

# The Dalhousie Gazette

Galaxy's Oldest Campus Newspaper, est. 1868

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# The Dalhousie Gazette

Galaxy's Oldest Student Newspaper, est. 1868

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*the fine print*

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. 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. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, the Streeater, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeater feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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# DISPATCH

# ISU DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION

## General meeting update: All DSU executives will now be elected!

**During the general elections in March 2015 the membership of the DSU will vote directly for all of the DSU executive positions, including the Vice President of Finance and Operations**

Congratulations and thanks for all of your hard work! At the General Meeting on October 23, 2014 the members of the Dalhousie Student Union voted to change our constitution to make our elections more democratic. From now on, the Vice President of Finance and Operations (VPFO) will officially be on the election ballot with all of the other DSU elected positions.

The VPFO is responsible for setting budget priorities, maintaining the operations of the Student Union including the Student Union Building (SUB), the health plan and food services. They also sit on multiple committees and hold a vote with the other executive members. In the past council has been responsible for the appointment of the VPFO. Members have criticized this process for years expressing concerns of democracy, accountability and transparency.

Members recognize that setting the budget for the organization is a way in which priorities of the organization are set. Since the VPFO is directly responsible

for setting the budget they must be fully accountable to the student body.

Students deserve to fully participate in selecting who will take on this important position within their Union and now, thanks to your work, they will.

*For more information on the role of the VPFO please contact Mahbubur Rahman at [vpfo@dsu.ca](mailto:vpfo@dsu.ca)*

### Student Accessibility Bursaries

*DEADLINE: Monday, Nov. 3, 2014 at 4pm*

Every year, the DSU collects money for every student to be included as part of the Student Accessibility Fund. This fund is used to provide programming and bursaries for accessibility issues and people with different accessibility needs. Bursaries are made available every year for up to \$1000 to cover the extra costs associated with having a particular accessibility need.

**Details at [dsu.ca/bursaries](http://dsu.ca/bursaries)**





## A personal reflection upon the Ottawa shooting

Eleanor Davidson  
News Editor



Two allegorical statues of freedom standing atop the National War Memorial. ••• Photo by Kienan Webb

It was while sitting in the basement of a Halifax library that my phone started to buzz. Within minutes, the screen was filled with dozens of alerts about shots being fired on Parliament Hill and a shooting at the National War Memorial.

Each new development felt more surreal. Looking up the CBC live stream with shaking hands, the Ottawa shown on the screen was not something I recognised.

This Ottawa looked like a war zone. Footage showed armoured trucks, police at street corners with their weapons brandished, and Parliament security running at full tilt past reporters: this was not the Ottawa that I knew.

I spent this past summer working as a Capital Heritage interpreter for the Department of Canadian Heritage. Along with a fantastic team, we stood outside in the blazing sun and the pouring rain for four months.

We found ourselves in the middle of crowds of thousands on

Canada Day, and without any human contact during an August cold snap.

Stationed throughout downtown Ottawa, it was up to us to explain the history and development of Canada's capital. Along with the inevitable questions of bathroom location and where to find Parliament tour tickets, of course.

Of all the places where we worked, giving explanations and directions, it was the hours spent at the National War Memorial that were always my favourite.

Standing in the sweltering heat under the imposing shadow of the granite monument, it was an honour to explain Canada's military history to visitors.

No matter if we were talking to a bus of Japanese tourists or to a small family from just outside of Ottawa, people never ceased to be struck by the importance of the Memorial.

What shocked many was the fact that Canada's territory hasn't been threatened by a foreign military in some 200 years. Yet we have gone to war time and time again in defence of others.

Regardless of the heat, the pouring rain or the intrusive crowds, there were always two others with us at the Memorial: two sentries standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

They would stand without flinching for an hour at a time, before being replaced by another pair.

Coming off duty, soaked in sweat and with the imprint of their berets sunburned onto their foreheads, the sentries were unfailingly kind and were always excellent company.

Smiling in photo after photo with tourists, they would explain their pride at being able to pay their respects to the Memorial and serving as representatives of Canada's military.

It truly breaks my heart to know

that Corporal Nathan Cirillo, while standing guard at the monument that pays homage to those who lost their lives in defence of our country, became the victim of such a senseless act of terror.

Since the terrible events of Wednesday, Oct. 22, there has been much talk of Canada "losing its innocence." This couldn't be more wrong.

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***"Since the terrible events of Wednesday October 22, there has been much talk of Canada 'losing its innocence.' This couldn't be more wrong."***

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Cpl. Cirillo was standing guard in front of a monument paying tribute to the lives of over 110,000 Canadians who died overseas fighting for the freedom of others.

He was standing beside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which contains the body of an unidentified First World War soldier and honours over 28,000 Canadians whose final resting place is unknown.

These are not the landmarks of an "innocent" country. These are the landmarks of a country that stands as an emblem of freedom and tolerance throughout the world, and that has repeatedly answered others' calls for help.

Wednesday's events will not change that.

We spoke to an incredible range of visitors to the capital this



The War Memorial in August 2014. ••• Photo by Kienan Webb

summer.

No matter where they were from, there was a common reaction of delight at how open and accepting the heart of downtown Ottawa is.

People could picnic and do yoga on the front lawns of Parliament. They could speak freely with members of Canada's military, and learn about the history and government of Canada in whatever way they chose.

It is crucial that this does not change.

Cpl. Cirillo lost his life due to an act of violence that goes against everything that Canada, as a country, stands for.

In the upcoming weeks and months, it is so very important that we do not let this act change how we define ourselves, but instead focus on commemorating and respecting this terrible moment in Canada's history.

Oct. 22 is a day that I, along with the rest of the country, would never want to relive. My stomach churned with the realization that good friends of mine were stuck inside Centre Block, and I watched alongside much of the world as the awful events unfolded.

Since the news first broke on Wednesday, there is an image that I have not been able to erase from my head. This image is of the two bronze figures standing proudly atop the War Memorial: allegorical symbols of Peace and Freedom.

The 17ft figures at the very top of the monument were designed to acknowledge the reasons why Canadians went to go fight in the First World War.

Within months of the monument's 1939 unveiling, Canada was in the throes of the Second World War.

These figures are a testament to the sacrifices that Canada has undergone, and how we have developed as a country.

As talk continues of how Canada is seemingly going to change, of how as a country we will never be the same, keep these two figures in mind.

It is peace and freedom that identify who we are as a nation. It is these symbols that continue to represent us, not the acts of terror that try to take them away. 🇨🇦

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# NASTY NEWS

NEWS  
news covers Dalhousie and the greater  
Halifax community.  
Contributors are welcome!  
Email Eleanor and Sabina at  
news@dalgazette.com



## DISSECTED: DAL KEEPS CADAVER RESEARCH ALIVE

Daniel Boltinsky  
Copy Editor

Because of people like Wendy Simon, people like Jade Panzarosa don't dig corpses from graveyards under the cover of night. Jade is a 3rd year neuroscience student.

On the 12th floor of the Tupper Building, she pulls a human brain from its plastic container and the classroom smells like formaldehyde. There are roughly 50 students and 16 whole brains – and some half ones. They are learning about the cerebellum and prepare for upcoming exams.

Course instructor William Baldrige, head of Dalhousie's department of medical neuroscience, gives a short lecture before the lab begins. The goal is to identify parts they learned about in textbooks and diagrams – the olfactory bulbs, for example, or the diaphanous dura mater.

It's particularly difficult to find the insular lobe – it's just not clear where it begins and ends – so the students use the Circle of Willis as a landmark. The Circle of Willis is a series of arteries that looks a bit like Toronto's subway map.

The arterial systems, lobes and stems are all much easier to find on the plastic models sitting on the tables, but that's what makes the prosection (a dissection of an individual cadaver part) so important.

"It's so much more interesting and better than looking at the diagrams. There are individual differences between brains," Panzarosa said. "It brings the concepts together." Baldrige walks from group to group and helps them spot things they didn't on their own, and a half hour after they began, the students put the brains back into the containers.

"What makes this old science of anatomy still relevant and totally essential is the three-dimensional aspect," Baldrige said. "There's no book or computer screen that



A single headstone sits at the Dalhousie Memorial Gardens in Lower Sackville. ••• Photo Supplied

can replicate the 3D experience, and, as the joke goes, doctors will usually find most of their patients are in 3D also."

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Human dissections can be traced to the beginnings of anatomy itself. The Edwin Smith Papyrus, an analysis of 48 bodily injuries dated to the Second Intermediate Period of Ancient Egypt, is the earliest anatomical text. However, Galen of Pergamon is widely considered the father of anatomical medicine, whose texts were studied by medical students into the 19th century. Rome forbade human dissection in 150 BC. While Galen only examined animal cadavers, he quoted anatomists Erasistratus and Herophilos extensively, who performed countless vivisections on prisoners a century earlier.

A bit later, in newly independent America, surgical research was developing booming by the late 1700s, but the popularity of

surgeons in the public sphere was most definitely not. It's hard to imagine how doctors, individuals so highly respected today, were the subject of popular fear and enmity in cities with established medical colleges such as New York and Baltimore. The Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons was then the site of the USA's first grassroots riot.

It all began in 1788 when the city's unpoverished classes realized their lifeless white bodies weren't beyond the hands of the resurrectionists. While crowds protested individual cases of grave-robbing and dissection, resurrectionists were generally safe sticking to cemeteries for paupers and blacks. At the time, a popular place for ambitious cadaver-hunters in New York was Pottersfield; located beside an alms house with a separate plot for black internees, it was the site of constant body-snatching.

Eventually, the free black community responded. In Febru-

ary 1788, they petitioned the city to stop robbers robbing their grounds, citing that surgeons "dig up the bodies of the deceased, friends and relatives of the petitioners, carry them away without respect to age or sex, mangle their flesh out of wanton curiosity and then expose it to beasts and birds." Their leaders' proposal to allow and limit dissection on bodies of criminals was a critical precursor to the anatomy act, which came as a response to the "Doctors' Riots".

Those riots happened in April, after a group of irritating children ran into an irate physician at the New York Hospital. As a boy from the group stared into a hospital room from an outside window, so the story goes, a physician waved a dismembered arm to scare him away. He reportedly yelled out that the cold, floppy limb was in fact the boy's mother's.

