

The Dalhousie Gazette

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PG. 6



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The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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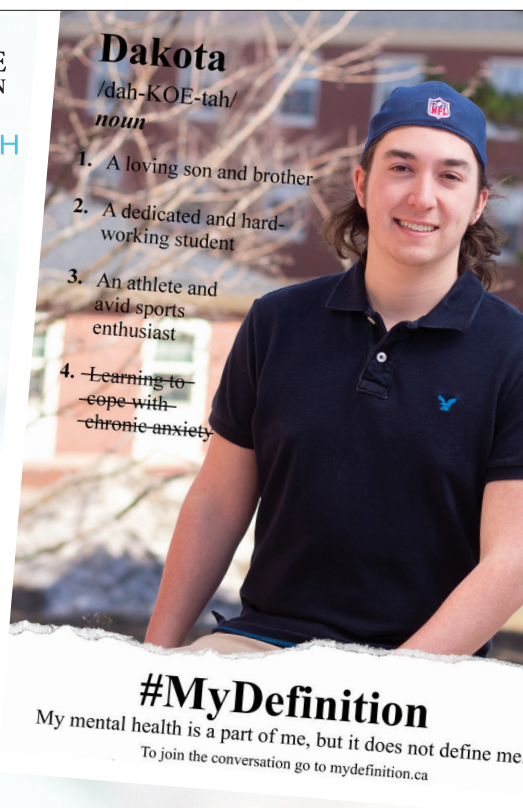
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ISJ DALHOUSIE
STUDENT UNION
STUDENT HEALTH
PROMOTION



#MyDefinition at Dal

Do you have a mental health story to share?
Do you want to reduce stigma on our campus?

The Dalhousie Student Union and Student Health Promotion are bringing the **#MyDefinition** campaign to Dal! **#MyDefinition** is a poster campaign that fights the stigma surrounding mental health issues by allowing real people to share their stories—people like you!

To become one of the faces of the campaign,
visit dsu.ca/mydefinition to submit your definition
by **December 4, 2015.**

For more information, check out
mydefinition.ca

THIS WEEK

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Dal hosts 'the most optimistic man in Israel'

Gil Hoffman, political correspondent for the *Jerusalem Post*, spoke at Dal

ISABEL RUITENBEEK

Gil Hoffman, who has been named the “most optimistic man in Israel” according to his press release, spoke at Dalhousie University on Nov. 18. Hoffman is a political correspondent for the *Jerusalem Post* as well as an Israel advocate. His lecture focused on the current situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

“There will be peace in the Middle East,” Hoffman said with confidence at the start of his speech, a statement that formed the theme of the lecture organized by Israel on Campus and the Jewish National Fund. Hoffman, who lives in Jerusalem, gives talks on Israel across the globe.

Hoffman’s lecture covered a wide range of topics, and true to his claim to optimism, for every negative he created

a positive spin. The rockets, ‘terror tunnels,’ boycotts, sanctions and suicide bombers that have been directed towards Israel have all failed, Hoffman said. Even ISIS, by awakening the world to the situation in the Middle East, has helped Israel.

“No matter what they try to do to defeat Israel, it doesn’t work. Israel continues to thrive... I have a lot of optimism that things are going to continue to get better,” he says.

The battle between Israel and Palestine is age-old, with both parties claiming ownership of the land. When the state of Israel was declared in 1948, Palestinians were only left with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, until 1967 when Israel occupied those territories as well.

Since then there has been ongoing violence between the two groups. In 2005 Israel reportedly relinquished the Gaza strip, though many refute this claim by pointing to continued Israeli control of Gaza’s borders.

Despite the complexities of the conflict, Hoffman feels peace is achievable. He is careful, however, to distinguish between a peace agreement and peace itself. A peace agreement is Israelis and Palestinians living separately and safely, with no military presence or fear of attack.

On the other hand, Hoffman says true peace is “Israelis and Palestinians eating hummus together in public squares.

I don’t expect that to happen tomorrow or the next day.”

To Jewish students struggling to find their own peace on campus, in the face of anti-Israel activism, Hoffman said to “keep in mind how pathetic it all is...because we’re just and we’re right.”

Activists have interrupted several of his speeches at universities, including at his alma mater in Chicago. To protect against such interruptions, a police officer was present at the lecture.

Hoffman recommends that Jewish students arm themselves with positive facts about Israel. Know your audience, he says: “If they’re environmentalists, tell them what Israel does environmentally...if they’re gay, tell them what Israel does to help gays.”

Arielle Branitsky, director of Hillel Atlantic Canada, a Jewish organization that helped coordinate the event; says the purpose of the lecture was education.

“I think that what this campus community and any campus community really needs is more opportunities to hear both sides. I think we need to hear all the voices involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.”

Hoffman also believes education is vital, and whether he’s writing for the *Post* as a journalist or lecturing around the world as an advocate, as long as he’s informing people, it’s all the same to him.

Hoffman said he covers internal Israeli politics and does so without bias.

“But when it comes to Israel against its enemies, then I can be a patriot.”





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Bringing veggies to Halifax

How two farmers are reconnecting people with their food

EMMA MELDRUM

David and Jen Greenberg want their customers to get their hands dirty.

On paper, the Greenbergs sell organic fruits and veggies from their farm, Abundant Acres.

In reality, they do so much more: the Greenbergs are reconnecting Nova Scotians to farming.

It all starts with the produce pack: a weekly delivery of organic fruits and veggies to Bedford, Fleming Heights, and downtown Halifax. Customers choose about ten items to take home with them.

Seems simple, right?

David and Jen are discovering that their customers aren't just buying packs for the health benefits. David believes they also want to get to know their farmer.

"I think mostly they want to partner with one farm and know that their business is directly supporting one farm," he says.

The Greenbergs say they love the relationships that grow from weekly interactions with their customers on pick-up day. They greet most people by name and often stop for a chat.

"It's such a cliché: I want to know where my food comes from," David says. "When a true statement is repeated a lot, you can almost lose the truth of it."

The phrase may be overused, but at Abundant Acres, it's taken seriously. David and Jen hold Open Farm Days a few times a year, so people can see the fields where their food is grown.

David says customers are more likely to keep buying the produce pack after visiting and creating a bond with the farm.

"A lot of the produce pack customers who

stick with it year after year are either young idealists or parents...who really want their children to have a deep connection to the farm," says David.

Jen says society and agriculture have changed. This affects how we see our food.

"There's no family connection to a farm anymore, so they don't understand what it's like," she says.

Open Farm Days help bridge that gap.

Customers get a huge kick out of visiting Abundant Acres. Jen enjoys watching kids get excited about food they've harvested, and David tells the story of his friend George, whose kids helped butcher a sheep. Normally, customers stick to picking veggies.

But when the pre-teens volunteered to help, David decided to take advantage of the teachable moment.

"George said that it was the highlight of their whole summer."

I want the same experience — minus the meat carving. The Greenbergs graciously open their farm to me for a late-fall visit.

David shows me a field overlooking the Cogmagun River. Veggies grow in rows between clover.

I pick cherry tomatoes and tomatillos with David. His friend Pierre offers me a piece of just-picked cantaloupe. The flavour astounds me. Jen believes that freshness doesn't just taste better — it is better.

"If your food is harvested less than 24 hours before you eat it, it makes a huge difference in your health too," she explains.

I leave Abundant Acres with the very connection David and Jen told me about. My next produce pack will taste that much better.



2016 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GOVERNORS' AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 1992, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University, the Board of Governors established a set of awards to be known as Governors' Awards.

Up to four awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - undergraduate, graduate or professional faculty student, full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, are presented annually in the spring by the Chair of the Board or designate at the annual Impact Awards Gala Evening.

Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support.

Nominations Open: Monday, December 7, 2015
Nominations Close: Friday, January 15, 2016, 4 p.m.

To assist you in planning your submission, a nomination form can be found at: dal.ca/governorsawards.

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:

The Office of the
Vice-Provost
Student Affairs
Room 328

Henry Hicks Academic
Administration Building
Dalhousie University

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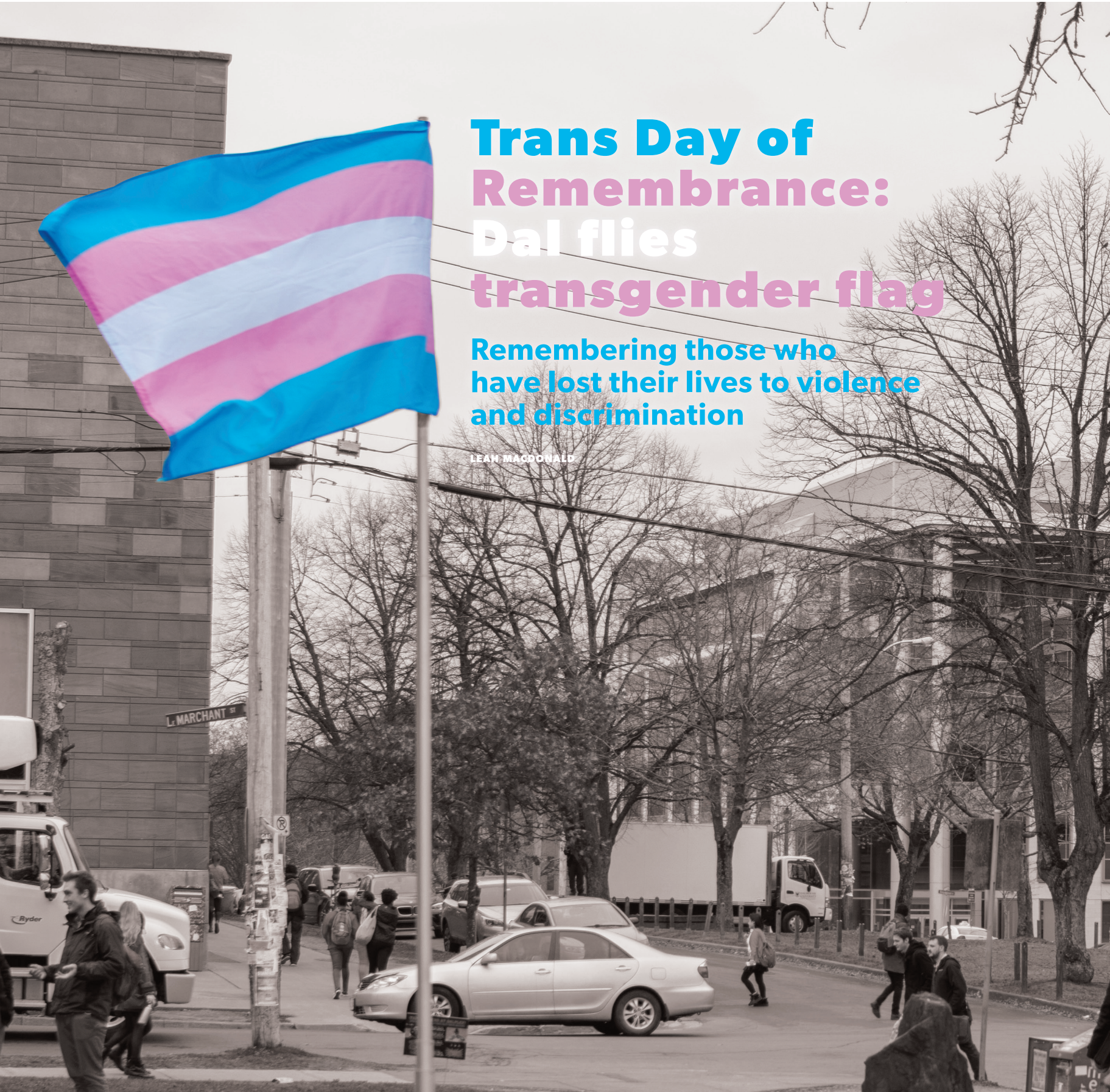
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**Trans Day of
Remembrance:
Dal flies
transgender flag**

