

FREE

ISSUE 137-22 March 10th - March 17th 2005

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette

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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



## DSU Council Meeting

The next DSU Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm in SUB Council Chambers

## Society Info

### Indemnity Form:

The Indemnity form has been replaced with the Acknowledgement Form. To access the form, go to [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) > Student Life > Info for Societies.

### Society Audits

It's Audit Time again. A reminder to all A and C level societies to get their books in to Jonathan Wilson, DSU VP (Finance and Operations). March 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day that we are accepting books!

### Society URLs

If you are a society with a ridiculously long URL, you no longer need to be!!! If you wish your society URL to be changed/shortened, please EMAIL ME at [dsuvpi@dal.ca](mailto:dsuvpi@dal.ca) what it currently is and what you would like it changed to.

Are you interested in DSU information and events? If so, sign up for the DSU Newsletter at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.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](http://www.dsu.ca).

## TRAVEL TALKS

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### CONTRIBUTE!

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# Editorial

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

One of the most liberating things ever to happen to me took place four years ago during my second year—I failed organic chemistry. I was really crushed when it became clear that the only way I could salvage the class was to get over 90 on my final exam. Given the way the course had been going for me to that point, the F seemed imminent; time for the dreaded call home.

But when I called my mom I was really surprised at what she had to tell me. She said, "It's only one class, and you'll recover. In a couple of years when you walk across the stage and receive your diploma there won't be any marks on it." Can you get any more understanding than that?

Now I know that this idea may be over-simplifying things just a little, but there is a lot of merit to the maternal advice I received that day. Up until that point I had sweated every test I took, every paper I wrote and above all else, every mark I received. But what my mom said to me made a lot of sense. I'm not saying that I gave up trying and became satisfied with mediocre grades. But not stressing and worrying about marks anymore actually made doing well easier. I started taking classes I wanted to take because they interested me rather than because they were the classes I thought I should take.

I also decided that rather than staying cooped up in my room studying all the time I should get out and do something else. Enter the *Gazette*.

At a friend's suggestion I went to the *Gazette* and asked if I could write a story. I was assigned what is now known to be the most boring story in the history of the paper. It was on something called the evergreen project, an initiative by the school to have flat screen monitors in all of the computer labs in an effort to save energy. I did the story in one day and from that point on was totally hooked.

Other than failing that test, getting involved at the *Gazette*

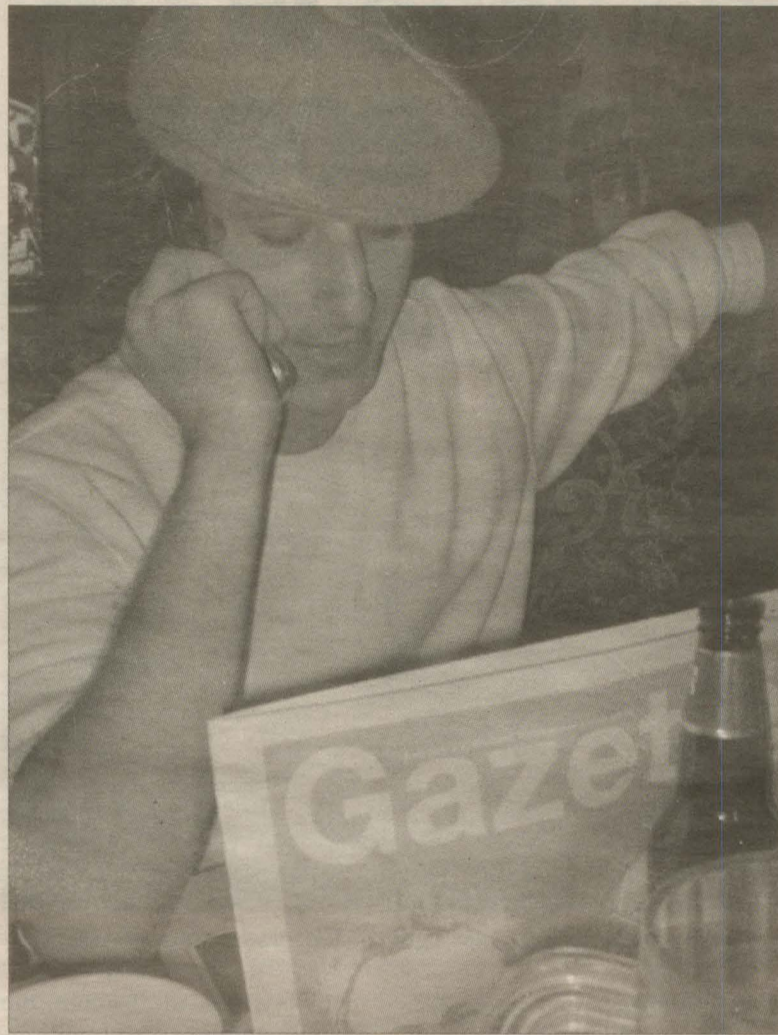


Photo: Nadine LaRoche

had become the most important thing to happen to me at Dal. I've not only made some great friends and really funny memories, but I've also found an excellent career path.

Far too often, people walk through their years of study at Dal in a kind of haze, concerned only about where they're going and what they have to do to get there. Make no mistake, the future is important—but so is the process that gets you there. As

to ensure you'll have a memorable and complete university experience.

The *Gazette* isn't the only place you can do this. The campus radio station, CKDU, is always looking for volunteers, and there are enough clubs and societies to fill the pages of this paper. Why not find one that interests you and check it out? You can find out about all of these groups from the DSU website, [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca).

I'm always surprised when I

**As we look back on our university years, the things that stand out most are not grades or papers or exams. What we remember are friends and experiences and events.**

we look back on our university years, the things that stand out most are not grades or papers or exams. What we remember are friends and experiences and events. Getting involved on campus is the quickest and best way

hear someone sadly say that they feel as though they don't have many friends. I'm also surprised at the number of times I've actually heard someone say that. Not long ago, a friend of mine broke up with her boyfriend. Her big-

# Gazette

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Quentin Casey  
editor@dalgazette.ca  
Catherine Cooper  
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

Rafal Andronowski  
photos@dalgazette.ca

## SEXTANT EDITOR

Billy Clyburn

## CONTRIBUTORS

Joey Ryba, Lina Hussain, Trevor Tynan, Laura Hynes, Katie Maskell, Reid Southwick, Neal Cody, Jess McDiarmid, Dave Moriné-Wentworth, Lindsay Dobbin, Greg Hughes

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rafal Andronowski, Nick Pearce, Lindsay Dobbin, Rafal Andronowski, Quentin Casey



## COVER

Please unchain my from my desk and get help!

Loukas Crowther

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WEB: [www.dalgazette.ca](http://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](mailto:gazette@dal.ca) or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings

gest concern wasn't that she was now single, but that now she had no one to hang out with. Getting involved is the easiest way to ensure that you never have this problem.

It's been five years since I lived in residence. I couldn't tell you about half of the assignments I had to do for school last year, but I can still tell you some of the funniest stories you'll ever hear based on my experiences in res. The same is true of my time at the *Gazette*. As much as I've enjoyed helping to put out the paper each week for the last three

years, when I leave it won't be the issues I'll remember as much as the process of getting them out; hanging out in the office until 11 p.m. on a Tuesday because nothing is going right, beating the hell out of Frosty the snowman in an attempt to de-stress or trying to keep my bladder from exploding as I watch a fellow writer eat day-old garlic fingers that someone else has just doused with spray paint.

Good times, I tell you, and they can be yours too—all you have to do is get involved.

## Student Employment Centre

### SEC Launches New Website

The Student Employment Centre has launched a new website designed to better meet your employment and career needs. Along with job posting and searching functionality, students and alumni will encounter enhanced resources and information, including a new feature called "Career Alerts". On your first visit to the site, just create a new account with this much-enhanced site to maximize your job search efforts.

[www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

### Upcoming Events

#### Investors Group

March 15, 12:00 - 1:30pm  
Council Chambers, SUB, 2nd floor

#### Nova Group (Teaching Overseas)

March 24, 9:00 - 11:00am  
Council Chambers, SUB, 2nd floor

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

# Grawood Losses Close In On \$180,000 for 2003 - 2005

Quentin Casey  
Editor-in-Chief  
Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

Dalhousie's campus bar lost more than \$100,000 last year—and with losses mounting this year, Dal students are on the hook to make up the difference.

The combined losses for the Grawood's drink and food services during the 2003/2004 year were \$108,359.63—four times the loss recorded during the previous year. This year the Grawood is projected to lose another \$73,838.

Jonathan Wilson, the DSU vice-president of finance, said the losses are "unacceptable."

"It sends a real shock when you hear [those numbers]," Wilson said. "But when you factor in costs like labour, overhead and insurance, things start getting up there."

It is normal for the Grawood to run yearly deficits, but the increase of \$81,025.99 from 2002/2003 to 2003/2004 was anything but.

DSU president Curtis McGrath said the losses are "excessive" depending on whether students view the Grawood as a business or student service. McGrath said many DSU services run deficits, such as Tiger Patrol and Student Advocacy. "These are services that benefit students," he said, so the losses are overlooked.

Wilson doesn't quite see it that way.

"Things like the Grawood are supposed to produce revenue," he said. "When you start talking about business versus student service you run into two angles. If the Grawood was a business, it would be bankrupt. At the same time, if it's a student service, how much of a service are you providing if students aren't going?"

McGrath said the DSU took measures this year to cut the losses to a minimum, including



An empty Grawood has become a familiar sight to students. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

shortened hours and a smaller menu. A programming committee has also been established to plan shows and grade the performances. But despite these measures, the DSU projected a loss of only \$32,045 for the current year. But that figure has ballooned to an estimated \$73,838.

Wilson said that the decision to lower the expected losses was made in hopes that the previous year would merely be "a blip on the radar."

But none of this explains the Grawood's giant surge into the red.

McGrath said the Grawood's move from the basement of the SUB to the first floor can account for the decline in revenue, noting that the move increased overhead and staffing costs. In addition, insurance costs have risen dramatically, he said. The Grawood currently spends \$16,000 on insurance for liquor liability.

But Wilson said that the financial shortfalls are "not from funding the renovations, but from people not coming to the new Grawood."

The VP of finance is no stranger to the good old days at the Gra-

wood. A former staff supervisor, Wilson worked at the 'Wood for three years before taking office this year. He remembers when the line-up for the old Grawood wrapped around the corner of Seymour St. and University Ave. But for whatever reason, people have not been lining up at the new location.

"Moving the Grawood was definitely a mistake," he said. "But hindsight is 20/20. It was a

By contrast, the T-Room, the Sexton campus bar, is a traditional moneymaker. "[It] will bring in \$10,000 this year," said Wilson. But he cautioned, "The T-Room has much lower overhead costs. Comparing the two is like comparing apples and oranges."

