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Gazette

DSU ELECTIONS

What the f%#k?!

ISSUE 137-23 March 17th - March 24th 2005

★★★ OFFICIAL BALLOT ★★★

(please remove chad completely)



You must choose only ONE for each category.

- President-Elect
- Disqualified
- (2nd year in a row)

- VP Student Life
- Controversy
-

- Return to Rez:
- Earn Cash
-

- Varsity Sports
- Review
-

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OFFICIAL BALLOT

(PS: Thanks Dalhousie for voting for our levy increase)

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 > 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 20th 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 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!

Dalhousie Shinerama 2005

Kickoff Benefit Concert Feat. Mike Allison

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Editorial



**Every student guaranteed a vote.
(Vote not guaranteed to count)**

Quentin Casey
Editor-In-Chief

Another DSU election, another shit-show that further alienates Dal students from the Student Union and student politics.

If I have learned anything in following/covering the DSU elections over the past two years, it's that the DSU elections system is, at best, flawed. And at worst, corrupt.

In a normal election (outside of Florida) the results are counted, one candidate gets more votes than the other candidate(s), and he/she takes office. But in DSU elections, winning a vote does not necessarily determine whether you take office or not.

share of problems. Let's start with the fact that before the Information for Students mass email was sent out on Wednesday afternoon, three of the eventual winners were losing in the polls. After the mass email was sent, Tara Berthier, Ezra Edelstein and Phil Duguay all went up in the polls, eventually winning.

Why? Likely because all three of these candidates appeared first in their respective categories on the ballot. Meaning that many people probably scrolled quickly through the ballot and clicked on the first name they saw, likely after voting for a friend or a referendum question. This is not to say that the winners did not deserve to win, or that they did not campaign with energy and good

But the problems don't end there. In the case of the vice president of student life, the winner's roommate sent an email to 400 nursing students shortly after campaigning ended. Yet the elections committee ruled that this was not a violation because the person who sent it was not directly linked to the campaign. Hello, it was her roommate.

Theoretically, you could have your roommates and friends send emails to thousands of students without being held directly accountable. This is not right. Last year the president was disqualified for a similar infringement. Where is the consistency?

In a race decided by 75 votes, this email likely won the election for Tara Berthier. According to CRO Ann Beringer, "the possibility exists" that the mass email cost Chris McCluskey the race for the VP spot.

This is not right. Can anyone be held accountable?

And finally, in this year's race for president, Ezra Edelstein was disqualified for exceeding the campaign spending limits. At one point his status was hinging on such trivialities as whether he had paid \$15 in tax on an ad that ran in this paper. How could something so frivolous overturn the results? And furthermore, why are boards and committees deciding winners, instead of students?

What makes these examples more troubling is that improvement recommendations were made by the elections committee last year to prevent similar problems, but were not implemented by the DSU. As a result, we are stuck with another election filled with question marks and asterisks.

The bottom line is that when it comes to DSU elections, much of the strategy comes after the campaigning ends and the polls close. It is then that some see their chance to overturn a decision. What kind of system is this? In other instances—and possibly in the case of this year's presidential race—someone may take office without a student mandate, and without actively trying

to overturn the decision. Rather, they would take office because of ludicrous and over-complicated campaign rules.

Ann Beringer says that elections can be easily decided through appeals after voting ends. She calls the system "ridiculous." According to Beringer, students get the impression that their vote doesn't matter.

"Something is seriously, seriously wrong with the set-up of DSU elections," she says. "It's horrid."

No wonder nobody votes in these damn things—your vote is

not guaranteed to count.

My recommendation for the incoming councilors: your first order of business should be to overhaul an elections process that is unfair to those running, and more importantly, to students voting. If we expect students to ever vote *en masse* in these elections, we have to clean up the process.

Fix it so that candidates are elected fairly, and so that committees and sore losers cannot overturn results on minor technicalities.

Gazette

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I think you could have put KoKo the gorilla at the top of the ballot and Dal students would have elected the first primate to office.

Sometimes it depends on who runs the best post-election campaign.

Last year's elections completely soured me to the process. The collective memory of this school is so short that few can remember that Kevin Wasko won the majority of the vote in the race for president, but was later protested by Curtis McGrath. McGrath won an appeal regarding a mass email and took office. So much for democracy—or principles for that matter.

This year's election had its

ideas. It is to say that the system favours some over others.

There is a real problem when all but one of the winners in an election were all coincidentally the first names on the ballot. I think you could have put KoKo the gorilla at the top of the ballot and Dal students would have elected the first primate to office.

Did being first on the ballot win most of the races? "Yes, absolutely," says chief returning officer Ann Beringer, the person responsible for overseeing the entire election process.

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Who's Hiring?

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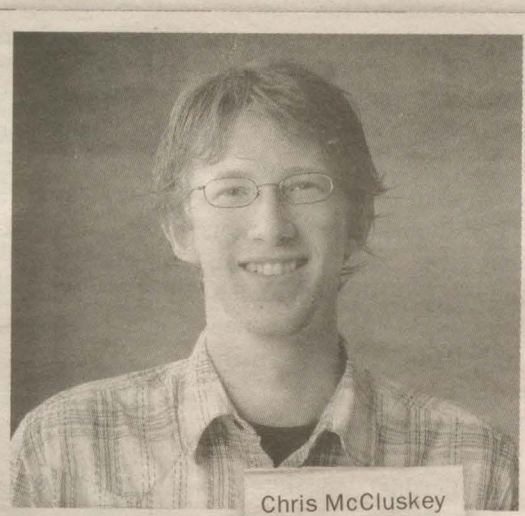
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Tara Berthier Takes Student Life Crown



Tara Berthier



Chris McCluskey

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

Tara Berthier will be the DSU's new VP of student life after a come-from-behind win in a contentious race.

"It felt great," said Berthier, after learning of her victory over challenger Chris McCluskey and incumbent Mark Szepes. "I did well, my posters were better than I imagined, but I knew it was going to be close." Berthier thinks being well known and respected was what gave her the edge in the campaign. "I have a great love for Dal," she explained.

The race wasn't without controversy. Berthier's roommate, Katie Messel, sent an e-mail to about 400 nursing students, encouraging them to vote for her friend. But candidates are only allowed to send mass e-mails to 50 people, and the e-mail was sent 15 minutes after the campaigning deadline, a potential post-campaigning violation.

The same scenario occurred last year when Kevin Wasko was disqualified as DSU president after one of his campaign workers sent out a mass e-mail without permission. Election regulations say that candidates are responsible for the acts of their campaign workers, even if the candidates themselves didn't know what was going on. Presidential runner-up Curtis McGrath appealed on

these grounds and the resultant fines disqualified Wasko, awarding McGrath the presidency.

Both Szepes and McCluskey raised this year's e-mail issue with the DSU Elections Committee. The committee asked Berthier for a list of her campaign workers and when it was

"I did well, my posters were better than I imagined, but I knew it was going to be close."
— Tara Berthier

received, Messel's name was not on the list. According to Chief Returning Officer Ann Beringer, the committee agreed there was no proof that Messel was acting on Berthier's behalf.

"Because I wasn't in on it, I can't be held liable for [what someone else does]," Berthier explained, adding that any resulting fines wouldn't even have been enough to disqualify her.

"I don't think it had an effect," said Beringer of the March 7 e-mail. "Chris was winning all of Tuesday, and Tara didn't take the lead until Wednesday afternoon."

Another discrepancy occurred when Mark Szepes's biographical information was left off the

election website. "It definitely hurt me," said Szepes, "especially since it was an online election." Szepes applied for and received an extension for the bio deadline, but when he finally submitted his photo and information, the Elections Committee decided not to post it. In its decision, the committee said the extension might have allowed Szepes to view his competitors' platforms, and that it should never have been granted.

Szepes believes it was more than the bio setback which led to his third-place finish. "It was tough," he said. "My first priority is in doing the job, and I was putting in 35-40 hours this week, planning Student Appreciation Night." Szepes said he would have liked to talk to students more, but understands that it's all part of the campaign.

"My advice to Tara is to hit the ground running," said Szepes, "and to make the most of it." McCluskey too had advice for Berthier: "Listen to students, prove to them that you were the best candidate, and be open to learning a lot of new things."

It is now up to current VP Szepes and his assistant McCluskey to train Berthier for the student life position. All of the candidates said they are ready to push ahead with the work and that they won't let past politics get in the way of doing a good job.

Election Results

Note: Names appearing in bold indicate candidates who have been elected.

President		
Ezra Edelstein (Disqualified)	1307	52.8%
Kevin Wasko	1170	47.2%

Vice-President Internal		
Phil Duguay	776	29.8%
Jerad Gallinger	446	17.1%
Matt "Gov" Godwin	671	25.8%
Ashley O'Brien	568	21.8%
Spoiled	137	5.3%

Vice-President Student Life		
Tara Berthier	935	36.2%
Chris McCluskey	862	33.4%
Mark "Rippey" Szepes	604	23.4%
Spoiled	175	6.8%

Vice-President Education		
Jen Bond	1587	61.8%
Andrew Murray	763	29.7%
Spoiled	217	8.5%

Senate Representatives		
Zoe Caron (Undergraduate)	1446	19.8%
Jarod Bradley Meagher		
Farn-Guillette (Undergraduate)	831	11.3%
Chris Jordan ** (Graduate)	1296	17.7%
Candace Salmon (Undergraduate)	1112	15.2%
Yuriy Shelkovyy (Graduate)	1294	17.7%
J.S. Weir (Undergraduate)	1040	14.2%
Spoiled	277	3.8%

** = Graduate Senator

Board of Governors Rep		
Jenny Cooper		
Yes	2104	82.2%
No	240	9.4%
Spoiled	213	8.3%

Referendum Question #1

Do you support the DSU implementing a Dental Plan at a per student annual premium of \$85.00 where individuals with comparable coverage may opt out and receive a full refund, and where yearly adjustments in premiums based on inflation and prior claims experience of the Dental Plan may be made until the academic year 2007/08?

Yes	1717	65.1%
No	862	32.7%
Spoiled	56	2.1%

Referendum Question #2

I support stabilizing the Health Plan with yearly adjustments in premiums based on inflation and prior claims experience of the Health Plan until the academic year 2007/08.

1683 65.3%

I do not support allowing yearly inflationary premium adjustments, understanding this may result in the degradation or loss of Health Plan benefits.

741	28.7%	
Spoiled	153	5.9%

Referendum Question #3

Do you support a student levy increase of \$1 for full and part-time students for the Gazette Publishing Society?

Yes	1670	63.4%
No	912	34.6%
Spoiled	51	1.9%

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DSU President-Elect Disqualified for Elections Violations

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, Dal students do not have a student union president the week after election results were announced.

The DSU elections committee has disqualified president-elect Ezra Edelstein after an investigation of his campaign budget showed that he had exceeded the allotted spending limit of \$400. Edelstein's final total was \$427.45. Last week he defeated Kevin Wasko in the election by a margin of 52.8 per cent to 47.2 per cent.

