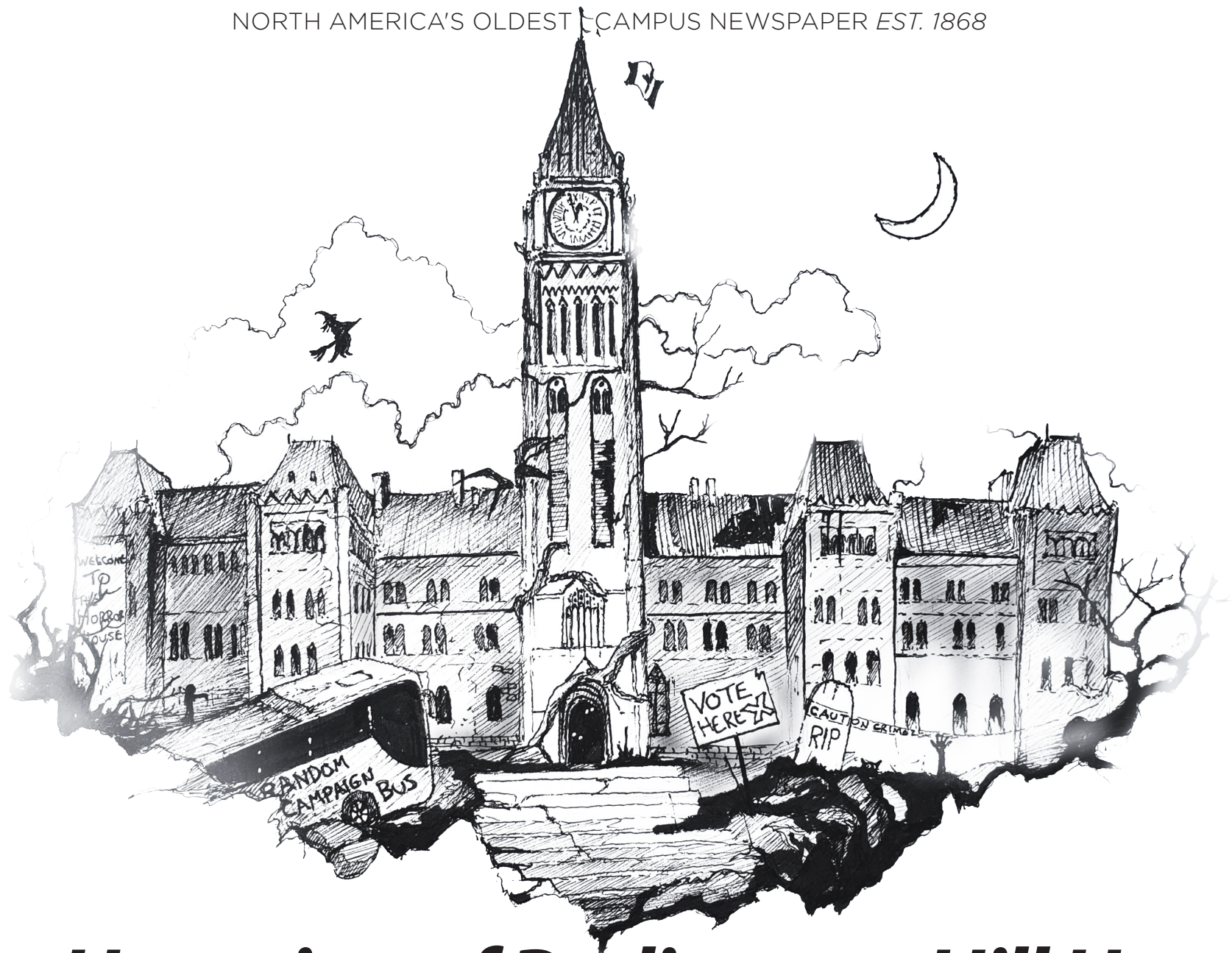


OCT. 18-31, 2019 | ISSUE 152 - 4

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NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST CAMPUS NEWSPAPER EST. 1868



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DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST CAMPUS NEWSPAPER
EST. 1868

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What scares me

Reader, I've been watching a lot of creepy movies this month, but I can't deal with "post-apocalyptic" settings anymore. They make me think too hard about Earth's future.

On Oct. 7, people gathered in the Macdonald Bridge toll plaza to protest and raise awareness of climate change. Halifax Harbour Bridges and Halifax Regional Police decided to close the bridge (including walkways and bicycle lanes) and some Haligonians exclusively blamed the Extinction Rebellion protest group.

I wasn't there. I can only speak based on the reports I saw from journalists at the scene, as well as the takes sprawled across social media. However, I feel disheartened by the anger towards the protesters. Whether I personally agree with the method of protest isn't the point. The level of pearl-clutching over a protest that caused inconvenience for one morning doesn't bode well. It's inconvenient to think about how our actions impact the world's climate. It's not supposed to be convenient.

Rebecca Dingwell

- Rebecca Dingwell, Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS

In issue 152-3 (Oct. 4, 2019), a News section article ("New street signs at Sexton" by Kaija Jussinoja) erroneously stated "Dalhousie announced new campus street names that honour two Black Nova Scotians." In fact, the streets are not named after two Black Nova Scotians — Mathieu Da Costa was Black (but not from Nova Scotia) and Norma Eddy was white.

A Sports section article in the same issue ("Cross-country runner's advocacy" by Ilyas Kurbanov) mistakenly stated that Jacob Halloran founded both the Studley and Sexton campus chapters of jack.org. While Halloran founded Dal's Studley chapter of jack.org, Laura Flick is the founder of the Sexton chapter. The *Dalhousie Gazette* has corrected the online version of these stories and apologizes for the errors.

Students head to polls

Youth make up the largest voting bloc

BY STEPHEN WENTZELL

For the first time in over 50 years, students and youth make up the largest voting bloc in the upcoming federal election. This puts pressure on political campaigns to address issues advocated by youth and enact meaningful change if elected.

The Canadian Federation of Students - Nova Scotia (CFS-NS) is once again partnering with Elections Canada. The partnership had a successful pilot during its 2015 campaign aimed at increasing the amount of polling stations on university campuses. After seeing a nearly 20 per cent increase in the student and youth vote in the 2015 election, CFS is increasing the number of on-campus polling stations from 70 to 115.

CFS-NS has a new campaign underway — Time to be Bold. The campaign urges voters to be #BoldAtThePolls; students should be demanding change from politicians and voting for candidates who have developed platforms that reflect issues concerning youth.

The campaign has four main pillars, says Kassidy Bernard, an organizer with CFS-NS and bachelor of design graduate from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. These pillars encompass fairness for international students, learning rights for Indigenous students, a livable wage and climate for all and ultimately: free and accessible education.

Lianne Xiao, chairperson of CFS-NS says "the first goal of the campaign is to make sure students go out to vote."

More barriers, more voters

Nova Scotia has simultaneously one of the lowest minimum wages and highest tuition rates in the country. This creates barriers for students seeking post-secondary education in the province. These barriers have hit international students in particular, who saw an 11 per cent increase in tuition at Dalhousie for the 2019-20 school year.

"Students are being crushed by debt and the rising cost of tuition, and we want to see a plan to tackle access to education and the climate crisis," says Xiao in an August press release. "Students are and will be watching what parties are saying about our issues."

Xiao says that special ballot polling was available on campuses throughout Halifax between Oct. 5-9, giving students and youth additional time to cast their ballots.

"Just from those numbers alone, I'm excited to see how many people are coming out and going to the polls," they say. "Every vote counts. I hear this all the time 'oh, my voice doesn't matter,' but actually,



THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - NOVA SCOTIA PARTNERED WITH ELECTIONS CANADA TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ON-CAMPUS POLLING STATIONS. PHOTO BY ISHMAEL N. DARO

it does in a big way."

CFS-NS hosted a student issues debate on Oct. 8 at the University of King's College featuring candidates running for member of parliament in the Halifax riding. The debate provided students the opportunity to put candidates in the hot seat regarding the climate crisis and barriers to free education.

Christine Saulnier of the NDP and Jo-Ann Roberts of the Green Party attended, while

Liberal incumbent Andy Fillmore and Conservative candidate Bruce Holland backed out the day of the event.

Social media informs

Kassidy Bernard, who recently began an illustration and design business with her sister in Cape Breton, won a competition to have a "sticker" featured on Instagram users' stories during the election period. Her sticker, an interactive button on the social media platform, tells followers "I voted, have you?"