McGrath offered a host of reasons why Grawood attendance has fallen, including competition from a lively downtown scene and Dal's no-smoking policy, adding

**"Things like the Grawood are supposed to produce revenue. When you start talking about business versus student service you run into two angles. If the Grawood was a business, it would be bankrupt. At the same time, if it's a student service, how much of a service are you providing if students aren't going?"**

— Jonathan Wilson, DSU vice-president of finance

good idea in theory because the old bar had a capacity of about 350 and was always packed—so you figured bigger equals better. But the students obviously didn't agree. Keeping it downstairs and fixing it up there would have been better."

that many downtown bars have smoking rooms for patrons.

But for Dal students, the no-smoking policy at the Grawood is the least of their concerns.

"Whenever I go there it's dead," said Jennifer Lahey. For this reason, the third-year Eng-

lish and sociology major said she rarely frequents the bar.

"Every time I go there and there isn't a band, it sucks," said Ian Conrad. Conrad, a third-year commerce student, has visited the Grawood only three times in his three years on campus.

But some students, like Brian Pentz, go to the Grawood regularly. He likes to go once or twice a week to relax after class, but isn't sure if the price tag is worth the service. "It's good to have a social place on campus, but with the dollar amount involved you have to look at it more closely," said the second-year biology student.

The DSU is well aware that something must be done to boost bar attendance.

"We have to find out what people want," said Wilson. "This year we relied on posters around the SUB to get the word out and it just didn't work. You've got the same people coming in and out of here every day. We have to reach out on all three campuses and find out what people want."

In the meantime, Dal students are paying for a bar very few of them are using.

As of 2004/2005, full-time students at Dal pay a DSU fee of \$112 while part-timers chip in \$56—rates that have stayed the same for several years. Of that money, about 10 per cent goes toward funding the Grawood. Wilson emphasized that the DSU will not ask students to increase their financial support for the bar.

McGrath said that students will wonder why the Grawood loses so much money, but would not go so far to say that it should be closed.

"We certainly won't recommend to shut down the Grawood," he said.

But Wilson cautions that there is a ceiling for losses of this magnitude.

"Before we could justify losses because [the Grawood] was a student service and students were using it," he said. "But now something has to be done. People are starting to ask if the Grawood is going to close. We don't want that to happen, but we have to show how serious this is."

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# U-Pass May Arrive Later than Expected—If At All

Katie Maskell  
Staff Contributor

Things are looking up for the U-Pass at Dalhousie—but if the current plans go ahead, the bus pass will be implemented later than was initially thought. According to the DSU and Metro Transit, the U-Pass could be available to Dal students in January 2006, several months later than the original September 2005 start date.

"Planners have been meeting with Dalhousie administration," said Lori Patterson, spokesperson and manager of public relations at Metro Transit, when asked about the progress of the Dalhousie U-Pass.

Dalhousie has been considering joining universities like St. Mary's to offer the U-pass for a number of years. The pass would allow Dal students unlimited Metro Transit access throughout the school year for a fee of approximately \$115, included in tuition.

A critical factor in the U-Pass's consideration is Metro Transit's annual budget. About eight more buses will be required to compensate for the probable increase in travelers, so Metro Transit is recommending to the

Halifax Regional Municipality that a budget increase allow for purchasing new buses.

"[Metro Transit's] signal to us was that they're anxious to proceed, but they couldn't do it unless they had the extra buses they needed," said Eric McKee, Dal's vice-president of student services. "They don't control their own capital budget—it's decided by somebody else: Halifax Regional Municipality council."

DSU president Curtis McGrath told the Gazette that he would rather not have a U-Pass implemented at Dal if there weren't enough buses to accommodate the additional riders. "If Metro Transit doesn't have the ability to deal with the volume, I'd rather not have them come online," he said.

Once Metro Transit is able to purchase additional buses, it will take about eight to ten months for them to be U-Pass ready.

"To prepare, they have to look at the service and then beef up that existing service," said Patterson. "They have to determine where students are traveling from [and avoid] compromising other [riders]. The U-Pass does have quite an impact on the service, but we are working towards it."

Sue Uteck, HRM city councillor for District 13, said that Metro Transit is not quite prepared for Dal's U-Pass, but there is reason for optimism. "[The deal] hasn't been confirmed yet, [but] I'm optimistic that it will survive," she said.

The U-Pass idea appears to be popular among Dalhousie students. Several years ago, about 70 per cent of students polled by a plebiscite during general elections indicated that they wanted a U-Pass.

Christine Bhola, a third-year SOSA student, is anxious to see the U-Pass come to Dal. "Being from Dartmouth, I am constantly relying on Metro Transit buses to get me to school and back," she said. "Bus passes are a lot of money and the U-Pass would definitely help. SMU has it and loves it, and so should we."

According to McGrath, Dalhousie has so far been successful in pushing for the pass. "We made it an issue in the municipal elections with the councilors and the mayoral candidates," he said. "We pushed for them to create modern and sustainable transportation alternatives, and the best way we could recommend to them [was] instituting the U-Pass."

## On Another Campus

Neal Cody  
Staff Contributor  
Jennifer Morrison  
News Editor

### Students on "Unlimited" Strike in Quebec

At least 68,000 post-secondary students have started an "unlimited" strike in Quebec in protest of the provincial government's recent cuts to education funding. At least 13 Quebec CEGEPs, representing 30 student associations, have so far boycotted their classes, and dozens more

are expected to follow. Student associations from at least four Quebec universities have also voted to strike. Ten colleges have voted against participating, even though both the collegial and university student federations of Quebec have called for a general student strike.


The strike coincides with a television ad campaign and planned marches and protests across the province.

Students are protesting against \$103 million that the Charest government cut from a post-secondary education bur-

sary program last year. Provincial Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier has warned students that they could lose their semester, and that he is not prepared to recognize an extended strike. "We won't be giving out cheap diplomas," he has said. He said any lost time will have to be made up, also questioning why students are striking when Quebec has the lowest tuition in the country.


Complicating matters further, teachers are dissatisfied with their collective agreements and

Continued on Page 7...



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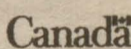
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# National Day of Action Cancelled

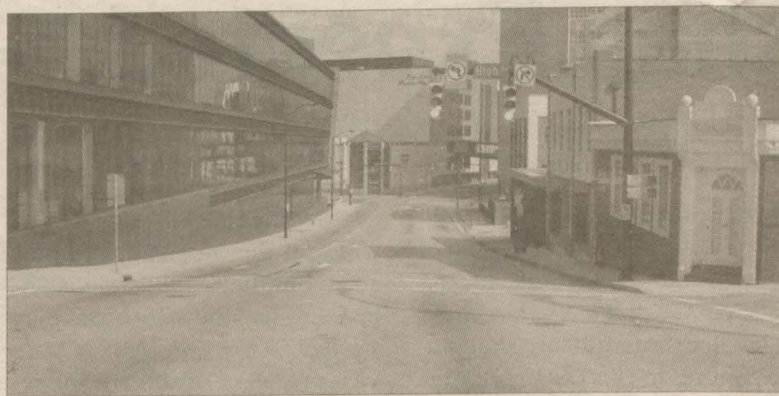
Maureen Batt  
News Contributor

There was something different about February this year—unlike in years past, there was no day last month dedicated to tuition protests and rowdy marches to the legislature. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) voted against officially endorsing this year's National Day of Action (NDA), a one-day Canada-wide student protest against steadily increasing tuition fees.

But in spite of the cancellation, politicians and decision-makers will still hear about affordable education issues: CFS is instead focusing on a "reduce the fees" campaign beginning this week.

"The Day of Action is not an ongoing annual campaign, although the 'reduce the fees' campaign is," said Danielle Sampson, a CFS executive member. "It is something that our members vote on each year when planning our strategies and campaigns for the upcoming year. This past year, our members decided not to put all of our energy into one day, but to work on many different issues and campaigns."

The NDA is arguably a more public way to attract attention to tuition woes than letter writing, for example, and therefore an effective means to get media attention. But as Sampson points out, "The student protests have been successful, but we believe that our new approach will be even more valuable and informative."



So much for taking it to the streets.

Instead of planned public protests, this year there will be two weeks of ongoing events to raise awareness of tuition increases, including a video petition, a campaign to write letters to the editor, and the release of results from a public opinion poll on education.

Nova Scotian students have been hit the hardest by tuition hikes, and are currently paying

president Curtis McGrath agreed that the NDA is not the best approach to getting the job done. "Demonstrations and protests are tactics typically employed by more left-leaning activist groups. It is no replacement for government relations and other more civil tactics of engaging the public," he said.

Dalhousie is not a member of CFS—although King's is, and the

**"Demonstrations and protests are tactics typically employed by more left-leaning activist groups. It is no replacement for government relations and other more civil tactics of engaging the public."**

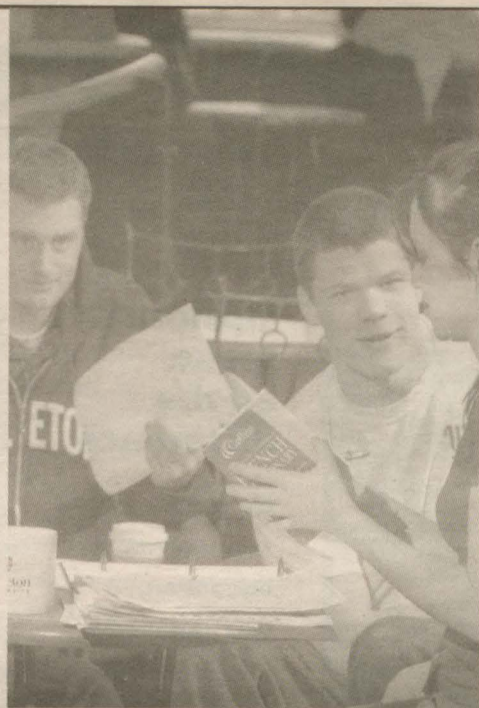
— Curtis McGrath, DSU president

the highest tuition in the country. "Students in Nova Scotia do care about this, as it is causing the students to use food banks for food, get part-time and full-time jobs to pay for their schooling, and take on debt loads of an average of \$25,000 for an undergraduate degree," said Sampson.

Dalhousie Student Union

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students is a "trial member," according to the CFS website. The DSU has agonized in the past over whether to endorse the NDA. McGrath said that even if there had been a NDA in Nova Scotia this year, he would have urged his and other student governments not to participate.

