



**The Dalhousie Gazette**

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

# Banned blood

MSM and the CBS, pg 8



Dal students won't  
stay in school, pg 3

Open relationships  
get more booty, pg 7

Football comes home, pg 16





DALHOUSIE  
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UNION

## DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

### Sloan

Friday, October 22

That's right you read that correctly! Sloan will be performing at the Grawood! Doors will open at 9:00 pm and you must be 19 years of age or older to attend. Tickets will be available in advance at the Information desk located on the main floor of the Student Union Building.

More information to follow, so be sure to check out our website at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) for full event details as they become available.

### Launchpoint

Launchpoint (LP) is an interactive and action focused leadership development program, designed to help new and emerging campus leaders connect with mentors, allies, and resources that can help turn your ideas into reality. Whether you're passionate about sports, arts, social or environmental activism, business/entrepreneurship, science, or local community issues, you can utilize LP to enhance your Dalhousie experience and begin preparing for a meaningful and creative career path. To learn more or to sign up, visit [www.dalleadership.ca](http://www.dalleadership.ca)

### Society Fair Follow-up

We would like to congratulate the Spanish Society and the Swing Dance Society for being nominated as the top societies of the month. Both societies tied for best display at this year's annual fall Society Fair, which was held in September. For more on these societies and how you can get involved, check them out on our website at [www.dsu.ca/tiger\\_society](http://www.dsu.ca/tiger_society)

### Volunteers Needed!

The DSU is looking for volunteers to help run its on campus Food Bank, which serves the needs of students, faculty and staff. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact your Vice President (Internal), Kayla Kurin, at [dsuypi@dal.ca](mailto:dsuypi@dal.ca).

### Picture of the Week

Dalhousie Tiger gets ready to roll outside the SUB: we encourage all students, faculty and staff to make use of the drive home and walk home services offered at Dal. For more information visit our website at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca)



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## the fine print.

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

Views expressed in the letters to the editor, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in

the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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Laura Conrad News Editor



Retention rates at  
Dalhousie below average  
CFS says we need to calculate  
retention rates on a national scale

Torey Ellis  
News Contributor  
Students at Dal 'stay in school' less often than they do at other comparable universities across Canada.

The percentage of students staying past their first-year is rising. But David Molenhuis says retention is still a national issue.

Molenhuis, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, is advocating for a national scale on which to measure retention rates instead of the "patchwork of information" he says we have now.

*"The 2010 Youth in Transition survey that says 36 per cent of students—the largest group—are dropping out for financial reasons."*

Molenhuis cites the 2010 Youth in Transition survey that says 36 per cent of students—the largest group—are dropping out for financial reasons.

According to Molenhuis, the federal government needs to intervene – but the lack of data, and funding cuts to programs like Youth in Transition, mean that there is less of a chance of action.

So, what can an individual school, such as Dal, do?

"Not a whole lot," says Molenhuis. He admits that administrators and officials do have influence on the system, but "there's a disconnect."

Those higher up "don't understand these concepts," he says. Tuition increases will mean more people, largely low-income students, will be completely left out of the system.

Molenhuis uses David Maylor, president of the University of Toronto as an example. Maylor is looking to raise tuition as high as the market can take it. U of T is one of the G13 universities, a group the thirteen top research schools in Canada, which also include Dal.

According to Elizabeth Lane, director of Dalhousie's Institutional Analysis and Research office, Dal had an 80.2 per cent retention rate

in 2006 and an 82.1 per cent rate in 2008. Compared to the other G13 universities, which average 88 per cent retention, Dal is not doing well.

Still, William Hart, acting executive director of Student Academic Success Services says that the past few years have seen massive changes and additions to outreach programs at Dalhousie.

He says Dal has been focussing on becoming more "student-centric" recently, adding human and financial resources to help first-year students.

He says students' reasons for leaving school are "across the spectrum," from academics to residence issues. "There's just so much," he says, "it can be overwhelming."

Quenta Adams, an academic advisor, also contradicts Molenhuis, saying that the main reasons she sees students leaving is that they "haven't found their own comfort zone," and have a number of transition issues.

She says a national retention scale "certainly couldn't hurt," but that Student Services is aware of the reasons Dal's retention rates lag, and are making efforts.

She echoes Hart, who says they'd "really like for more students to know we're here."

*"Tuition increases will mean more people, largely low-income students, will be completely left out of the system."*

"Students build up expectations, or parents build up expectations, then they get here and realize that it's not the right place or it's not the right time," says Hart.

Hart says he's surprised that there isn't a national measure for retention rates, but at the same time wonders if such a broad range of information with so many factors could become useless.

However, "that's the only way you'd have an appreciation on all levels," says Molenhuis. In order to see the statistical outliers that represent problems, "we need to impose standards of quality and standards of action. It's important that we have a ten thousand foot view of the system."

Out of the Cold Shelter  
faces new challenges  
Shelter staff needs more staff  
and student volunteers

Brittany Maguire  
News Contributor

As winter approaches and nights get colder, community members at the Out of the Cold Emergency Winter Shelter are preparing to provide shelter for the homeless on the Halifax streets. Despite a lack of secure funding, they hope to open in early November.

In 2008 after Halifax's only emergency winter shelter, Pendleton Place, was shut down. The Nova Scotia Department of Community Services reallocated their funding to provide more beds and extended hours at Barry House and Metro Turning Point, two other shelters in the city.

Community members began lobbying the government to reinstate funding and, after trying to source funding elsewhere, they decided to open a new one themselves. The shelter was housed in Fort Massey Church when it first opened in March 2009. Due to renovations it was relocated to St. Mathews Church last winter where they remained open from November 2009 until April 2010.

Jordan Roberts, the volunteer coordinator for Out of the Cold, says there needs to be long term solutions to homelessness.

"While I think that spaces like Out of the Cold are important, I don't think that they are anywhere close to being a solution," says Roberts. "A solution is more affordable housing. A solution is more supportive housing. A solution is allowing people to have incomes that work for them and make them able to sustain housing whether that's through income assistance, increasing minimum wage or decreasing student debt."

She maintains that government needs to focus on long term solutions to homelessness rather than temporary solutions, while the Halifax community does its best to help people immediately.

Out of the Cold is intended as a small alternative shelter to others in Halifax. The shelter is open to males, females and trans people over the age of 16. As an alternative shelter, Out of the Cold provides shelter for couples who want to stay together, people with dogs, who have had conflict issues and those in other local shelters or who do not feel comfortable in the larger shelters. A large number of people using the shelter are youth under 25, currently the largest demographic of the homeless population.

The shelter is largely volunteer run. With less than five core staff members. Core staff is important to creating shelter stability and allows for relationships to develop. Unfortunately, this year the shelter is having trouble finding funding for any staff.

They rely heavily on donations from

people and groups in the Halifax community. Donations have included money, food, clothing, hygiene products, laundry services and volunteer time. A large portion of the shelter volunteers are Dalhousie students studying Social Work and Nursing.

*"Imagine if you didn't get your next two pay cheques. Imagine if you didn't get your student loan. Imagine there was one piece of what is holding your life up right now that gets pulled out from underneath you and you didn't have a supportive family."*

Roberts thinks that volunteering at shelters is great for students, challenging their preconceptions of homelessness and allowing them to find confidence in dealing with difficult situations.

She also notes that most don't realize how easy it is to end up on the streets.

"Imagine if you didn't get your next two pay cheques. Imagine if you didn't get your student loan. Imagine there was one piece of what is holding your life up right now that gets pulled out from underneath you and you didn't have a supportive family."

She says that it usually takes a combination of factors for people to end up on the streets and that these may include physical and mental health issues or drug and alcohol addictions, although this is not always the case.

On Oct. 16, Out of the Cold will be partnering with the Common Front for Housing in Nova Scotia to set up a "Tent City" community event on the North Commons to raise awareness about homelessness in Nova Scotia, starting at 3 p.m.. Halifax Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter can be reached at halifaxwintershelter@gmail.com.

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corrections.

Dal football are having a great start to their season, but not as great as we thought last week (143-04). Their win over the Hurricanes was in fact by a score of 56-40, not 56-42, as we first reported.

Men's soccer captain Ross Hagen's name is, in fact, spelled with an 'e', not a second 'a'. His name was misspelled in our "Tigers suffer worst loss of the season" article.

The photo on page 3 of issue 143-03 was not in fact of James Hutt.

The Gazette regrets these and future errors



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## NSPIRG Fall Opt Out

Every full time student at Dalhousie pays \$2 per term to **NSPIRG**, a non-profit volunteer-driven organization for social and environmental justice. We host free events for our members, loan out alternative resources and distribute funding to student and community-based projects. To get involved or find out more, check out [www.nspirg.org](http://www.nspirg.org), call 494-6662, or drop by Room 314 of the Dal SUB.

Those wishing to opt-out of the organization and obtain a refund for their levy fees are able to do so during a twice yearly opt-out period.

**To opt-out of NSPIRG  
during the fall term, come to Room 314 of  
the Dal SUB with your Dal ID  
anytime between: Noon-3pm, weekdays from  
October 12-25.**

## Dalhousie Women's Centre fighting to survive

**Lack of volunteers and accountability  
threaten centre's ability to operate**



The annual Take Back the Night march is one of many DWC initiatives. ••• Photo by Arielle Figov

**Katrina Pyne**  
News Contributor

Despite undergoing a major governance review, liability issues, and operating without any paid staff, the Dalhousie Women's Centre (DWC) continues its fight to provide a safe space for women in Halifax.

On Friday evening the sounds of megaphones, poets and drums echoed throughout Downtown Halifax. Hundreds of women reclaimed the streets for Take Back the Night, an annual event that brings the community together. It is a time to reflect on the work accomplished, as well as consider what is left to be addressed by Halifax women's community and the DWC plays a part in organizing the event each year.

Jann Ticknor has volunteered on the board of the DWC since July 2009. She says the history of the DWC – the Board in particular – has been rocky for several years. Many of the volunteers return home or take up jobs during the summer, which can leave the Centre without its core volunteer support.

"The wheels can fall off the cart, come summer," says Ticknor. "Our board just barely recovered after these summer months."

Working with an eight month school year schedule, but providing services all year, it is hard to maintain and sustain the community support needed.

In March 2010 Julie Sobowale, a volunteer for the DWC and second-year law student at Dalhousie, was asked by the DWC to review their policies and constitution. In her report she found that the centre "offered no long-term strategic plan."

The DWC is currently one of few societies at Dalhousie that does not fit the regular executive model. Instead, the DWC has a board of directors. In the new model proposed by Sobowale, the board of directors would be replaced

with an advisory board and an elected executive board. Each executive would then have individual responsibilities. No decisions have been made yet as to whether the DWC will switch to the proposed governance model, because it is a decision that lies with the DWC membership, and is not a board decision.

"We went through our policy and realized that there is very little of it," says Hayley Gray, a board member at the DWC.

Sobowale's report found issues, primarily the advocacy program as mentioned in the DWC constitution. Ticknor says the membership has to decide what advocacy means to them and what is reasonable, given the limitations that exist at the Centre.

"We have been trying to align our constitution with what we are regularly doing at the centre, what we have the capacity to do, and how to best serve the community," says Gray.

In the past, the DWC has provided advocacy support for individuals by referring their cases to other organizations or offering general support. However, due to liability issues found by Sobowale's report, the advocacy services (for individual legal advocacy) have been "unofficially but indefinitely suspended," according to Ticknor.

"Right now, no one is protected, including the women we were trying to help," says Ticknor. "The liability falls on us as individuals and that was not made entirely clear to the board prior to the July 2010 board meeting."

Until the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for October, the board cannot say whether they will continue with their advocacy services for the upcoming year. This will be decided at the AGM by the membership vote and is not a Board decision.

All other services of the DWC remain in operation. The DWC maintained

its presence on campus at orientation week events, and pulled off a successful "Sex without Sue" event. However, low numbers of volunteers make it difficult to keep up with opportunities.

One of the unique features of the DWC is that it offers a gender-inclusive "safe space," home away from home, for students, staff, and faculty of the Dal/King's community. This includes a library, community kitchen, childcare, computer, and couch to crash on between classes.

