

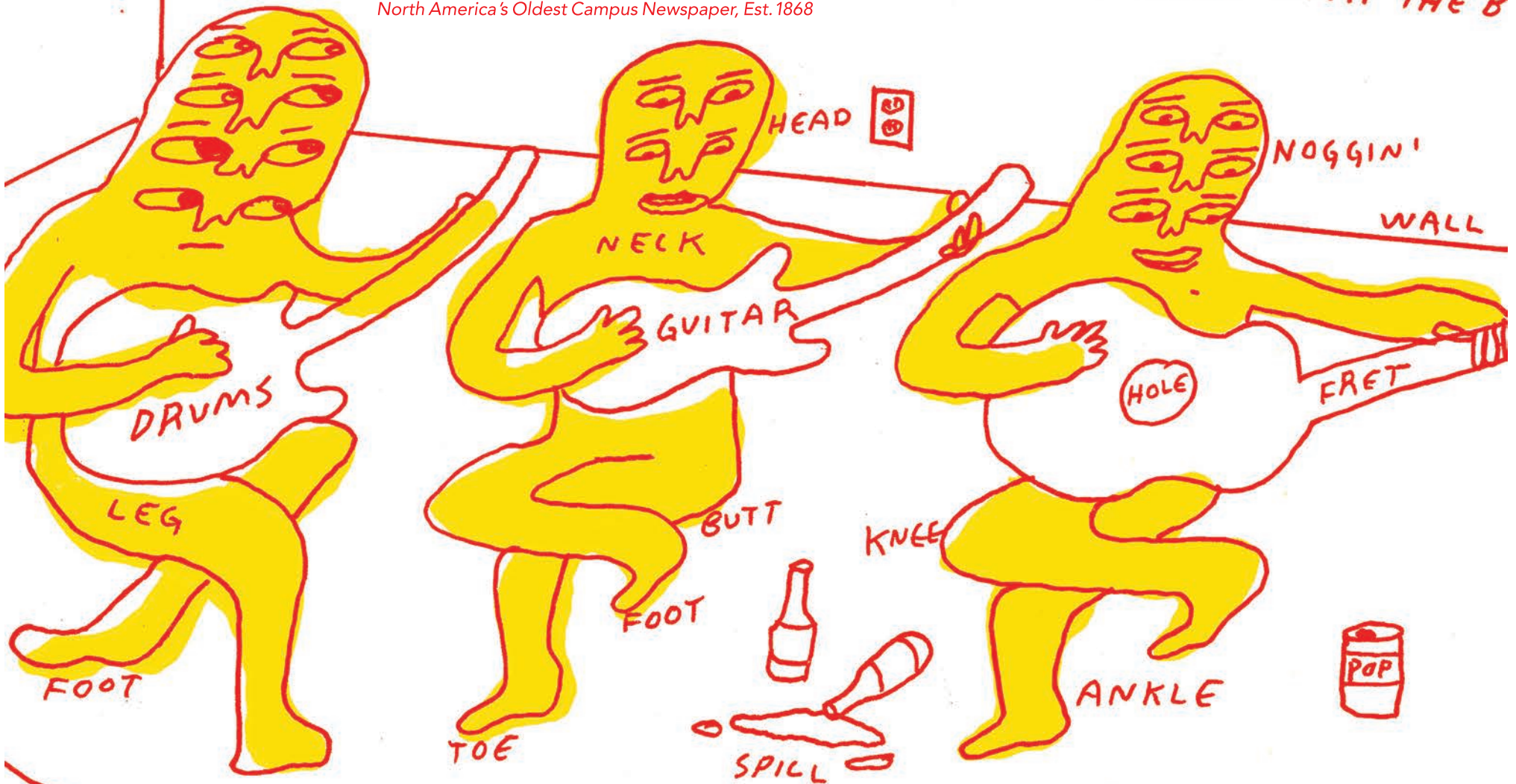


The Balhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

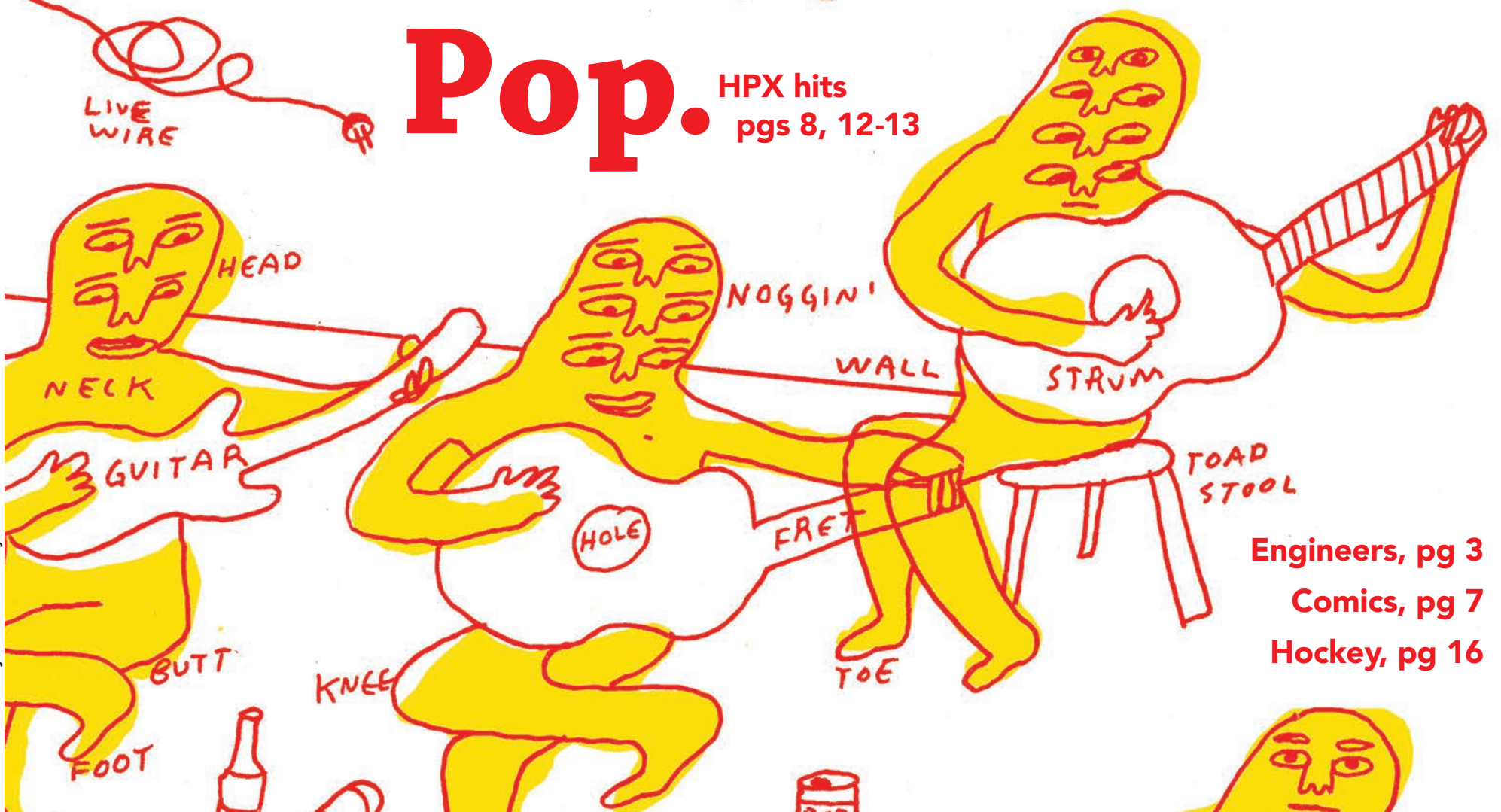


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Pop.

HPX hits
pgs 8, 12-13



Engineers, pg 3

Comics, pg 7

Hockey, pg 16



DALHOUSIE
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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. Tickets are \$15 incl. tax and are available at the Information Desk in the SUB. Please note that tickets are non-refundable.

Admission Criteria: 19+, Dal students, staff, alumni and guests. Alumni need homecoming alumni badge for admittance.

LMFAO Performs in the SUB!!!!!!!

Saturday, October 23

You have all heard and danced to their hit song Shots over the summer months and DSU is bring them to the SUB to perform in the McInnes during Homecoming Weekend!!!!

Tickets are \$25 incl. tax and are available at the Information Desk in the SUB. Please note that tickets are non-refundable.

Admission Criteria: All ages. Must have any university ID or a Dal Homecoming alumni badge. Alcohol area will only be open to Dal students, staff, alumni and guest who are 19+.

For more information, please contact your Vice President Student Life, Hannah Dahn.

Dalhousie Food Services wants your Food for Thought

Dalhousie Food Services will be launching an in-depth, campus-wide study on food services this week. The Feedback on Food survey is designed to determine the eating habits and dining preferences of students, faculty and staff while at Dal. The survey will be delivered through random, one-on-one interviews and online through the Dal Food Services website, www.foodservices.dal.ca. The survey closes Oct. 27, 2010.

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 to 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

Check us out on the web
www.dsu.ca

October 15 - October 21, 2010 •

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

The Dalhousie Gazette

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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

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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



“Hell Week” is no more
Petition wins students more space between exams

Samantha Chown
Nicole Feriancek
News Contributors

For the first time in more than five years, Dalhousie engineering students will no longer have six consecutive days of exams. Last Friday, the new exam schedule was released with a changed format.

It's not uncommon for engineering students to have between four and six exams in a row, with many only 15 hours apart. From Monday to Saturday, this period is commonly referred to as “Hell Week” by engineering students.

“One day, I slept in my car for an hour and then went back to the library,” says fifth-year civil engineering student Ramzi Matar. “Even if you were prepared, you were still mentally exhausted.”

Previous campaigns by students and faculty to change the schedule have failed.

“Every year we ask but the engineering faculty has no control over the spacing of exams,” says Pemberton Cyrus, associate dean of undergraduate engineering studies.

The registrar's office is responsible for creating the schedule for all university departments. Cyrus says the problem with making the schedule is that engineering students just have so many exams.

Most engineering exams are worth 50

per cent of a student's grade. If they fail the exam, they fail the course. Therefore, exams are very important and high stress for students.

“You basically kind of black out towards the third, fourth and fifth day,” says fourth-year mining student Yasser Mostafa. “It's actually the reason why I failed one of my courses.”

Cyrus believes that the changes with the new schedule have fixed the issue.

“For a couple of years we've had trouble trying to reconcile just how to get our exams spaced out over the exam period. This year, we managed to get it so that no more than two exams will be held on consecutive days,” he says.

The change in scheduling in part due to a petition created by Ibrahim Awwad, a third-year mechanical engineering student. He made two requests, one being that students should have no more than two exams in a row without a day off, and the other being that students should have at least a three day break between the end of lectures and the beginning of exams.

Awwad collected 723 signatures in three days, which is over half the engineering student body. He submitted the petition to the Registrar on Sept. 29, before the exam schedule was finalized.

The petition's first request was met, the second was not. Lectures will end on a Tuesday and exams will start that Thursday.

“There were a lot of people behind me,” says Awaad. “But there were also a lot of people against me.”

Gabriel Manuge, in his fifth and final year of chemical engineering, chose not to sign the petition.

“I didn't sign the petition. Hell no,” says Manuge. “We're going to have to compete for jobs with these guys. If we went through it, they should have to go through it, too.”

According to Manuge, less than half of the graduating class, which is about 350 people, signed the petition. Most fifth-year students have term projects and few exams. The new relaxed schedule would be of little benefit to them.

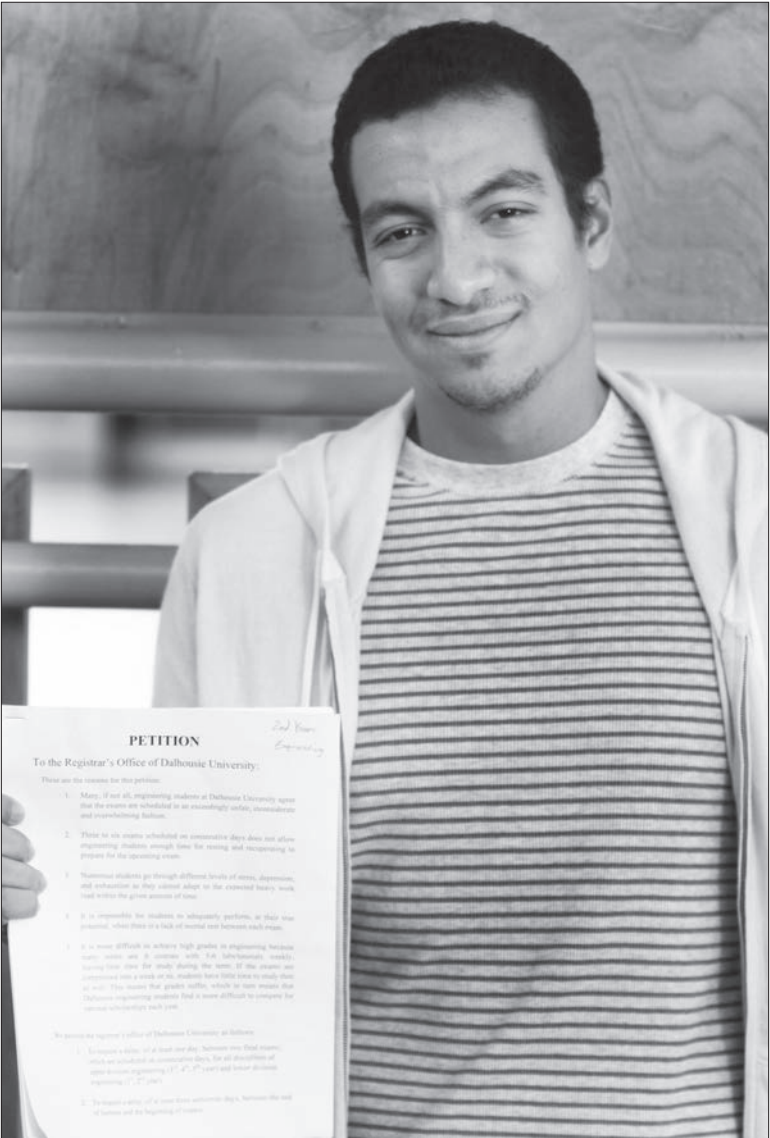
Steve Penny, also in his last year, didn't sign the petition either. He doesn't believe the extra time between exams would be beneficial.