**Remembering those who
have lost their lives to violence
and discrimination**

LEAN MACDONALD

Photo: Patrick Fulgencio

On Friday, Nov. 20, a blue, pink and white flag flew proudly on Dalhousie's campus in honour of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

The day memorializes transgender, Two-Spirit, non-binary and gender-nonconforming people who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence and discrimination.

At Dalhousie University, volunteers from DalOUT and South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre spent the day tabling in multiple locations on campus in an attempt to educate students and raise awareness on the significance of the event.

"Often these people's deaths go unrecognized and totally forgotten," says Laura Chan, a non-binary Dalhousie alumnus who works within DalOUT aiming to bring visibility to the non-binary and transgender community.

"Part of this event is realizing those deaths for what they are. These people were killed as a direct result of transphobia."

TDOR is observed in recognition of the brutal murder of Rita Hester, who was stabbed 20 times in her apartment on Nov. 28, 1998 and succumbed to cardiac arrest after her admittance to a hospital.

The police have still not found her murderer(s). One year after her death, writer and advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith coordinated a vigil in commemoration of Rita and all those who were lost to anti-transgender violence. She also launched the TDOR website, www.tdor.info, which provides information and memorializes the names of the lives lost to anti-transgender violence.

"A lot of people don't realize how much violence transgender people face on a daily basis, whether that be in the form of verbal or physical violence. People don't realize how normalized it is, how much it occurs, and how little we're talking about it," says Chan.

Injustice at Every Turn, a report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, brings to light injustices faced by the transgender and gender non-conforming community. The 2012 study involved 6,450 participants from 50 states of the USA, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Findings report double the rates of unemployment and homelessness compared to the general population, while 90 per cent of those surveyed report harassment and discrimination on the job.

Forty-one per cent of respondents report attempting suicide compared to 1.6 per cent of the general population, while 19 per cent of the sample report being refused medical care due to their transgender or gender non-conforming status. These numbers are higher among people of colour in the survey.

"You often don't really understand the gravity of it until you see everyone's names in a row. It really hits you, and you start thinking about it and say, 'Wow, that's not normal!' And yet it is the normal, and it is something that people don't talk about, it's something that people take for granted," says Chan.

DalOUT and South House work every week to create conversation and safe spaces on campus for transgender and gender non-conforming people. TDOR memorializes the lost lives of transgender siblings, additionally fostering a community of support.

"That's part of it: bringing everyone together not only to mourn but to remind ourselves and each other that we're not alone — that we're not the only ones, that we're a community and not just a bunch of individuals struggling," says Chan.

In the fall of 2013, then-Dalhousie student Jessica Dempsey filed a complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights

Commission against Aramark, the company in charge of food services at Dalhousie, after she was allegedly harassed by two employees who misgendered her and asked whether her breasts were real.

Dempsey initially filed a complaint with the university's Office of Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention, where she was met with inaction. One year after filing her complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, she learned that her human rights case had been dismissed due to "insufficient evidence to support the allegation."

Upon hearing that her case was dismissed, Dempsey voiced her disappointment in being let down by the institution that she believed was supposed to protect her.

"It's hard to say if Dalhousie as an institution has taken many steps to actually protect transgender people from the violence that they face," says Chan. "Right now, we've been talking to the DSU one-on-one trying to launch an initiative for transgender and queer healthcare through Dal health services."

In 2014, the university implemented a preferred first name policy that makes it possible for students to change their first name on documents such as class lists and student ID cards.

Despite this progress, it remains a complicated process of accessibility waivers, which can be a source of distress and isolation.

"I know a lot of trans folks, myself included, don't trust the security on campus — they misgender us, they don't respect our identities. As trans people, it's really uncomfortable going to them about anything. Ramping up security is all well and good for cis people, but when you're talking about trans people who have already been disrespected by security services it doesn't give you much faith in your physical safety," says Chan.

Going forward, Chan offers insight into how Dalhousie students can support transgender people on campus, including using correct names and pronouns.

"If you hear transphobic language or if you hear someone making a transphobic joke, say, 'Hey — that's really messed up.' It has to do with thinking critically. Hold yourself and others accountable for actions and how you approach transgender issues. A lot of people are very accustomed to saying 'the opposite sex' or 'the opposite gender' when in reality, there are no genders opposite to each other. It's really just a large spectrum of gender with no real opposition at all."

Trans and queer resources

Trans Women Support Group, a space for healing and support by and for trans women: madisonfost@gmail.com

Queer Peers, a monthly informal peer support group for queer and trans folks to provide emotional support and share self-care skills: outreach@southhousehalifax.ca

QBITPOC Group, a support group for Queer Black, Indigenous and Trans People of Colour in Halifax: volunteer@southhousehalifax.ca

Trans Day of Resilience Art Project: www.tdor.co

Leviathan of Transphobia

BY JESSICA DEMPSEY

What's your name?
Jessica
Nop! That's not your name!
Jess
Nop! Nop! Not your name
I look up to a smile
A knife flipping ham
Too late we do not serve your kind
Ohh by the way are your boobs real?
Sorry the university can not help
Human Rights Commission Doors close
They might use male pronouns, don't get upset,
says the Human Rights Inspector
7 faces stare at me
We do not understand
State your full legal name
Speak louder ohh let me take my earplugs out
Outed
By the way pronouns do not exist here
I still can't hear you
Remove the tape from her mouth
I scream
Accept our offer
NO! I will not break.
Sitting on the waterfront
Do I drown? What's the point nothing will change?
Anger voices fill my head
Is this worth it?
Social Isolation
I am a creature who crawl out of the seaweed
looks of disgust reflect off the water
voices ecco We do not serve Trans Women here
only humans
do not sit besides me you sick bastard
homelessness, rape follows
A special strength flows out of me to continue
called courage
displaying this quality results in social isolation
murdered people seen as victims
their spirits rise as warriors tonight
dreams and hopes violently shattered by an evil force
someone wants to chop me up FUCK THEM
I am not scared anymore
When I die I die without regrets
Today, Tomorrow I live as ME as Jessica
A gift so many others will not see
I am called an advocate a bad ass lady
I took a stand when no one would listen
discrimination + hatred sometimes follows me
in the streets
A creature called systemic oppression lives in
many of our government institutions
light explodes when advocates speak
spearing this monster
During the day I stab this monster of Transphobia
every chance I get
When I go to sleep I dream of world without
hatred + transphobia
I put down my weapons until a new day begins.

Jessica Dempsey portrait: Ben Douwsma





Anti-war protesters gather at security forum

Protesters yell “shame” at attendees of the 7th annual Halifax International Security Forum

EMMA MELDRUM

About 30 people gathered at Cornwallis Park on Saturday to protest the Halifax Security Forum. The annual anti-war rally heard speeches from former Halifax poet laureate El Jones and Marxist-Leninist Party member Allan Bezanson.

Protesters carrying drums and signs braved the rain to stand outside the Westin Hotel.

Signs read: “Resistance is a Right” and “Canada needs an anti-war government.”

Another poster crossed out Cornwallis Park and replaced it with “Halifax Peace and Freedom Park.”

The loudspeaker carried by leaders was often turned to the hotel, with shouts of ‘shame’ directed at the forum.

El Jones recited a poem that received cheers from protesters.

“We built this city on land we stole. We built this city on capitalism. We built TPP and free trade proposition. We built Walmarts to push out local competition. We built cheap shiny goods in sweatshop conditions.”

Allan Bezanson ran in the recent federal election as a candidate for the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada. He spoke on

behalf of No Harbour for War at the rally.

“Our former defense minister is...calling for the most aggressive military alliance in the world, led by U.S. imperialism,” Bezanson told the group.

“We’re here to make a fuss about the fact that certain people that are being welcomed in Halifax have done some nasty stuff in the past.”

“There’s 51 or 56 think tanks and NGOs here. These are the apologists for imperialism. These are the ones who wrote scholarly articles, who do the scholarly research, and juggle the facts and misrepresent everything.”

Bezanson was also critical of the media.

“We are being inundated with misinformation about what’s going on.”

Yazan Khader spoke at the protest. He is a member of Students Against Israeli Apartheid at Dalhousie University.

“We’re here to make a fuss about the fact that certain people that are being welcomed in Halifax have done some nasty stuff in the past,” Khader said in an interview.

“The Israeli government controls the lives of millions of Palestinians in the West Bank, those people have no vote, they live under military law ... they’re treated under very harsh punitive measures that Amnesty International has criticized.”

“We’re here to condemn our government’s support for that.”

