

Dalhousie's Stud

Ga zette

THE SWEET BAND

Billy Talent

Tuition cap

MIGRAINES

BAGUET

LES PORTES TOURNANTES

Matt BROOKS, BASKETBALL star



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

Society Fair:

Anyone interested in joining a society come out to the McInnes Room on Tuesday, January 25th, 11:00am – 3:00pm and check out all the societies Dalhousie has to offer.

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.

Call for Nominations

DALHOUSIE TEACHING AWARDS

Nominations are being accepted for:

The Alumni Association Award of Excellence for Teaching
Nomination deadline Feb. 14, 2005

The Sessional & Part-time Instructor Award fo Excellence for Teaching
Nomination deadline Feb. 14, 2005

Educational Leadership Award
Nomination deadline Feb. 28, 2005

The Dalhousie President's Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Nomination deadline Mar. 14, 2005

Nomination forms are available at the Student Union Building Info Centre, the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), and online at www.dal.ca/clt.

Contact CLT at 494-1622 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 12 - 9 PM

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SIGNAL HILL

Welcomes you back to school with

Editorial

Quentin Casey
Editor-in-Chief

The first issue of the *Gazette* for 2005 couldn't have come soon enough.

Throughout the holiday break, my mouth watered for the chance to blast Newfoundland and Labrador premier Danny Williams.

In recent negotiations over offshore oil and gas revenues, the premier has taken national politics to a new low by revealing himself to be foolish, petty and whiny.

Williams started two months ago by storming away from talks in a huff. Most recently, he demanded that Canadian flags be taken down from buildings throughout his province—most notably at the provincial legislature—because of what he saw as stalled negotiations.

"They're slapping us in the face. I'm not willing to fly that flag any more in the province," he said after leaving the bargaining table.

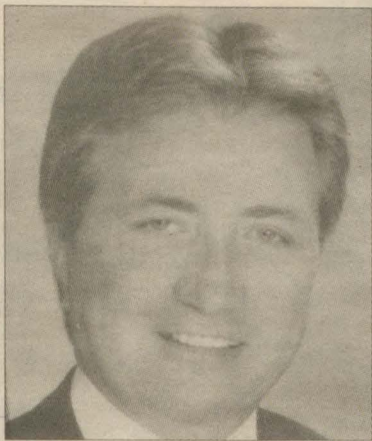
And though he has backed down slightly following criticism from high-ranking officials in the province, many flags remain grounded.

Williams' behavior over the past months has not reflected his impressive resume: Dalhousie law school grad, millionaire lawyer, cable magnate and Rhodes Scholar.

Instead, Williams has acted like nothing more than an annoying child who picks up his ball and runs home to mommy when he doesn't get his way.

His tantrums stem from ongoing talks between Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and the feds over offshore oil and gas revenues.

Both Nova Scotia premier John Hamm and Williams have called on Ottawa to grant the two provinces 100 per cent of revenues. In addition, they don't want the Liberal government to consider this substantial income when determining the dollar amount of equalization payments.



Rip down dem flags, Danny bye'

Poor, "have-not" provinces like Newfoundland and Nova Scotia receive equalization payments from "have" provinces that enable them to provide programs and institutions equal to those in central and western Canada.

The proposed arrangement would essentially give the two provinces federal funding over and above what they have received in the past.

I liken these demands to being fed for years when you

No, it didn't matter to Williams, because he's not arguing out of principle, but rather out of spite and for media attention.

With the flag-lowering incident, Williams has attempted to turn the debate over offshore gas revenues into some sort of question of Newfoundland's place within Canada itself.

Give me a break.

I would hope the days of wondering whether confederation has been beneficial to Newfoundland—or any other Atlantic province for that matter—are long gone. Can there be any question?

Disagreement with the federal government is one thing, but tearing down the country's flag and using it as a game piece in partisan politics is quite another.

Nova Scotia wants the same deal as Newfoundland. But the optimistic and cordial way John Hamm has handled the situation separates him from a hot-

Williams' behavior over the past months has not reflected his impressive resume: Dalhousie law school grad, millionaire lawyer, cable magnate and Rhodes Scholar.

would have otherwise gone hungry, and then one day bringing a glistening turkey to the table and insisting on eating the entire thing by yourself—without sharing it with those who have been generous to you in the past.

But the demands are not the issue. Danny Williams is the issue.

His behaviour during the talks has been disgraceful. Irrational doesn't even begin to describe him.

Federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale offered the two provinces the 100 per cent exemption they were seeking, meaning an added \$2.5 billion for Newfoundland and \$640 million for Nova Scotia.

Danny was pleased, right?

head headline generator like Williams.

Sadly, Williams is receiving support from a great deal of Newfoundlanders, who apparently feel that this is the best way to negotiate with the federal government. They do not realize that the rest of the country is laughing at them.

A recent national editorial agreed, stating that "Williams was embarrassing Newfoundland and Labrador with his ongoing hysterics over offshore oil and gas revenue."

Williams and his antics reflect poorly on those from the Rock. Newfoundlanders should realize that tantrums and sulking may grab a few headlines, but they certainly won't garner any respect for their cause.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Catherine Cooper
editor@dalgazette.ca
Quentin Casey
editor@dalgazette.ca

COPY EDITOR

Chris LaRoche
copy@dalgazette.ca

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Loukas Crowther
design@dalgazette.ca

NEWS EDITOR

Jennifer Morrison
news@dalgazette.ca

OPINIONS EDITOR

Li Dong
opinions@dalgazette.ca

ARTS EDITOR

Natalie Pendergast
arts@dalgazette.ca

ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Lindsay Dobbin
arts@dalgazette.ca

SPORTS EDITOR

Michael Gorman
sports@dalgazette.ca

PHOTO EDITOR

Jenine Dowden
photos@dalgazette.ca

SEXTANT EDITOR

Billy Clyburn

CONTRIBUTORS

Jenn Casey, Nadine LaRoche, Kevin Wasko, Meera Gupta, Chantelle McGee, Jimmy Kapches, Lauren Davie, Bridgette Sullivan, Emily Sharpe, Trevor Murphy, Dave Moriné-Wentworth, Philip Duguay, Xiaomin Yang, Joey Ryba, Theresa Anne Salah, Davie Smith, Gord Uruhart

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jenine Dowden, Heather Tufts, Tim Hennigar, Bridgette Sullivan

COVER



Photo: Heather Tufts. Illustration: Loukas Crowther

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EMAIL: gazette@dal.ca

WEB: www.dalgazette.ca

MAIL: The Dalhousie Gazette
312-6136 University Av.
Halifax, NS B3H 4J2

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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.

INTERACT WITH US

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

Gazette

Student Employment Centre

2005 Summer Job Fair

The Student Employment Centre, in partnership with Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint Vincent University, will be holding a Summer Job Fair on Friday, February 11th from 10:00am to 4:00pm in the Conference Hall, Saint Mary's University, 2nd floor Loyola Building. University ID is required to take advantage of opportunities available at this event.

To review a list of exhibitors and other information, go to www.summerjobfair.com.

Upcoming Events

Employer Information Sessions

Investors Group
January 19th, 1:00-2:30pm
Council Chambers, SUB

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
January 20, 1:00-2:30pm
Room 307, SUB

Visit www.dal.ca/sec for more information.

Cap to Limit Tuition Increases

Kevin Wasko
Staff Contributor

Students at universities in Nova Scotia can expect a 3.9 per cent tuition increase next year—no more, no less. On Dec. 7, the presidents of the province's universities signed a landmark memorandum of understanding with the provincial government that will see tuition fee increases capped for the next three years.

The province has also agreed to replenish the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation trust fund and forge partnerships with other provincial governments in Atlantic Canada, all in hopes of persuading the federal government to collaborate with universities to renew campus infrastructure.

In return, the universities have committed to increasing efficiencies by one percent in each of the next two years and 1.25 per cent in year three. They have also agreed to reduce duplicative spending wherever possible.

Wayne Doggett, executive director of Higher Education for the Nova Scotia Department of Education, is satisfied with the multi-year agreement. "As it stands, the agreement reflects the most significant investment in the university sector in a three-year

agrees. "A 3.9 per cent increase is still a tuition increase, but it is better than the average 7.5 per cent increase [that has occurred] in the last three years," he says. "I'm pleased that a cap on tuition increases was imposed."

Many students feel that the province should be implementing a tuition freeze because Nova Scotia already has the highest fees in Canada. A petition from NSCAD University students was presented at the Dec. 7 meeting that called for a tuition freeze.

But Doggett says that the province cannot afford a tuition freeze. "The agreement reflects a balance of wanting to meet the needs of the university sector with the fiscal capacity of the government," says Doggett. "If a freeze were introduced, the grant amounts would have had to be roughly doubled to meet the expenditure needs of universities and to maintain quality."

Traves and McGrath both oppose the introduction of a tuition freeze. "We all wish that extremely valuable things like higher education were free," says Traves. "In the real world, most valuable things aren't free."

"While I respect the rights of students at certain universities in Nova Scotia to demonstrate

"We all wish that extremely valuable things like higher education were free. In the real world, most valuable things aren't free."
— Dalhousie president Tom Traves

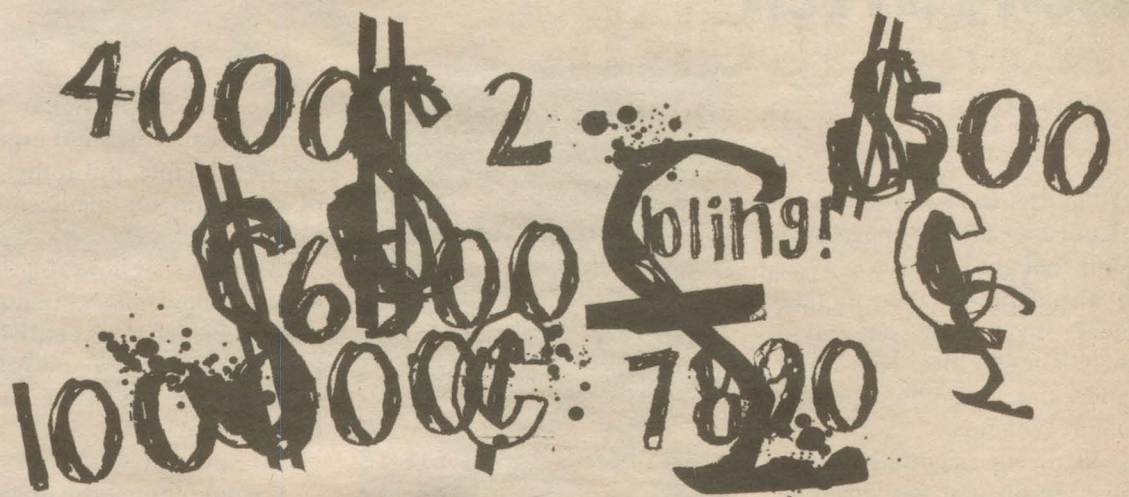
period that I am aware of," says Doggett, who hopes that multi-year agreements will become the norm in the province.

Dalhousie president Tom Traves is pleased with the deal. "It's extremely positive that the provincial government has recognized that the costs of running the university rise significantly from year to year and has committed in a substantial way in helping the university support those costs," he says. "At the same time, the fact that they are taking on more of the burden of supporting the cost of running the university means that students will have to bear less of the burden."

DSU president Curtis McGrath

and express their opinions," says McGrath. "I think that their constant cries for a tuition freeze in the province will continue to fall on deaf ears."

Not all of the agreement sits well with McGrath. He says he was disappointed by the exclusion of professional students in programs such as medicine, dentistry and law—and is also upset international students have also been left out of the agreement. "I think that this flies in the face of the province's immigration strategy," says McGrath. "It is likely that expenditure deficits over the next three years will be made up on the backs of these excluded groups."