Bernard hopes the sticker will give incentive to students and youth voters. Instagram users can create "group stories" that show a list of your friends who have already gone out to the polls. Her sticker will become accessible on Instagram stories in the three days leading up to election day.

Facebook has also partnered with Elections Canada, during this campaign period, to install an alert on its News Feeds that remind and encourage voters to register. Bernard believes it's good that social media networks are using their tools to inform Canadians about the upcoming election. "That's where a lot of people go to get information anyway."

Main concern: climate

The climate crisis is a primary student issue this election period (read more on page 4). Our Time is a youth-led movement across the country dedicated to creating a Green New Deal for Canadians. With a Halifax branch, Our Time held a "Green New Deal Town Hall" demonstration on July 6 to encourage a climate debate with federal leaders. "The government we elect on Oct. 21 will lead us through four of the 11 years we have to transform our economy," reads the Our Time website.

"Voting is a form of harm reduction," says Kassidy Bernard. "It's basically one of the quickest, simplest, easiest, most convenient ways to advocate for what you want by voting. It takes 10 minutes."

Don't know who to vote for? Read our party round-up. (page 6).

Students are the environmental voting bloc

Strong and immediate climate action a priority for youth

BY MADELINE TANG

The Oct. 21 election comes just one month after the K'jipuktuk-Halifax Week of Climate Action. In a series of interviews in *The Guardian*, youth voters in Atlantic Canada have identified climate action as one of their top priorities as they head to the polls this month.

Youth voter turnout (ages 18-24), according to Elections Canada, has consistently been among the lowest of the age groups since 2004. This year, it is the largest voting bloc.

"This is the kind of election where it's particularly important that young people come out and vote and express their views," says Anders Hayden, a political science professor at Dalhousie University.

While environmental issues have been at the forefront of elections in the past, the tone has shifted this time around, Hayden says, with more emphasis placed on the importance of strong and immediate climate action.

This added sense of urgency comes, in part, due to the series of climate reports released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) over the last two years. The 2018 report states that in order to prevent global temperature rise from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius, CO2 emissions will need to be reduced by 45 per cent by 2030.

Environmentalist David Suzuki, in an interview in Halifax, said "we have to make some big decisions and we've been given a very narrow window by the IPCC."

"I believe that this is the most important election, certainly in my lifetime." He has lived through 23.

Andrew Bergel, a professor in Dalhousie's College of Sustainability, says students generally want to vote, they're just uninformed. "I find sometimes when I talk to younger voters that they almost feel like they don't know enough to vote."

Halifax and its universities have been tackling this problem by hosting debates with local candidates.

Halifax candidates' climate plans

On Oct. 3, 2019, Halifax member of parliament candidates were invited to participate in an environmental debate at the Ummah Masjid and Community Center. The debate was host-



THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN HALIFAX'S CLIMATE STRIKE ON SEPT. 27 FOR THE WEEK OF CLIMATE ACTION. PHOTO BY CHRIS STOODLEY

ed by the Ecology Action Centre as part of the 100 debates initiative. It acted as an opportunity for the MP candidates in attendance to talk about how they would implement federal environmental platforms if they end up being elected.

Christine Saulnier, Andy Fillmore, and Jo-Ann Roberts, MP candidates for the New Democratic Party, Liberal Party and Green Party respectively, were in attendance. Bruce Holland, the Halifax MP candidate for the Conservative Party of Canada, was not in attendance.

The debate covered topics such as water and air pollution, the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the importance of meeting the targets set out in the Paris Agreement and adaptation and mitigation strategies surrounding the impacts of climate change.

"I find sometimes when I talk to younger voters that they almost feel like they don't know enough to vote."

At the debate, Christine Saulnier (NDP) talked about plans, at the federal level, to increase accountability around climate action and to transition towards an energy industry based more on renewable sources. She also touched on the NDP's commitment to protect, with law, the right to a healthy environment.

Andy Fillmore, Liberal Party candidate and current Halifax MP, outlined past accomplishments that the Liberal Party has seen, including reducing the margin by which Canada had been on track to surpass the carbon emission targets set outlined by the IPCC. He

also expressed the Liberal Party's commitment to respecting legislation such as UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Jo-Ann Roberts, candidate for the Green Party, commended the recent student mobilization

for climate action and outlined her party's plan to meet the demands the students have made. She also touched on the Green Party's plan to create a climate cabinet that would lessen the partisan divides on climate action that currently exist.

An ongoing battle

Climate action has been at its peak in the last few months: it doesn't end there.

While voter turnout and voting for climate action are important heading into the election, Andrew Bergel added a reminder that no matter the outcome, the mobilization of voters seeking strong climate action should continue beyond the election.

"None of the parties you're going to vote for are going to give you all the things you want environmentally," he says. "You have to hold them accountable in the sense that this needs to be something that's ongoing, not just during an election, but also during the governance part."

Creepy streeters

“What scares you the most about October?”

BY KAIJA JUSSINOJA

ALL PHOTOS BY KAIJA JUSSINOJA



“Election day, because of the withdrawal after it’s all over. The campaigning is so juicy!”

Jacob Burchell, 20
Political Science student



“Finding the perfect Halloween costume: one that’s both slutty and creative.”

Lara Van De Venter, 19
Law, Justice and Society student



“That I haven’t started my Christmas shopping yet.”

Matt Hickey, 18
Psychology student



“I think October is a beautiful month both in its holidays and its expression. The world around us feels like it’s going to sleep but it feels like everybody’s waking up. The only time of year it’s acceptable to have a morbid curiosity and explore your fears.”

Jacob Semcsuk, 28
Philosophy student



“The election. It’s rainy season in the political climate.”

Grace Rowan-Quansah, 18
History student



“October is one of those months where things happen that you don’t expect ... October is sometimes bright, sometimes dark, sometimes amazing, sometimes a bit scary. But — something always happens.”

Diidier Korongo, 28
History student



“Skeletons — I just don’t like them. The fact that they have no skin is weird. And how did they come to be scary? Everybody has them.”

Annie McCarthy, 19
History student



“Midterm season. Lots and lots of midterms. It’s like: boo! Midterms! Spooky!”

Nick Harris, 19
Political Science student

Party time!

A round-up of political parties running for the forty-third Canadian Parliament

BY LANE HARRISON

The federal election, on Oct. 21, is quickly approaching. Still don't know who to vote for? Here is the *Dalhousie Gazette's* guide to federal parties running, including their campaign promises (or lack thereof) on student issues.



JUSTIN TRUDEAU. PHOTO BY WOMEN DELIVER

Liberal Party of Canada

Leader:
JUSTIN TRUDEAU

Halifax MP candidate: Andy Filmore (incumbent)

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP candidate: Darren Williams (incumbent)

Campaign promises

Education:

- Giving full and part-time students up to \$1,200 more per year, through increased Canada Student Grants.
- Graduates will not have to start repaying student loans until their salary reaches \$35,000 a year; repayments will be on hold if the salary drops below that.

Climate Crisis:

- Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 nationwide. They will form a committee of scientists, economists and experts to develop recommendations on how this will be achieved.
- Two billion trees planted, "over 10 years," according to a press release.

- Ban single-use plastics by 2021.
- A new technology and commercial support fund to help Canadian producers of clean energy expand.
- Put in place a carbon price in 2019 of \$20 per tonne, increasing \$10 each year to \$50 in 2022.

LGBTQ2S+

- Banning conversion therapy nationwide, and introducing it in the Criminal Code.
- Investing \$10 million a year, over the next three years, to help LGBTQ2S+ organizations hire staff, expand services and reach more people.
- End the ban on blood donations by men who have sex with men.
- Investing \$2 million a year in the pan-Canadian 24/7 mental health hot-line to ensure members of the LGBTQ2S+ community receive the support they may need.

Women's Empowerment

- Address gender gaps in medical research and care by creating a national institute for women's health.
- In 2011, Trudeau had stated that he is personally against abortion but supports a woman's right to choose. During a campaign event in Quebec City, he said that he is now completely pro-choice and no longer feels he has the right to be against abortion.

Indigenous Rights

- Address all critical infrastructure needs, including housing, internet and schools, in Indigenous communities by 2030.
- Eliminate all long-term drinking water advisories in Indigenous communities by 2021.
- Fully implement the Indigenous Languages Act to protect Indigenous languages.
- Reduce the number of Indigenous children in foster through the implementation of the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families.