“You should already know the material; you can't learn the course in three days,” says Penny.

Both Penny and Manuge say that they have always had successful exam weeks.

For now, engineering students can breathe a little easier with a lighter exam week. Although, Cyrus and Awaad both agree that there is still room for improvement for future schedules, “Hell Week” will soon be an engineering legend.

“When we graduate, we should get little stars beside our names – saying that we made it through, even with six straight exams every semester,” says Penny. ☹



The first request in Ibrahim Awwad's petition was granted, the second was not.
••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

New society kicks off with Freedom Week
Dal Liberty Society promotes libertarian values on campus

Torey Ellis
News Contributor

A brand-new society made itself heard this month with a week-long event, Freedom Week.

The Dalhousie Liberty Society (DLS) aims to spread the principles of political, economic and social freedom throughout Dal campus and make a name for itself in the process.

“We were pleasantly surprised by the number of libertarians at Dal,” says executive director Mike Kennedy in a press release. “Freedom Week was an overwhelming success.”

During Freedom Week, which took place from Oct. 4-8, the society hosted a different event each day to appeal to a wide group of people, says Paige MacPherson, who does communications for the society.

Among these were Suck My Liberty, a bake sale, a discussion of the decriminalization of prostitution, which garnered much attention, and a screening of political documentary Indoctrinate U.

They also set up Operation Politically Homeless in the McCain and at Sexton

Campus, a quiz designed to place people's views on a political spectrum.

Political speakers were present, including Danielle Smith, Leader of the Wildrose Alliance Party of Alberta, and Kevin Lacey, Atlantic Director of the Canadian Taxpayer's Association.

MacPherson says that the week brought “huge” growth to the group. The society's email list now numbers over 60, up from about 11 at the first meeting.

Kennedy, a fourth-year Political Science major, emphasizes that this is a group for people of all political affiliations.

“The goal is to educate students and faculty on what liberty is, what they mean and how we can apply them to campus politics, to local politics,” he said.

“We want to promote a conversation on campus that we don't think has been happening,” says Kennedy. “We want to get a media presence, a campus presence, and get our name out.”

The executive board of mostly third- and fourth-year students are all of varied political interests, says MacPherson. Among these are Brittany Steele and Ben Wedge, both of whom were

involved in the process of bringing the group to Dal.

One of their main focuses now is recruiting first- and second-year students, who can carry the society on in the next few years.

“We're not the sort of organization that meets every week,” says Kennedy, since most of the planning and corresponding takes place online.

They have met twice before in the Grad House. “Everyone just bounces around ideas,” says MacPherson. “I've never seen so much discourse in a student club.”

MacPherson plans on getting into a regular cycle of meetings, likely twice a month, but wants to stay away from “having meetings for the sake of having meetings.”

The DLS is staying active throughout the year, though they have nothing planned for the near future, and are looking to join forces with other campus groups to spread their message further.

Students of any program, year or political view who are interested in joining should visit the society website at dalhousie.campusliberty.ca ☹

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news

Students feel effects of economic downturn: StatsCan

Enrolment rises as employment opportunities tumble

Brennan Neill
The Concordian
Concordia University

MONTREAL (CUP) — More than half of post-secondary students were unable to hold or find a job during last year's recession.

A Sept. 29 Statistics Canada report found that during the 2009/10 school year only 45 per cent of students—approximately 542,000 people aged 15–24—were employed while studying. The 45 per cent is down from 2007/08, when 48 per cent of students were holding jobs during that year.

StatsCan also reported that between 2007/08 and 2009/10 the number of employed post-secondary students fell by 30,000, highlighting the effects of the economic downturn.

The labour market of 2009/10 was also the worst year for post-secondary students aged 20 to 24 since the recessions of 1982 and 1993.

However, there was some good to be found amid all the bad. According to the report, today's employment rates are well above those reported during the 1970s, which were determined to be approximately 25 per cent.

The drastic increase comes as a surprise to Concordia University's Student Success Centre, which often sees students trying to hold jobs and balance their academic work.

"A lot to the times people won't explicitly complain about work and school," explained Geff O'Brien, student success manager and fourth-year psychology major.

"It's not something they think can change, they think that school can suffer, but work can't."

O'Brien suggested that students explore alternatives to work, like financial aid programs.

Other statistics showed the average hourly wage of post-secondary students increased from \$10.75 to \$11.80, but they were working one hour less per week. The average total earned by post-secondary students held at \$6,300 during the 2009/10 school year.

The report also found that 50 per cent of women were employed while pursuing post-secondary education compared to only 40 per cent of men.

The service sector made up 96 per cent of the jobs held by post-secondary students, with the majority working in retail and followed by food service.

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corrections.

- The Dawgfather's email address is thedawgfatherphd@hotmail.com. Incorrect information appeared in last week's ad.

The Gazette regrets this and future errors

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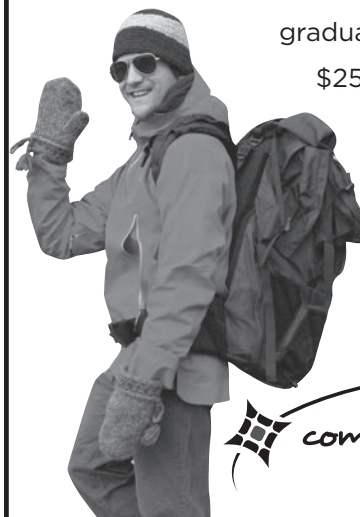
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opinions.

••Point•Counterpoint

Time to face the music:
Is illegal downloading actually ethical?

Keith Lohwald
Jacqueline Byers
Opinions Contributors

POINT (Keith): It's hard to imagine our society without music. While people will always disagree about artists and genres, it's indisputable that music as a whole is an integral part of our lives. A more contentious issue is just how we get the music that we listen to. Many people simply download their music off the Internet without paying for it, while others wouldn't dream of doing so. I will argue that downloading music "illegally" is, in fact, ethical.

First, let's look at who profits from music sales under the status quo. While we like to think that the money we spend on CDs and iTunes downloads goes to the artists, the fact of the matter is the actual musicians see very little of the profit. Huge shares are retained by the label, managers, and distributors, meaning that only very successful musicians can see significant profit from song sales.

Labels set prices for songs, and those prices are set to maximize profit for the labels, not the artists. These middlemen also play an overwhelmingly small role in the creative process, serving only to advertise, and to criticize songs that they feel are not "commercial" enough.

COUNTERPOINT (Jacqueline): The role of record labels in the creation and promotion of music should not be minimized.

An artist's success frequently depends on the way a label manages their career, and to argue that anyone not actively involved in the artistic process is somehow undeserving of payment diminishes all the work that labels do for musicians. It's wrong to accuse labels of being too self-interested when so many artists could never have gotten off the ground without the assistance of independent or major labels. Labels are profit-driven, certainly, but they are also the easiest way for a musician's work to become heard in a marketplace teeming with music.

Music is art, but it is also a product, one that requires a significant financial investment to produce and promote. The "middlemen" that you speak of are the ones willing to make that investment, and take chances on musicians who could never otherwise have afforded to record and publicize their art.

Keith: Mid-level bands usually make most of their money through merchandise sales while on tour and through sponsorship. If you want to support your favourite act, a t-shirt is likely going to help them more than a CD.

Furthermore, music downloading exposes people to far more music than they would be able to afford if

they bought it all, including new and indie bands that don't get as much promotion or radio play. Fans gained through downloading music are still lucrative fans, because they are just as likely to attend a concert, and perhaps more likely to buy merchandise because they didn't spend money acquiring the music.

And before you accuse me of ignoring the role of labels in touring; labels are actually cutting back on tour funding, and some are dropping it altogether for new artists.

Jacqueline: It's true that many people are exposed to new music through online downloads. That's why labels have started to incorporate free online distribution into their business models - for example, The National's new album streamed on the New York Times website before its release earlier this year. It's a profile-raising choice that bands should absolutely have the ability to make, but it's not one that fans should make for them.

.....
"The internet...
has made
stealing from
artists so easy
that we barely
recognize our
actions as theft."
.....

While established bands can explore "pay what you want" models of music distribution, as Radiohead did with their last album, new artists don't always have the luxury. The fact that a lot of new bands can't get tour funding from labels should indicate that music sales are often integral to their success.

It's important to remember that music itself is the lynchpin of the music industry. To devalue it is to disrespect the efforts of artists and jeopardize the legitimacy of their work—and it will only get worse. The more accepted downloading becomes as a practice, the less likely it seems that fans will really be buying t-shirts for every album they download in some kind of moral calculus.

Keith: Finally, increasing music downloading could actually produce a hugely beneficial paradigm shift in the music industry. The distribution of songs online is vastly cheaper than the traditional model of shipping to stores, or even negotiating contracts with Apple to have songs sold through iTunes, and reaches far more people. Without the necessity of relying on labels or other

similar middlemen to promote their music, far more musicians would be able to enter the industry than under the status quo.

Contrary to the common narrative of downloading "killing music," a world where downloading has displaced traditional music distribution could actually result in a broadening of the industry and the production of more music than is currently made.

The traditionally successful acts will continue to succeed on name recognition and continuing songwriting talent, which is not diminished under this model, and a larger-than-ever contingent of new and alternative artists will rise to complement them.

Jacqueline: The internet has revolutionized the way we distribute and think about music in wonderful ways. Unfortunately, it has also made stealing from artists so easy that we barely recognize our actions as theft anymore. It is important for us not to conflate these two developments—the benefits of online distribution need not be inextricably linked with theft. These benefits are clear—never before has music been so accessible to so many people. But it is extremely naïve to believe that a business model based on consumers stealing a product that requires time and money to create is sustainable.

The public appetite for music is not infinite, and even artists who do manage to create, promote and distribute their music without the help of labels will require very large fan bases if they are ever to succeed while giving away the products of their hard work. Established artists will continue to profit, but they're the only ones who will. Due to the simple cost of recording music, the barrier to entry into the music industry will never be as low as you describe, and there will always be too many artists clamouring for limited money and attention.

Fortunately, there are plenty of ways to incorporate the internet into the music industry without redefining the value of music. But there's no way to rationalize stealing from your favourite musicians. ☹

Keith Lohwald and Jacqueline Byers are members of Sodales, the debate society of Dalhousie. Debaters are at times forced to argue for things that they do not necessarily believe in. Therefore the opinions expressed in Point/Counterpoint are not necessarily those that are held by the aforementioned debaters, Sodales, or the Gazette.

If you are interested (or simply curious) about debating, want an avenue to express and share your opinions and beliefs check out Sodales. Sodales meets every Tuesday, 6 p.m., at the SUB Council Chambers and Wednesday, 6 p.m., at LSC 220.

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Katie Toth Opinions Editor



Sustainability Bicycle Bravery With all the programs at Dal, there's no excuse not to ride your bike

Emma Riley
Rachel Deloughery
Sustainability Columnists

.....
Rachel: I have a mild obsession with my bicycle. Two years ago when I began the "urban commute" for a summer job, I grew smitten with cycling. I'm convinced that if other people would just try biking, they would never switch back!

They would realize that getting a little sweaty isn't the end of the world.

With practice, they'd see that maneuvering through traffic as a pedal-powered vehicle is totally thrilling, not unmanageably terrifying.

But I've never had much luck convincing others; my bias is betrayed by my enthusiastic hand-talking, and I miserably fail at making the concrete case for switching to cycling.

Emma: I have no desire to play chicken with a Toyota Corolla. I'll admit that I am one of those 'I'd rather walk' kinds of gals. I grew up in the country, where there was always the safety of a gravel shoulder if speeding cars were around (which most often there were not). City traffic is intimidating. I am embarrassed that I can't get it together and just do it already!

So, we met with Scott MacPhee, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator at Clean Nova Scotia, and Project Manager of Dal's Campus Bike Centre, to learn about cycling initiatives going on at Dalhousie, getting involved with the Bike Centre, and for quick answers to common excuses.