International Students Left Out Of Tuition Cap

Kevin Wasko
Staff Contributor

International students at Dalhousie will be left out of a new government policy that will see most university students in Nova Scotia benefit from a cap on tuition increases. Instead, international students can count on a substantial increase in tuition fees over the next few years.

A report of Dalhousie's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), submitted in late November, provided three options for increasing international student tuition fees over a three-year period. The first scenario would charge international students the full cost of educating a student at Dal. This would result in fees of \$14,150 per year for international students, generating \$3.9 million additional annual revenue for the university.

The second scenario would see Dalhousie charge the "market price" for international student fees in Canada by matching the University of British Columbia's rate, which is the highest in Canada. Should this happen, international students would pay \$16,260 per year in tuition fees, generating \$5.4 million in additional revenue. It would also mark a 64 per cent increase in their current tuition fees.

Finally, the university could charge a 125 per cent differential fee on science tuition fees. This would result in a \$7,950 differential fee, an increase of \$3,120 over the current \$4,830 differential. This scenario would spawn \$2.9 million in additional revenue for the university.

These proposals have created discontent among international students at Dalhousie, who feel that such an extreme increase over the current average tuition of \$10,440 is unreasonable. While the majority of international students recognize the reasoning behind the differential fees, students such as Mostafa Mojumdar, a first-year MBA student from Bangladesh, say the proposed increase caught them off guard. "I thought changes would come every four or five years because of inflation and those sorts of factors," says Mojumdar. "My friends feel they are just a source of income for the university."

His brother Emran Mojumdar, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student and president of the Dalhousie International Student Association, says Dalhousie does not have the international clout to charge such high international student fees. "Dalhousie is not a well-known university internationally. There are many students who came to Dal because they heard about it from friends and relatives. Dal should try to picture what will happen if they upset the current students," says Mojumdar. "Dal will not only lose the current students but they are not going to get any good reference. I am not going to tell my friend to come to Dal when she can go to UBC for the same price."

Sam Scully, the BAC chair who is also Dal's vice president of academic and provost, attributes this situation to a weakness in international student recruitment. "The university needs to have a more planned approach to recruitment of international students because they are of huge importance to the university in a number of ways," he says. "There

posed to differential fees in principle," says McGrath. "But the scenarios proposed in the BAC report would make a Dalhousie education out of reach for some international students."

McGrath also says that Dal is wrong to compare itself to UBC, as it did in the BAC report. "Dal does not have comparable services, education or community as UBC and should be examining those schools that more closely reflect Dalhousie's ability to accommodate international students such as Western, Waterloo or McMaster," says McGrath.

The recommendation comes on the heels of government attempts to bolster immigration to N.S. Emran Mojumdar says that if the province wishes to increase immigration rates in Nova Scotia, it should make efforts to retain international students in the province. "They [the provincial government] should have special considerations for international students who have graduated or are graduating from a Nova Scotia university," he says. "They should work with the universities to encourage more international

"My friends feel they are just a source of income for the university."
— Mostafa Mojumdar, a first-year MBA student from Bangladesh

has been modest publicity but we have not gone out and energetically recruited international students."

Scully also says that an increase in international student fees is not strictly limited to the three scenarios presented in the BAC report. For instance, the university is considering a two-tier tuition structure separating graduate and undergraduate fees, as well as an extension of the three-year fee increase time frame.

Scully also says that recommended increases in fees will be matched by increases in financial assistance and student services for international students.

DSU president Curtis McGrath says that the university may be incorrectly assuming that there is a high demand from international students regardless of tuition fees. "We're not op-

students to come to Nova Scotia."

His brother Mostafa offers several solutions: "Government could make visa processing easier to increase enrollment of international students and could fund the universities to decrease differential fees," he says. "This is important if international students are going to continue to come to Nova Scotia because fees are the first thing that international students consider before coming to Canada."

International students will have to wait until February to see just how much these fees will increase. In February, the Budget Advisory Committee will make its recommendation to Dalhousie University president Tom Traves. Traves will then send his recommendation to the university's Board of Governors for final approval.

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Your Health

Just a Headache, or actually a migraine?

Meera Gupta
Health Contributor

You may not be faking it if you say that school gives you a headache—the irregularity and stress of university life really does put students at risk for migraine headaches. Migraines affect about 2.5 million Canadians, predominantly females. These intense headaches are a life-long illness that usually begin to effect people when they are in their 20s, making students a primary target.

According to QEII Neurology chief and local headache guru Dr. R.A. Purdy, many supposed “stress” headaches are actually migraines. “Migraine is under-diagnosed and under-recognized. Frequently people think it’s a tension or sinus headache,” he says. If you’re having a severe, recurrent, disabling headache that interferes with your daily activities, chances are you have migraine headache disorder, he says.

The specific criteria for migraine diagnosis involves a series of five attacks of one-sided, throbbing pain that is aggravated by movement, noise, smell and lights, and tends to be associated with nausea and/or vomiting. Migraine pain is usually concentrated on one side of your head, but 40 per cent of migraine pain is bilateral. You don’t need to have every single symptom to be a migraine sufferer.

There are a lot of lifestyle issues that can affect migraine. Too much or too little sleep, stress and poor diets can cause headaches to progress into migraine. If you like to drink or you’re a female on the Pill, you should know that both alcohol and oral contraceptives can trigger these headaches as well.

Migraines can occur with or without “aura.” An aura is a period of neurological symptoms preceding the onset of the headache including, but not limited to, visual disturbances and numbness of the head, arm or tongue. Visual effects are the most com-



“The horror... the horror...” / Photo: Jenine Dowden

mon features of aura and are sometimes manifest as coloured lights with a bright sparkly edge against a background of blackness. These features are variable, and if you think you have migraine with aura, it’s best to seek advice from a doctor.

Smoking on top of taking the Pill will also increase stroke risk. Purdy advises females with migraine to discuss their birth control methods with a doctor and also get help in quitting smoking. Some women are fine with low dose estrogen oral contra-

“It started off with a flashing dot in my visual field that developed into what looked like a flashing ‘C,’ that only seemed to be in one eye,”
- migraine sufferer and med student Matt Boyd.

Matt Boyd is a second-year medical student at Dal and new migraine sufferer. His first migraine occurred last December. “It started off with a flashing dot in my visual field that developed into what looked like a flashing ‘C,’ that only seemed to be in one eye,” he says. Shortly after this aura, he developed a one-sided, throbbing headache.

“Everything seemed louder and brighter,” he says, adding that he couldn’t function for two days. Boyd was able to alleviate his headaches with an over-the-counter pain medication, but there are also specific migraine medications that can be prescribed by your doctor if necessary.

Sometimes females who suffer from migraine with aura are advised to stop taking oral contraceptives, since they slightly increase the chance of stroke.

ceptives, but if their migraines worsen, if the aura becomes prolonged (greater than 60 minutes) or if there are other changes to their headaches, they should consult a doctor.

One of the hardest parts of being a migraine sufferer is that people who have never had migraines have a difficult time understanding the severity and disabling nature of this illness. People with migraine have problems with their employers because, while it’s okay to be sick from work with the flu, it’s not okay to stay home if it’s “just a headache.”

“Migraine is a fascinating neurobiological disorder, and people would do well to become educated about it and have it treated early,” Purdy says.

You can learn more about migraine at www.migraine.com and <http://www.achenet.org/>.

Students Want A Greener Dal

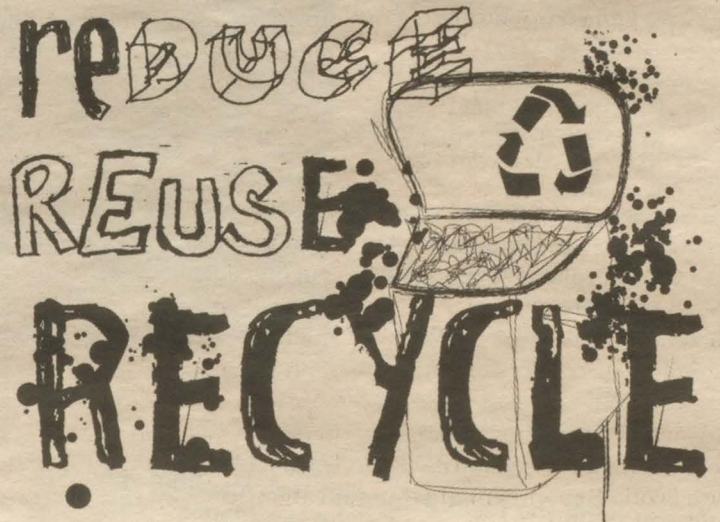
Chantelle McGee
News Contributor

Editors Note: This is the first in a series on Dalhousie’s path to becoming a sustainable campus.

It is becoming difficult to deny the reality of climate change, and Canada’s universities know it. There is a growing trend at some universities, including Dalhousie, to resolve climatic problems by creating “sustainable” campuses. “Action for a sustain-

able campus,” a student initiative begun last November, hopes to get Dal going green. “what is physically sustainable,” Uesson says. “It also involves educating the student population. Students are huge resources, no matter the program. Students can [learn] sustainable practices from the university, which they can later carry on into life and the workplace.”

As these students know, Dalhousie has environmental promises to keep. In February 1999, Dalhousie signed the Talloires Declaration of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. The



able campus,” a student initiative begun last November, hopes to get Dal going green.

But what is “sustainability”? “Sustainability is an attitude and lifestyle,” says Audrey Barber, a second-year IDS student actively involved in the new perspective. “[It] involves people using the earth’s resources as necessary for survival, without harming the use of these resources for future needs.”

Barber is just one of three students trying to transform Dalhousie’s campus into a sustainable one: Lisa Uesson, a graduate resource and environmental management student, and Jason Pelley, the Dalhousie Science Society’s representative for environmental programs, are also on board the sustainability campaign.

The vision these students have for Dalhousie includes more than

declaration contains a set of 10 recommendations aimed at assisting the creation an environmentally-sustainable campus.

“Dalhousie has great potential for becoming sustainable,” Barber says. “There is a strong acknowledgement by many students who see sustainability as important to our school ... I think that we need greater support and action by the Dalhousie administration and staff.” This is why she believes that the Senate Committee of the Environment, Facilities Management and the student population need to cooperate.

These students are just a small fraction of those who want Dal to be a sustainable campus.

If you are interested in helping out, there is another “Action for a sustainable campus” meeting on Jan. 8 at 12:00 p.m., SUB room 316.

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Vent: The Quiz Edition

The "Did you have a good flight?" Quiz

Li Dong / Opinions Editor

(Circle all answers that apply)

You got to the airport via:

- a) Family or friends (+3)
- b) A taxi (+2)
- c) You walked (-2)
- d) The Airbus (-4)

Your flight was:

- a) Delayed (-2)
- b) Full of crying babies (-3)
- c) Ahead of schedule (+∞)

On the plane you sat next to:

- a) A sociable person (+3)
- b) A person who wasn't sociable but was really attractive (+4)
- c) Kittens, or other pets (+2)
- d) Someone who kind of, sort of, looked like a celebrity (+1)
- e) A Dal student (+1)
- f) A King's student (-1)
- g) Someone who smelled (-2)
- h) Wait, is that you? (-2)
- i) A snorer (-2)
- j) A puker (-3)
- k) The professor who failed you this semester (-1)
- l) ... explaining why your "F" was fully justified (-3)
- m) A terrorist (-4)
- n) An attractive terrorist (-2)

You felt:

- a) hungover (-3)

Did you think the flight attendant was mocking you when she asked, "can you handle the responsibility of being seated next to the emergency exit?"