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# Price Jump

## Professional students to see tuition rise 9 per cent

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

Current and future professional students at Dalhousie might be looking for extra work this summer as their tuition is set to climb 9.28 per cent for the 2005/2006 school year.

This is just one of the increases called for by the recent report released by Dal's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). Under the report international students will also feel the financial crunch with an increase in differential fees of 85 per cent over the next five years.

Undergraduate students will see their tuition go up 3.9 per cent in accordance with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the province and Nova Scotia universities. The MoU does not cover professional programs and international differential fees.

The BAC's decision was based on Dal's need to make up \$12.4 million. Most of this is based on the recent \$7.7 million settlement with faculty earlier this year, which averted a possible labour stoppage.

Dalhousie Medical Student Society (DMSS) president Joey McDonald said there is a common reaction around the med school right now.

"Everyone is pretty much up in arms," said McDonald. "They're absolutely furious. We're at the point with tuition increases now where we actually expect to have the crap beat out of us."

McDonald said the consensus amongst med students is that in calling for such large increases, Dal is forgetting its responsibility to the community it serves. He said that when representatives for med students met with the BAC their presentation didn't make any specific requests but rather "begged for mercy."

"It's terribly ridiculous that

Dalhousie University claims to be the Maritime med school and doesn't even seem to accept their social responsibility to maintain quality schooling for Maritimers," he said. "As Maritimers we aren't the richest in the country and it's really shocking that they seem intent in making our tuition one of the highest in the country."

Charles Crosby, spokesperson for Dal, said the school never likes to raise tuition and when it does it's done with the students in mind.

"Whenever there is any kind of increase the object is to keep it as low as possible while still maintaining the level of service," he said.

Crosby said that while the university is aware that Maritimers don't have the deepest pocket-

**"As Maritimers we aren't the richest in the country and it's really shocking that they seem intent in making our tuition one of the highest in the country."**

- Joey McDonald,  
president of the  
Dalhousie Medical  
Student Society

ets in Canada, the university has certain standards it must continue to reach.

"Our goal is to make university as accessible as we can while providing a certain standard of education," he said. "What we can't do is sacrifice that."

He also pointed out that Nova

Continued on Next Page...

## On Another Campus, continued

Continued from Page 5...

are themselves deciding whether to strike.

None of the striking schools are English, as English CEGEP students generally rely less on financial aid and are not as politically active as their francophone counterparts. At Montreal's Vanier College, 15 to 25 per cent of students receive loans or bursaries, the highest percentage of any English college. Not far away at the francophone CEGEP of St. Laurent, 30 per cent of students receive some form of financial aid. St. Laurent was one of the first CEGEPs to strike, and it is generally known as an activist or militant school, whereas Vanier is not. Yet even Vanier is contemplating a one-day strike. Other strike notes:

- Some students at McGill and Concordia are hoping their schools will participate; Bishop's University has no plans for a strike.

- A Léger marketing poll in November showed that three out of four Quebecers are against the bursary cuts.

- The Parti Québécois has refused to endorse the strike, but says it supports students in their cause.

-NC

### U of M leaves CASA

The University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) voted to leave the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) last month after a report questioned how well CASA represents students nationally. The Feb. 10 decision was recommended by a student union report that said CASA's \$42,000 per year membership fee would better be spent elsewhere. UMSU officials said CASA's policies hadn't matured enough since its creation nine years ago, citing as an example that it is only now becoming

bilingual. CASA says it is disappointed by the move and was not consulted or informed before the vote.

There are currently two national student lobbying organizations in Canada—CASA, representing about 300,000 post-secondary students, and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) with roughly 450,000 members. CASA was created in 1995 by student unions that were unhappy with the CFS's lobbying actions and policies, which CASA characterized as being too radical.

UMSU became a prospective member of the CFS in November, but won't say whether a vote on full membership will be held this year. The Dalhousie Student Union is a member of CASA, and the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students is a trial member of the CFS.

-NC

### Students Give Federal Budget Thumbs-down

This year's federal budget, released last week, has come much to the dismay of student groups. "This is the worst budget for education spending in a long, long time," George Soule, national chair of the CFS, told the Canadian University Press. Both CASA and the CFS were looking for a dedicated transfer payment to the provinces for post-secondary education, something Prime Minister Paul Martin had promised last summer. No new funding or arrangement was announced. Nova Scotia Finance Minister Peter Christie was also disappointed by the absence of education funding in the federal budget. He was looking for new money to help offset the cost of educating Nova Scotia's large number of out-of-province students. The budget did contain some mention of post-secondary

funding: student loans will be forgiven in the event of death or disability, \$375 million over five years in federal research grants were announced, and \$75 million over five years will fund indirect research costs at universities.

-NC

### Tuition Hikes Breaking the Law?

The Simon Fraser Student Union has lodged a human rights complaint against the Canadian government, saying that tuition hikes violate international law.

The complaint cites a passage in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a UN treaty, which states that higher education should be made equally accessible to everyone. The complaint has been endorsed by the Canadian Federation of Students and criticizes the 300 per cent jump in tuition since 1980. A similar complaint was launched in the UK and resulted in the government being criticized by the UN.

-NC

### NSCAD Likely Expanding to Waterfront

If all goes according to plan, NSCAD University will soon have an oceanfront view. The Halifax Port Authority agreed last week to turn over Shed 21, near Pier 21, to the university by September, 2006. The new campus would contain classrooms and studios, in addition to NSCAD's ceramics and glassmaking plants, metal shop, wood shop and sculpture department. "We will want the public to join with us and come and look at what we do," NSCAD president Paul Greenhalgh told reporters last week. The school had also looked into putting its second campus in Dartmouth, but pending provincial government approval, it looks like the Halifax side has won.

-JM

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## International students to pay higher tuition, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

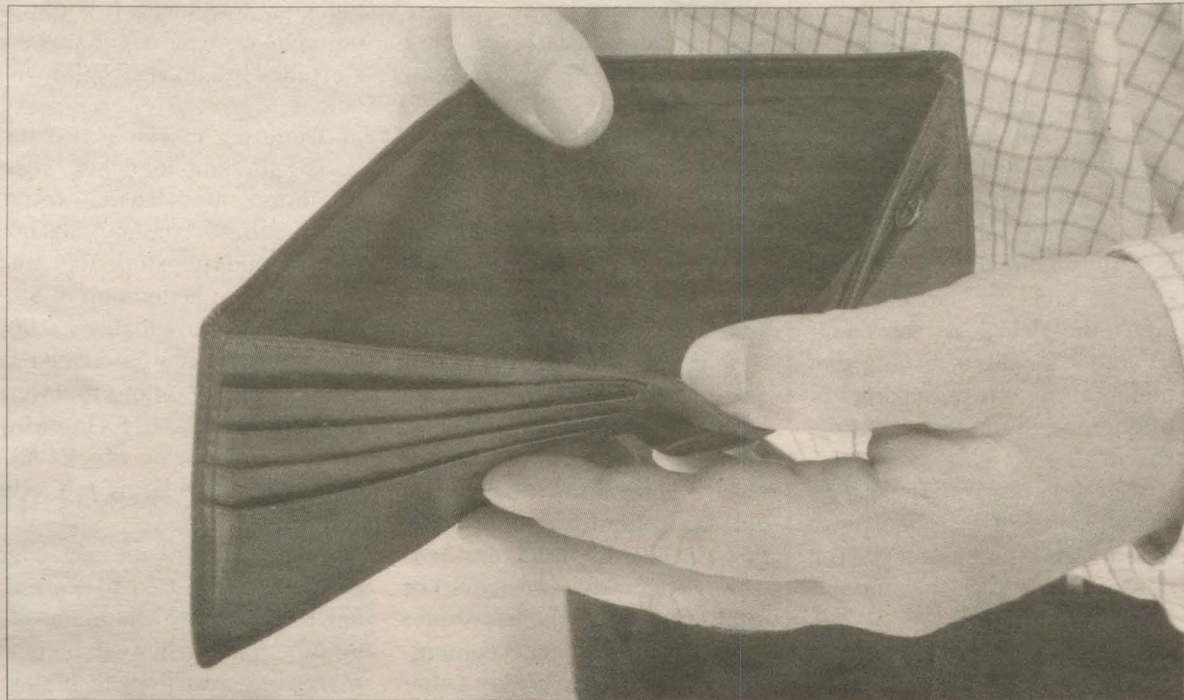
Scotia is near the bottom of the list when it comes to government funding for post-secondary education.

But McDonald is most upset that in the report Dal is justifying increases by saying their fees are on par with schools like UBC and the University of Toronto. He calls this completely unacceptable.

"Dal is doing their best to completely forget any social responsibility they have to the Maritime region," he said. "They recognize that they serve the region, and they fill their seats accordingly but it seems like Dal wants to make the program virtually inaccessible for those students from the region that they serve."

McDonald thinks that rather than comparing itself to schools with higher tuition rates like UBC and U of T, Dal should be following the model of schools like McGill and Memorial—schools that charge lower tuition for local students in hopes of retaining doctors for the area.

Crosby said the figures for the increase were based on what was required to cover operational costs, while maintaining a certain standard of education and



Medical, professional and international students will have to dig deeper next year.

offering competitive rates with the rest of the country.

Emran Mojumdar doesn't dispute that the new international student differential fees are competitive with the rest of the country, but he worries Dal's increases to match U of T and UBC will cause international students to overlook Dal.

"Dal is forgetting that UBC and U of T's locations [geographically] are better because of the opportunities in those areas,"

said Mojumdar, president of Dal's International Student Association. "We wouldn't mind if we were getting the same opportunities as there."

Mojumdar said losing international students wouldn't only affect the school financially.

"Dal will not only lose the students, it will also lose the cultural diversity we bring to the campus and the city—not to mention the economic benefit we bring to the school and the city as consum-

ers."

While there is no way to know yet if this will actually happen, Crosby said the university is confident that in spite of higher fees, international students will continue choosing Dal.

"Losing students is a concern," he said. "But what we offer here has been appealing for a long time. Feedback seems to suggest we will continue to be an attractive option for students from outside Canada."

Curtis McGrath said the concerns expressed by McDonald and Mojumdar are legitimate. The president of the DSU said there are major flaws with the BAC's explanations for the increases.

"Dal is not meeting its obligation to Nova Scotia students," he said. "When you continue to raise med students' tuition you're saddling them with debt. Students who wanted to go back to rural Nova Scotia to practice medicine may not take that option now."

McGrath also sees major problems in comparing Dal to UBC when explaining international fee increases.

"It's wrong to set that argument up. We're not UBC and Halifax isn't the Mecca of cultural diversity we sometimes like to think we are."

On a broader scale, McGrath said increases like these penalize the health of the province and contradict its immigration mandate.