ANDREW SCHEER. CREATIVE COMMONS

Conservative Party of Canada

Leader:
ANDREW SCHEER

Halifax MP candidate:

Bruce Holland

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP candidate: Jason Cole

Campaign promises:

Education

- No specific proposals at the time this was written (Oct. 10).

Climate Crisis

- Put an end to dumping raw sewage in waterways.
- Emitters who produce more than 40 kilotons of greenhouse gas per year must invest in private-sector research and development of clean technology.
- Increase the energy efficiency of cross-border trucking through regulatory negotiations, and encouraging the research and development of eco-friendly transportation.

LGBTQ2S+

- Would "propose laws that protect the

rights of LGBTQ Canadians," says Andrew Scheer. No direct commitment has been made to ending conversion therapy.

Women's Empowerment

- "I am personally pro-life," Conservative leader Andrew Scheer said on in the Oct. 8 federal debate. However, if elected, he said his government would do nothing to restrict access to abortions.

Indigenous Rights

- No specific proposals yet but Andrew Scheer has rejected the use of the word genocide by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



JAGMEET SINGH. PHOTO BY BGM RIDING ASSOCIATION

New Democratic Party (NDP)

Leader:
JAGMEET SINGH

Halifax MP candidate:

Christine Saulnier

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP candidate: Emma Norton

Campaign promises:

Education

- Eliminate interest on federal portion of student loans.
- Increase access to Canada Student Grants, in an effort to move away from loans.

Climate Crisis

- Reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions to 450 megatons by 2030.
- Increase federal funding towards low-carbon transit projects, while modernizing and expanding public transit.
- Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies.
- Ban single use plastics by 2022.
- Make 100 per cent of all new automotive sales "zero-emission vehicles" by 2040.
- Create a new Canadian Climate Bank and spur investment into low-carbon economies.

LGBTQ2S+

- Establish a comprehensive plan to address violence against LGBTQ2S+ people.
- Ban conversion therapy.
- Add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the Employment Equity Act to counter disadvantages experienced by queer and transgender workers.
- Expunge the records of LGBTQ2S+ Canadians in the armed forces who were given dishonourable discharges.

Women's Empowerment

- Develop a National Action Plan to end gender-based violence.
- Implement and enforce pay equity legislation and regulations.
- Will promote domestic violence leave in workplaces.

Indigenous Rights

- Invest \$1.8 billion to lift all drinking water advisories by 2021.
- Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation.
- Introduce Indigenous People's Day as a national holiday and a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



ELIZABETH MAY. PHOTO BY GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

The Green Party of Canada

Leader:

ELIZABETH MAY

Halifax MP candidate:

Jo-Ann Roberts

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP candidate:

Lil MacPherson

Campaign promises:

Education

- Eliminate post-secondary education tuition.
- Forgive existing student debt held by the federal government.
- Remove 2 per cent cap on increases to funding for the education of Indigenous students.
- Eliminate Registered Education Savings Plans.

Climate Crisis

- Stop all new fossil fuel projects.
- 100 per cent of Canada's electricity coming from a renewable source by 2030.
- \$100 million per year, over the next four years to create Indigenous-led protected and conserved areas.
- Have at least 30 per cent of freshwaters, oceans and land protected by 2030.
- Ban single use plastics by 2022.

LGBTQ2S+

- Begin funding a program within Health Canada to support community-services offering mental health and wellbeing assistance targeted to the LGBTQ2S+ youth community.
- Ban medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.
- Ban conversion therapy.
- End the ban prohibiting men who have sex with men to donate blood.

Women's Empowerment

- Develop an action plan to end violence against women and gender-diverse peoples.
- Make the sex work industry legal.
- Investment of \$40 million over four years in the Shelter Enhancement Program, to provide new and renovated first-time shelters and transition houses.

Indigenous Rights

- Upgrade infrastructure to end drinking water advisories.
- Implement all calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.
- Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Dismantle the Indian Act, while allowing self-governing Indigenous communities to "opt out" of the Act while the dismantling process takes place.



YVES-FRANÇOIS BLANCHET. PHOTO BY MARIANNLI ON FLICKR

The Bloc Québécois

Leader:

YVES-FRANÇOIS BLANCHET

No local candidates

Campaign promises:

Education

- Support the creation of a francophone university in Ontario.
- An increase in the Canada Social Transfer to correct post-secondary underfunding.
- Increase in research at universities.

Climate Crisis

- Asking the federal government to use taxation as its main deterrent of climate change.

LGBTQ2S+

- No specific proposals at the time this was written.

Women's Empowerment

- No specific proposals at the time this was written.

Indigenous Rights

- Supports the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Work towards administrative autonomy for Indigenous communities in Quebec.
- Address Quebec's labour shortages by incentivizing the creation of jobs for and hiring of Indigenous people.



MAXIME BERNIER. PHOTO BY PARTI CONSERVATEUR DU QUÉBEC

The People's Party

Leader:

MAXIME BERNIER

Halifax MP candidate:

Duncan McGenn

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP candidate:

Michelle Lindsay

Campaign promises:

Education

- No specific proposals at the time this was written.

Climate Crisis

- Bernier denies the climate crisis. No plan for climate action.
- Looks to grow the fossil fuel industry in Canada.

LGBTQ2S+

- The People's Party does not have a unified platform on social issues.

Women's Empowerment

- The People's Party does not have a unified platform on social issues.

Indigenous Rights

- Reaffirm the federal government's power to approve natural resources and infrastructure projects on Indigenous lands, after consultations with affected communities.
- Explore replacements for the Indian Act.
- Promote the establishment of individual property rights on reserves.

Strategic voting is a cyclical system

Vote for who you believe is the best candidate

BY ANTOINETTE O'KEEFE



STRATEGIC VOTING IS WHERE SOMEONE VOTES FOR A PARTY THAT IS MOST SIMILAR TO THEIR VALUES AND HAS THE HIGHEST CHANCES OF WINNING. PHOTO BY ISABEL BUCKMASTER

Strategic voting should not be as popular as it is today. The point of democracy is to have your individual voice represented and heard by the government, not be reduced to a body of general principles that you may or may not believe in. So why are people so wrapped up in strategic voting?

Strategic voting is where an individual votes for the party that is most similar to their values and who has the best chance of winning. It is meant as a preventative measure to ensure that the individual feels as if their vote will count and that they won't just be throwing it away.

However, if voters concerned themselves less with how other people voted, and more on how they actually felt about political issues, then (theoretically), there would be less accusation about how the voting went and disagreement with the government that

gains power. It is our responsibility as voters in a democratic system to cast our ballots in a way that best represents our individual beliefs.

Obviously, there is a fair amount of hullabaloo and fuss over any and every election. For this election, it is irrelevant whether or not youth have been more exposed to the issues that are ever more present in our day to day lives; strategic voting is an issue that has been brought up in almost all of the election-oriented conversations I've had.

Speak up

To be candid, it is the coward's way out. Speak up for yourself. Speak up for what you

believe is moral and just, because if enough people do that then we have a fighting chance to have a truly representational government. Our ability to vote is a responsibility in itself,

but on top of that, each individual has a responsibility to express their opinions.

Yes, it is important to consider others in our votes, but why not consider others in the sense of how each party's platform will affect demographics of which you are not a part of? Why not consider those whose voices historically have not been heard and need support, rather than considering others because you want to vote against them? By having a positive voting outlook rather than a

negative one towards it allows for the voter's voice to be more authentic.

This is not a dismissal of the fear of splitting the left, which is so valid and real, but strategic voting is not the answer. If people voted for the party that most aligned with their personal ideologies at this time in their life, while considering the future of not only our country but the world, the worry would shift from "who is our leader and what do they represent" to "what are our government's actions?" This is a more important consideration.

The lesser evil

Our current electoral system is not perfect; it is spoken of as the lesser of the other "evils." But that does not imply that is the stance we need to take while working within that system. The upcoming generation of first-time voters, should not need to worry about strategic voting as youth outnumber the boomers for the first time. If the majority of other generations are voting on the basis of their personal beliefs, why should we do any different?

People are better informed than ever before. We all live in echo chambers of our own making, and we cannot forget about that, however, strikes and demonstrations that have been led by young activists is real, undeniable proof that there is support and solidarity around big issues.