- a) Yes, why must they be sarcastic like that? (-1)
- b) No, I've been practicing my airplane-emergency-door-throwing skills and she knows it. (+2)

After you got off the plane you thought:

- a) "Yes! I don't have any luggage to get!" (+3)
- b) "Moving my body makes me want to vomit." (-1)
- c) "This isn't Pearson. Where the hell am I?" (-2)
- d) "Where's my luggage?" (-3)

While waiting for your luggage:

- a) You saw a man grab a suitcase only to discover that it was not his and shamefully put it back on the belt. (+3)
- b) You saw the same man do the exact same thing with the same piece of luggage on the next rotation. (+2)
- c) You found the loud cackle and orange disco lights that went on periodically rather soothing. (+1)
- d) "Where's my luggage?" (-3)

You got back to Dal via:

- a) A friend or family (+3)
- b) The cab (+1)
- c) "Where's my luggage?" (-4)
- d) The Airbus (-4)

Congratulations! If you scored zero or above... you probably didn't fly.

New Year's Resolutions: A Procrastinator's Dream

Lauren Davie
Opinions Contributor

New Year's resolutions are such an odd concept. Because Jan. 1 signifies a new numerical year, people feel the need to start anew, change their values, concepts and perceptions of themselves. Getting into shape or quitting smoking always seem to be the most popular New Year's resolutions. Depriving oneself of chocolate, fat, or carbs is also popular. Common sense tells me that whenever we start new jobs, new school years, new relationships or even a new day, we tend to want to do it better and more efficiently in order to enjoy our lives to the fullest extent.

Resolutions are a procrastinator's dream. Prior to the date of Jan. 1 people allow themselves to be indulgent or "bad" and then once that date hits it is time for change. Why not start tomorrow, or even now. New Year's resolutions are actually quite stupid.

We are becoming a society of procrastinators. If it's not instant or if we can't see results almost immediately we don't want to do it. People tend to wait and wait and put changing their lifestyles off more and more. The New Year is like a cushion that has become a socially acceptable procrastination device.

The popularity of New Year's resolutions also provides second chances that are a thing of beauty. They allow for 'do-overs' and allow for one to improve oneself. Resolutions are technically second chances and represent a time to do things differently. As that ball drops in New York City for the countdown on New Year's Eve, the majority of people around the world are looking forward to the New Year to get that second chance, but I suppose for my friends and I, it would be my 22nd chance... but who's counting?

This is why New Year's Eve is such a huge celebration; it lets

people party, eat badly and smoke like chimneys one last time until Jan. 1 or 2nd, OK Jan. 3... maybe the 5th? Don't get me wrong, I'm all for a great party, but to be expected to make New Year's resolutions and make changes within just because it is a new numerical year is silly. If something should change it should occur whenever one is ready. Start the diet tomorrow, stop smoking right now, whatever it is it should happen whenever one is ready and willing to commit to change whether that be tomorrow or next week.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world," and I believe this to be a tremendously wise statement. Resolve to change things in yourself that stunt your growth and change the qualities you observe in other people that you do not aspire to hold on to yourself. It is only natural that we as humans want change and continu-

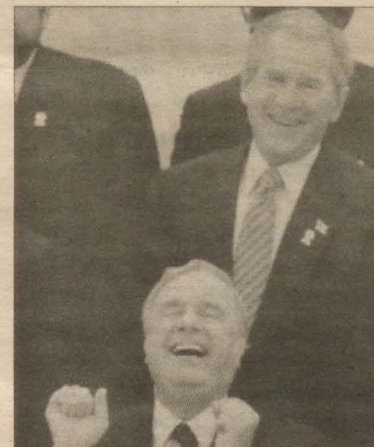
Continued on Next Page...

Canada's New Dilemma

Jimmy Kapches
Opinions Contributor

"Oh Identity! How long must we search for you!" Since the dawn of Confederation in 1867, Canadians have struggled to pin down who we are and what our country means to us. To a large extent, we have come to grips with our effervescent and elusive nature. We all understand that to be Canadian is to be fluid, compassionate and aware of the world around us. Yet there has been no true headway made with concrete definitions that would lock us into roles and collar us with labels. We are strong, resilient and when chance favours us, we even manage to seem enlightened.

How quickly our fortunes can change! In one mid-week visit from the Man of the Hour



Paul Martin becomes a real boy.

down south, I watched as both our sovereignty and our sanity were wracked with tremors that normally follow the fevers of madness. First came the demonstrations: powerful gatherings of people who, although The Man is not essentially their problem, found the time amid busy weeks

to say "No More" to someone who has certainly refilled the cup of power to overflowing many times more than he was allotted.

That self-stylized Lone Ranger made tongue-in-cheek jokes about democracy at podiums and press conferences whenever the opportunity presented itself. His favorite line is still "I love democracy," and as the words leave his lips he smiles that creepy smile: a smile that intoxicates you with that same bittersweet odour of gasoline at the pumps, making you drop your guard only to pay a price so dear.

When your heart begins to break under the pressure of Tex-junior's propaganda you will cry out for Canada. Canada will hear your cry, and none but the gauchistes will bother to come to your

Continued on Next Page...

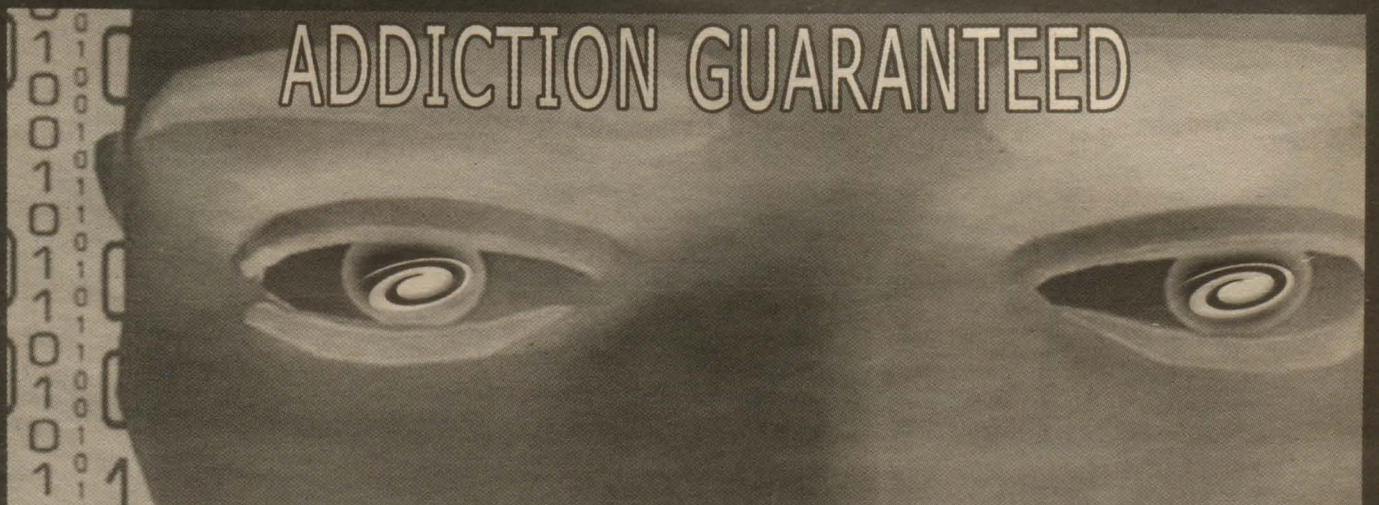
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Cell Phones Anonymous

Philip Duguay
Staff Contributor

I have a horrible confession to make. Last year, while living in the U.K., I had a torrid love affair with what the British refer to as a "mobile"—or in Canuck-ish, a cell phone. I whispered sweet nothings to my sexy little European red phone. I kept it close to me at night as I slept, and we spent countless days gallivanting around cobblestone streets. It was bliss. Alas, when I left Europe, I decided to make a clean break. Once I returned to Canada, I buried all the memories of my mistress and returned to the comfort of my dependable, ever faithful landline.

The number one thing that I noticed upon returning to Halifax and Dalhousie is that this place had gone cell phone ape shit. It all started early last summer when my special lady friend and I decided to take a stroll down to Point Pleasant Park. While we tried to get reacquainted, her new obsession kept hornning in on our conversation. "Damn," I thought. "She's got another in her life." Albeit her new phone was more the more burly, husky, Canadian styled phone (this bulky, gray phone didn't hold a candle to my little red sweet-thang), it still ran the risk of taking a long bath in the harbour. Indeed, once school was in, I realized that cell phones were the latest fad to bug the hell out of me. Cell phones buzzing in class, at the bar, in the library (I've just heard one,

while typing this in the Killam). Walking around campus, it is apparent to anyone that Dalhousie is wired in a major way. There is "cell gear" for sale in the SUB all the time, and as cell phones become cheaper and cheaper they are replacing landlines as the most convenient means of communication.

I have to remind my readers of one thing: cell phone etiquette does exist. And, just as the Europeans are always a year ahead of us in fashion and technology (when I was there the flitty, short, pleated skirt was already on its way to passé) they are also ahead of us in manners. First of all, cell phone users will tell you that

the reason they have them is so they can be in touch all the time. I agree, this is a great feature of cell phones, but do you *need* to be in touch *all* the time? The great thing about a cell phone is that you *don't* need to answer it. Just because someone is calling doesn't mean you have to pick up. After all, aren't you in the library for a reason?

Let me run people through this for a second. Debby* is in the library typing in an area that is supposed to be a quiet study area. Suzy calls her. Now, Bobby is busy working on a term paper. Debby and Suzy begin to chat about the weather, what they are wearing tonight and how many bottles of

Keith's Light they swilled down at the Split Crow last night. Now obviously Bobby is going to be more concerned about his term paper than the girls' drinking capabilities. Please, my fellow Tigers, if you get a call at the library, walk out into the atrium and call your friend back.

The libraries at Dalhousie do have a cell phone policy, although the only way they can be upheld it is if we extend simple, common courtesy to one another. This simple etiquette can be extended to the workplace, dates, dinners with the folks and definitely class.

In all seriousness, technology does pose some serious risks to our way of life. Constant contact with the whole world via the Internet, cell phones, "Blackberries," or television is something that no other generation has ever dealt with. The human psyche has simply never been stretched in so many directions at once, and life in the 21st century will be a testing ground as to how far our attention spans can be stretched. Commerce students, want to make a million bucks? Start Cell Phones Anonymous. And to you addicts out there—good luck, and take it one call at a time.

**All names are creations are products of the author's imagination and are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.*

Resolution Procrastination

Continued from Previous Page...

ously search for self-fulfillment and with that usually comes self-improvement. New Year's resolutions should be made every day in order for a true change to come about. Change within oneself takes time, and work and should not just occur with a countdown on Dec. 31. So don't procrastinate; make change part of your everyday routine and you will observe that the world around you will slowly change because you are committing to the change within yourself, even if it is ever so slight.

Canada's New Dilemma

Continued from Previous Page...

aid—and even then only barely. Prime Minister Paul Martin, you have let us down. My heart cries that someone so promising could have forgotten the people he stands for in such pivotal circumstances.

When 7,000 Canadians demonstrate to you that they are disappointed, would you not consider bringing it up with that culprit? Paul Martin, can you not wield the voice of the people, even in whispers? How could you stand by idle as those false-faced American journalists on vacation in Ottawa posing selfish questions in total ignorance of the bilateral conference overran the Hill on Nov. 30?

Why you thought it humorous that you were taking part in a press conference where you were nothing more than the letter opener on the desk in the oval office I will never comprehend. Why we told jokes about our acquiescence to the weight of that shadowed authority, I will never understand; all any of us can do is call out.