Doctors who leave N.S. for greener pastures to pay off debts, that on average total \$125,000, only enhance the province's doctor shortage while international students now have reason to bypass Dal on their way to Toronto or Vancouver.

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## MISOGYNIST MAILINGS FROM BELL SYMPATICO

Last week I found an ignorant piece of advertising. This Bell Sympatico ad has the caption "You'll do anything to protect your kids from inappropriate content. So will we" beside a picture entitled "The Female Body." It is a representation from a textbook, but in lieu of breasts or vagina there are vicious holes. On either side of the sad faced, mutilated woman are little censored pictures of organs; one

retains the title of "Ovary."

What is inappropriate about the female body? It is not some raunchy porno, nor a gratuitously naked man. It is a textbook, labelled as "inappropriate" alongside the suggestion of those other naughty things found on the Internet.

The womb, the uterus, the ovaries are all missing from The Female Body, as if The Female Body in this sterilized form is

more appropriate. Bell Sympatico must be operating on seriously befuddled morals if their opinion of "inappropriate content" is a picture used for teaching. To suggest that the female body is dirty and to cut it to pieces is deliberate misogyny by ignorance.

Someone must be asleep at the wheel in the Bell Sympatico advertising machine. I am shocked by their

ignorance and machete-wielding morality. The lesson learned from this is that companies need to think before they speak, that way they won't haphazardly toss our reality backwards into Neolithic times. I certainly hate my Rogers' cell phone plan, but at least Rogers doesn't hate women.

Vent (Jimmy Kapches)

## Ignorance Isn't an Excuse

### Informed voting doesn't get much easier than this

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

Perusing last week's issue of the election content-heavy *Gazette*, I was surprised by the number of people in the Streecher who said they wouldn't be voting because they weren't educated enough on the candidates and issues—and therefore didn't want to make an "uninformed decision."

How noble.

It will still be a few days before we know what kind of a turnout this year's election was able to draw, but in the meantime there is a larger issue at hand—it's high time people begin realizing ignorance is not an excuse for laziness.

On average, less than 10 per cent of the student body takes the time to vote in student union elections.

ness. No wonder politicians and officials outside the university community so often brush students off. Of course this makes us mad as hell, but what reason do we give them to do otherwise?

On average, less than 10 per cent of the student body takes the time to vote in student union elections—less than 10 per cent! When we can't even be bothered to voice our opinions on who we want running our own student union, how can we expect municipal, provincial and federal officials to give a damn about what we want or think? There

is no reason for elected officials to fear the power of the student vote, because right now the student vote is weaker than Michael Jackson's chances of scoring another number one hit.

Nothing could make university students look lazier than saying they won't be voting because they don't know enough about issues or candidates and they haven't the time to educate themselves. Election websites provided information on every candidate, what they stood for and the exact job description of the office they were seeking.

The elections committee put on six forums where students could come see candidates and hear what they were all about. Most candidates even put their email addresses on their posters, so if you actually were so busy that you couldn't take the time to attend a forum, read the *Gazette* or surf a website, you could email them questions and they would get back to you. How many other political settings do you think that happens in? As much as I would have liked to send Paul Martin an email or two during the last election, I'm pretty sure I'd have had a snowball's chance in hell of hearing back from him.

To those of you who voted in this past election, kudos to you—your vote did count and it did make a difference. It also earned you the right to complain all you want next year if you're dissatisfied with what the DSU is doing for you. For those of you who didn't vote, just be glad you aren't living in Australia—anyone who decides to skip voting there gets fined, whether they are informed or not.

## Pot: No Longer a Harmless Head Rush?

Jimmy Kapches  
Opinions Contributor

How many of us would choose to boycott the Nike Corporation because of its promiscuous use of sweatshops in the developing world? The abuse of women and children for the sake of creating shoes and other consumer goods that they can't even dare afford is undoubtedly a disgusting and immoral business. So smile to yourself when you pass by a Nike shoe and choose something decidedly more humanity-friendly. You are a good person for trying to make a difference, and more people could make the same efforts. You are to be lauded and looked to for your positive leadership.

Four Mounties are dead, four families are in mourning, and every Canadian institution and individual citizen should have condolences on the tips of their tongues. Those four honourable officers died on duty trying to make Canada a safer place for you, for me and for the generations to come. Those young men died because they were trying to curb the illegal cultivation of marijuana.

This sad incident brings two distinctly Canadian problems to the fore: laws on pot, and the marijuana industry.

Marijuana has been shown to be about as harmful as beer or cigarettes, depending how you look at it. It is certainly not the demon that the U.S.'s "War on Drugs" has made it out to be. It is a substance, much like beer, that requires moderation and mindfulness among those who can control themselves, and which should be avoided by those that can't—such as sufferers of alcoholism. Canadian law is in



"The marijuana industry is not the benevolent creature I once thought it was."

the process of being changed to reflect this, and we should be thankful for that.

The marijuana industry, on the other hand, is not the benevolent creature that pot professes to be. Certainly, after smoking a happy little joint, people will tell you that all is peace and grooviness, all kindness and gentle oblivion. To a large extent, the head rush pot provides is a form of relaxation in the extreme. But how, then, can one condone the actions of the "industry" (read: illegal growers of pot) when they kill and destroy for the sake of profit, if the high is so harmless?

If you won't buy Starbucks because they rape and pillage the livelihoods of coffee producers around the world, good on you—organic tastes better anyways. If you won't buy Nike because they make slaves of the worker, good on you—the corporation is a veritable demon. If you choose to buy marijuana from that nameless, faceless dealer who gets it from who-knows-where, are you any better than the reckless consumer after all? Therein lies the

criminality.

The marijuana industry is not the benevolent creature I once thought it was. There is nothing "fair trade" or ethical about coercing families of illegal immigrants shipped in from China to grow plants in their house in Oakville or Mississauga. There is no good in a business that just destroyed four families and rocked a small town in northern Alberta. If you would never dare to wear leather on your person, but you'd be happy to take a little doobie, perhaps you should think; it's not cows this industry is killing, it's people. Men and women who live to serve us are being killed because we can't wait for the Liberals to change the law.

If you would not dare sip Starbucks, but you're already getting set to smoke a splif, perhaps you should consider where that pot came from. It's not organic, it's not fair trade and it's not an ethical industry. Grow your own, or failing that, perhaps you should invest a few moments to look up the word "hypocrite" in a good dictionary.

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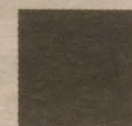
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# Streeter

Tell us an embarrassing story



I fell down in church during first communion. I tripped over nothing and got stuck under a table.  
- Ashley Carruthers, fourth-year microbiology



A friend of mine got drunk, tried to pee out of a window, and the window shut down on his dick. And then he went home and puked all over himself.  
- Jason McDonald, third-year biochem



I was telling my male-friend to go "balls-deep" on a school-related matter right as a hot waitress walked by. She gave us a weird look.  
- Tony Linigar, third-year IDS



My boyfriend set me on fire for Valentine's Day. Candles and feathers don't mix.  
- Karla Swansburg, fourth-year psychology



My friend was walking along a bike trail when she suddenly had explosive diarrhea. It was running all down her leg and she tried to tell people that it must've been the squirrels shitting on her.  
- Rahael Chester, fourth-year IDS



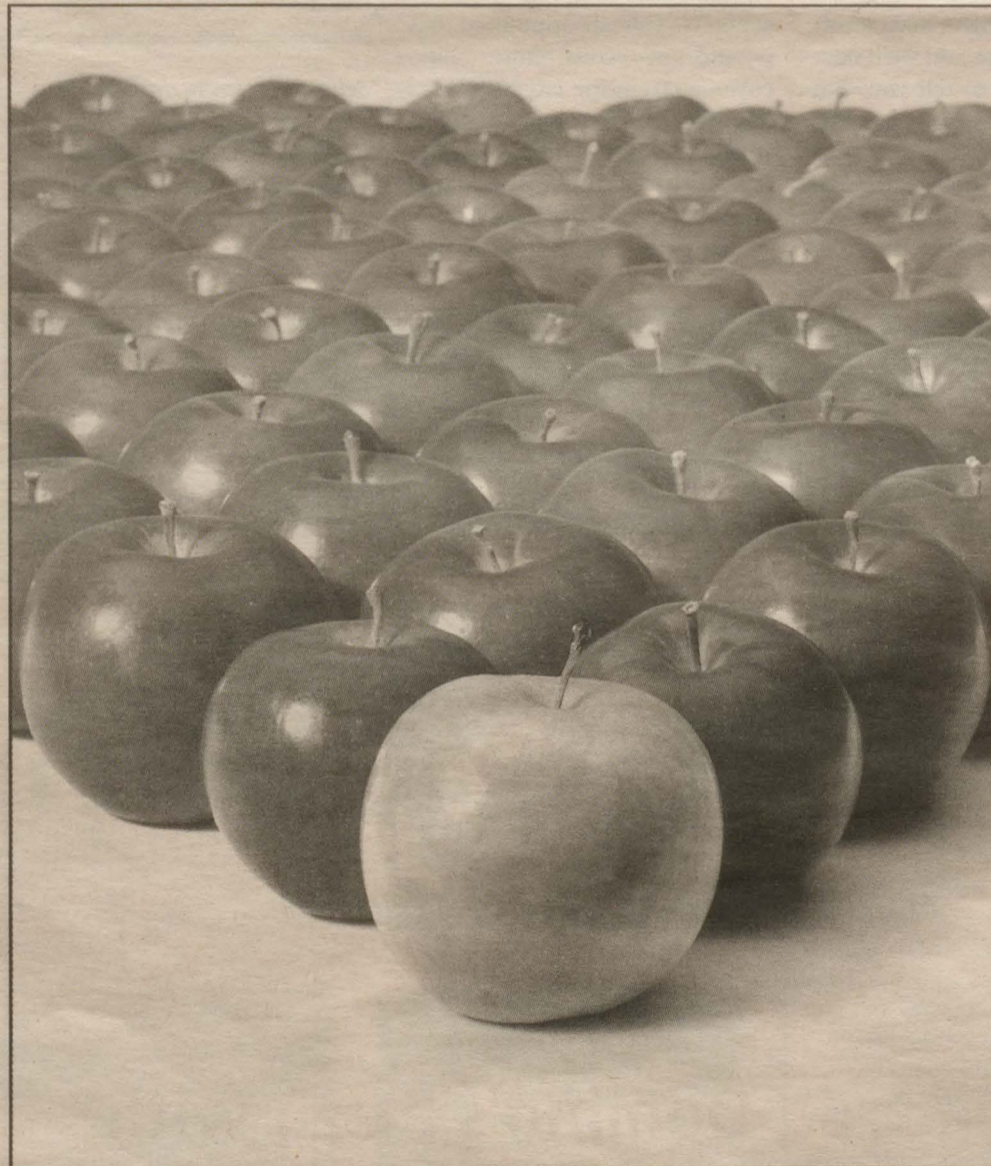
Coming back from Miami, every inch of my skin was peeling off. People refused to rub sun-tan lotion on my back.  
- Jean-Marc Daigle, fourth-year neuroscience and French



I once ended up walking around a crowded beach wearing my granny underwear over my bathing suit without knowing it. Some stranger eventually told me.  
- Angie Gillis, fourth-year philosophy and English



I once got a ski wedged up a body part. You can guess which one.  
- Chris LaRoche, sixth-year band-camp counsellor



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# Letters

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### Love for Lina's Piece

I happened by your opinion piece ["A Regrettable Silence," by Lina Hussain, *Gazette* 137:21] by chance, and felt compelled to reply. This is something I often think of, being able to confront a beautiful woman to say "you know what, you're beautiful, and I just thought I should tell you, because you should know." For me, it's a girl in the library, brown eyes, jet black hair. I don't want to try and sleep with her or instigate a relationship necessarily. In fact she has a boyfriend, but it would be nice to let her know how inspired and jubilant those powerful brown eyes make me feel

**It takes a lot of guts, confidence and depth to write what you wrote.**

when I see them, and how good it is to know that there are beautiful women like her out there.

