



The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, est. 1868

FREE!

The DSU stands against sexism and misogyny on campus

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is deeply concerned about the recent incidents of misogyny and sexism within the Faculty of Dentistry. The DSU is committed to fighting for a university campus that is free from sexism, misogyny, and gender-based violence and recognizes that these forms of oppression impact the day-to-day lives of our members. These particular events are part of a broader culture of sexism and misogyny that continues to be present on campus.

This summer, the DSU was made aware of repeated incidents of sexism within the Faculty of Dentistry, including sexual harassment, sexist comments and preferential treatment of male students in clinical settings. The processes available to these students at Dalhousie would not guarantee anonymity if any real action was to be taken and as a result, these students requested that the complaints not be pursued further.


Dalhousie University has a duty to ensure a safe learning and working environment for all students and should be actively working towards challenging sexism and misogyny. It is troubling that students who have concerns about discrimination and harassment have no avenue to pursue these complaints in a safe and supportive way.

While the university has taken a few practical steps, including suspending 13 students from clinical settings in Dentistry, the DSU is calling on the university to

commit to examining and addressing the root causes that allow cultures of misogyny and sexism to continue to exist at our university.

To begin this process, the university should:

- Implement a system for the anonymous reporting of discrimination and harassment at the university.
- Work to provide accommodations for students in the Faculty of Dentistry and other students who have experienced harm as a result of incidences of sexism, misogyny and sexual harassment.
- Develop a process for students to share their experiences of discrimination and harassment and provide input into addressing these forms of oppression on campus.
- Implement a student advocate office to help students navigate services on campus and inform the university and DSU of gaps in service.
- Create a mandatory equity course requirement for all students at Dalhousie that discusses the root causes of oppression including gender-based violence.
- Require that all faculty and staff in the Faculty of Dentistry attend a mandatory training on sexism and misogyny in working and learning environments. Dalhousie should also work with student, staff and faculty unions to extend similar training to all faculties and departments.

For more information or to get involved in your student union, please contact Jenn Nowoselski at dsuvpi@gmail.com. 

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staff

Jesse Ward, Editor-in-chief
editor@dalgazette.com

Daniel Boltinsky, Copy Editor
copy@dalgazette.com

Eleanor Davidson, News Editor
Sabina Wex, Assistant News Editor
news@dalgazette.com

John Hillman, Opinions Editor
opinions@dalgazette.com

Mat Wilush, Arts Editor
arts@dalgazette.com

Graeme Benjamin, Sports Editor
sports@dalgazette.com

Jennifer Gosnell, Photo Manager
photo@dalgazette.com

Josh Stoodley, Online Editor
online@dalgazette.com

Jesse Ward, Art Director
design@dalgazette.com

Devon Stedman, Business Manager
business@dalgazette.com

Gabe Flaherty, Advertising Manager
advertising@dalgazette.com

Contributing to this issue: Melanie Gillis, Shannon Slade, Paola Tolentino

contact us

www.dalgazette.com
The SUB, Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax NS, B3H 4J2

advertising



Gabe Flaherty
Advertising Manager
647 261 6692
advertising@dalgazette.com

the fine print

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letters to the editor



Jesse Ward
Editor-in-chief

The cover of this issue of the *Gazette* shows the reaction of some students and community members to the upsetting situation currently facing Dalhousie. The misogyny scandal has spurred on many reactions, including dozens of letters to the *Gazette*. We're printing some of them here, all in an unedited form. For more letters and stories on this situation as it unfolds, follow us on Twitter at @dalgazette and see our website at dalgazette.com.

This letter is to the women of the Dal Dental Class of 2015: I remember how much pressure there was in dental school to conform and not ‘rock the boat’. I did rock it once and paid a small price for that action. A small price- one that did not prevent me from graduating or practising very successfully since 1981. Do not allow yourselves to be coerced by the administration of the Dental School- there is NO obligation to be “good little girls”. Perhaps it is time for you, as a group, to hire a lawyer to protect and defend your interests as you appear to have lost complete confidence in the administration of Dalhousie University. I wish each of you, and your male classmates who did not participate in the FB group, much success in your chosen profession of Dentistry. It is one that I have enjoyed for many years.

Sincerely,
Dr. Pennie Thornton, UWO Class ‘81
01/08/2015

Dear Editor;

There is much comment on the "Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen" use of Facebook. While the several releases from the Dalhousie 'Media Centre' refer consistently to "offensive social media comments" I have noticed that verbally and in the mainstream media the matter is at times refereed to as a "Facebook incident" - singular. President Florizone in his first campus-wide statement on December 15th, 2014 referred to "...language and conversation on the Facebook page in question ...". While it may be a semantic difference again the word 'page' is singular. Depending on the sophistication of the public who read the 'Media Centre's' releases, or the off-campus media's use of the words, the public and the Dalhousie broad constituency may well assume that the 'incident' was somewhat minor in nature.

I hope that the Gazette will set the record straight in this regard. It was not a single incident. The "Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen" began to operate on Facebook during 2011 - i.e. during their first year in the dental program. They have operated in a similar manner over about 3.5 years from first year through to the middle of their fourth year (to circa December 11th, 2014). It was not just one offensive incident on a single page but spanned many, many pages which were presented to CBC as a series of screen shots (see the websites of the Gazette and that of The Coast. The problem was not just confined to these "gentlemen's" first half of their final year in 2014 but was apparently endemic all through their time in the Dalhousie Dentistry School. These were not the Facebook posts of young boys but rather were the posts of young men who aspire to be professional dentists and are aged ca. 26 to about 29.

Regards
Alan Ruffman
Honourary Research Associate
01/06/2015

On December 6, 2014 misogynic comments including a poll requesting opinions about sexually violating female classmates were posted on the internet by male dentistry students. Within the following days the ungentlemanly behavior of, members of “The Gentlemen’s Club”, male students in their final year of dentistry at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia has been made public. These budding professionals had been posting degrading photographs and violent sexual comments about their female classmates on Facebook. Reaction from the professors, public, and fellow students has been swift and negative. The response of the targeted female classmates has been different. They proposed dealing with the issue through a process of restorative justice. Dalhousie University President Richard Florizone met with the women to seek confirmation that they truly wanted this course of action before complying with their request. President Florizone was tearful throughout his announcement and obviously had been emotionally affected by “listening to the voices of those directly harmed” by the behavior of the male students. Since President Florizone's announcement public reaction has been mostly negative. 5600 people added their names to a petition demanding expulsion of the thirteen male students. Two hundred students staged a public protest and several faculty members have requested an

investigation. Numerous negative responses have been posted in response to newspaper reports about the restorative justice initiative. There are concerns that the process is inadequate, that the larger issue of misogyny throughout the campus is not being addressed, that the female victims are being pressured into accepting an inadequate process. President Florizone has stated that the process will involve the offenders, the women who have been harmed, and university officials. Decisions made through this process must meet the agreement of all parties; expulsion of the students has not been ruled out. Restorative justice practice could be a farce. It is possible that offenders see it as an easy alternative to the legal process and enter into it for the purpose of avoiding justice, that community members pressure victims to “cooperate”, or that decisions made fail to bring about effective change in offenders or the community. However, restorative justice can be very effective in bringing about change in offenders and healing in victims and the community. Frequently, as a member of a community justice committee in northern Canada, I would have emotional reactions similar to the protesters of the Dalhousie project as I read police reports of the offenders appearing before the Committee. As the hearing unfolded, I, other Committee members, victims, and offenders

would be changed as we listened to each other. Offenders ‘caught’ how their actions had affected others, including their own families, their victims, and members of the community. Victims came to see the offenders as fellow human beings who genuinely regretted having caused harm and who were willing to try to somehow make up for the harm their actions had caused to themselves and to the community as a whole. For restorative justice to work the offenders had to accept responsibility for their bad behavior. President Richard Florizone's difficulty in speaking after “listening to the voices” of the women dental students was obvious. I have observed how very difficult it can be for an offender to listen to the pain of persons he or she has hurt. Punishment cannot obliterate offenses, resulting pain, or the offender's responsibility for his or her actions. Victims can choose to stay stuck in anger or revenge or to accept the fact of having been wounded, accept the wound as part of their life and move forward. When restorative justice works well, it brings about unity and reconciliation in offenders, victims, and the community. It is more likely to bring about true and lasting change in offenders than would legal procedures focused on punishment. It is also a more difficult process that calls forth courage, honesty, and willingness to change. I congratulate the women dental students who have

proposed restorative justice and I sincerely hope that all involved participate in a manner which will achieve the aims of the process. Trust, however, is restored more slowly after a serious offense. How long will it take and what must the offenders do to demonstrate that they have changed? How long will it be before the female classmates, university administration, patients, and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario judge that the male students are fit to be trusted as professional dentists? Perhaps this will be a staged process taking place over time. We have no guarantee that the Dalhousie restorative justice initiative will be absolutely successful in achieving its goals. Neither can we be certain that harsh punishment will change behavior and attitudes. Much time, money, and effort has gone into the education of the thirteen students and their futures too are a consideration in deciding how to respond to their admittedly disgusting actions. Whatever choice is made affects the future of these men and cannot be made lightly. Nor can the harm done to their victims, the university, and our society be dismissed as unworthy of efforts to bring about healing and restored relationships. Patricia McKeon, CSJ
Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada
01/03/2015

letters to the editor



It's time to really question the way the Dalhousie social justice community is reacting to the misogynistic comments made by members of the School of Dentistry. As a feminist, I recognize that there is a sense of communal victimhood for all women in the face of something like this. Of course, the threats and "jokes" made are not to be taken lightly.

However, my understanding is that each of the women involved was given the option to lodge a formal complaint, or to participate in restorative justice. Now, I recognize that one woman has come forward to say she is not happy with the restorative justice reaction, but I'm unsure of why she might not choose to lodge a formal complaint, though what I've seen indicates that she is choosing to have it investigated by a third party.

A common argument I have heard over the last week is that the women involved should not have to sit judge and jury over this case. I think the people making this comment are perhaps uninformed in how restorative justice functions. Firstly, there is a great deal of research that shows that restorative justice allows for victims to reconcile themselves to the situation. What's more is that it doesn't really leave the victims responsible; instead it actively values their input.

What's more, my understanding is that expulsion has yet to be taken off the table. It is a possible result of restorative justice as a process, or, alternatively if the university feels it's appropriate it could still be a consequence even if it's not what's put forth in talks between the victims, the university, and the perpetrators.

I understand the instinctual call for justice and expulsion, I really do. Personally, I wish that these men could fully understand the systematic impact of their comments. But for one thing, we don't go to a university that immediately expels people without any kind of investigation; that would be unfair. Yes, unfair. A common argument I've seen is that the university expels people for plagiarism so why can they not expel these men. Well, in both cases, it requires a lengthy process of paperwork and inquiries. It is not as simple as everyone seems to think.