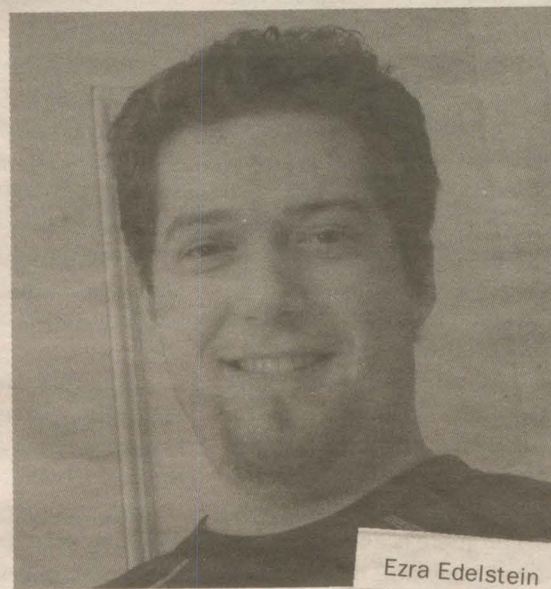
The infractions that pushed Edelstein over the limit can be traced back to two sources—an ad in this newspaper and the rental of the Dalhousie Tiger costume.

Edelstein was not charged for the use of the tiger costume and therefore did not cite it on his budget. However election rules stipulate that all costs must be listed at "market value." By these standards Edelstein should have cited the rental cost of the suit any normal person would pay, in this case \$20 per day. The committee determined Edelstein had the costume for four days—a number he is currently disputing—and added \$80 to his budget.

The second infraction was the misrepresentation of fees paid to the Gazette for an ad in the March 3 issue. Confusion between Edelstein and an advertising representative at the Gazette resulted in Edelstein not being charged HST for his ad. Because this was a mistake on the Gazette's part, they did not pursue it and absorbed the loss, as is its policy. However the committee determined that even if the Gazette did take responsibility for the error, Edelstein still had to cite the normal actual cost of the ad. In this case \$115 rather than the \$100 he paid.



Kevin Wasko



Ezra Edelstein

Edelstein has appealed his disqualification and the Judicial Board will now hear the matter. Due to concern about influencing the board's hearing, Edelstein chose only to release a statement in which he said, "I am very upset. I feel I ran an honest campaign and the students of Dalhousie elected me in good faith."

Though he would not comment on whether or not he understood the definition of market value when he submitted his budget, nor would he comment on the grounds for which he will be appealing, Edelstein's statement made it clear that he feels this is an arbitrary subject.

"One-thousand three-hundred and seven students should not be disenfranchised over an alleged \$27.45 in campaigning expenses."

The Judicial Board is made up of three Dal students—two undergraduates and one upper level law student—as stipulated by the DSU constitution. They now have two weeks to hold a hearing, after which time they will have up to four weeks to reach a decision.

The chair of the board, Matt Jodrey, said it is not his intention to use the entire allotted time.

"I'd like to get this done as expeditiously as possible," said

Jodrey. "With exams coming we'd like to get this taken care of in about two weeks."

Jodrey said the hearing would not be a matter of fact-finding but rather a case of interpreting

isn't saying much. Wasko, who under election rules would become DSU president if Edelstein's disqualification were upheld, said he isn't sure if he would take the job.

"I don't want to win this way," he said. "But I also wouldn't want to leave the DSU without a president."

Last year Wasko was re-elected as DSU president, only to be disqualified after challenger Curtis McGrath appealed a campaign violation by a member of Wasko's campaign team. It's this past experience that makes Wasko especially reluctant to take over under such circumstances. He notes that unlike last year's investigation, which was launched by a candidate, Wasko is in no way connected to Edelstein's situation.

"I feel awful," said Wasko. "If anyone can understand how he feels it's me. It's hard to just throw out what students wanted."

Ann Beringer, chief returning officer for the election, said the situation ultimately highlights

"There is something seriously, seriously wrong with the set up of these elections."
— Ann Beringer, CRO

the constitution as it applies in this case. Because of this, and the fact that there is a very limited body of judicial law, he said the board would not rely on past decisions.

Like Edelstein, Kevin Wasko

the problems with the election process.

"There is something seriously, seriously wrong with the set up of these elections," she said.

Beringer said that under the current constitution it is possible for candidates to make interpretations that are too broad and extreme. She also noted that none of last year's recommendations to improve the election process were implemented this year.

"The elections taskforce was set up in January and had a very short timeframe," she said. "The whole process is very, very bureaucratic. Council is responsible to make these changes and it was one of their goals for the year, but nothing has been done. It was not a priority."

McGrath, the current DSU president, disputes this claim.

"Council has done its job," he said. "Council didn't articulate their goals until October. Because of time restraints it is always a challenge to manage what it is before you and to deal with things as timely as possible."

McGrath said that election reform was one of council's three goals for the year. He disputes that the matter should have been dealt with sooner, pointing out that the full council doesn't convene until September.

He also said that the reason the election taskforce wasn't assembled before January was because of the volume of business council had before it. As a result, the taskforce's report was not heard until the council meeting held during the campaign.

"Council has a lot of priorities it must weigh, and those vary from year to year. In an ideal situation [the reforms] would have gone through, but these kind of things take a lot of time."

As for suggestions that such time lags and red tape will prevent amendments from arriving in time for next year's election, McGrath says it should be taken care of by the end of the year.

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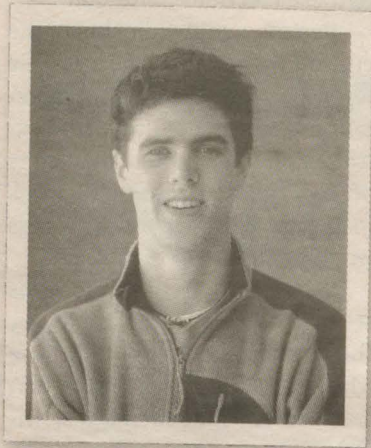
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Internal Upset

Duguay wins coveted vice presidency



Reid Southwick
Staff Contributor

The election results for VP internal posted on the projection screen silenced the fury of cheers and ovation from the previous announcements, and for a few tense seconds, a pin drop could have been heard in the crowded Grawood. The results shocked candidates and onlookers alike, who realized the DSU indeed has room for underdogs like Phil Duguay.

But many of the students in the campus bar on March 10 simply were not ready for the ascent of this anti-establishment young man, who won nearly 30 per cent of the vote.

"I am brutally shocked," said Ashley O'Brien, who lost to Duguay by 208 votes. "I don't think this is the best thing for the

union."

Duguay, 22, a self-proclaimed "political outsider," campaigned on a commitment to transform the image of the DSU, which he claims is currently seen as a "big bureaucratic cog" ruled by an exclusive elite. He has never been involved with DSU council, societies or activities central to his new portfolio, like the Shinerama campaign, an annual cystic fibrosis fundraiser.

"You want to know what gave me the edge?" Duguay asked, referring to his defeat of O'Brien, Matt Godwin and Jerad Gallinger. "I stood up and I was honest. I said there is a problem and we need someone new to work on it. My opponents probably weren't ready to admit to themselves that we need vast, vast changes here at the DSU."

But many of Duguay's campaign proposals went well beyond the scope of his portfolio. He blames the DSU for signing on to the recent Memorandum of Understanding—which features a tuition cap for all but international and professional students—even though the deal was struck exclusively between university presidents and the provincial government.

To ensure that the voices of Dal's international and professional students are heard, Du-

guay said he will lobby John Hamm's government to put controls on tuition fees for these students.

But lobbying the provincial government is the responsibility of the DSU president and VP education, according to the union's constitution.

"We have to win the trust back of all students at Dalhousie," the Oakville, Ont. native said shortly after learning of his triumph, adding that many people have questioned him on his resolve to carry out both his commitments and responsibilities. "And I am dead serious. This is my university."

Like every winning candidate for all four executive positions, Duguay's name appeared on the top of the ballot.

This summer, Duguay says he will help plan a series of events for September to try to capture student attention. Holding a concert at the Grawood featuring headlining acts, for example, may stimulate renewed interest in the bar which ran a deficit of roughly \$100,000 this year.

But the history major's grassroots movement that brought him to executive office did not end with his election campaign. His push to give the DSU a face-lift will involve students who have never been associated with the union, societies or sports teams because ownership of and responsibility for the union lies with everyone enrolled at Dal, he said.

"And I can't do this without the people I ran against. They are vibrant, enthusiastic members of the Dalhousie community."

Bond, Jen Bond

New VP of Education Wins Healthy Mandate



Reid Southwick
Staff Contributor

Jen Bond received sweeping support for a mandate as VP education in the recent DSU elections, claiming about twice as many votes as her opponent.

"It could have gone either way," she said shortly after learning of her promotion from Senate. "Andrew [Murray] ran a stellar campaign, so I was pretty nervous."

Murray, 20, said he had a fantastic time running for one of the DSU's top jobs. "When I approached people with my hand bills and told them about my platform, I left with the complete support of these individuals. They looked glowing, excited and revved to go."

But the Halifax native gives the utmost kudos to his victorious opponent.

"Jen is an incredibly capable person," said Murray, who spent most of the hour before the an-

nouncement pacing the lobby of the SUB.

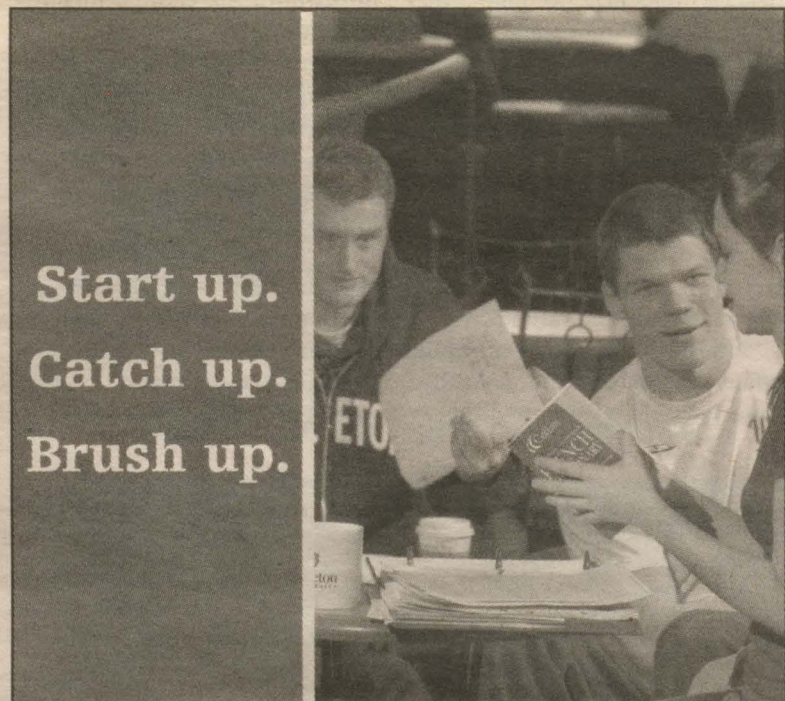
Bond, 21, was greeted by a mob of supporters when she arrived late at the Grawood on March 10 after the results were announced. She said classroom talks were the most effective venues for her campaign because she was able to not only present her platform to students face-to-face, but also educate them about the responsibilities of the position.

"And I am a pretty strong speaker," she said.

Although she will not officially take office until May, the political science major said she will quickly move to work with current VP of education Jill Houlihan. In particular, Bond wants to pressure the Board of Governors to consider the effects of increased tuition fees for international and professional students, before its March 22 budget vote.

After settling comfortably into her executive chair, Bond says she will try to kick-start the year-old Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations into high-gear. "It has already had that base year so now it can step up and start lobbying the provincial government," she said.

Is Bond feeling excited or nervous about her upcoming responsibilities? "A little bit of both," she said. "It is going to be an interesting year, and I'm definitely up for it."