Anyway, that's not why I wrote you, to tell you of my own issues, but rather to take this opportunity to act on the impulse. It takes a lot of guts, confidence and depth to write what you wrote, and although I don't know what you look like and we'll never meet, I want to tell you that you are beautiful. Beauty goes far beyond jaw lines, fragrance and powerful brown eyes, although they help in the short run. To open an orange of such depth in

the medium that you did is inspiring, and I can't communicate how happy I am to know there are beautiful women out there like you. You are of a rare breed, and you deserve to know that it is appreciated.

If you're wondering;

- a) I'm not insane,
- b) yes I am a Dal student and
- c) this is not an roundabout way of trying to get a date

Cheers,  
Lance McGillicuddy

### AIDS gets some aid from the press

Dear *Gazette*,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the promotion that you provided for the Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt Display that was held in the Student Union Building last semester [*Gazette* 137:13]. With so little funding, we were extremely pleased by the generosity of campus groups willing to promote our event at little or no cost. You surpassed our expectations by providing us with both space prior to the event as well as making us your cover story for the paper the week after the event. We were disappointed that we did not receive more media coverage from the city of Halifax but the fact that you put us in your paper means that our story reached thousands of students and staff here at Dalhousie.

We drew 400 visitors to the

Display, which is a huge success for an event such as this one. We were also able to raise over \$400 in donations that we will in turn donate to the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia

**You surpassed our expectations by providing us with both space prior to the event as well as making us your cover story for the paper the week after the event.**

Gambia Association. We are very pleased with the success of the event.

I hope that in the future you are able to offer other groups the same sponsorship that you did for us. Such a small gesture goes a long way for non-profit events.

Thank you again for your support and I wish you all the best in 2005.

Yours Sincerely,  
Louise Rudderham  
Health Education Intern  
Dalhousie University Health Services


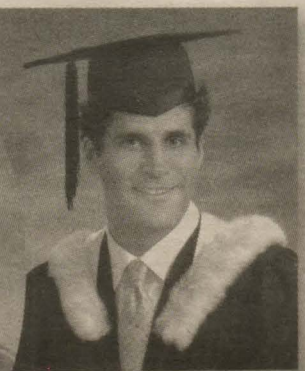
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# A Case for Demonstrating Against the Occupation of Iraq

Marco Chown Oved  
Opinions Contributor

Two years ago, the drums of war were beating. As top U.S. official after top U.S. official stepped up to the White House podium to warn of the grave danger of the impending and inevitable Iraqi attack, millions around the world were sceptical. And today, millions more remain so.

We were threatened: apparently the UN would become "irrelevant" if it did not condone the invasion. We were told (and many of us believed) fantastic lies, and still many felt that the case for war had not been made—among them, we later found out, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Bull headed and undeterred, the Bush administration insisted on invading the sovereign nation of Iraq as a pre-emptive strike, to avoid the greater conflict anticipated when, presumably, Saddam would be invading us.

Two years have passed, and one thing has become quite clear: the war was premised on lies and the threatening weapons did not exist. More than 1,000 American soldiers have been killed on foreign soil for a war that has been rebranded as a mission to bring freedom to an oppressed people. Well, that freedom has cost

100,000 Iraqi lives to date, and that doesn't even account for the atrocious casualties of the pre-war embargo or the coming costs of the use of depleted uranium munitions: a radioactive legacy that has a half-life of 4.5 billion years.

As the occupation drags on and the daily reports of violence become so commonplace they are relegated to the back pages, an unrepentant and even vindicated Bush regime scolds its neighbour to the north for not contributing to the invasion or occupation forces (though we do support the war in many, less direct ways: see SNC-Lavalin's munitions production), and more recently, for refusing to participate in a ballistic missile defence system that, until the US pulled out of the international treaty two years ago, was patently illegal.

Well I say that I'm proud to be a citizen of a country that is willing to stand up to the world's bully by respecting international law and democratic opinion. Finally, and under great pressure, we seem to have gotten something right. And it was this pressure that was the tipping point: without widespread outcry by thousands of Canadians, in the media, on the streets, around the lunch table, Canada surely would have

followed the United States into whatever ludicrous foreign crusade it concocted.

But because Canadians are engaged, because we listen, read and watch what is going on around the world, we were able to choose the right course of action. And right is the key word here, because that murderous, illegal, and disastrous campaign in the Middle East, if nothing else, is morally wrong, no matter what the Bible thumpers say.

So it is for these reasons that I will be marching on March 19 as part of the International Day of Solidarity against the occupation of Iraq.

It is because freedom of speech and assembly are alive and well in Canada (unlike our neighbour to the south), and it has proven to be an effective political tool.

It is because as we go into exams, it is easy to forget that dozens of people are killed, maimed, mutilated, kidnapped or detained illegally, indefinitely and without any council every single day.

Yes, Canada is proving to be unwilling to support these actions, but they nevertheless continue, and popular dissent is more important than ever. See you in the streets!

LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK		WEEKS ON CHART
4	1	<b>COMMUNIST HATS</b> Definitely the hottest remnant of the Cold War after all those A-Bombs.	6
9	2	<b>GETTING ANGRY OVER WHAT YOU FOUND AT MSGEEKS.COM</b> Just because <i>they</i> deleted you before <i>you</i> deleted them is no excuse.	14
12	3	<b>"OH, YOU'RE FROM THE MARITIMES, AREN'T YOU?"</b> You've officially lost all hope with a girl who says this. Move on.	3
3	4	<b>WRITING AN ESSAY, ONG-BAK STYLE</b> No proofreading. No spell-check. <i>No Staples. Attached.</i>	12
18	5	<b>FEELING "THAT" WAY ABOUT AMANDA BYNES</b> Unacceptable. <sup>^</sup>	18
-	6	<b>WEARING A GRAY TRENCHCOAT TO IMPRESS THE LADIES</b> Go-Go Gadget <i>confidence!</i> *	1
1	7	<b>COUPLES THAT EXERCISE TOGETHER (AS A COUPLE)</b> It's nice to know the values your relationship is based on.	5
15	8	<b>THE NEW FACES ON THE DAL WEBSITE</b> Still kind of look like demons from "Children of the Corn."	98
2	9	<b>MAKING RANDOM REFERENCES TO PONYBOY</b> It's amazing how many people have read that shitty book.	3
5	10	<b>THE IDEA THAT A KEG OF BEER CAN BE DELIVERED TO MY APARTMENT</b> If only they could also deliver a keg of responsibility and a keg of ambulance, too.	7

Legend: ^ = Biggest Gainer, \* = Hot Shot Newcomer

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## NSCAD PARTY!

Come one, come all. This coming Friday, March 11, NSCAD's graduating honours graphic design class is having a fundraiser for their year-end celebrations. Sonny D., Jody Crowe, and Marixa will be performing for a maxed out dance party at the Warehouse. Show starts at 10 p.m. and cover is \$5.

## PLAY IN PIT!

From March 9 to March 12, the Kings Theatre Society is presenting "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn. The shows will take place in the Pit Theatre in the Arts and Administration building at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7/\$5 for students. For reservations, call 448-5080.

## BEST IN SHOW!

Museum Pieces are performing at Gus' Pub in the North End on Thursday, March 10. If you have five dollars, you can purchase a few hours of entertainment from these old blokes. This is the best show of the foreseeable week, so hop to it.

## SOCIALLY GREEN!

The Grawlog is playing host to blueberry Grunt for St. Patrick's Day. The event falls on the same evening as one of the pub's renowned "Sociables!" Everyone should pay homage to their Irish roots and catch some of that delicious green stuff they call beer. It's green.

## Hot Spots

# What's a Windom Earle?

## P.E.I. Band brings Rocktronica to Halifax



Windom Earle's Stephan McLeod hams it up for the camera.  
 Photo: Jessica Whyte

Jessica Whyte  
 Arts Contributor

Windom Earle is collaborative, dynamic, karaoke style rocktronic band. Its lineup and roster are confusing, and its history is even more so, but this can all be whittled down to the continuing presence of Stephan MacLeod and the desire to keep it fun.

Named after a surrogate villain from the canceled second season of *Twin Peaks*, the band

has outlived its namesake and been active for the last seven years. In their present and most basic form, the collection is Stephan MacLeod on guitar, Greg Boone on bass, Matt Packman on keyboards and an unnamed boom-box of prerecorded backings.

Greg and Stephan share much of the songwriting. That said, their live set often plays host to a rotating roster of guests and theatrics. During live shows, they play over a compact disc of

prerecorded cut-and-paste beats and samples, creating a sound that is driving, punchy and always on time.

"What we're doing over the [prerecorded] music live is mixing sounds that are appropriate for the feedback of the beats. We never really overlay on it. There's no guitar solos, and no fanciness... it's almost like taking dance music and trying to make it sound more live," says MacLeod.

"Windom Earle is essentially a karaoke outfit," says MacLeod—and it fits, as both Boone and MacLeod are self-proclaimed karaoke junkies. If you're lucky, you may catch them getting gonged off the stage at Cheers on a Monday night, waving their souvenir "I Got Gonged" XXL T-shirts proudly. According to them, they've never made it through a karaoke session without being ushered from the stage by host Jackie Smit, and yet they keep going back.