Actions speak louder than words. However, words, more often than not, inform the decision making that leads to action. By having candid and respectful discussions not only with people who agree with your values, but particularly with those who you have contention with, has a much higher chance of change than shying away from those conversations.

Although it may result in having a tense conversation around the dinner table or over the phone, consider addressing and challenging ideas that you do not believe in. You should not expect that you can make someone change their mind, but it is worth the time to reflect, evaluate your beliefs, and to show a new perspective to someone else.

If the democratic system is supposed to represent the voice of the people, the voters need to stop being so hesitant to vote for who they believe is the best candidate. Strategic voting is not the answer.

Why debt matters

Debt is a key topic this election

BY VEER GANDHI

One of the most important topics up for debate in the upcoming federal elections will be whether Canada needs to run deficits or move towards minimizing spending and balancing the federal budget.

Deficits occur when the government spends more money than it generates in revenue and a balanced budget, which usually leaves a surplus, occurs when spending is less than or equal to the revenue collected. As reported by the Canadian Press in 2018, a report from the federal finance department projected that the federal budget won't be balanced until 2040 (21 years after the Liberals promised). Both the Conservative and Green Parties of Canada have promised to balance the budget within five years, while the NDP's stance still remains unclear. This brings up an important question, why is it important to have a balanced budget?

A balanced budget

One of the reasons a balanced budget is prioritized is because there is always a risk of having to face an economic recession. There is no doubt that when major global recessions (such as the financial crisis of 2007) occur, they cause significant problems for all the impacted economies. This becomes evident in lower spending, higher unemployment rates, lack of investments and capital expenditure and they inevitably lead to lower government revenue. At such a time, it almost becomes a necessity to run deficits, which are added to the national debt.

However, running deficits in moderate economic situations is a totally different case. It just adds to the total debt, which leads to increased amounts of yearly interest payments. When recession strikes, the whole problem gets even worse and leaves the economy in a very vulnerable situation since there is no saved money, and the interest payments are just increasing.

Now compare that with a balanced budget, or a budget with a surplus. In the case of the latter, the government will actually save money every year which they can decide how best to spend. This could go towards saving for a rainy day or an eco-

nomie recession, or paying some of the debt off which would actually decrease the interest payments, protecting industries from emerging trade wars or even reinvesting it in some important part of the economy. The point is, by balancing the budget, the country can gain a strong foothold in the event of unexpected catastrophe.

Interest payments

Another key problem with running deficits is the increase in interest payments. This simply means that more money is given to the wealthy people who lend the money. The current amount of interest payments is over \$28 billion every year. And just for the sake of comparison, in 2018, Canada's budget for defence was \$25 billion. All these interest payments are paid by taxpayers. So, if, in the future interest payments become too expensive, then the government would need to increase its revenue to pay them off. To increase its revenue, the government has an easy and simple solution, which is to increase your taxes. So ultimately, you or some future generation will have to pay for the cost of the deficits that are accrued today.

Are there any benefits to running deficits? Yes, there are, depending on your preference.

As discussed above, running deficits is quite common for governments during a recession. The reasoning behind it is simple, by borrowing money, the government has more to spend on areas they believe are important. For instance, it can be on infrastructure, housing, roads, or pretty much anything the government finds worthy. Investments can spur economic growth, increase services and create jobs. All of which are good signs for any economy.

However, many benefits and services are only good in the short run, and the problem with deficits is that they won't just vanish. No matter how many part-time jobs are created, or how many services are provided, if deficits are run, then the two key issues I discussed still stand. The question



IN 2018, A REPORT FROM THE FEDERAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT PROJECTED THAT THE FEDERAL BUDGET WOULDN'T BE BALANCED UNTIL 2040 — 21 YEARS AFTER WHAT THE LIBERAL PARTY PROMISED. PHOTO BY CHRIS STOODLEY

that comes up is whether the short term benefits of borrowing outweigh the existential threat of economic recession, the cost of increasing interest rates and the long term benefits of a balanced budget.

For me, the answer is no.

"Living within our means" is a common phrase used by some of the party leaders and I agree with it. Just because you can have something without having to pay for

it immediately doesn't mean that there is no cost for it. This is why debt matters. No matter what you spend borrowed money on, it is still borrowed money and creates a cost that needs to be paid. That cost will become evident at some point, not necessarily in our lifetime but maybe in our children's lives — whether it is through higher taxes in the future, or cuts to important services.

The decline of trick-or-treating

Where did this tradition go?

BY JORDAN GALBRAITH

Who from North America doesn't remember getting all dressed up on the night of October 31, in their costume of the year, pillowcases in hand? Who doesn't reminisce about the neat costumes they wore over the years; cowboy, astronaut, witch, zombie, Superman? And yet, every year we see less and less little costumed souls running around on All Hallows Eve — what happened to trick-or-treating?

A time-honoured tradition

Trick-or-treating is a time-honoured tradition where I come from. Growing up in Hants County, I got dressed up and collected candy from my neighbours every Halloween. Almost everybody in the subdivision had bowls of candy or boxes of chips to hand out in the evening, but as the years went by, more porch lights remained off during trick-or-treating hours, and more doors remained closed to our excited knocking.

My mother and grandmother always kept a running tally of how many trick-or-treaters they got each year, so as to be prepared with the appropriate amount of candy the following year. Those tallies have been steadily diminishing over the years. Now, the numbers are at a point where I think it's safe to say that trick-or-treater numbers are half of what they were when I went out on my first Halloween, at the fresh age of four days old. I think the reasons behind this decline in trick-or-treaters are numerous, including helicopter parenting, an aging population, low-income housing, technology, and accelerated maturity.

Don't take candy from strangers

If trick-or-treating is broken down to its core, you're allowing your children to knock on strangers' doors and take candy from them. What's one of the first rules you teach your kids? It's "don't take candy from strangers." Many of today's parents tend to overprotect their children and ending the tradition of trick-or-treating could be a symptom of this new-fangled method of parenting. I



PHOTO BY JORDAN GALBRAITH

don't have any children myself, but personally I don't agree with this new era of helicopter parenting. Some modern-day children grow up so coddled and protected that they don't know how to handle the real world.

Another factor is access. The early baby boomers are becoming elderly and they make up a large percentage of the population. As people get older they are less inclined or less able to go out and purchase candy and they don't have the mobility to be jumping up every few minutes to greet children at the front door. Today we see a lot more single parents and low-income families, and more times than not, these families reside in apartment buildings. Children living in apartment buildings may be able to trick-or-treat within the building, but are less likely to venture out to other areas, especially since many apartment buildings in the

Halifax Regional Municipality have no close-by subdivisions.

Trick-or-treating aside, children in this era are spending less time outside in favour of spending more time indoors using technology. Whether it's lying in bed scrolling through Instagram on their phones, surfing the internet on the computer, or sitting in front of the TV watching Netflix or playing video games, it is undeniable that technology has negatively affected the outdoor activity level of our children today. I suppose some children see it like this: "why would I go walk around the neighbourhood for hours just to come home with a pillowcase of candy, when I can go out and buy my own candy and sit at home while I enjoy it?" Don't get me wrong, this doesn't describe all children, but there are some children out there who can't be bothered with our traditional Halloween antics.

Accelerated maturity

Accelerated maturity also has a large effect on our trick-or-treater numbers. Speaking from experience, children are getting introduced to teenage parties before they're teenagers and they're getting drunk before they even start high school. This is obviously a major problem outside the realms of Halloween, but that's another story. While I got dressed up and went out with my friends to knock on doors, the majority of my peers went to parties to get drunk. Starting in about Grade 6 or 7, trick-or-treating lost its draw and alcohol lured away many of our trick-or-treaters.

There are scores of potential explanations as to why North America has watched its trick-or-treater numbers dwindle. Nobody could truly say for sure what the reasons are, they can only speculate as I have. Regardless... I say we bring back trick-or-treating!