"Unfortunately, the doors are not open as much as we would like them to be," says Ticknor.


With only one paid staff member, it is difficult to keep the space available.

Both Gray and Ticknor were eager to point out that the DWC is always looking for volunteers and people to run for board positions.

Julie Sobowale's report outlined more than just the advocacy issue. She concluded that the DWC also needed to increase its capacity for accountability via a complaints system. The current system for filing complaints requires people to submit their concerns directly to the board. There is no space for anonymity.

Sobowale also concluded that the DWC needs a code of ethics and increased volunteer training, both of which Gray says they are looking into at the centre. However, none of the issues outlined by Sobowale's report can be addressed until the new staff is appointed at the October AGM.

A campus and community service like the DWC relies on volunteers to push through the logistical challenges. Take Back the Night was a rewarding experience for those who coordinated it.

"This year especially, I hope that it is a demonstration of our solidarity despite some of the tensions," says Ticknor. "We can still come together as a community, honor each other, and stand up against violence." 



# Gottingen condos move forward despite lack of public funding

## Dal prof says new housing will "open up" neighborhood



Some local residents would rather do without the new condo. • • • Photo by Samantha Dunford

**Laura Conrad**  
**Samantha Durnford**  
News Editors

A combination of factors have made Gottingen Street of the most feared neighborhoods in Halifax.

Dalhousie architecture professor Grant Wanzel says the area has suffered from being a "dumping ground for public and social housing." Wanzel is currently working to address the systemic issues in the area by implementing housing projects on Gottingen and surrounding areas.

He is also the president of the Creighton/Gerrish Development Association (CGDA), a non-profit developer that seeks to combine community initiatives with economic development.

Wanzel believes that by providing affordable housing units to lower and middle-income individuals, the entire community will benefit. Wanzel says the Gottingen Street initiative can be used as a model for underdeveloped areas across the region and across the country.

"We began working on a stage four development in 1998," says Wanzel. "We've completed three parts of what we proposed to do."

First, CGDA completed an 18-unit building at the corner of Buddy Daye and Gottingen Street that provides low-income housing for "hard to house" single people. The building was open in 2002 and is owned and operated by the Metro Non-Profit Housing Association.

In 2004, CGDA completed 6 semi-detached units on Creighton Street, and in 2008 they finished a 12-unit building at the corner of Creighton and Buddy Daye.

The overall intention of the project is to provide some affordable housing for low-income individuals, while at the same time, not losing any social housing. Wanzel believes these projects have already benefitted the area.

"The three projects have already had a considerable impact on the neighborhood, just in terms of stabilizing it," says Wanzel.

CGDA's fourth project is scheduled to

begin construction in fall, 2010 and to be open by 2011. This final phase is a 48-unit condominium called Gottingen Terrace, which will be built facing the North Branch library. He says the condos will provide home ownership opportunities to people from the neighborhood.

Cole Webber, a local resident, says "gentrification in Halifax's historic north end is shaped by racism. It goes back to the razing of Africville and subsequent relocation of many of its residents to the Uniacke Square and Mulgrave Park housing projects," he says.

Webber, who is a founding member of the Nova Scotia Common Front for Housing says that most people in the north end who rent don't see home or condo ownership as a viable financial option.

"When people who could never afford to own see condos going up on Gottingen, they see development that is not in their interest," Webber says. "And they are rightly concerned that condos will raise property values, and therefore the cost of rent," which could push them out of the neighbourhood altogether.

Wanzel says home ownership opportunities will bring balance to a community that has a very high concentration of rental properties, of which 50 per cent are social and public housing.

"What we're doing by providing affordable home ownership and diversifying the tenancies is a very positive thing for the neighbourhood," says Wanzel. "Part of the aspiration is to provide alternative accommodation and, instead of just paying rent, to give people equity in something."

This final phase of the project may be the most difficult for Wanzel, due to a lack of financial assistance from the province.

"We received government assistance for the first three projects," says Wanzel. "As it is, we won't receive any for the fourth project. The only grants we've received are ones we've put together ourselves."

The lack of provincial funding means that Gottingen Terrace may not be targeted to a low-incomes demographic.

"If we were receiving deeper assistance from the province, it'd be possible for the households with somewhat lower incomes to access home ownership," says Wanzel.

Webber agrees that provincial funding is a problem.

"Governments at all levels are withdrawing from their responsibility for social provision, including that of decent, affordable housing for poor and working people," he says.

"Tenancy legislation in Nova Scotia provides little protection for tenants, there's no rent control, and no effective enforcement of basic housing conditions. The majority of new housing developments are for-profit and often unaffordable to people in the neighbourhood," he says. "The few small non-profit developments going up are too small in scale to alleviate the crisis."

Because Gottingen Terrace will consist of middle-income housing, the project has received negative feedback from some community members.

This is clear from the graffiti displayed on the large sign that once read "Gottingen Terrace - Coming Soon." The sign has since been vandalized and now displays the black spray-painted words, "Don't be pushed out."

Hazen Fry, who is a resident of Creighton Street, explains that the sign's words refer to locals who are concerned about losing the low-income housing opportunities in their neighbourhood.

"This is not going to benefit the city as a whole, just people who can afford condos," Hazen says. "If you're already from a middle-class family, then you might see this as beneficial."

Despite the criticism, Wanzel still believes the final phase of the project will be just as successful as the others implemented by CGDA.

"The neighborhood has suffered a lot. It suffered through urban renewal, which basically destroyed it. Recently, as the condos have begun to develop and small businesses are starting to take root again, there is some hope that the neighborhood will be opened up, and will itself open up to the rest of the city."

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# opinions.

## opinions

gazette opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. E-mail Katie at [opinions@dalgazette.com](mailto:opinions@dalgazette.com) to contribute.

Katie Toth Opinions Editor



## Collective organizing key for fighting mental health stigma

**New mental-health collective promotes awareness about resources on campus**

Students fall into the age bracket more likely to be affected by mental illness.

••• Photo by Abram Gutscher



**Jacqueline Vincent**  
Health Science Columnist

In a room off Chapel Bay, at King's, a small group of residence dons and current students have gathered in Tiffany Robertson's cozy suite to talk about mental health. They're hoping this event, which happened on Sept. 30, will become a regular occurrence.

Started last semester by Robertson, Natasha Conde-Jahnel, and Safia Haq, the King's Mental Health Awareness Collective (KMHAC) began by publishing a homegrown zine of students' thoughts surrounding mental illness. Though small, Haq remembers, "we provided a place for those five or ten people to write and create and reflect on their experience, and that was enough." The zine was launched quietly, though with a sense of promise: perhaps this close-knit movement could grow, and fill a niche for King's and Dalhousie?

The discussion was meant to be open-ended, but it's clear that all involved are on the same page. The mandate quickly takes shape: to reduce stigma around mental illness by raising awareness and promoting discussion on campus. Most of all, Haq says, "Getting help shouldn't be a luck of the draw type-thing, and depend on whether your friends know who to recommend ... Everyone should have some sort of opportunity to learn about the resources available at their fingertips."

Their focus is certainly on target. Students fall right into the age bracket most likely to be affected by mental illness, especially the onset of schizophrenia and mood disorders. In fact, according to the Mental Health Commission of Canada, 10 to 20 percent

of Canadian youth experience mental health problems, equivalent to lifetime prevalence in the adult population. Take into account age-related vulnerability, a high-stress/low-sleep environment, risk factors like drug use, and the emotional upheaval that inevitably comes with the university experience, and it's a wonder that not all of us are in the midst of heavy turbulence.

But for those students who do experience mental health issues, there is no shortage of resources available on campus. Between the peer-support model of groups like KMHAC, residence staff (often students themselves) trained to recognize and deal with distress, and the myriad programs offered by Dal Counselling and its affiliated services, the options are plentiful.

The issue, believes Victor Day, director of Dal Counselling, is one of further extending these resources so they reach everyone who needs them. Since he began working at Dalhousie in 1978, the number of students in counselling has skyrocketed, and so has the intensity of their issues.


"More people are coming to university with pre-existing problems, and also, to some degree, the stigma about seeking help is decreasing over time. It's a good thing overall, but does create more demand for services."

These services include individual counselling, as well as support groups, workshops, and more unusual methods of counselling, such as the online, self-directed Feeling Better program for depression and anxiety. Demand is already high: last year, eleven part-time counsellors were hired using a new student levy of \$5 per term, helping to drive average wait times for counselling

down to 17 days (across all levels of urgency).

However, Day says that demand could be higher still. There are still many people reluctant to take advantage of resources they may see as intimidating. And, with a combined population of over 18,000 students to serve between Dal, King's, and NSCAD, there are always some who slip through the cracks and never hear about these resources at all.

There are as many different opinions on how to assist students facing mental health issues as there are people willing to help. But perhaps the approach should go beyond just reacting to existing problems. The best prevention is a healthy environment, according to Day. Treating issues in isolation has its place, but in the long run, all the variables that affect a student's psyche have to take priority. A positive orientation week, supportive residences, and welcoming athletic and recreation services are just a few campus strategies that can have a positive impact.

Such suggestions seem like common sense because they are. Ensuring that students are healthy, well-supported, and have a tenable balance between work and life goes a long way toward lowering incidences of mental health problems. Of course, a years-long trend of more students with more problems cannot be reversed overnight. For now, we can take a cue from the KMHAC's intentions, and make sure that all students are in touch with available resources - not only formal treatment, but the invaluable resource of places and peers that allow for sharing experiences without judgement. Integrating these resources into daily life is a way for change to begin. 



The Sex Collective presents:  
**Open relationships**  
**get more action**  
**Honesty and communication can improve**  
**your relationship and lead to surprising fun**



When you can be honest about your feelings, everyone wins. • • • Photo by Michael Cestnik

**Niko Bell**  
The Sex Collective  
• • • • •

What if I told you that you could prevent anyone from ever cheating on you?  
What if through one simple action you could make your relationship one hundred per cent bulletproof to infidelity?  
Well, you can. All you have to do is permit it.  
And an open relationship can do much more. It is also a balm for radically mismatched libidos, an ointment for long-distance blues, and a salve for mid-relationship boredom. It can even give you and your partner more to talk about. Perhaps most importantly, opening a relationship ensures that your partner is doing what he or she wants, not just what he or she feels obligated to do.  
But here is where it gets sticky. Most of us don't really like the idea of our partners having sex with other people, much less having romantic feelings for them. This is pretty understandable. Some will just never be able to bear the thought of their partner with another person, and that's ok. Some people cannot experience a fulfilling relationship if it is not exclusive. Some of us, however, just like the attention of exclusivity. We could overcome our drive to possess another person, but we choose not to. If this is the case, we are being held back by jealousy. Jealousy is compelling because it builds the fantasy that our partners never want anyone else. A relationship can be free of jealousy and still monogamous. Openness and honesty are what make the difference.  
The most low-key way of opening a relationship is to simply agree to talk about your feelings and attractions for other people. It's a practice in trust and honesty, and it isn't easy; but being truthful never is. If talking is as far as you get, that's great. If you want to go forward, though, you don't have to be one hundred per cent 'open' from

square one. Decide with your partner what being open means for the both of you, whether it's talking, flirting, kissing, sex, or enthusiastic square dancing.  
If you have ever been in an open relationship, you may have discovered a second sticky point. Maybe you want your partner to want you to be monogamous.  
Freedom doesn't always fulfill the desire to feel possessed. Because of this, it's important that you make your partner feel that you care what he or she does, but that you just don't mind. An open relationship isn't about turning a blind eye; it's about supporting what your partner does.  
It is absolutely possible to appreciate and cherish a relationship without possession. Shut a butterfly in a box for three days. If you like it any more by the end, break up with your partner and become an entomologist.  
The greatest obstacle to opening a relationship, however, may be bringing it up to your partner. Who wants to be the first one to say anything?  
This is a little like that time you admitted your affection to your crush in junior high school. The imagined potential benefits made it worthwhile, but you knew you could be setting yourself up for a big failure.  
But in this case, you are not as certain of failure as you were with your high school crush. Couples seldom talk about this aspect of their relationship, so you really don't know what your partner is thinking. Approach the topic with discretion and respect, and you'll be ok.  
Remember that there are benefits to opening your partner's side of the relationship even if your partner does not want you to experience the same freedoms. A good place to start is to let your partner know that even though you respect monogamy, you don't require it from your partner. You can express your openness without pressure, and start the conversation moving. In the end, honesty, sincerity and attentiveness are

the universal lubricants of a relationship – without them nothing can go very right, and with them nothing can go very wrong.  
Needless to say, only say that you're ok with your partner's extracurricular activities if and when you really are. Allowing your partner freedom as a way to coerce them into giving it to you is a stupid and manipulative thing to do. There are lots of bad reasons to open a relationship. Pressuring your partner by saying that you might otherwise cheat, opening a relationship as a way to bail out a sinking ship, or demanding unequal terms are all great ways to torpedo yourself.  
An open relationship won't fix a bad situation, and won't stop a dishonest person from being dishonest. Nobody—man, woman, or genderfabulous rockstar—has a license to cheat. If you can't handle a tricycle, don't try mountain biking. If you can't trust your partner to be monogamous, don't think an open relationship will help. Suffice to say that if you feel uncomfortable talking openly and honestly about any part of the process, then forget about it.  
It is also important to note that having sex with additional people exposes you and your partner to an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections. If you aren't comfortable talking about this to your partner, you probably should not be having sex with each other, let alone others.  
I would only like us to ask ourselves if we have heartfelt reasons for demanding monogamy from our partners. Sometimes we do. Perhaps, however, regulated monogamy is too comfortable for our own good. Even if we want to be monogamous, isn't it better to do so out of free will than necessity?  
So, I challenge you all to consider trading a little bit of security for some truth and freedom.  
The exchange rate is good these days. ☺