Khader said he was satisfied with the turnout, though it has been higher in previous years. The Dalhousie student said he thought people might have been drawn away by other events, such as Hijab Day at the Halifax Central Library.

The protest ended after about an hour of speeches, chanting, and drumming.

Photos : Emma Meldrum



Motions and Movement: “Ivory Black and Titanium White Project”

An insight into Julie Trudel’s latest accomplishment

KATIE LESSER

Julie Trudel is a Montreal-based artist who received the William and Isabel Pope Artist’s Residency at NSCAD University this term.

In the summer, Trudel arrived at NSCAD, where she was given a private studio space to create her series “Ivory Black and Titanium White Project: Transparency and Distortion.” Her work is currently on display at the Anna Leonowens Gallery in Gallery 1, located just off of the Granville Campus at NSCAD University. Her show runs from Nov. 16-28.

As the viewer walks into the gallery, there is an overwhelming feeling of precision and perfection. Trudel’s work is done on Plexiglas, where the paint is poured over the surface for the first layer, drops of black or white paint dots for the second layer, and a transparent medium for the third layer. Trudel bends the Plexiglas to allow the paint to flow and move off of her non-traditional canvas. The dots move in all sorts of directions — even off of the work, leaving behind a transparent trail.

There are six works in the gallery and each is unique. Some are black on black, white on white, or a mixture of the two. Each work is large, but each work is spaced appropriately to one another in the gallery.

Trudel used to consider using natural light to enhance her work, but she now uses lights in the gallery to cast interesting

shadows on the wall. Some of the shadows cast the dots from her paintings and distort them even more, adding to the wow factor.

Trudel also bends the whole Plexiglas board after the paint has dried in the plastics lab at the Port Campus of NSCAD University. This allows the work to have three panels, one which sits against the wall and the other two protruding off of the back panel showcasing its three dimensions.

The work comes off of the wall, engaging the space in a sort of sculptural way. The work is interactive, in the sense that the viewer must walk around the work to see its reflective, mirror-like qualities. You will not see yourself in these reflections, but you will see a time lapse of movement from the pouring and the dots.

All of the work Trudel does for this project is in black and white, giving a sophistication to the simplicity of color.

Trudel’s work tends to have an abstract approach. Some may think the work is digital, but it is all hand poured. The dots are eager to move off of the painting during the bending process, which can make interesting shapes and motions. Trudel’s work pushes the boundaries of painting and questions the reality of what we can do with a certain type of medium.

Although her work is three-dimensional, Trudel does not consider her paintings to be sculptures: they have and always will be paintings.

MOVE over, October

Rowe’s Movember team raises awareness and funds for good cause

PAOLA TOLENTINO

“We at Dal have such a caring and giving student body that is incredibly passionate about various causes and charity that affect all of our family and friends, specifically Movember, says Connor Ross, a member of the Rowe Mo’ Bros and Sistas.

“It is really amazing to be a part of such a giving student body that continues to have an impact on the Movember campaign in Canada.”

Movember, for those unfamiliar with the event, is a month-long campaign to raise awareness and donations for men’s



health by growing facial hair for the month of November.

Often, the focus is on the dangers of prostate and/or testicular cancer, which is apt considering the spotlight that October shines on breast cancer. It’s a global organization, one that Dalhousie’s Rowe School of Business

has been contributing with for the last 5 years.

“Dal raised over \$65,000 last year making us the top per capita team in Canada, and the fifth organization overall for Movember funds raised,” says Ross.

The event isn’t only for those who can grow facial hair—“Sistas” are the equivalent of the Movember “Bros,” who are typically the ones growing beards.

“By creating an innovating, fun, and engaging Movember campaign we can all support the men in our lives,” Ross adds.

The strategic way that the Rowe team approaches their events through the month are designed to raise participation and awareness, not to focus on gender.

In fact, awesome mustaches are even more optional to Movember now. With the aim to focus on the lack of physical activity that men tend to display, the Movember organization introduced MOVEmber, which is more or less what it sounds like—all about moving about.

“[This campaign] is aimed at increasing participation and generating more awareness for men’s health through physical activity,” says Ross.

“[It] involves people signing up through movember.ca and committing to partaking in thirty minutes of physical activity a day.”

It’s a good way to bring in people who want to support healthy living, but aren’t quite sold on the facial hair.

Rowe’s team plans to hold up their reputation as some of the greatest school ambassadors in Canada this November, through various fundraising activities on campus and by advertising their cause.

Winter Salads

Fresh, local, and less than \$1 per pound

DAVID FRIGHT

Want a fresh salad made from local ingredients in the middle of winter? No Problem! Here are some winter salads to help keep you healthy ‘til spring.

CARROT, BEET, AND KALE SALAD

Ingredients

- ½ cup julienne of beets
- ¼ cup julienne of carrots
- ½ cup chopped kale
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

When selecting kale for this salad, choose the smallest leaves that are available as they tend to be more tender. Prepare the beets last to reduce the amount of staining they will cause.

1. Remove the centre stalks from the leaves by cutting along both sides of the stalks to separate them from the leaves. Stack the separated leaves and cut them in half. Cut these into pieces approximately 2 cm wide and place in a bowl large enough for all of the ingredients.
2. Wash, trim, and peel the carrots. Cut the whole carrots in half, then julienne the carrots by placing each half section flat side down and cutting it lengthwise into slices the thickness of a nickel. Cut each of the slices into strips the width of a nickelut the strips into pieces 3cm long and add to the beets.
3. Wash, trim, peel, and julienne the beets following the same process as the carrots. Cut them in half, place flat side down, and cut into thin slices. Cut the slices into thin strips and then add to the kale.
4. Prepare the vinaigrette by whisking together the extra virgin olive oil and white wine vinegar in a separate container. Add it to the vegetables, season with salt and pepper, and toss to combine.

Optional: To make a more substantial meal from the salad, add dried lentils cooked according to the manufacturer’s instructions. You can also add a small amount of finely minced garlic to the salad.



CABBAGE SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 cup green cabbage, shredded
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- ½ tsp dried mint
- Salt & pepper to taste

Directions

1. Remove the stem and outer leaves of the cabbage. Cut the cabbage in half, lengthwise from top to bottom. Remove the inner portion of the stem, then place the cabbage halves flat side down and cut them in half, lengthwise again. Slice the cabbage quarters widthwise as thinly as possible. This is much easier and safer with a sharp knife. Ideally, the slices should be no thicker than the edge of a nickle.
2. In a small dish, combine the extra virgin olive oil, lemon juice and mint, and whisk with a fork. Let it stand for five minutes. Then whisk it again and add it to the cabbage, seasoning it with salt and pepper, and toss to combine. Allow the salad to sit for 20 minutes before serving to allow the flavours to develop.

Optional: Use a half pound of green cabbage and half pound of red cabbage for more colour.



Halifax? Creative?

Jill Grant answers this in a #KnowYourDal pop-up lecture

EMILY ZWART

Whether you are new to the city of Halifax or a long-time resident, the city offers plenty of creative outlets to people who strive everyday in their music, art, and culture.

Jill Grant, a professor in Dalhousie's School of Planning, and her team of researchers conducted a multi-year study that looked at how welcoming Halifax is to newcomers, and what factors affect whether talented and creative people stay, as well as which factors influence innovation in the region.

Compared to other Canadian cities, Halifax has a higher proportion of talented people. The city provides a beautiful and inspiring environment with a slow pace of life, and a small town/big city feel. Universities (especially here at Dalhousie) contribute to the music and art culture of this city, and play an important role in making Halifax attractive to the talented and creative workers who bring their drive to the region. Halifax's lively music scene and its very appreciative audiences attracts artists from all over the county; in contrast with Toronto's music scene, it isn't as competitive, which has musicians placing Halifax on their lists.

"The vitality of the music scene depends on the availability of live music venues and affordable housing — by 2013, those were threatened by economic downturn and gentrification," said Grant.

Immigrants play an important role in bringing diversity to creative cities, but Halifax recruits very small numbers.

"Some interesting examples of innovative partnerships to generate community development is based around culture and creativity," said Grant.

Halifax has its challenges. It is known as friendly and welcoming, yet on a deeper level is in fact not so. The city has ways to go in embracing diversity and welcoming more immigrants. With a high concentration of students, many label the city a "party town". "...Halifax has many of the aspects of a creative city. Unfortunately, the government does not focus on creative aspects as much as they do on other things. More can be done to facilitate the creative parts of the city," said Grant.



"Compared to other Canadian cities, Halifax has a higher proportion of talented people. The city provides a beautiful and inspiring environment with a slow pace of life, and a small town/ big city feel."



Going Gatsby

Dalhousie's Theater Society's rendition of the classic novel was indeed great

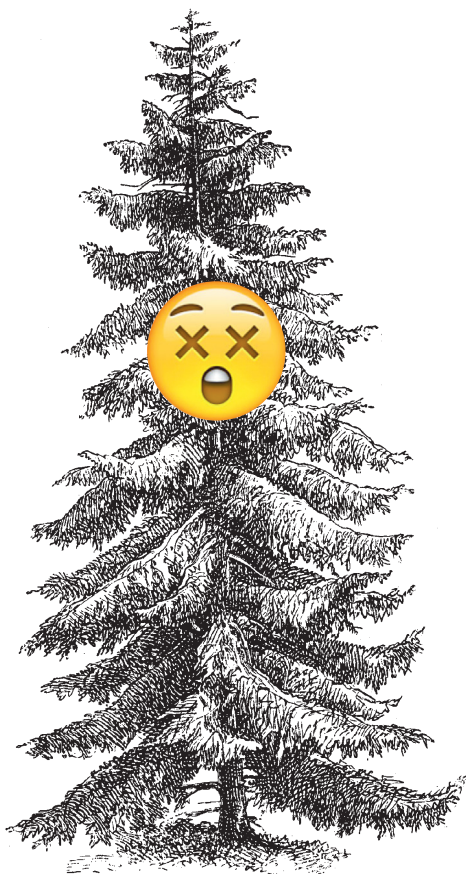
WILLIAM C. CONEY

Directed by Hannah Harper and Ryan Wilcox of the Dalhousie Theatre Society, this F. Scott Fitzgerald classic of the ephemera of love and consumption was performed from November 19th through the 21st. This adaptation, written by Simon Levy, obviously lacks the intense descriptions of the original work, but still remained excellent in conveying the same messages.

