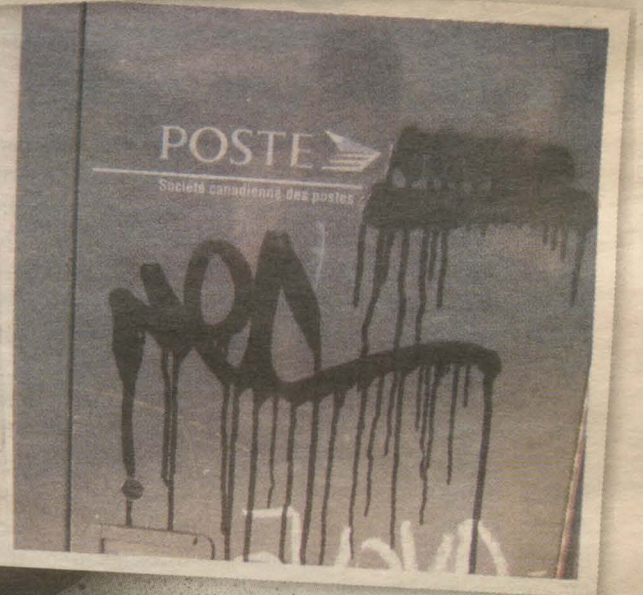
Ken Garland from *That Place, At Any Rate: Observations on street lettering, from corporate logotypes to graffiti*

Graffiti has probably kept me from really putting my energy into any kind of traditional art—which is a good thing. The people I'm painting for aren't the people that go to galleries—my work is in the public, not in some rich man's little white box with balanced lighting or a galerina with a faux-hawk behind the desk. Graffiti is art.

Oze 108

They are about lettering as image; whatever meaning they have for the viewer is in the way they are done, not what they say. Outrageous as this may seem to some, they have much in common the decorated initials of a mediaeval manuscript like the Duke of Berry's *Grandes Hueres* or the *Book of Kells*. They have the same over-the-top invention, the same mix of delicacy and vulgarity, and most strikingly of all, the same vitality.

Ken Garland from *That Place, At Any Rate: Observations on street lettering, from corporate logotypes to graffiti*



MEGA-META

Dal theatre is presenting "Metamorphoses," a play based on the myths of Ovid by Mary Zimmerman. The performance is a Dalhousie Theatre Department creation that takes place in a pool on stage. "Metamorphoses" plays on the third floor of the Arts Centre, Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. nightly.

OLD MACDONALD

Dal's favorite short story writer/musician Jack MacDonald and the Hotel Faces are playing with B.A. Johnston and Block Parent at the Khyber Club on Friday, Dec. 10 at 10 p.m.

POISON IVY

If school has taken priority over your nightlife for the last couple of weeks here's your chance to redeem yourself. This Friday, Dec. 3, DJ IV is hosting the Last Class Bash at Dal's own Grawood, which means you can get down with your bad self and your even worse dance moves.

TALENT ON THE BILL

Billy Talent is set to play at the Halifax Forum this New Year's Eve. Tickets are \$32 each and available at the Halifax Metro Centre Box Office or any of the 14 participating Sobeys' locations. For more information, call 902-451-1221.

Hot Spots



Left to right: Jean-Francois Déziel, David Kilburn, Daniel Léveillé, Ivana Milicevic, Dave St-Pierre
 Photo: Rolline Laporte



Report Card Satellite Rides

Date: Nov. 25, 2004
 Reporter: Bridgette Sullivan
 Photographer: Karen Bliss
 Venue: The Khyber Club
 Stage Presence: B
 Audience Reaction: B
 Sound: B+
 Effort: B+
 Get-It-On-Ability: A+

There is absolutely no question in my mind: the Satellite Rides are talented. Not only that, they have certainly achieved a fair bit in the past six months: in addition to releasing an EP, the Rides have played on Citadel Hill with big names Blue Rodeo and Matt Mays and El Torpedo—pretty substantial accomplishments for a Halifax-based band that was only formed last winter. Ask me if I was blown away by the Rides' performance, though, and I would have to reply with a firm *no*. It's not that their set wasn't good—the whole kit n' caboodle was solid and quite enjoyable in a toe tapping, head bobbing kind of way. But I felt as though both the music and lyrics were a tad too generic and cliché ("Take your life off the shelf/Reach out and help/And lose yourself") for my tastes, or at least for what I expected from a band that has been given as much praise as the Rides have.

Dancing the Violence Away

Live Art and modern dance choreographer Daniel Léveillé presents *Amour, Acide et Noi*

Chantelle McGee
 Arts Contributor

The evocation of summer storms in Britain's Nigel Kennedy's interpretation of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* is violent. This version of the baroque masterpiece seduced Montréal modern dance choreographer Daniel Léveillé into using it as the music for his modern dance spectacle, *Amour, Acide, et Noix*. "The music is played the same way the dancers are dancing," he says. There is an "aesthetic of violence" in the production, but scratch a little deeper and there will be "gentleness underneath."

Léveillé gained inspiration for the mood of *Amour* by seeing violence as a fashion worn by some of the youth in the streets of Montréal. However, just like the gentleness underneath the violence in *The Four Seasons*, there is fragility and tenderness underneath the aesthetic favoured by these youth.

In *Amour*, the identity of the original inspiration is stripped away and the dancers convert the duality of gentleness hidden under violence only by the abstract movements performed by their bodies. This is not the only thing to be stripped away. "Anything that would disturb the choreography is erased," says Léveillé; describing a minimal modern dance piece made up of solos and duets, performed by

four nude dancers.

Léveillé made the decision to have the dancers perform nude a month before the original première. He had asked them to rehearse dressed in clothes that would reveal as much of the body line as possible, which is important to determine if certain movements add or detract from the choreography. The extent of information revealed by the visibility of skin and extension of muscles made it "so obvious that skin was the only costume." The nakedness amplified the fragility Léveillé wanted to convey.

what it means to be creative after a 30-year dance career. "Preparation is just the execution of a plan; it is not creation. It comes from the danger of not being prepared; in such situations creation must happen."

In the early 1970's, Léveillé's work was in the expressionist arm of the modern dance movement. It featured a lot of emotion, full of big movement and vocalisations. Later, much of his choreography focused on duration and repetition of movement. This developed into a theatrical type of dance where performers would

Preparation is just the execution of a plan; it is not creation. It comes from the danger of not being prepared; in such situations creation must happen.
 - Daniel Léveillé

For the audience, the dance creates a space of freedom in which it is fantastic to see a human body in movement. Léveillé says this piece is a gift to give yourself in which you can "see a purity, to see a complex human body"—he wishes to present a body that is not portrayed as sexual or as a piece of advertisement. Asked about the creative processes behind such an original piece of choreography, Léveillé said he "enter[s] the studio with hands empty of notes and drawings," feeling a secure connection with

"play something: an emotion, intellect, instinct, sensibility." Elements of these past styles came together, in a way that Léveillé said happens only rarely, for the creation of *Amour*; producing something that he described as "pure joy, intuitive, and simple" once it was finished.