More importantly though, people fail to consider the negative impact a reaction like this from the university might have on the women who have been victimized. Victims of gender-based violence often blame themselves. A quick reaction like the one being called for could lead to a lot of guilt on the parts of the victims for "ruining the careers" of the perpetrators. This would obviously be unjustified guilt, but is a definite possible emotional reaction, and to

ignore this is to ignore the victims.

And that's really the issue at hand here. Why are we not listening to the victims? Everything I have seen so far seems to indicate that the women were presented with the options of lodging formal complaints, or else pursuing restorative justice. President Florizone has indicated that they may choose to be as involved or uninvolved as they feel comfortable with. He has stated that they can choose to pursue other avenues of justice if they're not satisfied with their current choice. So why do we get to decide whether the victims of this situation are reacting acceptably or choosing the appropriate course of action?

I agree that this is a good time to look at broad reform over the way the university deals with sexual harassment and rape culture on campus. In fact, Dal has acknowledged this, stating that they expect to see a systemic issue at play as the situation plays out. That said, I think it's unfair to the victims to be sending this message that their voice is not valued in our discussion unless they think these men should be expelled and never be allowed to work in the field.

Thank you,
Rosalie Fralick
12/24/2015

Then and Now
by Ralph Ferguson
B.A. Dal '65
Pictou, NS

(Then in his freshman year, in 1960 Ralph joined the staff of Dalhousie Gazette as a news reporter.)

Summer at Dalhousie U. In Halifax 51 years ago was glorious. It was 1963 and I was enrolled there taking a French 2 course that I needed together with Latin to help fulfill a second foreign language requirement. The weather was particularly good at the time and I truly loved the days at that time of year. They were long enough to enjoy summer fun along with accommodating two hours of class and four of study.

I was living that summer

in a big old family home on University Avenue just two or three doors off Studley campus. Dalhousie had purchased the home and set it up as a residence for graduate female students but that summer it housed male students attending summer school and football camp.

Dalhousie still had a senior football team at the time, the Tigers with the league's best quarterback in Teddy Wickwire and pass receiver, Eric Parsons. But two stars don't make a team so we were dead last in the league standings. The university had hired a new football coach, Joe Rutigliano, a well known winning American quarterback from the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers and our football camp that summer had

several new American players that Rutigliano had recruited in an effort to rebuild our Tigers team. A few of these young men were housed in our summer residence and I became friends with one of these chaps from Virginia.

Growing up in the early 1960s, we were part of the Folk Generation. Pete Seeger, the Brothers Four, the Limelighters, Ian & Sylvia and other top folk groups had visited and performed at Dal. We Canadian students were attending coffee houses, singing their songs like We Shall Overcome and fully supporting the Civil Rights Movement in full swing in the southern USA. One evening, my new friend from Virginia and I were listening to the entertainment and chatting in one of these local coffee

houses.

CLASH OF CULTURES

I recall that he surprised me suddenly when he leaned across the table and in all seriousness said, "Ralph, I just don't understand the way you Canadians treat your blacks." I was confused and replied, "Treat our blacks? What do you mean?" He explained that he was struck by the fact that Canadians treated blacks as people whereas home in Virginia they were well treated but considered barnyard animals, like horses and cows.

I turned 21 that summer and I do not believe that my friend who would have been around the same age had grown up as a bad or evil person. Rather his misconception was an

honestly held belief and the result of being raised in the southern USA culture where slavery had been justified by considering blacks to be beasts of burden and hence somewhat less than human.

Now, take heart in a realization of the tremendous culture shift that has occurred in the past half century. Truly momentous change can occurs relatively rapidly through a social restorative process. Things are still far from perfect but we've experienced a culture shift that took us to the present day when we have a black President in the U.S. from a 1963 society that, "was noted for racial unrest and civil rights demonstrations. Nationwide outrage was sparked by media coverage of police actions

in Birmingham, Alabama, where attack dogs and fire hoses were turned against protestors, many of whom were in their early teens or younger. Martin Luther King, Jr., was arrested and jailed during these protests, writing his famous "Letter From Birmingham City Jail," which advocates civil disobedience against unjust laws. Dozens of additional demonstrations took place across the country, from California to New York, culminating in the March on Washington. President Kennedy backed a Civil Rights Act, which was stalled in Congress by the summer." (Samuel Ross, Information Please® Database, © 2007 Pearson Education, Inc.)

These are thoughts drawn from my past experience that came to mind to guide my thinking as I read and considered along with related writing, Jesse Ward's recent long article in the Dalhousie Gazette, 'Questions in dentistry scandal go unanswered amid extensive media coverage'.

LET'S SEE WHERE WE ARE GOING WITH THIS

So many questions; so few satisfactory answers forthcoming, are we asking the right questions?

Everyone seemingly looking for and making a good case for placing blame on someone else - the 13 male dental students, the girls who opted for restorative justice and those fearing loss of privacy and animosity who want no part in it, a dental professor who showed a bikini clad girl video, the dean who covered up by not advising the President of previous complaints, the administration that remained uninvolved, the President who took it upon himself to decide on the restorative justice process, the university for its dismissive attitude towards rape culture and misogynies. Perhaps we all need to heed Pogo and Walt Kelly's quote, 'We have met the enemy and he is us.' and start looking

in our mirrors to find the blameworthy.

We recognize a problem and are all searching for and arguing over what is the proper solution but do we fully understand the problem, have we as yet even decided and defined what we consider to be our main concern? Are the 13 dental students our main concern; is it a rape culture in Canada; is it a pervasive misogynistic attitude in our society or is it the damage to reputations of the other dental students who were not members of the 13 that most concerns us? Is it even possible to settle on one solution that will solve all aspects of our collective concern?

HARMFUL IDEAS

I believe there are some insidious, harmful ideas which can infect the social conscious where one group obtains an advantage at the expense of another. Initially, the effect may seem small and insignificant but if ignored or incorrectly treated, these infections can fester amid spread through a society and lead to serious discriminations and abuses which make it sick or dysfunctional. Slavery in the US south was one example and I think that abuse of women, rape culture, misogynies and the present problem in our dental school are likely results of another.

TWO SIGNIFICANT TOPICS

I'd like to draw attention to in a couple of topics dealt with by writers on this subject. One was in a letter from a lady who opposed restorative justice for adult students. I disagreed with most everything in her letter except where she pointed out that children as young as 11 to 14 are being exposed to and viewing porn on the Internet which is giving them a powerful but false, negative sex education. The young women in these videos are generally very physically attractive and being paid to act out roles in which they appear to seek and

enjoy being treated like sluts - with disrespect, deceived, degraded or abused and this is causing youthful viewers to devalue and disrespect girls and women. That struck me as a significant observation and as probably being a major source of the infection. Indeed, my experience has been that in their interactions with the opposite sex, the female goal is to foster and build long term relationships characterized by love, loyalty, commitment and sharing. However, you'll never find that message in an Internet porn video.

The other topic that concerns me is this whole subject of a anonymity. I can understand a desire to protect the identities of the accused until proven guilty but I am troubled by the anonymity which so many want to offer to female victims apparently as encouragement to remain silent and suffer their hurts in silence. Wouldn't a better approach be an offer to stand alongside, shoulder to shoulder with them as encouragement to speak out in an effort to be free from violence against women? In this context, I think of Malcolm X, a black activist leader from my time and the lesson contained in his words:

"When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire . . . or preserve his freedom."

I note here that in the earlier struggle to obtain its freedom, we whites could not give it to them but only offer our support. All of the heavy lifting, the blacks did themselves with leaders from the black community - folks like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Ralph Abernathy, Jesse Jackson and

others. Likewise today with women struggling to obtain their freedom from violence against women in all its forms, I do not believe we can give it to them. We can offer our support but women themselves will have to provide the leadership and do most of the heavy lifting.

As I reflect on this, I am encouraged by an article and picture Saturday in the Chronicle Herald. It describes 'a 13-week course in social activism and how to do it right' offered by Robert Huish, a professor of international development studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax who says, "University students today are every bit as concerned about the world they will inherit." The fully credited course includes the usual commitments by students - writing an essay, taking part in workshops and it includes the obligation to take part in and organize a protest.

The photo with Professor's class appears to show his pupils are predominantly female so I suggest that it would be a worthy and timely cause at Dalhousie if he and they would organize protests there against 'the big lie' that Internet porn sites are spreading about what women and girls desire in their relationships with men.

Would such protests stamp it out? Probably not. However, I believe that if women led and used the high level publicity which such protests generate to spread truthful messages about what women desire in relationships with men, it could go a long way towards presenting the public with a more balanced view and neutralizing the social harm being caused by Internet porn.

I also believe the class would find support for this effort both on campus and out in the general society. On campus, I think support would come from Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association which released a statement Sunday throwing its support behind the victims'

decision to deal with the issue through the restorative justice model instead of through a formal complaint process.

"We really want to support the women who have chosen this process," association co-chair Chantelle Coulson said in an interview about the statement. "Really, it's the only approach that can give them control," Coulson said. "If conducted diligently, this process will also unearth the causes and context surrounding the behaviour of these men, thus exposing a deep and systemic culture of misogyny in the dental school that we demand be addressed campus-wide," the association statement reads.

Out in the general society, I think both support and helpful content could be found at pretty high levels both nationally and internationally. For example, I found an article on topic published at www.usccb.org, the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Now I am not a Roman Catholic and oppose some of that Church's gender doctrine but I completely concur with the content of this article, The Internet and Pornography, which is a talk written for delivery in Rome by an unnamed speaker to a group of Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Major Superiors, esteemed colleagues and other participants. (It is worth reading. I recommend it.)

As I conclude my writing here, it is my sincere hope that Dalhousie University will find a way to turn this recent shameful event in our dental school into a positive outcome.

01/05/2015



President Florizone responds to misogyny scandal questions

Questions still remain as the nation focuses on Dalhousie's decisions

Jesse Ward
Editor-in-chief

Dalhousie president Richard Florizone first learned about his university's investigation into misogynistic and sexually violent Facebook posts at about the same time as everyone else in Canada.

Also like most Canadians, Florizone has only seen a handful of the screenshots in the possession of Dalhousie that show posts from the Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen Facebook group.

While it's possible Dalhousie administration made an effort to identify and consult with all women Dalhousie students who were sometimes targeted by the misogynistic and sexually violent posts in Dalhousie's possession, neither Florizone nor Brian Leadbetter, Dalhousie's Director of Communications, are immediately able to confirm this is the case.

There is no concrete plan yet for how the men in the fourth year of the dentistry program who weren't part of the Gentlemen group will be able to have the same opportunities for success as they would have had before this scandal became public.

Since mid-December, the *Dalhousie Gazette* has been closely following the narratives emerging out of Dalhousie University's response to screenshots of a misogynistic group consisting of students in Dal's school of dentistry becoming public.

We found that trying to write an accurate, straightforward story about what was happening was impossible due to vagueness and contradictions present in the publicly available information on the situation. Instead of relying on this information to write straightforward stories on new developments, we published lists of questions.

You can find these lists online at our website, dalgazette.com. The stories are titled "Questions remain unanswered in dentistry

scandal despite extensive media coverage" and "Dalhousie's contradictions prevent any accurate understanding of dentistry scandal".