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News Commentary

Dal Has a Democracy Problem... Here Are Some Suggestions to Fix It

Jennifer Morrison
News Editor

This was my fourth year witnessing the DSU elections—and for the fourth year in a row, Dal students just didn't care. Only 18 per cent of about 16,000 Tigers cast ballots, even though online voting was easier and more accessible this year than ever before. That's not to mention tight races with solid candidates, mixed with a bit of drama. For a political junkie like me, this year's election was perfect. Why did so many people disagree? And more importantly, what will make Dalhousie care?

Students:

Get involved, for God's sake. I must confess, I think the current DSU executive—not to mention everyone who works behind the scenes—is made up of smart, friendly, ambitious people with great school spirit. Yet the impression remains that the DSU is a tight-knit clique. But like any other organization, people congregate with others who have similar interests. It's not a bad thing, and it's certainly not a conspiracy. But keep in mind, folks—the DSU is technically made up of all Dal students, not just the president and vice presidents. Think about it: we could make the Guinness Book of World Records if we formed a clique of 16,000 students. If you're involved with DSU societies, committees, and events, you have more at stake in election outcomes, so you'll vote. Simple as that.

Get informed, for God's sake. In the March 3 issue of the *Gazette*, the most common reason given by Streater respondents as to why they were abstaining from voting was because they were "uninformed." Well, it's not very difficult to read your campus paper, check out the DSU website, attend a forum, or e-mail candidates with specific questions. You're paying to be here. Shouldn't you have a say in what goes on?

Election committee:

Extend the campaign time. It's hard to absorb election-re-

lated buzz in five short days—or less, because not all students are on campus everyday. Next year, try at least two weeks, and see if turnout increases.

Ease the restrictions. Only two mass e-mails? Get with the 21st-century program. If Dal's "Information for Students" system can reach every student, then so should candidates. I'm sure the university would cooperate and send some e-mails on candidates' behalf. Not only is it the candidates' right to access as many potential voters as possible, it's also our right as voters to receive their information.

Let the candidates' posters stay up during the voting period. When posters around campus come down, people automatically assume the event is over. The posters this year would have been excellent reminders to get to the polls.

Speaking of the polls, make them splashier. Every "voting booth" I passed this year didn't have a booth—nor did it have a bright sign, for that matter. If flashing neon lights are what it takes, then so be it.

University:

Put a DSU election link on the main Dal website and on the my.dal.ca page.

Send out several "Information for Students" e-mails about the election, not just one when voting is half-over.

Professors:

Prof's, you are still our authority figures, and many of you actually have the power to make us act. As a political science and history student, I have only had one professor in four years dedicate a class to discussing Dal's appalling school spirit and meager election turnout. Why don't political science professors use Dal's elections as case studies in class? Why don't they encourage their students to volunteer during the election as part of their mark? Even down on Sexton, engineering professors should be interrupting their discussions of fluid mechanics to espouse the glories of democracy and encourage their students to vote.

Prescriptions for Students

Adam Somers
Health Contributor

If you are the typical Dalhousie student, right around exam time you get run down, your immune system goes haywire and you get sick. You see the doctor and get a prescription for some antibiotics, but taking them three times a day just doesn't fit into your schedule, so you try to take them at least once a day and hope that things turn out OK. Or maybe you are a girl on birth control and you sometimes forget to take your pill.

Both of these issues have to do with a basic student problem: taking pills properly. Who better to help you change your ways than your local pharmacist? Pharmacist Awareness Week, held March 7 to 13, aimed to show the public how pharmacists can help them.

It is estimated that a full 50 per cent of prescriptions are not taken properly. Many students think only old people forget to take their pills. But taking pills can also be hard to remember for students, because of their constantly-changing, crammed schedules. It's important to real-

ize that taking your pills properly can save you a huge hassle down the road.

"With a busy and irregular schedule it can be tough remembering when to take medications," says Craig Connolly, vice president of the Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society.

There are definitely consequences to not taking prescriptions correctly. If you don't take your antibiotics on a specific schedule, your infection may return worse than before. And if you miss a dose or two of your birth control, you may get pregnant. Maybe not, but taking the chance isn't very smart.

If you are part of the 50 per cent of people who have prescription problems, all is not lost. There are lots of strategies to improve your adherence.

"If a student takes an active role in their drug therapy by understanding why you have been prescribed a medication and the benefits of adhering to the scheduled doses, you are more apt to take the medications as directed and realize the full benefits of your therapy," says Connolly.

Here's what you need to know from your pharmacist: what

your medication does, why you need to take it, and what to do if/when you miss a dose—this is especially important with birth control pills. Pharmacists can also suggest how to fit medication into your schedule. Using an alarm or beeper could help, or even a compartmentalized container marked with the days of the week—just like your grandmother's. Another option is to associate taking your pill with an everyday activity, like brushing your teeth or going to bed.

All of these suggestions and more are in the Compliance Management Module, a program developed in 2003 by Dr. Jane Gillis and Dr. Michael Vallis, along with the pharmacy practice committee of the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia. Dr. Gillis teaches this module to Dalhousie's own pharmacy students.

Even if you're not on a prescription now, chances are you'll experience one before you leave Dal. So have a chat with your pharmacist. It only takes a minute and it can help you in the future by getting you healthy and back to studying—or partying, whatever the case may be.

On Another Campus

Quebec strikes continue to spread

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

The number of Québec college and university students on strike this week is 92,000, and is expected to reach 200,000 by March 18. The *Globe & Mail* is calling this strike the largest student mobilization in 30 years.

The "unlimited" strike, organized principally by the Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante, comes in response to \$103-million in cuts made to a student bursary program by the provincial government. The strike received a boost last week when the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec urged its 135,000 members to support the 70,000 CEGEP students already on the picket lines. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce, labour organizations and even university rectors themselves are

publicly supporting the students' calls for the reinstatement of the bursary program.

Students at anglophone Concordia University voted last week to join the strike for at least one day, as did the McGill University Post-Graduate Students Society and the traditionally conservative Université de Montréal's École Polytechnique.

During one recent demonstration, about 150 francophone students marched through McGill University's downtown campus, encouraging McGill students to join the strike. Chanting "McGill, on strike!" they unfurled a large red square from the Arts

building roof—a symbol which has come to symbolize solidarity for the strike.

Thousands of students led another march through Montreal on Saturday. Within a three-day span last week, two different groups of students occupied the offices of the Minister of Education and over 80 protestors occupied the offices of the Université de Québec à Montréal for three days.

Police broke up all three demonstrations, arresting several of the participants. The occupations have prompted at least one CEGEP to lock students out, fearing property may be damaged.

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Incentives Offered for Students to Stay in Rez

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

Students living in residence this year are being offered incentives to return in September—like guaranteed rooms, better meal plans, and bonus DalCard money—following the closure of two Dalhousie residences due to low numbers of new and returning students.

But many students aren't impressed.

"[The financial incentives] are not big enough," says Danielle Faulkner, a second-year student who won't be returning to residence in September. "We're going to be guaranteed a room and get \$75. It's just not worth it."

"The new incentives are intended to inform returning students that they are valued and welcome members of the residence community," says Terry Gallivan, associate director of Housing and Conference Services. They include a guaranteed place for returning students if they applied prior to March 15, and 75 bonus dollars on their DalCard for on-campus spending. Students can also choose a 10 meal per week meal plan (costing \$2,585), rather than the standard 14 (\$2,635) or 19 (\$2,715). All the plans include additional DalCard bonuses.

Colin Campbell, a first-year student who will bid Henderson House a final farewell this April,

also says the incentives made no difference to him. "75 bucks, that's all? I don't know what they'd have to give me to get me to stay here again." He says that he enjoyed residence for his first year, but wants more space and independence, and less rules. "Plus, the food sucks," he says.

"What happened this past fall was that the first-year enrolment wasn't where the university anticipated it would be," says Gallivan. Approximately 390 spaces were empty this year, leading to the closure of Gerard Hall and New Eddy House in Shirreff Hall.

In September 2004, Dalhousie spokesman Charles Crosby told the Gazette that the residences were closed because they were due for repair, and that he had not heard anything about low application numbers influencing the decision to close Gerard and New Eddy.

The university's newest residence, Risley Hall, opened in the fall, adding 490 spots. But it's now apparent that Dal overestimated the effects of Ontario's double cohort boom, which were largely felt during the 2002/2003 academic year.

"Our residences were filled [that year] and there were waiting lists, even in September, and there were students from Ontario who ended up living off campus who wanted to live in residence, which is the reason we built another residence," says Eric McK-



Dal wants you to live here next year. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

ee, Dal's VP of student services. "But then the demand this year has dropped and we've had vacancies."

Before the construction of Risley, the demand of returning students for spaces exceeded supply, he says.

A lot of revenue was lost this year, Gallivan says, and while operations carried on pretty much as usual, the revenue loss slowed down some projects. The housing office operates on a budget independent from the university and doesn't receive subsidies, Gallivan says, and it has to pay its bills. But he points out there were benefits to the closures: parts of Gerard and New Eddy were renovated without having to move students around.

Over the past 10 years Dalhousie has increased its first-year enrolment, and the number of rez spaces for first-year students has also increased. "An unintentional result of that is that there seemed to be a perception growing that residence was for one year only," says Gallivan.

While Gallivan says he thinks cost is a factor for returning students, he doesn't think it's an exclusive factor. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's October 2004 market survey, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Halifax is \$612 per month, and a two-bedroom sets you back \$746 on average. "For every student the issue of cost becomes more and more significant every year

because university education is becoming more expensive," says Gallivan. The housing office encourages students to look at the whole package when estimating living costs—residence is all-inclusive and offers the convenience of living on campus and having all meals provided.

Some students are moving off-campus in hopes life outside of residence will be cheaper. "It's expensive to live in Halifax anyway, but it's expensive to live here, when you look at how much you're paying for food, and the food you're actually eating," says Kathryn Yuill, a first-year student who is moving out of residence after this year.

Residence fees in 2004/2005 range from \$7,212 to \$8,440 per student per year, including a mandatory meal plan. Residence fees will increase by two per cent for 2005/2006.

Gallivan is hopeful the residences will at capacity next year: he says that applications from returning students have increased 30 per cent over last year, and his office anticipates that all residences will be open and full in the fall.

"We've had a significant increase in the number of returning student applications," he says. "The projections from the Registrar's Office are that the first-year numbers will increase again."

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DEAR: GUY WHO ROBBED ME

Our society is in shambles. Total decency has been lost. Morality is no longer the fundamental basis for how we lead our lives. Perhaps the fact that I was recently robbed has led me to these conclusions, and I am more jaded than normal. Regardless, I firmly believe that our world is decaying right before our eyes. The fact that someone had the testicular fortitude to break into

my house in the middle of the day is not what bothers me, though. Sure, the idea is rather scary as I believe that if an intruder is willing to take the chance of finding someone's home, they're probably not going to leave without taking something, whether that be belongings or human flesh. What has really chapped my ass though, is that the crooks were bold enough to take my

rented movies. Not items I owned, but things I had borrowed from a store. How am I supposed to return them on time and rewind if I don't even have them in my possession? Who steals *rented movies*? Do you plan on watching them? I hope so, because you took them before I had the chance to. So, sticky fingers, if you're reading this, please return the movies on time; it's just common courtesy. I

don't even care about the Playstation II. Society will not work if basic rules like returning movies on time are not followed. The fate of our existence rests in your criminally inclined palms. Whatever happened to robbers like Marv and Harry and *The Wet / Sticky Bandits*? At least they had class.