We must raise our voices till the whole of this tremendous country can hear us, "We are no northern doormat!" Prime Minister Martin, welcome Americans and America, but never again welcome the one who bears the ominous smile. If you don't tell him how we feel, I promise you that thousands of other Canadians will clearly indicate it to him, *again*. Without laying our coat over the mud puddle of reality to protect his feet, we will tell him exactly where he can put those bloodstained cowboy boots.

Letters

Dear editor,

From the latest *Gazette* news section (137:13), I realized that Dalhousie University is trying to create a health care program for the next academic year (MHSA-D) that is exclusive for students from China. As a current Dalhousie student from China, my experience tells me that Dalhousie's reputation, at least in China and within Chinese communities in Canada, will suffer from this program.

Dalhousie is the best university in Atlantic Canada in terms of education, research, and reputation, far better than that of St. Mary's. There are two reasons: first, St. Mary's Master of

Finance degree is not accepted by the education department of Chinese government and has no GMAT requirement. Second, quality students in China do not go through agencies to find their desired universities and programs. Based on Chinese logic, universities with good reputations should not need educational agencies to attract candidates. The reason I applied to Dalhousie is because Dal is very serious about its quality of education. Can a Master's program without TOEFL and GMAT requirements attract good students? Will a university with no good students have a good reputation? Will a university be considered highly

in China if its program only targets Chinese students' money, without government admission in both countries? Will Chinese students with high TOEFL and GMAT scores ask agencies, such as Can-Zhong International Education Company, for school information to decide which university to choose? What is the sense in coming to Canada to receive an education that has no Canadian content, no Chinese content (I doubt that the school of Health Services Administration is able to link the knowledge with current situation in China), no Canadian classmates to talk to, and even no opportunity to enroll in Co-ops, to see how the

knowledge is used in real life in Canada? It is ridiculous.

Dalhousie even asked for TSE (Test for Spoken English, held by the same group that holds TOEFL and GMAT) when I was applying for business school. Sharing classrooms with local students and not using intermediaries is a good means of differentiation between students with no TOEFL and GMAT tests or GRE tests who have no choice but go to St. Mary's M.Fin program. The university board should protect and maintain the university's reputation when thinking for ways to raise money.

Xiaomin Yang

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WHO IS LARS ULRICH?

He's the son of pro Tennis player Torbin Ulrich, the nephew of jazz legend Dexter Gordon, and a famous musician who looks a lot like the Gazette's former Editor-in Chief, Repo Kempt and plays for—what's that band again?—oh right, Metallica. Misery, a Metallica tribute band, plays the Attic on Friday, Jan. 14 at 11 p.m. No Ulrich, but for all us Napsterphiles, an imitator is probably much better than the real thing.

WHO IS ELVIS PRESLEY?

He's a famous king whose porous face and bulging crotch were sadly exploited in almost all his existing photographs. Elvis impersonator Max Pellicano will perform his rendition of "Hound Dog," "Little Sister," "Don't Be Cruel" (and all the rest) at Casino Nova Scotia, Jan. 14 and 15.

WHO IS FREDDIE MERCURY?

He is a famously theatrical performer, frontman for a band that redefined opera-rock (not, as it were, rock operas). But no one would ever know—if not for this *Hot Spots* entry—because there is no Queen tribute band in Halifax. There is a Metallica tribute band but no Queen? This sucks.

WHO IS APRIL WINE?

Who cares? April wines the Marquee this Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance and \$25 at the door—but it doesn't matter, because everyone will be going to see the Jimmy Swift Band at Stage Nine, at the same time, for half the price.

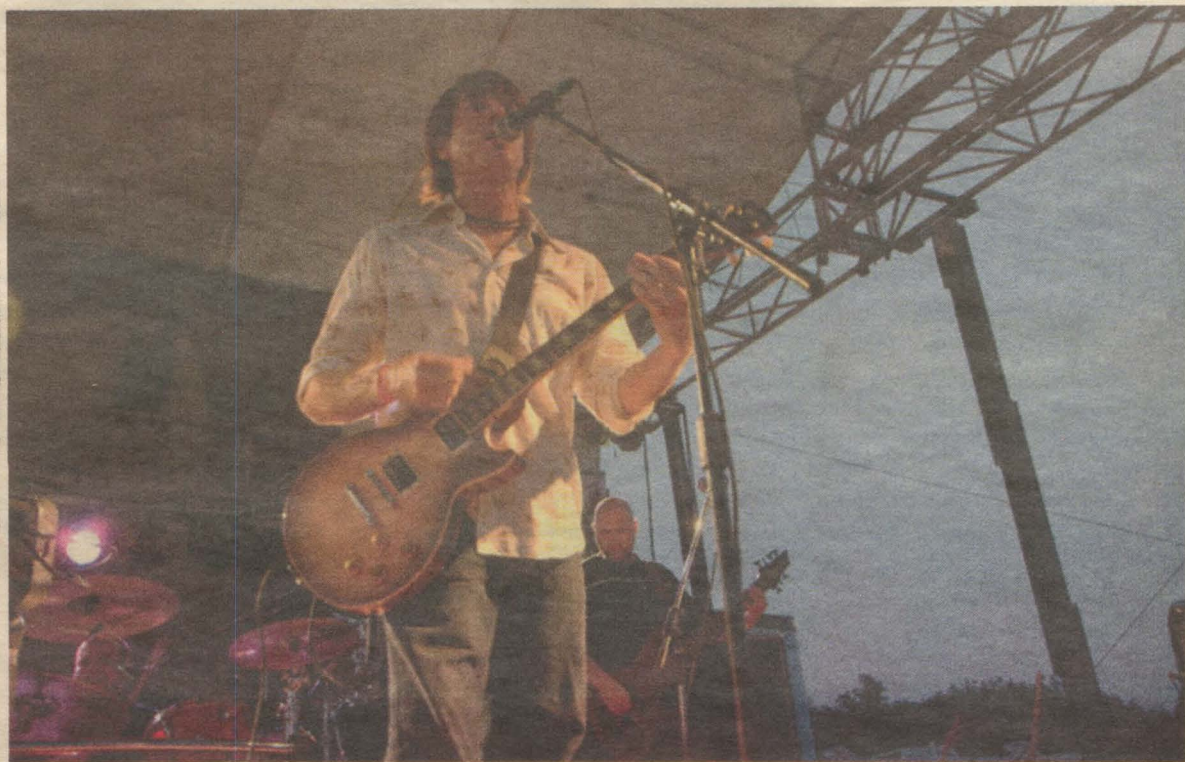
Hot Spots



Report Card Colour TV

Date: Saturday, Jan. 1, 2004
 Venue: The Pavilion
 Reporter: Natalie Pendergast
 Stage Presence: A
 Audience Reaction: A
 Sound: B+
 Effort: B
 Get-It-On-Ability: C

Punk's not dead. Three-piece outfit Colour T.V. were one of a handful of spirited bands who played a bunch of 20-second songs (making up their 20-minute set) last Saturday. The crowd's close proximity to the stage made it easy for the lead guitarist to soak them with the spit, grit, sweat and wet of his racy playing... And this only seemed to fuel the frolicking teen-lings in the audience. There was no cover, no booze and no shortage of energy. Metallic belts and mohawks bobbed around throughout the performance, proving that an all-ages punk show is way more fun than youth group and a healthy alternative to video games (or the sedentary activity of watching real T.V. that is the band's namesake). The kids at the Pavilion have more spunk than any bar crowd around, and Colour T.V. is at their core. No, punk's not dead—it's music for the living young.



Jimmy Swift front man Craig Mercer / Photo: Heather Tufts

Rock 'N' Roll Hoochie Coo

The Jimmy Swift Band brings it home

Natalie Pendergast
 Arts Editor

Hoochie boochie, hoochie mama, hoochie coo—none of these ramblings are the subject in question on the Jimmy Swift band's new live album, *The Rebirth of the Hooch*.

The story of the JSB hooch goes much deeper than just a catch phrase. According to Craig Mercer, lead guitarist and vocalist, a long, long time ago fellow East Coasters Grand Theft Bus donated a bobble-headed dog to JSB as a good luck charm on the road.

"Hooch was on tour with us for a long time, and we would bring him on stage with us to keep us in good vibes—it never seemed to matter much to Hooch whether it was a great show or not, he would be feeling it anyway: head bobbing the whole time," says Mercer. "So we got used to his encouragement."

Apparently Hooch got used to JSB to—until, that is, he mysteriously disappeared from Aaron Collier's keyboards at The Shaker, a St. Andrews, N.B. venue. After a brief grieving period, a miracle occurred. "A year later we played the Shaker again," says Mercer. "I looked over after the show and freaked out because Hooch was right there where he was stolen from the year before—on top of Aaron's keyboard."

Since then Hooch has had welcome home hugs, plastic surgery, and the rights to JSB's latest

album cover.

And his longevity resembles that of his compadres.

The Jimmy Swift Band has had its share of band member turnover and name changes, but Mercer thinks their current lineup is here to stay.

"We've been together for over two years now, and I consider that the birth of the band," he says.

During a Rise show, the open jam that Mercer used to host, he

like to dance around to a great live performance. The release of *The Rebirth of the Hooch* is only the tip of the excitement for the band—their first video, "Two Hands on the Wheel," is set to play on Much Music early this year, depending on how many requests from viewers it gets. "The video is like the Dukes of Hazard meets 80's metal," describes Mercer. "Expect it whenever hot chicks and dudes with lots of cash and bling bling become less

"There is an awful lot of great music out there and I like that fact—it inspires me... Unfortunately there is also an awful lot of awful music out there."

—Craig Mercer, Jimmy Swift Band.

and bass player Mike MacDougall got lost in the sounds of now fellow-bandmates Aaron Collier and Paul Christian.

"It was a jam, but you were not allowed to play any previously conceived music—if you did, it was my job to cut you off. So it had to be completely improvised which led to some of the best and worst music I have ever heard in my life," recalls Mercer. "But when Aaron and Paul sat in, it was pretty awesome. So Mike and I asked them to play with us..." And the rest, as they say, is history.

Skip ahead two years, and the new and improved Jimmy Swift Band is a household name for East Coast rocktronica enthusiasts, and for folks who just plain

popular."

Never ones to be squeezed into a single genre, the band also seeks inspiration from all corners of the musical universe. Though influenced by the space-rockers Wilco, the Flaming Lips and Toronto's Broken Social Scene, Mercer insists he will forever be loyal to his first love: hard rock. "I was raised on Motley Crue and Iron Maiden," he says. "There is an awful lot of great music out there and I like that fact—it inspires me... Unfortunately there is also an awful lot of awful music out there."

JSB plays Stage Nine with Fed Penny on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 p.m. Cover is \$10. To check out JSB's video, log on to www.thejimmyswiftband.com.

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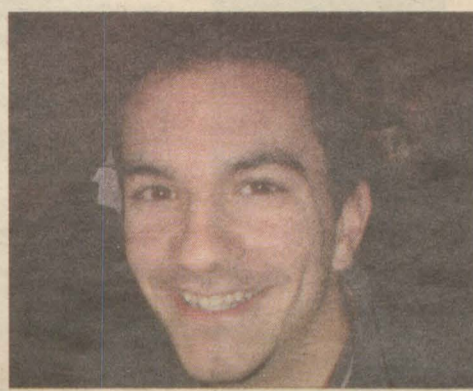
What is your new year's resolution?