Performances of Amour Acide et Noix will be taking place December 9 to 11 at 8 p.m. in the Sir James Dunn Theatre, Dalhousie Arts Centre. Tickets for adults are \$20, and for seniors and students, \$13.

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A New Reason for the Season

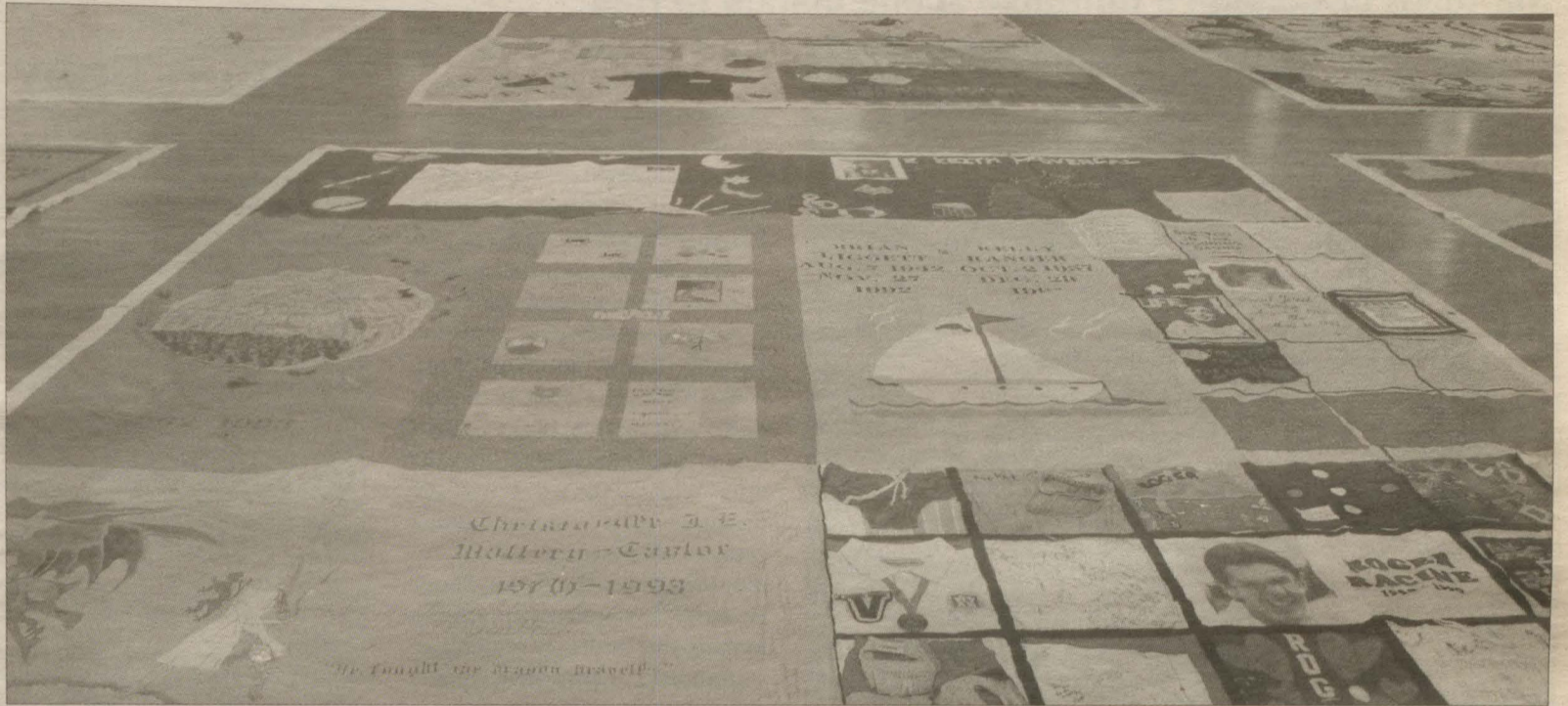
The N.S. Names Project brings AIDS awareness to Dal

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

World AIDS Day, which takes place every Dec. 1, brings comfort to the loving families of victims across Canada and the U.S. For the last week of classes here at Dal, the Names Project of Canada will commemorate lives lost with a display of cozy hand-made quilts delicately woven together by family members, hospital staff, friends and lovers.

The organization began in San Francisco in 1987 when a group of families decided to get together and join the thirty-five other countries world-wide who annually gather the quilts for public admiration and consideration. Today, there are more than 25,000 spectacles of quilt display occurring across the globe.

After spending what little money the charitable organization had on the rental of the space, Names representatives are providing an eclectic panel of colorful homemade blankets, all stretched out across the floor and set to the music of an emotive disco-gospel singer. Although the quilts are virtually the sole decorations in the room, the ambience of warmth they set forth is



The AIDS Quilts symbolize the unity of victims and their families. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

more than enough to touch every visitor.

Unlike the coldness of a tombstone or the detachment of an obituary, the luminous comforters radiate love and caring and have themes, so that every patch is a personal homage to each and every individual victim. Some of the common themes are rainbows—the joyous emblem of homosexuality—peace

signs, hearts, musical instruments and notes, hospital staff signatures, little animals, zodiac signs, religious idols, celebratory photographs, butterflies, articles of clothing and, of course, the names of all the souls whose time on earth was cut short.