Vent (Trevor Tynan)

Free Trade American greed?

Jimmy Kapches
Staff Contributor

On March 2, *CBC.ca* reported "A large American lobby group is in court in Montana Wednesday asking a federal judge for an injunction to stop the U.S. government from re-opening the border next week to Canadian cattle." By bringing this lawsuit forward, R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America) seems to wish to drive home the economic coup de grace that has, until now, been slowly killing the Canadian cattle industry for the last two years.

R-CALF USA cites the risk of importing BSE into their cattle herds as the reason for maintaining a brutal embargo on Canadian beef products. Their argument focuses on issues with consumer confidence and the damage their image could sustain if another BSE cow were to amble across the border and wreak havoc among their cash crop.

The sad truth, from the perspective of one Canadian who enjoys the odd slab of Alberta beef, is that greed is fuelling an unjust embargo in an already insane economic climate. The International Trade website of the Government of Canada has the text of NAFTA, and in its preamble it clearly states the desire of the three nations on the continent to "establish clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade."

What then, is so *mutually advantageous* about an embargo on Canadian beef? It is certainly a boon for those Montana Cattlemen who, having no other real competition on this continent, are free to let their cattle, and pocketbooks, graze on that rich pasture that is the beef market of the U.S. Canadian beef producers are being left behind in

a modern day Dust Bowl as their livelihoods shrink to nothing before a government, our government, which seems to only want to apologise.

Apologies are not enough. The people that make up R-CALF USA know as well as we do that the two beef industries in their two respective countries are brother and sister.

Both countries feed their cattle with the brains and other nasty bits of other cattle, be they rendered in Canada or the U.S. Both countries know that BSE is transmitted by the consumption, by healthy cattle, of unhealthy cattle parts in feed. Both countries also know that BSE can occur spontaneously just as it occurs by infection, and still, Canada is looked at as the source of the problem and the scourge of the industry.

Sadly, the U.S. government is happy to abide by the "bullshit" fed to them from their cattle producers. Their respect for NAFTA and their desire to pursue illogical and unfounded pieces of advice from biased-as-anything parties truly epitomises the Bush regime. We are left waiting and watching as the interests of their cattlemen are served before those of international diplomacy, namely with Canada. NAFTA has done little good in recent years, apart from essentially declaring Canada and Mexico first and second wife to the horribly abusive husband that is the United States economy.

Maybe our government should think about making a bit of a scene when next they sit down with one of the many Kings, Queens and Aces of the Bush regime. After all, my new favourite pastime is watching *Fox News* play broken telephone with reality. Any thing we say, can and will be used against us in their court of lies, if it even *makes* the news.

Letters

letters@dalgazette.ca

Rae, a drop of golden sun?

To the editor,

Upon reading the recent article in the *Gazette* entitled "The Future of Tuition" (137:21) I was outraged. To begin with, anyone who has taken any journalism class will tell you that the only place for opinions is on the editorial page(s). Journalists must retain some sort of professional distance from their stories, attempting to set aside any personal bias or opinions. This story flies in the face of such thinking. It is so incredibly biased towards one side of the argument, I am surprised that it was even published.

As for the "merits" of the argument, they are as laughable as they are upsetting. The very notion that deregulation of tuition fees will improve quality and the value of our degree is absurd.

The very notion that deregulation of tuition fees will improve quality and the value of our degree is absurd.

When talking about the real issue involved, student debt, the author states: "I know the burden will be great and the short-term sacrifice harsh." Obviously, the author doesn't seem to realize two important points. First of all, it will not be a "short-term sacrifice." It will be a life long sacrifice. With current student debt-load at \$25,000, most people will require a significant portion of their life to pay that back. Not to mention that low income families will never recover from such a burden.

Secondly, this will make it even more difficult for low and middle income families to enter university in the first place. The

idea behind a university education is not to pad the resume of the upper class, but to provide all people, regardless of how much they can afford, the opportunity to better themselves and to gain an education that will get them a well paying job (hopefully without a crippling debt). Seventy per cent of all new jobs require a university degree. I agree that "Tom Traves shouldn't settle for the status quo in 2008." Tom Traves should be fighting for better funding from the provincial and federal governments in order to lower tuition for students in need.

Alan Hill
VP External Affairs
Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

Greg Hughes' Response:

Sometimes opinion sections have what are known as "opinions" in them. They are, by definition, one-sided and full of bias.

If Alan spent any time at all reading the Rae Review, he'd see that the report makes it very, very clear that Rae's position involves a much larger earmarking of revenues going towards grants and loans for low-income students. Rae's position does more to include as many groups in society as possible.

First-Name Basis

Dear *Gazette*,

Well, I'm glad you got the levy passed so you can continue Dalhousie's tradition of fine journalism—because that's about all this last DSU election was good for. You wrote an issue about student apathy a couple weeks ago—if anything, this election proves that students don't care, and didn't bother to get out and vote. Turnout was around 18%, and some of the most qualified

candidates with the strongest platforms and abilities to make the DSU succeed did not come out on top. This concept of picking whoever is first on the ballot, or whoever has a better picture, has to *stop!* I know the student union seems useless to the average student, but it is relevant! If you don't want to get actively involved, at least recognize that your money goes to this union to fund programming and events. People complain that Dal is "too big" and "faceless," but that is our fault! The blame doesn't lie with the administration or marketing, it lies with the students who don't have enough interest in the environment of their own university to take 15 minutes to find out platform information, and make an educated decision.

People who were involved feel strongly about this election. Democracy took place, but since the electorate didn't care enough to pay attention, effective representation isn't necessarily ensured. Democracy only works if people know their options.

Great job Dalhousie. When the student union becomes fractionate or fails, I hope you remember why you decided to watch *American Idol* instead of taking 15 minutes out of 56 voting hours to cast a ballot.

Emily Dodge

Of Guns and Weeds

To the editor,

With all due respect to Mr. Kapches, it seems he has been misled by Canadian government officials into believing that four Mounties died trying to stop marijuana cultivation. In his letter "Pot: No Longer a Harmless Head Rush?" (*Gazette* 137:22), he states that marijuana smok-

Continued on Next Page...

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Letters@dalgazette.ca, continued

Continued from Previous Page...

ers who don't grow their own are "hypocrites" because they contribute to the miseries of our national police agencies trying to fight Canada's Diet War on Drugs. It is believed that one in three Canadians has used marijuana. However, I wonder... how many own guns?

Immediately after it was announced that these four officers were senselessly killed, some politicians tried to turn marijuana into the culprit. I felt as if I was back in the United States, where I grew up. Why didn't Canadian officials question the nation's gun laws? Was it because the Liberal party has already bungled their first major piece of gun legislation, the infamous two billion dollar gun registry foul-up? It seems that those two billion dollars could have been spent differently. Certainly, it seems that our rural RCMP officers need better training, as many news organizations have reported one of the officers killed was off-duty and unarmed.

Without a doubt, this has been a grave tragedy for Canada. My heart goes out to all RCMP families, and even the family of the killer. However, we should remember that it was a deranged man with a criminal record holding a high powered rifle that

killed those officers, not a weed.

Phil Duguay
Fourth-year history student

Legalization of the Chronic
To the editor,

Jimmy Kapches' article on the crimes committed by the large syndicates trafficking in marijuana (*Gazette* 137:22) was provocative, but put the emphasis in the wrong place. If we want to end the criminal traffic in pot we should call for legalization, not consumer boycotts. During the days of prohibition the alcohol industry was run by violent gangsters. Now the industry is taxed, regulated, and unionized. We would all be better off if pot was treated the same way.

John Dimond Gibson

Is Pot the Problem?

Jimmy Kapches article "Pot: No Longer a Harmless Head Rush" (*Gazette* 137:22) was ludicrous and ill-conceived. I am sick of people using the tragic death of the four Mounties in Alberta to promote their own anti-drug values. It was well known, by family and acquaintances, that James Roszko was a gun-totting sociopath, and clearly mentally unstable, and that those shots fired had little to do with trying to save his pot plants. It is not the

substance that is the issue here: it is the people, and their lack of a moral conscience, that should be addressed.

Furthermore, your argument that people who boycott Starbucks and Nike should also sanction their pot smoking habits is ridiculous. Marijuana is a not a corporately owned product, and therefore your actions would not be heard by any CEO or manager of any company. Boycotting a product is an attempt by the consumer to express their dissatisfaction with a corporation or company's policy or method of conduction business. Boycotting 'pot' would be pointless and idiotic, if it was in attempt to make any kind of statement that was intended to matter.

Lastly, your comment about "coercing families of illegal immigrants shipped in from China to grow plants in their house in Oakville or Mississauga," is ridiculous. I've lived in Mississauga for five years, and I know many kids whose parents are Chinese immigrants and have started businesses from the ground up, proving that immigrants do not have to resort to illegal means in order become successful.

In no way I am trying to downplay or excuse the appalling circumstances of what went in Mayerthrope, AL., but people who try and sensationalize these

tragedies, and point fingers in completely misguided directions only make these situations even more difficult, and unnecessarily complicated, to deal with.

Vanessa Green
Second-year Journalism
University of King's College

Women's Swimming Lessons

The *Gazette*, for me and my roommates, is the bible of Dal. Every Thursday the three of us pick up the new, crisply folded paper and open to read the interesting articles inside. Since we are part of the Varsity sports scene, our favorite section is the sports section. Sadly though, we have been disappointed all year to find that the coverage has amounted to nothing more than favoritism. This is hardly an appropriate portrayal of the varsity season.

Being a part of the women's swim team, I will admit that I am partially biased. However, I also believe that I have 19 other women behind me who agree that women's swimming has been overlooked. I cannot count how many times I have seen articles about the men's team, which is wonderful. But we have many ladies that are very talented, and have brought a lot of excitement to the world of swim-

ming. I believe the crew at the *Gazette* should tell more of the story in their articles, because in my opinion, they are missing the point. The point being that "Dal Swimmers" are not just male or female, one person or two—they are a team, collectively. Although I agree that the most exciting news comes from the teams that perform the best, there are 13 events and stories behind each one of them.

Christine Bajcar
Varsity Swim Team Member

The Sport's Editor's Response:

Based on my records there have been five swim team stories this year. Two were strictly on members of the men's team, two on members of the women's team, and one that included both. Given that I actually train with the team I'm quite aware that there are many talented women swimming for Dal. However, because the sports section has only had three dedicated writers and usually two pages a week, it can only do so much. Any one team that feels they are underrepresented in the sports section is welcome to let me know, or even volunteer to write. But all the complaining in the world is useless if you wait until your season is over to do so.

Michael Gorman, Sports Editor

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If you could sit down with anyone for lunch, who would it be?