Perhaps the most striking part of the performance itself was the way in which the space itself was used to help convey the powerful emotions of the story. Presented in The Living Room on Agricola Street, the tightness of the room must've been used conscientiously to assist with this, as the audience itself was member too some of the most intimate and most enraged situations within the play. In this, particularly striking was the performance of Ian French and Bana Helou as Tom and Daisy Buchanan respectively. French would take the anger of the role very well, as he sought to establish a sense of control over others in his life which he lacked in his own, although at times it did seem to perhaps be a bit too loud.

If there was any one specific aspect of the play to kvetch about, it'd be in Jon Cheverie's performance as Nick Carraway. The performance itself was excellent, as he wanders about the play unable to control anything, anything but his own behaviour and sensibilities. This strength of character, though, was a bit inconsistent in how it was construed, not really coming out as strongly in the first half as it does in the second half, such as it does when he leaves Jordan Baker (Kathleen Olds). This kind of a bubbling over of emotions by Carraway is true to the story, but as something which I always imagined to be more constrained in how it developed.

Overall though, this work was another great performance by the Dalhousie Theatre Society, and the overflowing enthusiasm and learning which the performers and organizers put for the piece was felt all throughout the show.



Prodigal tree son committed to Boston

One of Pictou County’s tallest is remembered

WILLIAM C. CONEY

Surrounded by friends and family, this 72-year-old, 49-foot native white spruce of Lorne, Pictou County passed away earlier on Nov. 17. He would live most of his life in his native soil, contributing to the province as a primary producer.

A mid-day ceremony was held in remembrance on Nov. 18 at the Halifax Grand Parade. Looking as green as he did in life in death, hundreds would come out to witness him.

The occasion would be marked by a solemn programme, heralded in by several Nova Scotian town criers. Mayor Mike Savage, Premier Stephen McNeil, US Consul General for Atlantic Canada Steven Giegerich and many other local politicians, would be among those who made remarks at the public ceremony. Stephen McNeil himself had accompanied the tree down towards Halifax from its native soil.

A song written to commemorate the occasion, “We Will See You Through,” by Suzanne Pasternak was also performed, by her and the Nova Scotian Mass Choir. The ceremony was also marked by the performance of Pictou County native folk singer Dave Gunning of the seasonally appropriate “Frosty the Snowman.”

He is remembered by property owners Bill and Andrea MacEachern, as well as the hundreds of descendents of a multitude of ages throughout the neighborhood.

Directly following the ceremony, he was escorted out under police, fire, and marathon runner escort. His journey will end on November 20th in Boston, Massachusetts, where he will lay in state in the Boston Common throughout the month of December. A public ceremony will be held there in remembrance, illuminating his accomplishments, on December 3rd.

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Book Review

The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test Tom Wolfe – (1968)

ERIC DESCHENE

It’s 1964. Ken Kesey had just gotten out of his six-month jail sentence for possession charges. What’s the next best thing to do with your life after getting out of jail? Well, according to Kesey, it is buying an old school bus in California, painting it all sorts of crazy psychedelic colors and driving around the country spreading word of this wonderful new drug called acid, or LSD.

The bus, dubbed “Further,” was driven by none other than Neal Cassady. Cassady was the main protagonist in Jack Kerouac’s 1957 novel “On The Road” where he took on the pseudonym Dean Moriarty. He holds up to his reputation of fast driving and womanizing that Kerouac set.

The bus contains many cabinets, nooks, and crannies all filled with grass, uppers and downers, but most importantly is the fridge filled with laced Kool-Aid and orange juice. Wolfe documents through the eyes of the Pranksters what it’s like to be on acid. The liminality of it is great for the reader because we see both good trips and bad trips. Nothing seems to be worse than a man losing his mind in the midst of an LSD trip.

In the novel, you meet with many famous counterculture figures. Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Tim Leary are amongst the various figures met with zeal throughout the story. This book is a great way to set a context of 60’s events. By meeting with these already historic characters, the reader can get a full sense of the counterculture scene of the 60’s. It’s like reading a textbook where the characters take acid and have a great time. That’s a textbook I would surely read.

Wolfe recounts the events with a new style of writing (new for 1968 anyways) that the great Dr. Gonzo (Hunter S. Thompson, author of the drug-fuelled adventure of *Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas*) called “New Journalism”. New Journalism was the wave of journalistic semi-fictional writing that took hold in the early 60’s throughout the 70’s that employed unconventional ways to record an event, where participation was required.

Wolfe also uses spontaneous prose inspired by Kerouac and other beat writers of the 50’s. Random breaks of poetic verse and lyric support Wolfe’s own personal style that help convey the chaos of the whole cross-country trip (think *Naked Lunch*). He uses unconventional word choice, so keep a dictionary near by.

All in all, a good book. Recommend this for anyone who likes acid, has done acid, or is at all interested in acid.

Film Reviews

Constantine (2005)

AKSHAY SHIRKE

I know what you’re thinking: “*Constantine*? You mean, that non-movie that came out a few years ago with Keanu Reeves battling demons while trying to maintain the balance of good and evil on Earth? That *Constantine*??” Yes. That *Constantine*.

Plus, the fact that you could actually remember a summarized plot of this film, ten years hence, is quite impressive. Trust me, though, there is precedence for this review. Mainly the fact that it’s been a decade since its release AND that it might not be as bad a movie as most people (and probably some good old-fashioned intuition) may lead you to believe.

Constantine follows occult detective and Theodore Logan look-alike, John Constantine, as he faces off against a supernatural threat to the world. He is joined by Detective Isabel Dodson, played by the ever-awesome Rachel Weisz, who is investigating the apparent suicide of her twin sister.

This film, like all films nowadays, is based on a comic series. In the graphic novel world of Hellblazer, John Constantine is actually from London, has a thick cockney accent and is drawn to look like the prominent singer/songwriter/Desert Rose-r, Sting. As you may have surmised, Keanu Reeves doesn’t really fit into any of the above criteria. Therefore, never having read Hellblazer actually helped me look past Constantine’s inaccuracies to the amazing-ness within.

The real heroes of Constantine are Director Francis Lawrence (*Catching Fire*, *I Am Legend*) and his cinematographer, who I’m just going to make a wild guess and say was Phillipe Rousselot. This was the director’s first full length feature and you couldn’t say that by looking. The film is shot incredibly well with some beautifully composited frames. Balance is an important theme to the plot of *Constantine* and almost every scene is bookended with shots of visual symmetry to reiterate said theme. Also, that flame-thrower shotgun was super cool.

Let’s talk about the script for a minute. It’s a safe distance from a truly terrible script (Read: It’s a safe distance from *Taken 2*), but it has some glaring issues that could have contributed to the lack of repeat viewings. The plot is fairly convoluted which makes *Constantine* a film you need to watch a few times to fully appreciate. The best part about it, however, is the third act. Honestly, it makes the movie for me. Most of the wild exposition and strange plot tangents come together in an expertly crafted climax. Moreover, Peter Stormare as Satan is just the tzatziki sauce on the lamb gyro — which is a dish I liked way better on my second try.

“*Constantine* is actually a better movie than it has any right to be.” Adam Savage — of Mythbusters fame — once said this in a random interview. It’s pretty much the best way to describe Constantine. In short, the film is sort of like Star Wars Monopoly. On paper, it really shouldn’t work and yet, like Star Wars Monopoly, it simply does.

The Prestige (2006)

EMMA MELDRUM

Watching *The Prestige* is like watching a magic show.

Spectators sit on the edge of their seats, watching performers with narrowed eyes. They seek to catch every movement the magician makes in the hopes of uncovering his secrets.

The movie follows two magicians in a deadly rivalry. Christian Bale plays Alfred Borden, who always seems to be a step ahead of his more flamboyant colleague, Robert Angier, played by Hugh Jackman. Love is won and lost. Leading ladies Scarlett Johansson, Rebecca Hall, and Piper Perabo are dazzling in their portrayal of round characters who compliment their male counterparts.

The supporting actors are talented and well-known: Michael Caine, David Bowie, Andy Serkis, the list goes on. Each does exactly what they’re meant to do: support Bale and Jackman as they awe us with their acting performance and magic show.

Most *Prestige*-watchers won’t uncover the secret behind the movie’s trick until it’s revealed at the end. Then, spectators will want to see the film again so that they can be in on mystery. Surprisingly, learning the secrets behind their tricks doesn’t detract from the mystery of their act. A magician isn’t supposed to reveal what Borden and Angier do throughout the film. The workings of their magic act are meant to be closely guarded secrets.

The movie wouldn’t work — or would leave viewers seriously angry — if it didn’t let them in on the secret. But by doing so, *The Prestige* breaks the magician’s code. This is my only complaint.

The movie deserves to be watched more than once. *The Prestige* seems to have been made with this in mind. The second viewing will be as enjoyable, if not more so, than the first.

YEAR IN “REVIEW”: 2015

Recapping the year you want to remember, not the nightmare you actually lived through

JOHN HILLMAN, OPINIONS EDITOR

This is the last Gazette issue of 2015. It's the perfect time to reflect back on some of the major news stories of the past year.

Things have been a little...challenging here at Dalhousie in 2015, but there's no better way to deal with painful memories than to shove them into the back of your brain and spend the rest of your life repressing them. As such, we're going to proceed here with a 100% Dal-positive year-in-review. If a story portrayed Dalhousie in a negative light, I'm just going to pretend that it didn't happen. While not everything mentioned below is “true”, strictly speaking, we all know that the truth hurts, and who wants to deal with that? Enjoy!

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JANUARY

Now, I know I said this review would be positive, but let's be honest: we can't talk about last winter without addressing one particularly unfortunate topic that dominated campus discussion. You know what I'm talking about. It drew national attention, created a firestorm of protests and social media outrage, and left a path of injury and institutional ineptitude in its wake that prompted passionate grassroots movements to call for apologies, resignations, and even legal action.

I'm referring, of course, to Halifax's historically icy sidewalks.