**Gunnin' For Guns**  
**MPs should vote based on values, not**  
**fleeting public opinion**

**Richard Clark**  
Opinions Contributor  
• • • • •

The much anticipated vote in the House of Commons to dismantle the controversial gun registry was no less dramatic than expected.  
Observers expected the results to be close, with no one certain of the outcome. It was clear that the Conservatives would unanimously oppose keeping the registry, while the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois were determined to fight for its survival. This left the balance of power with the NDP, and Leader Jack Layton refused to dictate how his MPs must vote. New Democrats, for the most part, are comprised of members in favour of gun control—however, a number of their MPs were opposed to the registry.

• • • • •  
**“Many people**  
**consider election**  
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**party's ability**  
**to govern, and**  
**an individual's**  
**ability to**  
**represent.”**  
• • • • •

Chief among them was Nova Scotia Member of Parliament Peter Stoffer.  
At least, he was for 13 years.  
Then, only 3 days before the vote, he reversed his position, saying that he would vote to save the registry. His reason? Apparently a “poll” that he conducted in his riding, indicating that most of his constituents favoured registering long guns.  
According to Stoffer, 3000 people contacted his office about the issue, and 62 per cent were in favour of the registry.  
There are some serious flaws in this justification.  
Interest groups often have their supporters write to MPs across the country, regardless of where they live. Just because Stoffer's office received an email from a pro-registry advocate, that writer wasn't necessarily from his constituency- they could have been from anywhere.  
Public interest in this issue was unusually intense. Since Mr. Stoffer's views were well known, many of his constituents had no reason to remind him how hated the registry is in rural Nova Scotia. After all, they felt the same way he did, and likely voted for him because of it! But people who disagreed with his opposition would want to make

their opinions known, in the hopes of changing his mind.  
This is clearly not a scientific poll, because it does not use a representative sample. Also, as previously mentioned, it is not necessarily comprised of “constituents,” and would have garnered a response from those at odds with Stoffer's original views. In fact, the poll on The Chronicle Herald's website is probably more accurate, and it ironically claims that 61 per cent of readers disagree with his decision.  
Of course Stoffer understands a Member of Parliament's job is to represent their constituents. But he seems to think the best way to do that is by adjusting his view based on public opinion polls. What he doesn't seem to understand is the purpose of an election campaign.  
Many people consider election campaigns to be a waste of time. What a more plugged-in observer understands is that a campaign is a test of a party's ability to govern, and an individual's ability to represent.  
As many a veteran political operative has noted, “the only poll that matters is the one on election day.” Public opinion is fickle, and the smartest choices are made not based on what seems popular at the time, but what makes the most sense in the long term.  
Nevertheless, any aspiring politician should use an election campaign as an opportunity to present themselves to the electorate. Their party will create a general platform, but it is up to individual candidates to make it known where they stand.  
What is your position on environmental protection? Do you believe in abortion? How do you feel about gun control? All of those issues are important for many people, and as such candidate's views should be made known. Then, when citizens cast their ballots, they can make an informed choice, based on whoever best represents their beliefs.  
If a politician has clearly defined his or her values, then once they are elected, they can always have a clear conscience when voting based on their personal beliefs. Stoffer never said that he changed his view on the issue; he just said that he had to vote how his constituents wanted him to. He seems to have forgotten that his election victory was a mandate from the people, saying they trusted him to represent them. ☹

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# Gay blood banned

Court decision on MSM ban takes emotional toll



Ross Boutilier and Brian Mombourquette celebrate their commitment during a ceremony in 1994. They are monogamous and HIV-negative, but they can't donate blood. ••• Photo courtesy Boutilier and Mombourquette

**Hilary Beaumont**  
Features Editor

In Ross' mailbox sat a new, white, eight-and-a-half-by-11 envelope—the kind designed for unfolded intra-office letters. There was no return address. No other mail in his box either. He tore it open and pulled out a poster advertising an upcoming blood donor clinic. Shocked and disgusted, he scanned the hallway. No one there. He searched the 40 other wooden mail slots for blank white envelopes. None were there.

Ross had received other offensive messages in the mail—once at work—during the years he fought publicly for the equal rights of same-sex couples and their families. Previous messages had typically threatened him, but this envelope held nothing but the poster.

He concluded someone had sent it to taunt him: "Nah-nah nah nah-nah, you can't give blood."

He slid the poster back into the envelope and placed it back in the box where he's collected mail for 23 years.

## "The gay cancer"

Ross Boutilier is an openly gay and happily married 54-year-old geologist who works for Natural Resources Canada in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He and his husband, Brian Mombourquette, are banned for life from donating blood.

Since 1985 the Canadian Blood Service (CBS) has maintained a ban on blood from "MSM" donors (males who have sex with other males), so phrased to exclude men based on behaviour rather than sexual identity. A man who has had sex with another man since 1977, even once, cannot donate blood

because the CBS claims these men are at a higher risk of contracting HIV.

Statistically, they're right; several studies from the U.S. and Canada confirm MSM donors are a higher-risk group, and though the blood service screened every donation, they say HIV tests are never 100 per cent sure. Based on the same argument, Health Canada does not accept MSM organ or sperm donations.

As a monogamous, HIV-negative couple, Ross and Brian carry virtually no risk of transmitting HIV through blood donation. They find the CBS policy discriminatory toward them because it treats them differently from heterosexuals and does not take their commitment to monogamy into consideration. Ross says the ban presumes a few things about gay and bi men: That they are sexually promiscuous, they do not use protection, and they all have HIV or AIDS.

A court decision in early September upheld the ban. Ontario Superior Court Justice Catherine Aitken found the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not apply to the CBS since it's not a "government actor" and does not implement any specific government policies. The Charter — she wrote in her 188-page ruling — does not protect or promise a right to give blood.

Today's controversy began with an urgent decision 25 years ago. In charge of Canadian and American blood donations in the 1980s, the Red Cross did not properly screen donors, and when the HIV/AIDS epidemic struck North America, thousands of blood recipients were infected with the virus, and Hepatitis C. A wave of lawsuits hit the service. The Red Cross reacted in 1985 by banning blood from MSM donors in the U.S. and Canada.

Back then HIV was "the gay plague," "the gay cancer". Those who contracted it died within two years. Worse still, Brian says, gay men were presumed to be begging for HIV; they deserved the virus while women, children, straight people and hemophiliacs were simply victims.

In 1998 as a result of the scandal and to avoid political influence, the CBS was formed as a separate and arms-length organization from Health Canada.

Though merited at the time, considering the scientific mystery shrouding the virus, Justice Aitken concluded last month that the lifetime ban "goes well beyond what current science suggests is necessary to protect public health." She suggested the ban be reduced to a deferral period of 10 years.

Two decades of benefit concerts and runs for the cure later, science has advanced. Over the years the Canadian Blood Service has chipped away at the list of banned donors, leaving a shorter list of those at high risk of carrying HIV

or AIDS. A heterosexual woman, for example, when asked if she has had sex with an MSM male—a question to which many people would not know the answer—is given the benefit of the doubt according to CBS policy.

However, the CBS maintains that screening MSM donors based on behavior would not be as effective as singling them out as a group with statistically-proven higher risk. In court the blood service argued they could not reasonably screen all potential donors for such critical considerations as relationship status, use of protection, or HIV-negative test results.

## 17 years of monogamy

It took a couple days for Ross to simmer down after receiving the poster. He found out the sender innocently passed it along so he could tack it up. Even so, he says it felt like a punch in the gut.

Though LGBTQ rights have come a long way, Ross says gay men are still subjected to an undercurrent of meanness. In this case, the blood donor clinic appeared to be something his employer fully endorsed—an employer Ross had previously taken to court for the same sort of discrimination.

.....  
**"The ban presumes a few things about gay and bi men: They are sexually promiscuous, they do not use protection, and they all have HIV or AIDS."**  
.....

His quick anger toward the envelope sender comes from years of battling inequality—namely a legal fight to marry the love of his life.

Brian and Ross solidified their commitment to one another during what they call a "blanket ceremony" in their bed, 17-and-a-half years ago. Six months earlier they agreed to be sexually monogamous. Back in 1993, HIV tests were said to be certain after six months of sexual exclusivity. Both men tested negative. They have been sexually and emotionally monogamous ever since.

The couple celebrated their exclusivity again in 1994. Ross and Brian wore their

most colourful shirts that July afternoon — Ross in turquoise, mustard and red patchwork, and Brian in a similar palette but with wide stripes running down his torso. They faced each other on the pew of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church before 120 family members and friends—plus 12 children, —and read their vows: "I promise to be monogamous because it nurtures the primacy of our relationship, sexually, spiritually and emotionally."

Same-sex marriage was not yet legal in Canada. Ross and Brian called it their 'celebration of commitment'.

After the ceremony, the beaming couple posed for photo after photo. Guests gorged themselves on a potluck buffet of strawberry shortcake, cheese with crackers, and ice cream cake to defy the mid-summer heat.

Ross chuckles as he recalls the reception: "They ate everything. All I got was a brownie."

All that really mattered was the massive support from their social circles. On June 4, 2001, Ross and Brian filed for a registered domestic partnership — a legal agreement one step from marriage. Finally, on December 24, 2004, the same pastor from their commitment celebration legally married Ross and Brian in their living room on Preston Street in Halifax.

They struggled to 'tie the knot' because they wanted to be equal to each other, and equal to opposite-sex couples. Ross and Brian see the ban on MSM blood as a last legal hurdle—one they are both surprised still exists. As a fully monogamous HIV-negative couple, their blood, organs, and sperm are healthy and fit for anyone in need.

## Pre-screen lie

If you walk into the blood donor clinic where the tip of Gottingen Street meets the Citadel, you'll be asked to tick off a lengthy list of yes/no questions before you can give blood. By casting a wide net, the questionnaire aims to determine an honest person's risk of carrying any number of viruses—malaria from that Egypt trip, HIV from that prison tattoo, syphilis contracted from paying for sex.

A nurse will then sit down with you in private to determine the blood service's correct policy—deferral, acceptance or lifelong ban—based on a massive binder weighing as much as an atlas. If the nurse gives you the all-clear, he will leave the room so you can privately pick one of two stickers—one that says, yes, use my blood, and the other that says no, don't use my blood. This final measure is meant to provide "risky" donors with a dignified way to have their blood taken but not used.

In June 2002, Kyle Freeman sent an anonymous email to the CBS admitting he lied in the pre-screening tests and gave blood regularly as a sexually-active





Ross Boutilier and Brian Mombourquette now; on their front steps. • • • Photo by Abram Gutscher

gay man. In the email he condemned the policy arguing that it discriminated against him.