In late December the *Gazette* was invited to speak with president Florizone for an interview to address some of the questions we had published. We spoke with Florizone in his office for 40 minutes on the morning of Jan. 6 to address some of the pressing questions still remaining about this situation that continues to gather national attention.

As of the time of publishing, 13 male fourth-year students in the faculty of dentistry have had their clinical privileges suspended, pending a review. By the time this issue is printed, it is impossible to tell what developments may have occurred.

Trying to understand the timeline

According to Florizone, Dalhousie was first made aware of the Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen group on Dec. 8 when a student came forward to the university with a complaint.

This is when the university gained possession of a series of screen captures of the offensive posts within the group, some of which have been leaked to the media and only broadcast to the public with names and faces censored.

On Dec. 15, one week later, Florizone became aware of the situation.

When asked if he was made aware of the situation on or before the CBC published their first report on Dal's investigation, Florizone said, "I'd have to go back and check the time when the CBC story came out. My recollection is it's before it became public, but we'd have to check."

It's typical that a week passed without Florizone being made privy of the university's investigation into the Gentlemen group



Dalhousie president Richard Florizone in his office. ••• Photo by Jennifer Gosnell

because of how harassment complaints are handled at Dalhousie.

"When they come forward they're usually directed with the professional help in our Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention Office," says Florizone.

"Occasionally there are cases where I get involved, sometimes students will come to me in parallel. But otherwise, no, the issue would be dealt with first there."

But while university administration had possession of screen captures of posts from the gentlemen group, which Florizone has called "offensive, degrading to women and completely unacceptable", for 29 days, Florizone still hadn't reviewed the material when he spoke with the *Gazette* on the morning of Jan. 6.

The *Gazette* asked Florizone when he was first able, personally, to review the material the university had.

"I've only seen excerpts of the material," said Florizone.

Brian Leadbetter, Dalhousie's Director of Communications, was present for the interview. After Florizone's response, Leadbetter said, "From the media reports, I believe."

"From media reports," Florizone continued. "[...] so I've only seen excerpts of it."

The *Gazette* asked, "How many of these screenshots, or pages of this group that are within the university's possession, that are uncensored – contrary to the censored media ones we've seen – how many of these screenshots have you personally had the chance to review?"

"Only a handful, personally," said Florizone.

When asked why he didn't review more, Florizone said, "My focus has really been on a just process. So, for me, the most important principle here is we know – I've seen enough to know this is offensive behaviour," said Florizone.

"We've seen that in the media. We all know there have to be significant consequences. So my focus is: how do we ensure, given all of the different voices out there, and a lot of the very strong reaction – which is warranted – how do we ensure a just process that, again, consistent with the law, consistent with the university policy and supports the rights of everyone involved, how do we put that together? And that's really been my primary focus."

The *Gazette* asked if it was possible that if he had the chance to review some of the screenshots that are in the university's possession that he hasn't yet reviewed, that he could find there was something more severe than had been reported through the media.

We asked if he could have found something that may have alerted him that he would want a different response to this situation than the university has pursued, since he has only reviewed some of the

screenshots.

Florizone said that university administration have reviewed all of the material.

"And so I've been really focused on ensuring we put a just process in place to oversee that, and to determine the consequences of it," he said.

The administrators who reviewed the contents of the screenshots are the same administrators involved in the ongoing restorative justice process.

It's still unclear when or whether women Dalhousie students were informed they appeared in the group's offensive postings.

It's possible that Dalhousie administration made an effort to identify all women in the fourth year of Dal's DDS program and let them know as soon as they could that they appeared in the group, along with what context of their appearance. But if this is the case, Florizone is either unaware or unable to say so.

Media reports have been published since mid-December featuring women from the fourth-year DDS class speaking under anonymity, saying they discovered they appeared in the group but were not told this by Dalhousie.

An anonymous letter sent to CBC on Jan. 6, allegedly written by four female fourth-year dentistry students, complains that women affected by the posts were not given copies of the posts that featured them.

In an effort to understand whether and when women Dalhousie students who appeared in offensive posts in the Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen group were alerted to this fact by Dalhousie, the *Gazette* asked Florizone questions on this topic. The following is an unedited interview transcript.

G: I understand there was a questionnaire sent to every woman in the fourth-year class, and that there's been a media report about every woman in the class being invited to a meeting. But has there been an effort to identify, from the screenshots, what women appear in these screenshots that are Dalhousie students?

Florizone: So that, I'd have to follow up on. What I do know is we have met with every fourth-

year student in dentistry. We're also committed to addressing the broader harm. But in terms of identification in the posts, maybe we could follow up and get back to you.

G: Ok. Because, for example, there was a questionnaire that was sent to the women in the fourth-year class on December 19th. And among other questions, it asked, "How have you been impacted or harmed by the group? And I'm going by the CBC's report when I say that. But if some women hadn't yet been made aware that something was said about them in the group, or that a picture of them appeared next to a derogatory comment, we've seen evidence that this is happening in some of these screenshots – how could they have known and accurately answered how they have been impacted or harmed by the group, if they hadn't yet been made aware of their appearance in it?"

Florizone: So, that questionnaire was part of the restorative justice process. So, I'm not sure how –

Leadbetter: My understanding is that all women identified in the posts, we have reached out.

Florizone: We have reached out.

Leadbetter: We have reached out to all of them, correct.

G: But have they been made aware of whether they appear in the group?

Leadbetter: I'm not aware of that, Jesse. That may be part of the restorative justice process as well.

Florizone: But everyone – yeah, so how do we say this.

Leadbetter: We can get back to you on that.

Florizone: Yeah, maybe we can get back to you on that. But we have reached out to every woman in the fourth-year dentistry class.

G: Ok. At your December 17 press conference, and the next day when you spoke with Steve Murphy on CTV, you made it very clear that there still could be women who would come forward with, possibly, the intent

of having a formal complaint under the sexual harassment policy. And you repeatedly stated that if anyone had knowledge of the group, or believed they may have been affected by it, that you would encourage them to come forward. Did any women contact you directly within the last weeks, asking if they had appeared in the group?

Florizone: Here's what I can tell you. Right now, we have under consideration, we have a number of women who have come forward under the sexual harassment policy, and elected for the restorative justice process under the informal option. We also have, now, the formal complaint under the Student Code of Conduct. So those are the two that are currently under consideration in addition to the professional standards issue that we are handling in the faculty of dentistry. But in terms of complaints, under our policies, those are the two that are under consideration today.

G: When you refer to the formal complaint, are you referring to the one filed by four Dalhousie faculty members?

Florizone: Yes.

G: Ok. If a woman in the fourth-year dentistry class had been made aware of this situation from watching your press conference, and she was curious to see if she was in the group, because she didn't know, and she had called or emailed you and was able to get in touch with you on December 18, and she asked you: "Dr. Florizone, I saw your conference, and I'm curious to know whether I was mentioned in that group." Would Dalhousie have been able to inform that woman whether she appeared in the group, and what context she may have appeared in?

Florizone: I think I'll have to get back to you on that.

Leadbetter: Yeah. My sense is, Richard, by the time the 48 hours had expired, we had spoken to all identified in the earlier posts. Or, we had spoken to all identified in most recent posts, and administrators continued to reach out over the holiday period as well for those identified in the earlier posts. But we'd have to get back

to you on the specifics, Jesse. My sense is, that those who were identified in the most recent posts, by the time the 48 hours had expired, we had been contacted with those individuals.

G: By the time what 48 hours had expired?

Leadbetter: So, the time that Dr. Florizone announced his initial statement on the 15th, and the second one on –

Florizone: So, we had contacted everyone in the most recent post at that point.

G: The most recent post from the Facebook group?

Leadbetter: Correct.

Florizone: Indeed. Then –

G: Wait. The most recent single post, or the most recent set of posts from a certain time period?

Leadbetter: I have to look at the timeline, I don't have that specific information.

Florizone: But what we then did was to reach out to, try to reach out in that period, we tried to reach out to all the other women. That process was ongoing. But what we can say is as of today, we have connected with every woman in the fourth-year dentistry class.

Change of heart in public safety risk explained

At his Dec. 17 press conference, a reporter asked Florizone if having the 13 men return to Dal's dental clinic was a "public safety issue". Florizone replied, "I don't believe so at this time, but I would rely on the professional association."

On Jan. 5, Dalhousie released a statement saying their decision to suspend the clinical privileges of 13 male fourth-year dentistry students was made on Dec. 22. It was announced this fact was only being made public now because dentistry students would now be able to access counseling services on campus.

Dalhousie said the suspension were "necessary to ensure a safe and supportive environment for patients and classmates who participate in the clinics."

Florizone says he didn't see an

immediate public safety concern.

"What we did see, and why we took action, is the men's behaviour had called in to question their professionalism. Now, the broader question of safety: how does a professional college, the faculty of dentistry, ensure public safety? It's through professional standards. So, by engaging in conduct that calls into question their professionalism, it does create a safety concern. And those concerns are real. So that is why we then took the step to suspend, pending further assessment of this and potential mitigation by the Academic Standards Class Committee."

Determining who is most directly affected

The following is an unedited interview transcript.

G: So the conference started with you defining "those most directly impacted" as the women in the fourth-year dentistry class who were the subject of the deeply offensive posts from that group. And later in the conference, you said that out of Dalhousie's available policy options, for your response, you wanted to pursue the option that best understood and addressed the needs of the women who were most affected by the situation. So, I took that to imply you meant you wanted to pursue the policy option that best understood and addressed the needs of the women in the fourth-year dentistry class who were the subject of the deeply offensive comments made in the Gentlemen group. The next thing you said, at your conference, was: "And so, the route that we've taken is the route the women had selected." But you hadn't yet spoken with all –

Florizone: That's correct.

G: – the women who had appeared in the posts that were offensive. So, how were you comfortable saying that restorative justice was what the women in the fourth-year dentistry class who appeared in the offensive posts in the group wanted, when at this point, you hadn't been able to consult with every woman in the class who appeared in the posts?

Florizone: Right. So let me try

to clarify. The women who came forward, so there were a number of women who came forward and elected the restorative justice option. What I'm saying is that that is their right under university policy, that is an option available to them. And I fully support the right those women chose. Now, that didn't, I wasn't trying to imply all the women in the class. Because we hadn't, at that point, connected with all of them.

G: Right. But when you're saying it's what the women who were most affected wanted, but you're also saying it's all women who were most affected, can it really stand up that all the women in the class wanted restorative justice?

Florizone: So let me go back to – it's, the women who came forward elected this. And that is their right and obligation. Or, that's their right, and it was my obligation to support their right. We also felt that it was an appropriate way to move forward. Now, others, and others as I've said publicly, others may come forward and elect another option. And we'll support that right as well. But we have to support the rights of the women who did choose to come forward, and choose to elect this option under policy. They have that right, we have the obligation to support it.