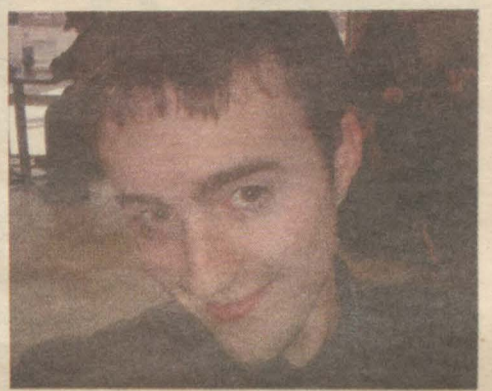
I wanna bring up my GPA so that I can go away to the London School of Economics... that's where Mick Jagger went!
- Sydney Jardine, first-year arts



To make more money to do more shopping.
- Ashley Whittaker, first-year science



To work for the *Gazette* and take your job.
- Ricky Cormier, foundation year programme



To come up with a decent resolution for next year.
- Brandon Cooke, second-year science



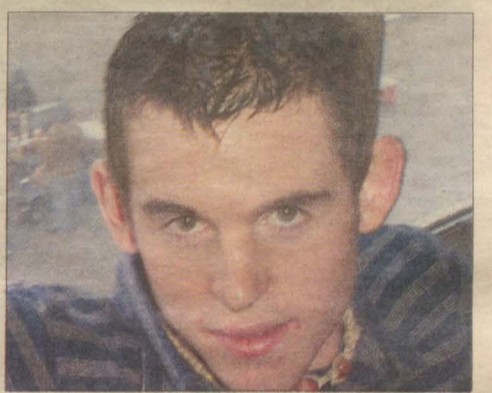
Go to, and stay awake for, all of my 8:30 classes.
- Cameron Starratt, second-year microbiology



To write more songs because I really love to sing and play the guitar.
- Chelsea Nisbett, first-year physics



To find a nice guy who will treat us well... at the same time.
- Stephanie Fung, first-year science & Jill Tuttle, second-year French



To be that nice guy.
- Chris LaRoche, fourth-year Chihuahua trainer

Les Portes Tournantes

Moncton ballet production thinks traditional ballet has gotten old

Chantelle McGee
Arts Contributor

A new ballet being brought to Halifax by a Moncton-based theatre company aims to unite old ballet traditions with contemporary theatre production—all the while using home-grown Acadian subject material.

Kostyany Voynov (Kosta) and Evelina V. Sushko, of the Moncton-based Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, speak fondly of their love of ballet and their roles in the upcoming Halifax performance of *Les Portes Tournantes* ("The Revolving Doors"). Kosta dances the role of Antoine, a young boy dealing with the separation of his parents. Meanwhile, he learns of his estranged grandmother through unsent letters she wrote to her abandoned son, Antoine's father, when she was a young woman.

Antoine's grandmother, Céleste, portrayed by Sushko, is a pianist who provided the music for silent films in Campbellton and was later involved in the ragtime and jazz scene of 1940's New York.

The ballet is based on Acadian writer Jacques Savoie's 1984 novel of the same title; he also wrote the libretto for the ballet. Choreographer Igor Dobrovolskiy worked closely with Savoie

in the creation of the ballet. The musical score was composed specifically for the ballet by François Dompierre. Paintings for the ballet were created by Yvon Galant, another Acadian artist. In fact, the ballet was conceived by Dobrovolskiy to be part of the regional celebrations for the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the first French Settlement in North America.

As the ballet shifts between the present and the past, music plays an integral part of Antoine and Celeste's lives. Kosta says his character, an aspiring pianist, connects with his mother through music.

He describes one interesting scene where he experiences the rehearsal of musicians in the theatre where his mother works. Kosta's character "goes within the music and imagines himself with the musicians." Antoine's love of music seems to be inherited from his grandmother. For Céleste, Sushko says music was "really her life...she couldn't exist without music." When Céleste must come to terms with her abandonment of Antoine's infant father, her pursuits in jazz music help her to "find herself and her son- it supported her."

Shushko was impressed by the coming together of living artists



Kostyany Voynov reaches new heights in *Les Portes Tournantes* / Press Photo

involved in the production—different from better-known, traditional ballets in that the composers, storytellers, and (sometimes) choreographers of those production are usually deceased.

"For me it was like, 'Wow, I want to be a part of this,'" he says. "Our new ballets are completely different from each other... We do not know, until we start to work with Igor, what they will be like" Dobrovolskiy's original

productions—which also include *Figaro* (2002), *Merlin* (2003), and the yet to be premiered *Amadeus* (2005)—differ from each other in style, setting, and mood.

"But their base is classical ballet," Kosta adds, explaining that no matter how contemporary the stories or the innovative ways Dobrovolskiy merges the dance movements together, the movements themselves are based on classical ballet technique.

Shusko says he would like audiences to walk away from *Les Portes Tournantes* with the following thoughts in mind: "I saw it, it was real. It touched something in my soul."

The Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada is performing Les Portes Tournantes at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Jan. 15. Tickets are available at the Dalhousie Arts Centre Box office; students are discounted.

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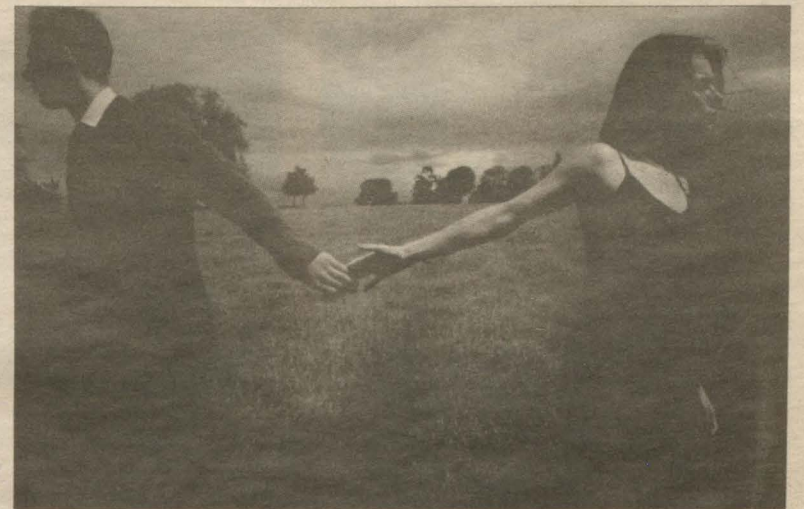
Dave Morin -Wentworth
Sexpert

Q: For the first time in my life I am entering a situation that has me baffled. My boyfriend is moving while I am staying here to finish my degree. He is going to Asia for one year to teach English, but we want to continue our exclusive relationship together.

I can see a long-distance relationship working if you lived a few hours away, but he will be halfway around the world! I'm anxious about what this could have in store for our relationship. He is a fabulous guy and we've been together almost two years. How can we make our long-distance relationship work? Please help!

A: It is surprising that so many people are involved in long-distance relationships while little discussion ever takes place on the subject. The trend of long-distance relationships is not overly new, but with today's global village and shrinking world, more couples than ever are going the distance to make long-distance romance work. In fact, some partners find that going long-distance for a spell makes them hotter lovers, more appreciative of each other and more committed in their relationships.

Many couples go to extremes when preparing for long-distance. Some are really relaxed about it and informally agree to communicate when they can,



More couples than ever are going the distance.

whereas other couples get more restless and may go as far as planning out a phone schedule, agreeing to write a set number of e-mails a week and/or planning visits before their partner has even left.

My biggest piece of advice for you is to enjoy whatever time you have left before his departure and not let the small things bring you down. International communication has never been easier, and long-distance couples have a variety of methods for keeping in touch. Instant messaging, e-mails and pre-paid calling cards all make communication easy and hassle-free, be it around the block or across the planet.

One of the biggest pitfalls in a long-distance relationship is when communication does not work. It is so important to cherish the time you have on the phone and to not resort to bickering, emotional guilt trips or

droning on about what neither of you has the power to change. Avoiding fights and blow-ups is fundamental to having a delightful long-distance relationship. You will not be able to jump on a plane for a surprise weekend reunion. This will put the onus on communication rather than visitation.

The extraordinary benefit of going long-distance is that it can actually make you closer. Yes, it is going to be difficult and at some points you will feel like throwing in the towel, but you cannot let a lonely day ruin an entire relationship.

It is only one year, and the feeling you will have when he gets back will be like you first met. Many couples find that being apart makes them closer as a unit. After all, absence does make the heart grow fonder, regardless of how difficult a temporary separation can be! Good luck!

C L A S S I F I E D S

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Billy Talent: More Than Just a New Year's Show

Ontario based punk revival band plays Halifax, donates to Kids Help Phone



Benjamin Kowalewicz counts down New Year's Eve (and the lifespan of his vocal chords) at the Halifax Forum / Photo: Tim Hennigar

Trevor Murphy
Arts Contributor

Hundreds of sweaty kids crowd the front of the stage at the Halifax Forum on New Year's Eve as a red and yellow banner the size of the stage is lowered from the ceiling. The big bold black letters on the enormous flag spell "Billy Talent." All around the arena, scattered spectators sport T-shirts with the same lettering, waiting for the first guitar of the evening to wash over them. High-pitched screams from the fans match the famous high-pitched screams of Billy Talent's front man as the nouveau-punk rockers hit the stage to ring in Halifax's New Year.

Though a trip to the Super-City has long been in the works, this is the first time that Billy Talent has been to Halifax since garnering mainstream success with their self-titled debut album.

"We've always wanted to play

in Halifax and always ended up getting fucked," says Billy Talent singer Benjamin Kowalewicz.

Along with Ontario-based bands the Marble Index and Closet Monster, and local screamo act 52 Minutes, the band (Kowalewicz, Ian D'Sa, Jonathan Gallant and Aaron Solowoniuk) finally got their chance to live up to a promise to play in Halifax before the year was over.

In an industry dominated by the likes of Britney Spears and Ashlee Simpson, Billy Talent write about life experiences instead of bubble gum ideologies. Though the band is now considered a mainstream act, Kowalewicz says that their lyrical content is one of the things that separates them from the pop stars.

"People are looking for something tangible in music," he says. "It often seems there's nothing for people to attach to, nothing to identify with, no motivation

and nothing inspiring. I'm a firm believer that inspiration does exist—you just have to find it."

Most of the songs on Talent's debut deal with pressing social issues that were often staring Kowalewicz in the face. He says he presents songs in a storytelling manner, using other people's experiences and points of view. The song "Standing in the Rain," for example, is a reflection from a heroin-addicted prostitute. Kowalewicz's own point of view, however, is definitely not excluded in songs like "How it Goes," a track that deals with a friend being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"Lyrics are about imagery, telling the story, and expressing an emotion in which the music compliments the words and the words the music," he says. "My inspiration comes when I'm not comfortable—when I'm faced with situations and have to let everything out."

The singer and lyricist realizes

that not everyone will interpret his words the same way when they hear a Billy Talent track.

"You just hope that the kids you're singing to will get the same meaning out of the song as you do," he says.

Music videos are one way to ensure that literal meaning of songs match their lyrical meanings.

Most recently, the members of Billy Talent have taken it upon themselves to deal with the chronic issue of high school bullying. Their fourth single, "Nothing To Lose," is a song about a social outcast who is constantly picked on and finds relief only in suicide. The song's video has is a

stark black and white look at the story of a young teen in this situation.

The video also has a stark closing, displaying the message, "There is life beyond these walls," followed by contact information for the Kids Help Phone. Every time the video is played between Dec. 8, 2004 and Jan. 31, 2005, Billy Talent donates \$1.00 to the Kids Help Phone. The band ran a similar campaign from September to December in 2004, donating \$1.00 to the organization every time the song was played on the radio. By mid-December, the song was played over 1,000 times.

Kowalewicz says it was an important issue to tackle.

"We wanted to make something of impact and let people know that there are kids going through this stuff every day and Kids Help Phone is available for them," he says. "We want to send the message that no one is ever alone."