Claiming their screening process was "purposefully compromised" the blood service went to court to find out Freeman's identity from his Internet service provider. They claimed he put their patients at risk.

Freeman did not have HIV or AIDS, though one of his blood donations did test positive for Syphilis. He said he protected himself and blood recipients by using condoms during sex. He waited six months before donating blood if he had an experience that put him at risk of contracting the virus, he said, and got tested. Current HIV tests detect the virus after three weeks; he said he adhered to the outdated precaution to make a point.

The CBS sued Freeman in 2002 for negligent misrepresentation. Freeman filed a counter-suit against the CBS and Health Canada saying he experienced "humiliation, degradation and marginalization" from the MSM screening question. He claimed the lifetime ban on blood from gay men violated his Charter right to not be discriminated against based on his sexuality.

"It's 2010," he told the Globe and Mail. "It's so saddening to see our government so hell-bent on discriminating against people."

"From the perspective of the law, he committed fraud, so he is subject to the penalties of the law," Brian says. "I'm not convinced that's an appropriate form of protest."

In late September Justice Aitken held Freeman liable for \$10,000 in damages that the blood service had spent to trace the donations he made over a 12-year period.

"The Charter does not (and never was intended to) govern 'private' or non-governmental action," says Sean Foreman, a partner at Wickwire Holm in Halifax, in an email. "However, this does not mean that CBS can simply 'discriminate' against certain groups in all matters."

Human rights codes and legislation still apply to the CBS's private actions in terms of employment or hiring, he says, though they may not apply in accepting blood.

"To say that discrimination is justified

based upon some corporate right, that they are not constrained by the laws of the land--no corporation, no bank would ever make such an assertion," Ross says. "So when you see this hypocrisy on the hands of an organization that has a public trust and says 'we don't have to follow the rules,' it's just appalling."

.....  
**"I promise to be monogamous because it nurtures the primacy of our relationship: sexually, spiritually and emotionally."**  
 .....

While Justice Aitken acknowledged there is no scientific basis for continuing the lifelong ban on MSM donors, Foreman said he didn't think she achieved a fair balance between protecting public health and equal rights for gay men.

"Regrettably, she was not willing to move beyond a restrictive test and application of the Charter and to move beyond the safety arguments put forth as a red herring to disguise old stereotypes and assumptions on the sexual practices and health risks of gay men," says Foreman, who is also a past-chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) and the Canadian Bar Association's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference (SOGIC).

"In her ruling Justice Aitken specified that there is 'no scientific justification for the 33-year deferral of men who have had sex with men.' This statement reinforces the Canadian Federation of Student/Egale/Canadian AIDS Society call for the deferral policy to be removed and replaced with a policy that identifies high-risk behaviours. The shift to a behaviour-based question would, according to top researchers identified in the ruling, lead to a safer blood supply."

#### Logical decision, emotional reaction

In her ruling Justice Aitken described blood donation as a gift that may be freely accepted or rejected by the CBS.

Former Dalhousie student Nick Shaw says it hurts when a gift is rejected on the basis of one's sexuality. For him the MSM policy confirms at a deeper level that society sees something wrong with him because he is gay.


"You tell yourself and people all around you tell you that who you are is wrong, that you're not good enough, and there's something wrong with you," he says. "That's a fundamental fear that a lot of people carry, especially homosexuals."

But you won't see Shaw protesting the ban. Though it's difficult to accept the judge's ruling, he believes her decision was logical; statistically his group carries a higher risk of transmitting HIV, and false negatives aren't unheard of during testing.

"A lot of debates can be marred in emotional responses to something, and sometimes it's incompatible with what seems like a logical decision."

"To be told by a large organization that there is something wrong with you, it pushes on a sore spot in a lot of homosexual men, as it would with anyone," he says. "They're reminded that the thing they're fighting and struggling with the most is acceptance of themselves, and they're told that (being gay) is not acceptable. But that's not something I want to mix up with logic. That's something I have to deal with myself and it's not necessarily the place of the blood service to deal with the emotional battle a lot of homosexual men are going through."

"You take a disappointment like that and you put it in a box," Ross says as he and Brian sip twin black currant iced teas at Coburg Cafe. They're content the judge said there was no scientific basis for the ban, though they disagree with her interpretation of the Charter.

It's a familiar feeling. Ross, who's had the legal document hanging on his wall at work since before he married Brian, says: "There's no Charter right to be anything other than treated the same." 

Full disclosure: Ross and Brian are friends of the author's family.

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Rebecca Spence Arts Editor



## The art of correspondence

Allan Street Reading Series shows how letters can preserve and empower



Lovers of good pens unite! ••• Photo by Rebecca Spence

Rebecca Spence  
Arts Editor

As the lights began to dim, guests' attention turned away from their micro-brewed beers and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, and towards the makeshift stage set up in the cozy Allan Street apartment. A sign made out of patterned fabrics and strings of twinkling white Christmas lights decorated the wall behind an empty chair. Soon enough, six writers would occupy not only that chair, but also the complete attention of about 50 people packed into the living room. From a theatrical performance from Nate Crawford, the director of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, to a poem delivered by Ben Gallagher, who just sailed across the Gulf of Maine, the Allan Street Reading Series featured a variety of creative expression.

It is inspiring to learn that all of this started with Dalhousie graduate Jenner Berger. The 23-year-old began hosting these gatherings monthly back in March when she was taking creative writing classes and working for a publisher. Having met a lot of writers who were willing to share their work with her, she hoped to be able to share that work with others.

The Sept. 29 reading was special because it doubled as a CKDU fundraiser. It was also the first reading to incorporate

a theme. Called "Open Letters," it aimed to emphasize the importance of the art of correspondence.

"By the time this month came I was feeling a detachment from my city, from writing, from people in general," says Berger, who finished her degree in English and Creative Writing in August. "Open Letters is about getting in touch with each other."

One of the event's highlights was a show and tell performance from Lindsay Stewart, a visual artist whose primary medium is mail. She shared her most profound mail experiences, from trading teen magazines with her pen pal from England when she was 12 years old, to starting up a mail club at her high school in grade nine. The NSCAD student keeps all of her mail in a multitude of boxes at home. "My letters are my most cherished possessions," she says. "I would never give them away or sell them for an infinite amount of dollars. I love them."

Alison Creba, the founder of City Mail, a free postal service, also shared her essay about letter writing. She spoke of letters as "narrative artifacts" that helped great writers such as Jack Kerouac practice their craft of spontaneous prose. She spoke about how reading old letters transforms the way we see ourselves, and it allows us to play biographer. "We have come to write our own histories," she says earnestly.

A mailbox was set up in the kitchen for anybody who wanted to write a letter postage-free. Guests could also sign up to be part of a "Mail Swap", in which one sends and receives an anonymous package within the group. In this case, you were supposed to send something that inspires creativity such as a piece of writing or a photograph.

Ben Gallagher had never attended or performed at the Allan Street Reading Series before, but he found that the event's theme helped draw links between the diverse styles of literature. "The works start to speak to each other and it's pretty beautiful," he says.

There were a lot of first-timers at last week's reading, and Berger hopes that they will continue to come back and show their support. She assumes that the idea of being in someone's home, sitting on their couch, looking at their bookshelves, would help people feel comfortable. "I feel like we have a nice space for it," she says. "When you go to a reading at a bar I find it doesn't always fill up and the emptiness can be nerve-racking."

Overall, the hostess couldn't be more pleased with the way the night turned out. "Everyone was so courteous and quiet, and you could really feel that there was something people were appreciating," she says as she calmly takes a sip of her Strongbow cider. "It was really nice." ☺

books.

## The Top 100 Canadian Singles—Bob Merserau

Sagar Jha  
Staff Contributor

Grade: A

In 2007 Bob Merserau released a national bestseller: "The Top 100 Canadian Albums". It got so much attention it was ridiculous. The book was the subject of most of my arguments that year. I was worried to hear a new collection similar to the first was to be released.

However, in the opening pages of Merserau's new book, "The Top 100 Canadian Singles," which was released on Sept. 30, he discusses how generating some controversy and disagreement is his goal. He has crafted this book based on thousands of different opinions. If you disagree with any part of the list, then more power to you. Mersereau explains that if you argue over this book you are only manifesting the fact that there is a copious amount of amazing music produced by our true north country.

I won't spoil who wins the whole thing, but I will tell you that the usual suspects of Canadian greats made the list. The book is a neat blend of artists both young and old. Artists like Neil Young, The Guess Who, and Joni Mitchell are, of course, on the list. But I was thrilled to see more recent artists like Wintersleep, Arcade Fire and K-os on there, too. Mersereau has masterfully crafted an

incredibly diverse list as he interviewed such a variety of music buffs to help him put the list together.

**"If you disagree with any part of the list, then more power to you."**

Overall, the book is really well laid-out. At least an entire page is devoted to each single, while four pages are dedicated to the top ten singles. The number of new interviews and perspectives inside this collection make it a must-read. The book also contains personal top ten lists from some current Canadian icons like Buck 65, Bubbles, and Joel Plaskett, to name a few. The book also contains a two-page spread with a list of the top 100 French-Canadian singles. This list was necessary as francophone music is not as popular as it should be in Canada. With this book, Mersereau will definitely generate some heated arguments as well as some interest. I found a few Canadian music gems that I would have never heard of before. Thanks, Bob. ☺

## I can dance with you, honey

Dinner theatre recreates the music of ABBA

Thank you for the music—and the food.  
••• Photo by Matt Ritchie

Erica Eades

Assistant Arts Editor

The Grafton Street Dinner Theatre's latest production, "Does Your Mother Know?" is three hours of non-stop entertainment that features the music of Swedish pop sensations, ABBA. But don't be fooled by the obvious similarities to the famed Broadway musical, "Mamma Mia." This show offers an entirely unique dining experience that combines an exceptional cast with sharp, witty dialogue and excellent food, to bring you a night out unlike any other.

The script, written by Cyndi Locke and Krista Lane, tells the story of the Halfpennys; a lively, somewhat dysfunctional batch of relatives who have gathered together for their tenth annual family reunion. As the story unfolds, arguments surrounding the rightful ownership of the family's whiskey distillery dampen the spirits of all in attendance.

The lively cast members are in character from the moment their audience arrives. While guests relax in



the theatre's lounge area, the actors rush in to welcome everyone to the reunion. They are quick to make comments about how the guests have changed since they last saw them; reminiscent of the standard chit-chat at family gatherings.

This interaction marks the beginning of an evening rich with audience participation. Guests are encouraged to sing and dance throughout, and the cast members frequently serenade the visitors, while occasionally poking fun at them as well.

A significant aspect of the production is the remarkable range of talent amongst the cast and crew. The actors double as writers, artistic directors, wait staff, and band members. And there doesn't seem to be a single job they don't excel at.

The cast members play numerous instruments throughout the performance, and their vocal capacities are nothing short of exceptional.

The team works together flawlessly, but there are stand-out individual performances as well: Krista Lane throws down a myriad of impressive bass lines,

while Ian Baird makes the keyboard and synthesizer seem effortless. Together with the outstanding vocal performances by leading ladies, Cyndi Locke and Kelley Edwards, the group brings an energy to each song that is undeniably captivating.

Of course, a dinner theatre would be nothing without the food. And the food at Grafton Street does not disappoint. The meal is served in intervals, with musical numbers and improvisational comedy in between. The actors deliver the food in a manner that is prompt and efficient, yet still entertaining. Guests can choose from a delectable list of entrees, which even includes a fresh and flavourful vegetarian option. The meal is then topped off with a spread of scrumptious desserts, such as strawberry cheesecake and crumbly apple crisp.

"Does Your Mother Know?" mixes hilarious comedy with the sweet sounds of ABBA. And that's, surprisingly, a wonderful combination. ☺  
"Does Your Mother Know?" will be playing at Grafton Street Dinner Theatre until Nov. 21. Reservations can be made by calling their box office at 902-425-1961.



# Who do you think you are?

Red Bastard helps audience members step outside the box

.....  
*“At one point he had someone call their boss and quit their job... Things took a turn for the worse when Davis chose to walk down busy Argyle Street completely naked.”*  
 .....