Karaoke may bring to mind images of young women belting along tunelessly to Whitney Houston numbers, but in Windom Earle's case, it is three men with instruments racing along musically to self-created booming throbs and shakes. They provide live accompaniment to canned music, but those prerecorded songs are their own, and that added element of required precision that comes with accompanying an unwavering and unchanging recording is impressive—and unique to a city that is starving for diversions from the standard rock quartet.

There's also an underlying desire to keep the band lively and

entertaining both for the audience and its members, despite the occasional drawbacks of constant boisterousness. "Windom Earle has a certain element where its always staying fun, and its been the bane of our existence," says Boone. "A lot of times when we just need to be serious for once, none of us can do it." It's not just a tag line either—the band really does come across on stage like they're having a blast, and they engage the audience to join along with them.

Their latest "physical" release, entitled *A Series of Minor Personal Tragedies*, was put out under the name The Windom Earle All Stars. But The Windom Earle All Stars are not Windom Earle. It's a moniker used to cover all the projects of which MacLeod has been a part since 1998, including the Jeff Coll 5 and Operation Impact from Prince Edward Island.

MacLeod describes the group release as "what happens when three bands that share the same members don't have enough material to make separate albums." It's confusing to sort out one man, three projects and four names. MacLeod did try to explain it: "The Windom Earle All Stars is what happens when we do all of the bands. Windom Earle is when its just me, Greg Boone, Matt [Packman] and whoever, and its just instrumental."

That "whoever" is crucial to the attitude and lineup of the band as it could be anyone, and it defines a Windom Earle performance. Windom Earle has taken the stage with multiple drummers, extra guitarists, random dancers and general merrymakers. "Windom Earle is such a collaborative thing," says Boone, "especially the live shows. If we're playing with a good drummer or with musicians we respect, like Special Noise at the ECUA's, it makes it better."

Boone and MacLeod were both born in the Halifax region and live here now, but met each other and Matt Packman on Prince Edward Island. MacLeod works at an adult video store in Dartmouth while Boone studies at NSCAD. Windom Earle is Stephan's only project, but Boone and Packman both play for Sharp Like Knives, dividing their time between the two bands and other projects.

The disc is in constant rotation at CKDU, and it has already been requested by campus stations across the country as word-of-mouth spreads about this unique collection of wonky electronirock. *Minor Personal Tragedies* will be in local record stores, but is also available for free on the Windom Earle website, <http://www.windomearle.com> or through the Polygon Network at <http://www.polygonnetwork.org>

You can also obtain Windom Earle's own release, *The Things I Do For Girls*, through their website or from the Polygon Network's releases section. The Polygon Network is a net label featuring electronic music by Atlantic Canadian artists, and it is a perfect fit for the outfit. The move to release the album online resulted in a brief affair with fame in Germany. Windom Earle's status may not compete with that of the Hasselhoff's, but the band was featured on a German download site, and attracted over a thousand hits in one weekend. Even if you're only huge in Germany for a few days, it's still fun to say you were.

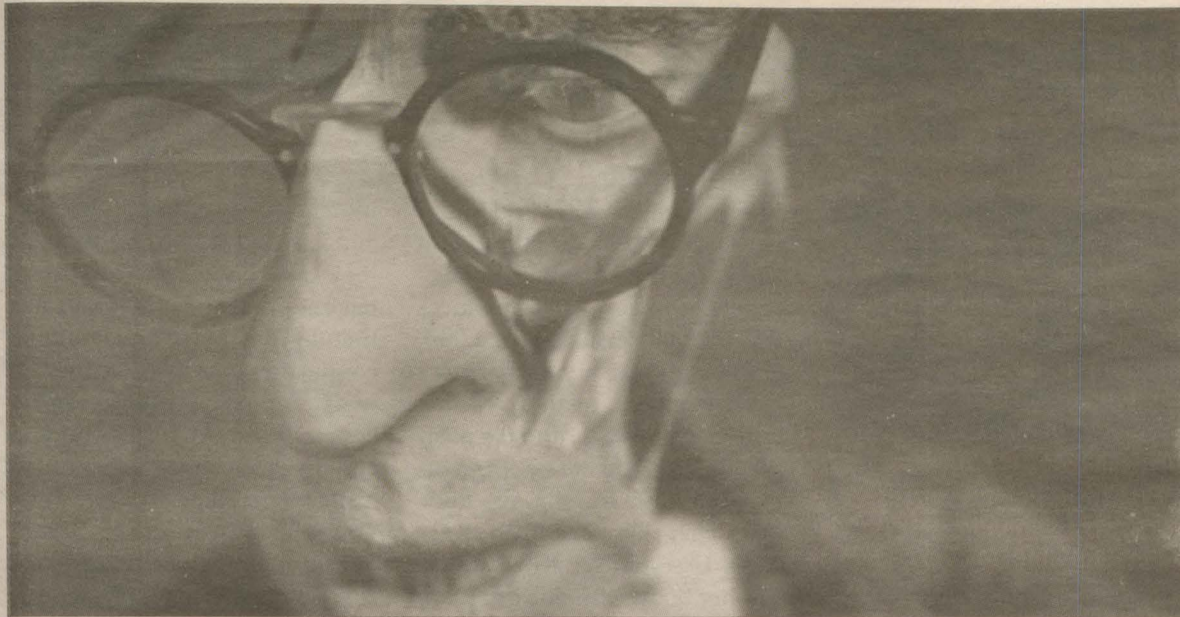
*Windom Earle plays St. Patrick's Day, headlining for the NXNE (North By North End) festival at Gus's Pub. The show starts at 10 p.m., costs \$4 and includes performances by Pop Secret, SS Cardiacs, and Camaromance.*

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Canada Council For the Arts helps fund projects like *Ryan*, the Canadian-made film that won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film this year.

## Return of the Mack

### Federal Budget Renews Funding For Arts

Sarah Vanderwolf  
Staff Contributor

While this year's federal budget may not bring joy into the hearts of many Canadians, few would question the value of continued funding for the arts. The Canada Council for the Arts has been designated to receive an additional \$25 million a year for the next five years.

In 2003 2004, the Council supported "more than 4,000 individual artists and arts organizations in hundreds of communities across Canada" and hopes to increase its contribution to the arts community with this latest "major infusion from the federal government."

With help from the government, the council has been able to "create and sustain libraries, museums, heritage sites, art

galleries and performance venues across Canada, as well as arts organizations—the world renowned ballet companies, theatre organizations, symphonies and opera companies." The council has also been essential to the success of the cultural industries, like film and video, sound recording and book publishing since its founding in 1957.

The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences recommended the creation of the Canada Council in 1951. Six years later, Parliament passed the Canada Council Act, the objectives of the council being "to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts, humanities and social sciences." Initial funding for programs came from the death duties of Nova Scotia in-

dustrialists Sir James Dunn and Izaak Walton Killam. In 1966, the Killam Trust bequeathed an additional \$16.5 million to the Council.

The federal government's contribution to the arts in Canada fosters not just creativity, but also economic growth. The government's "\$7 billion investment in culture helps generate \$26 billion in economic activity and creates 740,000 jobs," according to Statistics Canada.

The current chair of the Council is legendary ballerina Karen Kain, who is delighted with the government's continued dedication to the arts. "We are pleased that the government... appreciates the value the arts bring to Canadians and their communities," she said in an interview.

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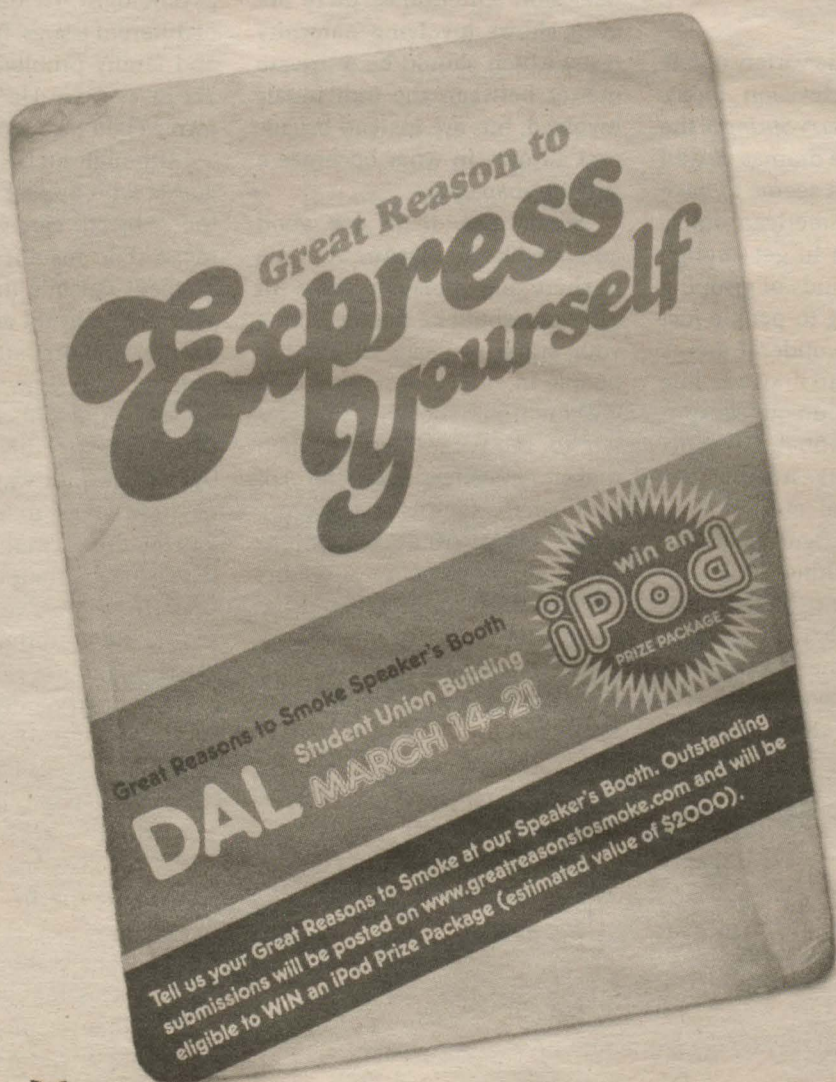
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This conference brings together people of faith to discuss issues related to environmental stewardship and climate change. The day will include an interfaith panel discussion and presentations and workshops covering topics such as:

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- earth education
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- sustainable transportation

Various environmental organizations will also host booths at the conference.

For more information or to pre-register, please contact Daisy Kidston at 424-6684 or [kidston@clean.ns.ca](mailto:kidston@clean.ns.ca)



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# Mozart Tribute

## A Timeless Performance

Anneke Foster  
Staff Contributor

The man sitting to my left suggested I name this article "Symphony Nova Scotia Hit all the Right Notes." I couldn't agree more. It has been a long time since I have heard music this profound and stunning. Symphony Nova Scotia has been a recurring act on the Cohn stage throughout the year, and regrettably, last Friday's Mozart tribute was my first time attending one of their performances. Fortunately, however, the concert was delivered with so much inspiration and solidity that I am sure it will not be my last.