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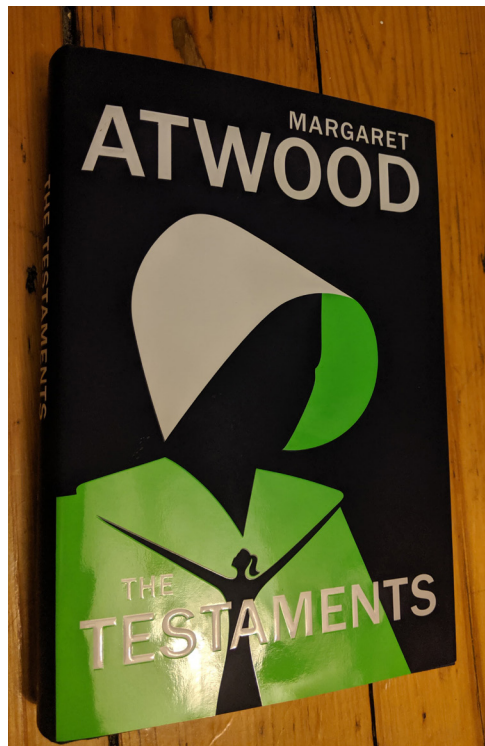
Margaret Atwood speaks at the Halifax Central Library

The renowned author came to promote her new book, *The Testaments*

BY NELLY BATEMAN



ON OCT. 3, AROUND 400 PEOPLE WATCHED MARGARET ATWOOD TAKE THE PODIUM AT THE HALIFAX CENTRAL LIBRARY. PHOTO BY LARRY D. MOORE



THE EVENT WAS HELD TO PROMOTE ATWOOD'S NEW BOOK, *THE TESTAMENTS* -- A SEQUEL TO *THE HANDMAID'S TALE*. PHOTO BY NOAH HARRISON

The first impression you get from seeing Margaret Atwood in person is the contrast between her literal size and the size of her monumental reputation in literature.

On Oct. 3, Atwood was dwarfed by the podium at her sold-out event at the Halifax Central Library. The event was held to promote Atwood's new book *The Testaments* — the sequel to 1985's *The Handmaid's Tale*, which is currently famous for its TV adaptation on Hulu starring Elisabeth Moss.

Paul O'Regan Hall typically holds 350 people, but for the buzz of the event, the event coordinators pushed the capacity to 400 according to Kasia Morrison, the marketing and communications coordinator for the Central Library.

A memorable event

The hall was an ocean of middle-aged women decked out in green and blue to honour the colours on the cover of the new book. The room felt orchestrated to generate maximum anticipation for the moment when the 79-year-old award-winning author would take the stage.

Librarian Jocelyn Covert, who introduced Atwood, spoke reverentially of the author.

"We're so lucky to have her to shine a light on our goodness, to call out our cruelty, and to bear witness, in her inimitable way, to our humanity," Covert said before Atwood took the stage.

During the onstage interview, Atwood

seemed aware of her cult following. The interviewer, Alexander MacLeod, an English professor at Saint Mary's University, mentioned the "niche, handicraft vein" of *Handmaid's Tale*-related crafts and costumes. Atwood recalled seeing her fans protest against a highly sexualized *Handmaid's Tale* Halloween costume available online. She called these fans her "enforcers."

At one point of the interview, MacLeod began pushing the question of "southern politics" in relation to *The Testaments*.

Atwood simply replied, "Why don't we just come out with it?" and proceeded to speak directly about American president Donald Trump. She continued by asking MacLeod, "what else did you want me to say about it?" when MacLeod brought up impeachment.

Atwood and activism

During the interview, Atwood seemed bent on separating her activism from her fiction.

According to her website, Atwood is an honorary president of the Rare Bird Club through BirdLife International — a group of non-profit organizations striving to conserve birds and their habitats. She was also the president of The Writer's Union of Canada, which advocates for Canadian writers and their issues. These causes are only tangentially related to women's rights. Nonetheless, her readers seem determined to interpret her as an authoritative feminist voice.

Ali Sharer and Rae Brown, two attendees who won tickets to the talk through the Central Library, share this opinion, but for different reasons. When asked about the feminist reading of Atwood's novels, Brown said she thinks Atwood's feminism is a necessary perspective to have in the world. Sharer disagreed. To her, Atwood's feminism is "not an optimistic view of the fe-

male experience in the world."

Perhaps Sharer is right. Is reading Atwood's works as essentially feminist unproductive? The reality is that women come from all kinds of racial, socio-economic, health and sexual backgrounds. These backgrounds don't reflect themselves in Atwood's works. The characters in *Handmaid's Tale* are race-less, classless and heterosexual, but flesh-and-blood women do not have the privilege of experiencing the world from this "purely" feminine perspective. Women have intersecting identities that Atwood does not reflect on in her works.

In 2017, when the Texas state senate tried to pass anti-abortion legislation, a group of women protested by sitting in the senate chambers in *Handmaid's Tale*-inspired outfits, reported *Slate* magazine. These protestors — and the ones who took up the trend in the proceeding months — were overwhelmingly white, and so was the Paul O'Regan Hall on the night of Atwood's talk.

A woman and a literary icon

While she didn't shy away from the podium during the Central Library talk, Atwood seemed more intent on talking about her writing process, her environmental activism and her thoughts on totalitarianism more than she was on contemporary feminism.

Atwood remains a literary icon. However, maybe instead of reading her as a uniquely authoritative feminist commentator (a role given to her by white feminists), it would be better to keep in mind the flesh-and-blood woman in Paul O'Regan Hall. This woman speaks with irony and honesty; she does not claim her opinions are facts and she *never* claims that her opinions are universal. She is merely one exceptionally eloquent and observant person commenting on her experience of the world around her.

Zombies, swords and laughter

Local theatre companies present horror-comedy *Hamlet* spin-off

BY ALEX RINCON



THE CAST AND CREW OF *ZOMBLET* REHEARSE FOR THEIR SPECIAL HALLOWEEN SHOW. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA OLIVER, MADELEINE TENCH, AUDREY EASTWOOD, LARA LEWIS, NICK COX AND MICHAEL KAMRAS. CROUCHING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATERINA BAKOLIAS, COLLEEN MACISAAC AND MELANIE PATTEN. PHOTO BY ALEX RINCON

Halloween season has come around yet again. This month, there will be no shortage of local events celebrating this spooky holiday. Among them is the brand-new theatre production *Zomblet*.

From the Villain's Theatre and Terra Novella Theatre comes a play with an entirely new take on William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The play asks the tantalizing question: what happens when zombies come to the royal castle of Elsinore?

The Villain's Theatre is no stranger to plays from Shakespeare's time. According to their website, the non-profit theatre compa-

ny has been "staging the beautiful and challenging plays of the Renaissance" since it was founded in 2009. Like the Villain's Theatre, Terra Novella is based in Halifax, but was only founded in 2016. The two companies decided to collaborate to create this action-packed adaptation of a classic Shakespearean tragedy.

An entirely new spin

The premise of *Zomblet* is much spookier than Shakespeare's original play. In the wake of his father's bizarre death, titular

character Hamlet and his Danish friends are confronted with a new evil that threatens to destroy their kingdom: an unholy zombie plague. The heroic characters must then get down and dirty in order to save Denmark.

According to writer and director Dan Bray, audiences should not come to this show expecting to see a typical Shakespearean *Hamlet* production, but with zombies.

"This is something else entirely," says Bray, who is also the artistic director and founder of the Villain's Theatre. "It uses the [original text's] idea of someone encountering something supernatural and it's just kind of spiraling out from there. In the original, Hamlet sees the ghost, and in this one, Hamlet sees the zombie. That is largely where the plot similarities end."

The Villain's Theatre artistic producer Colleen MacIsaac describes the show as *Hamlet* meets *Shaun of the Dead* (the 2004 apocalyptic zombie film).

Putting it together

So, how exactly did this kooky, creepy production come together? It all started with an idea Bray had.

"I've always loved Shakespeare and I love horror movies and I just thought it would be a fun thing to play with," he says. "It just kind of got away from me."

Bray says the next thing he knew, members from the two independent theatre companies were rehearsing action scenes for the play together. But it's not just Bray taking

charge of all the fun on stage.

The cast and crew have been keeping busy bringing *Zomblet* to life. Actor Nick Cox, who is playing Hamlet, is also doing the lighting design and the music. Audrey Eastwood, who plays the character Ophelia, is in charge of set design and fight direction. MacIsaac is the production manager but it also performing and taking care of sound design.

"The cast has nine people in it and there's a bunch of other people working on the show," says Bray. "Everybody's doing triple duty."

"In the original, Hamlet sees the ghost, and in this one, Hamlet sees the zombie. That is largely where the plot similarities end."

A show for many audiences

It certainly seems like the cast and crew's hard work putting this show together will pay off to bring an entirely new and fun experience for

all kinds of audiences.