When a gathering crowd discovered shortly thereafter the empty grave of the boy's recently-deceased mother, chaos ensued.

Rioters broke into surgeons' homes and the hospital searching for human remains as anatomical specimens and tools were destroyed, and medical students were pulled onto the streets. The next morning, the mayor ordered the medical community be escorted into the jailhouse for protection. Soon, a line of militiamen summoned by the governor separated the doctors from a mob 2,000 deep. The mob attacked the militiamen, the militiamen fired, and at least three rioters lay dead, with dozens more wounded.

The event pushed anatomical dissection to the fore of public debate. In 1789, a bill entitled An Act to Prevent the Odious Practice of Digging up and Removing for the Purpose of Dissection, Dead Bodies Interred in Cemeteries or Burial Places recognized the legitimacy of the anti-dissection protests while acknowledging the importance of cadavers for research. The law allowed bodies of executed murderers, arsonists, and burglars to be handed over to surgeons, and gave judges more freedom to sentence body-snatches on a case-by-case basis. But the maw of science was quenched only until the curtailment of death penalties in the 1800s, and grave-robbing once again became lucrative business.

In the end, advancements in human embalmment necessitated by the Civil War outmoded the resurrection men. Researchers didn't need a supply of fresh bodies when embalmment made a single cadaver usable for months.

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Robert Sandeski embalms the bodies donated to Dal. As the chief technologist in the department of anatomy and neurobiology, he works with Dr. Jeffrey Scott to determine if donations are admissible to the program. When one of the tens of thousands of people on file in Brenda



Armstrong's office passes away, Sandeski and Scott inspect the body. They check for its preservability, where burns and traumatic accidents might be a factor, and for infectious diseases.

Armstrong is the administrative director of the Human Body Donation Program. She estimates that out of the 300 to 400 people who intend to donate each year, only 120 applicants are accepted. The cadaver room in the Tupper Building holds up to 100. "Sometimes our facility only has so many spots, and everybody has to be properly stored. We're not dealing with appliances where we can have a warehouse," said Sandeski.

Wendy Simon is one of the applicants on file. The first contract she remembers signing at the age of majority was Dal's body donation form. Her parents signed on to the program when she was a teenager.

"I was sick as a child, I've had different medical conditions," she said. "I thought, maybe I'll help them find a cure though for something I had, anything like that."

All she knew about the program back then was from her parents. She estimates that was about 60 years ago. Since then they've both passed away. Her mother's death in 2011, she said, hit her very, very hard.

"Brenda [Armstrong] got me over my mother's death - she kept me up to date, put roses on the ground on my behalf - just seeing the dignity and the respect of the whole process made me so much sure of what I was doing."

Armstrong's job crosses between sciences program administrator and funeral home director. When someone wishes to donate their body, she's their first point of contact. And when a family member's body is accepted, she keeps communication open during the one to three years the process could last.

After acceptance, the body is either traditionally embalmed or goes into the clinical cadaver program. The brain Jade Panzera prodded as part of an undergrad lab is an example of the former. The clinical cadaver program embalms bodies to be almost indistinguishable in texture and elasticity from a live patient.

These usually end up at the Halifax infirmary's "simulation bay", where professors like Dr. George Kovacs teach Dal medi-

cal students how it is in the real world.

The simulation bay is the only one in Canada located within a working hospital. On an operating table lay a mannequin who cost \$100,000. He can speak a bit with med students as they pretend to operate on him. When the sim-bay is combined with a clinical cadaver, it can increase patient safety ten-fold with the skills brought into the hands of a surgeon.

"This allows permission to fail," said Kovacs. "You learn by making mistakes and failures."

A poster in the room explains why students use cadavers rather than just screens and technology, which are definitely overtaking human specimens in both undergrad and post-grad schools across North America. New students entering the room must read it.

"There is no higher-fidelity simulation than one that uses the human body as a medium for learning," the poster concludes. A text-box at the bottom reads:

*"The authors would like to acknowledge those who donated their bodies to the furtherance of medical science. Through their gift to the Human Body Donation Program, they have given themselves for the good of others."*

"We explain to them that bodies need to be treated with the same respect as if with a live patient," Kovacs said.

Potential donors always want to know how the bodies will be treated when they approach Brenda Armstrong - it's one of the big concerns besides remains transportation and notification of relatives. She says there are a lot of misconceptions.

There are no meat hooks.

"The bodies are treated with the utmost respect, dignity and confidentiality. To have and examine the bodies is a privilege," she said.

Another misunderstanding is the idea there's a mass grave in Lower Sackville for tossing the remains.

Admittedly, this is where this story originated.

The *Gazette* maintains a proud tradition of quality paranormal reportage, concentrated mostly around the annual Halloween issue. As I and some other editors brainstormed ideas at our offices one stormy night, a tip rang through the newswire that Dal owned a "mass grave" in Lower Sackville. This spot is a place of



The Doctors' Riot of 1788. ••• photo from Wikipedia Commons

ghost congregation, we were told, and when one walks through it he hears small bones breaking like twigs under his shoe. We hit the million-dollar story - and scurriedly uncovered the culprits: Dal's Human Body Donation Program. While I can't speak for everyone in the room, I will anyways: men with trench-coats, spades and oil-lanterns speaking Elizabethan English came to mind.

Not quite correct. After the Human Body Program is finished with a cadaver, the body is "released". It is cremated (unless the family or estate of the deceased wishes otherwise) and often finds its final resting place at the Dalhousie Memorial Gardens, which, accurately, is located in Lower Sackville. Dal can also give or send the remains to the deceased's estate.

It's a "mass" grave only in the sense there are thousands of urns under the ground there.

"Everyone's individual, it's just one plot," said Armstrong. "Everybody's cremated individually, in individual urns."

There are markers for each year of burial going back to 1978, the year the cemetery opened. Prior to that, Dal had three separate sites categorized by denomination. At the Gardens, a non-denominational sermon is given every summer for those interned that year. Six to seven hundred people attend, including students and staff from the university. The program doesn't advertise. Armstrong says it spreads by word of mouth when individuals see the service and other aspects of the program for themselves.

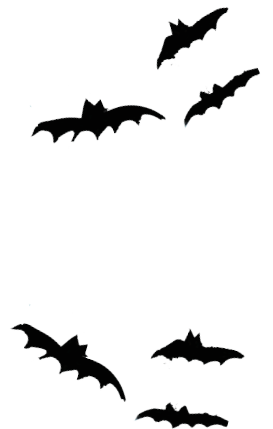
Two more members of Wendy Simon's family are now on file to donate, along with about 10 other people she knows.

"I think it's a lot of fear of the unknown," Simon says about why some don't donate. "I think if more people knew what was entailed they would do it."

Simon's mother was interned at the Gardens after being released from the program.

"The medical students who learned from her body will pass that down to their students.

They'll pass it on. Generations from now information learned from her body will be passed down." 🦇





# FIVE FRIGHTENING FACTS ABOUT THE DSU'S GENERAL MEETING

## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: BAR PATRONS AND ACTORS RECRUITED TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

Jesse Ward  
Editor-in-chief

Last week, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) amended their constitution.

On Oct. 23, a vote made by approximately 80 DSU members at a general meeting means there will be one more position to vote for in this year's DSU elections – the Vice President (Finance and Operations) [VPFO].

A large percentage of students who voted for the amendment were recruited at the last minute from the Grawood and a nearby rehearsal of *Alice in Wonderland: The Pantomime*, and they were not actually read the amendment they were voting on before they voted.

Until now, the VPFO was the only member of the DSU executive body appointed by council instead of voted in through an election.

The VPFO is responsible for overseeing the DSU's budget of over \$2,600,000, and now it will be up to the entire DSU body to decide who should have this position.

To understand how approximately 0.4 per cent of all students represented by the DSU came to change the constitution in a couple hours, there are some points worth considering.

### 1. THE GENERAL MEETING HAD NO REAL AGENDA

No agenda had been publically posted for the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, William Coney, chair of the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS), asked DSU chair Andrew Christofi why no agenda had been posted online, but just the motion to be voted on.

Christofi said the agenda was already posted to the DSU's website. Coney said the item was posted, but not the actual agenda.

Christofi said that because there was only one item on the agenda,

an agenda did not need to be posted. "It doesn't reflect very well to just post an item without an actual showing of process," said Coney.

"I don't really know what your complaint is," said Christofi. "The only item on the agenda is the only thing that was on the website."

### 2. NEARLY AN HOUR OF DEBATE AND DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITHOUT ENOUGH STUDENTS PRESENT TO VOTE

When the debate for the motion was held, the room's attendance wavered between approximately 40 to 60 students. Several DSU councillors did not show up.

So when it was time to debate whether the VPFO should be elected instead of appointed, the room had not yet met quorum – the minimum number of union members present for a vote to be held, which is 75 for a general meeting.

So, the meeting turned into a forum discussion. Christofi read the complete text of the amendment. Various councillors and students expressed their conflicting stances on the amendment.

But since quorum was not yet reached, this means the 40 minutes of debate were unheard by a large percentage of those who ended up voting on the motion.

Councillor Hutton, who originally put forward the motion that led to the general meeting, explained his intentions for the motion. He said the principles reflected in his motion include promoting student democracy and promoting accountability and transparency.

"This is what we do instead of an election. A crew of insiders that pick who they think is the best, and then those four people on the hiring committee put it to 25 people-ish," said Hutton, "and then that's how you decide to spend \$35,000 for the year (the approximate annual salary of the VPFO). I think we can do better."

Hutton said the position was

currently appointed instead of elected because it should be a position that guarantees technical rigor and experience. He said the current process does not guarantee technical rigor.

After naming more reasons, Hutton said it comes down to the fact that not electing the VPFO is highly undemocratic and "really, really worrying." He said not electing the VPFO contributes to the idea the DSU is an elitist clique that is not accountable to students.

Councillor Hannah Klug, president of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society, expressed her reasons for not supporting the amendment. She cited the low turnout of the meeting as an example that students are not interested in having a vote.

"I think if you put this to a general election, it's very likely that someone who has more personal skills and is well-spoken and can do a very good campaign will get voted, rather than someone who has the background necessary for this position," said Klug.