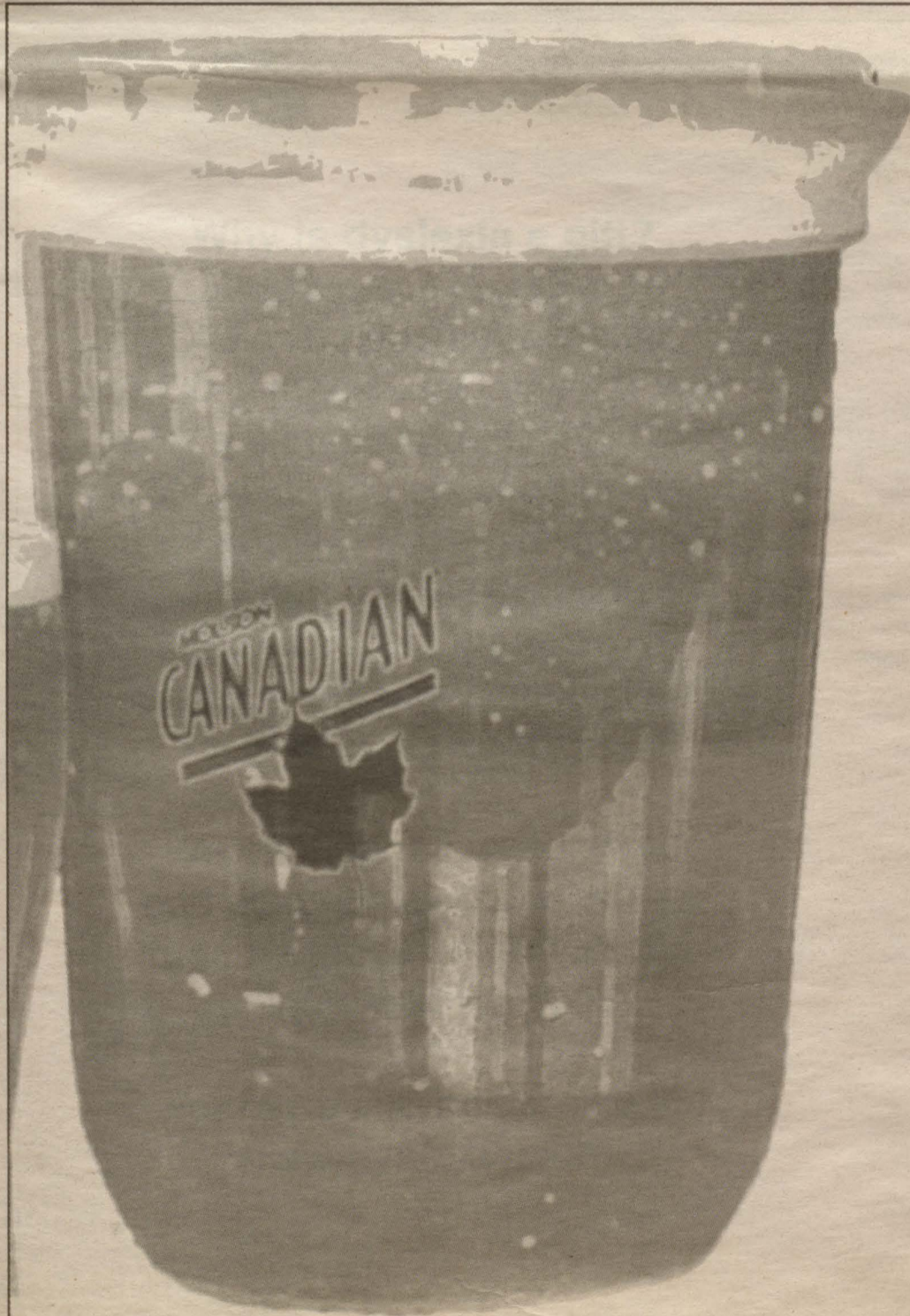
It is difficult to go back to the tedious and seemingly trivial demands of schoolwork after taking a break to stand over the works

of such loving hands, and reflecting upon the harshness of such a horrid and unfair disease. But heart-wrenching display is also strangely uplifting.

The quilt is an amalgamation of pieces, of misfits, but sewn together they make a whole—they are complete.

The union of all the pieces of past lives sharing the common thread of unjust death cre-

ates of mood of a celebration of life rather than a mourning of death. The Names Project works hard to ensure the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display is a thing of joy, and in the middle of treacherous weather, exam stress, Christmas commercialism and the stark, sterile lighting of the SUB, there is a glimmer of hope, a glow of warmth, and a saturation of love spilling out of the McInnis room.



If you see the light

we'll see you
Saturday night.

PITCHMAN'S
PUB & EATERY

Kid Koala Doesn't Kid Around

The toast of Canada's turntable scene comes to Hali



Kid Koala's popularity has grown rapidly in the past decade because of the sincerity he puts into his creations.

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

Just when the music industry seems to be on a downward spiral of money-hungry managers and cookie-cutter "artists" who would sell their souls for a signing, someone like Kid Koala comes along. The humble DJ, who somehow manages to

fuse jazz, nursery rhymes and city noise samples into a narrative—albeit vocally abstinent—soundtrack, is headed East this Saturday to headline a gig at the Marquee with hometown boys the Jimmy Swift Band.

Kid Koala's popularity has grown rapidly in the past decade because of the sincerity he puts into his creations. He humbly

describes himself as "someone trying to express [himself] by layering bits of vinyl audio together on turntables." He says this innocent endeavor just sometimes comes out "musically... with no pretense of making music at all."

Kid Koala produces sounds that are often excerpts from the wasteland of city noise pollution: honking horns, footsteps, sidewalk drilling, a glass being set down on a wooden table—noises that most of us would rather tune out. "When I started doing [the first two albums] I knew I didn't want to make songs for the radio or jams for the dance floor," He says, "I was having more fun making tracks that sounded like soundtracks to little car accidents or chicken finger factories."

Even after his debut and his sophomore efforts, *Carpel Tunnel Syndrome* and *Nufonia Must Fall*, Kid Koala's most recent album *Some of my Best Friends are DJs* demonstrates his immutable child-like voice. This signature theme has followed the artist since the making of his very first mixed tape, *Scratchcratrchatch*, the eventual catalyst to his 1996 Ninja Tune signing.

Continued on Next Page...

Burn Baby Burn

Your Weekly Playlist

Make Your Season Sing

Compiled by Jenny Cooper
Staff Contributor

"Peace On earth/ Little Drummer Boy"
Bing Crosby and David Bowie

"What are you doing New Year's Eve?"
Ella Fitzgerald

"The Chanukah Song"
Adam Sandler

"Grandma got run over by a reindeer"
Elmo and Patsy

"The Chipmunk Song"
David Seville and the Chipmunks

"Angles we have heard on high"
The Jingle Cats (Actual singing cats, people!)

"Blinky and the Roadmasters"
From the Album Kwanza Party

"Glory to thee my God this night"
The Choir of New College Oxford

"Hallelujah"
Leonard Cohen

"Spotlight on Christmas"
Rufus Wainwright

"Oh Holy Night"
Avril Lavigne and Chantal Krevzauk

"White Christmas"
Bing Crosby

412

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HIV and AIDS in Melansia

Bringing international AIDS awareness into focus

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Sexpert

Vanuatu is becoming more and more prominent in international circles. It is revamping its economy by becoming an idyllic getaway for nearby Australians and New Zealanders, and it is the backdrop for the current season of the popular reality show *Survivor*. This opening up has made the collection of islands more exposed to Westernization, and one of the most unsavoury elements of this contact with the West is the introduction of foreign illnesses, namely HIV and AIDS.

November of 2004 marked two big changes concerning HIV and AIDS in Vanuatu. Regrettably, the island confirmed its first positive case of HIV/AIDS. Now, the adjacent island archipelago of Tuvalu is the only nation on the planet with no confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS infection.

Nevertheless, constructive strides have been made towards addressing the issues of sexual health. Oxfam, an organization that undertakes development projects around the world, recently coordinated a National Youth AIDS conference in the capital city of Port-Vila. This was an occasion for 100 youth to discuss issues related to sexual health. Topics covered included peer-to-peer education, support for HIV-positive people, and tackling stigmas and discrimination.

This conference was truly an international affair with presenters from other nations telling participants about their true-life stories. Francisca, a 20-year-old from Papua New Guinea, spoke about the rejection she faced from her family at the age of 15 when she tested HIV-positive. Scornful treatment towards HIV-positive individuals amplifies feelings of worthlessness and shame at a time when they need love and support most. Even now, Francisca has been unable to speak to others in her home country about her situation for fear of further ostracizing and mistreatment.