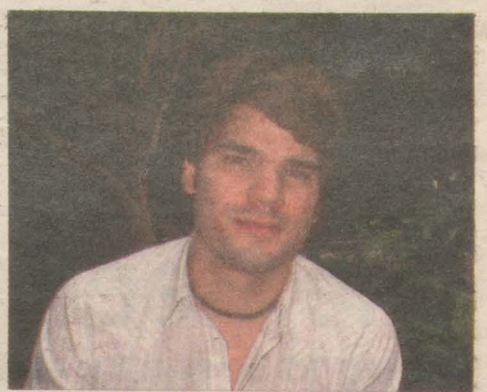
Tiger Woods. I saw him last week in person, but I didn't get a chance to talk to him.
- Alex Pink, first-year law



Chris Martin from Coldplay. Because I love him!
- Katie Edmunds, first-year law



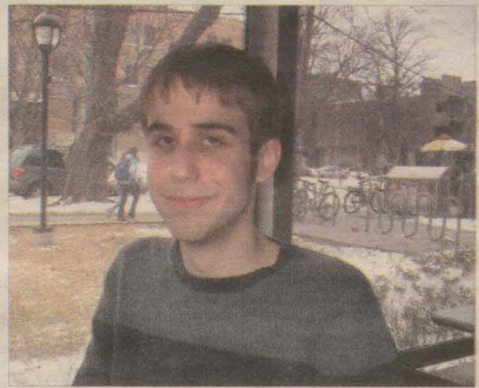
Katie Edmunds. It's been a while since we've had lunch together.
- Jany Gourley, first-year law



Thom Yorke from Radiohead, because there man is a genius.
- Evan Moore, first-year law



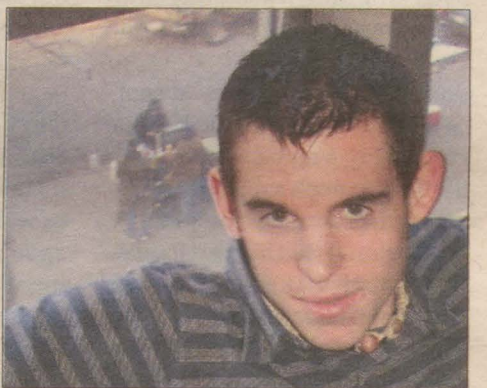
Wilder Penfield, the doctor from the "burnt toast" heritage moment. I'm fascinated by the brain and as a pioneer neurologist, his contribution to the field was fundamental. [no pun intended - Ed.]
- Bronwyn MacLean, fifth-year neuroscience



Edgar Allen Poe. I'd tell him to lighten up.
- Dan Bray, first-year English



Charles Darwin, so that I can say "who's laughing now... bitch?"
- Sarah Watkins, first-year English



I'd meet William Shatner. The women of this planet have begun to bore me.
- Chris LaRoche, retired gypsy shoemaker

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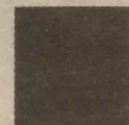
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COFFEE ANYONE?

The Dalhousie Art Gallery is having a Student Coffee House on Monday, March 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. The coffee house will feature the exhibition "Alex Livingston - Paintings 1985-1005," accompanied by the music of DJ LP. Free refreshments. Guided tours of the exhibition will be available on-site, and all students are welcome to attend.

IF IT AIN'T BAROQUE...

...Don't fix it. Monday, March 14 at the Dalhousie Arts Center, Greenberg leads Symphony Nova Scotia's Kirsty Money and Karen Langille in the last Baroque Series Concert of the season. Tickets are priced \$24 to \$30 and can be purchased at the Dalhousie Arts Centre box office.

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN

Halifax's annual fashion highlight, *Wearable Art*, hits Pier 21 National Historic Site on Wednesday, March 30. Proceeds go to the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.; Show begins at 9. Admission is \$9 at the door, \$6 in advance at Venus Envy, the Mid-East Food Centre or the NSCAD Art Supply Store in Granville Mall.

WEAR RED FOR ST. PAT

Swap your green duds for red shimmies on St. Patrick's Day, this Thursday, March 17: go see *The New Breed and Dead Red* at the Seahorse for \$5. Show starts at 10 p.m.

Hot Spots

The Geek Show

It's hip to be square or some say

Natalie Pendergast
 Arts Editor

Since the 1980s, geeks have been wiggling their way into mainstream pop-culture. Gone are the greased-back hairdos of the rebels; a keen breed of snotty-nosed, paper-clipped Glee clubbers has replaced them. But it's not so much the geeks themselves that are now cool. Rather, it's the things that interest them—their hobbies. TV shows like *Beat the Geeks* have glamorized the well-informed by having three reigning geeks duke it out with a guest geek to see who knows the most obscure details about movies, music or television. To win, one must spend hours studying, and studying is for nerds—or at least it was.

Then there was that board game in the early nineties called "Dweebs Geeks and Weirdoes" that we all begged our parents to buy us. All the while computer nerds tinkered around with gadgets and computers, expanding the borders of cyberspace.

It is this last nerd's paradise that Wes Borg and Neil Grahn have come to call home. These "inter-web" fanatics have launched a television series from their website, www.thegeekshow.com. The series is a musically charged *Wayne's World*-esque homage to "what's funny on the internet." Set in Wes' living room (in Edmonton), the tag team creators of the show present site after site of jokes, short film, commercials and animation—all pertaining to the individual theme of the day.

Because themes like politics

and music are often subject to sarcastic, cynical humor, Neil and Wes try to show funny sites that cater to both sides of debate. But the political episode cracks jokes solely at everyone's favorite target, George W. Bush. "By and large Wes and I think Bush is totally bonkers man," explains Neil, "He should be canned." The audience panel is completely leftist as well, but Wes and Neil are unapologetic about their bias. They insist that the beauty of having one's own show is the license to editorialize it.

But editing the footage of the show is another story.

A unique quality of *The Geek Show* is the uncut, unedited reality of the setting. If the unscripted jokes that surface from Wes and Neil's banter receive no laughs

"By and large Wes and I think Bush is totally bonkers man. He should be canned."—Neil Grahn.

from the audience, they not only keep the silence and the straight-faced panel's negative response in the show, but they capitalize on the cheesiness of their failed humor—and it makes them seem all the more geeky, adding a live feel to every episode.

Currently in its second rotation on Access, CLT and Book Television, *The Geek Show's* originators Grahn and Borg dream of the day when media monster CBC catches wind of the comfy cable comedy. But until then, the duo has one goal: to take over the inter-web with like-minded geeks, and make all websites just a little bit funnier.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

Dr. Sex... at Dalhousie?

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
 Sexpert

After spending four years on Dalhousie's campus, I can say that there are certain courses that garner a campus-wide buzz. One course that is a time-honoured darling of the student body is Health Education 4412, more commonly known as Human Sexuality. Dr. Charlotte Loppie has taught this illustrious course for the last seven years, including two special summer sessions offerings of the class. Since that time this class has grown from 60

students to 120 students, and if you think this is a class you can wait to sign up for you better think again: it fills up in a heart-

was originally conceptualized and taught by Dr. Ed Belzer, who taught the class for twenty-five years. Charlotte's professorial

Charlotte's course is not a bunny hop, it is a course held to a high academic standard and the mean grade is never above B.

beat.

Although Charlotte has been involved in the teaching of the class since 1999 when she acted as a sessional instructor, the course

style is very open, which is perhaps one of the only ways to approach sexuality from a scholarly

Continued on Page 14...

Poetry Idolatry

CBC hosts Canada's fourth annual Poetry Face-off

Natalie Pendergast
 Arts Editor

The Grawood stage found four competing wordsmiths in the heat of spoken rhyme last Friday, March 11. Hosted by CBC's Shauntay Grant, the face-off began with local singer-songwriter Jill Barber sweetly complimenting her own beautiful words with soft, string acoustics.

Yarmouth's Tim Merry, whose "Daddy Day" poem catered to the competition's theme of "play," followed the warm opening immediately. With his twangy accent, the young father showed that children's poetry doesn't have to be nursery school rhyme.

The innocent and playful Merry's humor was contrasted by the sarcastic wit and literary comment of Laura Crawford's

poem. After reading a quote from a Derrida essay on "play," the St. FX. English honours student belted out a pun-riddled stream of references to the literary canon, among jokes poking at the foibles of writers' block.

But these foibles seemed all the more trivial when trailed by Zachariah Wells' poem about death. Wells' intense piercing eyes seared through each audience member as he recited his practiced verse. But nobody knew what he was talking about.

Then Outlawed Matter eased toward the mic. The energetic bi-monthly host of the Khyber's Spoken Word has performed her beat-boxed infused poems to the streets of New York, Montreal, Toronto, San Diego and more. Interrupting each nostalgic thought about childhood playtime with

tongue-twisting, electronic sound effects, there was almost more acting, satire, and musical elements to her performance than there was "spoken word." Running through the chronological memories of playground giggles to teenage cattiness, she finally arrives at adulthood—to which her last line critiques by stating: "adults play weird." Outlawed Matter will compete in the National battle from April 4-7 on CBC radio one.

A far cry from the heavy love sonnets of Shakespeare, this new fangled beat-box poetry seems to be more rhythm than rhyme; more spoken than written, more extroverted than introverted. Perhaps this the future of popular poetry: the author never leaving the words, instead of letting the words stand alone.

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Sartorial Eloquence

Vogue Vagabond



vogue vagabond: Lani Flaska, 21, third-year sociology, Dalhousie.
couture obsession: denim: "My guilty pleasure is going shopping for jeans."
fashion icon: Kate Hudson and Kate Bosworth
most embarrassing wardrobe item: huge grey moon-boots
shopping destination: Urban Outfitters and Kensington Market
can't-live-without favorite: "My aviators. I wear them at all times, even when it's raining."
music in her headphones: hip hop and jam bands

on Lani: Boots by Zigi New York. Pants by Diesel. Tanks by C&C California. Sweater by Tabula Babaton. Bag from Urban Outfitters. Jacket from Kensington Market. Watch by Diesel. Bracelets from Destiny. Necklace from Whistler. Earrings from her mother. Sunglasses by Ray-Ban. Rings from Kensington Market.

Photos/Words
Nadine LaRoche



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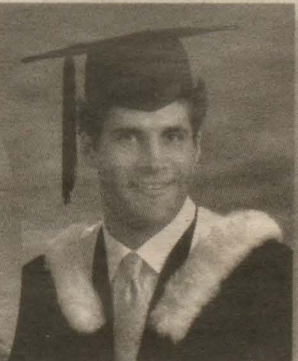
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Spin Spin Sugar

Greg MacPherson Band
Night Flares
G7 Welcoming Committee
Records

There are two things bringing this band down: first, Greg MacPherson's vocals sound like Ed Kowalczyk on a serious dose of horse tranquilizers, and secondly, the name. "Greg MacPherson Band" is non-descript, boring and most disgustingly, follows a trend that went out of the parameters of cool several years ago. Other than these two setbacks, this 11-song LP—the third in his catalogue—has enough rhythmic, punk-based energy to adequately serve as background fuel for all-night studying. In contrast to the aggressive Ramones-esque instrumentals, MacPherson's lyrics are femininely sensitive poems that show deep emotion without being annoyingly self-pitying. All in all, the album shows terrific musical merit, apart from the disappointment of the aforementioned vocals and name.
-Natalie Pendergast

Comeback Kid
Wake up the Dead
Smallman Records

Death punk-metal has really taken a turn for the worst. Although PunkRocks.net proclaims that "*Wake the Dead* will be one of the best hardcore CDs released this year," the album is monotonous white noise. Although the record was produced by the same guy that recorded The Descendents and Black Flag, Comeback Kid sounds like the bastard child of Slipknot and the Misfits. The group is hardcore music gone terribly, terribly wrong—and this eleven-song album, like band's career, is already too long.
-Natalie Pendergast

A Forward
SleeperSetSail
Sonic Unyon Records

Instrumentally, A Forward is skilled and obviously experienced. The creative drum beat flows well with the guitars to make for pleasing and unconventional song structures. The percussion kind of teases the ears by rocking up the rhythm for a while, only to completely miss a few beats when it's least expected. As far as emo-rock goes, A Forward have clean melodies and, well, emotional lyrics. The stark imagery and hints of loneliness and solitude are depressing, but I don't mind because the songs are about lost love and the pain of a broken heart rather than the suicidal, "pity me" themes of many emo bands. The last two songs on this five-song CD are only a few lines each, but they are plenty poignant.
-Natalie Pendergast

The Black Maria
Lead Us To Reason
Victory Records

The Toronto five that make up the Black Maria have done something that most bands don't do these days: instead of fusing two genres together, they've stuck to one and branched out by featuring songs on their album that show they are capable of playing others. The album is completely entertaining all the way through and shows that these young musicians aren't afraid to experiment with other genres—and master them. The most commendable element of the band is the lead vocals of Chris Gray, along with his harmonizing partner, Kyle Bishop. The range and melody of their voices together prove that great vocal harmonies can be pretty in punk.
-Natalie Pendergast

Sexology at Dal popular, continued

Continued from Page 12...

standpoint. This isn't your typical jargon-laden sex education from junior high; Charlotte was once asked to guest lecture in a grade nine class—yet her candid discussion about sex did not garner an invitation back! Still, Charlotte is a valued educator, recently earning a *Coast* popularity poll award for best professor.