"If you're a Hamlet scholar, you're going to get a lot out of the show," says MacIsaac. "If you've never seen Hamlet and have only seen *Shaun of the Dead* and like zombies, then you're also going to like the show."

Zomblet will be playing every night from Oct. 23-27 at The Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street.

"It's got so many strange and different elements in it from all this amazing group that's working together to create this thing," says Eastwood, "and once it gets going, it's a pretty non-stop ride from start to finish."

This new production is all about action, horror and comedy. What better time of year than Halloween to witness all of these elements brought together?

As Cox says, "'Tis the season to experience the joy of being afraid!"

The Lighthouse is a maelstrom of terror

The new horror film stars Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe

BY ALEX RINCON

Roger Eggers' *The Lighthouse* is a thrilling experience only made better by the film's technical brilliance. It was filmed in Yarmouth and was screened during FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival in Halifax this past September.

Real horror

The Lighthouse doesn't rely on cheap jump-scares and recycled horror tropes as so many films do these days. This is the kind of horror film that gives the audience a deep sense of unease by building tension slowly, albeit a bit too slowly at times.

The film begins with almost no dialogue at all. It takes a while for the audience to find out what the premise of the film actually is. The two main characters are to stay alone on a small isolated island to take care of its lighthouse for four weeks.

It is easy to enjoy the comradeship that develops between lighthouse keepers Tom (played by Willem Dafoe) and Winslow (Robert Pattinson). However, just as the audience begins to feel comfortable and even amused by the dynamics that develop between the two, the film turns into the maelstrom of terror and madness that gets more and more horrifying the longer the two men stay in isolation.

The outstanding performances given by both Dafoe and Pattinson convince the audience that there isn't a sane bone left in either of their characters' bodies by the time the story reaches its conclusion.

A technical masterpiece

The plot of the film is just as mad as its characters. As the narrative progresses, the line between the real and the imaginary is blurred beyond recognition. It is impossible to figure out the difference between truth and lies, and what is real and what isn't. Nor can the characters' motivations ever truly be known. Answers are the one thing this film lacks, and it is all the better for it. What's more distressing than not knowing the truth?

This deep sense of discomfort is only aggravated by the film's unconventional yet remarkable cinematography. The first thing anyone will notice when watching the first shot of the film is the black-

and-white cinematography and small aspect ratio (size) of the frame. Whenever a film chooses to ignore core cinematic conventions audiences come to expect, it seems, more often than not, that these choices come from the filmmaker's desire to stand out more so than it is about what the story needs.

This, however, is not the case for *The Lighthouse*. The lack of colour in the image explicitly creates distance between the audience and the events on-screen. It gives the film a sense of otherness that further builds on the anxiety the audience is meant to feel. On top of that, the small aspect ratio serves to create an acute sense of claustrophobia from the first to final shot of the film.

In addition to the visual aspects of the film, the sound design should also be recognized. The score, more a series of ominous tones than actual music, is carefully combined with unnerving sound effects to successfully build tension. Every sound in this film feels like a careful choice, and it all fits together effortlessly.

The Lighthouse excels in its performances, plot and technical aspects. Any self-respecting horror film fan should take the time to go watch it.

Rating: 8.5/10 stars

The Lighthouse premieres in theatres on Oct. 18.

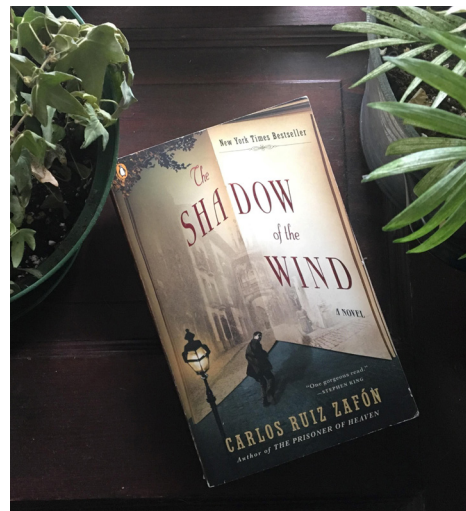


ROBERT PATTINSON STARS IN *THE LIGHTHOUSE* ALONGSIDE WILLEM DAFOE. THE FILM PLAYED ON SEPT. 19 AT THE ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. PHOTO BY ALEX RINCON

Mystery and magic in *The Shadow of the Wind*

Carlos Ruiz Zafón's 2001 novel is a must-read

BY CHIARA FERRERO-WONG AND HANNAH VAN DEN BOSCH



CARLOS RUIZ ZAFÓN'S 2001 GOTHIC NOVEL, *THE SHADOW OF THE WIND*, IS AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER. PHOTO BY CHIARA FERRERO-WONG

The Shadow of the Wind, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón, is a magical realist novel filled with suspense, secrecy and beautiful, haunting imagery. In it, Zafón constructs a unique contemporary gothic world set in 1940s Barcelona.

The novel was published in 2001, and then translated to English in 2004 by Lucia Graves. It's an international bestseller with millions of copies sold worldwide.

The plot

The Shadow of the Wind begins when a young boy named Daniel visits the "Cemetery of Forgotten Books," a place where millions of books are protected from the outside world. Daniel's father gives him permission to choose one novel, and within the maze of shelves, Daniel finds a book titled "*The Shadow of the Wind*" by Julián Carax.

Daniel is struck by the novel and decides to inquire more about Carax. He is immediately pulled into the extensive mystery surrounding Carax's life as he searches Barcelona for a proper explanation of who Carax was. But with each inquiry, new mysteries come to light.

The questions surrounding Carax become even more complex as Daniel's life becomes entangled

in Carax's: their lives seem to mirror each other with matters of unrequited love and familial complexities. Zafón seems to be hinting to the reader that the connection between Daniel and Carax is deeper than the reader initially thinks.

A unique style

Though his style of writing is fairly contemporary, Zafón uses themes that are conventional in 18th century gothic fiction. He writes of shadow-like beings, cavernous mansions and characters with dark, secretive pasts.

What distinguishes Zafón from other thriller writers of the 21st century is the way his plot unravels slowly. At times it seems that he may not be able to bring all the loose ends of the plot together, but the book's ending is sure not to disappoint readers.

The Shadow of the Wind is wonderful for its quick paced writing, which makes it an excellent book to read during the school year. Zafón also paints a setting that is transportive, allowing the reader to briefly escape their own world.

The landscape that Zafón describes is rich in detail and is based on real landmarks in Barcelona. These landmarks can be read about in the afterword at the end of the novel, which has photos and accompanying text descriptions. The book also includes hand-drawn maps of "Daniel's Barcelona" that help in orienting readers as they make their way through the novel.

While a master of plot, Zafón is also phenomenal at creating characters that are full of intrigue, mystery and depth. They're the kind of characters readers could sit around discussing for hours, recalling details that could easily be missed or forgotten.

All these elements make the book is a must-read.

The Shadow of the Wind is available for loan at the Killam Memorial Library and the Halifax Central Library.

Editor's note: We're hosting a book giveaway! The first person to contact arts@dalgazette.com with the subject line "The Shadow of the Wind" will win a free copy of the book.

Anchoring the back line

Senior defender Jeff Arkin has earned his place on the men's soccer team

BY SAM GILLETT



JEFF ARKIN PLAYED WITH THE DALHOUSIE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK ON SEPT. 27. PHOTO BY SAM GILLETT

On a late September evening at Wickwire Field, the Dalhousie University Tigers men's soccer team competes against the University of New Brunswick Reds. The game is scoreless so far, but Dal will go on to win 2-1, thanks, in large part, to a strong defensive line.

In the middle of the pitch, Jeff Arkin's eyes rarely leave the centre of play. His arms gesture to the other Dal defenders, signaling them to either move up to trap a UNB player offside, or retreat to wall off their own goal. At six foot five inches and a senior member of the squad, Arkin is a commanding presence on the field. As the game heats up, and UNB presses for a goal, he's vocal, calling out to his teammates and stepping in for crunching tackles to turn the play around.

But last year, Arkin was missing from the Tigers lineup.

Finishing his undergraduate degree in geology in 2018, Arkin took a year off. Now in Dalhousie's challenging MBA program, he's back on the pitch, staving off attacks and setting up plays.

Switching sports

Arkin didn't start out as a soccer player. After playing AA hockey while at Dalhousie studying kinesiology, he changed programs into geology — and changed sports.