In-between pieces, one member of the orchestra played three selections and gave an informative and entertaining mini-lecture. These brief thoughts helped to illustrate the life of Mozart (who started composing at the age of five) and added some well-received insight into his character.

The highlight of the evening was "Piano Concerto Number 25." Rarely performed, it is a testament to Mozart's incredible knowledge of sound and his ability to use numerous instruments to create one, resilient voice. His meticulous attention to detail and truly thoughtful choice of dynamics, notes and rhythm are just some of his strong suits.

World-renowned pianist Lorraine Min soloed as guest pianist and not only delivered an astounding rendition of Mozart's work, but also played with her own stylistic edge, which complimented the work nicely. Her precision and purity of sound were matched only by the grace with which she played.

Six-months-pregnant, Min's stage presence was captivating and lively, and all eyes were on her, especially those of her husband (the concertmaster/first violinist) who, upon the completion of the piece, beamed from

ear to ear and gave her extended hand a gentle kiss.

Both "The Abduction from the Seraglio Overture" and "Symphony Number 35 in D," which proceeded and followed the Concerto (respectively) were also quite notable. The opening piece highlighted the Symphony's unified sound—especially the first violinists'—and the incredible emotional power of music. It was a choice selection to begin with, and it really showcased the musicians' abilities and drew the attention of the audience.

The closing piece focused ex-

**Her precision and purity of sound were matched only by the grace through with which she played.**

tensively on contrast. Its movements flowed seamlessly without sacrificing differentiating elements. From the more powerful, excitatory, "Allegro con Spirito" (which used certain notes as exclamation points) to the smooth, dance-like "Andante" and the final two movements—both lively and triumphant, the audience got to sample a range of equally fulfilling moods.

The most memorable aspect of the performance was the care and perfection each musician took to play each note. There was no room for error, and the musicians seemed incapable of such as they played with the utmost precision and professionalism. It was not only a tribute to Mozart, but also to the members of Symphony Nova Scotia for their exceptional ability and to Lorraine Min for her remarkable level of achievement and flawless performance. And who knows, come May, perhaps Min will bring a new Mozart prodigy into the world.

# SuperSex in the SuperCity

## Missionary Monotony



Dave Moriné-Wentworth  
Sexpert

Is your sex life becoming too routine, too predictable? Oftentimes it is very easy for a couple to fall into a particular position of preference, be it doggie style or missionary sex, but in due time, things start to become unexciting. Take this student question, for example:

**Q:** My girlfriend and I have been together for a couple of months. We first had sex a month into our relationship, and we both enjoy traditional missionary with me on top. We used to get into it and really have a satisfying experience, but now it is just so ordinary that we are not enjoying sex. What can be done to fix this?

**A:** The first way to revamp the classic, time-honoured missionary position is to change it from the traditional girl-on-bottom, guy-on-top scenario. Flip it up by lying on your back and having your girlfriend ride you, either facing you or with her back

to you. Many couples find this to be an enjoyable variation, as it allows for the possibility of face-to-face contact. This enhances the overall sexual satisfaction, as you can watch your partner's facial reactions to the pleasure. Furthermore, you can take pleasure to new heights by stimulating your girlfriend's body—don't just let her ride you and do all the work! Use your hands to stimulate her body, with due attention on the erogenous zones.

If missionary has you bored altogether, perhaps you need to totally reinvent your sexual routine by trying out a different position. In addition to missionary style, the other common position

more intimate. Conversely, other couples find it non-arousing, as they can only see their partner's backside during sex and they feel that there is less of an emotional connection during intercourse.

If intimacy during intercourse is important for you and your partner, you may want to explore spooning. This is a position where two lovers rest next to one another with her back to his front, almost in a dual fetal position. In this way, both partners can enjoy vaginal or anal stimulation, or they may choose to be intimate without penetration, using the opportunity to explore, caress and get to know each other's bodies.

I wonder if your situation could also be improved by taking sex out of the bedroom and to a new setting. Now, I'm not suggesting running out to the countryside for some lustful antics in a spring meadow, but even going from the bedroom into the living room or kitchen can provide a rejuvenating spark to any stagnated sex play. Let's face it, a bed is a piece of furniture, and therefore you can only do a limited number of things in it. Sofas, dining room tables, countertops, showers, desks and even the floor itself can all be new and amusing places for lovemaking. The possibilities are truly limitless, bound only by your erotic imagination.

**I'm not suggesting running out to the countryside for some lustful antics in a spring meadow, but even going from the bedroom into the living room or kitchen can provide a rejuvenating spark to any stagnated sex play.**

is doggie style. Some couples delight in this type of penetrative sex, as they report that the thrusting is deeper and the feeling

## Arts Hole

### Too Much Information

Carrie Gilbert  
Arts Contributor

There are a wide variety of talk shows on television today. From *Dr. Phil* to *Jerry Springer*, the appeal of real-life dramas played out on the screen seems to have grown. North American audiences can't seem to get enough of watching all kinds of gripping things happening to people just like them, but I wonder if there's a point at which to draw the line in letting others into our personal lives. I mean, who really wants their deepest, darkest secrets revealed on national television?

Some would argue that people will do anything to get on TV. This appears to be the case with shows like *Jerry Springer* and *Maury Povich*, where the guests will make themselves look utterly crude and vulgar in order

to get themselves some time on television. Oftentimes there are even shows involving paternity tests, which should be a private matter between the individuals involved, but are instead broadcast all over in what becomes a real life soap opera.

Sometimes, there are good and justifiable reasons for one to share one's personal story. An example would be that by telling your story, you can help other people in similar situations and give them somebody they can relate to. But what happens when that story involves a great level of seriousness, such as molestation, abuse or the troubled relationships within a family? Shouldn't people turn to a professional in their area and solve their issues privately instead of turning to a TV psychologist, such as Dr. Phil?

Sure, Phil McGraw is a real psychologist. He deals with a lot of different issues, from marriage and family problems to teenagers in trouble. He even has his own weight loss program.

Although he helps numerous guests who appear on his show, the subjects can get pretty intense. For instance, there was a recent episode in which a 19-year-old male got accused of being a sexual predator by his own parents. The show even goes so far as to put him through a lie detector test. If this was my family, I would not want to go on a daytime show to have a problem of this extremity solved. If television is their last resort, I don't think they've properly explored their options. Don't get me wrong, I think Dr. Phil is very good at what he does, but when it comes to issues that go that in depth, I would rather talk to someone like him in a confidential setting.

Shows like his and Oprah's can tug at the heartstrings and bring very inspiring stories to light. I believe though, that certain matters should be kept private so that people can properly deal with their problems without millions of viewers knowing about it.

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## The Truth About Iron Ring

Peter White  
Sextant Contributor

When I think of "secret ceremonies," there are a few things that come to mind. Like cloaks and hoods. Like torches and sacred documents. Like shadowy figures and poorly lit temples and virgin sacrifices—the fun things that can never happen at a regular ceremony. So, naturally, when I found out that I was to be part of the clandestine evening that is "iron ring," I got a little excited. If a ceremony has to be secret, there has got to be either something incredibly important or incredibly strange happening. Either that, or there is a ton of nudity involved.

I was sure I was in for the most interesting night of my life. I played out what I thought would happen over and over again in my mind. We would all be lined up in the gymnasium. Then, the lights would go out. We would be blindfolded and led out of the building where we would be put on a bus and led to an unidentified location. We would be herded inside, and our blindfolds would be removed. It would be pitch black. Then, magically, torches would light, showing us the cold, stone room that we were standing in. All around the walls of this room would be other engineers, dressed in black robes, none of them smiling. The leader would approach a podium at the front of the room. He would then inform us that what we were about to go through would not be easy, but once it was finished, we would be given great wisdom that has been amassed through the ages, and our lives would never be the same.

At this point the fantasy gets a little hazy, because at this time I imagine a painful and humiliating initiation would take place. Lightening and red-hot branding irons would be involved. Once this is finished, we would line up and the leader would ascend the podium once more. He would

begin to speak, and the words that would rain upon us would be unlike any that we had ever heard before. Suddenly, everything would make sense. Then, one by one, we would approach the podium and a ring of iron would be pulled out of a sacred fire and placed on our fingers. We would be told that should we ever forget the words spoken today, we could look at this ring, and everything would come flooding back. We would recite the sacred words handed down by our engineering forefathers, committing us to silence and condemning us to a fate worse than death should we fail to uphold the standards of engineering. We would then exit the stone room and enter a beau-

**My dream was dead. I was crushed. I didn't think I would ever recover. Then I discovered the free wine. And I got over it.**

tiful banquet hall, filled with the finest wines, fruits, and suckling pigs. We would then go home satisfied, never to speak of this night again.

So on the night of March 3, as I walked up the stairs to the Daltech gym, I was certain that I had the evening all figured out. I thought that I was a step ahead of everyone else. I was ready. We all lined up on the gym floor, and I held my breath as I waited patiently for the lights to go out. An hour and a half later, as the uneventful, but very nice ceremony wraps up, I was still waiting. It had been weeks since I last cried, but as I stood there wondering what went wrong, a single tear ran down my cheek. My dream was dead. I was crushed. I didn't think I would ever recover. Then I discovered the free wine. And I got over it.

## Third Annual Pi-Throw for Phoenix House



The third annual Pi-throw for Phoenix House is coming up, running Monday March 14 to Wednesday, March 16, throughout peninsula Halifax. This event is put on by the Dalhousie University Sexton Campus Engineering Society. For those of you who are unaware how Pi-throw works it's simple, you call 494-6110 on

Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and order a pie for \$10. At that point in time we will ask for your name, credit card number, the name of the person you want to pie and where they will be. That is all we need. At that point in time a pie will be sent to the person and when it gets there they will have 4 options:

- 1.) Pay \$10 and redirect that very same pie to another individual.
- 2.) Pay \$20 and purchase the pie to eat it.
- 3.) They can choose to take the pie in the face for charity.
- 4.) They can choose not to participate.

To many of you this may sound like a great idea, and something that you would like to support, but you don't have a credit card. That's OK: there will be individuals in the Dalhousie SUB Monday and Tuesday to take orders. Visit [www.pithrow.com](http://www.pithrow.com) for more information.

Last year this event raised \$4300 for Phoenix House an organization for underprivileged youth ages 16 to 24. It's a great fundraiser with a lot of fun being had. So call 494-6110 and send a pie! If you have any other questions please feel free to email [rdumeah@dal.ca](mailto:rdumeah@dal.ca). There is someone in Halifax that you or your friends would like to send a pie to.