Little did we know after our green Christmas and misty New Year, but January's first few botched plowing efforts were about to harden into a catastrophe of mythical proportions. Winter was coming.

FEBRUARY

The sidewalk issue reached a climax in February, when glacial sheets upwards of eight inches thick encased most of the city's sidewalks. Off-campus students without vehicles simply vanished from our classrooms. For those of us lucky enough to live on or near campus, Dalhousie's crack teams kept our pristine walkways the envy of the municipality. Life in the Dalhousie bubble continued much as before, even as the city around us descended into chaos. A community can only survive on sandwiches from the Killam Subway for so long, though—as the year draws to a close, let us take a moment to honour the brave, bruised heroes who ventured forth to Quinpool Road in search of medical supplies, fortifying drinks, and Friskies for our starving cats.

Hope for an abbreviated winter faded on President's Day (February 16th), when Richard Florizone poked his head out of his office for the first time in months but quickly withdrew back inside upon seeing *Gazette* Editor-in-Chief Jesse Ward rooting through the administration's garbage. (*Ed.: this never happened.*) While some rolled their eyes at the old superstition that claimed this meant six more weeks of winter, believers would soon be vindicated by the coming snow-pocalypse.

MARCH

It snowed.

I know it wasn't Dalhousie's fault, but does anyone object to adding the nine feet of snow that fell between the start of February and the end of March to the list of memories we're repressing?

I didn't think so.

Moving on.

In one of the most stunning results in history of Dalhousie campus politics, relatively unknown neuroscience student Dan

Nicholson was elected DSU President. Like Trudeau's victory later in the year, many attributed Nicholson's success to a surge in voter turnout—almost twice as many students voted in 2015 as did in 2014.

Pundits are optimistic that we may see similar turnout growth in 2016, but they caution that such progress almost entirely depends on whether noted DSU Council Live-tweeter William Coney has the oratory

false hope, so that their tears will taste all the sweeter when Lord Trudeau lays waste to their paper empire.”

MAY

Dalhousie proudly saluted a graduating class filled with many students who hadn't triggered any international scandals. This inspiring moment was tainted only by the sudden appearance of a band of White



Clockwise: Halifax Skyline, March 2015; Several excited patriarchs pose with their new hero, Andy Fillmore; DSU in July.



skills necessary to inspire at least two more members of his Latin study group to hit the polls and fulfill their *officium civis*.

APRIL

The *Dalhousie Gazette* was forced out of its offices on the third floor of the SUB after nearly half a century of uninterrupted tenancy. Staff made a number of interesting finds as they dealt with generations of deferred cleaning, including several hundred back issues, a functioning theremin, and King's Journalism Professor Stephen Kimber, who had apparently spent the past 45 years crashing on a cot behind a stack of dusty, Cyrillic-covered crates labeled “Do Not Open Until Proletariat Revolution”.

With both federal and provincial Liberals riding sky-high in the polls, Nova Scotia's Liberal Government made the surprising decision to cancel the widely popular Film Tax Credit. Asked why the government would risk severely tarnishing the Liberal brand for such minor budgetary savings, one senior McNeil-government official hissed that the point was “to give those impotent NDP fools

Walkers outside the Rebecca Cohn. The cost was bitter, but the resourceful minds of House Dalhousie won the day, driving the fiends back to their slowly receding glacial domain.

JUNE

In late June, the External Task Force That Must Not Be Named, chaired by Constance Backhouse, released its report. We're not going to rehash the purpose of this task force or 99.999% of the content of the report, but I'm sure that we all swelled with pride when the report's introduction described Dalhousie as “a respected centre of learning and research.” Go Tigers!

JULY

In July, the DSU hosted a Breaking Ground party to celebrate the start of the long-awaited SUB renovations. Our valiant executives laboured away with their wee shovels for several agonizing minutes before realizing that their plan to have phase one complete before the start of classes was probably a little too optimistic.

AUGUST

Curiously, there was no August in 2015.

SEPTEMBER

Students returned to a campus embroiled in controversy. At some point during the summer, DSU President Dan Nicholson's glorious, election-winning man bun had mysteriously vanished. Rumours quickly circulated that stop-the-knot vigilantes had struck campus, resulting in the CBC breathlessly declaring that the South End was in the midst of a “Man-bun Massacre”.

On a positive note, with city contractors hitting pavement on the final icebound sidewalk, and animal control chasing off the last remaining direwolves, Mayor Mike Savage proudly declared an end to the Winter of 2015!

OCTOBER

On October 6, Dal Alumnus Arthur MacDonald won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics, resoundingly validating the Backhouse report's central finding that Dalhousie is a respected research institution.

Shortly after MacDonald's victory, election fever swept Halifax. On October 19, more voters went to the polls than in any federal election since 1993. In a major upset, city-planner Andy Fillmore beat popular Halifax MP Megan Leslie by over 8,000 votes. This was the first time a male candidate had won in the riding since 1984—a desperately-needed, spirit-lifting victory for the Patriarchy after what can only be described as a rough year overall.

NOVEMBER

In a testament to how low current expectations have sunk, a rash of high fives breaks out across campus as students realize that the Biohazardous material forcing the closure of the Medical School does not appear to have been planted by any terrorists, rogue nations, or mad scientists.

DECEMBER

This article was published in November, but since we've already taken a few artistic liberties with reality, let's just say that Dalhousie scientists discover a formula for calorie-free chocolate, and, as a result, the long-suffering Richard Florizone finally gets to smile at a press conference.

What a year! If 2016 is half as amazing as we are carefully choosing to remember 2015, it should be one hell of a ride. See you then!



Don't rain on my holiday parade

It's the most wonderful time of the year—don't overthink it!

SHANNON SLADE

December is my favorite month of the year; as ridiculously corny as it sounds, it is a magical time of the year for me. Obviously it's a special time for most children, but this charm fades for many people as adulthood comes upon them.

Not me, though. I love the holiday season.

I love the food, the decorations, the music and all of the traditions. I even love the cold—I'll gladly take seeing my breath when I wake up in the morning over that wet blanket of humidity that clings to everything during every Halifax summer.

Again, in case I'm being too subtle: I fucking love this time of year.

You can call the season whatever the heck you want in front of me, I don't care. I'm not going to be offended by someone else's desire to proclaim their love of the holidays in the way that suits them. Wish me a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Fun Festivus. Whatever—we'll get along just great as long as you're in the spirit of the season.

I'm going to confess something semi-private to all of you—I feel we've gotten real close these last few sentences. I'm a Pagan. I celebrate Yule, sure, but I also have a separate and deep love for most things Christmas. Two excuses to eat Turkey are better than one, right?

I've had arguments in the past with people who feel that I should be more offended than I am about Christmas, what with all of the Pagan traditions it pilfered in order to strengthen Christianity's hold on Dark Age

Europe. I could not care less. That sort of appropriation has been going on as long as people have had cool cultures to crib from—it doesn't in any way affect my ability to hold my own beliefs. Why should I get mad when people are just trying to have a good time and enjoy their holidays?

Really, if there's one thing that bugs me about the holiday season, it's the number of bellyachers who pop up looking up for some excuse to rain on everyone's parade.

Take the religious whiners, for example. The way some people act, you'd think encountering another religion in a public space was the same thing as being converted at gunpoint.

I take Paganism seriously, but I also don't get offended when I walk by a nativity scene. I think people should put out all of the decorations they want to—I want the streets to be a giant mishmash of various religious decorations, like some earthly representation of what heaven would actually look like if it exists and the Supreme Being isn't an unexpectedly petty omnipotent force. I want people to be happy without trying to ruin anybody else's good time. Is that too much to ask?

It's the same thing with the 'commercialism' complainers. I've seen the archives section this week—people at Dal have been complaining about Christmas becoming a consumer abomination since at least the 1800s. Get over it already.

I love giving presents, and I definitely don't mind receiving them either. Again, let me

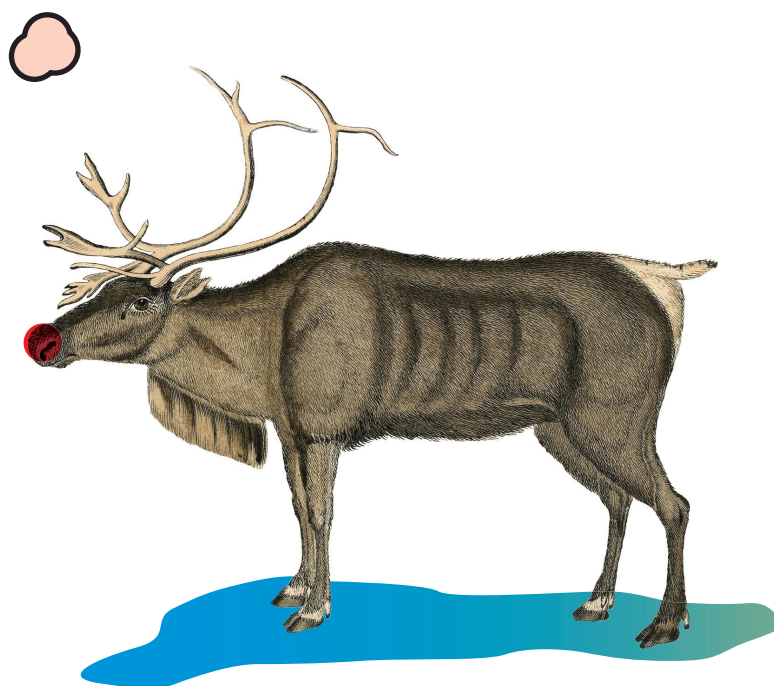
be the one to put it out there—I like getting presents. I know we aren't supposed to admit that, but I will break the silence. I even love getting socks and laundry detergent every year; you appreciate that shit much more when you live on your own.

I love giving presents too. The feeling you get when you absolutely nail someone's present is awesome. I once made my mom a cookbook filled with hand-picked recipes; she loves it and uses it all the time. That's awesome. Despite their reputation, gift cards work too. If you can afford something, and it makes the other person happy, you've done well.