Of course, teaching a course in a titillating subject is not a sure ticket to popularity. Just like any subject, there are dry sticklers out there; but that isn't the style that for which Charlotte is known. Rather, she engages her students, striking a brilliant harmony between lecture and open discussion; between medical terminologies and street slang of a sexual nature. In fact, Charlotte's approach is to challenge what the popular consensus is on sexual issues, to consider alternatives in gender such as transsexuals, and to think about sex in later generations, including seniors' sexual desire.

On the flipside of being voted Halifax's favourite professor, Charlotte says it is still "a struggle to have human sexuality considered a legitimate field of academic study." Indeed, there are a great number who view the field

of sexology to be pink, fluffy and marshmallowy... but don't think that this is the case. Charlotte's course is not a bunny hop, moreover it is a course held to a high academic standard and the mean grade is never above B.

At the same time as being an insightful introduction to human sexuality, it is also an environment that is safe, and reflective. Past students have felt comfortable enough to come out to the class. Many develop skills to live a healthier sexual lifestyle, and to provide useful information to peers who are having problems of a sexual nature, including sexually transmitted infections, sexual abuse/assault, and sexual dysfunctions. For Charlotte, this is one of the most rewarding aspects of her work.

The current half-credit course in human sexuality is a lot like foreplay. It is a tease; it builds you up and leaves you wanting more. Charlotte would like to see more courses that might quench the scholarly-thirst of undergraduate, graduate and medical students wanting to learn all there is to know about sexuality. Dr. Loppie is undoubtedly the person to answer this call of duty, and hopefully, will someday be teaching all Dalhousie Tigers about the birds and the bees.

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Wanderlust

Rebuilding the Bahamas

Nicole Trask
Staff Contributor

When Hurricane Juan hit Halifax in the fall of 2003, the city was up in arms about the natural disaster. Perhaps we were a little offended that a hurricane would dare to hit us way up here in safe and secure Canada. There was no question about the priority of repairing and cleaning up our fair city, and the supercitizens banded together to take immediate action.

The situation in the Grand Bahamas is a little different, however.

Last fall, the islands were devastated by not one but two hurricanes slamming the area one right after the other. Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne tore through Florida and the Caribbean, leaving behind some major destruction.

My journey took me to the Freeport, Grand Bahamas, four months after the hurricanes. This is the time of year when I tend to find myself biting my fingernails and staring sadly out my Halifax window trying to pinpoint which snowflake resembles which politician. Inevitably, I seek solace somewhere simple and sunny. After a little research, cheap tickets emerged via the Internet for about three hundred and fifty dollars return to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and after that the Bahamas are a mere boat ride away.

My first impression upon approaching Freeport via the harbor was very industrial; container ships, bland square buildings, and little greenery. Once we hopped on a bus and drove further inland, however, the true nature of the serene Freeport drew us in: Palm trees, blue skies spotted with the fastest moving clouds I've ever witnessed, men

selling anything and everything in the middle of busy intersections, and roads leading to the land of many condos lining the beaches. Port Lacuya and Coral Beach are just a couple of the locales that are perched on pristine white sandy beaches.

Something seemed amiss, though. January and February are usually the peak season around these parts, the Bahamas being a haven for snorkellers, scuba divers and your run-of-the-mill beach bums. So where the hell were all the tourists? The island had an eerie ghost like feel to it, and I would not have been

The well known restaurant that we were excited to go to in the harbor, the one that you could feed the sharks from the balcony overlooking a point was teetering now about to fall to the rocks and waves below.

surprised to see a patch of tumbleweed blow along the beach. The weather was akin to a Nova Scotia day in August and the water temperature was just right, but for some reason most of the hotels remained quiet.

The answer to this conundrum seems to be that the island has not been fully repaired since being knocked down and dragged around by good ol' Frances and Jeanne. The well-known restaurant that we were excited to go to in the harbor, the one that you could feed the sharks from the balcony overlooking a point, was teetering, now about to fall to the rocks and waves below. Nothing

had been done in four months to salvage this tourist attraction.

Although most of the tourist hotels and/or condos have been revived or are well on their way, some of the locals have not fared so well. People all over the island have gone without electricity, some for months, and some people cannot afford to repair their roofs or put on new windows. Those without insurance may face high home repair costs. In many parts of town, entire buildings are nearly abandoned, windows remain boarded up and balconies dangle.

The Grand Bahamas needs your help revive the economy. The islands boasts some of the cleanest beaches to be found, and the appeal of a beach scattered with loungers is much lovelier than a beach packed with wall to wall greased-up sun worshippers, don't you think?

Choosing Freeport, Grand Bahamas for a get a way is a clever choice. Deals can be found on accommodations, if you're not afraid of staying somewhere with a missing shingle or two. UNEXSCO, the scuba diving school located in Port Lacuya, offers amazing snorkeling excursions, open water reef dives, and dolphin swims. The locals are friendly and the air travel price is right, especially if you travel via Florida. For me, it's not about how shiny and new the buildings are, or if all the trees stand at attention. Rather, it's about the natural beauty of blue skies, a multitude of coral reefs and the opportunity to live "the island life", if only for a little while...



Report Card

The Metric System

Venue: Jean-Pierre's
Date: Sunday, March 6, 2005
Reporter: Natalie Pendergast
Photographer: Rafal Andronowski
Stage Presence: A
Audience Reaction: A
Creativity: C+
Effort: A
Get-It-On-Ability: A

The funk-fused Metric System has had a stable Sunday night gig at Jean-Pierre's for some time now, and for great reasons. The soulful group plays their fine set of covers consistently, including favorites from James Brown, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye. The hat-headed crowd was the cool-cucumber, smoking kind, all wearing tinted glasses and swiveling practiced hips in time to the energetic drums and melodic electric keyboards. The nearly-full bar erupted in roars of approval as guest singer Rebecca Muyr took the stage to belt out a couple of ditties. Lead singer Jeff Mosher was especially dynamic as he shed his wholesome "boy-next-door" appearance with an oozing, sensual voice.

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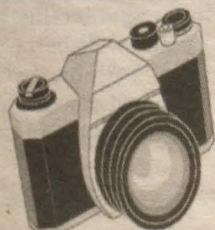
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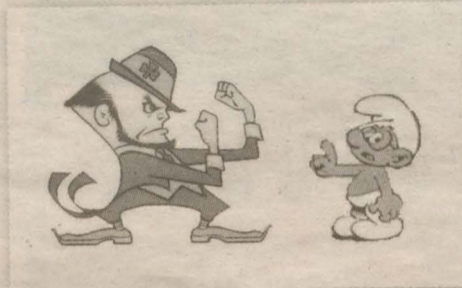
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Happy St. Patrick's Day



Chris Fedora
Sextant Guru

Attention: At the time of the release of this issue of Gazette, it will be St. Patrick's Day. Regardless of what day it actually is, this article is intended to be read as if it were St. Patrick's Day. For those of you who did not take the time to let the second sentence sink in, this means that even if it is next Tuesday, you are to imagine, while you are reading only this particular article, that it is in fact St. Patrick's Day. Two reasons form the basis for this rule: 1. No matter what day it actually is, there is no day better than St. Patrick's Day... except maybe if your birthday is on Christmas, and you get married on that day... but only if the honeymoon sex is good; 2. I will be re-enacting St.

Patrick's Day every day until this article is nowhere to be found again. If you feel you cannot comply with the rules of this article, then just avert your unimaginative cranium to another, less creative article... say, something by Chris LaRoche, or go watch an Elizabeth Chiu news story.

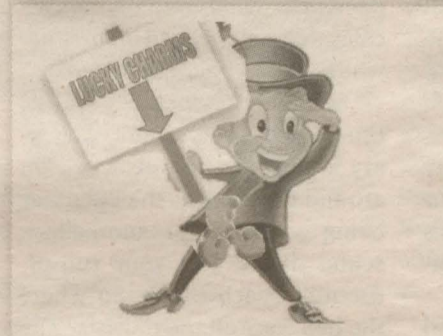
Well, Kiss Me Blarney Stone! It's St. Patrick's Day again and everyone knows what that means. No, not go to church and pray to god... what makes you think this is a holy day? Geez. It means it's time to PARTY... and eat entire boxes of Lucky Charms in one sitting! It's time to drink all the green beer you possibly can, find some drunken guy or girl, and have yourself a little smooch... and maybe a kiss. It's the single most important day for those people who deeply enjoy the color green; short guys get more chicks than any other time of the year, and it's that one and only day of the year when it's OK to be Irish.

While each person does something different on March 17, pretty much everyone over 7 involves some sort of alcohol in their celebrations. I know I will

be no different. The only problem is... what to do? Sure, you could just see where the night takes you, and that might turn out alright. But, you might also end up stuck in a line that stretches from Brunswick St. to the Balkans, and have to resort to going to Shoppers and downing 14 bottles of

There is no day better than St. Patty's Day... except maybe if your birthday is on Christmas, and you get married on that day... but only if the honeymoon sex is good

Listerine to get the desired buzz level in order to have your wild night. You'd have great smelling breath, and internal organs for that matter, but hotties don't hang out in the toothpaste isle like that show on TV.



in the background.

The following is a rundown of what I am planning on doing to make this St. Patty's Day the most memorable one ever:

1. Start drinking early... we're talking addiction problem early.
2. Wear nothing but green clothes, including my Incredible Hulk undies.
3. Get a green condom. (Note: if green condom cannot be found, I may paint my penis green to achieve the desired effect.)
4. Try and talk with an Irish accent... although I always tend to slip into some sort of Dutch one whenever I do this, so I may abandon this idea.
5. At various points in the evening, ask girls to "Kiss Me Blarney Stone".
6. Find a short person dressed as a leprechaun, or possibly an actual leprechaun, and pick them up high in the air and dance with them to the sound of Irish flutes

7. Repeatedly, out of the blue in conversations, grab my crotch and exclaim, "They're Always After Me Lucky Charms," and look around suspiciously.

8. Dry hump the most leprechaunish-looking lawn gnome I can find.

9. Hop from Irish pub to Irish pub, find the one with the best looking girls, go over to the corner, piss on the wall to mark my territory, claim it as my own, and call it Fedoroland.

10. At the end of the night, while semi-conscious, stagger back to the T-Room and pass out on the greatest patch of green this side of the Emerald Isle... their green stained carpeted floor.