During their set at the Halifax Forum, Billy Talent demonstrated this innate and genuine care for their fans.

"There are rules at a Billy Talent show," Benjamin Kowalewicz said from the stage. "Number one, if somebody falls, you pick them the fuck up, and number two, respect the ladies in the audience."

While punk rock has been criticized for drifting away from its original roots thanks to bands like Simple Plan, Blink 182 and Good Charlotte, Kowalewicz says that Billy Talent's music would never be taken to heart if listeners thought the band members were posers.

"Kids can smell a rat from a mile away," he says. "We're not bullshit."

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Best and Worst of 2004

Like any other year, 2004 had fashion ups and downs—and, for the most part, people followed the fashion downs en masse. Here is Gazette fashion columnist Nadine LaRoche's take on the year's best and worst trends.

TRENDS TO OBLITERATE

boy hair bands: I blame this one on fashion numbskull David Beckham, who should never be turned to for style inspiration, especially when it comes to hair. The hair band, paired with too much product and precise comb work, was just plain bad.

boy's euro mulhawk: Any haircut that is a version of the mullet, quite possibly the worst 'do' of all time, is a tragic one.

beaded mesh mules: These multi-coloured footwear look like slippers and have yet to strike me as attractive. Conveniently, they never hit Halifax full-force—but still deserve to be on the "worst" list, in violation of any originality.

ponchos: For two weeks in the summer I saw a few of these in soft knits and delicate fabrics and was excited by their practicality. Then I noticed ponchos in every major store and on every second teenybopper in the country. By fall the poncho had been warped into some huge rug-like cover-all, and that was the end of that.

pointy shoes: These are listed purely as a cautionary. I'm an undeniable fan of pointy-toed pumps and conservatively sharp-toed boots, but the witch-like toe extenders that dotted the shoe store shelves throughout the year were just plain ugly.

side pony-tails: Do you remember when these popped up for about two weeks? Unless you're one of the few that can pull off anything, the side pony-tail is still just as bad as it was when you topped it off with a scrunchie.

store-bought vintage tees: Vintage tees should by nature be cheap, original, and well, vintage, so does it make sense that you bought your 'vintage' tee for \$30, pre-faded and stylishly worn?

tapered jeans: Well thank God the enormous shoe-covering flare is a fading memory, but pants should never be tapered. Never.

three-tiered minis: There's only one body type that these skirts look nice on, and it doesn't exist. There's no need to look like a flowery wedding cake—so please keep these in your closet next summer.

Uggs: 'Nuf said.

TRENDS TO COMMEMORATE

ballerina flats: Oh, how I adore you. Especially in bright, vibrant colours.

bangs: I rocked a set for a good portion of this year until I couldn't stand the state of blindness that ensued every time I leaned over my desk.

blazers: Like most styles that are classy and timeless rather than trendy and fleeting, blazers flatter every shape and look smart on every age.

brooches: (and buttons too!) They are a simple accessory to make an outfit, and there's something fantastic about picking up a vintage piece and knowing there is a secret story behind your new glit-tery find.

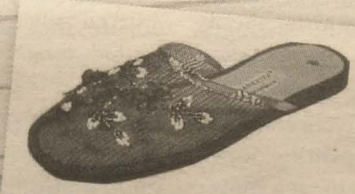
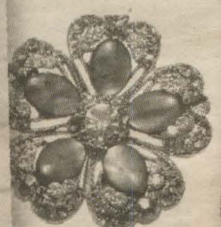
long shirts: The end of this year bid farewell to bare midriffs and said hello to the figure-flattering hip-length shirts that are my latest love affair.

dangly earrings: The bigger the better in my opinion, but stay away from hoops you can fit your fist through.

rainboots: How can any trend that supports practicality be bad? With Halifax's non-stop inclement weather, nothing is better than rubber footwear.

T-shirt under blazer (men): I'm aware that Ryan Seacrest may or may not be responsible for this trend (though originally it dates all the way back to Miami Vice), but a man in a tee and a fitted blazer is still undeniably hot.

tights: This year, leg wear reinvented itself with colours, textures and lots of layering. I have a drawer specifically designated for tights to prove it.



2004's Ten Best Artistic Endeavors

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

1) Best International Masterpiece: *The Motorcycle Diaries/Diarios de Motocicleta*, directed by Walter Salles.

The contents of Che's diaries were beautifully exposed to the English-speaking world at the Sundance film festival on Jan. 15, 2004.

2) Best Test of Controversy: *The Passion of the Christ*, directed by Mel Gibson.

The film premiered in select theatres on Feb. 25, 2004, and not only did the Arts and Culture section review the film, but the entire Gazette staff had a field day publishing three intense pieces of solid *Passion* discussion.

3) Best Poet: Heidi Lynn Staples, AKA Heidi Pepper-



mint.

The renowned composer of "Real Toads," published in *Best American Poetry 2004* and *La Petite Zine*, Heidi keeps her word art simple yet profound. Her puns give her readers shivers.

4) Best Independent Advertisement: "Child's Pay," by Charlie Fisher.

Winner of the 2004 "Bush in 30 Seconds" political ad contest, Fisher threads together images of the ones who really have to pay for Bush's debts: child workers. The ad can be viewed on www.bushin30seconds.org, sponsored by www.moveon.org

5) Best Radio Show: *Border Crossing*, hosted by Jon Bruhm.

The CKDU 97.5 FM wizard of the airwaves is followed

closely by runner-up, 2004's second greatest radio show, *Eco Freako* (CKDU), hosted by Hillary Lindsay, Angela Bishoff, and Amanda Dainow.



6) Best New Theatre Company: Big Blue Umbrella, founded by Amy Conolly and Michelle Langille.

The former Dal students exposed the feminine side of the performing arts with their enchanting premiere *Burlesque* show earlier this year. Look out for more from these talented women.

7) Best New Band: The Arcade Fire.

Their first album, *Funeral* (2004) blew the minds of many critics in the industry, and their performance at the Halifax Pop Explosion left audiences dying for more black pop music and gothic imagery.

8) Best Christmas Album: *My Kind of Christmas, The Reissue* (July 1 2004) - Christina Aguilera.

First released in 2000, Christina's soulful crooning captures the spirit of Christmas wonderfully, although it would have been better had she recorded "Carol of the Bells."

9) Best Revealing Dance Choreography: *Amour acide et noix*, choreographed by Daniel Lev-elle.

The Montreal phenom



brought nudity to Halifax on Dec. 9, 2004. If nothing else, the performance showed audience members that it's OK to be comfortable in (only) one's own skin.

10) Best Documentary: *The Take*, by Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein.

Sometimes it's a good thing when workers take over abandoned factories and make a living for themselves by being their own bosses. *The Take*, which took over two years to put together, makes Michael Moore's films look like parodies of themselves.

Wanderlust

Hong Kong: City of Contrasts

Bridgette Sullivan
Staff Contributor

After 15 hours of trying to avoid a deep vein thrombosis, my flight landed in Hong Kong. Hundreds of passengers filed off the plane and scurried down Hong Kong International Airport's carpeted corridors—some continuing on to places like Bangkok and Singapore, others, like myself, just happy to be home.

Before my plane touched down, I had realized that with only two weeks in Hong Kong before my return to Halifax, I would have to quickly get down to business. This meant spending time with family, going out 'til the wee hours of the morning with friends I hadn't seen since summer, eating all the Asian cuisine I could get my hands on and, of course, shopping.

And so it began. Visits to Wan-chai, which is considered to be a rather sleazy bar district, were made with frequency. In true Hong Kong fashion, the evening of Dec. 25 turned out to be particularly rowdy for this locale, as the "fleet" was in town and had descended upon streets well known for housing strip clubs and other interesting forms of entertainment. In Hong Kong, the term "fleet" is used to describe the thousands upon thousands of American sailors who are let loose in the city after being cooped up for months at a time on warships like the USS Abraham Lincoln—you can only imagine what happens.

Nights like these were interspersed with day trips to remote fishing islands, where I dined on scrumptious calamari and peppered prawns, hikes through jungle-like terrain past WWII bunkers in Hong Kong's vast network of country parks, and relaxing on the sea wall in Stanley, a village on the island's south side.

On nights when the concept of budgeting and being thrifty were thrown out the window, my friends and I made merry at Hong Kong's "hip" locations. After managing to make it onto the guest list, a night at a club called Dragon-I in the city's Soho district let us rub shoulders with models, actors and Hong Kong's rich and famous. But just as we started to get cozy with the idea



Hong Kong residents bustle on a crowded street at night.
Photo: Bridgette Sullivan

of spotting Jackie Chan's son exiting the bathroom, the reality of spending 13 Canadian dollars on a small tumbler of juice and liquor quickly brought us down to Earth.

Other events that took place in South East Asia over the holidays also kept me grounded despite how easy it is to get caught up in Hong Kong's non-stop, money-money-money style of living. Phuket, a resort area in Thailand that is a very popular getaway for many Hong Kongers, was struck head on by the tsunami. At the time of this article's writing, residents of this city still remained unaccounted for.

Although colleagues and friends of my family who were traveling in the area managed to survive the incident unscathed, their incredible stories served to remind us of what tends to get lost in the glitz and glamour of Hong Kong.

I think a more fitting reputation for Hong Kong, often called the city of lights by the tourism industry (and giving Paris' claim to the title a run for its money), is the city of many contrasts. From the humble sea front pubs

of Stanley to nightclubs requiring VIP status just to step in the doors—from melt-in-your-mouth Peking duck in ritzy restaurants to steaming bowls of noodles in back alley noodle shops, from feats of architectural wonder that rise for what seems like miles into the sky to small fishing communities on the shorelines of tiny islands, and from two-dollar beers to gazillion dollar cocktails sipped with an air of sophistication, it is hard to know just what exactly this former British colony is about. But in a city like Hong Kong, with all the sights, sounds and smells, it's no burden trying to figure that out.

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Book Review

The BIG Guide of Living and Working Overseas, by Jean-Marc Hachey

Emily Sharpe
Staff Contributor

It is truly difficult—and I don't say this as a way of shirking my duty as a Gazette writer—to review a guide like Jean-Marc Hachey's *The BIG Guide to Living and Working Overseas*. Aside from the fear it initially struck in my heart with its imposing 1,000-plus page count, the research that Hachey and his collaborators have done into living in other countries is exhaustive. They seem to know everything there is to know about making a smooth transition to life in another country, and then back to Canada.

Now in its fourth edition, the guide includes a CD-ROM and internet updates to keep advice and listings information current. Almost every chapter includes not only basic information, but thoughts from people who have lived abroad and lists of resources and organizations to consult. The *BIG Guide* also gives advice about how to apply and prepare for a variety of overseas job and volunteer opportunities, including internships, teaching, law, engineering, medicine, and non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations work. The information is easy to navigate as well, thanks to the clear guides to the book and CD-ROM contents.

I myself have never lived or worked outside of Canada for a period longer than five weeks. Taking into account my relative naïveté, Hachey's book not only provides lots of helpful information about life in a foreign country, but also gives sound advice about the drawbacks of it, without

seeming to be overly negative or fear mongering. An entire chapter is dedicated to determining whether one is a good candidate for overseas employment, and the various stages of culture shock are discussed in depth, as well as the other difficulties faced by people working abroad, and the struggles that go along with readjusting to life in Canada. Hachey also devotes sections to the specific issues that may affect women and queers living abroad. Although these sections, and the mentions of racism, are not nearly as detailed as I would have liked, there are other resources on the market that deal specifically with them. The sections on studying abroad are a little slim, but Hachey does take into account that the available programs vary from school to school.