Now, since this is a Dalhousie audience I'm writing for, I know I only have about five more seconds before someone starts wanking on about privilege. Let me make one thing perfectly clear: I didn't have a privileged childhood. There were some really hard years. My mom was a single parent who had no help from my father; she had to handle everything herself. There was a year or two where there were

no presents at all, and there was a year we stayed in my grandparents' small apartment on Christmas Eve because we had no heat at our place. I had to sleep in my jacket a few nights before we stayed with them. I can live without presents, but I like getting and giving them all the same. The commercialization of Christmas doesn't bother me, because whether there were plenty of presents or none, my family always had a great time together. Spending a bunch of money doesn't mean that the sentiment is no longer there—it's just another way to spread good cheer.

So tank your way through those exams, toss your books in the closet, and enjoy the hell out of the holiday season. Whether you have a specific religious attachment, or you just want to spend quality time with the people you care about, make sure you soak in every last moment. And if anyone tries to tell you otherwise, take my advice and drown them out with a nog-fuelled round or two of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



Facebook, Paris and the failure of modern foreign policy

How social media affects foreign policy decision-making

OLIVIER CHAGNON

As Paris was up in flames several days ago, so was social media. Facebook erupted and its administrators allowed users to temporarily change profile pictures to show solidarity. They gave people the ability to conduct “security checks” on their loved ones living in Paris during the attacks. People went from sharing pictures of the Kardashians to sharing opinion articles on the Syrian refugee crisis and ISIS.

Opinions were mixed; unsurprisingly the right used this to push against harboring refugees and some went as far as using the attacks as an example of why citizens should be allowed to carry guns. Turns out that most of the attackers weren’t even Syrian, let alone refugees.

This is not the first time this has happened; Kony 2012 and the Bring Back Our Girls campaign are other examples. But who has checked up on those issues since the last time they retweeted the hash tags or shared the video? How many times did people share Aylan’s — the dead Syrian child washed up on

a Turkish beach — picture? Refugee support was through the roof on social media when that picture was published... a big shift in opinion now that the Bataclan drowns in blood, huh?

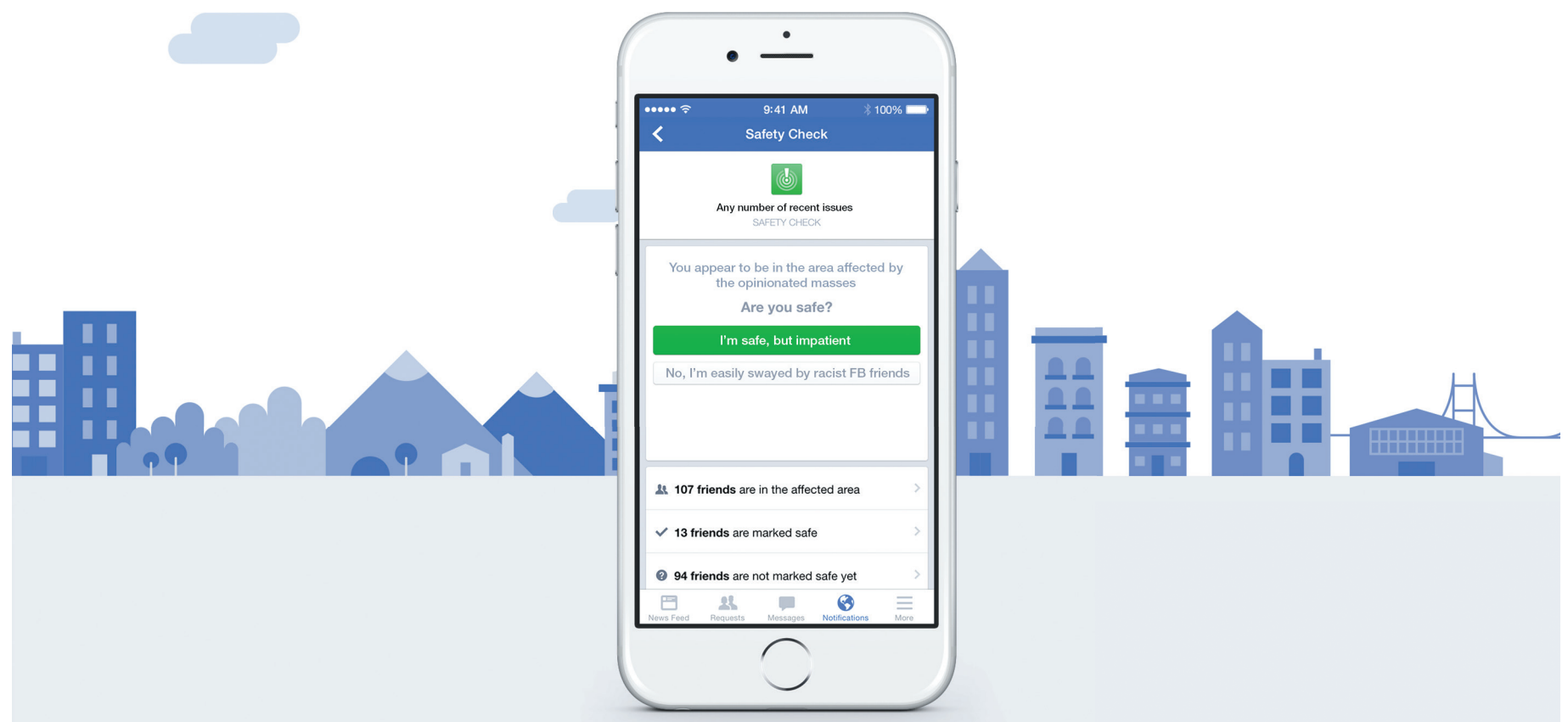
When Paris was attacked, it didn’t take more than 48 hours for governments to pledge their support of France’s bombing campaign. Trudeau’s promise of pulling our fighter jets out of Syria seems to have been delayed for the time being.

Through this chaos, a harsh reality is uncovered: citizens demand immediate government response to events hours after they happen. Naturally, governments rush to quench our thirst for vengeance and issue statements to soothe us. Governments make us feel like we’ve contributed to the decision-making process. In some way we have, but at what cost? More Western troops to go fight a guerilla war in Uganda? To Nigeria? Decisions to send more Western military troops are made hastily, often even when these decisions are made due to ulterior motives. 9/11 can be used as an example. Most people now know that Operation Iraqi Freedom wasn’t just for overthrowing Saddam for having fictional chemical weapons

and supposedly abetting Osama. Ever heard of Halliburton? If we were truly intervening for the social good and bringing murderers to justice, don’t you think we would have done something about the Rohingya? Look it up, I dare you.

Whenever we feel compelled by some event or some social media trend, we immediately go up in arms and demand action for atrocities committed around the world. Events that are often caused by our very involvement. Citizens’ impatience causes government to make rash policies. This often results in foreign policies assembled in a rush, and this has to stop. It is irrational and irresponsible to make important decisions such as bombing another country in such a hurry. Especially when the decisions often result in killing civilians.

Public satisfaction cannot trump logical decision-making. Foreign policy needs to be formed through a calm and patient process, where every aspect is analyzed and the long-term consequences are considered. We are now witnessing the failure of modern day foreign policymaking, and we are partially to blame.

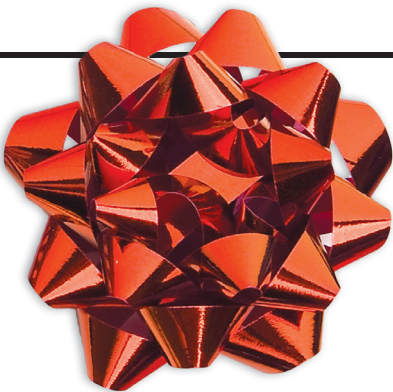


From the Archives

‘Tis the Season

JOHN HILLMAN, OPINIONS EDITOR

With the Parade of Lights in our rearview mirror and December mere days away, the holiday season is properly upon us. As long as there’s been a *Gazette*, students have been weighing in on the meaning of this season. Some have criticized the consumerism — it may surprise you to know that people have been lamenting “Christmas these days” since at least 1876. Others have expressed their pure, uninhibited love of the holiday season — on this point, contributor Shannon Slade in this week’s issue would surely raise a cup of eggnog in seasonal solidarity with the editorial staff of our first Christmas issue back in 1869. The following are glimpses into the holiday season experiences of a few Dalhousians over the past century and a half.



“Editorial”– Volume 2, Issue 3 – December 27, 1869

Christmas! There is music in the very name. How many associations cluster round the word! What bright visions of happy homes, cheerful firesides, kind friends and hearty welcomes does it call up! What delightful family reunions, what meetings around the social board, what mirth and festivity does it not suggest! Who does not feel his heart thrill within him, and his pulse quicken, as he hears the familiar sound?

By the Student, the advent of Christmas is hailed with peculiar pleasure. It is then that he obtains a respite from the wearisome labours of the class-room. He fears the frown of no Professor: the envy of no companion. No spectres of to-morrow’s imperfectly prepared work, disturb his slumbers. He does not awake to find himself conjugating a Greek verb, or trying to recollect what metals are precipitable by hydrosulphuric acid.

(...)

But a short time ago, these and kindred subjects were uppermost in his mind: now he deems them almost beneath his notice. (...) Has he not spent many a weary hour, and robbed himself of many a night’s rest during the past two months, in their study? And is not Christmas coming, and is he not going home to enjoy it? “Hurrah for Merry Christmas !”

Down goes his gown in one corner, his cap is kicked into another, he tumbles his books into a third, and dances the Highland fling in the fourth. It is useless to remonstrate with him, and as for argument, you might as well talk to his gown as it lies there with a new rent added to the number, certainly large enough before, yet which he regards somewhat as a veteran soldier does the tatters in his standard its greatest glory. Our student is neither to be argued nor laughed out of his state of hilarity. Christmas is coming, and he means to make the best of it.

And is he not right? His manifestations of joy may be extravagant, but who can say that they are reprehensible? Is he to be blamed for sharing in an almost universal feeling? He certainly has as much right to be joyous at this season as anyone. And his enjoyment of his brief resting time is inferior to that of no one; for it is heightened by the recollection of hard work in the past, and the anticipation of still harder in the future.

(...)

Let us, while surrounded with comfort and plenty, think of those who are not so highly favoured, and from our abundance bestow a share upon them, remembering that we have it on the best of all authority that “it is better to give than to receive.” So will our Christmas be indeed a happy one.