## Egg Drop 2005

Bryden Berkvens  
Sextant Contributor

For national engineering week, APENS held its annual egg drop competition in several junior high schools in the area.

Grade nine students from all across the city got to try their hand at being an engineer for the day. Their goal was to design a device that would prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a height of three meters. The catch is that there was a limited amount of materials that could be used, and all materials had to be purchased though the money that was allotted at the beginning of the event. The materials that could be used were Styrofoam cups, paper towel, tape, elastic bands, cotton balls and tooth picks.

After witnessing the design and testing of several different designs, the parachute design

seemed to be the design that worked the most effectively. The most common approach was to simply put the egg in the Styrofoam cup and stuff it with as many cotton balls as possible. This was the framework for about 85 per cent of the designs; I am sad to say that not one egg survived this design.

There were some very original designs this year as well, however: one group used two other eggs as sacrificial eggs to protect their egg. Another group also attached a long piece of tape to their egg and wrapped it around the egg and let go of one end and let it unwrap. A slight measuring error led to the demise of this egg.

The kids learned a lot from this event, as did all of the volunteers who helped out. Kids will do or try anything that will help them win. I saw kids try to sneak their own paper towel from the bathroom, claiming that the vol-

unteers broke their egg so they could get a new one, and my favourite: "that was how you told me to do it, so it is your fault it didn't work!"

But in the end, everyone had a great time—and hopefully in a few years we see some of those same faces walking around Sexton campus, building on their knowledge of egg dropping.

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## AUS Track & Field Championships

### Results

#### Women - Team Rankings

- 1) Dalhousie University 163
- 2) Memorial University 59
- 3) Université de Moncton 51

#### Men - Team Rankings

- 1) Dalhousie University 148
- 2) St. Mary's University 87
- 3) Memorial University 47

#### Major Awards Winners

Women

Athlete of the Year – Adrienne Powe  
Championship MVP – Alicia Dobranowski

#### Men

Athlete of the Year – Paul Chafe  
Championship MVP – Joshua Davidson

Rookie of the Year – John Corbit

#### CIS Swimming Championships Results

Dal's Kiera Aitken won a silver medal in the 50-metre backstroke and bronze in the 100m backstroke.

## Sports Briefs

# Track Stars Race to CIs



Leanna MacLean leads a strong women's team to Winnipeg. Photo: Nick Pearce

Joe Ryba  
Staff Contributor

The CIS track and field championship is in full force this weekend at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg—and Dal is sending both the men's and women's teams. The second-ranked women's team will be battling for a top-three spot, while the men have their eyes set

on cracking the top ten.

The women's team started slow this season but quickly moved up in the rankings.

"Every week we had a different athlete come up big," says coach Dan Hennigar. "This is the first year we've been ranked in the top two."

Despite the team's high ranking, Hennigar knows that nothing is guaranteed.

"The CIs are no cake walk," he says. "We'll be battling Calgary and Saskatchewan, and it's going to be a fight for third, assuming everything goes well."

On the individual level, the Tigers have two of the fastest runners in the country: Adrienne Power and Leanna MacLean. Power is the favourite to win the 60-metre sprint and the 300m.

"Adrienne is the fastest CIS athlete," Hennigar says. "She's ranked number one in the 300[m] and is two seconds ahead of the number two runner. She competes at a world-class level, and only a handful of people can run that fast in the world."

Leanna MacLean's specialties are the 1000m and the 1500m.

"Leanna can really compete, but has to run exceptionally well," says Hennigar. In addition to the high expectations for Power and MacLean, Hilary Burn is a contender in the 1500m and the 3000m. The women's 4x200m and the 4x800m relay teams are strong as well. The women's team also has several athletes competing in the 60m—which, says Hennigar, reflects the strength of Dal's sprinting program.

On the men's side, though the team is not ranked, it won't deter them from putting in a strong performance. Paul Chafe in the 3000m, and rookie John Corbit in the 1000m and 1500m, will garner the attention for Dal.

"The men's 3000m is a tight field," Hennigar says. "Paul is ranked ninth and is one second out of fourth. He's much fitter now than when he ran his ranked time, and if he races to his potential, he can run with anybody in the country. John Corbit surprised a few people with his finishing kick."

"If he hangs in there, he may surprise a few people at the CIs."



Men with brooms (the idea barrel is running low).

# The Water Cooler

Jenn Casey  
Staff Contributor

OK everyone, it's time to admit it. You all watched at least some. It's time to be open about it. Free yourself! You'll feel so much better, because keeping it inside isn't helping anyone. Besides, eventually someone is going to find you in front of the television yelling "hurry hard!" and expose you for who you really are... all minds out of the gutter please.

So, are you ready to admit it? With no NHL, you can't hide behind hockey like you use to. You turned on the TV this week to the CBC and watched some curling—you are a closet curling fan.

I have come to the conclusion that Canada is rampant with closet curling fans. Seriously, if no one likes curling, then who fills the rinks during tournaments and sends the television ratings through the roof? (Alright, maybe I'm exaggerating, but you get my point.)

I know you're out there—and it's time that you stop hiding it. Curling is a great game. It requires strategy, an understand-

ing of physics and athletic ability. It has also become part of the Canadian identity, so you might as well live up to the stereotype.

Curlers at the pro level aren't millionaires—most of the money they make goes back into travel expenses and training. They play because they love it. In fact, most hold jobs outside of the curling world.

The recent Scott Tournament of Hearts featured some of the best competition it had seen in years. The scores were close, the shot making dramatic and the upsets were plenty. Five-time reigning champ Colleen Jones was sent home in the tiebreaker round, and a new champion was crowned: Manitoba's Jennifer Jones.

The men's championship, The Brier, is in full swing and is shaping up to be just as exciting.

So why not embrace the game, grab your favourite snacks, get a beer and watch the match? Or you could be even more adventurous and try curling. It's never too late to start—Team Saskatchewan's Sherri Singler didn't start until she was 23.

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# Dalhousie Tigers Season Reviews

Jenn Casey  
Sports Contributor

*This is the first in a series of season reviews for Dal's varsity team. The remaining teams will be covered next week.*

## SOCCER

**Men's**  
12GP (6-6-0) H (4-1-0) A (2-5-0)  
Goals: F-23 A-19 Pts: 18  
3rd in East Division 6th in AUS

The men's soccer team started out with high expectations—and delivered on them with some huge wins. But by mid-season the injury bug had plagued just about every player on the squad.

"Every game we've had four or five guys that are forced to watch the game because they're injured," forward Olusegun Famuyide said during the season while sporting a braced knee.

At one point the men teetered on the brink of losing playoff chances, but were able to win some key games at the end of the season. They lost 5-2 in the AUS semi-finals to St. Mary's.

**Women's**  
13GP (8-1-4) H (4-0-3) A (4-1-1)  
Goals: F-23 A-5 Pts: 28  
1st in Division 2nd in AUS

The ladies dominated defensively, letting in the fewest goals in the AUS. They also dominated the AUS all-star teams with six players getting the nod. But what they couldn't dominate were the UPEI Panthers. The ladies' incredible run ended with a 2-0 loss to the first-place Panthers.

"I know as the losing team you're not supposed to say this, but it was a robbery," said midfielder Leah Kutcher. "We got tough breaks, we were the better team."

Look for the team to bounce

back for next season, as they only stand to lose a possible seven players to graduation.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

**Men's**  
(AUS) Rank: 2 Win: 11 Loss: 5  
Points: 22  
AUS Champions, 5th at CIS Championship

The men's team was not short of stars, but Paul Chafe seemed to shine the most, winning the three AUS meets he participated in, including the AUS championship.

"Matthew (Sheffield) and I had agreed to tie and then I sprinted past him at the end," said Paul Chafe, smiling mischievously.

But Chafe and the Tigers couldn't pull out a win at the CIS championship. Chafe finished fourth, behind three University of Windsor runners, and the team finished fifth overall.

**Women's**  
(AUS) Rank: tie for 1st Win: 18  
Loss: 2 Points: 36  
AUS Champions, CIS Champions

Possibly the most successful Dal team this year—the ladies are in possession of our only national CIS banner to date (the only other possibilities left are the Track and Field teams).

"I'm really happy with the team's performance," said coach Dan Hennigar. "Everyone performed so well when it mattered the most and they overcame some tough circumstances."

All-star Janice Ashworth dominated the field with five first-place finishes during the season and a silver medal finish at nationals.

## HOCKEY

**Men's**  
GP-28 (W 8-L 15-T 4-OL 1) Goals:  
F-65 A-96 Pts: 21  
7th in AUS – missed playoffs

It's no mystery why the men's hockey team didn't make the playoffs: the other teams scored more goals than they did—31 more goals, to be precise.

"We're starting to get frustrated," said forward Jonah LeRoux during midseason. "We came out flying early in the year and couldn't capitalize. Now, our confidence is low and guys are feeling the pressure."

And whereas some teams flourish under pressure, others crumble. In their last ten games of the season, the men only managed two wins—not the best way to earn a playoff spot.

A few bright lights under the rubble were rookie defenseman Corey Leclair getting the nod for the AUS Second All-star team and Dominic Noel winning the television reality show "Making the Cut," earning himself a tryout with an NHL club.

**Women's**  
GP- 18 (4P -6 2PW-0 1PW-0 L-12 T-0) Goals: F-42 A-52 Pts: 24  
3rd in AUS

It wasn't pretty, it didn't start off well and they were outscored most of the time, but the women managed to win the important games.

Due to the structure of the women's league in the AUS, certain games are designated to be worth more points than others. The Dal women lost 12 games but won six four-point games—good enough to win third place.

But unfortunately this isn't a fairy tale: the ladies lost in the AUS semi-final in a crushing 2-1 overtime defeat... at the hands of St. Mary's.

## Athletes of the Week



Jilliane Goulet  
Volleyball

Jilliane Goulet is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Goulet was honoured for a third time as a second team all-Canadian at the CIS women's volleyball championship held this past weekend at the University of Saskatchewan. Despite the losing battle, she had a solid weekend for the Tigers. Through three matches, she led the team with 48 digs, 35 kills and 10 stuff blocks. Goulet is a fourth-year English student from Arnprior, Ont.



Jeff Weiler  
Volleyball

Jeff Weiler is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Weiler was honoured for the second consecutive season with the CIS Libero of the Year award; remaining the lone recipient of the trophy that was handed out for the first time in 2003/04. Also named to the second all-Canadian team, he fought hard in the team's losing battle at their twenty-sixth consecutive CIS men's volleyball championship appearance this past weekend at Université Laval. Weiler is a third-year kinesiology student from Scarborough, Ont.

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