So there you have it. That's how I am going to spend today (remember it's St. Patrick's Day while you read this). Thanks to St. Patrick's Day, everyone can be Irish for a day. Man, it's never been so fun to live a lie.



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Faculty of Health Professions Senate Review

The Dalhousie Senate is conducting a regular review of the Faculty of Health Professions. The purpose of the review is to improve academic activities and provide information for planning, budgeting and other decision-making processes.

The Senate Review Committee for Health Professions (chaired by Dr. Russell Boyd, Department of Chemistry) is seeking information from all interested parties and is open to your comments and concerns. All faculty, staff and students of the Faculty of Health Professions are particularly invited to participate in the review. Appointments can be arranged to meet with the Senate Review Committee and/or the two external reviewers who will be on campus from Monday, May 16th to Wednesday, May 18th for a site visit. The external reviewers are:

Dr. Cynthia Baker
Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
Queen's University
and

Dr. Denis Prud'homme
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Ottawa

Any person wishing to meet with the Senate Review Committee is asked to contact Michele O'Neill by Friday, April 22nd. Any person wishing to meet with the two external reviewers is asked to contact Michele O'Neill by Friday, May 6th:

Michele O'Neill
Office of Institutional Analysis and Research
Life Sciences Centre, Rm 1336
Dalhousie University
Phone: 494-2328
Fax: 494-2001
E-mail: michele.oneill@dal.ca

Written submissions are particularly welcome and should be addressed to the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Health Professions and forwarded to Michele O'Neill at the above address no later than Friday, May 6th.

DUSCES News & Events

As the term comes to a close, so do the events that are going to be held on Sexton Campus. The final party at the T-room before we get in to the drudgery of exams will be the toga party on March 31.

We expect to see all of you there showing off your finest bed sheets.

There will also be an end-of-term BBQ on April 7, held in the common room.

Thank you to everyone who has come out and made this year a success at Sexton Campus.

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CIS Track and Field Results:
Dal men - 16th over all
Dal women - 3rd over all

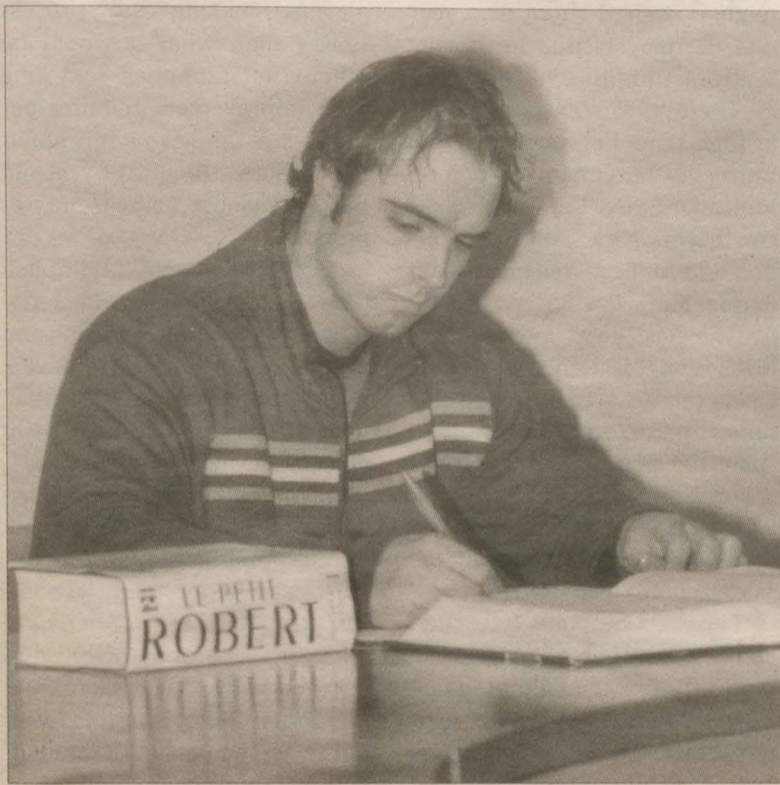
Adrienne Power won gold in the 60-metre, 300m and teamed with **Leanne Huck, Lauren Grant and Alician Dobranowski** to win the 4x200m relay.

Power's time in the 300m was a new CIS record and is one of the 20 fastest in the world. For her dominance she was named female track athlete of the year.

Hilary Burn struck gold in the 3000m while **Leanna MacLean** picked up a silver medal in the 1500m and bronze in the 1000m.

Sports Briefs

No March Madness For Perras This Year



Perras is hoping to get into teaching. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Mike Tweedale
Staff Contributor

A varsity athlete's career inevitably cycles through a series of high and lows, yo-yoing between adrenaline pumping success and the bitter agony of defeat. The peaks are as memorable as the valleys are deplorable and at the moment, few on the Dalhousie campus better understands this reality than Tigers' goaltender, Jean-Francois Perras.

This time last year, Perras was backstopping the men's hockey team towards a berth in the CIS championship, where the 6'1" 190 pound arts student would kick aside all but one of 41 shots fired at him by the most explosive offence in the country, en route to a 4 - 1 win over the Alberta Golden Bears in the bronze medal game.

This year however, things are a little different.

Following a sub-par year between the pipes and insolvable offensive problems, the team faded into the abyss, failing even to make the AUS play-offs.

Currently, Perras is not dwelling on what might have been. While finding his groove in the classroom, the man behind the mask admits to have faced the reality of the team's situation weeks ago when their season had finally grinded to its sputtering end.

"Our expectations were probably a little high this year," he said. "We didn't have the same depth as we had had the two years prior. Halfway through the schedule, it wasn't difficult to see that there were big challenges ahead. We convinced ourselves that hard work would fill the gaps and help us find a way to com-

pete, but admittedly, we pulled-up way short."

Perras, a four-year veteran of the Ontario Hockey League, became interested in Dalhousie after learning of the AUS hockey league's reputation and talking with current head coach Fabian Joseph.

"I became interested in coming out east because university hockey here is renowned as a very competitive league," he said. "After talking with Fabian, it was a best-fit opportunity." Perras arrived here in 2002.

In choosing Dalhousie, academic considerations were secondary for the Ontario native, but for someone more accustomed to life between the pipes than life processing information on pieces of paper, this confession hardly seems surprising. But, priorities aren't relevant now that the starkness of academic demand and no hockey stare Perras square in the eyes.

"One can't replace hockey," he said. "Regardless of its outcome, the end of the season is tough, and the transition to doing something else is a real challenge. It's tough to focus on the job at hand with lingering thoughts and ideas about playing."

The fluently bilingual 23-year old is currently pursuing a degree in French and sociology. The staid character of any successful goalie isn't hidden from Perras as he justifies his major choices.

"I have a background that motivates me to study French, and because two areas of study are required for application to teachers college, I needed to decide on a second. I chose sociology because... well, to be quite honest, I find it really rather intriguing."

Dalhousie Tigers Season Reviews

Jenn Casey
Staff Contributor

This is the second part of the Gazette's review of the varsity teams at Dal.

BASKETBALL

Men's
GP- 20 (4PW- 0 2PW- 5 L- 15)
home: 4-6 away: 1-9 F: 1315 A: 1413 Pts: 10
Last in the AUS — no playoffs

It's probably a season that they'd like to forget. Despite high pre-season expectations, the Tigers finished the regular season in last spot, 42 points from first-place St. FX.

There is a glimmer of hope on the horizon, though, and it's called next season. The team stands to lose only four players. Let's just call this season a "building season."

Women's
GP- 20 (4PW- 4 2PW- 10 L- 6)
home: 7-3 away: 7-3 F: 1361 A: 1237 Pts: 36
Third in the AUS — lost in AUS quarterfinals

The ladies stuck around the middle of the pack for most of the season. But come season's end, the ladies were on a roll and it looked as though something good was brewing on the court.

But the St. Mary's Huskies halted the Tigers' momentum early in the AUS championship with a 65-62 overtime win in the quarterfinals.

Tigers' star Ryan MacKay garnered first team all-star recognition—averaging more than 14 points per game.

"She's a quiet leader, she leads by example," says AUS Coach of the Year Carolyn Savoy. "She's a

quiet person and rather humble. But she's one of our best players."

VOLLEYBALL

Men's
MP- 20 (MW- 19 ML- 1) home: 10-0 away: 9-1 GW: 59 GL: 9 Pts: 38
AUS Champions — fifth nationally

As has been the case for the past 25 years, the men's volleyball team dominated the AUS. And, as has been the case for the same amount of time, the men's volleyball team fell short of a national title.

"A big part of it, is just making sure that we're seeded fairly high going into the tournament," says AUS Coach of the Year Dan Ota. "And the only way that's going to happen is if we put some good results out there before March."

The nationally ranked-fourth Manitoba University knocked the Tigers out of contention in the first round, three games to two.

Women's
MP- 20 (2PW- 10 1PW- 7 ML- 3) home: 10-1 away: 7-2 GW: 57 GL: 19 Pts: 27
AUS Champions — lost in first round of Nationals

The women had a goal at the beginning of the season to regain the AUS championship, last won in 2003. They achieved that goal, finishing first in the AUS and rolling to the championship with an impressive win over St. Mary's.

"I think there's a lot of teams that have improved and solidified over the past few years," says coach Kirk Yanofsky. "So we're

Continued on Page 19...

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Water Polo Returns to Dal



Dal polo players will be looking to put on a show this weekend.
Photo: Dan Sax

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

Water polo may be new on the scene here at Dalhousie, but for Grahame Jastrebski, it's old hat. The Dal student started playing in high school in Kitchener, Ont. While studying as an undergrad at Waterloo University, Jastrebski swam competitively. But because he had used all of his eligibility, when he came to Dal he was looking for something

new—and that's where Dal's water polo club came in.

This weekend the club will have a chance to exhibit its polo prowess: Dal is hosting its first water polo tournament in over a decade.

The tournament will feature five teams—two from Dal, one from UNB St. John, one from Tracadie and possibly a team made up of Dalhousie alumni.

Dal's water polo club was started last year by coach Nicko-

lay Shulga, a former water polo coach in Europe and himself a former player. Jastrebski says the popularity of the group is showing.

"Last year we had about 20 players, and this year there are 20 women and 15 men playing."

It's this dynamic that makes playing fun, says Jastrebski.

"I don't mind playing with girls," he says of the non-traditional co-ed set up. "They're just as vicious as guys. This team is open to everyone, we're always welcoming new people. The newbies improve so fast that it really doesn't matter what level you're at when you come in here."

Christian Tschirhart is proof of that. Tschirhart heard about the team through a friend and decided it would be a good way to get involved in something outside the classroom. A former swimmer in high school, he says what he enjoys most is Wednesday nights when the group splits into teams and plays one another.

Because the club does not have varsity status, players front most costs themselves. This was the case in November when the team traveled to St. John, N.B. for a tournament.

But they do get some help.

"We get some money from the DSU and our pool time is free, which is just amazing," says Jastrebski. "It's really great that they do that for us."

The tournament is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday March 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A scrimmage and skills competition takes place on Sunday, March 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tigers Already Looking Forward to Next Season

Peter Milne
Sports Contributor

Talking with John Campbell, the Dalhousie men's basketball coach, you get the feeling that next year's team will be one to watch out for. After playing the last game of the season against St. FX. March 3, Campbell doesn't have his head down about the season. Campbell already is excited about next year and the players that he is currently recruiting.