And now, readers, one and all, we sincerely wish you A Merry Christmas.

“The Compliments of the Season”
Volume 8, Issue 10 – April 1, 1876

Christmas has lost nearly all its sacred significance, and is honored only as a season of jollity and giving of presents.

“Christmas at the Front” – “Major John Cameron”
Volume 48, Issue 6 – February 1, 1916

At eight o’clock our relief came and we went for breakfast. The cook met us with a cheerful grin — “Bacon for Christmas breakfast boys.” We landed in France on the 15th Sept. and this was just the one hundred and first time we had bacon for breakfast. Still, the bacon is good.

Breakfast over, it started to rain. We have rain a great deal oftener than we have bacon.

At length the rain ceased and taking a bicycle I rode down the line to make some calls on the boys from home who helped “save the situation” at Langemareke.

(...)

Our Christmas dinner was scheduled for four o’clock. Riding against time I arrived at the cook-house door, in a lather and puffing hard, in time to see the men along the table bow their heads while our section’s chaplain invoked the presence of our Saviour Captain and asked the Father’s blessing on those of whom we couldn’t but think as we sat around the Christmas feast.

Then came the dinner! The last big dinner I attended was memorable indeed — as a guest of Dalhousie at the Halifax Hotel. But when only a hazy remembrance remains even of the speeches by Dr. Forest and Corporal Young, I’ll still remember the details of this banquet. At headquarters our officers dined on canned turkey from home. With us after soup came goose (almost still kicking), chicken and roast pork. Then came plum pudding galore with custard sauce. The table was piled high with Christmas cake, fruit, nuts and candy.

When all had eaten till we could eat no more (and remember the last we had eaten was the bacon for breakfast) the toast-master arose and proposed the King. Then came other toasts, Canada, the Folks at Home, the Allies, the Navy, the Downfall of the Kaiser, Our Officers, the Ladies, the Cook and Waiters and we would be toasting yet but that the “water” ran out. As it was, we had more toasts than we had persons to propose and respond and so several of our number had to make two speeches. With each toast went a song and sometimes two or three.

So our banquet went on until brought to a close with the National Anthem. All but one were able to stand at attention and even he made a fair attempt. Ere another Christmas comes it is more than probable that for some of us who dined together all will be over. Those who remain will not forget the scene-the lowroofed shed, brightly lighted with candles, the decoration of ivy and holly, the long rough table covered with old “Halifax Heralds” and burdened with edibles, the keen boyish faces of the men and the strong healthy khaki-clad figures.

“In the Groove: A Column of Record News and Reviews”
Volume 75, Issue 10 – December, 4, 1942

Noel, Noel. Christmas comes but once a year, and when it does it brings exams, holidays, and presents. Why don’t you do what a lot of people are doing and give records for Christmas?

SEASONAL SONGS: With exquisite timing, the Irving Berlin hit from “Holiday Inn”, “White Christmas” has entrenched itself in the number one position on your Hit Parade, to the enjoyment of all concerned. It’ll still be popular at Christmas, so buy it and be like everyone.

If you don’t demand too much artistically, buy Bing Crosby’s old Decca disc of “Adeste Fideles”, which every year about this time becomes, inexplicably enough, a best-seller. Another perennial hit nowadays is the Bluebird record of Glenn Miller’s “Jingle Bells” coupled with Alvino Ray’s “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”. (That is, kiddies, if Superman can get him loose from those nasty Nazis.)

"Sucking all the fun out of X-Mas"

Steve Mills – Volume 124, Issue 13 – January 9, 1992

As a youngster, there was no question about the fact that Christmas was the best time of the year: helping decorate the tree weeks before, watching the presents gradually increase underneath, drinking egg nog on Christmas eve, waking up on that wondrous day to find the cookies and milk gone, believing that Santa had actually, somehow, gotten down the chimney and refreshed himself while delivering his quota of presents. Ignorance truly was bliss.

When I got older, however, the Santa myth was nullified, and as I had no ties to the Christian faith, I began to question what and why I was celebrating. This year a non-Christian friend of mine asked what Christmas meant to me and why I considered that day to be a special event.

(...)

The more I pondered, the more it became apparent that I have no reason, and am a hypocrite to celebrate this day. As the days to Christmas became fewer, the more contempt I felt for this government-regulated holiday. As usual, I was bombarded with advertising for things I should buy, and I began to wonder why this religion is so economy-oriented on its supposedly most holy of days. The paraphernalia surrounding the Christmas "spirit" made me cringe: bows, ribbons, cards, wrapping paper, tags, tape, coloured light-bulbs etc. (I don't think that Jesus intended for garbage to be a by-product of his existence.) Then the "plastic factor" struck me. While walking through my neighbourhood, I could not believe the overwhelming majority of houses that had the exact same plastic candle ornament in the window. Some houses had upwards of six of these beauties, strategically placed in every window of the house.

Add to this the three-foot high, plastic Noel candles outside of some of these houses, plastic Santas on rooftops, plastic wreaths, plastic snowmen singing carols, and a complete plastic nativity scene illuminated like a Las Vegas casino, and one gets the impression that no spirituality remains in this once religious celebration.

(...)

So why do they celebrate the birth of Christ? Tradition. Having visited some friends during the school break, I was next appalled by the fact that my generation is propagating this consumerist tradition without ever questioning their own motives.

(...)

The final straw for me this holiday season was that I found out two very interesting tidbits of information. Firstly, that the use of trees covered in ornaments originated as a pagan tradition, and, secondly, that our present day version of Santa Claus, that jolly fat elf in red, was an invention of the Coca Cola company sixty years ago. What this say to me is that Christians have usurped a tradition from heathens (whom they despised and condemned), and that their Christmas representative has the spiritual equivalent of the Pillsbury dough boy. I have learned much this past Christmas by merely opening my eyes and being receptive and critical to what I have seen. Next year I plan to celebrate a non-traditional holiday which has a real meaning to me. Like my dog's birthday.



Top left, clockwise:
Volume 75, Issue 10–December 4, 1942;
Volume 28, Issue 4–December 18, 1895;
Volume 136, Issue 14–December 3, 2003;
Volume 111, Issue 13–December 7, 1978;
Volume 133, Issue 13–December 7, 2000;
Volume 75, Issue 10–December 4, 1942



Women's swim team Tigers win Kemp-Fry invitational

CAM HONEY

Swimming in their home pool at the Dalplex on Nov. 21–22 in the Kem-Fry Invitational, the Tigers women's swim team won a first place finish with 266 points over McGill's 237. The men's side pulled in second place with 251 points behind McGill who claimed 305.

Several Tigers swimmers were able to set new AUS records. Phoebe Lenderyou set two new marks. One in the 200m back, where she clocked 2:11.05 to improve upon her own record set last year and another in the 50m back, blazing a time of 28:22, topping former Tiger Kiera Aitken's 2006 record. On the men's side Tony Liew set a new AUS mark in the 100m breast-stroke with a time of 1:02.32.

The Tigers had 13 swimmers post CIS-qualifying times including Claire Yurkovich, Mackenzie Holden, Kyle Watson, Lise Cinq-Mars, Tony Liew, Phoebe Lenderyou, Morrgan Payne, Tyler Herron, Peter Inches, Lucy MacLeod, Gavin Dyke, Rachel Shin and Keenan Teghtsoonian.

Up next, the Tigers race at the Dave Mills Invitational at UPEI on Jan. 16–17.

SOCCER

Tigers bring home individual honours

CAM HONEY

Two players from the Tigers women's soccer squad were named to the AUS all-star second team.

Kristy McGregor-Bales (Ottawa, ON) picked up the honour in her fifth and final year with the Tigers. She was a first team all-star last season and had a tremendous career anchoring the back line for the Tigers on the pitch and led the team with 3 goals this season.

Victoria Parkinson (Halifax, NS), playing in her fourth season with the Tigers, was also named to the team after being a first team member last season. She scored one goal this year, a number that easily could have been much higher as she hit a number of posts throughout the season.

Several of the men's soccer Tigers were credited for their strong performances on the pitch in 2015.

Bezick Evraire (Ottawa, ON), a fifth-year Tiger, was named to the AUS all-star first team and the CIS all-Canadian second team after scoring 10 goals on the season.

The 10 markers were good for second in the AUS. Evraire dazzled Tigers fans with his deft scoring touch for the last five seasons.

Mark Hagen (Calgary, AB), the captain of the Tigers squad, was named to the AUS all-star second team in his fifth and final season with the team. He was a tremendous defender and leader for the Tigers throughout his career, while also facilitating wing rushes that set up his teammates with quality opportunities at goal.

Johnny Doucett (Dartmouth, N.S.), playing in his third season with the Tigers, was named to the AUS all-star second team. Another defender with the ability to push the ball up the wing, he finished the season with one goal. Doucett will be relied upon heavily by the Tigers for leadership next season, as much of the team's core will not be back next year.

Sangmuk Choi (Anyang, Korea) won the 2015 AUS student-athlete community service award. Choi was also given the CIS award.



Tigers cross-country runners perform well at nationals

Women are top five in Canada

CAM HONEY

Competing in the CIS finals at the University of Guelph on Saturday, Nov. 14, the Tigers cross-country runners represented the school well.

Contending in the women's cross-country 6km race, the Tigers ran to a 5th-place finish, improving on the 8th place result from last year.

The top Tiger was Colleen Wilson who ran to a 12th place finish (20:57.3). Wilson was

selected as a second team CIS all-Canadian.

The other Tigers in the field were: Michelle Reddy 30th (21:43.7), Emily Clarke 40th (22:13.1), Kayte Kowal 43rd (22:15.3), Jenna MacDonald 73rd (22:52.8), Morgan Hawkes 108th (23:33.2) and Emily Ferguson 113th (23:39.0).

The men's team, competing in the 10km race, ran to a 16th place finish.



Matt MacNeil was able to cap off his outstanding 5th year by placing 7th (30:39.0) in his final race as a Tiger and was selected as a first team CIS all-Canadian. The other Tigers in the field were: Jake Wing 84th (32:44.7), Nick Wood 86th (32:46.8), Brendan Gemmell 102nd (33:08.9), Graeme Wach 118th (33:51.2) and Angus MacIntosh 122nd (33:59.5).