Hachey's book is indispensable for those planning to work or travel abroad. At some points, the advice may seem trite, or overemphasized, but the guide's intended audience is a wide one. The majority of advice would be most helpful well in advance of beginning to plan a trip abroad, so buy it, or subscribe to the website, well before you start to think about leaving. And if the weather we're having continues, you may want to do that soon.

The Fourth Edition of *The BIG Guide to Living and Working Overseas* by Jean-Marc Hachey is available through Toronto: Intercultural Systems (2004) for \$59.95. The book is 1,086 pages, plus CD-ROM. Log on to www.workingoverseas.com for more information.

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24 Great Spins from 2004

Chris LaRoche
Copy Editor
Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

American Idiot ~ Green Day

Pop-punk kings Green Day are just about the last SoCals on earth you might expect to release an album rooted firmly in the rock opera tradition. CD-length storylines, complex musical oeuvres and insufferable levels of pretentiousness aren't qualities you might guess would normally be attributed to a band that produced *Dookie*. Enter *American Idiot*, Green Day's best release to date, and guess again. There isn't much of a storyline, but there's a theme, loads of interesting arrangement and lots of great tunes. -CLR

Antics ~ Interpol

Antics is one of the best cocktails of 2004: a bit of the Smiths, Joy Division and maybe a hint of *Joshua Tree*-era U2, all stirred up for the new millennium. Interpol isn't so much a band as a walking, talking (playing) museum piece—but one that's infinitely better than a 1980s rock-and-roll wax museum. The lads with funny haircuts aren't really toying with anything profound or dangerous by doing something new with something old (guess what rock and roll has been doing since, uh, 1975?), but their genius knack for it sure makes it sound profound and dangerous. -CLR

A Ghost Is Born ~ Wilco

A Ghost Is Born doesn't sound anything like the egg adorning the CD's minimalist cover, but the album's look is an unmistakably appropriate visual manifestation the winning "ambient"

and "rock" combination recorded within. Nothing explicitly new is birthed by *Ghost*, Wilco's fifth full-length release—but a genius mix of tension-building guitar jams and warm balladry makes it the most rewarding "What the fuck is this?"-type release since Radiohead's *Kid A*. -CLR

A Grand Don't Come For Free ~ The Streets

Mike Skinner was 2004's most sought-after British white rapper—and unlike his American counterpart, Mike Skinner isn't a knob. *A Grand* has plenty of experimental beats and a great storyline to boot. -MG

Contraband ~ Velvet Revolver

Sure, *Contraband* may be an album full of tired old rock clichés that just won't die when they should—but try and remember that the folks involved, being three parts Guns N' Roses, one part Stone Temple Pilots and one part Wasted Youth (who?), are tired old rock clichés who *should* have all died long ago. Despite being steeped in enough heroin, cocaine and booze to give Keith Richards a bit of a scare, Slash, Weiland and the gang still write a good GNR-era rocker. Oops! -CLR

Franz Ferdinand ~ Franz Ferdinand

Franz Ferdinand's debut album takes several 2004 cakes: 1. the most unoriginally titled album of the year; 2. the most boring, uninventive packaging of (perhaps) all time; and 3. nary one track that sucks. -CLR

... check out the other 18 best albums of 2004 at dalgazette.ca or in next week's issue.



The SEXTANT

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

It's Resolution Time

Billy Clyburn
Sextant Editor

After attending a party with a few engineering friends I decided to determine the top five New Year's resolutions. Most of these people were intoxicated and have no idea that I am using their resolutions in print—nor do they remember me asking them.

Without further ado, and in no particular order:

- Getting a new girlfriend (while his girlfriend was standing behind me)
- Getting a new boyfriend (while his boyfriend was standing behind me)
- Stop having sex with strangers; get to know them first
- Lose 10 pounds (then I suggested maybe 15)
- Quit smoking (much better to quit coming to our parties)

Iron Ring Ceremony Countdown

61

As of Friday Jan. 7, 2005

Iron Ring Ceremony: March 9, 2005

January Sexton Basketball Schedule

Date	Away Team	Home Team	Game Time	
			Women	Men
Saturday, Jan. 08, 2005	Dal	UNBSJ	6	8
Sunday, Jan. 09, 2005	Dal	UNBSJ	12	2
Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005	Mt. A	Dal	2	4
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005	King's	Dal	6	8
Friday, Jan. 21, 2005	Dal	NSAC	6	8
Saturday, Jan. 22, 2005	STU	Dal	4	6
Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2005	MSVU	Dal	6	8

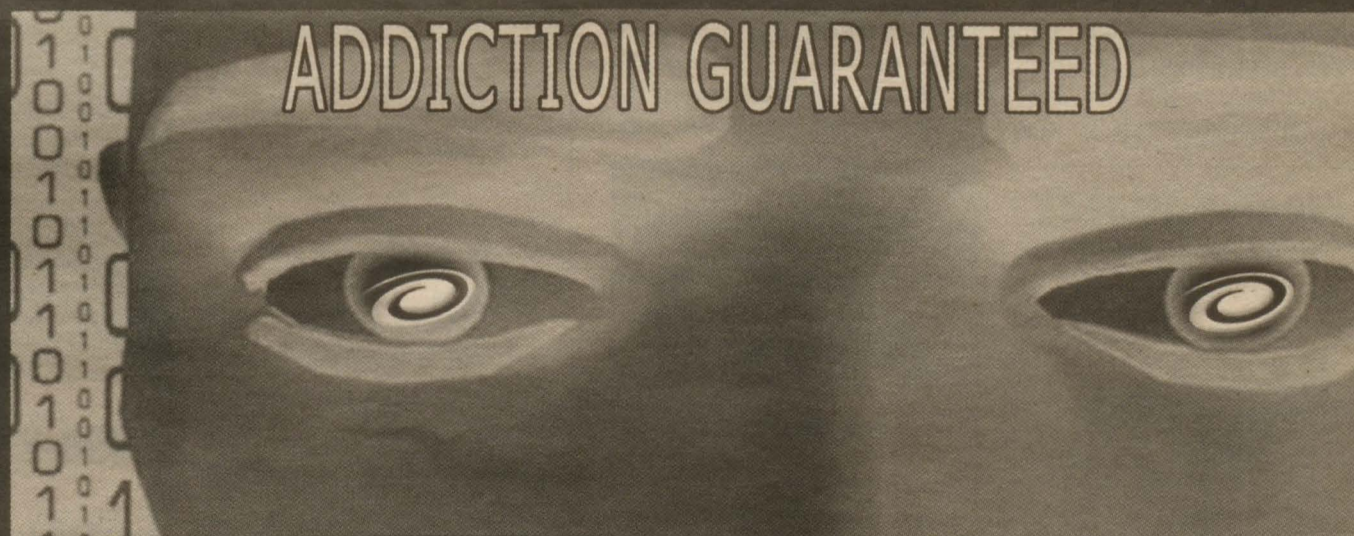


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The men's swim team is ranked fifth in the country
The women's swim team is ranked sixth in the country
The men's volleyball team is ranked sixth in the country

Runner Adrienne Power is ranked first in the country in the 60m
Swimmer Bob Phipps is ranked first in the country in the 400m freestyle

Rod Shoveller Memorial Men's Basketball Tournament Results (Dec. 31 - Jan. 2)

Game 1: St. Mary's 69 Ottawa 53
Game 2: St. F.X. 89 Laurentian 79
Game 3: Dalhousie 85 RMC 45
Game 4: Concordia 85 Acadia 71

Game 5: Ottawa 76 Laurentian 53
Game 6: RMC 60 Acadia 52
Game 7: St. Mary's 67 St. F.X. 60
Game 8: Concordia 70 Dalhousie 51
Game 9: Acadia 78 Laurentian 65
Game 10: RMC 53 Ottawa 62

Bronze medal game: Dalhousie 63 St. F.X. 85
Championship game: Concordia 71 St. Mary's 63

All-Star Team:

Marko Jovic - Ottawa
Damon Cole - St. Mary's
Alexander Stephen - St. F.X.
Matt Brooks - Dalhousie
Patrick Perrotte - Concordia

Tournament MVP:

Philippe Langlois - Concordia

Sports Briefs

Reclaiming the Gold

Team Canada dominates the competition

Joey Ryba
Staff Contributor

It was total domination for Canada at the 2005 World Jr. Hockey Championships. After losing three straight years in the final, we were finally able to bring back the gold.

Canada outscored its opponents 41-7 in tournament play. The Canadians met their opposition with a balanced attack as coach Brent Sutter utilized all four lines and the six defensemen. Even with a balanced attack there are always certain players who rose to the occasion. Patrice Bergeron and Sidney Crosby started on a line in training camp and had instant chemistry. The chemistry was certainly apparent as Bergeron and Crosby were the team's scoring leaders with 13 and nine points respectively. Jeff Carter also contributed to the charged-up offence. Carter had scored six goals including three alone in the second period of a game against Germany.

Not to be overlooked, captain Mike Richards was an inspiration to his teammates. Richards was an effective penalty killer and brought his team to life in a game against Finland, where Canada looked sluggish and uninspired late in the first period. The strong play by forwards was backed by a sharp-looking defence as well: the defensive pairing of Dion Phaneuf and Shea Webber proved



to be Canada's best in the tournament. Phaneuf and Webber played a sound defensive game, punishing their opponents with bone-crunching hits.

In goal, Jeff Glass played sharp as well. Glass has made some key saves early in games when the scores were close. The biggest obstacle for Glass was staying focused and consistent when the shots were few and far between; Glass handled this in fine style, only allowing seven goals in five games.

Canada faced its toughest competition against the Czech Republic. Canada out-shot the Czechs 42-11, but only managed to score three goals on the stellar Czech net-minder. This game was a real nail-biter for Canadians, with the Czechs playing hard until the final buzzer.

Some credit must be given to hockey fans in Canada for supporting this team. Canucks from



Sidney Crosby

coast to coast—especially Manitoba and Saskatchewan—made the trip to Grand Forks, North Dakota to cheer on their team. Team Canada even outdrew the host Americans as Canada's games were sell-outs or near sell-outs.

Overall, a worthy gold performance!

Inside the locker room with ...



This week I interviewed **Melanie Melanson**, Melanie is in her fourth year on the women's swim team. This year she is co-captain.
Theresa Anne Salah
Staff Contributor

What is your New Year's resolution?

To spend less money at the Bistro in the library. It's my nemesis, and I refuse to let it bankrupt me again. PB & J it is. This resolution could be cut a little short depending on the cookie selection on any given day.

What do you like to do when you have a day off from practice?

Dance around in my underwear to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." But in all seriousness, when do we ever have a day off from practice, and why have I been left out?

Just how important is it to shave your body hair in swimming?

Well, it's very important to make sure that you are super smooth with no extra hair for unwanted friction. Hair friction is bad and must be avoided at all costs as it slows your rhythm down. Who says sports aren't educational?

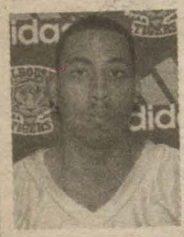
What's the best movie you've seen in the last month and why?

Ocean's Twelve because Brad Pitt is my future husband—as soon as I steal him away from Jennifer Aniston. She doesn't know what's coming.

Where's the place to be on a Saturday night?

Chez Mel. It's a nice little place with a romantic atmosphere and damn good spaghetti sauce. If you're not at Chez Mel you're missing out. I take reservations at least two days in advance.