Excuse #1
My gears won't shift, so my bike is too annoying to ride.

Stop by Dalhousie's Bike Centre (\$5 drop in fee or \$20 for a one year membership) where their volunteers help you with your mechanical problems, then teach you exactly what is wrong with your bike so you can fix it yourself.

It's not too late to sign up for the bike repair and maintenance class held Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30. The classes cost \$30.00 for all six or only \$10 if you already have a Bike Centre membership. For more information, email bikecentre@dal.ca.

Excuse #2
I'm afraid of riding in traffic.

There are strategies for becoming more comfortable on the road. MacPhee is a certified instructor of CAN-BIKE, a national curriculum designed to educate cyclists. He emphasizes knowing your rights as a cyclist.

"Under the Motor Vehicle Act, you're a vehicle. You have the same rights as a regular sized car, an SUV, or a big truck. But you've got to be responsible for your own actions, just like vehicles are."

Excuse #3
I ride on nice days, but not when it's wet or cold.

Invest in some better gear! Get a membership with the Bike Centre and you'll get 10% off at Mountain Equipment Co-op on designated Club Nights. And when the weather gets colder, there will be winter cycling workshops at the Dal Bike Centre.

Excuse #4
I don't want to wear sweaty clothes all day.

Dalhousie has public showers in the Killam Library and Studley Gym. It's especially easy for students: tuition includes a Dalplex membership, so take advantage of it! Or go the low-maintenance route: rent a locker (Dalplex, SUB, Computer Science Building) and stash a washcloth, deodorant, and a couple of clean shirts.

Excuse #5
There's never anywhere to lock up.

Bike racks are popping up everywhere! The Mona Campbell Building on Coburg Rd. features several racks; there are also racks in the McCain underground parking garage.

A brand-spanking \$75,000 bike shelter for the Carlton campus has been custom-designed by the School of Architecture and Planning. Featuring solar lighting and expected to hold 30 bikes, it sounds like it'll be the swanky spot to lock up.

Excuse #6
I live in res and don't have a bike.

Currently there are two bikes available to borrow from Sheriff Hall. DSUSO is hoping for future expansion of the bike-lending program to other residences as well.

Rachel: These answers are great, but there are bigger reasons I love to cycle.

I love having reliable transportation: on a bike you won't sit in rush hour traffic or alone at the bus stop.

I love getting to know my neighbourhood: discovering which streets are hiding tucked-away vintage clothing stores, which restaurants waft the most delectable smells, and which front porches host the sweetest summer shindigs. I love having a workout built into my day.

Emma: Whether you are newly converted or an old pro, make your voice heard as a campus cyclist by getting involved in SBAD (Students for Bicycling Advocacy at Dal). For more info, email Doug Smith at doug@sbad.ca. The louder our voice, the more action you'll see around campus! ☹

opinions

Earth to science It's time to get up close and personal

Scott Riddell

Sci/Tech Columnist

Remember the days of science class before we set foot on the grassy quadrangle of university? The elementary school volcano? Bunsen burners and microscopes? Science was a messy good time. Yet aside from a channel-surf pit-stop on *Myth Busters*, many people are missing out on mind blowing stuff everywhere.

This is a column dedicated more or less to the scientific world around you, and suggestions of why you should pay it more attention.

Science Makes You Cool

If you know scientific stuff, you will be at least cooler than the guy doing lame card tricks at a party.

You can demonstrate how gravity and air pressure work to make a beer bong faster than a bottle.

Walking across the Commons, explain to your lady friend or man-panion that vodka doesn't cause the northern lights, but solar wind and the earth's magnetosphere do. It's so pretty. Now's the time to make your move.

There are also some important 'not to dos.' Don't go into detail. It's boring. Leave them wanting more. Don't point out scientific flaws in movies. Do not show off playing World of Warcraft on your iPhone. You will soon be alone playing World of Warcraft on your iPhone. Science party tricks are no better than card tricks.

Science is Fashionable

Science and fashion: It's not that they don't get along, they would just rather keep apart. Certainly there are some dapper scientists. But there are also some intriguing wardrobe adaptations for which there is no formula.

Lab coats double as cheap house coats. It seems to work well enough. Scientists can also buy all of their cloths at Sears. It is unnecessary to pay more than \$35 for shoes. Plaid shirts and bow ties are acceptable, along with bad novelty t-shirts.

You will know when the end of the world is

Or at least you have an idea of what might cause it, and what you can do to avoid it (not much). Here's some stuff that threatens our very existence as we speak:

The Large Hadron Collider. A big machine that makes little particles move fast. Beams of protons smash together recreating the Big Bang but on a smaller scale. We hope. The goal is to find the

'God' particle. Who knew scientists had such ego? Physicists acknowledge that they could create a black hole of some magnitude, but they feel it is a risk worth taking.

Geo-engineering. Human efforts to change the earth to combat extreme global warming. One idea is that we stop the sun from heating the planet by shooting sulphur into the atmosphere—recreating the effects of a volcanic ash cloud. This would also turn the sky permanently red. At that point, I think it's a lost cause. I imagine there would be a whole lot of "I told you so's" at the doomsday cocktail parties.

"Do not show off playing World of Warcraft on your iPhone. You will soon be alone playing World of Warcraft on your iPhone."

Dark Matter: an elusive substance with apocalyptic potential. We think it makes up a quarter of the universe and has gravity. But we don't know where it is. A dark matter clump could pass near the earth, sucking in nearby asteroids. Dark matter particles also cause gamma ray bursts, which would heat up the earth's interior. Volcanoes would then explode around the globe.

The Sun: we know the Sun goes through periods of reduced activity. The result is that we all get really cold and wish some dark matter would swing on by.

Then there are the thoughts of megaviruses, robots, and global war plaguing our consciousness. These are more tangible and scary because they are events we could prevent, but probably won't.

Science is Available

You can check it out from across the room. But you can also get personal with it. There are more than 50 companies in Nova Scotia that do research in life sciences focusing on marine bioscience and bio-diagnostic neuroscience. And there's me. I'll help you figure out some of the details, and just what is up with the Lidar (that's the giant laser flashing through the night sky) here at Dal. ☺

Why I smoke One man's tale of trials, tribulations, and nostalgic sex appeal



Despite what medical "professionals" tell you, cigarettes are sexy. • • • Photo by Dhilung Kirat

Nicholas Wright

Humourist

One day last year, while I was seated no less than 15 feet away from some campus building, I was approached by a complete stranger and told that I was going to die. This statement might seem odd, and probably more than a little rude when taken in isolation—we will all die someday, but being reminded of that fact is never a comforting experience—save for one small fact: I happened to be smoking a cigarette.

Yes, that's right—I, Nicholas Wright, am a smoker. I'm the scum of the earth, the archetypal 'bad guy.' I have deliberately chosen to greatly increase not only the risk of heart disease, stroke, emphysema and a wide variety of cancers for myself, but also for those around me.

For this I have been heckled in the streets, lectured by friends, glared at by strangers, emphatically coughed at, and of course called all sorts of nasty names. Why, you might ask, would I choose to continue with my unhealthy and socially stigmatizing habit? Well, believe it or not, there are reasons for which I continue my guilty pleasure.

The fact that I am addicted is at the top of this list, but my addiction has also had positive side effects on my life. Smoking gives me a routine, a sense of the duty and purpose that seem so absent in this shiftless generation of ours. This routine forces me to take at least one break a day in which to step outside, inhale carcinogens, and really look around. My breaks allow me to study the people who pass me by, busily rushing about their days. Unlike my peers, I have the

opportunity to appreciate the beauty one can only behold when it is minus 30, outside the Killam library, in a snowstorm.

"The symbolism behind a freshly lit cigarette is so powerful as to immediately conjure that dirty smelling guy with the mullet from your grade 11 Chem class."

Another thing that few non-smokers take into account is the social aspect of smoking. At parties and bars, smoking allows one to leave a crowded and often noisy space in exchange for one which is quieter and more intimate.

During my frosh week, I began my first long-term college relationship with a woman, and I credit much of my success to my highly toxic friend tobacco. Had I not had the excuse to step outside and talk to her away from the blaring music of the bar, I might never have gotten to experience the wonderful year that was our relationship, or the agonizing months of heartbreak which soon followed.

At one point I asked her if my noxious habit bothered her (she being a non-smoker). She responded—I quote and swear on a stack of multi-faith holy books that this is true—"I think cigarettes are sexy." I also swear that despite using trashy and transparent lines like the one above, she was a very respectable and in most ways, a decent human being.

Kids: despite what your parents and medical health "professionals" may tell you, cigarettes are cool. They nostalgically represent a long gone era of sex and jazz—an era where men were men, and Lululemon's ridiculous slogans about flossing and feeling good about yourself through yoga would never have been taken seriously by anyone.

Cigarettes are a proud part of our western tradition of consumerism, poor health decisions, and macho insecurity. The symbolism behind a freshly lit cigarette is so powerful as to immediately conjure images of Audrey Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart, The Marlboro Man, and Kurt Cobain, as well as that dirty smelling guy with the mullet from your grade 11 Chem class.

I wonder if Rob Ryner and all the other overzealous "pro-lifers" have ever stopped to question why it is that so many young and sometimes even relatively intelligent and informed individuals took up smoking in the first place. Nobody wants to live forever, so we may as well pass the time we are here with a delicious, nutritious cigarette. ☺

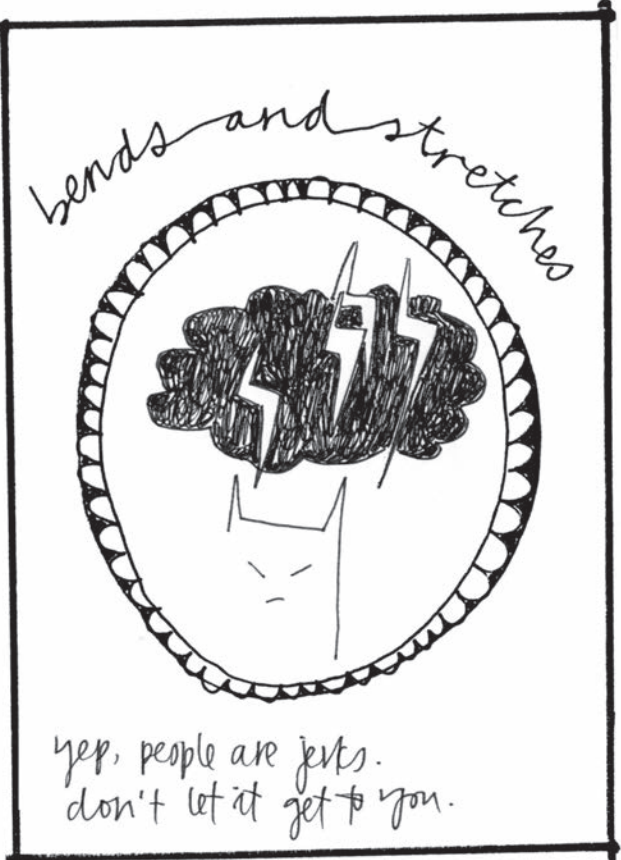
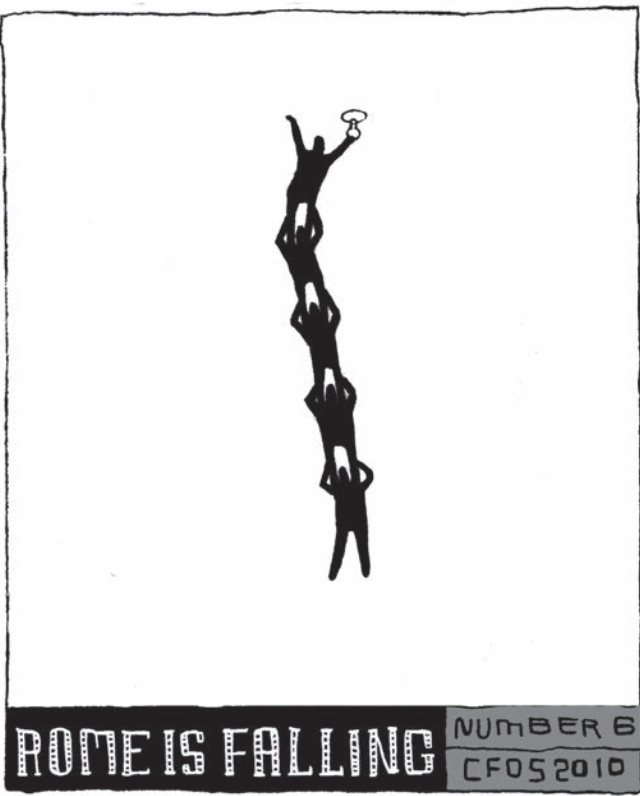
Editor's Note: Kids, humour sections in newspapers are not positive life advice. The Gazette does not advocate smoking and no study has found cigarettes to be nutritious.



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The Big Bang

History of a Pop Explosion

Matthew Ritchie
Features Contributor

Peter Rowan is disentangling himself from the Montreal traffic to begin our talk about why he chose the East Coast as the spot for the figurehead of all other music festivals: the Halifax Pop Explosion. Back at his hotel room, he throws on a pair of Converse, arguably the most iconic rock 'n' roll shoes. But he isn't wearing them for their music history value; Pop Montreal, the festival he helped start in the early 2000s, has gained a string of sponsors and funding—the sneaker brand among them.