There are many possibilities as high school players make the university attendance choices. From Ontario, Campbell likes two players: Nick Snow from London and Andrew Wedemire from Sarnia. Snow is a 6'7" post player who has "good moves down low"—and his father played at Dal in the 60s. Wedemire is a 6'6" impact player with the ability to "play the perimeter". Wedemire is currently playing in AAA OFS-SAA (Ontario High School Championship) and he will be visiting the school soon.

Locally, Campbell is excited about a number of players, so many that he could not name them all. He feels that Nova Scotia and the rest of the Maritimes "has a lot of basketball talent," and recruiting Atlantic high school players is his "number one focus." Campbell is especially interested in recruiting local players as he believes they have an affinity for the Maritimes.

Moving from Atlantic high school basketball to Atlantic university basketball is a natural progression for players. Campbell says that local players raise community interest in the program, which is important. Local players he mentioned included Peter Leighton, who plays for St. Pat's High School in Halifax, and Mark McLaughlin of the Halifax

Grammar School. Leighton is a 6'0" guard who is an excellent shooter and just competed at the Nova Scotia High School Championships. McLaughlin is a 6'2" point guard who has the ability to run the show. He also played at the Nova Scotia High School championships.

As it stands, Campbell feels the team is in a rebuilding stage. His vision is to "recruit young players, making the process slower than what it would be otherwise." Campbell said long term improvement requires patience and thinks that it is unfair to compare "18- and 19-year-old rookies against 23-year-old seniors."

Basketball wise, Campbell feels that Dalhousie offers potential players an excellent and unique opportunity. "We have a personal approach to basketball here," he says. "I want to help players develop to their maximum potential. Blue chip players have the opportunity to come in and potentially play immediately, which not many schools can offer. Here, players can have a bigger role and be involved in the rebuilding of a program."

Monte Francois, a third-year business management student and returning guard from Scarborough, Ont., is looking for improvements next season. Specifically, he would like to see more running and less set offence, noting that a lot of the recruits for next year are guards, which could allow for this.

Francois adds that he would like to have more support from the students and community. More fans give "more confidence when you are on the floor," he says. "Acadia is always loud. When you go into the gym, it is tough to play because of the noise and heckling, it catches you off guard."

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The Maritimes Provinces: A hotbed for hockey talent

Joe Ryba
Staff Contributor

Legendary Nova Scotia sportscaster Pat Connolly said it best: "On the ice, the Halifax Mooseheads and the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles are fierce competitors, but off the ice, they are partners in bringing major junior hockey to Nova Scotia."

The QMJHL's Maritime expansion experiment began in the fall of 1994 with the birth of the Halifax Mooseheads. The league then expanded to New Brunswick in 1996 with the Moncton Wildcats. The instant popularity in the two cities prompted some Quebec based teams to relocate to the Maritimes, resulting in the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, the Bathurst Titan and the PEI Rocket.

The Maritime teams have done well at the gate in their respective cities boosting the leagues attendance figures. In addition to fans, the Maritime players have improved the calibre of

play. This was apparent recently as the only two players from the QMJHL on Canada's 2005 World Jr. Team were N.S.'s Sidney Crosby and Steve Dixon.

Besides the revenue from the Maritime teams, the league is excited about having the exclusive rights of the Maritime players—meaning only QMJHL teams can draft Maritime players. Currently there are 54 Maritimers in the league, including 25 from N.S. alone. While it's no secret that Cole Harbour phenom Crosby has lit every league he's played in on fire, some other upcoming stars are worthy of the spotlight.

The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles selected forward sensation James Sheppard first overall in the 2004 QMJHL entry draft. Sheppard, a Sackville, N.S. native, tore up the N.S. Major Midget Hockey league in 2003/2004. At just 16 years of age, the Eagles have a dynamite player in the 6'2", 205-lbs forward. Sheppard was a member of Team Atlantic Canada at the World Under-17

Championship this past Christmas, and was an integral part of their bronze medal performance. The grade 11 student has a bright future as NHL scouts project him to be a superstar.

The Mooseheads used their first pick in the 2004 draft to select Sheppard's Dartmouth Subways teammate Ryan Hillier. Hillier also possesses a great deal of skill and talent. He may be a bit behind in his develop due to lack of ice time on a veteran Mooseheads club but the Hammonds Plains, N.S. native also helped Team Atlantic to win bronze at the world under 17's. To complement Sheppard and Hillier, two other Nova Scotians, Chris Culligan and Bryce Swan are making names for themselves in the QMJHL. Culligan plays with Sheppard on the Screaming Eagles rookie line. In Culligan, the Eagles have a player with great vision and great hockey sense. Culligan also suited up for team Atlantic this past Christmas.

Dal Tigers Season Review, continued

Continued from Page 17...

going to have to come out and work for every single point of every match."

At nationals, the Tigers lost to the eventual champions in the first round and were relegated all the way to an eighth place finish.

SWIMMING

Men's
AUS Champions — finished sixth at nationals

As usual, the men dominated their conference. At the conference championships the men's swim team finished with an incredible 269 points—almost double that of the next best, 139 by UNB leading to their seventh straight conference banner. But domination in the AUS doesn't always mean there will be success on the national level.

With only seven men qualifying for nationals the men were

shutout of the medals finishing sixth with a 185-point showing. UBC won the top spot, collecting 750 points.

Women's
AUS Champions — finished ninth at nationals

As was the case with every meet during the year the ladies also dominated the Dalhousie-hosted AUS championship, finishing with 285 points.

At the CIS championship meet, the ladies collected 164 points, good for a ninth-place finish. Again, UBC dominated nationally picking up 680.50 points.

Kiera Aitken, named the top swimmer at the AUS championship, won silver in the 50-metre backstroke and bronze in 100m at the national meet.

TRACK & FIELD

Men's
AUS Champions — 16th at nationals

Claiming the AUS title seemed a little too easy for the men: they finished with 148 points, and their closest competition, St. Mary's, had 87. Nationals was another story—at the championship, they fell a bit short of their hopes for a top ten finish, ending up tied for 16th place.

"We need all guys stepping up because the competition is really tight," says coach Dan Hennigar. "It may come down to one or two guys stepping up."

Joshua Davidson was awarded the AUS MVP while Paul Chafe, who also runs cross-country, received the AUS Athlete of the year.

Women's
AUS Champions — for more see the Briefs on page 17



Paul Chafe
Track & Field

Paul Chafe is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Chafe was the lone point-scorer in the men's track and field Tigers contingent at the CIS championships this past weekend. The cross country standout made his mark in the distance event and placed sixth in the 3000m run. Putting Dalhousie on the board, he led the team to a sixteenth place finish at the national event. Chafe is a fourth-year History and Biology student from Railton, ON.

Athletes of the Week



Adrienne Power
Track & Field

Power finished her university career at the CIS champs this past weekend as one of the greatest sprinters in CIS history and led the team to a third-place overall finish. She finished the meet a triple-gold medalist and remained undefeated in her 300m career and undefeated over the past two seasons in the 60m. Power's 300m run was impressive as she smashed the CIS record; taking over four-tenths of a second off of the previous mark earning her a spot on the world all-time top 20 list. In the 60m event, Power won by another impressive margin running one of the fastest times in the meet's history. She also anchored the 4x200m relay team, where she received the baton in third place and over ten meters behind. Power flew past the lead teams to win the event by over a second; running a 23.1 relay split. Power was named Female Athlete of the Meet. At the pre-competition awards brunch she was also named Female Track Athlete of the Year and won the Student-Athlete Community Service award for her combined excellence in academics, athletics and community service. Power is a fifth-year Commerce student from Eastern Shore, NS.

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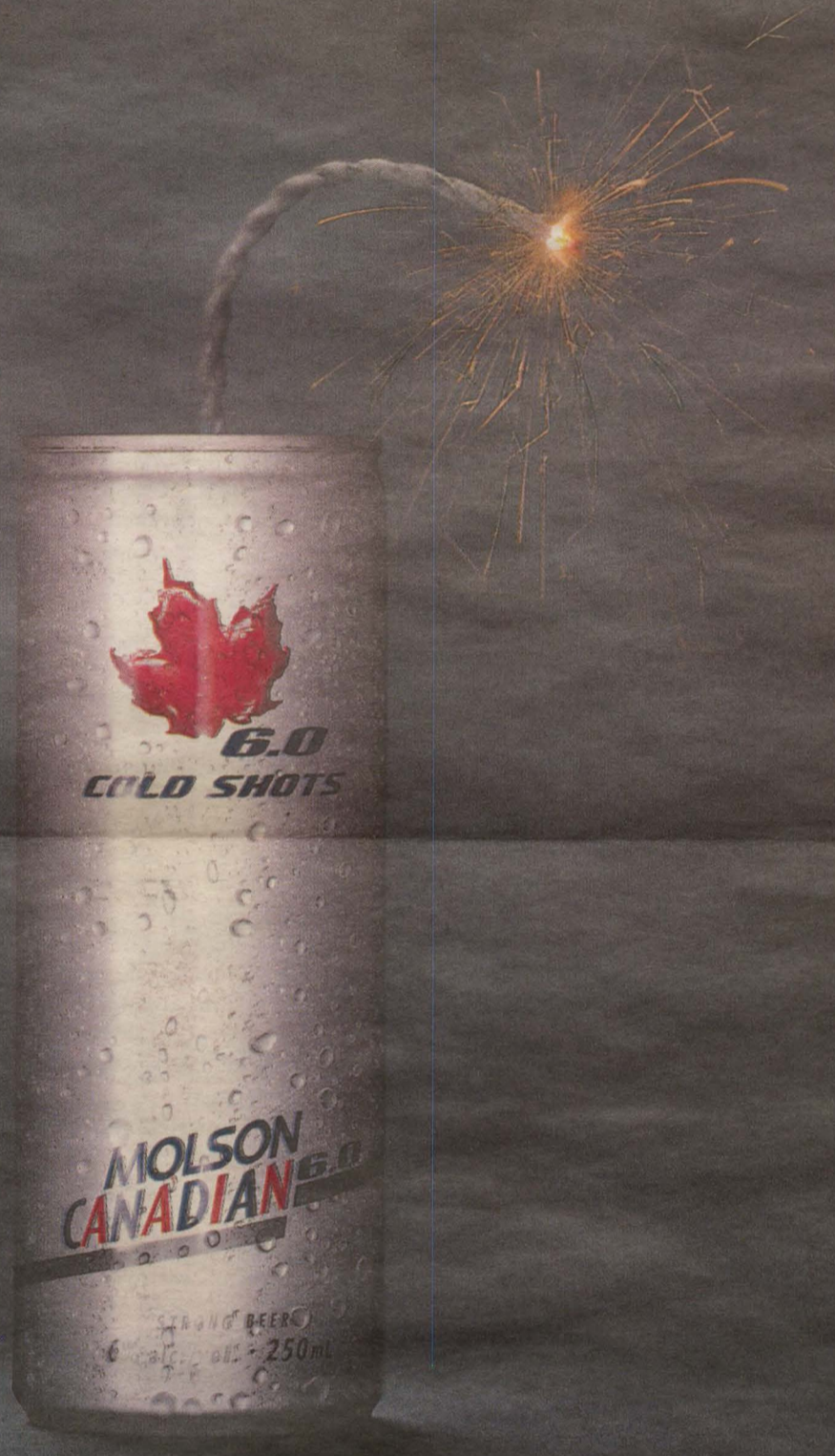
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