Mahbubur Rahman, the current VPFO, explained the process by which he got his job. He said while he enjoys his job, it makes more sense for his position to be elected by the general membership.

Most student unions at universities of a comparable size elect their member in charge of finance, and this contributed to Rahman's belief that the VPFO should be elected. He also addressed Klug's earlier statements.

"I think someone talked about a good ability at convincing people, having a good campaign," said Rahman. "And I know it's more easy to convince 40 people rather than convincing 18,000 people. Because I did it."

### 3. VOTERS WERE BROUGHT IN FROM THE GRAWOOD AND A NEARBY PLAY REHEARSAL

During the debate period, some meeting attendees went down-



Mahbubur Rahman, VPFO, giving his stance. ••• Photo by Alexander Maxwell

stairs to the Grawood campus bar and had an intermission called at the ongoing open mic. Students enjoying the show were brought upstairs so the meeting could reach quorum.

After the debate, a 15-minute recess was called. Talk spread among the room – a rumour popped up that some theatre students were in the Arts Centre rehearsing for *Alice in Wonderland: The Pantomime*.

Surely enough, a whole cast of new recruits came into the room by the time the recess was over.

### 4. THE NEW RECRUITS VOTED AFTER SEEING THE ORIGINAL DEBATE HUGELY SUMMARIZED

After the recess, Christofi counted 77 eligible voters in the room. Applause occurred because quorum was reached.

Christofi explained to the audience that council currently elects the VPFO position and that a motion was being presented to change that.

Councillor Klug expressed her wish to return to a debate.

"So I really appreciate you guys coming here since we didn't have quorum, but I kind of have an issue with you guys voting even though you weren't here for the debate," said Klug. "Because we

just had a two-hour meeting."

Christofi ruled that rather than return to a debate period, it was within proper procedure to hold a vote to give Hutton three minutes to speak and then give three other speakers up to ninety seconds.

Councillor Hutton summarized his earlier speech in three minutes, and three other students expressed mixed feelings about the motion.

### 5. THE ACTUAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON WERE NOT READ TO ALL VOTERS

The final question asked before the motion was voted on, in full: "I'll ask anyone who wishes in favour of voting for the amendment for the election of the VPFO to raise their hands."

The actual text of the constitutional amendment to be made was not read to the students who showed up after the debate. The text of the amendment was projected on a screen at the front of the room in a small font, but the actual amendment being voted on was not examined at any length in front of the crowd that voted on it.

The vote passed with fewer than ten abstentions or dissenting votes. 🗳️



# TO HESITATE OR TO LEAD A NATION IN CHANGE?

CROWD OF 200 ASKS DALHOUSIE TO BE THE FIRST CANADIAN UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Meredith Lee Baldwin  
News Contributor

Dalhousie students and alumni gathered for the Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21 in support of Divest Dal and their goal to cease the university's investments in the fossil fuel industry.

Jeremy Banks, a member of the Divest movement said Dal has "over \$20 million invested in coal, oil, and gas industries."

Divest Dal has been working steadily since May 2013 to redirect the \$465 million in Dal's endowment fund away from the world's top 200 fossil fuel companies, and strengthen the school's reputation as a sustainable institution and a leader on climate change.

"Divestment is about telling the world that it is not okay to benefit from exploitation. In this case, it is the exploitation of our land," says Banks.

The Board of Governors meeting offered the group a chance to put pressure on the Board for Divest's goal.

"We have a clear request, for Dalhousie to freeze all of its investments in the fossil fuel industry, to commit to divesting all holdings in the industry within four years, and to greatly increase the transparency of the placement of Dalhousie's investments," said Banks.

George McLellan, chair of the Investment Committee, said the Board will have a decision regarding the request at the next meeting on Nov. 25, — "When [Divest Dal] comes back".

For Divest Dal, this is a step in the right direction.

"Until now we have had little indication as to where the board stands or if they are going to ever make a decision," said Banks.

McLellan and fellow Board member Bill Black agree Dal has built its reputation as a sustainability-minded school.

If Dal commits to divest from the fossil fuel industry, they would be the first university in Canada to do so.

While the Board has about a month to make their decision, Banks is confident. "Divest Dal is constantly growing, our voice getting stronger and stronger," he said. "Whatever decision the Board makes on Nov. 25, we are not going anywhere." ☺

# WILL YOU FIND A JOB AFTER UNIVERSITY?

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION CANADA MAKES

A STOP IN HALIFAX FOR YOUTH

UNEMPLOYMENT LECTURE SERIES

Michael Lee  
News Contributor

In a time when youth unemployment is a major concern, many students wonder if they have any hope of finding a job after graduation.

The Aga Khan Foundation Canada's 10th University Seminar Series focused on this topic in their seminar "Youth (Un)Employment: Global Problems Meet Local Solutions."

The seminar on Oct. 22 brought students and experts together to discuss how best to create economic opportunities for young people.

Erin Markel, a principal consultant at MarketShare Associates emphasizes youth unemployment has not only economic costs, but also social ones.

Markel says young people, defined by the International Labour Organization as between the ages of 15 and 24, are three times as likely to be unemployed. Unemployment includes those who are actively searching for work and have not found any.

Inactive youth - those unemployed and not in school - concern Markel the most because they are not advancing their skills and are not seeking work.

"They're the ones who tend to stay in poverty," she says.

Underemployment, referring to those poorly paid and overqualified, is also an issue.

"Say you graduate from university and you go to work at a restaurant and you don't want to be working at the restaurant. You would be considered underemployed," Markel says.

Denise De Long, a project manager for Greater Halifax Partnership, added that 42 per cent of working Nova Scotians

between 25 and 35 with a university degree are working jobs that do not require one.

Abdul Malik, general manager of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program in Pakistan, shared his experiences tackling youth unemployment in a country where two-thirds of the population is under 29 and 75 per cent is below 35.

**Forty-two per cent of working Nova Scotians between 25 and 35 with a university degree are working in jobs that do not require one.**

Malik says focusing on soft skills development, such as teamwork and collaboration, is essential for youth to find employment.

De Long says these transferrable skills will not only help young people get a job, but will also help their career advancement.

"If you don't have a personality that makes people want to work with you and makes you a good part of the team, you're not going to get the job." She said.

The seminar includes stops at University of Calgary, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa and McGill University. ☺



Divest Dal supporters gather on campus before rallying at the BOG meeting. ••• Photo by Alexander Maxwell



# E & A OFFICE TAKES NEW APPROACH TO TACKLING CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

REQUESTS FOR COSTUME CHANGES AT THE GRAWOOD WILL BE NO MORE

Eleanor Davidson  
News Editor

In a sudden change from last year's policy, students entering the Grawood with culturally insensitive or appropriative costumes will no longer be asked to change.

Instead, the Equity and Accessibility Office (E&A) of the Dalhousie Student Union has focused on developing a new policy.

"The approach of enforcing different costumes at the Grawood event was too divisive, and also kind of impossible to enforce," E&A's Campaigns Coordinator Kayleigh MacSwain said.

"This year we decided that we wanted to focus a lot more on outreach in the weeks leading up to Halloween, and to try and get the word out beforehand."

In 2013, many students filed complaints to the VP (external) of the Dalhousie International Students Association, stating they were uncomfortable with other students wearing costumes that included blackface, a burqa, and non-aboriginal students wearing aboriginal-themed costumes.

In addition to the specific cos-

tumes mentioned by students, the issue of costumes being "culturally appropriative" was also mentioned.

Cultural appropriation involves the adoption of elements of a certain culture by people that are not members of that culture. It can often be perceived as offensive, or even racist.

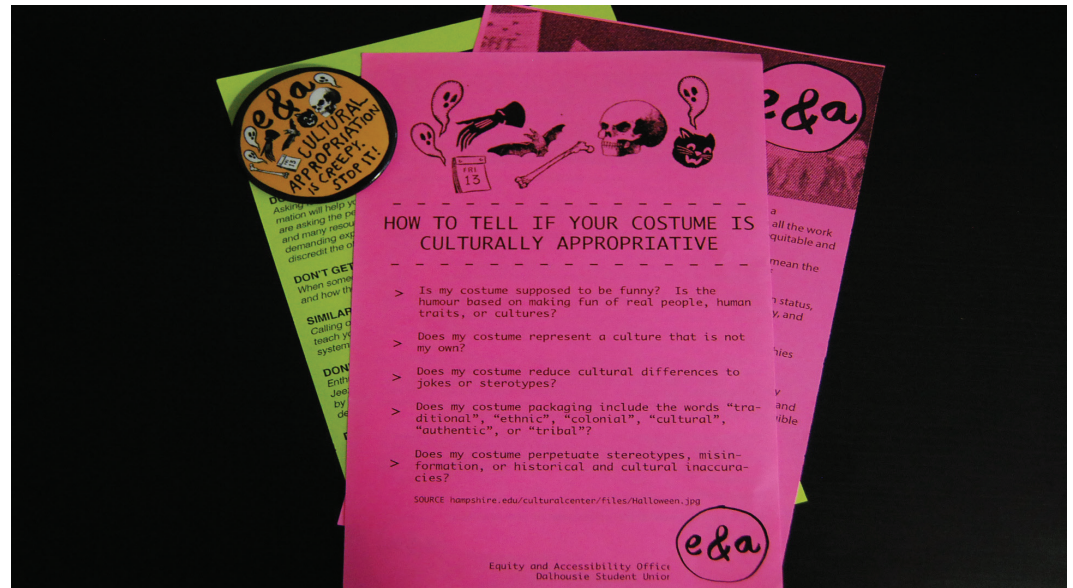
As a reaction to these complaints, the E&A Office tabled outside the Grawood in 2013, with a stock of backup costumes for students whose costumes were seen as inappropriate.

While students did not express strongly negative reactions to this approach, the E&A Office decided to take a different stance for Halloween 2014.

"People work so hard on their Halloween costumes, and they're wearing them and then telling them to change, it seems a lot more difficult," MacSwain said.

This year, the E&A Office will be using an approach that is "preventative instead of reactive."

"We thought that getting the word out a lot in advance and helping people to put together better costumes was better than a



Materials distributed by the E&A office as part of their Halloween campaign. ••• Eleanor Davidson / Dalhousie Gazette

reactionary thing on Halloween," MacSwain said.