HOCKEY

JOSH YOUNG



Tigers come back to beat Mounties 4–2

The Dalhousie Tigers women's hockey team had a 4–2 come-from-behind victory over the Mount Allison Mounties on Sunday, Nov. 15 at the Halifax Forum.

"I had a good feeling going into it," said Tigers Captain Sarah Robichaud. "It was our first (and only) game of the weekend so we had fresh legs. All four lines were really generating well."

The Tigers had a scare ten-and-a-half minutes into the first period. Mounties forward Kara Anthony and Tigers defenseman Rachel Carr were racing for the puck in the corner to the right of the Dalhousie net. Anthony pushed Carr into the boards and Carr stayed down for a few minutes. She got up and returned to the game.

"She's good," said Tigers head coach Sean Fraser on Rachel Carr. "That was a moment where you hold your breath and hope for the best. Luckily she got up and is no worse for the wear."

The Mounties scored the first goal of the game four minutes and twenty seconds later. Mounties forward Heather Richards fired a shot from the point that went through traffic in front of the net and behind Dalhousie goaltender Jessica Severeys to give the Mounties the lead.

At the four-minute mark of the second period, Mounties defenseman Emily van Diepen took the puck, skated behind the net and tucked the puck in past Severeys to make the score 2–0.

The Tigers, however, were not going to quit. Tigers first-year forward Tara Morning stole the puck near the blueline in the Mounties' zone. She went wide, skated down the left wing and fired the puck past Mounties goaltender Keri Martin for her first AUS goal.

After Tara Morning's first goal, Tigers forward Becca Chilvers scored her first AUS goal 50 seconds later. Tigers captain Sarah Robichaud skated down the right wing and passed the puck to Chilvers in front. Chilvers fired the puck past Martin to tie the game at 2–2.

Fifth-year veteran Robichaud who played on Morning and Sheedy's line was happy for them to score their first goals.

"It's a really good feeling that the young players are generating a lot out there and are really doing well for themselves. I was really excited (when they scored), it feels good."

With two minutes remaining, Tigers assistant captain Lisa MacLean threw the puck in front of the Mounties' net. The puck hit a few skates in front and came over to Courtney Sheedy at the side of the net. Sheedy fired the puck behind Martin to give the Tigers the lead going into the third period.

In the third period, the Tigers were able to hold on to the one goal lead. With a minute and a half remaining in the period, the Mounties pulled their goalie for the extra attacker. However, 30 seconds later, Sarah Robichaud scored on the open net to make the score 4–2.

With 50 seconds left in the game, Heather Richards had the puck all alone in the slot but Severeys made a huge glove save to keep the score at 4–2. Neither team would score in the final 50 seconds, and the Tigers won.

The Tigers' outshot the Mounties 31–22. Tigers' goaltender Jessica Severeys made 20 saves while Mounties goaltender Keri Martin made 27 saves.

After getting down 2–0, Robichaud said it was the coaching staff that helped spark up the team and started the turn around.

"We were definitely off to a bad start, we were kind of sloppy in our own end. After the first period our coaches came in and told us that we needed to have more passion and more desire to win and I think that sparked a lot for the girls and we came out flying."

Outside of a slow start, head coach Sean Fraser was happy with his team's game.

"We kept our feet moving a lot. I felt like we played a good possession game, which was a part of the game plan. I felt we controlled the play and had the puck most of the night."

The win improves the Tigers' record to 4–4. Their next game is at home on Sunday, Nov. 22 at the Halifax Forum against the Université de Montreal.

Gadoury's hat trick helps Tigers defeat Panthers

Tigers first-year forward Phil Gadoury got his second hat trick of the season to help the Dalhousie Tigers' men's hockey team to defeat the UPEI Panthers 6–3 on Friday, Nov. 20, at the Halifax Forum.

The Tigers opened the scoring 7:39 into the hockey game. Tigers defenseman Myles McGurty backhanded the puck off the boards from the Tigers' zone into the Panthers' zone.

Tigers forward Tanner Williams managed to outrace everybody for the puck. He skated across the crease and put the puck behind Panthers goalie Mavric Parks. McGurty and Matt English got the assists.

Three minutes later, Panthers defenseman Brock Buekeboom fired a shot from the point on the powerplay that got behind Tigers goaltender Corbin Boes to tie the game at one.

The Tigers then turned it on. Two minutes later on a 5-on-3 power play, Tigers forward Felix Page threw the puck in front of Park's net. The puck bounced off a defender's skate and went into the net to give the Tigers a 2–1 lead. Tanner Williams got the assist.

A minute and a half later at 14:41 in the first period, the Tigers were still in the powerplay. Phil Gadoury got the puck at the top of the faceoff circle and fired it past Parks to give the Tigers a 3–1 lead. Felix Page and Jesse Lussier got the assists.

Twenty-six seconds later, Dalhousie forward JP Harvey got a loose puck all alone in the slot. Harvey fired the puck past Parks to stretch the Tigers' lead to 3–1.

With a minute left in the first period, Panthers defenseman Ryan Mackinnon

one-timed the puck from the point that beat Corbin Boes to cut the Tigers' lead to 4–2.

Five and a half minutes into the second period, Felix Page passed the puck to Phil Gadoury all alone in the slot. Gadoury waited until Parks went down to try to make a save, however the shot never came. Gadoury skated a few feet to the other side of the net and put the puck over the glove of the sprawling Parks to make the score 5–2. Felix Page and Andrew Rieder got the assists.

Two minutes later, the puck came to UPEI defenseman Guillaume Rioux-Lega on the half boards. Rioux-Lega fired the puck and it got by Boes to cut the Tigers' lead to 5–3.

Ten minutes later Gadoury completed the hat trick. Jesse Lussier fired the puck from the blue line and Parks made the save. The rebound came out and Gadoury fired it home.

In the third period, the Panthers switched goalies and Matt Mahalak went in net. Neither team scored in the period and the Tigers won 6–3.

Gadoury's hat trick gives him ten goals on the season, which is tied for second in the league and only one goal back of the leader Alex Saulnier of UdeM. His ten goals and three assists give him thirteen points in twelve games. He is currently the Tigers' leading scorer and is eighth in the AUS in scoring.

The Panthers outshot the Tigers 44–23. Corbin Boes had another fantastic game, making 41 saves for the win. Parks and Mahalak combined to make 17 saves for the Panthers.



THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

November 27, 2015

Exploring the Synergy Between Immigrants and the STEM Fields

John Hutton
Contributor
DSUVP Academic and External

Tuition seems to go up most years, but this isn't an ordinary year. Last April when Stephen Mcneil's Liberals introduced the provincial budget, students found out that tuition fees would be deregulated for out-of-province and graduate students, and universities could make a one-time "market adjustment" in any program. What that means is that universities could set tuition fees at a rate that universities might be charging if there had been no regulations since 2007. Tuition fees have risen by 3% per year since 2011, but this year, the fee increases are much sharper: the King's College Foundation Year will have a fee hike of \$1000, Cape Breton University will see its fees rise by 20%, a 37% fee hike is being proposed at NSCAD, and among the worst, Saint Mary's is raising fees in engineering by \$1620.

So far, Dalhousie hasn't announced its numbers. However, the senior administration has hinted at large fee hikes in agriculture, pharmacy, and engineering. They've suggested equalizing Halifax and Truro campus tuition fees, which is a \$1400 difference. Between that and what happened at SMU, we have every reason to believe that major tuition increases are coming for engineering

students at Dalhousie.

There are a lot of reasons why this is a bad thing. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada estimates that by 2020, 70% of new jobs will require post-secondary education. It's already true that there's a 2:1 gap in university participation between the richest and poorest quintiles of Canadians. Rising tuition fees exacerbate this inequality, denying many people something that is not just their right, but also an economic necessity; education isn't just a line item in a budget, it's our future. Don't just take that from me though- that's the slogan the NS Liberals campaigned on when they were elected in 2013.

There are other issues too. We're at a record-level of student debt, with students owing the federal government a collective \$24 billion and an average debt on graduation in NS of \$37,000. This increased debt results in: less access to education for low-income and racialized people, higher provincial youth outmigration, lower quality academics, campuses in disrepair and, basic research and social sciences being suppressed in favour of corporate-oriented practices.

High fees are not inevitable; they are a result of government choices. The \$22 million the provincial government gave to Royal Bank last spring to open a call centre could have funded a 100% conversion

of student loans to grants- almost two times over. Government funding is the reason for high fees: twenty-five years ago universities were 80% publicly funded, and now its barely 50%. Tuition fees have nearly tripled since then.

Sexton campus is particularly affected by underfunding. Limited funds have not been allocated to the engineering campus by a university that's able to take students for granted due to high program demand. Growing class sizes, even when there's not enough space, old lab equipment, and poor facilities are just as much a symptom of underfunding as high fees are. Sexton students have a lot to gain by holding the NS government to account for its policies.

There is a bright side to all of this: tuition increases and student debt are entirely optional. Newfoundland, a province very similar to NS, has the lowest tuition in the country because there was political will to make it happen. Just this spring, they converted 100% of their student loans in to grants. It happened under a conservative government, and it happened because of persistent student action and the recognition that education is a worthy investment. Nova Scotia can do the same: for the value of the graduate retention rebate they cut last year, we could turn all student loans into grants and (not or) reduce tuition fees by 10%. To get there,

students need to get organized and speak out however they can. University administrators should stop being content to manage their decline and speak up for adequate funding as well. The situation we're in is grim, but there are always alternatives. The need to challenge fee hikes this year is more urgent than ever before, so get involved. Your education affects your future- fight for it.

John Hutton is the Vice President (Academic and External) of the Dalhousie Student Union. To get involved with the campaign to reduce tuition fees, you can reach him at vpae@dsu.ca.



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SEXTON EVENTS

**LAST DAY OF CLASS DEC 8
SWEET SALVATION**

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THAT DIDN'T LAST LONG**

**ENGINEERING: EVERY FRI-
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**T-ROOM TRIVIA W/ STAN
AND THOMAS EVERY FRI-
DAY @ 9:30 (\$2, 19+)**

Share your Sexton event by sending details to sextant@dal.ca

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