Charming Monster. •••  
 Photo supplied by the artist

Sagar Jha  
 Staff Contributor

.....  
 If you were around the SUB last Friday afternoon, you would have seen Eric Davis dressed as the Red Bastard handing out flyers for his three-night-stand in Halifax. The New York theatre star brought his highly interactive bouffon-style to the Neptune Studio.

In a small room with a small audience, Davis entered and created a very unique, funny and interactive experience for the audience. The Red Bastard is adorned with creepy red and white make-up and wears a fat-suit in order to create a grotesquely hilarious image. This image is a good reflection of the show.

The Red Bastard hangs on one of the basic principles of the theatre which is that “something interesting must happen every 10 seconds.” The Red Bastard engages the audience with intensely crude humor and calculated movements on stage in order to keep the show interesting. During the show, Davis would periodically go into the audience and talk directly to people, asking thought provoking questions and having them do outrageous things.

Eric Davis taps into a very unique part

of the human psyche. He brings out the worst and the best in people as he tests them and encourages the audience to give into their urges. At one moment he asked the audience to wink at the person in the room whom they have been having sexual fantasies about. Eric Davis has no shame in brutal and otherwise inappropriate honesty.

One of the greatest strengths of the show was the movement. Davis would walk all throughout the theatre in very odd and unique ways, creating an incredibly dynamic performance. Even when he would limit himself to the stage, his hypnotic, smooth, yet sometimes spastic movements were incredibly interesting. Davis’ unique way of moving on the stage and throughout the theatre complimented his humor very well. Not only was Davis a master of movement, he demanded the audience to move as much as he did. The crowd would be shuffling seats and standing on chairs every so often.

The show wasn’t entirely off the wall and high energy, though. At one point The Red Bastard became very sentimental with the audience. He asked the crowd about their dreams and why they hadn’t accomplished them. He posed very difficult questions

which challenged everyone on their life choices. At one point he had someone call their boss and quit their job. It was incredible how this show made members of the audience realize what they truly want out of life.

The show ended with a very sentimental speech from Davis as he encouraged audience members to step out of your comfort zone and do the things you’ve always wanted to. While giving this speech Davis took off all of his suit leaving himself completely nude on stage. Normally this would shock an audience, but Davis created a context that made it work.

Things took a turn for the worse when Davis chose to walk down busy Argyle Street completely naked. Davis received a warm applause from members of the audience, but the response of the Halifax Regional Police was not as warm; he was arrested and removed from the area. Davis did return to Neptune Theatre about 20 minutes later only to be greeted with a thunderous applause from members of the audience who were still around.

The Red Bastard shocked the crowd with his intensely crude humor but left them motivated to achieve their true goals. ☺

# Fresh fiction at the library Students’ work is inspired by modern realities

Meriha Beaton  
 Arts Contributor

.....  
 Lovers of fiction joined in the Special Collections Reading Room of the Killam Library last Thursday to hear the latest works of Dalhousie students Danny Jacobs and Nicole Dixon.

The young writers are both in their final year of the MLIS program at the School of Information Management. They’ve already been acknowledged for their creative talents, published in literary magazines such as Grain and The Fiddlehead.

Introduced as “one of those rare poets that actually writes poetry,” by Dixon, Jacobs began the reading with seven original poems, all of which detail the simple daily pleasures that inspire him.

He warmed up the audience with a short, love poem entitled “Before Waking” which expressed an intimate moment between him and a lover. Then, moving on to a far less sexy subject, he recited a poem called “Fetch,” about his brother’s dog. As he read he tapped his foot on the ground, keeping up a steady rhythm.

The rest of his poems had similarly everyday content- from describing a pool game to detailing the various passengers of a bus.

Jacobs’ writing is fresh and modern, which is largely due to his avid consumption of contemporary poetry. He is engaged in what surrounds him in the present, which is reflected in his writing.

“A lot of people want to be a writer and when you ask them what they read that’s contemporary, they say ‘that’s not really my thing,’” said Jacobs. “If all you read is Wordsworth, then that’s not going to fly.”

While some poetry can be contemplative and abstract, Jacob’s words painted pictures of the familiar activities of life. The audience could easily visualize the places in his poems.

“You must make a landscape be more than a landscape,” said Jacobs. “If you are going to bring in a landscape you need to make it do interesting things.”

Next, Jacobs introduced Dixon. The writer, who holds a Masters of Arts

in Creative Writing and English, uses powerful female characters to drive her narratives. Jacobs described them as strong, believable and unique. And while their choices aren’t always the best, they are done with conviction.

“On top of their bodies is their heads, and in their heads are their voices,” said Jacobs, quoting a line from Dixon herself.

Dixon’s story “Mona says Fire, Fire, Fire” was inspired when she saw the five words of the title spray painted on an overpass. She didn’t know what she wanted to write, but she knew it had to be something with those words. The short story is about a woman, Mona, who moves from a big city to a small fisherman’s village.

“I had just finished my M.A and was having a really hard time writing,” says Dixon. “I just did the old thing everyone tells you to do, which was write what you know and I had just moved to a small fisherman’s town.”

The protagonist of Dixon’s short story is relatable and familiar. The character lacks pretension as she struggles to find her way through a foreign Nova Scotia town. She says and does things most young Canadian women do.

In a passage detailing Mona’s rendezvous during a French Immersion program in Quebec, Dixon read: “they found themselves dizzily dancing to French hip hop, drunk on bottled Export, bumping hips on the sweaty Friday night dance floor beside fellow students literally half their ages. And then, unable to go back to the rooms in their billeted houses, they found the lee side of a woodpile in a dewy-grassed backyard. They broke the French-only rule when neither knew the word for condom.”

Dixon’s goal with her characters is to make them as realistic as possible, and to steer away from female stereotypes that are so ingrained in Canadian literature.

This short story is one of a collection from Dixon’s first book, High Water Mark, which is to be published in 2012 with Porcupine’s Quill.

For both Jacobs and Dixon, writing is a huge part of their lives. And after hearing some of their work, it is clear that life, in its simplest form, plays a huge part in their writing. ☺



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# STREETER

*What would you change about Halifax? What is it missing?*



"It needs an NHL hockey team."

**Jonathan Perry**  
3rd year history



"More bus routes."

**Lauren Roberts**  
2nd year arts



"More accurate and predictable weather. Dry weather!"

**Jen Tohme**  
3rd year microbiology



"Less drinking regulations. You can't even walk down the street drunk!"

**Dominic Parent**  
3rd year political science



"Things close too early here. I miss 7-Elevens."

**Majed Alrasheed**  
2nd year chemistry



"I'd put a strip club downtown."

**Nick Hussy**  
4th year environmental engineering



"Add cooler hangouts to Barrington Street. It's bringing Halifax down."

**Alysse Glick**  
2nd year international development studies



"A big concert hall so that Dave Matthews Band can come."

**Alex Poulton**  
4th year bio-chemistry

Streeter by Samantha Dumford and Corey Davison

## OVERHEARD AT DAL

**At Howe Hall, a girl walks in pushing empty wheel chair:**

**Guy:** "How do you lose someone in a wheelchair?"

**Girl:** "So why are you taking a general science degree?"

**Guy:** "Because it's the easiest. I plan to donate my sperm for \$200, three times a week, but it turns out you're not allowed to unless you have some sort of degree."

**Girl 1:** "...And, that's when he said we should probably break up"

**Girl 2:** "Crap. So, how was the butter chicken?"

**In History 1501:**

**Guy 1:** "What the fuck is this syllabus thing this guy has been talking about for weeks?"

**Guy 2:** "Yeah, and what's BLS?"

**SUBMIT THE RESULTS OF YOUR EAVESDROPPING:  
OVERHEARD AT DAL FACEBOOK GROUP**



arts&culture

# The Light Brights turn up the heat

## Band celebrates first album release at the Paragon

Tristan Kay  
Arts Contributor

It seems like Haligonians have a thing for making music on their own. One can't walk a city block without seeing a poster for an up and coming band's debut or CD release. On Sept. 30, the indie-pop-rock group The Light Brights had their CD release party at The Paragon. The event was the celebration of the culmination of a great deal of hard work.

Members Chad Harrington, Bethany Fulde, and Andrew Dehms met back in college. As the musicians started performing together, their chemistry allowed them to grow into The Light Brights. Harrington is the band's bassist and on occasion provides back-up vocals. These back-up vocals supplement the lead singing of Fulde, who also plays the electric/acoustic guitar. All of this is complimented by the drumming of Dahms. Until September, the trio had only produced a small EP, but, "We don't talk about that," joked Harrington. On September 7th the band released their first album: *The World's A Changin'*.

The nine-track album was the result of months of hard work. The challenge though, was not in writing the songs, but perfecting them. "It wasn't hard in the sense of writing the songs; that part came pretty easy," said Fulde. "We worked really well together and meshed

really well. In the sense of the amount of time it took, there were countless hours of just listening and re-recording certain pieces over and over again."

The end result is a brilliant commentary on everyday life. The album touches on multiple social issues and how everyone deals with them in their lives.

**"The group took to the stage and began what can only be described as a flawless performance."**

"It kind of goes between two different themes; between world change and anti-corporate. It touches on the environment, but then has heartache as well," says Fulde. "The whole thing is the struggles of the positives and negatives of all of those things," adds Harrington. Now that the recording part is done, the group has only one goal, to "promote the hell out of the album!" Over the last

few weeks they have been on countless interviews from newspapers to radio stations trying to get the word out about their new CD.

In good spirits at the Paragon, excited for the show to come, the band sat and enjoyed the performances by maritime bands The Caravan and Weak Size Fish. Glad to be back to performing, drummer Dahms reminisced about, "making a chair out of all the gear in the back of the van on the way to a gig." Sharing a beer with the band, it was all smiles and relaxation; that was until just after midnight, when the game faces came on.

The group took to the stage and began what can only be described as a flawless performance. From song to song, they performed like true rock stars, captivating the audience in bar. The band had to be up early the next morning to make their way on the road again to perform in Fredericton the following evening. One thing is for sure: as cliché as it is, the future is certainly bright for The Light Brights. ☺

The band has a bright future ahead.  
• • • Photo by Michael Cestnik



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# John K. Samson— Provincial Road 222

Nick Laugher  
Staff Contributor

**Grade: A**  
With a jagged, lonely uncertainty stepping through the luscious, organic timbre comes the airy and infinitely wise voice of John K. Samson, the darling singer/songwriter of The Weakerthans. Samson's latest vessel for his emotionally grounding, heartbreaking convictions and conflicted attitudes about a certain prairie province is *Provincial Road 222* and is the second in a series of seven inch records inspired by the winding highways and lonely roads of Manitoba. A shuffling, hesitant spill of drums timidly crawl into your head as a sombre Samson crafts a smouldering urgency and unnerving sadness with the opening track "The Last And." With poignancy, Samson's sharply painted hypothetical portrait of unrequited love within elementary school faculty tugs at us with an achingly sad, crippling nostalgia. Backed by the orchestration of the Correct Line Ensemble, a group which Samson's wife has a prominent role in, the track builds into a grandiose, fervent outpouring of memory, collapsing in a splintered cascade of instruments left


dripping with an ampersand and an ellipsis, refusing any resolution. "We the undersigned put forth his name" comes the cavalcade of voices from Samson's second track "Petition," a pseudo-eulogy for Manitoba hockey player Reggie "The Rifle" Leach. Richly laden with harmonies and a cyclical jangle of guitars and ukeleles, the infectious circular drone of the song burrows deep into your heart, inspiring a strange, gnawing sympathy and an unexplainable drive to get this spurned soul into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Closing the record is a haunting sea of spectral voices lamenting long days of technological isolation. Entitled "Stop Error" and brimming with computer puns and music by J.S. Bach, the humorous track hides a secret venom, providing an interesting contrast to the sparse, solemn arrangements of the previous songs. Never one to rest on his laurels, Samson has once again delivered a surprisingly diverse package of insightful – if not immutable – honesty and we've signed for it, slowly solidifying him a position as Canada's indie-rock poet laureate. 

tunes.