The E&A Office has been distributing pamphlets about the dangers of cultural appropriation all over Dal and King's. They will also be handing out treat bags including condoms, pamphlets and candy in the week leading up to Halloween.

To ensure that students wear costumes that are not insensitive to other cultures, the E&A office suggested a short list of guidelines to follow, so that students can be sure to be respectful.

MacSwain said the amount of complaints by students about the nature of other students' costumes indicates the presence of a

serious problem.

"For every person who actually goes to the international students rep to talk to them about it, and then they come to us to talk," MacSwain said, "how many are experiencing it and just talking to their roommates or not talking to anyone?"



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## FINAL GIRLS VS. FALLEN WOMEN

THE BLOODY MADONNA-WHORE COMPLEX OF HORROR FILMS

Shannon Slade  
 Opinions Contributor

Some of the most notable female characters in film history have been associated with horror films—Laurie Strode (Halloween), Sidney Prescott (Scream), Nancy Thompson (A Nightmare on Elm Street), etc. All of these characters have more than a few things in common: together they are all examples of the ‘Final Girl’, the last lady standing at the end of a horror film, when all others have been slaughtered.

I find the Final Girl trope fascinating. In many cases, this character makes for an excellent role model. More often than not, Final Girls are intelligent, resilient, resourceful and carry themselves with a certain amount of dignity and self-respect. Often these girls are portrayed as virgins, which is both good and bad—but more on that later.

Final Girls are terrorised by sinister men who want to penetrate their pure skin with large, sharp phallic weapons, and these women fight back, not allowing themselves to be destroyed. Everyone else around the Final Girl has been taken out, leaving her to fend for herself. She usually acquits herself well, driving away or destroying the killer and saving the day. Of course, there is usually some indication that the killer is still alive and the Final Girl’s story is not over but for the moment, she is victorious.

Everything I have written thus far has shown the reasons why the Final Girl works as a positive role model, but I do have my gripes with her. Well, not with her—she’s a lovely, blood-soaked little go-getter—but the writers of these films are a whole different story.

I indicated earlier that I have an issue with the near mandatory vir-



“The word and works of horror writers are quite clear, that women were made either to be brunette survivors or dead party girls.”

Martin Luther (paraphrased) (The theologian, not the King)

ginity of the Final Girl. One of my major problems with many classic horror films is how they treat feminine sexuality. The Final Girl is often said to be a virgin, which somehow makes her a purer and more viable heroine. Horror movies always have female characters that are shown to enjoy sex, whether it’s in a monogamous relationship or with multiple partners—and these characters are almost always slaughtered before the credits roll.

In the meta-horror film ‘Scream’, Sidney Prescott is a virgin, and it’s repeatedly stated that this means she is safe from death. Later on in the film though, she has sex. The tone of the movie changes; suddenly she’s in dan-

ger. Fortunately for her and Neve Campbell’s bank account, she lives to be tormented another day, but the reoccurring horror trope that this pokes fun at—the loss of virginity leading to a loss of safety—is bothersome.

Even worse for these ‘fallen women’ is that outside of enjoying sex, they also like booze, cursing and maybe, horror of horrors, a little bit of pot. According to horror writer logic, this makes them ripe for a fantastically gory death scene that could potentially also be ironic. We’re not even set up to feel that much for the victim, because there is always the lingering sentiment that somehow she deserves her punishment because she isn’t winsome or pure of body.

Slut-shaming is nothing new in film; the femme fatale always meets with misfortune while the good girl finds her happy ending. The thing is, in a horror movie, the femme fatale’s misfortune is a gruesome end. The Final Girl says a witty line and shoots the killer in the head, while the Fallen Woman dies crawling through a doggy door—no symbolism there.

Excuse my language, but this is a fucking problem. According to the media, one of the highest virtues a woman can aspire to is to be sexually appealing. If a girl has had various dicks in her though, she is no longer socially acceptable. She must be punished, and in horror, the punishment must be extreme.

Slasher movies could be considered to be morality tales but I’ve never cared much for tales preaching “good morals”. The films are fiction but the harsh judgement exists in reality; many girls (myself included) who enjoy sex, booze and...other things can attest to that.

I love horror films; I’m just saying I’d like to see a girl who loves sex and jagerbombs kick the ass of some axe-wielding killer in a film every now and then. Is that too much to ask?

Oh, and men, in a horror movie, it doesn’t matter whether you are a selfless, pure and true virgin or a guy who loves to binge drink and get laid—you are fucked no matter what. Sorry. 🍷



# CAMPUS HAUNTS

A GUIDE TO DALHOUSIE'S GHASTLIEST GHOULS AND GHOST

John Hillman  
Opinions Editor

Despite the decorations, this is still technically the opinions section, so I suppose I should frame this with an opinion:

You should be afraid...very afraid.

You might not be aware, but Halifax is absolutely swarming with ghost stories, and Dalhousie is no exception. Read on to learn more, if you dare!

## SHIRREFF HALL:

The oldest and most famous ghost story on campus is that of Penelope, the ghost girl of Shirreff Hall. The legend has circulated around campus for decades, and has been featured in several books of local ghost lore.

Reports in the Gazette—and more recently in online articles and discussions—have been fairly consistent over the years. Penelope is said to be a chambermaid who worked in the Shirreff Hall shortly after it opened in the 1920s. According to most versions of the story, Penelope had an affair with a professor that ended in pregnancy. He abandoned her, and she hung herself in despair.

Penelope's manifestations also seem to follow a general pattern across the stories: lights and elec-

tronic devices turning on and off by an unseen hand, doors unlocking and opening by themselves while the key-holding residents were in the room, strange temperature changes, disembodied footsteps running down the hall, and even actual sightings of Penelope, who witnesses describe as beautiful woman in a blue dress.


There doesn't appear to be any mention of the tragedy in the Gazette in the 1920s— though something so dark and scandalous might not have made the paper of the day. The earliest thing to a possible reference is a joke in a humour column from the 1930s in which the author writes "Please, please, let nobody discourage the practice of window-hanging (a method of viewing the neighbourhood, not of suicide) at Shirreff

Hall." Unfortunately, it's impossible to say whether this is an allusion to the real-life Penelope, an early reference to the rumoured haunting, or a simple coincidence.

For all of her local fame, Penelope hasn't made very many appearances in the Gazette— the first article about her appears to be a science column written in 1994.

Why the science column?

It seems Penelope wasn't a fan of Star Trek:

"In the second floor lounge, it's been a common sight for the TV to switch off mysteriously when the theme music to Star Trek starts up. Perhaps Jean Luc reminds her of her former lover." 



Volume 81, Issue 39 - March 22, 1949

## UNIVERSITY CLUB:

On March 22, 1949, the Gazette featured a front-page story about the ghost of the "Studley Arts Building"—the same building that now houses the University Club.

The story treats the ghost as common knowledge at the time, noting that it was an "indisputable fact that strange noises are heard in the arts building during the hours of darkness."

The Gazette had its office in the building at the time, so four Gazette staffers spent the night locked inside to investigate. "Determined to find a mechanical cause" for the noises, they came up empty handed, concluding that it wasn't a pump or the radiators. They reported haunting footsteps that switched floors whenever they attempted to investigate the source. When they split up and attempted to cover both floors, the


footsteps stopped altogether.

Frustrated by this elusive spectre, they decided to set up their photographer at the bottom of the stairwell. The rest of the group "ran upstairs at top speed, turned around and ran back down again, right on the heels of the mysterious steps."

The photographer snapped his camera at the moment the sound of the phantom steps seemed

closest. The resulting photo revealed a semi-translucent figure wearing a sheet of some sort. The Gazette staff, who swore they were in attendance when the photo was developed and that it was not doctored in any way, lamented that "the trouble is, the ghost looks too much like a traditional ghost—if it is a ghost."

Whether this particular article was all an elaborate prank by the Gazette staff remains unclear, but

for what it's worth, they don't appear to have been the only people to have encountered the ghost. The report concluded that "other people have heard the 'ghost of the Arts Building'...three professors are included in the list, and many students. There's something there, but what? We can't tell you!" 





JODY:



Jody Wilson, a member of the custodial staff at the Weldon Law Building, has worked at a number of spots around campus during his time at Dalhousie. While he says he hasn't encountered anything spooky at Weldon, he shared the following stories about other buildings on campus, all of which took place within the last decade:

**THE REBECCA COHN, STUDLEY CAMPUS:**

"You can hear a child crying late at night. When you are there after hours, the backstage area gives you the creeps. A couple of times we heard a child crying when we were back stage cleaning. Every time we went out to check the theatre, no one was ever there."

**HOWE HALL, STUDLEY CAMPUS:**

"When I was doing training at Howe Hall, both me and the woman training me were leaving the washroom on the bottom floor of Fountain House. She held the door for me and when she closed the door she was embarrassed, because she let it close in a man's face. I told her that no one else had been in the bathroom with us. We went back in and checked, and no one was there. She described him, and we later found out that he looked just like a professor who used to teach at Dal who had been involved in a scandal."


**CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, CARLETON CAMPUS:**

"On the second floor one night, we had a glass door start to shake violently. The other guy working looked at me, and I hollered 'stop, we're not going anywhere; we have floors to get done!' and the shaking stopped."

**TUPPER BUILDING, CARLETON CAMPUS:**

"The Tupper is really bad. I had a problem on the 14th floor (anatomy). We were working overtime on a Sunday, doing the floor in the parts (body parts) room. We heard a loud bang in the next room, and there was nobody else on the whole floor besides my coworker and me. We had stacked up stools in the room next to us where they keep the bodies. In the middle of the room, two of the stools had been moved—one was lying on its side, and the other one had been flipped upside down. None of the other stools around them had been touched. There was no-one in there except the bodies."

**DAL ARENA, STUDLEY CAMPUS (NOW THE SITE OF LEMARCHANT PLACE):**

"The attendant at the old arena didn't believe in ghosts, but he had a reoccurring experience he couldn't explain. When he was in hockey rink after hours, he would sometimes hear a noise at back door. When he checked, the door would be unlocked. He would know it had been locked, because he had watched security lock it. Security knew that there was something weird going on, but it had been happening for a long time, so they just accepted it." 