No plan to save reputations of fourth-year dentistry men who weren't in the Gentlemen group

The *Gazette* asked Florizone, "Have you had the chance to speak with any of the men from the fourth-year dentistry class who weren't members of the group? How are they feeling right now?"

"I would simply say that I think all of our students have found this, in that class, have found it a very stressful time," replied Florizone. "And it gets at, again, why we have to take a very careful, deliberate and just process through this and why we have to address the broader harm. Because a lot had been affected, right?"

"So we have to deal, again, I come back to it – we have this unacceptable behaviour. We know there has to be significant consequences. And we have to go back to that just process to determine now what happens with these specific men. But we also have to have this broader conversation, and address the broader harm. Talk about the culture at Dal, in dentistry, and

more broadly."

Hundreds of people have made comments saying they will either never see a male Dalhousie dentist or a male Dalhousie dentist who graduated in 2015 as long as the names of the 13 Gentlemen aren't released. These comments may be found in social media and within the comments of the change.org petition to have the men from the DDS Gentlemen group expelled.

Florizone says releasing the names of the 13 men would violate a just process. In a Dec. 18, 2014 CTV interview he said he would be breaking the law to publish the men's names.

And while Ontario's licensing body for dentists has said every male Dalhousie dentistry graduate intending on practicing in Ontario will be asked whether they were the subject of any complaints or inquiries unless Dalhousie gives them the names of the 13 Gentlemen, Dalhousie has denied this request.

The *Gazette* asked Florizone what Dalhousie could do at this point to make sure the men who weren't part of the group will have the same chance at success in their careers as dentists when they graduate as if the investigation had never been launched or made public.

"Right now, they're the ones on track to graduate. So that would be my principal answer," said Florizone. "Because the men who were directly involved are not on track to graduate unless there's some mitigation."

The length of the suspension of clinical privileges of the 13 men in the faculty of dentistry is to be decided by the faculty of dentistry's Academic Standards Class Committee.

If the committee decides after a review that the men show the required level of professionalism, the suspension from clinical practices may be lifted.

Florizone says he commits to letting the public know if and when the men who currently have their clinical privileges suspended return to practicing in the clinic.

Still, this presents a dilemma.

If the 13 men have their suspensions lifted this year and manage to graduate on time, the public would still have no way to separate the men who participated from restorative justice that graduated in 2015 from the men who didn't.

And if the suspensions continue into next year or any other year, Florizone has said the public will be made aware when the suspen-

sions end – so to some members of the public, that would then be the graduating class of male Dalhousie dentistry graduates that must be avoided.

Privacy confusion

According to the Canadian Press, Dalhousie Director of Communications Brian Leadbetter said the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario would not receive the names of the 13 men participating in restorative justice because Dalhousie has an obligation to protect the privacy of its students.

When a reporter asked at the Dec. 17 press conference how many women had come forward with complaints, Florizone deferred the question to a legal counsel present.

She said the number of women who had come forward could not be given, "because given the amount of information that's been publicly available through the media, if you were to identify the numbers, it would be very easy to identify the individuals." She said it would violate Dalhousie's obligation "to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of the individuals."

But when Florizone asked if he could say how many men were taking part in the restorative justice process, the same legal counsel did not hesitate to say yes.

Florizone proceeded to say with confidence that all men in the Facebook group, 13, were taking part in the restorative justice process.

But up until this point, the public had no validation from Dalhousie as to how many men were in the group, or how many were participating in the restorative justice process.

Florizone could have denied answering how many men were in the group and simply said it was "all men" in the group, but instead gave the public a concrete figure.

The *Gazette* asked Florizone how the 13 men were not having their privacy risked by their number being made public, but it would be considered a violation of privacy to name the number of women who came forward for restorative justice before Dec. 17.

"So, the reason I stated the number of men was because at that point, the reason I was paying attention to it was to have assurance that all men who were part of the group had agreed to join the restorative justice process," said Florizone.

He says he had received advice that communicating the number

of women was confidential, so he didn't do it.

It is still unclear why there was confidentiality placed on the number of women who had come forward to Dalhousie, who all wanted restorative justice, while the number of men was made a public fact.

Students get involved

Florizone first announced his intention on Dec. 17 to create a Presidential Task Force with the intent of understanding and influencing a necessary cultural change at Dalhousie.

More details on the Task Force have been scheduled to be released by the end of January. The *Gazette* asked Florizone whether this Task Force will include Dalhousie students or student societies.

Florizone says that before Christmas he asked Dalhousie Student Union president Ramz Aziz to assist with the Task Force, because he wants the DSU to be an active participant. He says Aziz has been encouraging on this.

"[Aziz] said he'd of course like a further definition of what the task force is, so we need to do some work on that," said Florizone. "In fact, my hope out of this is building that better culture. My hope is we actually get young people talking on campus on this."

The *Gazette* did not hear from Aziz on Jan. 4 after sending an emailed request for an interview on the DSU's statement on incidents of misogyny and sexism in the faculty of dentistry.

Jennifer Nowoselski, Vice President (Internal) of the DSU, told the *Gazette* on Jan. 6 she has recently been unable to get in touch with Aziz. She says the last she heard from him was in December, when he said he was in Pakistan.

Contrary to how Florizone said Aziz responded, Nowoselski has shown she is completely discouraged by the idea of a presidential taskforce. She spoke boldly on Monday at a rally outside of the Henry Hicks Building that hosts Florizone's office.

Nowoselski criticized Dalhousie administration's handling of the complaints lodged against the members Gentlemen group, calling it a "complete lack of action." She specifically targeted Florizone's taskforce plan.

"Through a media storm, voiced concerns through students and community members, a community-organized rally, petitions, a formal complaint from faculty,

threats of losing funding, concern from the government, and with the entire country watching, you created a Task Force?" Nowoselski said through a megaphone.

South House, a student-funded gender justice and sexual resource centre on Dalhousie campus, organized the "Rally to Expel Misogyny".

Members of South House's board criticized Florizone at the rally for not reaching out to them while he speaks of Dalhousie's need for a broader discussion on misogyny in our culture. Four days after the CBC made public the existence of the Class of DDS Gentlemen 2015's misogynistic posts, South House announced their desire to work alongside Dalhousie in instituting cultural change.

"We want to work with Dalhousie to implement mandatory survivor-centred workshops and education on gender-based violence at all levels of the university because we believe that this learning is just as crucial as academic study and that it is critical that Dalhousie demonstrate that we are committing to making an immediate shift in our actions and accountability measures," wrote members of the volunteer-driven organization in a Dec. 19 statement.

The *Gazette* asked Florizone how he felt on Monday as the rally was active outside his office.

"I understand that frustration, but I hope people also understand the importance of a just process. We have to do the right thing," said Florizone.

"So following a just process is the right thing, following law, following policy. Following the rights of everyone involved.

"Not only is it the right thing, but if we don't follow a just process, whatever we do could be overturned by the courts. So, you know, the answer for Dal here is not to rush to judgment. Or to sweep it under the rug.

"If we actually want real consequences, and real change, we need to go through this just process and we need to have this broader conversation. If we're actually committed to change, and I am."

Unclear why there wasn't an investigation earlier

At his Dec. 17 press conference, Frances Willick of the Chronicle Herald asked Florizone why the university wasn't running an investigation into the situation in tandem with the restorative justice



Jennifer Nowoselski spoke at the rally. ••• Photo by Jennifer Gosnell

process.

"Well, the students, again, I come back to the process here that the students have elected. I articulated that principle of victim-centred justice," Florizone answered her. "The students have elected to go this route, and so we need to respect and to support that. There will be resources, there will be university personnel engaged in the process, that may involve gathering information. I think the issue becomes, do you launch a parallel process over top of it against the wishes of the women students who were harmed by this? And that's what we've chosen not to do at this time."

The *Gazette* asked Florizone whether any of the women who had come forward to him by Dec. 17 had explicitly stated their wishes that there wouldn't be an investigation or any other parallel processes alongside the restorative justice process.

"So unfortunately those conversations are confidential with each of the women," said Florizone.

It is unclear why he would be able to say that a parallel process would be against the wishes of women students harmed by the group while he would not be able to say

whether any women who had come forward had said they wish there would be no parallel processes running in tandem with restorative justice.

Why the president only met two affected women in person before restorative justice was chosen

When Florizone held a press conference on Dec. 17 to discuss Dalhousie's next steps on responding to the misogynistic and sexually violent posts of the Gentlemen group, there was a strong media presence.

A clip of Florizone lightly crying while he spoke of meeting with women who had come forward to him with complaints about the posts was shared and broadcast more than any other part of the conference.

In a *Gazette* editorial published on Dec. 28, the context of this clip was analyzed.

When Florizone spoke of meeting with women who had come forward with complaints about the group, he said he had to meet with them in person to be sure they wanted a restorative justice approach:

"I think we've tried to be guided by these principles that we laid out 48 hours ago. In particu-

lar, I have found that choosing these options, amidst the many voices, listening to the voices of the students most directly harmed by this, those women [...] and meeting with them personally today, because of course, this route, when I say I'm taking a victim-centred approach, that implies that I'm providing assurance to this community that we are following the wishes of these women. And so I wanted to meet with them personally. To understand, because I felt that only I could judge by seeing them close-up for myself, that this is the route they wanted to take. And that's the decision I stand by."

At another point in the conference, Florizone acknowledged he only met two of the women who had come forward with complaints in person.

This is while media reports including interviews with women from the fourth year of the DDS program and censored, leaked screenshots from the group have made it clear that more than two women appear in the misogynistic posts.

The *Gazette* asked Florizone why he only met with two women in person, as opposed

to all women who appeared in the offensive screenshots possessed by Dalhousie, before he decided to start inviting all women in the fourth year of the DDS program into a restorative justice process.

"Well, I knew that the women who had elected to follow the restorative justice process, if they wanted to proceed with that they had a right to do so. Right? Even if others on campus might disagree," answered Florizone.

"Under policy, that's their option. So, the final step I wanted to take for my own assurance was, I asked. I was, of course, confident, that the women had chosen this route. And as a final step I asked if any of them would be willing to meet with me, just so I could hear from themselves that they were comfortable, so I could have a sense of why they chose this route."

"That conversation with them is confidential. But when I requested the conversation through my staff, through university administrators, two women agreed to meet with me in that first 48-hour period. And those were the two that I met with, and that's why I went with two."

Lack of options for anonymously reporting sexual harassment

Florizone has acknowledged since mid-December that executives of the Dalhousie Student Union approached him this summer after two female dentistry students came forward to the DSU with complaints of sexism in their faculty.

Florizone directed the complaints to Dalhousie's Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention office. There, the dentistry students turned away from filing a formal sexual harassment complaint because they were told they could not do so anonymously, according to the DSU.

On Dec. 18, The Coast published comments they received from a female fourth-year dentistry student who may have wished to file a formal sexual harassment complaint after finding she appeared in the Gentlemen group, but opted not to:

"Another woman contacted The Coast before this article was published. She is one of the women featured in derogatory posts on the group Facebook page. She wanted to emphasize that Dalhousie did not seek or receive her consent before electing to an informal restorative justice process, and she's not comfortable proceeding with that process as it has been explained. As of right now, she's not coming forward publicly or with a formal complaint because she's concerned it will affect her academic standing and career."