Looking at any issues of health and wellness cross-culturally often reveals similarities rather than differences. Vanuatu is a chain of 88 islands where over 100 languages are spoken. Similarly, rural Africa is known for having an array of tribal vernaculars, making communication between health educators and local villages complex. However, the mobilization of youth in Vanuatu shows that similar initiatives could work elsewhere in the world, in places such as Africa, where the AIDS pandemic has raised worldwide responsiveness over the last decade.

AVERT, an international AIDS charity based in the United Kingdom, reported that in 2003 there were 4.8 million new cases of HIV. That equates to almost 10 newly infected persons per minute. Although the rates of infec-



Ni-Vanuatu youth advocate change in Melanesia.

tion are rising in developed, first world nations such as Canada, 95 per cent of the world's AIDS population lives in the second and third worlds. Nowhere else is that more true than Sub-Saharan Africa, which has 10 per cent of the world's population, but 60 per cent of the globe's HIV/AIDS cases.

So what is the relevance of discussing AIDS and HIV in the far-flung, coralline atolls of the South Pacific? Although Melanesian and Canadian society largely differ, issues of sexual health are common across the globe. It doesn't matter what side of the equator you are on, and what hemisphere you are in, the bottom line is that we all share the same anatomies and infections like AIDS and HIV and therefore should not discriminate. Another added importance is the power of our voices, to discuss issues about sexuality in a frank and honest way. Too often traditionalism in society can hinder a greater understanding of the human experience in all of its diversity.

Kid Koala Doesn't Kid Around

Continued from Previous Page...

Though turntablism comes naturally to Kid Koala, AKA Erik San, his first artistic love was drawing. "I was that kid who sat in the corner and drew in a sketchbook," he says. "I was not that kid who sat in the lunchroom with a guitar and sang to a circle of people."

All of this shyness is for-

repeatedly by a group of teenage hoodlums who get pleasure out of teasing her, until they finally get up the nerve to steal her purse.

The climax follows this event as the brats run into a group of oversized monsters that capture and try to torture them. Suddenly, Grandmaphone appears, and in a burst of superhuman strength she reaches into the

I was that kid who sat in the corner and drew in a sketchbook; I was not that kid who sat in the lunchroom with a guitar and sang to a circle of people.

gotten, however, upon reading Koala's comics. One batch, included in the liner notes to *Some of My Best Friends are DJs*, is full of clean-lined, imaginative tales. Multiple-eyed ogres, a disgruntled disc jockey, a pretty lady and a taxi driver are just a few of the characters who delight its 50 pages of Kid Koala's latest comic creation.

The hero of the book is Grandmaphone, a decrepit looking, elderly woman who spends her time knitting and sitting at the park bench feeding the birds. The story spans the course of her day during which she is jostled

dropped purse and whips out her birdseed and sewing needles. With swift, acrobatic ninja moves she thrusts her "weapons" into the ogres' eyes, causing them to lose grip of the teens—and thereby saving the day. The clichéd moral of the story is the ever-recycled maxim that appearances can be deceiving, but the comical way that Kid Koala illustrates it is uniquely his own.

However uniquely this DJ assembles his samples, he is still just that: a DJ—and that means a show at the Marquee this Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 advance and \$20 at the door.

C L A S S I F I E D S

REGISTER NOW! Genome Canada Bioinformatics Course Applied Computational Genomics Course (ACGC) Canadian Bioinformatics Resource NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences, Halifax, NS Saturday, November 27 - Sunday, December 5, 2004 For more information about this course or to download a registration form, please go to www.gcbioinformatics.ca

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Spin Spin Sugar

Ray Corkum,
Natalie Pendergast,
Carter Smith



Charlie Robison *Good Times*

Charlie Robison proves that one man's idea of a "good time" is quite different from another's. The deceptive cover art on this CD depicts an illustration of four bluesy-looking old black men sitting around a bar table of whisky drinks. What the album contains, however, is quite the opposite of what you'd expect. Robison's country tunes sound horribly similar to David Wilcox—a man whose radio popularity has forever been a serious mystery to everyone. Robison's teaming up with the Dixie Chicks' Natalie Maines on "El Cerrito Place" is his effort to add some quality to the disc, but Maines' talent is still not enough to kill all the bad, bad music. -N.P.



MC Mario *Party Mix 2004*

"Monday night, to the club, Tuesday night, to the club, Wednesday night, what a headache but I went to the club, Thursday night, to the club, Friday night, didn't want to go but then my friend Michelle called me on the phone so I went to the club. Saturday night, to the club, Sunday night, to the club." These lyrics from track four of *Party Mix* pretty much sum up MC Mario's bio. The man has been mixing sock-hop type dance music forever, and by recording CDs I guess he's saying that if you can't go to the club then let the club come to you. However, I don't think even going to the club, downing half a dozen shots and dancing all night could give you as much of a headache as this mind-numbing hodgepodge of noises. -N.P.



Riddlin' Kids *Stop the World*

Cut from the same cloth as many of today's new pop-based punk bands, the Riddlin' Kids' second album *Stop the World* accomplishes much of the same things for their label, Aware Records. The four-piece from Austin, Texas gives listeners a dozen predictable tracks that anyone could mistake for a poor man's Billy Talent or a very poor man's Sum 41; including the requisite ode to the ex-girlfriend ("I Want You to Know") and bratty-rockstars-cry-too emo tune ("Just Another Day"). The highlight of the CD is undoubtedly the token anti-establishment title-track "stop the world." Way to go boys. I'm sure it's hitting W. Bush right where it hurts. NOFX would be proud. -CS.

Federation *Rick Rock Presents: Federation*

To be sure, Rick Rock is one of the most underrated hip-hop producers in the game today. His quirky beats are, to say the least, a reprieve from the formulaic, generic production that is suffocating the genre. This album is his party, with his eclectic beats overshadowing the talents of the lyricists gathered to rhyme over them. That is not to say that the three MC's (Doonie Baby, Stres and Goldie Gold) that share the spotlight with Rock lack talent, it's just that they bring nothing new to the table. A group of West Coast roughnecks, the trio spins us tales from the "hood" that are so familiar that they almost bore. There are a few standout tracks, including "Go to Work," that will definitely find a home in clubs (if only because of Rock's exemplary production). Rock's unique use of turntable scratches and actual instrumentation makes this disc worth a look. It is unfortunate that lyrical monotony derails what could have otherwise been an exceptional album. -R.C.

Northey/Valenzuela *Northey/Valenzuela*

A difficult listen to be sure, the Canadian duo of Northey/Valenzuela borrow heavily from their contemporaries, namely Sloan and (ugh) The Barenaked Ladies to produce an album of non-offensive (if incredibly bland) elevator music. From the opening moments of the album it is evident that this is not going to be the most stirring music ever made. Clean, chiming chords permeate the album, with the shared vocal duties mixing into each other to form a light grey paste. Occasionally, the music will make your ears perk a bit ("The Slow Goodbye", though a bit weepy, features a guitar riff that might hold your attention) but for the most part, the music lacks any passion, any feeling. By the time I cycled through the forth or fifth ballad on the album (with titles like "See Through the Heart" and "Hurting on the Outside") the flavour turned from bland to bitter in my mouth, and *Northey/Valenzuela* turned from CD to coaster on my table. -R.C.