Volume 60, Issue 4 -- October 28, 1927

KING'S:



Back in February 2008, the Gazette published a story about a second year journalism and international development student who claimed to have seen a ghost in her residence room.

The student lived atop Cochran Bay. She claimed that strange occurrences had begun a day before the sighting, when she had started hearing a strange, whispering voice in her room. She unplugged her television, turned off her radio and computer, and shut her windows, but she could not locate the source of the voice.

The student carried on with her classes as usual that day. When she returned that night, she had difficulty falling

asleep, in part due to the persistent reappearance of the voice, and in part because she couldn't shake the feeling of being watched. She felt as if she could just barely see something moving about the dark room at the corners of her vision.


At around 3:00 a.m., the student got out of bed to grab some water from her mini-fridge across the room. When she sat back down on the bed, she realized she was not alone.

The ghost of a teenage girl had appeared next to the bed, not three feet from the student. The student described her visitor:

"She had long, wavy brown hair, and was wearing a long-

sleeved nightgown...she was maybe five feet tall. She was hovering above the ground, leaning at an angle."

The ghost remained in place for about ten seconds before vanishing.

The student had a librarian help her conduct some research in the King's archives for information about possible deaths in the building, and claimed to have found information about a maid who died some sixty years earlier, found hanging in the 'roost', which was separated from the student's room by nothing more than a wall. 





# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## HAPPY HALLOWEENS

John Hillman  
Opinions Editor

Dalhousie students have never missed an opportunity to throw a good party, and we've been using Halloween as an excuse for a long, long time. From "jazzing gayly" in the roaring 20s, to the hedonistic chaos of "Halloween Mardi Gras" during the 80s and 90s, our enjoyment of the Halloween season has only ever been matched by our talent for selecting retrospectively offensive costumes.

### SHIRREFF HALL

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 75 - NOVEMBER 7, 1924

Talk about ghosts! Last Friday night the spirits of Hallowe'en flitted around the Hall. Strange rustlings and whisperings were heard, especially in the rooms of the Sophs, who were then jazzing gayly at Bedford. Spirit after spirit stealthily followed one another, each leaving some token of its visit. And when the dancers finally climbed the steps to bed, what a sight greeted their weary eyes! Ghosts met them at their thresholds, and turning on the light, a ghastly color flooded their room. Horrors! Weird shapes hanging from the lights, others reclining on the beds and chairs! Terrified shrieks and yells of dismay showed that Allison

McCurdy and Kay Smith still had some life left. When at last, with sighs of relief, they flung themselves onto the bed - Crash! The bed collapsed and they gracefully slid onto the floor. Gingerly putting in their feet a second time, they felt prickly sensations. What next! Oh, nothing to worry about - only toast crumbs several inches thick. At last, after many weary hours plotting revenge, they dropped off to sleep. But one important detail was missing in their plans. Who was responsible for the mess? Anna Grant? Irene Madill? Edna Mingie? They are still wondering.



Mardi Gras 1991 - Volume 124, Issue 8 - October 31, 1991



**MIND MY UPPERS** — The natives go ape in the Men's Residence on Hallowe'en. Strictly a tie and jacket affair, the savages relaxed only towards the end of the evening when drinks were served and bottoms were up.

Volume 95, Issue 6 -- November 7, 1962

### GAZETTE HALLOWEEN DANCE PRESENTED STRANGE SPECTACLE

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 4 - NOVEMBER 2, 1954

Amidst ghosts, pumpkins, black cats and witches, danced a crew of weird and strangely-costumed figures at the Gazette Hallowe'en Masquerade held last Friday night in the Gymnasium. The brave souls who appeared in costumes really went all out, and were dressed as such characters as Dutchmen, devils, clowns, Apache dancers, Romans and prize fighters. Of course, some who were afraid to be exhibitionists attended, attired in normal clothing, and we figured that their

financial situation must be pretty good, because they had to pay an extra 25c at the door.

Prizes were given for the funniest and most original costumes. The wearer of the most original make costume went to Malcolm MacAulay, Med 2, who came as a bronzed and feathered Indian Chief. Dressed as a flapper of the roaring '20's, Doreen Mitchell, Comm 4, won the most original female prize. Elise Lang, Arts 4, and John Brown Sc. Eng. 4, were the winners for the funniest cos-

tumes as typical freshmen. A new twist was given to this combination, Ms. Lang wearing the typical freshman outfit, and Mr. Brown dressed as the freshette.

Hugh McCabe's Rhythmaires provided the music, and Alf Johnson directed the square sets, in which the crowd participated enthusiastically. Though it wasn't the most crowded dance of the year, there was good attendance, and all those who went said they had a great time.

## "ARGYLE HAUNTED BY MARDI GRAS"

BY CHRIS LAMBE - VOLUME 723, ISSUE 8 - NOVEMBER 7, 1990

The city of Halifax played host to its annual Mardi Gras party on October 27.

The downtown core came alive on Saturday night when over twenty-five thousand people filled Argyle Street. The city police force were working overtime; more than four hundred rowdy goblins were carted off to spend a chilly night in jail.

An officer of mammoth proportions said "it's really for their own good. We're protecting these people from themselves more than anything else."

Despite a huge increase in arrests this year, attendance was down at the Hallowe'en extravaganza.

There was a definite polarization between those who came dressed in costumes, ready to have a good time, and others who only seemed interested in brawling, pushing and other violent

confrontation.

While this aspect of the evening lacked the event with a slightly depressing aftertaste, most of the celebrants appeared to be having a great time.

Wendy, a Saint Mary's University commerce major, said she "really liked the idea of an outdoor blow-out. It's become an important part of my past five years at school in the Maritimes."

Dressed as a devil, she expressed her concern over Moosehead's kind provision of a number of 'port-o-potties' at the intersection of Barrington and Blowers streets. "I hope they aren't planning to recycle that stuff or anything," she said with a wry grin on her face.

The city was reluctant to provide any such facilities for the spooky revellers. In fact, they even considered cancelling the traditional event all together. This anti-fun movement was quashed

by a city council vote, however, and the late-night adventure went on as scheduled.

The "lack of focus", which concerned Walter Fitzgerald of the Halifax city council, was apparent in the absence of any indoor party at the trade and convention centre.

The promoters were unable to find a sponsor for the night due

to an escalation in both the levels of downtown violence and the bad press the event has received in recent years.

A young man, who identified himself only as a TUNS student was adamant in his demands. "If the Mardi Gras is going to grow, Halifax is going to have to grow along with it."

Dressed as James Brown, he said "all this stuff about the Mardi Gras having a negative effect on the city is ridiculous. What other

night of the year can you walk downtown with six and a half foot tall drag queen on your arm and not get beaten to a bloody pulp?"

A woman dressed as some kind of mushroom and a man who claimed to be Art Garfunkel were delighted with their "first of what they hope to be many more Mardi Gras to come."

Garfunkel said that he "hasn't seen anything this entertaining and kinetic since that Jimminy-Himminy Hendrix concert we caught in January of sixty-eight." He added the experience had been "so intense that he's going to have to melt-down in his hot tub for a few hours and watch the sunrise before getting to sleep."

The woman in the fungi costume concurred; "it's been a long strange evening" she said, but I would definitely come again. It was excellent!"

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Mardi Gras--Oct 23, 1986

## WHICH WITCH IS WHICH?

DEFINING HALIFAX'S DIVERSE PAGAN COMMUNITY IS NO SIMPLE TASK.

Oceanna

Opinions Contributor

I've been asked to write an article about Paganism in Halifax - to provide some insider insight on what it means to be Pagan in our city by the sea.

I've struggled over the last few weeks with how I should write this piece. One of the biggest concerns I have heard in our Pagan community has been, "How can you speak for me?", or "I don't want anyone speaking for me". I have no intention of speaking for anyone other than myself, but it is likely that someone will take offense to something I have said.

Trying to define "paganism" is a bit like trying to define "aboriginal peoples" - we are all individuals, and while we use the umbrella term 'Pagan', we identify differently. Some call themselves Witches or Wicca; some are Druid, Heathen, Dirt Witch, Neo

Pagan, Shamanic Pagan. There are as many labels as there are people, it seems.

To me what identifies a Pagan is their love of, or identification with the earth and/or the ability to see magic everywhere (here I already envision heads shaking, as some paths do not call it magic).

I call it magic - but what it truly is, is nature and the energy that creates everything. If we start to learn the rhythms of our universe, we have the ability to work with it to benefit not only ourselves, but also the entirety of humanity and the universe. If we don't, we are doomed to repeat over and over as the rhythms reset themselves to fix whatever we have broken. To work with this energy requires intention - being able to actually focus your true will or intent on something to manifest it into being.

Pagans are also generally "earth" people, but how they work

with the earth can be different for every person or group. Individuality is a very key component to Paganism. It is the factor that both enlivens and darkens communities. Individuals bring wonderful ideas and amazing energy to groups. Individuals also can stand alone, feeling isolated and solitary (some like being solitary, which is cool too!). The individuality of beliefs can sometimes make "Pagan" community a tough thing to achieve on a large scale.

The Pagan community here in Halifax defies definition—it is a community full of amazing individuals who can work together in small groups, solitarily or sometimes in large groups. We are a conglomerate of somewhat like-minded people who have the ability to focus our intentions (sometimes for only short periods, sometimes consistently). We are pieces of the amazing jigsaw puzzle that is humanity itself. Ulti-

mately, we crave knowledge and peace on an earth that we long to understand.

There are several groups around that are open to the public and hold open events year round—the AEGIS Pagan Gathering, The Witches Ball, monthly meet-ups, and open sabbat rituals. Sometimes finding them can be overwhelming. We have recently lost our stronghold in the community—the shop Little Mysteries closed in August, leaving the one consistent spot for people to enquire and find books and information empty. We miss them terribly!

There are other shops around the city but none that have the same focus that Little Mysteries had. As the circle of life turns, someone will step up and we will once again have a place to get our tools and information. In the meantime, the Internet appears to be the best place of gleaning

information, and there is always The Witching Hour (Earth & Sky/ Sun & Sea) on CKDU 88.1 FM ([www.ckdu.ca](http://www.ckdu.ca)) on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm.

For those who happen to pick up this paper the day it comes out - do you want to take part in a wonderful Samhain ritual with dancing, happy pagans?