It's hard to say whether Pop Montreal—or something like it—would even exist without Rowan's input following his tenure in the Halifax music scene.

"I found myself in a pretty remarkable situation in which there was a scene that was just getting ready to explode, and I just fucking did it again," he says excitedly before diving into the history of the Halifax Pop Explosion, a.k.a. HPX, which runs from Oct. 19 to Oct. 23 this year.

You could say Rowan was in the right place at the right time.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," he says reflecting on the music festival that is close to celebrating 20 years of independent music on the East Coast. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

However, like any artistic undertaking, it didn't have the easiest start. In fact, HPX grew out of the failure of a previous endeavour.

Born from the ashes

Originally from New Brunswick, Rowan was a punk rock fan who decided to start his own record label in the late 1980s with a woman who at the time was his wife. Based out of Fredericton, he named it Dressed to Kill Records. He then began promoting music showcases with youthful enthusiasm, but it wasn't an easy experience.

"We did a festival in 1989 where we brought in No Means No and the Nils and all these cool bands at the time," Rowan reminisces. "But we just lost our shirts. We lost, like, \$10,000 and were like, 'Fuck this, I can't stand it anymore. We've got to move.'"

As the culture-rich focal point of the East Coast, Halifax, was the obvious choice. Luckily for Rowan, he was producing a studio album at the time with a group of musicians from the region.

"We had recorded this thing called Criminal Lake Road that were this Halifax trio and everybody was excited about putting the record out. So I moved down to Halifax and started working out of

record shops." But before their release, the band decided to part ways.

"It was too bad because we thought this band was going to be really cool, but a couple members went on from that to start this other band and they were called Sloan."

"There was a scene that was just getting ready to explode, and I just fucking did it again."

Rowan found himself taking on the position of manager for the exciting new band, who suddenly found themselves at the forefront of a movement. When bands such as Thrush Hermit, Hardship Post, Jail and Eric's Trip joined the growing music scene, Halifax appeared on the map.

"In the early '90s there was this really crazy synergy going on," Rowan recalls. "It was the only place out here with a real sense of community."

Rowan joined forces with fellow music fan and manager Angie Fenwick who helped with operations, and co-managed Thrush Hermit. They soon added Colin MacKenzie, manager of the rock band Jail and founder of Sloan's label, Murder Records. And when Greg Clark—owner of music venue The Flamingo—joined the team, Rowan and his friends not only had what he describes as "the hippest stuff that was going on in the world," but also the right venues and help to showcase the extreme talent coming from the area.

"It was this awesome atmosphere and we were all smart enough to notice it," he says. "We had the ability to invite people to come and see Halifax and experience this scene right from the epicentre of it."

And with that, the world began to take notice.

The New Seattle

Though it began as a festival specifically curated to showcase local bands such as Plumtree, Thrush Hermit and Hardship Post, the new festival also drew international acts who might not otherwise make it to the East Coast. One such artist was Lou Barlow, founder of Sebadoh and ex-Dinosaur Jr. bassist. Another was Britain's famed alternative rockers Stereolab, who Rowan still has trouble believing ever came to Halifax: "Whenever I look back at the posters

it's like 'holy shit,'" he says, laughing. The mixture of local talent with a few big-name acts worked. "It was just perfect. It was the perfect storm."

Unfortunately, in the early years the festival wasn't financially viable.

"We were doing this by the seat of our pants," Rowan remembers. "There are very marginal sponsorships for something like a fringe festival with no fiddles."

Lacking commercial and government support, the festival seemed to sit on the fringe of society. Rowan adds he still doesn't think the municipal and provincial levels of government "fucking get it."

However, booking Stereolab gave a much-needed boost to the festival. With the band came a reporter from NME who followed them across the pond to do a small review. The media floodgates opened, and Halifax's distinct music scene was labelled "The New Seattle" by *Melody Maker*.

Mike Campbell, owner of The Carleton, used to chair the Halifax Pop Explosion and worked for Much Music with Much East on the show *Going Coastal*. He remembers quite vividly when journalists began to invade the town to hunt down talent—and how ridiculous the whole situation was.

"When I pick up magazines to read articles about music, *Harper's Bazaar* is not the one I pick up," he quips over a cup of coffee.

The magazine stopped in to cover the new music hot spot after NME. A journalist from *Vanity Fair* was next in line.

"A few months later I got a call from someone at Levi's who wanted one of their people to come to town," Campbell laughs. "I ended up touring her and taking her to clubs where she starts to take notes. She's just looking at what the kids were wearing in Halifax, because if it's a cool music scene, it may be a cool fashion scene that is ahead of everywhere else."

Like the seven page spread in *Harper's Bazaar*, this leap seemed ludicrous to Campbell.

"The fashion scene was just, like, 1993 man," he says, laughing. "Just a lot of ripped jeans and skateboards and all that crap."

A less predictable benefit from the high-profile coverage and the "New Seattle" tag was strong interest from alternative label Sub Pop, based out of Seattle. Due to the grunge trend across North America, Sub Pop reps signed almost any band they could get their hands on, going so far as to book Eric's Trip to open for Sonic Youth in Toronto (Eric's Trip is named after a song on Sonic Youth's landmark album *Daydream Nation*).

Though it grew over the next three



The Monotonix take the party to the street outside Gus' Pub, at their legendary 2008 HPX show. ••• Photo by Chris Smith courtesy the Pop Explosion

years, Rowan was too burnt out to continue organizing the festival.

"When I left Halifax I was like, 'You know what? I'm never coming back to this city.' It was a huge emotional investment, a huge financial investment." And one that proved hard to sustain over the years.

In 1995 the festival went out of business only to be revived the next year as "Halifax On Music" by Fenwick, MacKenzie, Marc Brown, and Wayne Mason—a young music fan who started No Records.

Though the festival thrived for the rest of the 1990s with plenty of patrons and international attention, garnering financial backing still proved to be a struggle.

"The government was really hesitant to invest," Mason remembers. "They just didn't understand a youth-focused thing. It makes me crazy, but at the

time—even more so than now—there was a focus on traditional music because of the tourism market. So it was all about Ma' and Pa' driving with two kids in the back of the car to Nova Scotia to see some step dancing. It took another decade until they were truly on board."

Stronger support from the provincial and municipal government didn't occur until 2007. Due to the lack of support in previous years, the festival spent the first few years of the new millennium in trouble. In 2000 the festival fell apart once again and the reason was simple: money.

"It's funny how the myth doesn't really match the reality," Mason says. "People talk about the Pop Explosion being around for 18 or 19 years, this long-standing pillar of the music scene. But again we went out of business in 2000. There wasn't a festival that year."

Wristband win

The festival was reborn in 2001 with its old name—the Halifax Pop Explosion—but this time as a not-for-profit that based staff salaries on government grants and volunteer positions.

Mason recites a slogan that's followed the fest since its rebirth: "Halifax Pop Explosion: Just cool enough to not lose money."

As executive director, Mason wanted to focus on local acts, putting hometown heroes at centre stage.

"We can have Wintersleep or Joel Plaskett or Buck 65 that can headline a 400- to 500-person show, and in the case of Joel, a 3,000- to 4,000-person show. If they want to play the Pop Explosion, we can facilitate that. To me that's the biggest sign of change in the local music scene."

"I got a call from someone at Levi's She's just looking at what the kids were wearing in Halifax, because if it's a cool music scene, it may be ahead of everywhere else."

A glance at this year's schedule shows Halifax's music scene may be expanding more than ever before. Drew Marshall, events co-ordinator for the festival, couldn't agree more.

"I go to regular shows here in Halifax, so I have a good sense of what bands are active and doing interesting things," he says while sipping coffee at a Gottingen Street café. "I made a really strong effort to make sure (local bands) were involved in the festival this year. I feel like it's putting on the best display of what is going on in Halifax."

Although he's only been with HPX for a short time, Marshall has gained a lot of ground at this year's festival. Before living in Halifax, Marshall helped organize the Sled Island music festival in Calgary. He brought the same enthusiasm from

the upstart festival to this year's Pop Explosion.

One of the major changes was a heavy push for wristbands as opposed to the usual selling of individual tickets. Last year, the festival gained a wider audience by presenting electronic acts MSTRKRFT and Girl Talk—but with mixed results. Though Marshall believes attendees knew HPX booked the DJs, he guesses patrons might not have attended the rest of the festival.

The wristbands are an attempt to fix that: "It's a way to create an overall festival atmosphere instead of (just having) some big bands in town that week."

More wristbands and less individual tickets made the festival financially viable for the first time in its history, he says. With an initial \$15-off promotion, limited quantities of \$35 wristbands sold out in less than one day. At the time this paper was edited, wristbands were 70 per cent sold out.

"It makes it a more comfortable situation to be in," Marshall says of the wristbands. "It's looking like it is going to be sustainable in the future."

Historical highlights

"I've always felt a good mix of everything was important," Campbell says of the festival's historical variety. "I think when Peter Rowan was involved it was a lot more insular than it is now. There might have been 30 bands here in Halifax in those days."

But the longevity of the festival is rooted in the balance between the local and international talent that play here, leaving a lasting effect on the festival's legacy. Jay Reatard's show, which came shortly before his demise, the Monotonix show outside of Gus' Pub, and Elliot Smith's 1995 show were each pinnacles of the fest.

Rowan and his crew unintentionally managed to book Smith while they were trying to grab Beck's attention. Luckily, one of Beck's people had a connection to Smith.

"Of course we had some knowledge of him," Rowan says. "She asked if Elliot could come up and we were like, 'Ummmm? Absolutely!'"

Smith's show became part of the overall romanticism of the festival following his death in 2004.

Another highlight was Arcade Fire, who played here right before they broke internationally. Matt Charlton, promotions co-ordinator for the festival, says he thought they would be big one day.

"There was definitely a big enough buzz around them, and Win Butler was a big enough jerk on the phone to be a rock star, so that definitely hit home," he jokes.

"The club was just ridiculously filled, too many people for one space," he remembers of Arcade Fire's HPX set. "I don't remember a show being like that in Halifax before."

By mixing burgeoning local talent, the cream of the international crop and more buzz bands than you can shake

a stick at, the Halifax Pop Explosion has continued to be at the forefront of Halifax's musical landscape.

"I think it has stayed remarkably true to its spirit over the years, which is not something you can say about most major festivals," Campbell says while finishing his cup of coffee.

He says the festival is lucky to have bright and interesting people to volunteer and organize it. For now, it seems the positive momentum won't let up anytime soon.

"Halifax has the best music it's ever had," says Mason, "and is not showing any signs of slowing down." ☺

When Matthew Ritchie moved to Halifax in 2005, all he knew about the city was Street Cents and Sloan's Navy Blues. He would like to thank Peter Rowan, Drew Marshall, Mike Campbell, Matt Charlton and Wayne Mason for taking time out of their busy schedule to help with this project, as well as Thrush Hermit for just plain rocking. He can be reached at matthewritchie@hotmail.com.

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STREETER

What's the craziest thing to happen to you at a show in Halifax?



"Too much pushing at Down With Webster. I left with bruises."

Emily Smith van Beek
4th year arts



"We got kicked out of the Tragically Hip at the Metro Centre"

Alex Quinn
3rd year management



"I shared a bathroom stall with a girl at KDZ"

Mikey Erenworth
4th year English



"I got jumped at Felix Cartel"

Tony Ierfino
1st year commerce



"Tears came to my eyes when I experienced the acoustics at the T-Room"

George Woodhouse
2nd year arts



"I had a high heel go pretty far into my foot at the Paragon"

Kathryn Shaw
4th year IDS/Spanish



"I got trampled in a mosh pit at LMFAO. My friends had to drag me out"

Randii Sullivan
2nd year psychology



"I don't go to concerts."

The Dawgfather
SOTAPPPP



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Rebecca Spence Arts Editor



Pop Shop

A student's guide to the Halifax Pop Explosion

Sagar Jha

Staff Contributor

Halifree Pop Explosion: Don't break the bank

We've all been there. You want to check out some sweet music but don't want to break the bank. Don't worry: the Halifax Pop Explosion this year has free concerts featuring bands like Radio Radio, Rebekah Higgs, and The Kestrels to name a few. There are also a lot of other free things happening like the zine fair, a mix-tape swap and a movie presentation by Picnicface.

Kicking off the free version of Pop Explosion on Oct. 19, 6 p.m. at the Citadel Hotel, is DJ James Reid and Long Long Long. Reid fuses many different styles of music, leaving you with chills. Long Long Long revive messy, nostalgic punk rock and are bound to have the whole place jumping.

Other free shows worth checking out include the ones happening in the CKDU lobby. There will be visits from Dance Movie, IT KILLS, Forrest City Lovers, Cousins and two secret guests. These shows will feature a more folk-pop

sound. The shows happen Oct. 20-22 starting at 4:00 p.m.; a great way to start your weekend.