The Neptune Presents Holiday Play "Annie"

The perfect play for the whole family, *Annie*, starring Bridget Bezanson, is one of the world's favorite musicals. Based on the book by Thomas Meehan, the play features music by Charles Strouse with lyrics by Martin Charnin.

The show runs from November 23 to December 24, 2004 with show times as follows: Tuesday to Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets range \$15 to \$39; students get \$10 off. For more information, call the box office at 429-7070 or log on to <http://www.neptune-theatre.com/>

Edward Street #7

That movie didn't make any sense, why didn't the cop help the homeless guy?

Because they're really the same person.

Well, what about the waitress?

She was a projection of his love... and the father?

he was an apparition.

Was anyone actually a person in that movie?

...maybe the guy who saw the ghost, but I think he was a multiple personality.

Edward Street

Edward Street #7
Shane Patenaude

AUS Basketball Standings

Men G: 6 4W: 1 2W: 3 L: 2 Home: 1-0
Road: 3-2 F: 370 A: 363 Pts: 6

Women G: 6 4W: 1 2W: 2 L: 3 Home: 1-2
Road: 1-2 F: 390 A: 387 Pts: 8

AUS Hockey Standings

Men G: 13 W: 3 L: 8 T: 2 OL: 0
F: 29 A: 48 Pts: 8

Women G: 8 4PW: 2 2PW: 0 1PW: 0 L: 5
T: 0 F: 23 A: 23 Pts: 8

AUS Volleyball Standings

Men MP: 9 MW: 9 ML: 0 Home: 7-0
Road: 2-0 GW: 27 GL: 4 Pts: 18

Women MP: 10 2PW: 4 1PW: 4 ML: 2
Home: 4-0 Road: 4-2 GW: 28 GL: 11
Pts: 12

Both the men and women's swim teams are ranked fourth in the country this week.

Sports Briefs

Time for Gold

World Junior Hockey preview

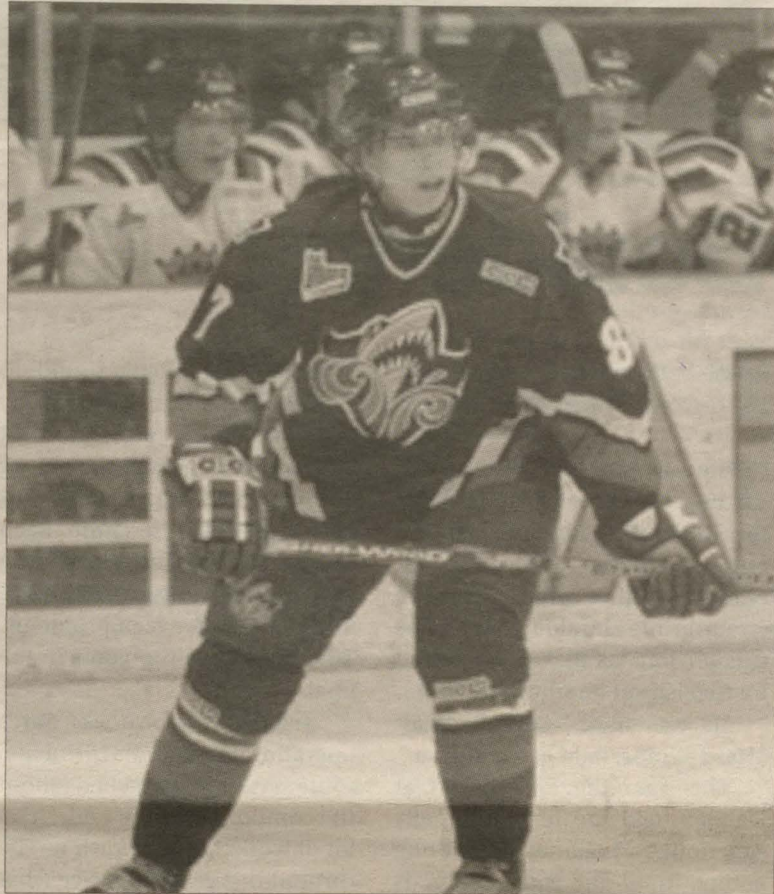
Joey Ryba
Staff Contributor

The holiday break is just around the corner, and with the holidays comes the World Jr. Hockey Tournament.

This year the tournament will be held in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Team Canada, the perennial favourites, will begin the tournament on Dec. 25 against Slovakia. This year's squad looks to bring the gold medal to Canada for the first time since 1997. Winning gold is never an easy task, but this year's team has a great chance given the number of returnees and new talent.

The defence looks solid, as WHL defencemen Dion Phaneuf, Shawn Belle, Brent Seabrook and Braydon Coburn are all expected back. Up front, Sidney Crosby, Jeff Carter, Nigel Dawes, Anthony Stewart, Ryan Getzlaf, Mike Richards and Steve Dixon can return. Brent Burns and Patrice Bergeron, who are playing in the AHL with the Houston Aeros (Minnesota) and Providence Bruins, respectively, are expected to join the team. Nathan Horton, a 2004 World Jr. forward is not expected to join the team. Horton is currently playing for the Florida Panthers AHL affiliate, the San Antonio Rampage. That said, the 2005 edition of Team Canada looks good.

Even with the strong core of potential returnees, there are some new guys making some noise trying to earn a spot on the roster. In the OHL, Corey Perry of the London Knights is leading the league in scoring. Perry, a late cut from last year's team, is in top form and looks to be in good



Halifax's Sidney Crosby hopes to lead Canada to gold at this year's World Junior Hockey Tournament.

shape to make this team. Perry's teammate, Danny Syvret is the top scorer among defencemen and is a good candidate to be on the Team Canada blue-line.

In the QMJHL, Sidney Crosby's Rimouski Oceanic teammate, Dany Roussin is second in Q scoring. Another Rimouski star, Patrick Coulombe hopes to join the defensive core.

In the WHL, Cam Barker of the Medicine Hat Tigers and Jeff Schultz of the Calgary Hitmen look to join their WHL counterparts on defence. Both Barker and Schultz attended the Team Canada evaluation camp this

past August.

Finally, goaltending is still up in the air. With no returnees from last year, the goalies are in control of their own fate. Two of the leading candidates are Ryan Muncie of the Sarnia Sting and Rejean Beauchemin of the Prince Albert Raiders.

Once again, this tournament will have a Nova Scotia connection. Sidney Crosby of the Rimouski Oceanic is from Cole Harbour and Steve Dixon of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles is from Halifax. Both hope to help Canada win gold in North Dakota.

Inside the locker room with ...



This week I interviewed **James Wildsmith**, a member of the men's swim team and a former AUS all-star.
Theresa Anne Salah
Staff Contributor

What's the best way to get your crush's attention?