There is a public event at the Halifax Commons on All Hallow's Eve at 7:30 (October 31). The only requirement is that you bring your wonderful individual self and your energy. Feel free to join in as we honour the ancestors and celebrate the turning of the wheel of the year!

Blessed Be.

*Oceanna is co-host of Earth & Sky - The Witching Hour on CKDU 88.1 FM. ☺*



SKEELEE

by Daniel Boltinsky,  
Eleanor Davidson  
and Jesse Ward

## WHO ARE YOU MOST AFRAID OF?



"Ghosts."

**Erica Getliffe**  
2nd-year Commerce



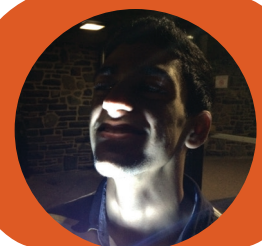
"No real person scares me."

**Steven Sun**  
3rd-year Engineering



"Kim Jong-Il."

**Sung Jun**  
4th-year Commerce



"God."

**Moshen Asadi**  
2nd-year Engineering



"Stephen Harper."

**Kyle MacDougall**  
1st-year Arts



"Voldemort."

**Shelby Jestin**  
3rd-year Computer Science

Old Heart by Amber Solberg



# DARK ARTS

dark arts  
arts covers cultural happenings in Halifax.  
Email Mat at  
arts@dalgazette.com



## HUNTING HAUNTS IN HALIFAX THE TRUTH AND MYTHS OF PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION

Paola Tolentino  
Staff Contributor

"It's not like what you see in TV and movies." Those are the first things that Angela Taylor, case manager for Light Works Paranormal Investigation, says about her line of work.

From TV shows to horror movies, pop culture loves ghosts and ghost hunting. We see it all the time in movies, like *Ghostbusters* or *The Blair Witch Project*. Most of the time, movie haunting scenes are predictable, almost cliché – lots of strobe lighting, dramatic music and special effects moving things around.

Halifax seems to be a good place

for ghosts, being one of the oldest cities in North America. There's also popular walking tours, which take participants all over key haunted locations in Halifax.

The reality of paranormal investigation is not as easy as in movies.

"It takes a lot of dedication," Taylor states, as she describes long five-hour stakeouts in complete silence and darkness, waiting for the slightest movement or sound to be captured.

This is how most hunts tend to go: the team is called into a business or home that's had some sort of paranormal event. They question the owner and try to determine if there is any regular

explanation for the supernatural events. If there isn't, they scout both the interior and exterior of the location, looking for the best possible place to place their stationary cameras and noise recorders. After setting up, turning off the lights and their cell phones, the team begins asking questions or bringing out "trigger objects" to communicate with the spirit, or get some sort of evidence that there is an entity in the room. One person monitors the investigation from a base camp, which has visual feeds of the stationary cameras. Other equipment the team brings along includes EMF readers (Electromagnetic Frequencies reader - it's believed that a spike

in the electromagnetic field indicates a presence in the room), handheld night vision cameras, and "Spirit Boxes", which function to communicate with spirits in real time by scanning multiple white noise radio frequencies at once.

Often, these hunts don't end up with much. It's rare to see or hear anything, let alone have a full body apparition. Even then, things might only appear in the cameras, which only the people in the base camp are watching. Despite this, Taylor wishes that people actually realize the dangers and the reality of her line of work, rather than just jumping in. "You're opening a door to the

other side, and that can be dangerous," she says. "Something could follow you home. And also we don't want people trespassing or breaking any laws."

Light Works is one of a few Halifax-based paranormal investigation groups. As well as trying to collect evidence for the supernatural, they try to give accurate information to the public on paranormal investigation via their Facebook page and website. They also do presentations and upload their evidence onto their YouTube channel (Lightworkerspi). Taylor has been with the group for about two years. 📍

## GAZETTE CONTRIBUTORS PRESENT THEIR DARKEST NIGHTMARES

Graeme Benjamin  
Sports Editor

You ever see *Matilda*? Well, for those of you that have a life, it's a film starring Danny De Vito and Rhea Perlman about a girl genius that has the power to change the structures of the world around her with her mind. Freaky enough already, right?

When her parents make her go to a new school, she's introduced to Mrs. Trunchbull – a terrifying witch-like principal who makes children endure the most bizarre punishments. She locks children away in a tiny closet filled with rusty nails so they can't move. She made a kid eat a 20-pound cake by himself. She even threw a girl out the window by her pigtails. How this movie was only rated PG, I'll never understand.

I had freakin' nightmares about the Trunchbull for years. I've never forgiven my older sisters for making me watch it.

I wish I was kidding, but to this day I'll fall into a deep, dark slumber involving ol' Trunchbull. It's not what happens in the nightmare that's the scary part. It's what happens after. Following my nightmare with the Trunch, I'll think I'm awake and for some reason and immediately walk up to my mirror. The mirror's reflection is not the skinny 21-year-old white boy I've come to know and love. Instead, it's the Trunchbull. I turn into the Trunchbull.

And let me tell you. There is absolutely nothing in this lifetime that's more terrifying than that. 📍

William Coney  
Staff Contributor

One of the nightmares which I remember most distinctly from my youth took place when I was about five or six years of age.

I found myself on Sesame Street, the neighbourhood which every child knows and loves, appreciating some time with my favourite character Oscar the Grouch. Things were Green and Rotten, just as he liked it. Anyways, we were having fun, until Elmo showed up, and all of a sudden broke out with a spring knife. Understandably, I was quite frightened of this, and Elmo gave off a smile and a run which is so characteristic of him.

I ran - I ran to a nearby vacant building, with deteriorating ceilings and floors, an old fashioned tenants or projects building from someplace like New York City, which is quite odd considering I was born and raised in the rural exurbia. Either way, rushing up the flights of stairs, through the 3rd, 4th, 5th floor - until I was cornered in the hallway. My only recourse was to slide down a nearby laundry chute (which I've never seen in real life), but Grover was waiting there.

Then, in my moment of need, Buzz Lightyear showed up, with his Laser Beams, Wings, and his Bravado. And like any other hero, he managed to save the day.

All in all, it was a pretty strange dream all things considered - but it's surreal, I've never had a dream as memorable since. 📍

Robyn Moore  
Arts Contributor

Imagine a typical suburban house on a sunny spring day where a blonde, little girl sits playing with her dolls in the front yard.

This is the way it always starts, the reoccurring nightmare from my childhood.

All seems well as young Robyn plays with her dolls under the bright blue sky when suddenly the clouds race in from every direction to block out the sun. The winds pick up speed and strength, swaying the bushes that line the yard.

Worrying about the changing weather, I look up to the sky to see the clouds angrily swirling above me when I hear a sound like footsteps coming from beyond the bushes. I peer between the branches and leaves of the bushes that hide the hill beside my house.

Up the hill, through the bushes and trees it came. It crashed down upon the branches until it reached the crest of the hill, my front yard where I sat, frozen in fear. The manifestation of my greatest fear stood before me.

A spider the size of my house, with its eight hairy legs surrounding me began to lower itself to me, its eyes staring into my soul and the moment before it grabs me I wake up safely in my bed with a healthy fear of spiders. 📍



# HALIFAX'S OWN LITTLE HOUSE OF HORRORS

Q&A AT THE MONKEY'S PAW CURIO SHOP

**Alexandra Florent**  
Arts Contributor

The Monkey's Paw Curio Shop is in the North End of Halifax, at 2180 Gottingen St., inside Plan B Merchants' Coop. The fun and funky store is a small antique and vintage shop filled with odd and downright bizarre things. The store carries items from records, comic books and clothing to a reindeer head, human skull and a 100 per cent preserved spider web. When you find yourself on a quest for unusual things, I highly suggest checking out the shop. It is open from Monday to Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and is only 19 minute bus ride from Dalhousie University.

The *Gazette* interviewed the founder, Bob Chiasson, to talk about the shop.

**GAZETTE:** How long has this shop been open for?

**BOB CHIASSON:** Been open for three years – Halloween is its anniversary.

**g:** What is one of the strangest things you have sold?

**BC:** That's a tough one, so many odd things. Just two days ago I sold a mummified cat's tongue. I have a medical skull, castration knife – not the sort of thing you see too much. I like the odd and unusual stuff, that's what I have kind of collection. When you really like something, you want to sell it. The show *Hoarders*, I watched it saying that I didn't want to be on it; I had six storage units filled with stuff.

**g:** What is your favourite item in this entire shop?

**BC:** Tricky ... usually anything I really like, this bastard in Toronto would buy it. But my two-headed bunny rabbit, and I have a really nice flying monkey. The first thing



Photo by Alexandra Florent

I sold, it was like having a child ripped from my arms.

**g:** What interested you opening up The Monkey Paw Curio Shop?

**BC:** I worked in film for 23 years and I specialized in weird antique stuff. When film is done, there is no benefits package, no retirement plan. I needed some kind of Plan B – that's what made the Monkey's Paw Curio Shop.

**g:** What is your least favourite item in the shop?

**BC:** Just the other day someone came up with a Blue Jays catcher's mitt nightlight. I couldn't believe it was mine, I wouldn't have bought that in a hundred life times.

**g:** What kind of advertising do you use to promote your business?

**BC:** We are primarily word of mouth, as we don't have an ad budget. We use the gallery in the back as an event space that always brings in people. When you come into the shop you'll be happy to be here, and you'll come back and bring friends. **g**

# HALIFAX POP EXPLOSION



Lights at the Multipurpose Centre. ••• Alex Maxwell / Dalhousie Gazette



The crowd at Single Mothers. ••• Mat Wilush / Dalhousie Gazette





# INTERVIEW WITH A WITCH

## DEBUNKING COMMON PAGAN MISCONCEPTIONS WITH THE HOST OF CKDU'S THE WITCHING HOUR

**Julia Comerford**  
Arts Contributor

**M**aeve, one of the hosts of MCKDU's long-running show, "The Witching Hour," came across witchcraft "by accident".

She was studying criminology at Mount Saint Vincent University, and she was skimming through books related to the infamous Salem Witch Trials (Hocus Pocus, anyone?). There was one book in particular that caught her eye, but here's the catch: the book was written by a witch. As Maeve was reading it, she was astonished about what it contained within the pages.