"I started playing recreational soccer again, just for something to do, and was talking to [Tigers head coach] Pat [Nearing]. He said I should come out to tryouts."

Arkin's size and skill winning tackles won him a spot on the team in 2015. Twenty-one years old at the time, he was a little out of place as a rookie on a squad where most players were younger than him.

"He had the tools and we saw the potential," says Nearing, who coached Arkin in his youth days playing minor soccer in Bedford.

Arkin became an anchor on the defensive line after seasons of earning his place. He remembers in his first year, scoring a goal on his own net — a defender's worst nightmare — against the Saint Mary's University Huskies. Right after, his goalkeeper at the time came up to him, and encouraged him to keep working. They needed him now more than ever, Arkin remembers him saying.

Then in 2018, Arkin graduated and headed north, far away from soccer practices at Wickwire. He spent a year in northern Labrador, testing out

his geology degree on a mining exploration team looking for gold. He didn't touch a soccer ball once, but kept Nearing in the loop about his plans: a master's degree that might involve a return to Dal.

Marking his place

Arkin came back to Dalhousie in September and quickly settled back into his place on the team, scoring the game-winning goal against the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus on Sept. 6.

"My role now has shifted to being knowledgeable about commanding the backline," Arkin says, who plays centre-back.

In soccer, the centre-back position is a key last line of defence before opposing attackers reach the goal. The centre-back also plays a role in watching the play unfold up the field and reacting to position their defenders accordingly.

Nearing says that Arkin's maturity has been a big asset to the team. He's seen Arkin mentor younger players, and take on extra responsibilities like putting the team's apparel order together and planning their food drive in the winter.

"He's been a leader in the dressing room as well as on the field," says Nearing.

And that's while balancing a full-time MBA program with a demanding varsity athletics schedule. It's meant sacrificing practice time and some games — Arkin had to miss the team's away game in Prince Edward Island on Sept. 29, for example — and adjusting to post-undergraduate life.

"I don't want to say your undergrad isn't as important," says Arkin, "but now the stakes are much higher. Pat and the coaching staff are very understanding of that."

Nearing says it's an easy decision: he'd rather have players miss practices or games to be successful in academics, and he knows Arkin can balance it all out.

After all, he's been doing it for years.

"People have to make their way through to become leaders and Jeff's done that. He's put his time in, that's for sure."

"He had the tools and we saw the potential."

Four's a crowd

Women's soccer Tigers see depth in net as an advantage

BY LUKE DYMENT



ANNABEL GRAVELY PLAYED WITH THE DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM AGAINST THE ACADIA UNIVERSITY AXEWOMEN ON OCT. 9. PHOTO BY SARAH MOORE

In soccer, only one goalkeeper can play the position at a time. The four keepers on the Dalhousie University Tigers women's soccer team roster know this well. Despite the jam-packed crease, rookie keeper Annabel Gravelly is happy to be a part of it.

"We're pushing each other, but we also work really well together. It's really fun," she said. "I think I've improved a lot through this competition."

Fellow first-year Devon Bode, sophomore Adele Arsenault and third-year Karina Koepke round out the Tigers' goalkeeping core. Aside from Arsenault, each is in her first year at Dalhousie; Koepke joins as a German exchange student already having completed two years of university. They agree with Gravelly.

"Seeing everyone else around me improve pushes me to improve, so it goes both ways. Helping others to get better allows me to get better," Arsenault said of the environment in the crease.

Bode expanded: "Even though we're pushing each other, we help each other too. We give each other good competition."

Tough choices

Ultimately, the final decision of who sees game action belongs to head coach Cindy Tye. Her fourth year in charge, Tye is confident in her young group of keepers and enjoys the tough choices.

"They are very hard-working and are really cohesive. They are really fun to work with. Putting them in the fire right away [as young players] to compete in the league, to get that experience, they're going to get better every year. It's going to be great moving forward," said Tye.

Koepke has carried the bulk of the workload thus far in the season, playing in five of Dal's eight games as of the time of writing, while Gravelly has played in three.

So how does Tye decide?

"In the sport, goalkeepers have different strengths. [The choice] is performance-based to an extent, but it's also a bit tactical." Tye cited various factors that might influence her pick, like the speed, skill or size of an opponent.

The selection is important at this point in Dalhousie's season. As of the time of writing, they boast a

record of five wins, three losses (5-3-0), good for fourth place in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league standings. On a four-game win streak that includes three shutouts, it's a fun time to be a part of this team, especially as a keeper.

Responsibility

"Often as goalie, you can be the difference between winning and losing a game. You have a lot of power around how the game goes, and that's what makes it so exciting," said Koepke.

"It's a big responsibility, but when you do well, it makes you feel that much better," Gravelly added. "When you can help the team do well and win, it's

a good feeling."

With just a few games left in the regular season, the question comes down to how far this team can go in playoffs.

Arsenault said that a reasonable goal is to reach the AUS final.

"We have the skillset, and the mindset and work ethic is coming along too. But in a close league, we need to work for the results that we want, and it isn't going to be easy," she said.

Koepke, likewise, is confident in her team.

"We are improving every day," she said. "Everyone is putting the work and effort in and we are really growing as a team. This too is a nice goal to work toward."

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Hitting rock bottom

The rise and fall of climbing at Dalhousie

BY JAMES INNES AND JAMES WISE



JAMES WISE CLIMBS A BOULDERING WALL AT THE DALHOUSIE ROCK COURT. PHOTO BY JAMES INNES

You can be forgiven if you don't know about the Dalhousie Rock Court. Tucked away in the bowels of the Dalplex in a repurposed squash court, the rock climbing centre is one of the facility's better kept secrets, and until just recently, one of its hidden gems.

Under the leadership of one of the managers, Taylor Kilgour, the Rock Court was an excellent location for climbers of all levels. Its \$34 membership fee was the best deal in the city for Dalhousie University and University of King's College students looking to get into climbing, and for those who were already competent and wishing to train more seriously. The selection of routes was extremely diverse for such a small establishment, with dozens of interesting and challenging projects for any skill level. The environment was also second to none. There was of course the odd obnoxious try-hard, but that comes with any sport. That aside there was a

laid-back and casual vibe to the place which was simultaneously relaxing and encouraging. In short, the Dalhousie Rock Court was an excellent place to go after class to unwind and train.

Sadly, those days are gone.

Culture shift

After Kilgour's departure to Ontario midway through the summer to accept a coaching position at Climber's Rock, an indoor gym in Burlington, the culture at the Rock Court quickly changed. The vacuum left by Kilgour's absence was filled by a core group of elite climbers who had trained at the gym regularly. As a consequence, the balance of the gym rapidly shifted.

The new Rock Court is an impressively intricate and sophisticated high-performance facility where advanced climbers can fine tune

their skills and prepare for competition. For those only looking to climb casually, it's singularly disappointing. Walls previously filled with routes appropriate for all skill levels have become oversaturated with excessively difficult routes. This leaves new climbers with few routes to feasibly attempt, and fewer still to complete.

To put this into context, there are six levels of routes at the Rock Court. The levels, denoted by different colours of tape, go from white at the easiest to red at the most challenging. In its heyday, average climbers would typically climb at the blue level, the third hardest set of routes. However, on our last trip to the court earlier this month, we witnessed one of the new managers fail at the very beginning of an orange climb, the third easiest.

This disparity of challenge has not gone unnoticed by the Rock Court patrons. The envi-

ronment has become decidedly competitive and uncomfortable, with some experienced climbers feeling the need to show rookies "the right way to do it," using the failures of gym patrons as an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of an audience.

The in-crowd

This has fostered an "in-crowd" mentality in which the higher echelon of climbers can have a complete run of the gym, ruining its inclusivity. This may sound like a gross exaggeration. However, during our last climb, members of management circled the gym adding holds (the grips on the wall that climbers grab or step on) to routes with which they were struggling. To be clear, there is nothing wrong with adjusting a route that is simply too difficult in its current state. However, what we saw was a manipulation of higher-level routes to suit the needs of the individual climbing at the time, manufacturing that "right way to do it" moment.

Watching someone change a route so they can complete it hardly creates a feeling of respect for the management and further widens the rift between the "in" and "out" crowd.