The *Gazette* mentioned these two incidents to Florizone and asked: "If this is a recurring situation at Dalhousie, where women may want to file these complaints but they don't because they can't be guaranteed anonymity, what do you think should be done about this problem?"

"Well, it is a tough problem. Because we need to pay attention to obviously address, in this case, the unacceptable behaviour and victims' concerns," answered Florizone.

"We also need a just process to deal with them. So at Dal, we do have processes to deal with anonymous concerns, and we actually will clarify that on the Q&A website – if that hasn't gone out, it will. So we do have some way to deal with it. The challenge is, when you have a formal complaint, how do you have a just process? And that is really the issue, the issue at hand here that has to be resolved."

All-consuming

When asked if he got to relax at all during his winter vacation, Florizone said his primary concern has been about doing what's right for Dal.

"It's been about our students, and about doing what's right for Dal. That has been all-consuming." ☹

Community rallies against Dalhousie's response to dentistry scandal

Protestors speak out against misogyny on campus

Jennifer Gosnell
Photo Manager

“Hey hey, ho ho, misogyny has go to go,” roared a crowd of about 200 people gathered at a rally outside Dalhousie's Henry Hicks Building on the afternoon of Jan 6., 2015.

The rally, held the first day students returned to campus for classes, targeted Dalhousie administration's reaction to a misogynistic Facebook group made up of male fourth-year dentistry students.

The rally came right after the announcement that Dalhousie University has suspended the clinical privileges of 13 men in their fourth year of Dal's Doctor of Dental Surgery program.

Jennifer Nowoselski, Dalhou-

sie Student Union Vice President (Internal), spoke of her experiences witnessing harassment on campus.

“I cannot tell you how many students across various faculties come to the Union with complaints of discrimination on a regular basis,” said Nowoselski. “I am enraged.”

“No options to address sexist comments? No options to address sexual harassment? No options to address sexist treatment of women students? Out of justified fear, individuals cannot demand action to make them feel safe on this campus. There is no safe internal process available to our members,” Nowoselski said.

She turned her questions to the Henry Hicks building itself,

which hosts university president Richard Florizone's office. “Through a media storm, voiced concerns through students and community members, a community-organized rally, petitions, a formal complaint from faculty, threats of losing funding, concern from the government, and with the entire country watching, you created a task force?” Nowoselski

asked.

Board members of South House, a student-funded sexual and gender resource centre in Halifax, spoke at the rally. They voiced issues of concern about underfunding for their volunteer-driven services that are often turned to for support by people who have experienced sexual violence.

Various survivors of sexual violence took to the megaphone to discuss the impact of their experiences.

One survivor said she was sexually assaulted by her dentist.

Others shared stories of going to Dalhousie's offices to report their abuse and being met with blame or disbelief. ☹



... Photo by Jennifer Gosnell



Semester of surprises scheduled for student union

DSU council resumes without executive plan for the term

Jesse Ward
Editor-in-chief

The executive members of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) have a lack of trust between each other, negative behaviour, they keep secrets, they are intensely siloed and they have a lack of leadership, said a report shown at the Dec. 5, 2014 meeting of DSU council.

The creation of the fall 2014 Executive Review Committee report was led by DSU councillor Kaitlynn Loewe. The report, created out of the feedback of about half of DSU council, recommended the executives make a series of plans and goals for the winter term and present them to council in January.

Over the winter break, the DSU executives didn't make a series of plans or goals.

Jennifer Nowoselski, DSU Vice President (Internal), says she hasn't heard from DSU president Ramz Aziz since December, when he said he was in Pakistan.

"I don't know what Ramz has planned for when he gets back, and if he'll call a meeting with all

the executives and create a vision," says Nowoselski.

Union aims to improve communications

Nowoselski believes the DSU's greatest accomplishment of last semester was changing their internal structure.

The DSU aimed to create a stronger base for the union by hiring new staff and changing the responsibilities of certain staff positions.

"I feel like that typically isn't the most attractive work," says Nowoselski. "People don't notice it, but it is really important for the structure of the union."

Nowoselski acknowledges that communication has been a problem for the union this year. She says students can expect to see more advertising for opportunities to get involved with the union in an official capacity this semester.

However, a look at Dalstudentjobs.ca shows the DSU is currently hiring for three different positions that have not been advertised through their social

media feeds or any on-campus advertisement: Academic Commissioner, Campaigns Team and External Commissioner.

The applications period for these paying jobs ends on Jan 12.

The DSU Street Team was assembled this week, says Nowoselski, and this team of promoters will communicate the union's activities to the DSU student body.

DSU demands action from Dal amid misogyny scandal

On Dec. 17, 2014, two days after media reports made public misogynistic and sexually violent posts made in a secret Facebook group by male fourth-year dentistry students who sometimes directly targeted their classmates, the DSU released a Statement on Incidents of Sexism and Misogyny in the Faculty of Dentistry.

The statement says women students from the faculty of dentistry spoke with the DSU this summer about how they wanted to file complaints about sexism they had faced, but ultimately backed out when they found they could not

complain anonymously through the university's official channels.

Along with the institution of a process for filing anonymous sexual harassment complaints, the DSU makes other calls for action.

They're calling out university administration to create a "mandatory equity course requirement for all students at Dalhousie that discusses the root causes of gender-based violence and oppression."

They also want the university to create a Student Advocate position that could direct students through proper channels when they want to make complaints.

As Dalhousie remains under national scrutiny for its misogyny scandal, Nowoselski has reiterated the union's desire for these changes several times on national media over the last few weeks.

Dalhousie University had an ombudsperson's office as recently as 2013 before it was dissolved.

This office existed to receive complaints and address grievances from members of the university community.

After the office was dissolved, says Nowoselski, the DSU restruc-

tured its Equity and Accessibility Office so they would have a grievance coordinator.

"And so students could go to them and we could collect data, so that [they] could remain anonymous," says Nowoselski. "So if students didn't feel comfortable going through formal processes through the university, at least the data would be there – so then we could go to the university and say, 'Look. We're actually receiving hundreds of complaints monthly, this is why we need this.'"

The DSU's Student Experience Committee was scheduled to meet in December to discuss advocating for Dal to reinstate its ombudsperson office, but this meeting was delayed until January because DSU president Ramz Aziz was out of the country for family reasons.

The Gazette was unsuccessful in contacting Aziz for this story. ☹

The DSU Statement on Incidents of Sexism and Misogyny in the Faculty of Dentistry may be viewed in its entirety at DSU.ca/statement.

Dal keeps its millions in fossil fuels

Board of Governors votes against divestment despite prominent student campaign

Eleanor Davidson
News Editor

As the fall semester came to end, so did the hope that Dalhousie would vote to divest from the fossil fuel industry.

On November 25, Dalhousie's Board of Governors voted with a large majority to continue their fossil fuel investments. The final tally was 15 votes in favor of rejecting divestment, five votes for divestment and two abstentions.

After the results of the vote were announced, Divest Dal members and supporters stormed out of the meeting.

Since November 2013, the Divest Dalhousie group has been vocal in their demands that Dal-

housie freeze their investments in fossil fuel companies. These investments now value \$20.3 million, or 4.3% of the university's total investment portfolio.

Dalhousie president Richard Florizone said that divestment would do "more harm than good."

At the November 25 meeting, the BOG's Investment Committee presented a report of their findings on how divestment would affect Dalhousie.

The argument was made that divestment would not only have negative ramifications for research grants, but also for students themselves and the ultimate student concern: finding work.

A report presented at the meeting read: "The message that will be sent to energy companies if we renounce investment in their

firms will be that Dalhousie University does not have confidence in them."

"This will inevitably lead to a steady decline in funding for university research and programs in many faculties and commensurate decline in career opportunities for students."

Divest Dal's campaign received widespread support both locally and nationally. A petition promoting divestment received over 2,000 signatures in Halifax alone.

Climate justice groups such as Divest Saint Mary's, Divest McGill, Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change and U of Toronto 350 have all been vocal in their support of Divest Dal.

While the BOG chose not to divest, the Dalhousie Student Union voted in December to



divest their portfolio of fossil fuels, which have a market value of \$99,317.

At the time of publishing, the Gazette has not received a response from Divest Dal to

• • • Photo by Alexander Maxwell
inquiries about how they will continue to pursue divestment in the new semester. ☹

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The Evil That (Wannabe Alpha) Men Do

The damage of the dentistry scandal extends further than the individuals directly affected.

Shannon Slade
Staff Contributor

We all get a little stressed out at this time of year. It's natural.

The Dalhousie Dentistry scandal has opened up some deep and painful wounds that cut deep to the heart of our society. You need only browse the comments sections of articles about the scandal, or take a look at the diverse selection of people who showed up to the protest rally to realize that this isn't just a 'dentistry thing', or even a 'Dalhousie thing'.

This is a 'human thing'.

I can't speak for the women mentioned in those awful posts. I can't speak for the other women in the class who now face the prospect of heading back to school knowing the terrible things posted in a group that included a majority of their male classmates. I can't speak for the innocent men in the class who now face a potentially career-threatening stigmatization due to

the university's refusal to release the names of the individuals who took part in the posts.

What I can speak as is a member of the community—a participant in campus life, a former patient of the Dalhousie Dental Clinic, and a woman in the wider society in which these 'Gentlemen' will soon be working.

The scandal has left me feeling a multitude of emotions, but mainly I just feel tired. I'm in my early 30s and it feels like this dominant alpha-male bullshit has been following me my entire life. I understand that this has been around for a very long time, and the women who came before me had to deal with it as a regular part of their lives and they didn't have the luxury of loudly speaking about it the way I do, but I still feel worn out by it.

When I was a child I witnessed that type of behavior in the actions and words of many men in my life. They wanted to dominate, to be able to do whatever they wanted with little resistance from women. Women were supposed to laugh off their demeaning

jokes and disrespectful behavior, and unfortunately they did.

When I was a teenager, some of the young men I knew began to stew in their own testosterone and feel as though they had to be 'the man', making jokes and treating women with the same ill care as their predecessors. As a young lady, I laughed off their sexist jokes because I thought standing up for myself or other girls wasn't worth the stigma of being labeled as lacking in a sense of humor. There was a time when I bought into the idea that you were a 'cool chick' if you allowed one of these wannabe bulls to do whatever they wanted with you, whether sexually or if they decided to be disrespectful in various ways. What can I say—I was a 15 year old who didn't know any better.

By the time I was 20 I did know better, it became a badge of honor that these boys said I 'acted like a stupid virgin' because I didn't laugh at the jokes they made about girls who did or didn't fuck them, or I ignored their clumsy attempts at a come on. I fought


back verbally and physically when they thought they could get away with their bullshit.

I continued with this empowered attitude throughout my twenties. A few years ago I noticed that I was seeing less of this alpha male behavior in real life and in the media; I thought that maybe society was evolving, that things were getting better. Of course, there have been examples that indicated such behaviour still existed, but I still felt that changes had taken place.