# Scott Dunbar— Philosophies of a Moth Vol. 3: Two Years to Live

Sagar Jha  
Staff Contributor

**Grade: A-**  
We all have opinions on a lot of important issues and sometimes we just need a soapbox to stand on so they can be heard. Scott Dunbar's soapbox is his music. Dunbar's newest album is full of his charismatic and unique music. Dunbar creates clever instrumentals in his one-man band, using either his guitar or accordion in his hands and percussion at his feet. However, the greatest strength of this album is the lyricism. Dunbar, a Vancouver native, delivers powerful, radical and important messages on issues including political ideologies, sustainability, and industrialization. His outspoken nature on this album creates songs that will leave you full of questions about the world. If you care about current global issues then you should listen to this album. A word of caution: only listen to the album if you are ready for a strong dose of reality. The style of Dunbar's voice is

powerful and full of so much passion. He sings with an in-your-face blues style. If Propagandi made music with Dan Mangan, it would sound something like this hard hitting, fast-paced record. Dunbar started out as a street-busker and gained popularity on YouTube with his Michael Jackson covers. The album has 24 tracks in total, all of which were recorded in a single week. The album is released in a modest case with clever album art. The two-disc set come in a pocket fashioned out of re-used cloth material. It is sustainable, original, and just plain cool. Dunbar continues to practice sustainability with his unique style of percussion: he uses rusty chains, old pots and his suitcase kick drum. Dunbar also provides the chords and lyrics to his songs in the included booklet, which encourages listeners to pass the message along by learning to play some of their favourite tracks. Releasing this album completely independently with no record label or deal, his aim is to have his message heard. It is refreshing to listen to an artist who has a clear motive with their work. This album will make you think. 

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Dylan Matthias Sports Editor



PEI 23 - 21 Dal

## Dalhousie drops home opener



Dalhousie's 34 year undefeated streak is over after a close loss at home to PEI ••• Photo by Pau Balite

**Henry Whitfield**  
Sports Contributor  
.....

In front of a sold-out crowd made up of nostalgic alumni and students decked in face-paint, the Dalhousie football team made their long awaited return to Wickwire field.

Football fever was in full effect, and the stands were awash in black and gold as the rambunctious fans loudly welcomed their Tigers to the field and sounded off in appreciation for the work and effort that finally brought football back to Dalhousie.

Unlike their previous matchup that saw the teams combine for 96 points, this was a close-fought defensive duel that pitted the teams together in a classic gridiron battle.

The visitors from PEI quickly stormed down the field and kicker Phil Lanthier converted a field goal to take an early 3-0 lead.

Unable to build momentum on offence, the Tigers turned over the ball and were unable to find answers for the lethal running game employed by their opponents, who missed their next field goal attempt but picked up a single on the play.

The Hurricane's took a 4-0 lead into the second quarter, where they continued their forward drive and capped their first series with a 35-yard touchdown reception by Jeff Hillier. Trying to apply

the pressure the Hurricanes attempted a two-point conversion but were stopped just short of the extra points.

The Tigers clawed back with a pair of touchdowns in the second quarter, a two yard run by former CIS all-star James Green and a reception by receiver Brendan Poupere, however the team failed to convert on their extra point attempts. Lanthier added his second field goal just before halftime, the home team now trailing 13-12 at the half, leaving those in attendance wondering where the high-flying offence had gone.

.....  
**"The storybook ending was not to be..."**  
.....

The Hurricanes picked up where they left off. Lanthier added a third field goal and pegging his team to a 16-12 lead. Answering back right away, Greg Pelly ran the ensuing kick-off 90-yards for the touchdown, giving his team their first lead of the evening. Pelly picked up 200 yards returning in the game earning his second kick-off return touchdown of the season.

The fourth quarter left the game open. Lanthier added a touchdown to his stat-line but despite a 23-19 lead,

the Hurricanes offence stuttered and a 15-yard penalty saw the team stuck deep in their own zone with just minutes remaining. The result was a 'Canes safety, giving the Dalhousie fans an opportunity to cheer their team onto a dramatic come-back attempt, their team trailing 23-21 with less than two minutes remaining.

However, the storybook ending was not to be, as the Tigers drove into the Hurricanes' end, James Green fumbled the ball, ending all hope of a comeback and dropping the team to a 2-1 record. Hurricanes running back Ernesto Carranza was the key to the win, with the team moving away from the throwing game that coughed up six interceptions the previous week. He sliced apart a Dalhousie defence was unable to find an answer to his speed and creativity.

"Knowing what they're going to throw at you and stopping it are two different things," admitted defensive coordinator and associate head coach Scott MacLean. "We knew what was coming and we tried to limit the damage."

"We have a team that's full of a lot of raw talent and we're continuing to get stronger, but it's a learning process and we're happy with the play so far," continued MacLean.

The team has a two week break before they entertain the UNB Saint John Seawolves on Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

PEI 23 - 21 Dal

## Dalhousie wins home opener



A sold-out Wickwire Field. ••• Photo by Pau Balite

**Ian Froese**  
Sports Contributor  
.....

I went to a football game and a spectacle broke out.

By the game's conclusion, the five gentlemen sporting black and gold unitards, the fellow wearing a Christmas vest leading the crowd in a chant of "Dal—hou—sie!", and a half-naked stalker bolting onto the field in only his boxers were the recognizable figures of a night where the crowd was more of a story than the plays that transpired on the field.

.....  
**"A memorable moment was the electric atmosphere when Greg Pelly ran a 90-yard punt return to give the home team a 19-16 lead early in the fourth quarter."**  
.....

If anyone questioned the extent the audience would control the evening's narrative, you only had to look at the singing of the national anthem when a noticeable portion of the crowd, oblivious to the quiet PA announcements, did not immediately recognize they were supposed to stand. Once the crowd was on its feet, it took halfway through the song for the east

end of the stadium to begin singing. And when they did, they butchered their performance with the loudest fans purposely singing at an incorrect pace.

The first football home game in 34 years had become an event, more so than it was a game.

Contributing to the lack of attention paid to the game was the approximately 20-feet of open space available between the field of play and the bleachers. It essentially became a canvas for the fans, particularly the intoxicated ones, to do whatever they pleased.

Did it mean fans would run to the front of the crowd and attempt to get their brethren to participate in the tried-and-true sporting tradition of the wave? Absolutely. Would it result in unbridled enthusiasm whenever specific drunks returned from the beer gardens and recognized a friend in the crowd? Certainly. Did the free room on the field encourage someone to partake in a piggy-back ride? Without a doubt.

To say it simply, the many distractions on the sidelines and students' allure of seeing their friends at a sporting event rather than the classroom or the bar helped produce a festive atmosphere.

There are many positives to take from Dal's 23-21 loss to Holland College. There was pride in our school. Supporters cheered, dressed up in Dal colours, and a number even watched from outside Wickwire's fence because capacity was reached in the stands. A memorable moment was the electric atmosphere felt throughout the field when Greg Pelly ran a 90-yard punt return to give the home team a 19-16 lead early in the fourth quarter.

The quality of play is not in the same stratosphere as the AUS, but for only \$2, students enjoyed a different and entertaining way to begin their Saturday night; a method that has been dormant since 1976.



## Dal women send SMU home



Dal women rank sixth nationally following Friday's win. ••• Photo by Martina Marien

**Arfa Ayub**  
Staff Contributor

It was a rematch of two rival teams last Friday: the Dalhousie Tigers and the Saint Mary's Huskies. Last time these two teams met each other the Tigers won in a close 2-1 game. This game, the Tigers came out on top again, 1-0.

"Really pleased with the effort, we used a lot of people in today's game, we kept the intensity high," said Tigers head coach Jack Hutchison. "Defensively I thought we did a good job of shutting them down. There were a couple of silly mistakes that we made, but hey: everybody makes those. Offensively I would like to see us have a little bit more on attack and things like that but generally right now where we are, I am pretty happy."

It was a quiet first six minutes at Wickwire field, with neither of the teams really getting any great chances as Dalhousie kept possession of the ball though the middle. The first great chance for Dalhousie came when the Tigers were awarded a free kick but missed low left side, and the score remained 0-0.

Late in the first half, the game started to pick up. With 13 minutes left, Tigers rookie Bianca Jakisa, scored the lone goal of the game after receiving a great pass from Beth O'Reilly down the

middle. This was Jakisa's first goal as a Tiger.

As Dalhousie started to gain momentum, the Huskies were on edge, trying to keep it to a one goal game.

Saint Mary's lone chance of the half came when a Dalhousie player made a defensive mistake and as the ball bounced over her, Dalhousie goalkeeper Taryn McKenna came out of her net to make herself big.

That plan almost backfired on McKenna as Stephanie Burgess nearly scored on the empty net, but her shot missed.

The second half of the game was the same story as the Tigers kept good possession of the ball.

"We just made a few changes with regards to our formation and put a few different people in a couple different positions, which I don't think allowed them as much time on the ball, so they didn't have time to play," said Hutchison.

It was windy evening at Wickwire field and Hutchison felt that the Tigers did not use that to their advantage.

"The wind always affects it; you know I thought we played well. That's probably in the first half is a little bit of a disappointment for me because I thought maybe we could have made better use of that and we didn't," said Hutchison. ☺

## Tigers win statement game

**Dylan Matthias**  
Sports Editor

The Tigers' men's soccer team needed to make a statement. Their 2-0 win over archrivals Saint Mary's at Wickwire Stadium last Friday was just that.

Late goals from Andrew Hutchison and Ross Hagen allowed the Tigers to put to rest a week that had seen them go 1-1-2 in their last four games, including a brutal 6-1 blowout at the hands of Saint Mary's in the reverse fixture.

"It was a real character win for us," said head coach Pat Nearing. "Obviously after the last game with Saint Mary's a lot of questions were being asked: 'What happened, what happened, what happened?' But we answered all the questions tonight."

It was Dal's best game of the season, featuring strong passing play and a quick-paced attack for all ninety minutes.

SMU held their ground, giving nothing to Dal until the 20th minute when their conviction wavered. Tiger-turned-Husky Zach Bauld was booked for a silly, undisciplined lunge into Nathan Beck 85 yards from his full-back position.

Dal had their close calls, too. In just the

seventh minute Ian Coke used his speed to beat Jordan Mannix on the wing. Ben Ur fouled the Huskies' striker as Coke tried to round him, and was probably lucky to escape a red card.

Andrew Dalziel was the next Tiger to struggle with the pace of the Huskies out wide. Jonattan Cordoba again got past Mannix and this time Dalziel brought him down on a clear break, again escaping with just a foul and a yellow card.

The inevitable red card came in the 63rd minute with another moment of madness from Bauld. Beaten by Tyler Lewars on the wing, Bauld jumped hard into a late tackle, earning a second yellow card.

Dal took advantage of their extra man and made it pay in the 80th minute when Hutchison beat SMU keeper Adam Miller to a through pass before rounding him and slotting it home.

Ten minutes later, Ross Hagen sealed the game with sixth goal of the season. Hutchison, held off by a Husky defender, slid a pass back to Hagen at the top of the box. The Tigers' midfielder tapped in the easy goal with Miller off his angle.

"Last time we played them, we won 6-1," said Huskies defender Shawn

Kodejs. "I think we came with high expectations. I think we took them a little bit too lightly."

The Tigers needed the win badly after two weeks filled with rumblings and rumours of discontent around the team.

"It's a great win for the team," said Nearing. "It's probably our best performance of the year, by far."

The win moves Dal to a much more respectable position in the table, up to third place behind undefeated St. FX and Saint Mary's, both of whom are nationally ranked.

"Last Wednesday we just got unlucky at the beginning and got discouraged," said Dal captain Ross Hagen. "The only real difference is we came out a little bit harder today; we wanted to prove to the league that we're one of the top teams."

"We prepared for Cordoba better," said Nearing, after the Huskies star scored twice in the team's first meeting. Nearing also switched Nathan Rogers to right back and started Nathan Beck, who has been fighting an injury through the first half of the season. Kerry Weymann, who struggled with a hip injury in the 6-1 loss to Saint Mary's, was back on Friday. ☺

## Sports Briefs

**Dal men lose to St. FX**

Defensive blunders sunk the Tigers last Saturday in Antigonish. Kieran Gilfoy and Jamar Dixon scored for the X-Men, both goals coming off of poorly defended long throws from Miroslav Novak.