Aren't the best kind of crushes secret crushes? I guess if you didn't want it to be a secret you should do nice things like follow them around all the time in case they drop something that you can pick up and return. Call them late at night to make sure they are safe, and maybe steal their undergarments to surprise them by doing their wash.

What's your New Year's resolution?

I have never had a New Year's resolution, and I don't plan to start now. So, if forced to choose one, I resolve to have no resolve. Or take up smoking on the Dec. 31 and quit.

What do you want for Christmas?

I want a classic Nova Scotian Christmas with both rain and snow on the same day. I have not been in Nova Scotia for Christmas for the last eight or nine years, and I am getting sick of perfect beach weather for Christmas.

If you could start university all over again, what would you do differently?

I think if I had to start all over again I would drop out. I might also have spent more quality time with my friends at the Wood on Thursday and make less 6 a.m. Friday morning workouts.

What's the best thing to do on a Saturday night?

If I have a Saturday night off I like to head out for some sushi and let the sake decide where I go from there. I don't always remember what happens in between, but a good Saturday in the summer usually ends with a moonlight swim at chocolate lake

CONTRIBUTE!
Volunteer Meetings
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Mondays at 4:30



Athletes of the Week

Bob Phipps
Swimming

Bob Phipps is this week's Dalhousie Male Athlete of the Week. Phipps had a stellar weekend in the pool making waves at two events. Stopping first at the MTA-hosted Double Dual meet, he led the Tigers to an 87-25 team victory with an individual win in the 200m freestyle. Next, the team headed to Wolfville, N.S. to compete in the Atlantic Senior championships where Phipps took top spot in the 400-metre and 800m freestyle swims. His performance garnered him Swimmer of the Meet honours. Phipps is a second-year recreation management student from Brampton, Ont.



Leah Merkley
Hockey

Leah Merkley is this week's Dalhousie Female Athlete of the Week. Merkley lifted the Tigers to their first two wins of the season with a weekend total five goals and one assist. In Saturday's contest against the UNB Varsity Reds, she chipped in two goals and an assist, with one goal coming on the power play, contributing to the 6-3 victory. On Sunday, the Tigers faced the Blue Eagles and Merkley continued to light the lamp and recorded her first hat trick in an 8-0 drubbing of UdeM. Her second of the game was scored short-handed after she wired a hard wrist shot past the UdeM netminder to stretch the lead to 5-0. Her third goal of the game was scored on the power play late in third period to clinch the hat trick and a six-point weekend. Merkley is a second-year history student from Bracebridge, Ont.

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The Water Cooler

Jenn Casey
Staff Contributor

The holiday season is coming up, and besides forgetting about the debacle that was final exams, most of us will join family and friends to exchange gifts and have that traditional turkey dinner.

"Turn off the hockey game, it's Christmas day," yells a parent figure from somewhere in the house.

To me, and most hockey fans, this is part of the sounds of Christmas. It's the annual Under-20 IIHF World Junior Hockey Tournament that starts Christmas day.

for us this Christmas," he says. "We'll be in the rink on Christmas day."

Koval won't be alone. The event organizers report quite a few Canadians snatching up ticket packages.

And that doesn't bode well for the defending American team, hoping for the backings of a home team crowd. Especially with fans like Koval and his buddy Derek Praught, who will sport a very large Canadian flag and be adorned in anything red and white they can get their hands on.

"We'll shut them up," said Koval, jokingly.

And hopefully they will. Can-

This year with no NHL to quench our insatiable thirst for hockey, the 31-game World Junior Hockey Tournament is even more anticipated than usual.

And this year, with no NHL to quench our insatiable thirst for hockey, the 31-game tournament is even more anticipated than usual.

In true Canadian form, we're the most hardcore fans of the tournament. Television ratings are always through the roof, and we fill the rink with maple leaves no matter where the tournament is held.

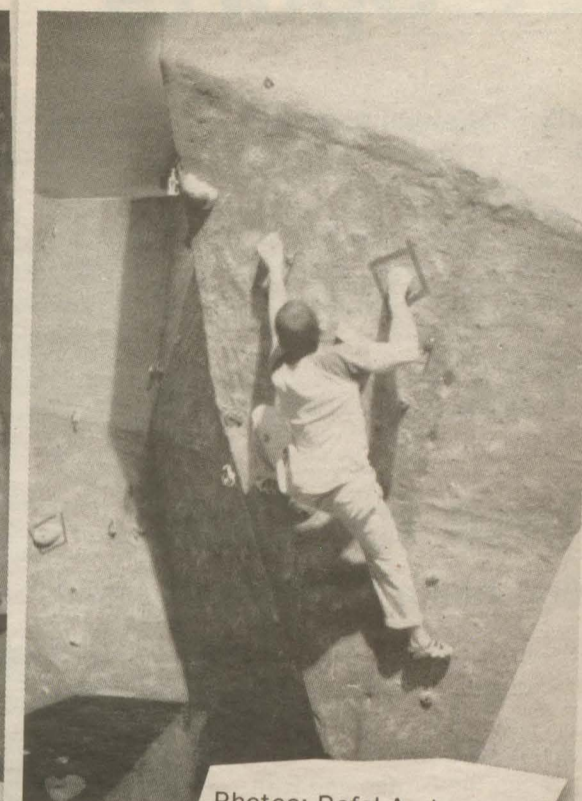
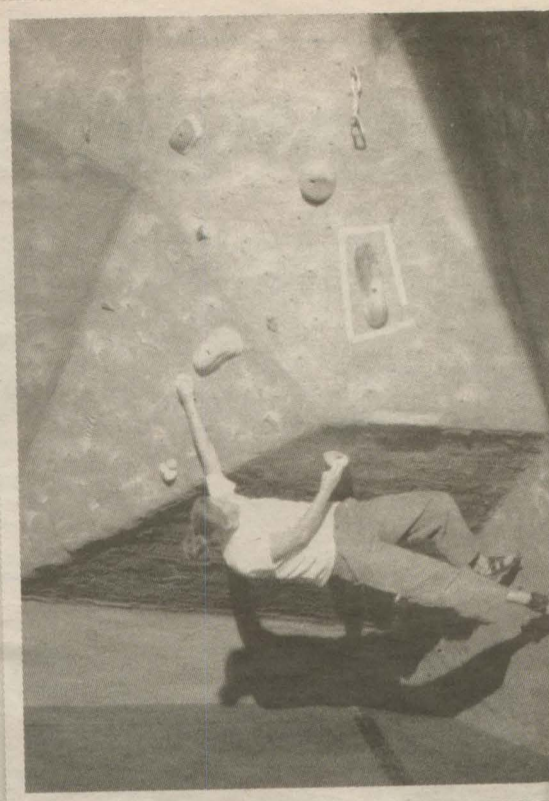
This year the event is in Grand Forks, North Dakota and Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Michael Koval, who joined me when it was hosted in Halifax two years ago, is set to drive to this year's tournament.