Athletes of the Week



Matt Brooks
Basketball

Matt Brooks is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Brooks led the Tigers in scoring for all three contests at their home tournament, the Rod Shoveller Memorial. In the opening game against RMC, he counted a game-high 19 points and led the Tigers to an 85-45 victory over the Paladins. In game two, the Tigers faced eventual champs, the Concordia Stingers. Brooks did his part, shooting five-for-five from the three-point line and scoring a game-high 21 points. Despite his efforts, the Tigers dropped the decision 51-70. In the bronze medal game, Dal faced a tough task against the number-two ranked St.F.X. The X-Men secured an early lead in first half, and the Tigers pushed hard toward victory, but it wasn't enough. The final score was 85-63, with Brooks sinking 15 points in the losing battle. His standout effort earned him one of five spots on the tournament's all-star team. Brooks, a Huskies transfer, is a fourth-year sociology student from Dartmouth, N.S.



Leslie Duncan
Basketball

Leslie Duncan is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Duncan and her women's basketball teammates hosted the Lakehead University Thunderwolves in a lone exhibition contest over the holiday break. Duncan counted an impressive 13-for-14 from the free-throw line, contributing to her game-high 23-point performance. Despite the solid effort, the Tigers were narrowly edged out 53-50 by the Thunderwolves. Duncan is a fourth-year recreation management student from Blockhouse, N.S.

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Dalplex Home of the Tigers!

Halifax Mooseheads Second-Half Preview

Mid-season report and trade predictions are in

Jenn Casey
Staff Contributor

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) trade deadline is fast approaching, and because of the rule that all players must attend school while playing in the league, the trade window for this year is (as usual) Dec. 20 to Jan. 8—setup so that players are traded with little to no impact on schooling.

After last season's horrid second-to-last place finish, the Halifax Mooseheads seem to have turned around, with a respectable 18-10-6 record to the mid-point of the season. Despite being quiet on the trade front so far, there are some things that the herd would like to find before the deadline hits.

GOALTENDING:

The Moose have a solid number one goaltender in Newfoundland's Jason Churchill. The 6'4" San Jose draftee has been relied on quite heavily, logging almost 2,000 minutes to date, and has put up impressive numbers. But for a contending team, relying on one goaltender in playoffs can be a dangerous game.

With a promising but inexperienced backup in fellow New-

foundlander Roger Kennedy, the Moose will most likely look for a more experienced alternative to Churchill.

DEFENSE:

Holding the opposition to only 94 goals, good for second best in the league, the Mooseheads seem to have good instincts in defending their end of the ice.

The blueline is corner-stoned by veterans Alexandre Picard and Jimmy Sharrow, who can both defend their net and put the puck in the other. The Moose could stand to add some size to their defense, but it isn't necessary.

The fact that all but five players on the team are on the plus side of the plus/minus, says that coach Shawn MacKenzie's program of team defense is working.

Look for the possibility of one large, experienced defenseman coming Halifax's way in sacrifice of a young prospect or draft pick.

OFFENSE:

This team's offense is geared for the playoffs. They can put the puck in the net, but they can also withstand the physical game that the second season brings. Too often teams absolutely tear up the regular season only to lose early

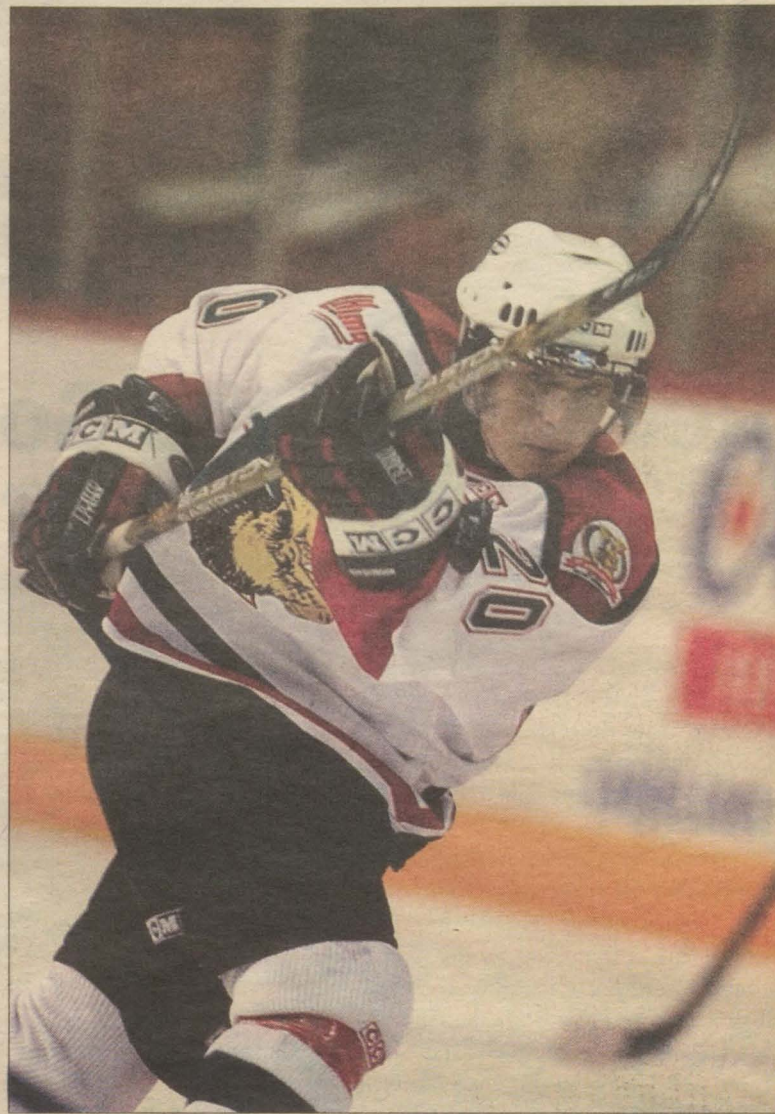
in playoffs because they can't take a hit (Ottawa Senators?).

This team is loaded with forwards. Dan Sparre is the team's leading scorer with 41 points. At 5'9" he's small, but mighty—reminiscent of Brandon Reid with his explosive offense and dangerous speed.

Marc-Andre Bernier and F.P. Guenette, who were involved with that bizarre trade with the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles a few years ago, are back in Halifax and putting up impressive numbers, as is power forward Rane Carnegie.

The Czech Republic native who played in the recent World Junior tournament is a penalty-killing, two-way forward, a much sought after commodity for playoff bound teams. As is David Brine, a dangerous offensive threat and face-off specialist.

Add in the antagonists Frederik Cabana and Kenzie Sheppard, big-hitting Jan Steber, and enormous enforcer Kevin Cormier, and the Mooseheads have one awesome offense line up. Unless general manager Marcel Patenaude pulls off one of his patented "future considerations" deals, the forwards will probably stay untouched.



The Herd look to shine in the second half of the QMJHL season.

A Little Help From Across Town

Transfer student Matt Brooks looks to help men's basketball team earn play-off berth

David Smith
Gord Urquhart
Sports Contributors

In 2003, Matt Brooks transferred from St. Mary's University to Dalhousie and quickly integrated himself by joining the basketball team. His contributions to the team are now more evident than ever: this past weekend, Brooks was named a tournament all-star at the Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament at Dal.

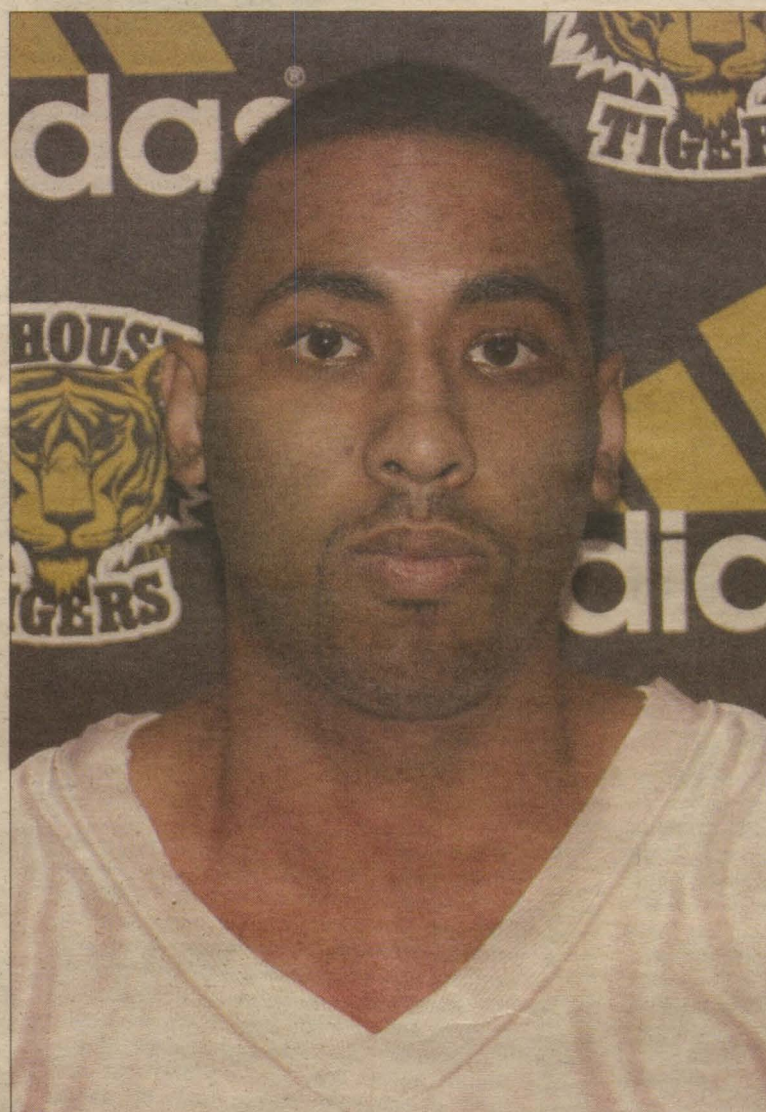
Brooks came to Dalhousie looking to take his game to the next level. Arriving at Dal's

gives every player an equal opportunity to shine or display their abilities," Brooks says. "The support the coaches and players have given me has been outstanding, which has really helped develop my game."

Brooks also enjoys the increased school support his team receives.

"SMU is more of a football school... so a lot of the publicity was focused on [the Huskies], where at Dal the basketball team gets good exposure and it boosts the entire team's confidence."

In preparation for the 2004/2005 AUS basketball sea-



"The support the coaches and players have given me has been outstanding, which has really helped develop my game," says Matt Brooks

During the first half of this season, Brooks proved himself to be a reliable small forward with a positive outlook on the team's potential for their remaining games. He has kept up with the style that John Campbell and the rest of his coaching staff bring to the floor—and even though Brooks takes on the role of a starting small forward, his shooting and ball handling skills would allow him to play guard. He has the size and capability to serve as a power forward, and he has also added depth to the perimeter as he stands third on the team for 3-pointers. Despite losing their last three games, Brooks and his teammates continue to focus on upcoming games with confidence.

This ethic became all the more evident when the team qualified for the bronze medal game of the Rod Shoveller Tournament last weekend only to come up short against nationally-ranked powerhouse St. FX.

With the Shoveller upset in mind, O'Connor says that a playoff berth is still within sight. "Our team this year has the talent to be a top contender," he says. "It's obvious that we are able to beat any of these teams [in the conference] on any given night."

"SMU is more of a football school ... so a lot of the publicity was focused on [the Huskies], where at Dal the basketball team gets good exposure and it boosts the entire team's confidence."

- Matt Brooks

training camp in 2003, Brooks noticed a few key differences in team chemistry he wasn't exposed to at SMU. The entire Tigers basketball club encouraged his development and pushed him to achieve his personal goals as an outstanding two-way player.

"The Dal basketball team

son, Brooks took on a very dedicated approach to off-season training. Team captain Tim O'Connor said the team recognizes Brooks's efforts and determination. "This guy has improved his style and game with a serious tone, and the whole team benefits from his intensity."