St. FX also beat Acadia 2 - 0 last Friday night.

**Memorial men lose, Cape Breton held to draw in men's soccer**

It was not a good weekend for the Seahawks. A 4-0 drubbing by Moncton, followed by a torrid showing against UNB last Saturday has ended the Seahawk's promising start.

The UNB loss saw Memorial behind only five minutes in to a Galen Smith goal. Shea Nordheim also scored for the Varsity Reds to make it 2 - 0, a scoreline that could have been much more lopsided if UNB had finished better.

Sunday saw Memorial drop two valuable points to Mt. Allison, a 2-2 draw in one of the few winnable games this

year for the Seahawks.

The Cape Breton Capers were held to a surprise 1-1 draw by Moncton last Saturday. The defending champions responded well on Sunday, however, beating UNB in Fredericton 2-0.

UPEI took six points from their weekend with two valuable road wins over Mt. Allison and Acadia.

**Richard, Landry score in 3-0 win over X-Women**

The Tigers' women's soccer team took advantage of some shaky goalkeeping from St. FX goalkeeper Anna Thompson last Sunday. Emma Landry scored on a strange headed goal and Katie Richard bundled a mishandled corner into goal before chipping the out of position keeper late to double her tally.

The Dal women enter the Thanksgiving break on top of the AUS.

**Big scores in AUS women's soccer**

Cape Breton led the way last Sunday with a 5-1 win over the UNB Varsity Reds. UPEI and Mt. Allison were also winners on Sunday, 3-0 over Acadia and Memorial, respectively.

It wasn't a good weekend for Memorial, who also fell 3-0 to UNB and 3-1 to Moncton on their New Brunswick road trip. Cape Breton had a perfect weekend, with a 3-0 win over Moncton last Saturday.

UPEI also beat Mt. Allison on Saturday.

**UNB hockey successful south of the border**

UNB's men's hockey team are continuing their tremendous preseason with two wins against University of Massachusetts-Amherst and University of Vermont, both NCAA teams. The Varsity Reds open their run at the University Cup Oct. 15 away to UPEI.

**Mount/King's soccer derby ends even**

The first installment of the Halifax ACAA soccer derby ended with two draws last Wednesday. The Mystics women played King's to a 0 - 0 draw. The men ended 4-4 after trading goals all evening. The rematch is Oct. 16. ☺

—Dylan Matthias  
Sports Editor

## HOW WILL YOU LIVE WELL @ DAL?

Dalhousie University's Department of Athletics and Recreational Services offers Dal students plenty of opportunities to get active, meet up with friends, show your competitive spirit and take your mind off the books! You can also head to Dalplex with your student ID and unwind while staying healthy.

**FRIDAY**  
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**SATURDAY**  
**October 9**

**Men's Hockey vs. Université de Moncton** @ Dalplex, 7pm (Exh)  
FREE for Dal students!

**SUNDAY**  
**October 10**

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**MONDAY**  
**October 11**

Have a fantastic Thanksgiving!

**TUESDAY**  
**October 12**

**Intramural Registration Deadline** for Broomball Leagues

**FREE Intro to Weight Training session** @ Dalplex, 6-8pm. Dal students only

**WEDNESDAY**  
**October 13**

Check out all the Homecoming activities next week, October 21-23  
[dal.ca/homecoming](http://dal.ca/homecoming)

**THURSDAY**  
**October 14**

**Men's Basketball vs. Lakehead** @ Dalplex, 7pm (Exh)  
FREE for Dal students!



**WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA**



## sports

## Weekend preview

## Preseason hockey will keep us entertained

Dylan Matthias  
Sports Editor

It's Thanksgiving weekend. It's a weekend where everyone is thankful for what we have and what has been and a weekend where Gazette sportswriters are thankful that we get a bit of a break to recharge before the first round of fall playoff run-ins.

AUS breaks for Thanksgiving, so there's little to choose from this week, meaning university sport fanatics are up a creek.

Fortunately, whenever there's a break in the schedule, Dal Hockey comes along to fill it right up. The Dalhousie men's hockey team will play two preseason games at Memorial Arena on the weekend against the teams responsible for them missing the playoffs last year.


The Tigers take on UPEI on Friday at

7:30 p.m. and Moncton on Saturday at the same time.

Around the league, Acadia take on St. Thomas this weekend and Saint Mary's host St. FX tonight at 7 p.m..

AUS football, with its short playing schedule, never sleeps. Unfortunately, it's sleeping with someone else tonight and Halifax football fans will have to watch on webcast as SMU take on St. FX in Antigonish or on EastLink TV where Mt. Allison host Acadia.

On Saturday, the cross-country team will be in Fredericton at the UNB Invitational exhibition meet, the last chance for athletes to tune up before the AUS championship at St. FX.

King's soccer hosts Nova Scotia Agricultural College next Wednesday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.. You'll have to drive out to Mainland Commons in Lacewood to see it, but if you do, it should be a fairly easy win for both King's teams. 

## Men's hockey lose 6-5 to Acadia



Tigers men's hockey renew their rivalry with the Acadia Axemen nice and early this year. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

Arfa Ayub  
Staff Contributor

The 2010/11 Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team opened their exhibition schedule with a 6-5 loss to the Acadia Axemen. The Tigers started slow but fought their way back into the game.

"It was a real exhibition game. There was not much defence there, although it was only 27 shots a side. I thought it was wide open, both teams were trying out different players so I thought it was just an opportunity to evaluate," said Pete Belliveau head coach of the Dalhousie Tigers.

Zachary Firlotte opened the scoring for Acadia, scoring on wrist shot from just outside the crease. A few seconds later, Dalhousie's Francois Gauthier was called for a slashing penalty.

Just 18 seconds into the power play, the Axemen's Jonathan Laberge scored on a slap-shot from the point. Before the first period was over Acadia added one more goal to make the score 3-0.

"We had not a very good first period; we just continued to get better throughout the game and finished really strong in the third," said Ryan Jenner, captain of the Dalhousie Tigers.

It was a more even second period as both teams scored and kept pace with each other. Just 42 seconds into the second period Brett Plouffe got the Tigers on the scoreboard, jumping on a rebound.

Just as it seemed that the Tigers were starting to gain momentum, Acadia came right back with a goal of their own on a blast from the point. The rest of the period went much the same way with both teams trading chances but Acadia coming out on top with a 6-3 lead.

Tigers opened the scoring in the third on a goal by Brad McConnell. The score now 6-4, it seemed as if the Tigers were attempting a comeback. With just under 5 minutes left, Gauthier was awarded a penalty shot after being brought down by Acadia on a breakaway chance.

Gauthier made Acadia pay as he scored on a great wrist shot to make it


6-5 and the Tigers were right back in it.

With 40 seconds left to play, the Tigers called a time out. Off the offensive zone face-off, Dal were able to score. The crowd roared, as they thought the Tigers had tied up the game only to find out that the goal had been called back due to the net coming off its moorings.

Following the game, the head coach and Captain of the Dalhousie Tigers discussed what they expect from the coming season.

"Well, we just talked about it in the dressing room, you know. We expect to be in the top half of the league, third or fourth, that's where we are projected to place," said Jenner.

The Tigers finished just one point out of the play-offs last season.

"Our expectations are to make the play-offs and show an exciting brand of hockey," said Belliveau. 

Since the writing of this article, the men's hockey team beat Moncton 3-2 in a shootout to bring their pre-season record to 2-2.

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## sports. COVER

### SPORTS AT DAL



contributor meetings  
mondays @ 5:30 pm  
room 312, the SUB



# Good times coming

## Women's basketball split weekend



The Tigers host the Subway Tournament, Oct. 15-17 at the Dalplex.  
••• Photo by Martina Marien

**Natasha White**  
Sports Contributor

October is here, and with it comes ball. Basketball that is. Life is goood. The hole in my soul fills with every pound of leather against hardwood.

The Tigers women took to the floor first this season, hosting both Guelph and Laurier last weekend. After the 71-53 victory Friday night against visiting Guelph, head coach Anna Stammberger was hesitant to comment too much.

.....  
**“The talent is there. The heart is palpable... a couple of months and the ball will improve exponentially.”**  
.....

“We did some good things and some bad things. It’s too early in the season for specifics. We need to work on a lot of things.”

Stammberger is in her second year leading the Tigers squad, joined by assistant coach Tina Lum. The coaching

staff took a bit of a nap in the second quarter, allowing centre Tia Gerwatoski to stay on the court with three fouls late in the first half. True to Murphy’s law, Gerwatoski committed her fourth before the half was over.

Day 2’s game against Laurier also brought out early foul trouble. Second-year Anna von Maltzahn collected her second in the opening two and a half minutes. She would sit for the remainder of the quarter. Von Maltzahn was, however, a major contributor on both defence and offence. Look for von Maltzahn to become a leader on the court as the season progresses.

Sadly, Dal wasn’t too interested in defending the baseline this weekend, and both Guelph and Laurier took advantage. Saturday night’s game saw Laurier take the Tigers 67-52. Devoting some serious time to rebounding and blocking out will serve the Tigers well. And if we could take the exaggerated two foot stop out of their vocabulary, that’d be swell too.

Overall, Dal looked very promising. There were doubts whether this newly-formed Tiger team could develop the chemistry needed to be a contender in the AUS. Passing, last year’s Achilles heel, is already noticeably improved. And though the threes weren’t dropping versus Laurier, going one for 16, they’ll come. After these exhibition games, the hope is alive. The talent is there. The heart is palpable. Give these ladies a couple of months and the ball will improve exponentially. ☺



# Profile: Taryn McKenna

## Sophomore goalkeeper follows in sister's footsteps

**Arfa Ayub**  
Staff Contributor

For Taryn McKenna, this year’s goalkeeper for the Dalhousie Tigers women’s soccer team, playing soccer was the natural thing to do.

“My older sisters played soccer so my parents thought why not put the young one in and then I did and my sister’s a goalie so then I followed in her footsteps and I became a goalie,” said McKenna.

McKenna has played soccer for 14 years. Originally from Oakville, Ontario, McKenna graduated from St Thomas Aquinas high school. and is now in her second year at Dalhousie and majoring in Arts.

She came to Dalhousie University “for a bunch of reasons, their soccer program as well as the location. I love Halifax and academics there wasn’t really any reason not to, for me.”

Last year McKenna played behind experienced Dalhousie goalkeeper Heather Armstrong and she says she learned a lot from her. “If she taught me one thing it would be you got to be tough, you got to run through the play, you can’t be timid or else you are not going to make the saves.”

In high school McKenna played volleyball and basketball but she now focuses on soccer. After Dal, McKenna hopes to continue to play soccer competitively.

“My sister was a goalie and I wanted to be just like her. I played it and I fell in love with it and I just thought it’s the perfect position for me because you just get dive all over the ground and get muddy,” said McKenna.

Her favourite memory as a Tiger?

“That’s tough. I would say being undefeated last season was pretty sweet.”