Then, in the middle of this past holiday season, the 'Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen' gifted the world the bitter reminder that sexist, dehumanizing behaviour is still alive and well. I read everything that these punk dentistry students wrote, and I felt overwhelmingly tired. What these sad examples of human beings wrote was nothing I hadn't seen before—I wasn't really shocked, I just felt worn out and sad.

The ray of hope that I have found in this mess comes from the passionate, broad-based community efforts to see these

students appropriately punished. I dearly hope that they are — and I define appropriate punishment as expulsion. I personally don't see restorative justice as an answer in this situation. These men are training for public roles involving great responsibility. Beyond the specific harm to the victims of their posts, their actions have caused a more general harm to the public's faith in the dental-care system. Is a closed-door restorative justice process going to restore our faith in the system? Can it address the wounds that their behaviour has opened throughout our community?

The more we call out this behavior and the more we punish, the more examples we set about what we won't accept anymore. We have the opportunity here to send a powerful message that even people set to take positions of privilege and power are not above the responsibility to respect the basic human dignity of others — and that such individuals should actually be held to the highest standard of all. 

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Bill Spurr, Chronicle Herald

Tech Talk

Self-driving cars will soon be rolling to a road near you.

John Hillman
Opinions Editor

Things have been a little grim around campus lately, so here's a fun thought to kick off 2015: by the time Lorde turns 30, not only will you be able to use your phone to summon a self-driving pod to take you wherever your heart desires, but you will be so accustomed to it by that point that you will likely be more weirded out by the fact that Lorde is 30.

A few weeks ago, Google rolled out its first in-house line of self-driving vehicles. While the odd looking little cars may not invoke awe at first glance—they toddle along at a top speed of 40 km/hour and bear a striking resemblance to the sort of wide-eyed Pokémon you might see hanging from a 7-year-old girl's backpack—they may very well take over the world within the next decade.

These adorable little Herbie wannabes benefit from years of Google's prototype testing on real-world roads—each new unit hits the pavement with 700,000 miles worth of driving experience programmed into it. They can navigate traffic stops, avoid debris in the middle of the road, and even use their advanced navigation systems to detect people and animals concealed behind roadside foliage.

Google and its resourceful little pod aren't the only players in the self-driving market either. For those with higher-end tastes, the big names in the auto industry are hard at work on their own autonomous luxury vehicles. This week, Audi's self-driving A-7 prototype will make the 550-mile trip from San Francisco to the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mercedes Benz has already unveiled their own autonomous prototype at this event—it is a sleek, LED illuminated beast that looks like it rolled out of a cyberpunk fantasy, and has a roomy interior filled with touch

screens and swivel seats, so that passengers can turn around and face each other if they want a more social experience.

Whatever the timeframe—optimists claim that we are three years away from an initial commercial release and ten years away from mainstream acceptance—these vehicles and their successors are going to spark an absolute revolution in transportation.

Self-driving cars promise huge advantages in terms of public health and safety—they are unaffected by fatigue, alcohol, or drugs, unable to experience road rage, and unwilling to ignore the rules of the road as many human drivers do when they think they won't be caught. There are over 33,000 deaths per year in the US alone caused by negligent drivers, the largest single cause of death for those under age 35. Insurance experts have predicted that self-driving cars could reduce this number by a factor of 10.

Autonomous vehicles will also act as major sources of independence for people living with medical conditions that prevent them from driving. The ability to travel where and when one wants, independent of outside assistance, has the potential to improve the lives of millions of people who currently lack control over their own transportation options.

Many have speculated that businesses fielding large fleets of self-driving vehicles could find great success if they were to provide customers with membership based access as an alternative to car ownership. Such a system would allow the average customer full access to all the benefits of having both a car and a personal driver—door to door travel in bad weather, never needing to worry about finding a parking spot, and 24 hour access to transportation, regardless of drunkenness/fatigue/car troubles—without the huge initial investment required



to purchase a vehicle, the physical space needed to store a vehicle, or the day-to-day stresses of vehicle maintenance.

We can obviously already enjoy most of these benefits by calling taxis, but the cost to do so on a regular basis is prohibitive.

By signing customers up to long term guaranteed contracts and by eliminating the costs of employing human drivers, taxi companies could drastically lower the price of the average ride. (The CEO of Uber has already openly declared that his company will have no choice but to convert to this model when the technology reaches maturity, drawing the ire of more than a few of his flesh-and-blood contractors.)

At a low enough price point, such a service could become an invaluable resource for future generations of university students. Aside from the obvious

convenience benefits, our demographic faces disproportionately high risks from fatal car collisions and dangerous, late night walks home. Cheap, convenient transportation options could go a long to improving this unfortunate current reality.

Widespread adoption could be environmentally friendly as well. A fleet of electric cars would offer massive efficiency improvements over the current system, which requires the factory production of millions of cars that end up spending the vast majority of their time parked in driveways unused. It would also help phase out also the use of older, less efficient vehicles, which are continually purchased and repaired by those who cannot afford the initial investment required for newer vehicles.

As with most new technological advances that promise such a disruptive shift, a sizable portion

of the population may be reluctant to embrace autonomous vehicles. (And some public opinion polls have suggested this.)

We humans are creatures of convenience though. As self-driving vehicles become more ubiquitous and sophisticated, they will add more free hours to our days, eliminate the frustrations of parking spot hunting and trudging through bad weather, and perhaps even relieve us of the burden of maintaining expensive vehicles. Like cell phones, online shopping, and the internet itself, even those who are initially skeptical will likely be seduced as autonomous vehicles become the new norm. ☹

Google-chu, I choose you! ••• Photo from Flickr

From the Archives

Students struggling
with misogyny

John Hillman
Opinions Editor

While the publication of the degrading posts on the 'Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen' Facebook page has led to the biggest campus scandal in recent memory, this is far from the first time that Dalhousie students have been forced to face the ugly reality of misogynistic humour on campus. This is thus a good time to reflect on the fact that this issue is bigger than a handful of students in a single program, but is rather a manifestation of a larger culture that students at Dalhousie and other Canadian campuses have been struggling to address for decades.

"It's not a surprise in a society like this"

Rachel Gray
Volume 122, Issue 14
January 11, 1990
(Reprinted in December 7, 1995)

(CUP) – We should not be having this discussion at all. There can be no doubt. It is time to make the connections about all of these things.

A man carrying a new semiautomatic rifle walks into a traditionally male-dominated institution, and kills 14 women. In the hallways, he mainly ignores men and hunts women. In the classroom, he separates the women from the men before killing them. At some point during the carnage he rails against feminists. He turns the gun on himself and dies with a suicide note in his pocket which identifies women and feminists as the source of his unhappiness.

This all seems very clear. Is it not obvious

who he intended to kill? Who is dead? What is up for debate?

Now, there are those who would have us believe that this is the work of a sick and demented mind, and that it is an isolated incident. There are those who would have us believe that this is a human tragedy with no more bearing on women's lives than on men's. There are those who agree we live in a sexist society, but who say that "this thing in Montreal" has no place in a discussion about violence against women because violence can't be qualified according to sex.

On the campus at Queen's University a bunch of self-proclaimed "friendly guys" feel misunderstood. They say, "No means kick her in the teeth." They say, "OK, so it may have been in bad taste but it was just a joke. My dad says that worse things happened in his days there. It was a prank. Queen's is a great university. What are they complaining about?"

"Misogyny Misogyny Misogyny"

Samantha Brennan
Volume 117, Issue 3
September 13, 1984

MISOGYNY - (mis oje ne) n. hatred of women (from Greek misogynia from misein to hate gyne women) Misogynist n., Misogynous adj.

It seems odd to have to define this word to a university audience, but it seems like some people in the student union have yet to learn what it means.

Witness the Unicorn Cafe last Sunday evening.

An otherwise enjoyable evening was ruined on Sunday by a few performers who thought the best way to get laughs was to make jokes about women.

You know the kind, "I knew a girl who was so ugly that" One male singer in particular began his routine with a joke

about the Incredible Hulk making an attempt to fuck Wonder Woman only to find the Invisible Man already there. You probably know this joke as well. Today we have a more accurate word for trying to fuck a woman without her consent. It's called rape and it's not funny.

This same person continued to sing songs like, "My Dingaling," suggesting "Why don't the girls sing my and the boys sing ding a ling?"

The worst point in the show came when he sang something called "I'd like to see old Dolly Parton's tits", with great lines like "I put my hands in pockets when I see old Dolly's rockets."

During this act, myself and another woman got up to ask Rusty James (he's the Vice President of our student union) to do something. We interrupted his clapping and singing along to Dolly Parton's Tits verse two. He said there was nothing he could do despite the fact he was MCing the show.

Are the sizes of women's breasts that funny? Women are human beings (sounds pretty

basic doesn't it?) and not objects of ridicule.

I was somewhat cheered to know that I wasn't alone in my disgust. I saw other women looking nervously at their companions unsure whether to laugh. Still other women spoke up and heckled the performers.

Later in the evening a regular performer of the coffeehouse circuit complained about the heckling and the article in the Gazette that was sure to follow. Here it is.

It's time we make it clear that these sorts of attitudes are not welcome on our campus. Perhaps representatives from the arts society should speak to performers before the coffeehouse and explain that sexism isn't welcome. We talk a lot at university. In our political science and philosophy classes we talk a lot about equality, justice and liberty. Talk is cheap.

These friendly guys have a need to make jokes about women being raped. The language they use for joking about rape involves gang bangs, kicking her teeth in and tying her down. How much time would you want to spend with these friendly guys? Have they ever considered the woman who is raped – a real person – being gang banged, tied down and given a mouth full of broken teeth? If rape jokes are acceptable material now, is it because women are safe; safe from rape, sexual harassment and assault, exploitative images that use our bodies to sell cars and beer, safe from violence at home and on the street...safe from murder? These boys don't have to

think about rape and therefore it's fine to joke about it. What is not their consciousness, their experience, is not their concern. And if I don't take a joke about suffering and pain and violence and hatred then I'm the one with the problem - not them.

When I walk home at night I am cautious and quite often afraid. When statistics tell me that one out of ten women will be violently attacked by the men who share their beds and their lives this affects me differently than it does my brothers. When my friends talk about being raped I know those boys at Queen's have never thought about what it is like to be a woman in a womanhating society. They haven't had to. Don't you think it's time they did?

As long as it's okay to make jokes about rape, the "thing in Montreal" should not shock us. It illustrates the hatred and violence that is accepted and justified and joked about. For women who have been raped, who are beaten in their kitchens, who walk home at night knowing the keys gripped tightly in hand are a poor defense, who feel hostility because of the way they dress, or the work they do, or the independence they seek or the conventions they reject ... for all of us women this is not a shock. It may be our worst nightmare come true, but it should not be a shock. Sexism isn't welcome.