She thought, "Wait a minute... this can't possibly be about witches, they worship the devil and sacrifice cats!"

But the book contained traditional Pagan beliefs, which are deeply rooted in the cycles of

nature. Maeve identified with them immediately. She said she "had always been spiritual; I believed something, but I never knew what it was. I mean, my religion in college was partying and having a good time!"

Maeve began to practice the Pagan Religion and identified herself as a witch. After a little research, it turned out that there were witches in the family, but it had skipped her mother. Maeve's sister even clicked with the beliefs too, "It was in our blood. Most people have that great aunt who reads tea leaves or something, that sensitivity to energies, that sense... that tends to run in families."

So, years later, Maeve is a host of The Witching Hour's show "Sun and Sea", which alternates Friday night slots with The Witching Hour's co-host Oceanna, who hosts a segment called "Earth

and Sky". The Witching Hour has been running on Dalhousie's Campus radio station, 88.1 CKDU FM since 1991.

Maeve described her show, Sun and Sea, as a "Wicca 101 Class"; like an information show about Pagan ways. Earth and Sky plays Pagan Music, and discusses all things related to Witches, Pagans, Heathens, Druids, or anyone who might be interested in learning a thing or two about their spirituality. I tuned in one night and heard interesting discussions about building connection to other people through community gardens – I was pleasantly surprised to hear such a variety of topics that can appeal to anyone.

The *Gazette* asked Maeve a couple questions to bust some common misbeliefs about Witches.

**GAZETTE:** Do you do magic?

**MAEVE:** It's not Harry Potter, but yes we do. There's energy all around us – walk into a room with grumpy people and you can feel that energy, you can feel the energy of the sea, the smell of the leaves in autumn – if you can reach out to the energy around you, then you can almost extend yourself into that energy. Magic is like putting the energy out there to try and achieve a goal. You can do a leaf spell; write a wish on a beautifully coloured, bright, fall leaf, and send that off into the wind, like wishing upon a star. We believe in "The Rule of Three". Any energy, good or bad, that you put out into the world, will come back to you three times, like karma.

**G:** What does Halloween mean to you as a practicing Pagan?

**M:** Halloween is a very serious holiday. It is known as Samhain [pronounced sow-in], the day

of the dead. It's a day to remember and honour your ancestors, and acknowledge how they have shaped your life. It is also very much tied to the natural cycles of the year, with the end of October marking the beginning of winter. In fact, November 1st (when Samhain is celebrated) is directly opposite on the Wheel of the Year from Beltane, May 1st, the beginning of spring and the renewal of life. Everything is woven together.

**G:** Would you ever dress up as a witch for Halloween?

**M:** Of course! Do you have any idea how many witches dress up as witches for Halloween? I know I've done it! We have good fun.

Bracing for upcoming exams, students are itching for a little balance in their lives. Who knows, maybe they could find that balance with a little magic. **G**

# COLLIDE: A COLLISION OF TALENTS

## THE GAZETTE'S ART DIRECTOR AT THE ANNUAL DESIGN CONFERENCE.

**Amanda Lenko**  
Art Director

**C**ollide, previously known as HPX Digital, is a design and digital conference spanning over four days that allows students and professionals to network and explore one another's ideas. As a graphic designer studying my final year at NSCAD University, it was a great exposure for me to see what is out there. Like many others, I find it difficult sometimes to say that I know exactly what kind of design I want to pursue. *Collide* exposed me to digital programmers, to data visitation, to illustrative and to

graphic designers from all around the world.

Many explained their process, how they came to be where they are and how their projects have grown and how they have grown with them. UK designer Naomi Atkinson's lecture *Understanding Your Core* tied the themes of everyone's lectures together pretty well. Using a British expression, Naomi said job titles are just "naff". They're labels for comfort, to fit a corporate structure. Every designer over the past week enunciated the importance of pursuing your own personal projects. Never stop pursuing your own personal projects,

because what you put out there is what people will recognize and hire you for.

A designer needs to be a time saver, an opportunist and a communicator. The more you put yourself out there, the more opportunities will come to you.

James White, a local well-known graphic designer from Dartmouth never overlooks silly ideas and keeps pushing them. As a designer you need to be open, but know that sometimes it is okay to say no.

I loved seeing projects from designers from all sorts of backgrounds. Painting is what got me into graphic design,

and designer Jason White demonstrated just how far painting can get you in his talk *It All Starts with Art*.

A definite highlight of my four days at *Collide* was the conference's main attraction, Austrian-born and New York-based graphic designer Stefan Sagmeister. He has been nominated for eight Grammys and won two for cover art. He's worked with HBO and Lou Reid and the list goes on and on...

His lecture was called *Design and Happiness*, based on his international exhibition last year. He presented statistics on happiness through design and

gave tips on how to make the most of exhibition space. He said that if you don't ask for anything you don't get anything. You need to drive your ideas to the fullest. If you do things for pleasure and without reason sometimes, like driving around town with no particular destination, listening to music that you don't know very well – that is pure happiness. Uselessness is gorgeous.

The more unexpected things you do, the happier you will be because you are not used to it yet. He ended the presentation on a happy note, when he got the crowd to stand up and sing a song. **G**



# SPOOKY SPORTS

**SPOOKY SPORTS**  
sports covers athletics events and topics relevant to Dalhousie.  
Email Graeme at [sports@dalgazette.com](mailto:sports@dalgazette.com)



## SEAWOLVES ELIMINATE TIGERS IN FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

UNBSJ HAND TIGERS FIFTH-STRAIGHT LOSS HEAD TO AFL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Cameron Honey**  
Sports Contributor

It was another rough outing for the Dalhousie Tigers Football Club on Oct. 26, falling to the visiting Saint John Seawolves 19-12 to end their season.

A late fourth quarter push wasn't enough as three Seawolves touchdowns in the second quarter proved costly. With the win, UNBSJ heads to the Atlantic Football League (AFL) championship to compete for the Moosehead Cup on Nov. 1 against the undefeated Holland College Hurricanes.

Aside from lapses in the second quarter, the Tigers defense kept the game within reach in the second half. Blunders from special teams and an inability to put points on the board ended up costing the Tigers. The punting game, which was the Achilles heel of the Tigers all year, was flawless.

The game started with a ceremonial first kick taken by Dal's Omar El Gamal and Conner Bray, who are members of the Canadian Military, in honour of the soldiers lost the previous week. A moment of silence was also observed before the singing of *O Canada*.

In the first quarter, offensive momentum was stalled due to snaps over the head of starting quarterback Nick Hunsley, forcing him to retreat and lose yards. The Seawolves couldn't get anything going in first as well, as the Tigers defense was on the prowl.

The Seawolves used momentum to swing off an onside kick to score off their first drive of the second quarter by punching the ball in from the one-yard line after going for it on third and goal. UNBSJ missed the conversion, resulting in a 6-0 lead.

Both team's offences were unable to generate yards, punting the ball back and forth. The Seawolves went on a long drive sparked by a deep pass over the middle from quarterback Sean Galbraith, leading to their second score. Another missed conversion made it 12-0.

The Tigers had several big play opportunities in the quarter, but were unable to connect. The Seawolves used decent field position off another Tigers punt for their final touchdown of the game. UNBSJ finally capitalized on the two-point convert to give themselves a 19-0 lead with 46 second left in the half. A huge return from Dal's Trae Collie gave the Tigers the ball near midfield. They used a hurry-up offence, putting the Tigers in field goal range. Dal's Sebastian Ayangma kick was good, making the game 19-3 at halftime.

After an uneventful third quarter, the Tigers started rallying in the fourth. After Dal forced a safety midway through the quarter, Hunsley became more comfortable by calling his own plays to push the team up field. Hunsley then connected with Darcy Chant for a touchdown with 48 seconds left on the clock to put his team within a touchdown. However, the Seawolves effectively ran down the clock, giving them the 19-12 victory.

It was a tough first season for head coach Alan Wetmore. After starting 2-0, the Tigers lost their remaining five games. Wetmore will look to improve on the mistakes made this season and use the newly acquired recruits to live up to the team's high potential.

Stats were unavailable upon the completion of this game. 🍁

## WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY PLACE FIRST, MEN SECOND AT AUS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photo by Alexander Maxwell

**Graeme Benjamin**  
Sports Editor

The women's cross-country team walked away with the AUS banner Oct. 25. Ellen Chappell, who placed second at last year's championship, won the race with a time of 22:22. The women swept the podium, with Colleen Wilson and Britany Macarthur placing second and third, respectively.

Head coach Rich Lehman was awarded his second consecutive AUS women's cross-country coach of the year award.

Along with Dal's top three finishers, Maddy Crowell, Emily Ferguson and Emily Clarke were named members of the AUS all-star team. The Tigers almost swept the category, with only UNB's Katie Robinson also cracking the list.



Photo by Alexander Maxwell

The St. FX X-Men won their fourth-straight title, beating the Tigers in team points by 32. St. FX's Scott Donald won the 10 km race with a time of 32:24. Dal's Matt McNeil placed second,

finishing nine seconds behind Donald. Nick Wood and Matthias Mueller also finished in the top 10 for the Tigers. 🍁





SCARIEST IN SPORTS

Benjamin Blum  
Amateur Fraidy-Cat

Hi there! To new readers, fasten your proverbial (or literal) seatbelts. Get ready for an arbitrary list with arcane referential humour casually tossed in.

For longtime fans of the column I apologize for the delay. Pretending to be a mature journalism student takes up a lot of my spare time. But fret not. I'm back and punnier than ever.

Halloween is here, or as my fellow Tribe-members and I call it - the Purim pre-party. With that segue in mind, let's take a look at some of the scariest athletes in sports.

Trick and/or treat everyone.



### 10. ANDRE THE GIANT

This fear-inducing Frenchman towered over everyone in the ring. Also, this wrestler of unusual size was a key player in one of the greatest movies of all time. Like, ever. Seriously. As you wish.



### 1. FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS

Love means never having to say you're sorry. And apparently in Europe it also means lighting flares and fighting opposing cops and fans to prove loyalty your club. Yikes.



### HONOURABLE MENTION: OLDER SIBLINGS

Growing up, nothing was scarier than squaring off against an older sibling in the driveway. Trust me, I was one. Insert evil laugh here.