Besides soccer, another of McKenna hobbies is playing guitar. ☺



After playing back-up keeper last year, McKenna has moved into the starting role.  
••• Photo by Martina Marien

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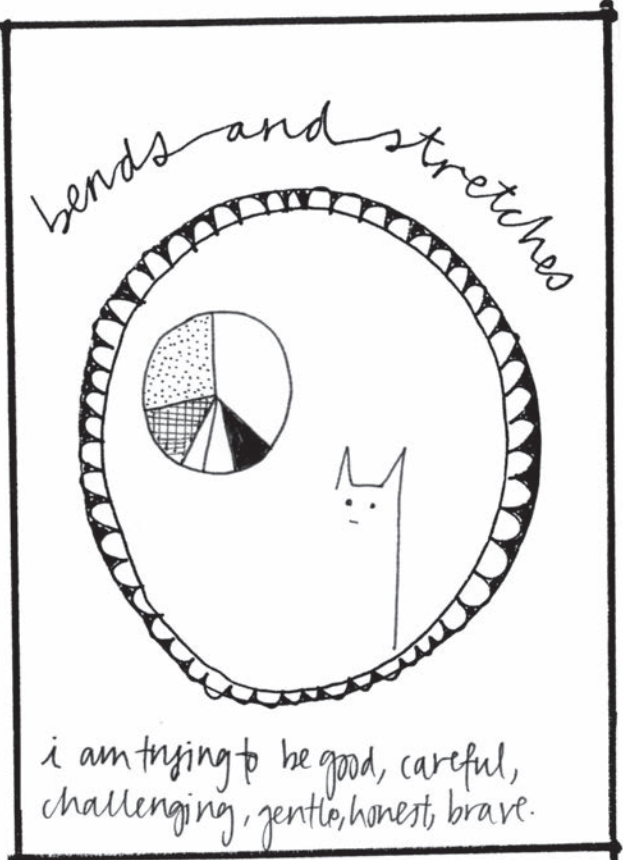
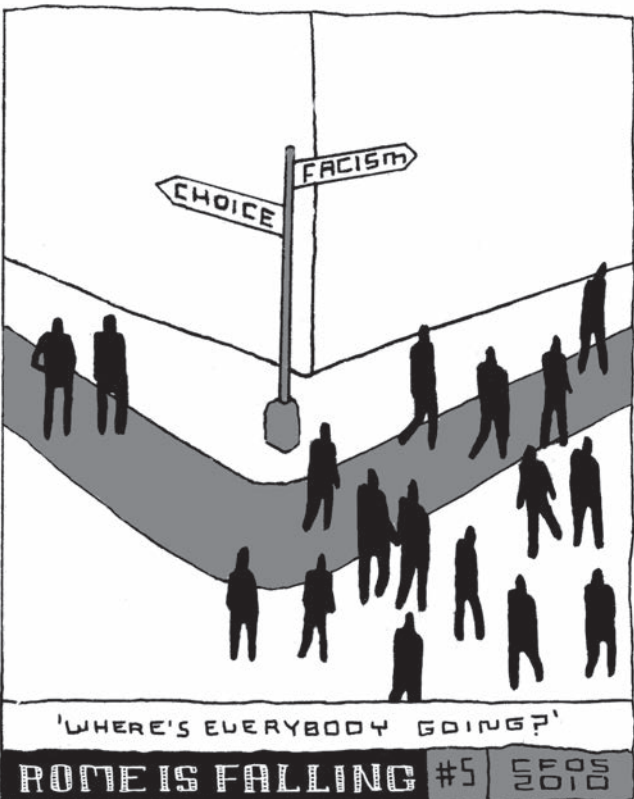
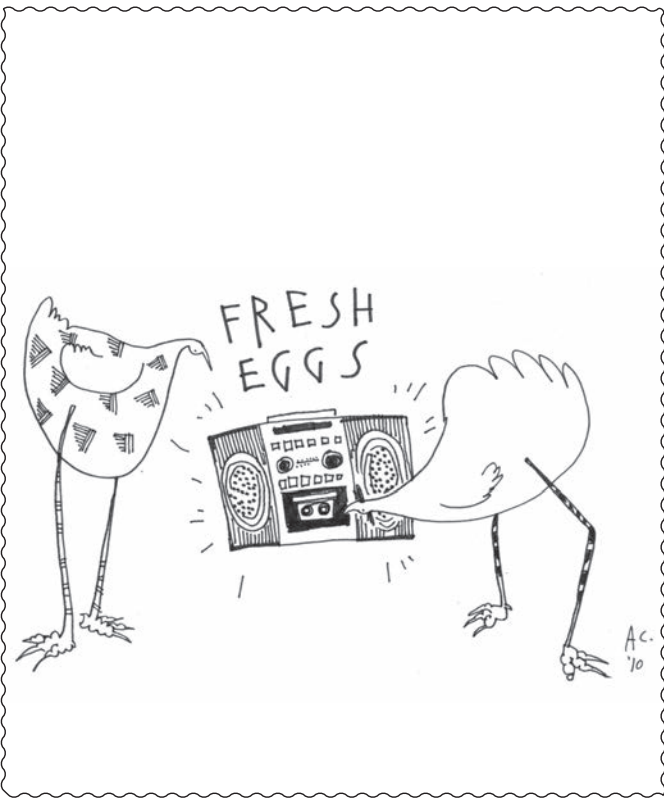
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# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

OCTOBER 8TH, 2010

## CURTIS THE COUNCILLOR: DSU EXECUTIVES FACE IMPEACHMENT



**Curtis Johnston**  
DSU Council  
Member at Large  
Mechanical '13

On Wednesday September 29th, your DSU president and fellow Vice Presidents all faced notice of their own impeachment. In the scattered and incomplete DSU recollection, this is the most serious notice of motion to come down since the controversial impeachment hearing of Mark Hobbs ("guy with canes", as he calls himself). He defeated that motion and it is not likely that these Executives will ever actually see a debate on their impeachment. The impeachment motion is a result of none of the Executive holding office hours on Sexton Campus. However, the more interesting question is around what led to Councillor Ben Wedge putting forward a motion that, if successful, would not allow the Union to operate because of insufficient amount of signing officers and would effectively nullify anything that could be accomplished year. It should be noted, the Wedge, as divisive as he might be, had help from the Engineering Representative, Kaylee Shannon. They are being reasonable and have offered to quash the motion if the executives start meeting their constitutional requirements with respect to Sexton Campus office hours.

programming and cash flow will dry up. The Engineering, Architecture, and Planning societies, not to mention residences will not receive funding. The heavily used grants program will cease to operate. No additional societies will be ratified. According to the DSU constitution, these positions are appointed by council in the event of an impeachment, but the transition and workload would be undoubtedly overwhelming. Active members of the Student Union, who want to see a positive outcome of these mandated office hours should take advantage of a chance to meet the executive and give them a reason for being on our campus. These are the people that can assist you in making changes on our campus. They sponsor things like the Concrete Canoe and 'Pulling for the Kids' events, but I don't think they feel their time on Sexton Campus is taken advantage of how their time spent on Studley Campus is.

Personally, I think that it has been proven since the opening of the Sexton Office in 2008 that the office hours are not utilized by students or are not something students really care about. I think the real issue is the sharing of resources and Executive time with Sexton students with office hours. I would propose the following solution that would yield more services for our campus. I propose that the Sexton Advisory Committee (a committee that is joint between the DSU executive and stakeholders on Sexton Campus like the T-Room manager) hold special open meetings with the entire executive on Sexton Campus where all Sexton students' feedback and suggestions are noted, then the most important goals be put on a timeline. Updates on these goals would then be required to be noted in each Executive report. Perhaps the DSU Launchpoint team could develop an informal forum to address this internal issue.

Feel free to email me at [Curtis.the.councillor@gmail.com](mailto:Curtis.the.councillor@gmail.com).

Not to be curt, but I'm Curtis the Councillor.

Why should *you* care? If we don't have an executive, you may lose your bus pass, and the T-room

## CO-OP CORNER

### Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: [www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca](http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca)
- Round 1: Going on now.
- Last job posting: October 13th.
- Check PlacePro



### Trivia every Friday!

Thu, Oct 7: Modern Citizen & Mech Night  
Fri, Oct 8: Engineers vs. Nurses Trivia  
Thu, Oct. 14: Engineering Olympics  
Fri: Oct. 15: Trivia

## WORD OF THE WEEK

Snooze (n): A combination of "snooze" and "oops", refers to hitting the snooze button too many times and missing your morning commitments.

This week's WOTW is brought to you by Stan Selig's Manufactory. ([twitter.com/manufactory](http://twitter.com/manufactory))

Editors' note: Word of the Week is a humour column defining common engineering terms. If you have any complaints or suggestions, please email [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca) Obviously, we prefer suggestions.



# THE SEXTANT

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## ONLINE DATING: A PRO, OR CON?



**Martin Crawley**  
**Mechanical '13**

Online dating appears to be either a mystery for some, or a guilty pleasure for others. In this technological era, I don't understand how online dating seems to either be not so well known or a taboo subject. I mean, we hunt for jobs online, face-creep online, so why not find a date online as well? I will attempt to explain what online dating is like, as well as the pros and cons associated with it.

When first entering into the realm of online dating, I didn't know exactly what to expect. It is a diverse place with many different types of people including different nationalities, races, genders, sexual orientations, political affiliations etc. You can pretty much find any type of person on the Internet, depending on how far you are willing to go to find that person.

How online dating usually works is: a person can create a profile that typically includes a short description of who they are, what they are interested in and even a picture if they feel comfortable having people see what they look like. By creating a profile, that person now becomes visible to all of those online on that particular site and other users may try and strike up a conversation with them. If a person receives a message, they can check out the sender's details and get a better idea of who they are before they decide to reply or ignore that message.

One might assume that online dating is only used by introverts or by people who are too scared to go to a bar. Wrong. Extroverted people use online dating too! I mean, I've used online dating, and I also know almost

everyone there is to know that goes to the t-room on a Friday night! So why would extroverted people use online dating to meet that special someone? There may be multiple reasons for each person but, on the whole, I think it's because it's a chance to meet someone outside your own social group, thus expanding your social circle. I don't know about you guys, but I'm not down for engcest. Engcest, as defined last year in the Sextant, is when an engineer dates another engineer. Ew. Another reason may also be that you can control who gets to meet you. Unlike meeting a random at a local dive (DOME, REFS etc.) who can invade your personal space and attempt to dance with you or start mindless conversation, online you can simply choose to ignore that person. I do that a lot while online dating. I also ignore people at bars, but it's just a bit more awkward.

Now that you are all up to speed on online dating, and you are actually interested in creating a profile, here are a few tips that will make your online dating experience a successful one:

- Pictures are worth a thousand words! Choosing the best picture to display who you are is critical in getting attention from others online. Make sure it is a clear face picture, and doesn't show that you are obviously drunk. This may give the wrong impression. It shouldn't be a model photo, or edited in any way unless it is cropped. Your profile picture should match how you look when you are casual, so that when a person meets you in a more formal setting for a date or coffee, their expectations will be exceeded! Multiple pictures help prove to others that you aren't actually a pale slob monster who plays WoW all day in their parents basement - and if you are, I pity you.

- A short, clear and concise description of yourself is key. Do not write a novel, because no one cares and no one will read it all. You aren't THAT interesting. Successful online profiles appear like a cover letter to a company. Be quick and to the point about your credentials, hobbies and interests. One thing I find most online users seem to forget is: including future goals, ambitions, and especially if they are looking for a long

-term relationship. When I was online, I wasn't about to settle for someone who will flip burgers for the rest of their life. A short description of your short-term goals could really pique the interest of a potential partner!

- Be yourself! Don't try to act like someone who you are not. People are not stupid, and will catch on very quickly if you are faking your interests or personality. Start off the relationship on a good note and be honest. If they don't like who you are, then it wasn't meant to be, and it would never work out in the first place.

- Do not post personal information such as your home address, work address, place of work, phone numbers, or credit information on your profile. This isn't Facebook.

- Be safe! I cannot stress this enough. Do not meet people if you don't feel comfortable talking to them online. Your intuition will always serve you well. If you do meet someone, make sure you tell someone where you plan on going and when you expect to return. Bring a cell phone, not only for your safety, but if the date is going terrible you can always fake a friend calling you saying that their cat is stuck up in a tree and you need to save it, therefore you can leave and not feel bad about it. Make sure you meet in a public setting such as a coffee shop or restaurant to enhance your safety.

- Finally, have fun! Online dating should not be stressful; it should just be another means of potentially meeting that special someone. If you are the hopeless romantic type, your time will come - so be patient. As with any sort of dating, you will have dates that are like dynamite

## *Write. Get paid.*

Deadline: Fridays at 5 pm.  
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The Sextant is published by the Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society and aims to represent all of the students studying and living on Sexton Campus.  
Editor: Ben Wedge, Assistant Editor: Shani Blankrot, Treasurer: Elizabeth Croteau



## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week's picture was taken by Mohsin Khan (Master of Electrical and Computer Engineering Candidate) and is a High Dynamic Range composition of the Henry Hicks Academic and Administration Building on Studley Campus. A high resolution copy is posted on our website. Have a neat photo? Send it to sextant@dal.ca





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