Look into the future

The *Gazette* dusts off its crystal ball to scry some 2015 trends

Paola Tolentino
Staff Contributor

This 2014 is over, and we are now closer to 2030 than we are to 1999. With a New Year comes the time to make resolutions and try new things, so if you haven't already planned out all of 2015 for yourself (or even if you have, but happen to be flexible with plans), here are some of the most valid, totally accurate suggestions for what 2015 will look like. Plan accordingly:

- Tons of terrible, low budget films about sharks.
- Neon. Lots and lots of Neon.
- All winning lottery tickets will be at least half even numbers.
- Hoverboards will be on sale before November.

- In a surprising turn of events, Samsung phones will become smaller.

- Even more surprising, pockets on girl's jeans will finally be large enough to hold phones.

- The trend of shorts and Nike sandals will be replaced by full length pants in various shades of plaid.

- "Throwback to 2005" will be in. MP3 players will finally make a comeback.

- As will My Chemical Romance.

- Orange will actually become the new Black.

- More Broadway musicals will get feature-length

films.

- Book-to-movie adaptations will cease as producers realise they can get more money by making book-to-tv-series adaptations.

- Sea Monsters will replace Vampires and Werewolves in popular fiction.

- Wearing strange colored contacts, such as red or white, will come into fashion.

- Hipster glasses will go out of fashion. Even more so than before.

- The Vancouver Canucks will have a shot at winning an NHL title, but will fail to win the last game. Again.

- Still no Black emojis.

- Skype software updates will allow it to actually work when you're calling your parents.

- Marvel will reveal that their plans for an Ant Man movie was just a cover for a Black Widow movie all along.

- Google will crash and disappear without explanation for at least 48 hours and everyone will be forced to use Bing.

- Exams will be canceled because some students broke like half of the school rules but managed to defeat Voldemort and save the school from a Basilisk.

- The new Star Wars movie will be surprisingly good.

- Everyone will write their term papers in glittery gel pens.
- Thanks to marvelous technological breakthroughs, wifi on campus will actually work.

- The most-watched video of the year will be a German rap song.

And, finally, the most important prediction of 2015:

- Despite telling yourself that you're going to do things over reading week, nothing will actually get done and you'll waste it all on whatever replaces Netflix. ☹

One-day resolutions

After all, change comes slowly and deliberately

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

If you're like me, you've never understood the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. It's always the same thing: eat healthier, start going to the gym, etcetera. Nothing ever comes of it, of course. A lasting change needs more than an obligation to fulfil some New Year's ritual. So, I present an alternative. One Day Resolutions. A few simple suggestions that only take a day or less and

which could blossom into a more lasting habit.

1) Recreate your favorite restaurant dish: Without looking up any recipes or how-to's, try and recreate your favorite plate. Experimentation in the kitchen can be fun and rewarding.

2) Take a martial arts class: Why get hung up over the gym? There are heaps of places throughout the city where you can practice martial arts or stop by for a drop-in lesson. It's a great alternative way to get fit

and hone your reflexes.

3) Build something for your home: A spice rack or a shelving unit, try picking up a couple supplies and getting to work. With Halifax's Tool Library now up and running, it's never been easier to get into the DIY spirit. You should probably check with your landlord before knocking down any walls.

4) Get on a bus to anywhere: Don't pull out Google Maps (right away). Just sit back

and take a short ride to a spot of the city you've never seen before.

5) Forget your phone at home: Just leave it behind. It can look after itself, don't worry.

6) Catch up with a family member: Choose somebody from your extended family at random and send them an email.

7) Meditate: Try 20 minutes of mindfulness. It's healthy and a great stress reliever.

There are plenty of "walk-through" meditation guides available online.

8) Try being the sober one: Don't drink during a night out. Remind yourself why it is that you're out (it's probably for your friends, not the booze).

9) Get coffee somewhere new: I seriously doubt that you've been to every coffee shop in Halifax.

10) Write something down: Try journaling for a day –

even a page will do. Putting pen to pad will help you make sense of any mess. ☹

A Love Letter to Halifax (or, Coming Home)
by Melanie Gillis

I return to your worked-in, humble streets
To a groundswell of warmth that hugs my heart
Deep beneath the cold that bites my cheeks.

I have returned from lush green mountains
From candy-blue oceans
From heat-soaked jungle
But these have only made me love you more.

I have browned my skin under a molten gold sun
Savoured the sugars of a hundred fruits
Which drip like toffees
From trees with leaves as big as me
But I love you more.

I have seen cities which stretch beyond the horizon
Seen buildings which stretch beyond the clouds
But I still love you more.

I love pounding your streets
In salt-stained boots
Returning smile after smile
Unsolicited, and unassuming.

I love your dislike for barriers and barricades
Between front steps and sidewalks
Between my feet and the street
Between me, and the 'other'- that most formidable
boundary
Here, kept at bay.

I love the trees
Standing as eternal sentinels
Along the streets
Silent and stoic reminders
Of our smallness
And transience.

Here, beside the sea
We have a coming-together
Most fragile, most coveted
Most elusive, most treasured
That now I am returned to
I cannot bear to leave (for good at least).

Halifax, I love you more
Because I know you more
For what you are
Now that I have seen all that is not
You.

date

JAN. 12 - 14

place

SUB - MAIN LOBBY

hours

9 - 6

last day

9-5

► FINE ART

FANTASY ◀

WILDLIFE ◀

► GIANT-SIZED POSTERS

► MUSIC


FRAMES & HANGERS ◀

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Cryptic predictions

Rest easy, 2015 is a cakewalk

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Like the old saying goes: if the Moon lands in your farmhouse, bring a shovel. Keep that shovel with you wherever 2015 may take you. Draw a small smiley face on the shovel and introduce it to your friends and family. Open that vintage bottle you've been saving and toast to your newfound happiness.

Your auspicious organ is: Liver



Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

Listen, Mom, I told you. I'm not going back in time to stop you from meeting Dad.

Your auspicious instrument is: Pan Flu



Pisces
(Feb. 19 – Mar. 20)
Congratulations, Pisces! You've been randomly selected by the heavenly alignment for an expense-

paid vacation to the cavernous labyrinth deep below the Earth's surface! Note: This is a mandatory, one-way trip.

Your auspicious beverage is: Lake Water



Aries (Mar. 21 – Apr. 19)

Take a moment to step back and really think about what you gained from 2014. Is anything really that much different? Are you that much better off? Did you think then that this New Year would be "the one" that magically erases your past? Expect another year of monotony and second-guessing.

Your auspicious Jungian archetype is: The Love



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Like a sewer rat in a Starbucks, you're destined for greatness in 2015. Pay only with change when you reach the counter. Cry on the bus. Take the law into your own hands. Ascend to Godhood. Become the spir-

itual leader that our Galaxy needs, Taurus.

Your auspicious film is: The Spy who Shagged Me



Gemini (May 21-Jun 20)

Oh great Spiral, all-spinning and all-knowing, impart to Gemini your cyclicity. Oh eternal Spiral in the sky, spin on so that one day, Gemini may ascend and take their place within your gentle rings. Oh humble Spiral, guide Gemini with your illusory magic!

Your auspicious language is: Ancient Sumerian



Cancer (Jun 21-Jul 22)

Listen, Cancer. I bet you thought that you'd get off easy just because I happen to be a Cancer myself. Well, the Cosmos don't work that way. Cancers of the world, you're going to get the very worst of it, oh yes. I will be accepting bribes to dissuade me from predicting your certain doom.

Your auspicious dairy prod-

uct is: Yogurt

Leo (Jul. 23 – Aug. 22)

2015 does not exist for you, Leo. Please move on to 2016.

Your auspicious protective equipment is: Hard Hat



Virgo (Aug 23. – Sept. 22)

Hey Dean! It's been a while, man. How have you been doing? I know we left things on a pretty strange note, but I think we can move past it. I mean, she WAS my girlfriend, man. You can't go around experimenting on everybody you meet. But I've been doing some thinking, and I'm ready to move onto Phase 2.

Your auspicious body modification is: Subdermal Horn Implant



Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

The vacuum of space has a mind and has fallen deeply in love with you, Libra. 2015 promises to be a year of surprise visits to relatives

and lavish bouquets. Pull out your prom dress and get ready for the tiara.

Your auspicious element is: Ruthenium

Scorpio (Oct 23. – Nov. 21)

You will have a dream early in the year. In your dream-world, you will become the world's next great R&B superstar and be universally loved. Your songs will unite nations and be sung for generations. You will die at a ripe old age and your family will continue your legacy. When you wake up from the dream you will be unable to differentiate between reality and dream. You will spend every night of 2015 performing at Open Mics.

Your auspicious cartoonist is: Charles M. Schulz



Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)

To borrow a line from Samuel R. Delany's opus Dhalgren: "It is not that I have no past. Rather, it continually fragments on the terrible and vivid ephemera of now. In the long country, cut with rain, somehow there is nowhere to begin."

Your auspicious Medieval torture device is: Thumb-screw





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OPINION: Dal's zero tolerance policy on hazing, not misogyny

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor

Hazing has cast a dark cloud of controversy over sports at Dalhousie for the past two years. Now, it's misogyny. Which one's worse?

According to Dal's policies, hazing has the upper hand.

First, the women's hockey team was suspended two years ago following a confirmed accusation of hazing at an off-campus party. Then came both men's rugby teams' suspensions just last September for the same violation. Both situations were nearly identical, giving the university community an opportunity to see how administration has improved its approach to accusations of this nature.

The women's hockey situation was a bit of a mess. Following the accusation by one of the players in October, the team continued to compete in their regular season games while university officials conducted one-on-one interviews with the senior players involved. It took until January for them to officially suspend the guilty parties, leaving the team with only four players and ending their season.

This sparked change. The university senate passed a brand new hazing policy last June. Amongst its most important points was that, "any student athletes, team personnel or coaches encouraging, facilitating or participating in [hazing] activities may be subject to disciplinary action including immediate suspension or dismissal from the Dalhousie University varsity program and/or the university." The university met with every Dal varsity and club team, articulating that this policy derived due to the seriousness of hazing. The university vowed it would firmly follow this policy if a new accusation arises.

And they did. When a university employee filed a formal complaint against the men's rugby team, they followed the new pol-

icy to a tee. Both men's rugby teams were automatically temporarily suspended from further play pending an investigation by the university into the investigations.

There was no backlash. Athletes didn't fight back. They were simply suspended because that's what the policy said. That was it.

Now let's compare this approach to how harassment is handled at Dal.

When some women dentistry students felt they were subject to sexism this summer and wanted to make a complaint, they had two options under Dal's Sexual Harassment Policy. The two options were an informal resolution process or a formal com-

plaint process, and the formal complaint process would not guarantee their anonymity. The women (understandably) decided to remain anonymous, and their complaint wasn't processed.

Clearly, that's far different than when complaints were filed in regards to hazing. What we're seeing is an automatic suspension of team members from competition when they force a teammate to do something they don't want to do, but when a student feels they have been sexually harassed, we can expect no results if they want to remain anonymous. How does that make sense?