The highlight of the free shows has to be the Bonsound Showcase on Oct. 22 starting at 6 p.m. at the Citadel Hotel. Headlining the show is recent Polaris nominee, Radio Radio, who drop the sickest francophone hip-hop sound. The entire Bonsound community is a must-see as it is unique and cultured. It's going to be a formal freak show.

Halifax Hip-Hop Explosion: The sickest hip-hop

The hip-hop this year is so diverse and features several new sounds on the scene. Some of the big names include Random Recipe, The Wordbuglar, and GhettoSocks.

Kicking things off on Oct. 20 is Halifax's own GhettoSocks at The Paragon. This show is part of the 101.3 The Bounce show. GhettoSocks was named the best local MC by The Coast this year and is without a doubt going to drop his delectable lyrics and fresh beats that create a true old-school hip-hop feel. Show starts at 11:30 p.m. and costs \$15 at the door or

\$12 in advance.

Thursday night starting at Tribeca, five bucks is all you need to get yourself a night with the Wordbuglar. The Wordbuglar has to be one of the most clever rappers ever. He uses incredibly obscure and interesting wordplay and creates an in-your-face style similar to the Beastie Boys. Show starts at 10:00 p.m., \$5.

The hip-hop highlight of the festival will happen Saturday night at Tribeca featuring Three Sheet, Random Recipe, and Radio Radio. By now you must have seen Three Sheet posters everywhere. They, like Random Recipe, create all of their percussion on stage through beat-boxing. Random Recipe is what hip-hop has been waiting for. They feature a few lyrical geniuses who create meaningful and personal songs. After the beat-boxing extravaganza, Radio Radio, the fun dance party, will drop their unique Acadian French hip-hop style. The show starts at 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Halifax Pop Explosion: The best of folk music

Holy Folk, there are too many great artists playing this year. Some big names

include Basia Bulat, The Mountains and The Trees, Acres & Acres and many, many more.

The first must-see show is Oct. 21 with Old Man Luedecke and Jon McKiel at St. Matthew's Church. McKiel uses a raw sounding guitar and his melancholy voice. Old Man Luedecke is a one man, upbeat banjo act who will leave you smiling from ear to ear. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. and costs \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance.

The In The Dead of Winter Showcase on Oct. 22 at the Company House will feature Acres & Acres, The Wilderness of Manitoba and Erin Costello. Acres & Acres use a very mellow, simple sound. The Wilderness of Manitoba are a multi-talented group that create a haunting and complex sound. Closing the show is ECMA-nominated Erin Costello, who uses her very unique singer-songwriter style to craft more upbeat songs. The show starts at 8:00 p.m., \$10.

The most anticipated folk show of the festival is Basia Bulat's folk-pop sound, performed alongside Symphony Nova Scotia in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Oct. 22. Expect an incredibly unique

and dynamic show. The Symphony and her poppy style will hopefully mesh very well together. The show starts at 6:30 p.m., \$29. ☎

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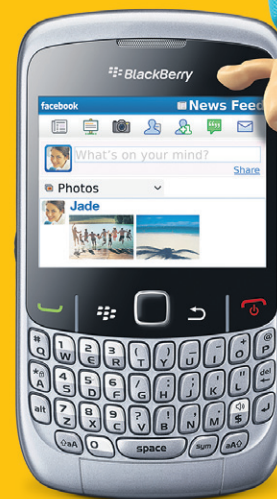
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A show of her own

Basia Bulat joins Symphony Nova Scotia for the Halifax Pop Explosion



Basia will play songs from her latest album, *Heart of My Own*.
••• Photo by Chris LaPutt, supplied by artist

Erica Eades

Assistant Arts Editor

As she speaks by phone from Los Angeles, the latest stop on her cross-country tour, Toronto-born singer/songwriter, Basia Bulat, says she is "nervous, but very excited" for her upcoming performance at the Halifax Pop Explosion.

While Bulat is no stranger to the Canadian music scene, her upcoming show at the Rebecca Cohn will be something entirely different for the young folk musician. Bulat is set to play with Symphony Nova Scotia, with arrangements being orchestrated by her dear friend and fellow artist, Owen Pallett.

"It's a real honour," she says. "(Firstly), to be able to perform with Symphony Nova Scotia, and (secondly) because Owen is doing the arrangements. I think it's going to be a really special show."

In high school, Bulat played upright bass in numerous orchestras, some of which had up to 150 members. But this will be her first experience performing her own music with a symphony. "It's obviously going to be very different," she laughs.

Differences aside, Bulat has fond memories of playing with such a large ensemble. "I just remember this big envelope of sound," she says.

While Bulat shies away from putting a label on her personal sound, she cites an oldies radio station she listened to as a child as being a major influence on her

music. "It was all the Stax and Motown stuff," she says. "That classic era of pop songwriting is something that I've always loved and I still do love."

Growing up in Toronto, Bulat was surrounded by music. "If it wasn't on the radio, we were listening to tapes, or playing it ourselves," she says.

She began by learning piano from her music-teacher mom, and has since picked up a wide range of instruments, including the banjo and the autoharp—the latter becoming a signature sound in many of her songs. "It wasn't really calculated," she says of her incorporation of the instrument, "my mom just found it and I loved the way it sounded."

Bulat's songwriting process is similarly spontaneous. "It's not like making an espresso," she jokes. "Like I need these ingredients and all of a sudden a song will come." Bulat says she has a love of stories, and her interactions with people always find a way into her music. "I don't think of it as a process," she says. "It just sort of happens."

While Bulat avoids looking at her music as "work," she appreciates how lucky she is to making a living doing something she loves. "It's something I hope I can do for my whole life," she says. It's something I love to do. It's something I've chosen to do and I absolutely adore this path that I'm on right now." ☺

Basia Bulat and Symphony Nova Scotia will take the stage at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Oct. 22 as part of the Halifax Pop Explosion.

After the goldrush

Great Bloomers cross Canada for Halifax Pop Explosion



Great Bloomers prepare to bring the rock, Oct. 22. ••• Photo supplied by Great Bloomers

Matthew Ritchie

Staff Contributor

Anthony McKnight, bass player and songwriter for Toronto band Great Bloomers, is currently discussing the Toronto Blue Jays with me. More importantly, he is discussing Jays slugger Jose Bautista, a player who relatively came out of nowhere and proceeded to rock major league ball by throwing down, as of this writing, 54 home runs. It seems like joining the Jays has allowed Bautista countless possibilities to succeed in the world of baseball and has taken not only the American League East, but the entire sport by surprise.

Similarly, for the past three years Great Bloomers have been given opportunities to perform at festivals across Canada, open up for the biggest acts in music and perform on television. Great Bloomers are hitting it out of the park.

Upon the bands inception in 2007, they gained a cult following through fans in the local Toronto music scene. Playing countless shows at the acclaimed Horseshoe Tavern and around town, the band gained notoriety for playing expressive rock music with a folk and roots flair. They released an EP and continued to perform around Toronto before signing with Maple Music and releasing their debut album, *Speak of Trouble*.

But right before the impending release of the album, their bass player abruptly quit, leaving the quintet (now a quartet) without the glue to hold the rhythm section together.

"Lowell and I had gone to high school for a couple years," McKnight says about singer/guitarist Lowell Sostomi. They met in their first year of high school and played together in a rock band at a young age. Sostomi left for Fort Erie while still in high school. After graduation, McKnight headed to study music on the East Coast, increasing the gap between the two songwriters.

"When I came back the original bass player had decided to leave and Lowell called me up. I was just moving back to Toronto, so it worked out fine."

Deciding to attend the University of Toronto to continue his jazz studies, McKnight returned to find Sostomi's songwriting greatly matured since their youth and had a batch of high caliber rock songs to back it up.

After joining the band the record was released to extremely positive reviews

in the Toronto press and adjoining cities where the band had performed. Toronto weeklies and national papers like the *National Post* and *Exclaim* took notice, referring to the band as composing music that was wise beyond their years. Mixing country, rock, folk, ragtime and 1960s pop flair lead to not only eclectic songs, but an eclectic fan base. Gordon Lightfoot was even quoted as being a pretty big fan. Things snowballed even further from there.

"A lot of good press started coming out. Then we got to go perform on MTV Live which was just amazing and then we went on our first tour together in the summer." The band headed west and were met with open arms, being asked to open at the Virgin Festival in Calgary.

"It was Pearl Jam headlining, and I think it was their first big one in awhile since they decided they were going to get back into it," McKnight remembers. "So that was pretty wild. That was definitely the highlight of the tour."

Being the first band on stage at a festival of such large scale as the Virgin Festival can be daunting due to the expected lack of fans in attendance, but as McKnight remembers: "There were hundreds of people there."

More good fortune came the following day when the band picked up a local newspaper.

"The Calgary Sun had been doing coverage of the fest. Apparently what the article was saying was that we cleared the media tent. When we started playing everyone just came over and started watching us and even the crowd there, it was small compared to what it turned into later that day, but they were really receptive," says McKnight.

Upon returning with a string of new fans and critical adoration, the band was asked to head west again, but this time with help from the Wooden Sky and Rural Alberta Advantage, who had asked them to join their tour.

"Regrettably, we haven't been out to the east coast since HPX last year," says McKnight. "But it's mostly circumstantial and we couldn't be more excited to be playing the East Coast again this year."

One of the things holding them back from touring more had to do with the education of the band, mostly in their early twenties. McKnight was going full time at a degree in jazz while playing in Great Bloomers, which added to some trouble at times.

"During the winter tour I had a lot of performances coming up so I had to find people to sub for me, which was

a nightmare," he says. "It was basically tonnes of hard work, and knowing that basically both these things were on-par in terms of my priorities. I had to get my degree, but playing in this band is becoming more and more my life."

This led to the band recording once again this summer in guitarist Tim Moxam's rural cottage to prepare a two-song seven-inch, *Small Town Love*, which comes out this fall. The track marks a stylistic departure for the band, but luckily not at the cost of forgetting their roots.

"We're always open for new sounds. We don't really want to get away from our high energy rock sound. That's who we are. We like to rock out on stage. We're all about rock," he says with passion, "but incorporating other sounds, we're totally open to it."

He adds, "Anything we think that could add to the textures, we're going to try it out at least."

At the same time it's important for the band not to go, as McKnight says, "too far beyond our means." *Small Town Love* departs from the previous full length by being mostly acoustic, with the exception of electric guitar. The record saw McKnight beginning to play stand up bass in the band, which is something he plans to use more in the future on subsequent performances and recordings.

The song also features trumpet by guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Tim Moxam. In fact, four out of the five band members gained their secondary education by studying music. But that doesn't mean the band is going to perform any instrument they can just to show off their skills (I'm looking at you, Arcade Fire).

"We're going to keep experimenting and incorporating new things, but I think always our main focus is writing good songs. We don't add a trumpet just to be a band that has a trumpet," McKnight says with a laugh. "Tim came up with a really good melody on the trumpet, so that's what we decided to use, and now I can't picture *Small Town Love* not having a trumpet," says McKnight.

Similarly, its hard to imagine the Canadian music climate being the same without the added texture and character of Great Bloomers. ☺

Great Bloomers perform at the Paragon Theatre with the Hold Steady on Oct. 22 as part of the Halifax Pop Explosion. You can hear their music at myspace.com/greatbloomers.

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Art at night

Downtown Halifax plays host to nocturnal art showcase

Tristan Kay
Arts Contributor

The city of Halifax is lush with creativity and artistry. Why not celebrate that artistry with a festival at night? Nocturnal art shows are performed across the globe, so it seems only fitting that Halifax has one too. Nocturne is a free, public festival designed to showcase the talent and diversity of artists in the area. The show will take place, rain or shine, on Oct. 16 from 6 p.m. to midnight. With over 100 exhibits and performances to choose from, there is sure to be something for everyone.

The events are broken up into five different zones. Zones One to Four are in Halifax while Zone Five is in downtown Dartmouth, near Alderney Landing and Portland Street. Galleries will open their doors for the evening, featuring both their regular pieces as well as Nocturne-related projects. There are a variety of independent projects taking place everywhere from city streets to the public gardens. Many local businesses will participate, as well. There will also be what are known as Anchor projects: larger scale productions by local artists. A full programme is available at the website, nocturnehalifax.ca.

One of the biggest challenges on the night of the show will be co-coordinating the best possible way to see the most performances and showcases. The organizers make it simple with different kinds of tours:

NocTours (On either foot or bike): Leave every hour on the hour from Grand Parade. The cycling portion will be put on by the Halifax Cycling Coalition.

Bus: Regular downtown bus routes will be operating the evening of Nocturne as well as FRED (Free Rides Everywhere Downtown), which was kindly donated by Metro Transit for the evening. FRED's schedule can be checked in the official program on the Nocturne website while regular bus routes can be checked at halifax.ca/metrotransit.

Ferry: From 6:15 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. there will be live performances on the ferry for those who choose to travel between the Halifax zones and Alderney Landing. The ferry will leave at quarter to and quarter after from 6 p.m. to midnight.

With shows ranging from a City Mail system, to Artificially Intelligent marine vehicles, Nocturne is sure to find a way to tickle just about everyone's fancy. ☎

Haunted Halifax

Spooky ghost walks combine history and storytelling

Erica Newman
Arts Contributor

The Tattle Tours' ghost walk aims to show residents and tourists places in Halifax that are scarier than the Dome on a Sunday night. While this is a difficult task to achieve, Andy Smith manages to do so with humour, history, and dramatic flare.