"There will be lot's of hockey

ada is the favourite going into the tournament, but they have a bad habit of choking in the gold medal game.

"The lockout will definitely help Canada more than it helps other countries," says Koval. He points out that most years Canada's top stars are in the NHL, and their teams do not permit them to leave to play in the tournament.

For the first time this year, the NHL lockout has a silver lining. So here's to the lockout! May it bring Canada the gold medal, and help prevent Canadian hockey fans from spending their second semester in a state of surly disappointment.



Photos: Rafal Andronowski

Bouldering

Rafal Andronowski
Staff Contributor

The roar momentarily drowned out the beat blasting from the stereo. Ben Blakney had just crimped another tiny hold that eluded the other competitors. The strain in his shoulders and arms was obvious as Blakney powered on to flash yet another problem.

"It was hard," says Blakney. "Hard climbs, hard competition."

This year the Rock Court at Dalplex held the first nationally sanctioned regional bouldering competition. The Tour de Bloc is a Canadian competition circuit dedicated to promoting competitive bouldering. Climbers have a chance to gain points used for national ranking, and the best have a shot at a spot on the national team. A total of 46 climbers registered for the event this year, but only the top six men and top four women qualified during

Saturday's qualifying round to climb in the finals held Monday night. The competitors are kept in isolation to ensure they know nothing about the problems until it is their turn to climb. Each climber has five minutes to solve each problem (obstacle) and five minutes rest between problems. There were five problems in the finals.

Nick Sagar is the Rock Court's operating manager and principal route setter. "I'm psyched [about the competition]," he said. "It's a lot of work, but it's worth it. The turnout this year was twice what we had last year."

Bouldering is essentially identical to rock climbing but the routes, called problems in bouldering, rarely extend higher than 15 or 20 feet. The first ascent of any given problem is called a flash and garners the climber the most points. Points are subtracted for falls, and climbs are

rated according to difficulty, with the most difficult climbs worth the most points. But the climbs are not the hardest part of the competition, said Tania Wong, winner of the women's category. "The hardest part was the waiting," she said. "Once I was climbing it was fine."

This year's winners in the adult category were Ben Blakney in the men's and Tania Wong in the women's. Each received a \$175 cash prize and a MEC backpack for their efforts. Second places went to John Bowles and Heather Gaskill, who each won \$100 and a gym bag, while third places went to Ben Rose-Davis and Ruth Amiro, who each received \$50 and climbing clothes.

The next climbing competition at the Rock Court will be the Boulder Climbing Challenge on Jan. 24. Registration cost is \$15 for non-member and \$12 for non-members.

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SEXTANT

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

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

DUSCES Maritime Tour 2004

Escape from Sydney - Take 3



Bryden Berkvens
Communications Douche

The next morning, the douches woke up refreshed and ready to network with the UCCB engineering students at the social event that they had been invited us to that evening. The morning was spent relaxing in the hot tub going over the game plan for the evening. One conclusion reached was that Mickey's do float in hot tubs. Several executive members practiced their networking skills on a couple of unsuspecting ladies who happened to be swimming in the pool. Their skills were well honed as there was interest expressed by at least one of the ladies.

With their hopes up, and their confidence restored from the night before, the douches headed off to meet with the UCCB students for an evening of social activities. Upon arrival at the UCCB campus, we were greeted with open arms (literally) by many UCCB engineering students. They were excited to see us and more than happy to listen intently about the Dalhousie engineering faculty. After leaving the campus on a very crowded bus (to which the douches had no problem putting as many as four people to a seat - handcheck!!), we headed for downtown Sydney to see the town. This was a hard



evening on several douches. A couple had to duck out early as they were feeling a bit under the weather, and a few more were feeling ill, but managed to stick it out (even though going home early might have prevented an injury or two).

One observation made that night was that beer + Leftover Chinese food = A quick trip to the bathroom (this will now be referred to as West's law). Not all of the douches were under the weather this evening, though: a couple members were so excited by all of the networking that happened that they couldn't sleep. They decided to explore the laws of momentum in the hallway of the hotel (i.e. if a moving object runs in to an immovable one, then motion will cease and noise and yelling will follow).

Not to be discouraged, they decided to next investigate hydraulics by testing out the volume increase caused by putting two bodies in the same bathtub. It was found out that this was a feasible event and the dynamics of this was explored over refreshments and conversation for several hours.

After realizing that they had no paper on which to write their brilliant discoveries, the douches in question grabbed the first marker they could find and tried to write on several other



sleeping douches. This was met with some resistance as some douches decided that a note pad was not what they wanted to be. Since they could not document any further discoveries (not to mention the refreshments had been exhausted), these two keen people decided to call it quits for another night.

There was some resistance to waking up the next day as the previous nights activities had taken its toll on some of the douches. But as this was the last day of the tour, they were all eager to return to Halifax and share the success of the trip. After several attempts at locating the area known as Coxheath, the douches stopped for one last meal before making the trek home. After eating what was described as the best meal of the trip, they embarked on the final leg of the journey. All was well until the crossing of the infamous Seal Island Bridge. Approximately half way across the bridge, an unsuspected mechanical problem arose. After getting off the bridge with only one functioning wiper, a vehicle inspection was made.

As it is with engineers, the problem was diagnosed in about 30 seconds, but no one had the ability to actually fix the problem. Several calls and transfers to the rental company later, a tow truck was dispatched to col-

lect the vehicle and douches. After an hour of entertaining ourselves in a motionless vehicle, we were greeted by a tow truck and two taxicabs who seemed to share the douches' view that this was not a good day for this sort of thing to happen. After a long ride back to Sydney (would we ever get out of this place?), the truck was dropped off at the car dealership and the douches headed off in search of the nearest car rental location. After arriving at the Sydney airport (yes, Sydney has an airport, I am as surprised as you are) we found out that there was a communication break down between the emergency roadside assistance and the rental shop that left us in Sydney with no vehicle.

After some heated negotiations, an agreement was reached, and a new car was provided. Escape from Sydney take three went off with much more success than the previous attempts.

As the douches were now greatly behind schedule, the Berkvens family being the great hosts that they are, invited the douches to dine with them to hopefully speed up their trip. After a lovely meal and a lesson on reproductive anatomy, the douches headed out again to try and complete the last leg of the journey. The rest of the ride was uneventful as the weather had now cleared up in most areas (except for a snowball dodging adventure over Mt. Thom). The douches arrived in Halifax tired, worn out, but relieved that they had finally made it.

The trip was described to be a total success, and the point of it all is..... YOU SUCK!!!