I realize that kicking a student off a sports team and expelling a senior graduate student from

their program have far different implications, but that doesn't change the damaging effect the offence has on the individual who was subjected to the verbal, or sometimes physical abuse. If the university is true in taking this self-proclaimed "victim-centred approach", then that's exactly what they're going to have to do in all their policies, regardless of the offender's age, education, or athletic ability.

It's a shame that after effectively cleaning up a filthy mess within their athletic department, they weren't able to learn from that and use the characteristics of their other policies simultaneously. Consistency is key to situations where the safety and protec-

tion of victims is at the forefront. The university can't change the way it approaches these situations from individual to individual. Their new hazing policy, at the time, seemed like proof that they've made that realization. Clearly, there's more work to be done. Victims of sexualized should be able to easily file a formal complaint if they feel their safety is at risk. And as of now, they're unable to do that.

If the university truly is victim-centred, they will make that option available. Until then, their zero-tolerance policy will be in question. ⁶



Season preview: Tigers toned for 2015

Men's basketball, volleyball on path to AUS titles

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor

It may have been a sluggish start for the first batch of Dalhousie varsity teams, but if the first month of play amongst Dal's winter squads is any indication, there could be a few more banners hanging on the walls of the Dalplex by the end of the year.

The first semester was what it was. Both soccer teams didn't live up to their potential, men's cross-country was beat handily by St. FX, and when it mattered the most, both soccer teams were unable to click, resulting in an early end to their seasons. The only shining light that cast was the women's cross-country team, who once again walked away with an AUS title.

But 2015 looks different. At this time last year, women's basketball was a game under .500, men's basketball only won one in seven games, and women's hockey was struggling to get things going offensively.

This year, they've completely turned that on its head.

The men's basketball team sits at the top of the league with an astounding 5-1 record, with their only loss coming in overtime during their season opener against UPEI. It's looking like the players are finally meshing into Rick Plato's coaching style, nearly matching their win total from last year in just over a month of play. Three Tigers are averaging over 14 points per game, with third-year forward Kashrell Lawrence leading the way with 20. We've seen them knock off the likes of Acadia and St. Mary's, which are two teams the Tigers have struggled against in years previous. If they're able to keep their strong communication and work ethic consistent, this young Tigers squad has a realistic chance at receiving their first AUS title in four years.

Women's basketball, as well, are amongst the top teams in the league at 4-2. AUS second team all-star Courtney Thompson is leading the league with 141 points

and 23.5 points per game – which is over seven more than the next closest. Though they've struggled to pull out wins in the second games of back-to-backs, they've showed true potential when it comes to ball movement and finding the hands of the veteran players who have proven they can score points. It wouldn't be surprising to see these women at least make it to the finals.

Women's hockey has shown signs of life, too. They convincingly beat AUS second-ranked Moncton 3-0 at the beginning of November, and have pulled off tight victories over their cross-town rival St. Mary's Huskies on two different occasions. Their 5-8 shouldn't be an indication of their talent, as they've had to take on the powerhouse X-women twice already and have lost four games by just a goal. These women, if able to remain persistent through future tight games, look poised for their first playoff birth in three years.

But let's not forget about Dal's powerhouse teams. It would be a mind-blowing shock if the men's volleyball team doesn't win their second consecutive title. The team has shown why they're amongst the best in the country with wins over Montreal, Laval and Queens. They've also convincingly beaten their AUS rival UNB Varsity-Reds twice, only dropping one set in doing so.

The only team that may be of a concern that generally isn't is women's volleyball. When the team lost the majority of its roster, it was obvious that they were going to have to go through a transition of sorts. It may seem silly to be harping on a team that's only had five regular season games and is rocking a 3-2 record, but that's already more losses last year. To continue being on top, this young group is going to have to find ways to grind out tough matches day in and day out.

And men's hockey is, well, doing better than last year. But they still have a lot of work to do to convince us that they're a contender. ☹

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A dialogue with (Rick) Plato

Men's basketball coach discusses team's early success

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team is off to their hottest start since they won the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championship in 2011.

And for head coach Rick Plato, it doesn't come as a shock.

The *Gazette* sat down with Plato to look back on some of the key points of the season so far, and discuss what the team has to do to keep the momentum moving forward into the new year.

Gazette: So, you guys are off to a 5-1 start. Were you expecting that entering the season with such a young team?

Plato: I told the guys early on that the key word for me was going to be patience. I think in a lot of ways they're ahead of schedule, but at the same time I have to remember that half the team are freshman. The eight new bodies we've brought in are very athletic, have a good work ethic, are talented and have come together very well.

G: How is it having Devon Stedman back from injury, and what kind of presence does he bring to this team?

Plato: It's great. He's just so smart. He's got a great basketball IQ. He's a great passer, shooter and he's very cerebral. He's also a steady force in the post. The biggest thing with him is his knee. We just make sure we manage his minutes and with the minutes he's given, he's a steady influence.

G: The player who looks like they've made the biggest change in their game compared to last year is Jarred Reid. What sparked

that improvement?

Plato: Jarred worked on his game all summer. His three pointers improved and he's playing with a lot more confidence. I can play him at the two or the one and he does a really job. He's always been a good defender, too. Jarred's just a solid guy all the way around.

G: How are you utilizing Kashrell Lawrence's eye for the game, and how, if it all, will that change moving into the second half of the season?

Plato: Like the guys say, he's beast mode. He's just so strong. Even last year he started off well, but then had some problems with his knee and couldn't play like he could. Like I've told Kash all along – there are two ends to the court. He's learning now that he has to play some defence and become a good rebounder. He's another guy that gives us such good leadership. He's one of the guys that not just the rookies, but the veterans look to for leadership.

G: Do you think you've established a go-to guy on the court over the past six games? Who is the main driving force behind this team?

Plato: The guy that makes us go is Ritchie [Kanza Mata]. He just gives such stability. We run a lot of different offensive sets, but at the end of the clock I want the ball in Ritchie's hands. And early on if we can go inside to Kash without forcing it, we can take advantage of his high percentage, too.

G: How have you noticed the team bonding effectively not only on, but off the court? Has that translated into success on the hardwood?



Plato: The thing about all these guys is that they're such good people. They don't walk around like they own the place and I think that's really important because I want them to blend in with the rest of the students. And I think they get that. But yes, we're running a lot of basketball camps with a lot of young campers and they're volunteering in the community with under privileged kids, and I feel really lucky to have such a great group of guys.

G: How are you personally adapting into the coaching role at Dal, and how is it different than last year and previous coaching positions?

Plato: Every day is a learning experience. There's a lot of good support in the faculty, and with

the success we're having, I think people are starting to get excited a little bit. But the biggest thing to me is I want the guys to be student athletes and not think they're better than everybody else. I always tell them that basketball has a means to an end. It's a vehicle, but it's what you do with that piece of paper and the relationships they make that really matter.

G: There's definitely evident optimism moving into the new year, but what's your greatest fear for 2015?

Plato: The biggest thing is we've got to stay committed. I just told the boys – we haven't won anything yet. To win the whole thing, you have to be lucky. Lucky by staying healthy. Last year we had some serious injuries to three key guys and it really hurts in a lot of

different ways. We still have two-thirds the season to play, though. Last year we lost two one point games at the buzzer, so we have to be continue to manage the clock better down the stretch.


G: At the end of the day, what's it going to take for this team to take home the championship?

Plato: You want to establish an identity and with ours, it's tough defence. The one thing about us is we have real good balance. One game Ritchie could lead the team, Jarred could lead the team, Devon could lead the team – they all can do it. Right now we are far deeper, more athletic and more committed to playing defence. We've got a long way to go, but I don't think anyone's working harder than these guys.




The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group is a levied society through the DSU and KSU that provides funding, resources, education and research for events, campaigns and projects relating to social and environmental justice. NSPIRG strives to be accountable to its membership and partners. Our Winter opt-out is Jan 19-23, Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm. Visit our website or Facebook for more details. Please contact us with any questions regarding our opt out, policies, governance and allocation of funds.

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2015 Governors' Awards

Call for nominations

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

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

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

Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support. To assist you in planning your submission, a nomination form can be found at: dal.ca/governorsawards

Please submit nominations to:

The Office of the Vice-Provost
Student Affairs - Room 328
Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building
6299 South Street P.O. Box 15000 Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

The deadline for nominations is:
Friday, January 16, 2015
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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

A modern library for a modern city

Garrett Smith
Contributor
Civil '16

For the past few years there has been some excitement surrounding the corner of Spring Garden and Queen. Over the course of your studies, many of you have likely been able to witness the evolution of the site from excavation straight through to finishing. On December 13, 2014, all of this work culminated in the grand opening of the new Halifax Central Library.

The events of the opening started at nine in the morning on a somewhat cloudy Saturday morning. From the beginning there was a sizeable gathering in front of the library, but slowly the crowd continued to grow as passersby were drawn in by the live music, performers, and general feeling of excitement in the air. Library staff were busy orchestrating the event

to ensure everything went smoothly. The opening itself was slated for ten, and slightly beforehand there were a number of speeches by members of the municipal, provincial, and federal governments as well as executives from Halifax Public Libraries. The speeches were each unique in their own ways but the common theme was the same: the Halifax Central Library was built with tremendous support from the community and in return it will be a tremendous support to the community. With the speeches finished, the ribbon was cut and people began flooding through the doors, eager to explore.

Walking into the library from the Spring Garden road entrance is an impressive sight. The main floor is very open and cleanly laid out. To the right is a coffee shop, to the left a sitting area with magazines. At the far end of the floor there is an auditorium, and filling in the space between you and the auditorium is an assortment of new releases, sitting

spaces, and help desks. As soon as you enter the library, however, your eyes will invariably be drawn to the main atrium. The atrium lets in natural light from the roof and contains a number of criss-crossing staircases that will take you through the building. The stairs weave their way from the main floor to the fifth as they pass through the respective levels of the collection: youth material on the second floor; reference material on the third floor; non-fiction on the fourth floor; and finally the fifth floor containing fiction, another coffee shop, and excellent views of downtown Halifax. The entire layout is very open and regularly dotted with computers, help desks, small meeting rooms, and reading spaces. This is not a traditional library, this is a modern library.

Throughout the rest of the day there were a number of events to celebrate the grand opening. There were symphony, folk, native, and jazz music performance spread out

across the day. A large number of family-friendly activities were held on the second floor all day long. There were also more conventional activities for a library such as readings by local authors. Of particular interest was a presentation and question session held by architects who worked on the design of the building. There was an incredible interest shown by the public over the course of the opening, with reportedly more than 10,000 people visiting the library that day.

The new Halifax Central Library is a stunning building; one that is definitely worth a visit. Whether you are looking for a quiet place to study, a good book to help you unwind, or want to take in a fascinating piece of modern architecture, the library has what you need. For more information head over to www.halifaxcentrallibrary.ca, follow them on Twitter @hfxpublib, or simply stop by and start exploring.



Pictured: The crowds of visitors outside and inside the library at the grand opening on December 13, 2014. (Photos by Garrett Smith)



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