Smith describes himself as an "actor looking for an outlet" and he has been guiding tours for ten years. His unique tour shows Halifax in a new, ghoulish light accentuated by the evening's darkness and chill autumn breeze. Smith is dressed appropriately in black and has the perfect voice for storytelling, punctuated by gripping pauses.

The tour begins at Citadel's clock tower. The site, as you learn, of Halifax's first recorded murder. As the clock eerily rings against the setting sun, you begin a tour that will surely send chills down your spine. Like any good campfire ghost story, Smith's stories are a collection of history and folk legend interwoven to create chilling and plausible scenarios. Events such as the sinking of the Titanic and the Explosion of 1917 changed Halifax's landscape, history and,

depending on your beliefs, spiritual world as well.

"Most of my stories do concern people not letting go," says Smith, as he explains the connection between events and spirits. "Whether it is not letting go of their business, or an event that happened to them: business is not taken care of." From his tale of an angry restaurant phantom, to a prankster ghost roaming the Maritime Museum, Smith's stories cover much of Halifax's downtown area.

What you can expect from this tour is an interactive history lesson of Halifax. You will learn that in between serving exquisite seafood meals, The Five Fisherman servers conduct exorcisms, and that the origin of The Press Gang's is just as wicked as their prices. You also might find out what famous author's ghost takes residency at The Waverley Inn, and why you may think twice about crossing the Macdonald bridge next time.

Tattle Tours runs five nights a week from Wednesday to Sunday, six months of the year. What better time to learn about haunted Halifax than October? The tour even runs for a full week leading up to and on Halloween night. That is, of course, if you dare. ☎

Hipster Heaven

Bend Sinister, Library Voices and Paper Lions tear up the Seahorse

Mick Côté
Arts Contributor

The Seahorse was almost empty on Friday, Oct. 8. It remained that way until Bend Sinister took the stage as the first act of their self-proclaimed "insta-party."

The band, fronted by Vancouver-based Dan Moxon, joined Library Voices and Paper Lions, from Regina and P.E.I. respectively, on a Canada-wide tour.

It wasn't long before Moxon began unleashing lyrics from their latest EP, *Spring Romance*.

"Change Your Mind," the album's catchiest song, drew in the crowd that started trickling in the small venue.

All eyes were on Bend Sinister as the guys tied themselves up in harmonies lead by Moxon's blind keyboard antics.

"This guy is insane," said Libby MacCarthy, an audience member. "I'm surprised they're opening this show and not finishing it off."

The floor was soon packed with hipsters rejoicing in their drunken stupors

and the band's energetic groove.

From bassist to guitar player and keyboardist, the quartet took over the entire stage, nearly hitting one another or spearing the drummer with their instruments.

Perhaps a little more tamed, Library Voices, who have twice the amount of musicians as Bend Sinister, proved themselves to the growing population of Halifax shindig-lovers in the bar. The depth provided by the variety of instruments resembled a chaotic orchestra, broken by the sound of mixed voices chanting at once.

To tie up their routine, Library Voices covered "Got My Mind Set on You" by George Harrison. The horde of people was getting thicker, slowly blocking access to the stage and trapping the band players on stage, where they obviously felt at ease.

"Check, one, two. Hey, hey, hey. One, two, hey, check." At 12:30 a.m., there it was. The long-awaited final act.

After a short interlude, Paper Lions

had the crowd they needed to perform a thriving set: people were drunk, content and most of those wearing second-hand vintage sweaters were making their way back to nearby tables.

With the band's growing rep and gusto, it's no wonder poppy melodies revved up the dancing bodies. Paper Lions have been receiving great acclaim for their latest EP, *Trophies*.

"Lost the War", the band's newest single even made it's way to iTunes' "free single of the week," last month.

The insanity wasn't over until the encore. An exhilarated John MacPhee, guitarist and vocalist, tied a big golden seahorse to his back and invited the other bands to join him on stage.

In the dimly lit room, the all-Canadian ensemble tore-up "Strawberry Man", a song that earned Paper Lions a slew of nominations at the 2007 East Coast Music Awards.

"I told you," said Moxon at the end of the show. "It's high energy. It's an insta-party with all these guys." ☎

Tragedy and togas

Classics in the Quad performance starts slow but ends with a bang



King's students perform *Agamemnon*. ••• Photo by Arielle Figov

Meriha Beaton
Arts Contributor

It was a sea of blankets and tea-filled jam jars, as students and faculty huddled close together last Thursday in front of the King's College library steps for its annual *Classics in the Quad* performance.

For this 80th anniversary production, the King's Theatrical Society presented the tragedy *Agamemnon*, by Greek playwright Aeschylus.

The play tells the story of Clytemnestra, the wife of Agamemnon, who is waiting for her husband's return from Troy. Angry with him for sacrificing their daughter, she wants to kill him. Bringing a mistress with him, upon his return, an enraged Clytemnestra kills them both. After, she

reveals her new lover, Agamemnon's cousin, Aegisthus, who usurps his throne.

The play requires a heavy focus on the chorus as the majority of the story is told through them. Therefore, the actors in the chorus had the most important roles. The first two-thirds of the play became very dull because of this. The actors themselves were wonderful, but the play consisted more of monologues directed at the audience than interaction between the actors. This made the beginning of the play very stagnant and slow moving.

The play was revitalized, however, when Agamemnon entered. The actor demanded attention, especially in his scenes with the actress playing Clytemnestra. The two bordered a

line between love and hate, perfectly portraying old lovers with a lot of animosity between each other, but still plenty of passion. At several points during their scene, they made the audience unsure of whether they were going to slap each other or rip one another's togas off.

The production closed with a bang, as the chorus sang an eerie song while Clytemnestra and Aegisthus stood over the dead bodies of Agamemnon and his lover. The addition of the song put an interesting twist on the play, making it memorable. The audience left with the feeling that the destiny of the characters was more daunting than hopeful. ☎

Gazette Opinions Editor Katie Toth was an actor in this performance.

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“you and me could
write a bad review.”



**Gazette Pick of the Week*

Stay classy, Halifax

Monday Night Jazz gives off good vibes



Monday Night Jazz at the Shoe Shop. ••• Photo by Rebecca Spence

Rebecca Spence
Arts Editor

Now that classes are back in full swing and midterms are on the horizon, people might consider looking for a way to kick back and enjoy themselves in a way that doesn't involve black-outs or hang-overs. Stressed out students should consider getting their weekly dose of booze and live music from checking out the Economy Shoe Shop's Monday Night Jazz series. Having fun and staying classy at the same time? What a concept.

In all seriousness, walking into the dimly lit restaurant in the middle of the Rob Crowell Trio's swingin' set will make you feel like you've escaped from your stressful grind in Halifax into a cozy jazz bar in downtown Chicago, instantly creating a warm and secure vibe. Don't be surprised if you happen to spot an older man with white hair wearing a tweed newsboy cap and wool V-neck sweater watching and listening intently from the wood-top bar.

The jazz trio has been performing at the Shoe Shop for about a year and a half now. The band typically features Rob

Crowell on saxophone, Larry Bjornson on bass, and Damien Moynihan on drums, but they often invite special guests to help keep things fresh. Last week the band collaborated with the feisty Marty Franklin, playing the vibes, and Matt Myer on trumpet.

"Everybody brings something different," says Moynihan, who, along with Crowell, plays with the Mellotones. The musician trained at Dalhousie, studying and playing alongside current History of Jazz professor Tim Crofts. Anybody who is familiar with Crofts knows all about his opinions on jazz as "dinner music" and his refusal to play by the rule. Like Crofts, Moynihan likes to experiment with his music, rarely agreeing to stay within traditional boundaries. Although some of the band's gigs are a bit constraining, in that they require blending into the background of stuffy restaurants, the Economy Shoe Shop lets the group stretch their legs and do whatever they want: from avant-garde improvisation to a re-harmonized version of Miles Davis' "Solar," to jazzed up renditions of tunes from Led Zeppelin, Stone Temple Pilots, and the Beatles. They can do virtually any

tune, and they can do it one hundred different ways.

"The rules go out the window," says Moynihan.

Although the band often attracts students from NSCC and St. Mary's, Moynihan says he would love to see even more young people come out and absorb themselves in the music. "They're often the most energetic and respectful," he says. "They really listen."

Moynihan believes that young people can find the genre intimidating. But he also is confident that you don't have to understand jazz to like it. The only thing you have to appreciate is music in general.

"Everybody is welcome to come down and close their eyes and listen," he says. "It's a very loose atmosphere."

Next Monday the band will feature Cuban pianist Silvio Pupo, who Moynihan calls "amazing" and "probably one of the best piano players I've ever seen." He is confident that the show will bring a powerful vibe and lots of laughs.

"We like to have a good time," he says. "We're not too serious." ☺

tunes.

Antony and the Johnsons

Swanlights

Peter de Vries
Staff Contributor

Grade: A
Antony Hegarty is one of those artists who you just know is going to make great music right from the beginning.

His new album with his backing band, The Johnsons, shows that prophecy really beginning to come to fruition, even if *Swanlights*, their fourth album, is a typical grower that takes multiple listens to reveal its treasures.

There may not be anything on *Swanlights* that's as immediately satisfying as "Fistful of Love," a standout track from 2005's *I Am a Bird Now*, but that hardly matters, since the album is rife with all of the raw vulnerability and

emotion that makes Antony such a compelling artist. In fact, Antony and the Johnsons have managed to weave all of those sentiments into their most consistent album yet, and one of the year's best.

One of Antony's greatest strengths is his ability to somehow sound like he is singing directly into your ear, and he achieves this intimate feeling over and over again throughout the album on the haunting "The Spirit Was Gone" and "Thank You for Your Love," which begins innocently as a docile ballad before gradually ballooning into a joyous blast of guitar, piano, horns, and some of Antony's most impassioned vocals.

Don't be surprised if you suddenly have a million goosebumps after

listening to the achingly gorgeous "Great White Ocean," which finds Antony crooning gently over a harp-like acoustic guitar to an almost otherworldly, ethereal effect.

Later on in the album, you'll be treated to "Fletta," a duet driven by soft piano, Antony's mellifluous crooning, and Bjork—Antony's latest musical foil. Bjork's airy vocals guide the track to its halfway point before the piano becomes more propulsive, encouraging their duelling voices to cross harmonious paths.

Swanlights' quality never diminishes, making it the best encapsulation of Antony's many musical talents to date, and it's exciting to think that he can likely improve on even this in the future. *Swanlights* hit stores on Oct. 12. ☺

tunes.

Chromeo

Business Casual

Mick Côté
Arts Contributor

Grade: C
At first, Chromeo's new album's first lyrics sound about right; "You're a hot mess," repeats a digitized, dirty-sounding woman.

If you're looking for any kind of 1980s throwback, or a feel-good background noise while you get ready to hit the scene, it could be understood why Chromeo's third album is up your alley.

The album *Business Casual* is following in the footsteps of Chromeo's past work: *Fancy Footwork* and *She's in Control*. And it sounds just about the same.

It's full of synths, mismatched vocals and poppy DJ tricks, but it's a little washed out. The guys know how to make a catchy and groovy tune, but the tracks lose themselves in a sea of repetition.

P-Thugg and Dave 1, the minds behind Chromeo, are sticking to what worked the first time around. Sure, it's "different," but with bands the likes of Dragonette reformatting Canadian electronica and synth-pop, Chromeo are lacking in shine-factor.

One could easily merge tracks one through five and make it one,

long, synthetic debacle. The songs are relatively up-tempo, shallow, and confusing. The electricity required to perform this album impedes on the rawness and the other experimental possibilities audiences could have anticipated.

Through all the pops and mixes, the musical competence is noticeable. When the Night Falls, the album's sixth track, stands alone as a noticeably thought-out recollection of 1980s sensual dance tracks. Solange's voice brings a much-needed break to Dave 1's unceasing flatlines. "The Right Type," a slight reminder of Empire of the Sun's spacey synthetics, offers a slight relief and amps up the album's end with a catchy chorus.

Overall, *Business Casual* could be kept in an iTunes library and added to playlists of the same genre to give your dance floor a boost. The problem is not the album's energy, but it's lack grandeur and differentiation between tracks.

They can sing and synth all they want, they can sing in French, add a girl here and there, but in the end, Chromeo could have released their second album twice.

On that note: Thank you for not using Auto-Tune. ☹

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Dylan Matthias Sports Editor



Men's hockey continue strong preseason

Dal take UPEI at home 6-2



Dal rookie Pierre-Alexandre Vandall proves that you can believe the hype. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

Arfa Ayub

Staff Contributor

With Thanksgiving approaching, the Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team gave themselves something to be thankful about: a 6-2 exhibition victory against the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers last Friday at Memorial Arena.

The Tigers played a complete game, with great defensive zone coverage and the offence creating and finishing their chances.

"Today I think we played pretty well, the team did a good job, executed the game plan, all the lines showed up and our goalie Chris Wall had a great game and made us really good. I guess we came out with the win, which is pretty good even if it's pre-season," said Francois Gauthier, forward for the Dalhousie Tigers.