### 3. JONAH LOMU

As if rugby players weren't scary enough. Lomu was famous for his brick-wall physique and ability to run through humans. Members of the English national team still have nightmares of this killer Kiwi.



### 7. BOBBY KNIGHT

Without this terrifying taskmaster, nobody would've thought that throwing chairs onto basketball courts was an acceptable way of getting what you want. Petulant preschoolers: take note.

### 9. MEAN JOE GREENE

Sure, he gave that kid a soda. But that was only after he made a career terrorizing quarterbacks. Shouldn't come as a surprise, considering his first name is Mean!



### 8. THE STARTING LINEUP OF THE 1976 PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

Hellraisers on ice, the Broad Street Bullies are a horrifying homage to the phighting city of Philadelphia.

### 2. MEMBERS OF THE MLSE EXECUTIVE

Have you seen a professional sports team in Toronto recently? How these ghastly goons run T.O.'s teams defines terror.



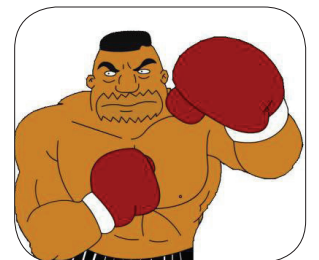
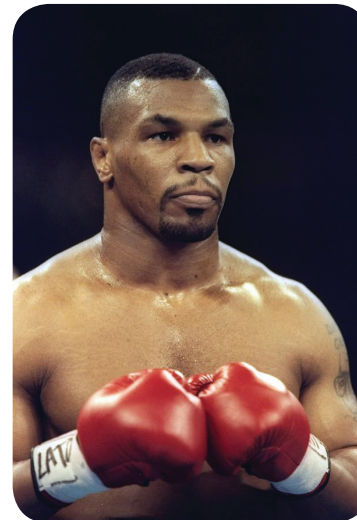
### 4. SERENA WILLIAMS

The greatest female tennis player of all time has a promising career as an anger management counselor post-retirement. Judging by the comments she made to an official at the U.S. Open a few years ago, I'd just give her the point and move on.



### 5. MIKE TYSON DREDERICK TATUM

Iron Mike is so scary that I included his parodied persona from "The Simpsons" to diffuse the situation. He puts the "boo" in "boo-urns".



### 6. WENDEL CLARK

Legend has it that when Captain Crush got five minutes for fighting, his moustache would get a game misconduct. Truly the Chuck Norris of pro sports.





MEN'S SOCCER  
ELIMINATED FROM  
PLAYOFF CONTENTION

WIN TO SEAHAWKS NOT  
ENOUGH FOR PLAYOFF  
BIRTH

Graeme Benjamin  
Sports Editor

Dalhousie's men's soccer team will not be competing in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) playoffs for the first time in seven years.

The Tigers were officially eliminated from playoff contention following their 1-0 loss to the St. FX X-Men on Oct. 25 at Wickwire. The team ended their season on a high, though, beating the Memorial Seahawks 3-1 during a rain-filled affair. William Wright, Tyler Lewars and Bezick Evraire all found the back of the net in the win.

Though the team finished sixth overall, they were still eliminated from playoff contention as the seventh-ranked Seahawks will host the AUS championships starting Oct. 31. The team hosting the tournament makes the playoffs regardless of their record.

Keeper Jason Ross, striker Tyler Lewars and midfielder Ryan Lewars were honoured following the Seahawks match, as they played their last game for the black and gold.

The reigning AUS champion UNB Varsity-Reds (11-0-2) enter the playoffs as the team to beat after an undefeated season. The V-Reds along with the Cape Breton Capers receive first round byes. Acadia and UPEI will compete in the first quarterfinal game, followed by the second semifinal match between Memorial and St. FX. 

# MEN'S VOLLEYBALL ON TRACK FOR ANOTHER DOMINATING SEASON

Graeme Benjamin  
Sports Editor

If you thought the men's volleyball team was good last season, just wait until you see what they have in store now.

The Tigers return with 12 players that took home Atlantic University Sport (AUS) banner last season. Dan Ota, the 12-time AUS coach of the year returning for his 16th year with the Tigers, says his team is prepared to live up to the hype.

"We've really picked up where we left off last year at the national championships," says Ota. "They've come back stronger, highly committed and have shown so far that they're really ready to take on the challenge."

The Tigers placed sixth at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships last season. They enter this year as the 10th-ranked team in Canada. Ota knows his team can improve on that ranking as the season pushes forward.

"I think our guys are extremely capable of being one of the top teams in the country," said Ota. "And if that's not reflected in the rankings I don't think our guys really worry about that too much."

The team has already had a flawless preseason, beating Queen's twice over the Thanksgiving break and going undefeated during their Interlock Event in Quebec. The Tigers beat CIS sixth-ranked Laval during that trip in straight sets.

"We're really happy with the result," said Ota, "but I don't think any of the guys are surprised because they know what they're capable of."

All of Dal's starters from last year are returning in this year's campaign. Fifth-year Bryan Duquette, who was near the top of almost all stat categories last year, will lead as captain for the Tigers. Look for fourth-year Jonathan MacDonald to act as the primary setter and Dartmouth native Connor Maessen's 6'10 stature to be a huge presence at the front of

the net. Alex Dempsey, Matthew Donovan and Kristen O'Brien round out the Tigers' starting rotation.

**"I think our guys are extremely capable of being one of the top teams in the country."**


Ota is thankful for the wide variety of players he has to rely upon if one were to get injured and to have room to add other players in when need be.

"In terms of when our other guys will have a chance to play, that's going to depend on our opponent and how our other guys are playing at the time," said Ota. "But the seven guys who we have now will be carrying the bulk for the rest of this year."

Dal starts their season on the road against the UNB Varsity Reds on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2. Ota said he's recently noticed a

significant improvement in the V-Reds volleyball program, which has given the Atlantic division more recognition.

"They've had a couple years where they've actually beat us in conference championships. As disappointing as those results were at the time, I think it's a positive thing for our conference overall because it shows our conference isn't all about one team."

The Tigers first home game is Nov. 7 against the Memorial Seahawks. 



## CATCH THE ACTION!

### OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2

Subway AUS Women's Soccer Championship

Friday and Saturday games at 11am & 2pm

Sunday championship final at 2pm

Wickwire Field

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Men's Hockey vs. UdeM, 7pm, Halifax Forum

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Women's Hockey vs. UPEI, 2:30pm, Civic Centre

Men's Hockey vs. UNB, 7pm, Halifax Forum

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Women's Hockey vs. UdeM, 2:30pm, Civic Centre



WWW.DALTIGERS.CA



Food Services  
at Dalhousie University



the physioclinic





Spooky scary Halloween issue for October 31, 2014 ooooo

# THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS



## VivaCity 2014: Halifax's biggest development event of the year

Tessa Williams  
Contributor  
Planning '17

Developers, planners, urban designers, engineers, architects, movers, and shakers gathered at the World Trade and Convention Centre (WTCC) on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> for VivaCity 2014. Now in its fifth year, the event organized by Fusion Halifax's Urban Development and Action Team aims to give the public a chance to engage personally with development professionals.

In this way, the average citizen can engage with developers and learn firsthand about both current and future projects in their city. Plus, it gives urbanists an excuse to get dressed up, enjoy a beer and fancy hors d'oeuvres, and banter over their common passion: the city we call home, Halifax.

Everyone has ideas for how their city can change for the better. No matter how tempting it is to think that the grass is greener on the other side, there exists no utopian city where everyone is completely satisfied. Ideas for Halifax were buzzing around VivaCity, including everything from hosting a Red Bull Crashed

Ice event starting on Citadel Hill and ending on the waterfront, to introducing light rail through Via Rail on the Bedford Highway.

It's this constant flux of ideas that makes urbanism-related professions such as architecture, planning, and civil, transportation, and environmental engineering so dynamic and rewarding; your work is never done because you can always improve. With this in mind, improvement and change were the overarching themes of the night. It was the focal point of the keynote speech delivered by Rollin Stanley (General Manager of Planning, Development and Assessment in Calgary). After working in the planning industry in Toronto and the United States in the past, Stanley had years of expertise to offer to Halifax.

Stanley focused on the idea of increasing a local government's resources by using strategies such as local sales tax and historic building tax credits. He supported each suggestion with past success stories in other cities he has worked in, tweaking them to be relevant to Halifax. Under Stanley's leadership, St. Louis, Missouri was able to rebuild its vacant downtown through investment into older build-

ings made possible by tax credits. "Change is your investing in your business," said Stanley, "Good cities invest in themselves, just like a good business." He cites the new Central Library in Halifax as a good example of self-investment.

Change was also reflected in the fifteen or more groups who had booths set up, displaying their ideas and current projects intended to change Halifax for the better. Given the recent boom in construction in downtown Halifax, it is a good time to be a developer and an exciting time for this city. The Halifax we live in today could look completely different in ten years.

In order to enact change, an open dialogue between the people who live, work, and play in a city and the people who plan, design, and build it is essential. At VivaCity, the distinction between those two categories is blurred. By facilitating open discussion between professionals and the public, there is no reason why you or I can't shape our city just as much as any trained professional.

Nonprofit organization 'It's More Than Buses' is a perfect example of how average citizens can make change. As a grassroots group, members can come from any

background: Ashley Morton, who led a breakout session at VivaCity, builds ships for a living. Although some are trained in the urbanism-related professions, most members are simply citizens who care about Halifax transit and want to make it better. Based on this common cause, they have created arguably the most clear and justified transit proposal Halifax has ever seen.

They had a vision for what they wanted Halifax to be, and they did something about it. That's all it took. An incredible amount of work has gone into 'It's More Than Buses' that is not to be understated. But the decision to be proactive was a simple one. They looked forward, and took charge. Students are equally capable of the same thing. This time next year, it could be Dalhousie students and alumni making waves in the development world at VivaCity. Remember the slogan below coined by Fusion Halifax, even if it's the only thing you take away from VivaCity 2014. It's the challenge we need to rise to as students who may someday enter the urbanist trades and the mantra we need to enact in order to effect change.

Think forward. Take charge.



### WRITE. GET PAID.

100-200 words = \$15  
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