On the topic of the routes themselves, the rotation of different routes on different walls has taken a turn for the worse. Under Kilgour's management there was a set schedule of one of the seven walls being changed each month. This gave climbers time to work on routes which challenged them and progress, but there was still enough change for the walls to always feel fresh. This system seems to have been abandoned. Routes will be there one day and gone the next with no rhyme or reason to the changes.

The Rock Court remains a convenient place for students to climb, but beyond that, it is only a shadow of its former self. We hold out hope that positive changes can be made and that this dark age will be short lived.

To hear more of the James' thoughts on the Rock Court and what alternative places in Halifax there are for climbing, listen to the "Last On The Bench" podcast at soundcloud.com/last-on-the-bench-podcast.

Ten years of the Dalhousie Football Club

Highlights from the new era of football

BY SARAH MOORE, SPORTS EDITOR

This season marks the 10th anniversary of football returning to Dalhousie University — and what a ride the past decade has been. The Tigers have won their league championship in two of the past three years, and so far this season (as of Oct. 11) post a respectable three wins and one loss record.

“Things have only been looking up,” says Casey Jones, president of the team executive. He played for the Tigers from 2014-17 and has been an assistant coach since then.

Establishing this record of success has been a long time coming. This is Dal's 10th season competing in the Atlantic Football League (AFL), but the team's history stretches long before that. They reformed in 2010 after a 34-year hiatus.

1950s and '60s

Before the Tigers football club as we know it today got started, Dal had a team that played in the Atlantic Football Conference decades earlier. Now, the most recognizable name from that era's Tigers is Frederick B. “Ted” Wickwire.

A quarterback from 1956-62, Wickwire helped transform the Tigers from a team who lost every game to a competitive team that challenged for championships.

1976

Dal's football program folded.

2009

The Atlantic Football League was founded.

1993

The Tigers' home turf was named the F.B. Wickwire Memorial Field in Wickwire's honour on Oct. 2.

2010

It took the efforts of chairman and founder Jim Wilson and general manager Rick Rivers to reinstate football at Dalhousie as the team joined the AFL in 2010 and played their first game at Wickwire Field on Oct. 2 of that year. The Dal club is student and volunteer run. They get later practice slots at Wickwire Field: 9-11 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

“It's not the most glorious time, but guys are happy to be there,” says Jones. “They look forward to it.”

The AFL is a small league; Dal is one of four teams. They compete for their league championship, the Moosehead Cup, against the University of New Brunswick Red Bombers (the Fredericton campus' team), the University of New Brunswick Seawolves (the Saint John campus counterpart) and the Holland College Hurricanes.

2016

Under Haggett's leadership, the team has made it to the Moosehead Cup finals every year since 2015. That season, they lost to the Holland Hurricanes, but in 2016 they went undefeated and captured their first championship in 59 years.

Jones, who at that time was playing on the offensive line, still remembers the sold-out final, which remains the highlight of his Dal football experience.

“We beat Holland College on a cold November afternoon on a Saturday and it was pretty sweet,” he says.

Other standouts from that team include defensive lineman Connor Manson, quarterback and current assistant coach Nick Hunsley and line-backer Zack Leger.

2014

Dal made it to the league finals in their first year of play, but struggled after that. The program saw a big development with the addition of now head coach Mark Haggett in 2014. He started recruiting players not just from the Atlantic region, but from all across Canada, and created what Jones calls “a really supportive environment” that is focused on both competition and enjoyment of the sport.

2019

Part of that supportive experience is making sure players stay healthy and the Tigers took a big step toward protecting their athletes when they got new helmets that help with concussion detection earlier this year. The Riddell Speed-Flex helmets detect head impacts in real time, which helps coaches make the game safer by deciding during a game when a player should be removed from play and assessed for injury, or by planning practices to minimize head contact.

2018

Last year, the team again went undefeated all the way to the Moosehead Cup, where they handily triumphed over the Hurricanes by a score of 27-3.

Football at Dal provides an opportunity for players to continue to play the sport after high school, especially if they aren't ready for the varsity commitment or skill level of the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league, says Jones. He has seen players from the AUS switch to Dal for a more balanced environment, but he's also seen former Tigers move up to the varsity level.

Zacchary Kuhn was a running back at Dal in 2017 and 2018. He now plays for St. Francis Xavier University, an AUS team. Likewise, former Tigers defensive back Will Keneford is now on the Saint Mary's University Huskies.

“We're really proud to be able to coach these guys to go to the next level,” says Jones. But even if they don't, he wants the team to “upportive football experience at Dal while getting a great education.”

From winning league championships to being at the forefront of player safety, the past 10 years of Dal football have been exciting and full of change, and the team looks to be competitive in the Atlantic Football League for years to come.

Scary sports stories

What frightens a high-level athlete?

BY ISABEL BUCKMASTER, OPINIONS EDITOR

From talented players to aggressive teams, there are many things that can strike fear into even the strongest of athletes.

Some opponents, for instance, are daunting because of their skill.

"I've definitely played against some ridiculously talented people," says Jonny Cyr, a third-year centre for the Dalhousie University Tigers men's hockey team. "The Toronto Marlboros were one of the most intimidating teams I've ever played against."

When Cyr faced the minor midget AAA team in 2011-2012, the roster of the Marlboros had players like Connor McDavid and Sam Bennett, who now play for the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League, respectively.

Sascha Kappos is a six-foot-ten fifth-year forward on the Dalhousie University Tigers men's basketball team. He says that Tacko Fall, a seven-foot-five Senegalese basketball player on the Bos-

ton Celtics of the National Basketball Association, is the most intimidating player he's ever faced.

"I was in 10th grade and had never played against anyone that size," says Kappos. "It was pretty scary to say the least."

Quinton Dowling, a second-year setter on the Dal Tigers men's volleyball team, says the scariest player in university he's faced is Vicente Ignacio Parraguirre Villalobos, a player from Chile who competed for the Université Laval Rouge et Or last year.

"He's so good, like everything he does," says Dowling. "His attacking, his serving, everything is top notch."

Other players and teams earn sinister reputations from a history of playing rough.

Lucy Carolan, centre-back for the University of King's College Blue Devils women's soccer team, says players of one particular team "really would rather push you over than play the game."

Her teammate, keeper Molly Lash-Burrows,

agrees.

Some players "get really riled up and the game suddenly becomes about how many fouls a person can get instead of how well you can set a play up," says Lash-Burrows.

Overcoming their fears

For a lot of these players, however, being scared of their opponents is now a thing of the past.

"Probably the scariest part about playing now is just the feeling of not wanting to let the team down," says Cyr. "That is probably the worst feeling ever."

Kappos says the risk of injury is one of the only things that can frighten him now.

"Nothing about playing really makes me scared anymore," says Kappos, "The consequences of something possibly happening to me that would cause injury is always a possibility. That might be the scariest thing."

He says that mental preparation was key to over-



SASCHA KAPPOS, A SIX-FOOT-TEN FORWARD ON DALHOUSIE'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM, SAYS TACKO FALL, A SEVEN-FOOT-FIVE BASKETBALL PLAYER ON THE BOSTON CELTICS BASKETBALL TEAM, WAS THE MOST INTIMIDATING PLAYER HE'S EVER FACED. PHOTO BY TREVOR MACMILLAN

coming any fear on the court.

"I go into each game fully focused and fully prepared to win," says Kappos, "As time went on, I became a lot more confident and mature and I realized that the more preparation before a game, the better."

TIGERS @ HOME!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					WVB EXH 7:30PM	WVB EXH 7PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
WBB EXH 2PM SOC 1/3:15PM 20	21	22	23	24	MHOC 7PM 25	MHOC 7PM 26
WVB 2PM 27	28	29	30	31	1	BB 6/8PM BINGO! 2



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This year's Atlantic Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded to Alexander Yang from Halifax, Canada, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy at Dalhousie University. Alexander recently completed a volunteer mission at the Balapitiya Base Hospital in Sri Lanka where he assisted resident physicians in serving their community.

During this mission Alexander experienced the tragedy of losing a life in the emergency room. "This is the unfortunate reality of healthcare; sometimes we cannot save everyone," Alexander said. "From that day forward, I have dedicated myself to learning as much as possible to prevent a tragedy like that from happening again." Alexander's goal is to qualify as a pharmacist and combine his first-world medical training with his experiences in the third and provide a wider range of options to patients.

Congratulations Alexander. We wish you the best of luck over the coming years.
For more information about the scholarships Butterfield offers, visit us online.

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