The Tigers opened the scoring in the first period, with a nice goal by Brad McConnell after a great natural zone pass.

The visitors replied with a goal of their own, after a shot went off the top of the net and Ryan Stoddard jumped on the rebound, making no mistake.

The first period ended with the Tigers dominating the Panthers and the score tied at 1-1.

The second period started the same way the first had ended. The Tigers scored their second just 1:47 into the period. Benjamin Breault put it in after

receiving a great pass from the point.

It was a penalty-filled game for the Tigers, with the hosts called for hooking after scoring their second goal. The Tigers killed the penalty, only to take another.

"It's just gonna be a huge change from the past few years. Our team is looking very strong going into the season."

"Yeah, we must stop taking penalties," said Tigers coach Pete Belliveau following the game. Penalties seem to have become a bad habit for the Tigers.

Despite the penalties, the Tigers still dominated the game.

The Tigers nearly made it 4-1 after a great chance as a Dalhousie player managed to get through the traffic in front of the net and shoot a wrist shot that went just wide.

Gauthier scored the Tigers fourth goal of the game. It was Gauthier's second two-point game in a row. He scored and

assisted two weeks ago, against Acadia.

"I just want to do whatever I can do to make the team better and show up every night and hopefully everybody is going to do that, then we can get some points and make the play-offs this year," said Gauthier.

As the second period wound down, the Tigers continued to dominate adding one more goal before the period was over, the score now 5-1.

With a minute left in the second a scramble erupted in the middle of rink, near the boards as the Panthers started to get frustrated.

Three minutes into the third period, Dalhousie's Benoit Gervais was called for a 2 minute hit to the head penalty and was given a 10 minute misconduct to go along with the penalty.

Shea Kewin scored the sixth Tigers goal of the game after carrying the puck through the neutral zone and shooting top left corner.

With Dal in total control of the game, the only problem the Tigers had was staying out of the penalty box. After scoring the sixth goal in the third period the Tigers were called for three penalties in the last ten minutes of the game.

"The rookies are coming in and the veterans came back in and the team is getting to know each other and we are doing pretty good so far," said Gauthier. ☺

The Tiger's open their season Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. against Saint Mary's

Overtime gives Dal the win

Tigers hockey finish off preseason with 6-5 win over Moncton



Dalhousie's Shea Kewin ties the game. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

Arfa Ayub

Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team ended their exhibition schedule on a good note with a 6-5 overtime victory against Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus on Oct. 9.

"I think we got off to a great start and in the second we let up a bit but we showed a lot of character to come back in the third and we fought hard, pushed into overtime and got it done in overtime," said Dalhousie forward Trevor Mackenzie.

With 11:23 left in the first, the Tigers scored their first goal of the game, on the power play after Moncton's Mathieu Boldut was called for a tripping penalty. The Dalhousie goal was scored by Benoit Gervais, on a wrist shot just outside the middle of the crease.

Mackenzie scored the Tigers' second just 20 seconds later. The Tigers had built up a 2-0 lead in under a minute.

Moncton quickly replied with a goal of their own just 30 seconds later as Marc-Andre Cote scored on a wrist shot with traffic in front of Dalhousie starting netminder Bobby Nadeau.

It was a slower pace to start the second. The Tigers would score their third goal of the game on a delayed penalty call.

The score now 3-1, it looked as if the Tigers had total control of the game, but that was soon to change as Moncton's Francois Rochon scored after carrying down the middle and shooting just outside the crease.

With Moncton starting to gain momentum, the Tigers' Jordan Burke was called for hooking penalty.

Moncton took advantage of the power play, scoring to tie the game at three.

"I think we've got a lot of sorting out to do in our own end but I mean offensively,

we have been scoring a lot of goals and just hope we can continue to do that but I would like to work on our d-zone coverage," said Mackenzie.

On the next play, Moncton took the lead. With Moncton's fourth goal of the game head coach Pete Belliveau had had enough and replaced Nadeau with Josh Disher.

That move seemed to spark the Tigers. With less than 13 minutes left in the game, Shea Kewin scored a great breakaway goal to tie up the game and all was not lost for the Tigers.

Again, the Tigers would give up the lead as Moncton's Remi Gautreau scored to give Moncton the 5-4 lead.

After calling a time out, the Tigers answered, tying up the game with 5:31 seconds left.

With less than three minutes to go, Dal's Ben MacAskill took a hooking penalty but the Tigers killed it off to take the game into overtime.

Burke would score the eventual overtime winner three minutes in after receiving a great backhand pass from the point.

"It's great to score the winner. Just coming back was good. Even though it's exhibition, this is a highly competitive league and you want to have a good record coming out of exhibition, going strong going into the season," said Burke.

With the exhibition season over the Tigers are already looking forward to playing Saint Mary's in the home opener.

"Oh yeah, we are definitely pumped. They are our rivals and it's our home opener," said Burke, after the Moncton game.

"It's just gonna be a huge change from the past few years. We've got some great recruits coming in, and our team is looking very strong going into the season," said Burke. ☺

Profile: Brittany Sullivan Basketball



On the court baller Brittany Sullivan has tons of support. ••• Photo by Natasha White

Natasha White
Sports Contributor

Doctors told Brittany Sullivan she might never run again. With two torn discs in her back, the Tigers women's basketball player faced not only life without basketball, but a life without full mobility. For the then-20-year old, it was a game-changer.

"I knew that unless I challenged myself with something other than ball, I'd end up in a dark place mentally," Sullivan said.

Her focus then turned solely to academics; she chose to pursue combined honours degree in political science and French. Now 22, Sullivan is working on a master's degree in French, and has her sights set on Law school.

"Being a bilingual lawyer will definitely help when I move back home." Home for Brittany is four hours away in beautiful Mirimachi, New Brunswick.

Thanks to some seriously dedicated

family members, Mirimachi comes to Brittany several times over the school year.

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"My parents never miss a home game. They go to most away games, too."

.....

"My parents never miss a home game. They go to most away games too – except Cape Breton and Newfoundland." And the support doesn't stop there. Grandma and Grandpa Sullivan, Betty and Eddy, are also hard-core Tiger fans. Eddy can be

heard from the bleachers barking out helpful advice to the refs and supportive encouragement to his granddaughters.

While out for the past two seasons Brittany and the Sullivan clan have had reasons to cheer. Brittany is joined on the Tigers' squad by roommate, best friend and all-around favourite person, sister Brooke Sullivan.

After two long years of painful rehab, Brittany's back on the court. She's conscious not to push herself too hard in practices, letting her back dictate the intensity level.

A versatile player, Sullivan says she's most comfortable in the '1' position. But judging by the current Tiger line-up saturated with guards, Coach Stammberger will likely place the 5'8" baller a bit deeper in the key. Brittany cites her "experience" and "play-making abilities" as her greatest contributions to a young Tiger team—great attributes for a team that is searching for a new identity this season. ☺

Dal football looking to build on successful start

BOG member Jim Wilson excited by support

Henry Whitfield
Staff Contributor

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Sitting down with Jim Wilson, member of the Board of Governors at Dalhousie and chair of the student experience committee, it's clear he's excited about the new kids on campus: Dalhousie Football.

"I'm proud. Very proud," says Wilson. Wilson was one of the driving forces behind the program and has been pushing the team forward since the project started last year.

"I've had a smile from ear to ear all week long and the success of this first football game last week was outstanding. Who would have thought that the first game in 34-years would have been such an amazing event?"

Although the team lost 23-21, they played in front of a rambunctious and wild crowd of over 2000 fans and Wilson is keen to build on that momentum.

"I'm blown away by the spirited outcry of Dalhousie supporters; alumni, friends and especially students. This was fantastic."

"I remember thinking with the boys running onto the field that 'I wish I was out there with them,' I truly did. I'm sure the players had butterflies in their

stomachs, but after the first hit the team looked like they really got their head in the game," continued Wilson.

The crowd featured students dressed in yellow and gold morph suits, children running along the field pumping up fans and one dedicated supporter even provided musical encouragement from a trumpet.

"To be out there and be part of this—to actually see us pull this together—was pretty awesome."

"On the day of the game, everything finally came together. The weather cooperated, and we had a fantastic event. We're hoping to provide even better experiences to the fans at the next game."

"We're working on some top-secret promotions to add to the current events at the game and are hoping to reward our fans for their passionate support."

With all the excitement behind the event, Wilson has just one piece of advice for the fans: "Get there early. We're expecting another sell-out and if you want a seat, you better turn up early." ☺

The Tigers, now with a record of two wins and one loss, continue their season on Oct. 16 as they play host to the Saint John Seawolves at 6 p.m.

sports. Get into the scene



contributor meetings Mondays @ 5:30 pm rm 312, the SUB

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 October 15	SATURDAY October 16		TUESDAY October 19	WEDNESDAY October 20	THURSDAY October 21
Women's Basketball Subway Tournament DAL vs. Carleton, 6pm @ Dalplex	Dal Swimming Relay Meet, 3pm (Exh) @ Dalplex		Intramural Registration Deadline for Co-ed Volleyball Tournament	Check out all the Homecoming activities, including Varsity Soccer, Football and Dal Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - just to name a few!	Men's Volleyball vs. Trinity Western, 7pm (Exh) @ West King's District High School
Swimming Dal Alumni Challenge, 6pm @ Dalplex	WOMEN'S HOCKEY SEASON OPENER DAL vs. STU, 6pm	SUNDAY October 17	Check out the women's strength class from 5:30-6:30pm at the Sexton Campus Gym (Barrington Street)	October 21-23 dal.ca/homecoming	
MEN'S HOCKEY SEASON OPENER DAL vs. SMU, 7pm	Women's Basketball Subway Tournament DAL vs. Brock, 7pm @ Dalplex	Women's Basketball Subway Tournament DAL vs. UQaM, 1pm @ Dalplex			
FREE for Dal students!	FREE for Dal students!	FREE for Dal students!	Dal Lacrosse Home Game, 9am		

sports

Trojans and Big Horns ready to kick-off for charity

Annual residence soccer game tonight, Oct. 15

Henry Whitfield
Staff Contributor

The varsity sports season is in full swing. Football is back, and midterms are just around the corner, but in Risley and Howe Hall residences, students are getting ready for one of their biggest nights of the year.

The annual residence soccer game, now in its fourth year, pits the two rival residences against each other in a match of immense proportions.

While most athletic teams at Dalhousie struggle to fill the stands, this event packs them, and the crowd becomes a sea of orange and red.

The game was created to bring even more awareness to the annual spring residence hockey game, an event that

has raised over \$55,000 for the IWK over the last three years. The soccer game has become a starting point for residences and helps bond residents together early in the year.

"For Risley and Howe, this is one of the first big events and it allows students to say 'This is us.' It helps build identity," says Carla Britten, residence life manager at Risley Hall. "It helps build spirit. It starts to create a momentum in the building right from the get-go, for the school year."


"Even for those that have never played soccer, this gives students a chance to show their pride," says Britten.

"It provides an opportunity for those residents who are not into hockey, to get out and have fun," says Matt Robinson, residence life manager at Howe Hall and

former player on the team. "Soccer is obviously a massive game and it's a sport that is inclusive, allowing many of our international students an opportunity to identify and get out there."

"At Howe in particular: we've seen this event and the Charity Face-off (hockey game) become bookends to the school year, and in partnership with council we're able to have a hugely successful event."

Although the game may not be varsity level, the quality of the play is strong and the atmosphere is through the roof.

The game starts at 7:30 p.m. on Wickwire Field, and tickets are available in both residences, while some will be available at the door. 

Football Huskies back in form with win over X

Taylor leads SMU in Antigonish

Armaan Ahluwalia
Sports Contributor

A cold and rainy night at Oland Stadium in Antigonish was the site of a battle to get out of the AUS basement.

The Saint Mary's Huskies easily defeated the St. FX X-Men by a score of 43-16.

"The two teams meet again Oct. 15."

Four games into the season and both the Huskies and the X-Men were sitting in the bottom of the standings in the AUS football conference. This was an unfamiliar situation to both teams. The Huskies are the three-time defending champs heading into this season, and the X-Men are used to finishing in second.


The game was fairly even until the third quarter, when the Huskies managed to pull away, scoring 17 points. Fourteen of those came from last week's CIS player of the week, Jahmeek Taylor.

The spotlight was stolen by Mark Holden, who had three interceptions for the Huskies, taking one of them back for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. Taylor competed for that light, scoring two touchdowns on punt returns and gaining a total of 252 all-purpose yards on the night.

Shockingly, neither team was able to score any offensive points in a game that totalled 59 points. St. FX had only one offensive touchdown, coming on the very last play of regulation from Jahmari Bennett. Bennett was only put into the game after Cory Wensley was pulled out due to his inability to move the ball.

The Huskies were in a similar situation. They were able to rush the ball well, rushing for 190 yards. They managed one offensive touchdown just as the first quarter was ending, and only managed to score three offensive field goals in the game.

The defence and special teams stole the show. The X-Men defence managed to keep their team in the game.

The two teams meet again Oct. 15 at Huskies stadium where, traditionally, the Huskies have been almost impossible to beat. It will be interesting to see how the X-Men respond, with a win needed to keep their playoff hopes alive. 