Sexton Athletics Recap

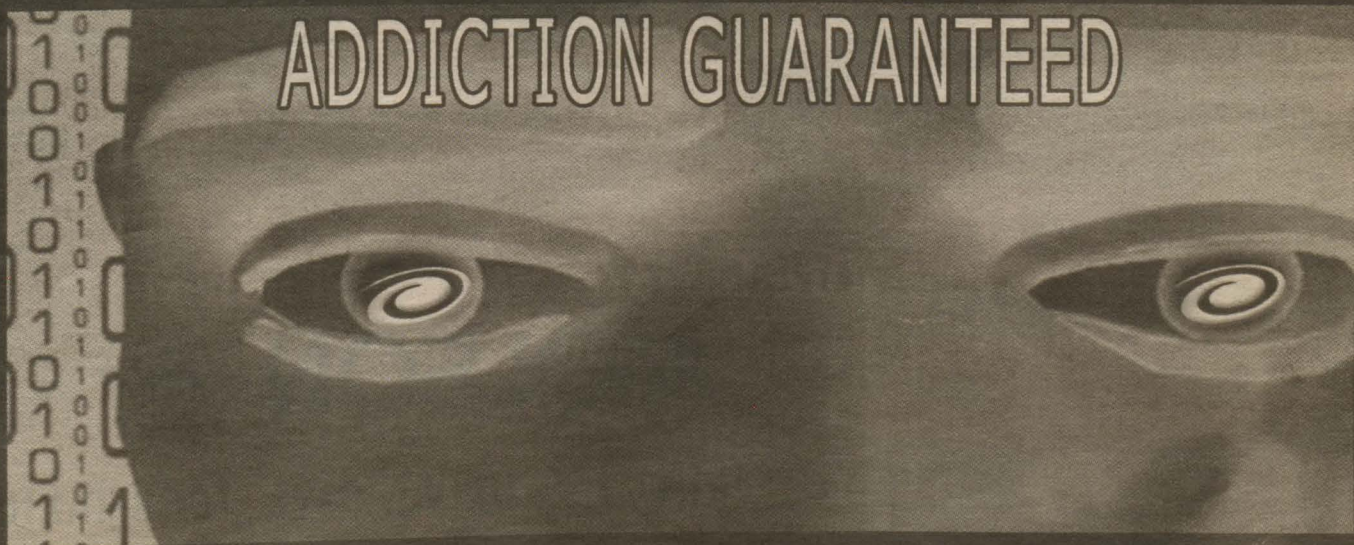
Billy Clyburn
Sextant Editor

The men and women compete in the ACAA against eight other schools and is a very competitive division. It was a tough opening half for men's and women's basketball season with six of nine games played away. Both the men's and women's teams were very competitive. The women, with a short bench, opened with a 3-6 record with some close losses. The men finished 2-7 with 5 losses by 10 points or less. The second half of the season will see 16 games and the majority of which are home games. With a schedule in the second half this favorable, the focus on winning should be amplified. The admission is free (of course) and all are welcome. For those of you attending Sexton Campus, I encourage you to come out and support our athletics.

DUSCES NEWS AND EVENTS

As another term comes to a close, DUSCES would like to thank all that have contributed to a great term here on Sexton campus. Whether it was help with a charity event, social event, council, or with the open house, this was a great term. We hope that you all keep the energy and enthusiasm up for next semester. Some events coming up next term include winter carnival, the AU tour, and Iron Ring ceremony. Hope to see you at all of our events. As for this term, we will be concluding with the end of class bash on Dec. 2 at the T-room, and the Montreal Massacre memorial on the eve of Dec. 6.

WARNING ADDICTION GUARANTEED



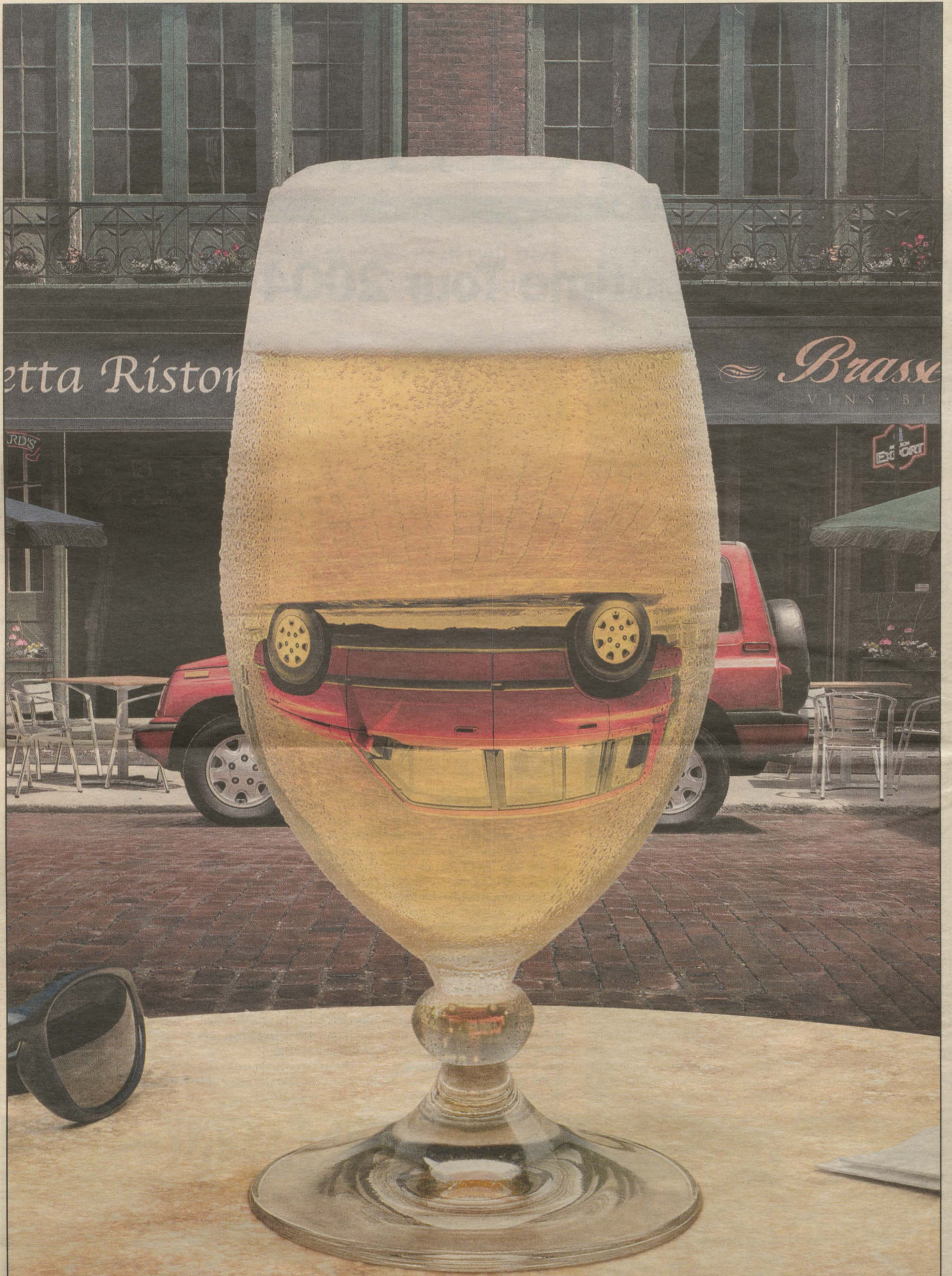
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