THE TIGERS IN ACTION!

OCTOBER 14
Men's Basketball vs Lakehead (Exh), 7pm

OCTOBER 15
Men's Hockey Home Opener vs. SMU, 7:30pm
(1970's Decade Night, Jim Bottomley Jersey Retirement, Get Amped with the Tigers Student VIP Kickoff)

Women's Basketball Subway Tournament (Exh)
StFX vs Brock, 2pm
CBU vs UQAM, 4pm
DAL vs Carleton, 6pm

Swimming Alumni Challenge, 6pm (Exh)
Men's Basketball vs. Bishops, 8pm (Exh)

OCTOBER 16
Women's Hockey Home Opener vs. STU, 6pm
(Get Amped with the Tigers student VIP Kickoff)

Swimming Dal Relay Meet, 3pm (Exh)

Women's Basketball Subway Tournament (Exh)
StFX vs UQAM, 2pm
CBU vs Carleton, 4pm
DAL vs Brock, 6pm

OCTOBER 17
Women's Basketball Subway Tournament (Exh)
CBU vs Brock, 9am
StFX vs Carleton, 11am
DAL vs UQAM, 1pm

Admission is free for Dal students with ID



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Cross-country teams win in Fredericton

Susan Sobey
Sports Contributor

Schlosser returns with a win

The Cross Country teams travelled to Fredericton on Saturday to race at the UNB Invitational, their third race of the season.

In the women's 5km race, Caroline Schlosser led the way for the Tigers in her first race this season. The 2009 CIS second team all-Canadian crossed the line with a time of 18:01 to win the race. The Tigers also secured their third team win of the season, but two points over defending AUS champions St. FX.

Jessica Belliveau and Cara Groves weren't far behind, finishing third and fourth, respectively. Gwendolyn Muir finished 10th and Hannah Walker finished 11th.

Gorman second, Coyle fourth

The Dal men also found team victory in the 8km race, led by veteran Dan Gorman, who was edged out of his third consecutive win of the season by St. FX's Connor McGuire. Gorman's 26:00 effort was one second short of the gold.

Also scoring for the Tigers were Josh Coyle (fourth), Bruce Russell (fifth), Adam McGregor (ninth) and Jacob Moore (tenth). Dalhousie's team total of 31 points put them well ahead of St. FX, who had to settle for third with 40 points.

This weekend the Tigers travel to Sherbrooke, Quebec, to participate in an exhibition interlock meet on the 2010 CIS Championship course, their last race before the AUS championships on October 30th. 

Dalhousie Gazette track and cross-country writer Susan Sobey knows her way around a race. That's because she spent the last five years running for the Tigers track and field team, racking up numerous awards along the way. We're happy to have Susan on our Gazette Sports team this year.

Big weekend ahead

Turkey Bowl, hockey home opener; there's lots to choose from

Dylan Matthias
Sports Editor

This weekend, there's choice involved.

With the Thanksgiving break giving most teams a week off last weekend, this week sees a boatload of AUS and ACAA action as fall sports try to cram the rest of the schedule in and winter sports begin to get rolling.

Oct. 16 is the annual Mount Saint Vincent and King's College Turkey Bowl soccer game. Almost always a feisty affair, this one will make the trip out to Mainland Commons in Lacewood worth it. The women kick-off at 2 p.m., followed by the men at 4. Both MSVU and King's need the points, so it should be a typically raucous afternoon.

Here at Dal, the men's hockey season is underway tonight at 7:30 p.m.. If that weren't reason enough to get excited, it's against Saint Mary's. The defending CIS national champions will be a tough test for the rebuilt Tigers, but there is optimism.

Tomorrow, the Dal women's hockey team open their season at home with St. Thomas at 6 p.m. before heading to Saint Mary's Sunday evening at 7.


For the Tigers' soccer teams, the playoff race is heating up. This weekend

they'll play at Acadia on Saturday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.. While the women are undefeated and leading the AUS, the men have struggled for consistent play and points. They'll need to pick up the easy points when they're available, and this weekend has to be an opportunity to do just that against a weak Acadia side.

Dal football continue their three-game homestand on Saturday evening at Wickwire. Huge crowds were the story last week rather than the team. Dal are 2-1 this season, and will look for a win against UNB Saint John on Saturday.

If it's AUS football you want, Saint Mary's are at home this weekend to a St. FX team they pounded 43-16 last weekend. Mt. Allison travel to Acadia for the Axemen's homecoming weekend game.

Rugby fans will have to resign themselves to another quiet weekend, though. Both Dal and King's are away; the Tigers to UPEI and King's to St. Thomas. Dal play on Oct. 16 and King's on Sunday, Oct. 17.

Dal lacrosse are also on the road, traveling to take on Mt. Allison at 1 p.m. in Sackville. The Tigers sit second behind SMU, with a game in hand. 

editorial cartoon.

NEWS ITEM:
U.S. TO GRADUALLY
WITHDRAW TROOPS
FROM AFGHANISTAN.

PLEASE MR. PRESIDENT... HOW
ABOUT A SEAT ON THE
FIRST PLANE OUT?



Mike Roache

YOUR COMMENTS @

DalGazette.com

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CIRCLE



**Shani Blankrot
Industrial '13**

The circle is so simple, and yet so incredible. This very familiar geometric shape has been a core component behind the scenes of infrastructure, transportation, mathematics, and everyday societal functions, yet rarely do people take a moment to speculate how it got here in the first place. As engineering students, we have used the value of pi in multiple calculations for almost a decade up to this point. We don't lend much thought to this constant, other than: it was introduced to us back in seventh grade, and we have since used it to calculate space measurements for circles, spheres, and cylinders.

In class recently, curious of the time, I glanced at the clock. It occurred to me that circles don't actually exist in nature, yet so many of my contemporary surroundings are circular. From clocks to wheels to buttons to toilet paper rolls, they are everywhere! Mankind would be light years behind in development without the circle. This one moment in class somehow changed my whole perspective on this friendly shape.

ting to achieve a perfectly accurate value to describe it. In addition to its allegiance to the circle, pi intriguingly also makes appearances in probability mathematics and Euler's identity ($e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$).

Interestingly enough, the circle is actually an invention. The masterminds behind this brilliant idea will unfortunately never be identified since the shape has been in existence dating back to before recorded history. Of course, these probable cavemen had the moon and the sun to draw ideas from, but the mechanisms by which this prehistoric thought blossomed into the very foundation of much of our civilization is bewildering. The wheel is recognized as one of the most fundamental inventions of time, without which transportation would not be possible; even more fundamental than the wheel is its shape.

The first evidence of truly mathematical use of the circle is the earliest point in history where pi could be detected. Pi, a number with an infinite decimal with no repetition pattern, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, or the ratio of a circle's area to its squared radius. This constant makes its first appearance in history where archeological evidence shows that Old Kingdom pyramids in Egypt (2500 BC) were built with circular proportions of perimeter to height (i.e. perimeter/height $\sim 2\pi$) for symbolic purposes. By 1882, it was proven that pi is a transcendental number, meaning that no amount of algebraic operations on an integer can produce its value. This is interesting in and of itself: man created a perfect geometric shape only to spend hundreds of years attempting to achieve a perfectly accurate value to describe it. In addition to its allegiance to the circle, pi intriguingly also makes appearances in probability mathematics and Euler's identity ($e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$).

From a young age, we've learned that the Earth is round; however, it is not perfectly spherical. Due to its rotation, planet Earth is flattened at the north and south poles which results in a larger equatorial radius than polar radius. Ellipsoidal models are often used to describe Earth's shape. According to NASA findings in 2004, the sun is not a perfect sphere either. This was confirmed by measuring the roundness of the sun with an x-ray/gamma-ray space telescope, not originally intended for this purpose. Despite the fact that the sun is not a perfect sphere, it only deviates from this by a tiny angle of 10.77 ± 0.44 milli-arcseconds. According to Alexei Pevtsov, NASA scientist, this tiny angle makes a huge difference: "Tiny departures from perfect roundness can, for example, affect the sun's gravitational pull on Mercury and skew tests of Einstein's theory of relativity that depend on careful measurements of the inner planet's orbit." Who knew?

Other geometric shapes are also of importance to us, such as: the triangle and its applications to trusses and trigonometry, the square, the rectangle, and even the trapezoid. But, I chose to acknowledge the circle as I am truly fascinated by how it has lent its unique properties to the expansion and progression of calculus, geometry, the essence of transportation and many aspects of civilization.

Ancient Values of Pi:
Babylonians - $3 \frac{1}{8}$, Egyptians - $(\frac{16}{9})^2$, Chinese - 3, Hebrews - 3

DALHOUSIE ENGINEERING GRAD GETS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Emily Eager Dalhousie Alumnus W. Graham Currie (Civil '08) was recently awarded the 2010 Western Australia Young Professional Engineer of the Year award.

After graduation in 2008, Graham was on a quest for adventure, a job, and a break from Halifax's chilly winters when an opportunity arose in sunny Western Australia (WA). Just a few short months later he was settling into his position as Graduate Civil Engineer with GHD. His exceptional work with the firm and his love of the laid-back lifestyle (and the climate!) Down Under prompted him to extend his work visa and accept a position with his current employer, Lowes Churchill & Associates (LCAA) in Bunbury (www.lcaa.com.au/) where he is serving as an Associate Consulting Engineer.

Throughout his two-year stay, Graham has shown impressive professionalism and knowledge in a range of capacities -- his most recent projects include the Wyalkatchem Aerodrome upgrade, involving the design of a cross strip, taxiway, and the Donnybrook drainage study. He has also obtained ISO 9001 certification for LCAA and is a Graduate Member of the Institute of Engineers Australia (GradIEAust).

Graham is also keeping himself busy on the weekends and holidays by volunteering with several local organizations including, the Australind Junior Soccer Club, the Bunbury Visitor Centre, True Colours Youth Group and South West Group Engineers Australia (SWGGA).

His nomination for the award has come in major part because of his volunteer work with SWGGA, with whom he continually helps educate and promote engineering within the community. This year he travelled to schools across WA to promote engineering and give advice on post-secondary opportunities, his experiences, and life as a civil engineer.

At the WA State awards ceremony on September 18, 2010, Graham was heralded as an "engineer who has consummately met the multi-faceted challenges, client-engagement and diverse responsibilities placed upon him. In tandem, the range and volume of his voluntary work, from the sports field to the professional body, is outstanding; he is a young ambassador for Engineering and its direct engagement with the community" (www.engineersaustralia.org.au/).

Needless to say, Graham is enjoying every minute of his time in Australia -- if we're not careful, we may never get him back! Graham will attend the National Awards ceremony being held in Canberra, Australia on Wednesday, November 24, 2010. We wish him the best of luck and congratulate him for this impressive recognition!

Graham Currie (Civil '08) was recently recognized as the Western Australia Young Professional Engineer of the Year

Write. Get paid.

Deadline: Fridays at 5 pm.
sextant@dal.ca



Graham Currie (Civil '08) was recently recognized as the Western Australia Young Professional Engineer of the Year





THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

OCTOBER 15TH, 2010

ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE QUIZ



Ashley Thistle

Deciding on your Engineering Discipline? Unsure if you made the right choice? Take this quiz to find out what type of Engineer you are.

1. At a party, you would typically be the person:
- Constructing a Beer Bong
 - Sneaking in Moonshine
 - Boasting about your Wizard Staff
 - Uninvited

2. Your backup plan if engineering doesn't work out is:
- Professional Gamer
 - Business Degree
 - Organic Farmer
 - Meth lab in your parent's basement

3. Your ideal date would involve:
- Another human
 - The use of a potato gun
 - A lecture on recycling
 - Roofies

4. A ridiculous activity you've always wanted to try is:
- Spelunking
 - Parkour
 - Shopping Cart Races
 - Socializing

5. You would consider the greatest invention of the 20th century to be:
- The Slinky
 - Portable Toilets
 - Viagra
 - Internet Porn

6. Your favorite after school hang out is:
- The T-Room
 - The T-Room
 - The T-Room
 - The T-Room

1. a) 1 b) 5 c) 3 d) 0
2. a) 5 b) 0 c) 3 d) 2
3. a) 0 b) 3 c) 1 d) 5
4. a) 3 b) 5 c) 1 d) 0
5. a) 2 b) 5 c) 0 d) 3

Score:

0-3 Computer
4-6 Electrical
7-9 Mechanical
10-12 Industrial
13-15 Mining
16-18 Civil
19-21 Environmental
22-24 Biological
25-27 Materials
28-30 Chemical

CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca
- Round 1: Going on now.
- Match Day: October 26
- Check PlacePro



Trivia every Friday!

Thu, Oct. 14: Engineering Olympics
Fri, Oct. 15: Trivia
Wed, Oct. 20: Architecture Society Night
Thu, Oct. 21: The Great Bloomers
Fri, Oct. 22: Trivia

WORD OF THE WEEK

Uniballers (n): No, not Engineer students who have lost a testicle on an unfortunate co-op term, but students who play Uniball during the breaks between classes and during their lab periods. See: addict.

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. Obviously, we prefer suggestions.

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Editor: Ben Wedge, Assistant Editor: Shani Blankrot, Treasurer: Elizabeth Croteau



THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

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