

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, est. 1868

147-15 • Jan. 30 – Feb. 5

Photo by Jennifer Gosnell



FREE!

DISPATCH

ISJ DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION

Myth: Tuition fees have to go up.

Fact: No they don't.

Students and our allies have been able to stop tuition fee increases before and we can do it again! **WHEN STUDENTS UNITE, WE WIN!**

1995

Over 100,000 students take to the streets for the first ever National Student Day of Action: Federal government cancels plan to introduce an income contingent loan repayment scheme that would have allowed forced more students to take on more debt and spend more time paying it off.

2007

Hundreds of students protest in Halifax, Antigonish, and Cape Breton to reduce tuition fees: Tuition fees are frozen until 2011 and the first provincial grants program is introduced.

2012

Over 1,000 students in Halifax march to NSCAD to say Education is a Right: Provincial government abandons plans to merge NSCAD University with another institution.

On **February 4, 2015** students will unite to call on the government to reduce tuition fees, convert loans to grants and increase funding for post-secondary education. What will we win?

Myth: Canada cannot afford to reduce tuition fees. Everyone has to pay their part, especially students.


Fact: All budget expenditures are choices about priorities.

Let's take a look at some price tags of the federal government's priorities:

- Federal subsidy to Alberta Tar Sands: \$1.3 billion
- Canadian bank bailout: \$114 billion
- Automotive industry bail-out: \$3.3 billion
- GST cut: \$7.1 billion per year
- Corporate tax cut: \$8.7 billion per year

How about the Nova Scotia government's priorities:

- Non-repayable loan to Irving Ship-building: \$304 million
- Handout to developer for a second convention centre: \$59 million
- Non-repayable loan for highly-polluting fish farms: \$25 million

Any discussion of the cost of a social program, such as education, must be put in the context of other government decisions. In the case of the current federal government, tax cuts for the wealthiest Canadians has taken priority over funding for post-secondary education. 

Want to get involved?

- Attend the Day of Action by coming to the Killam Library on February 4th at 11:30am.
- Text DropFees to 212121 for occasional updates or email Jacqueline Siptunis, dsuped@gmail.com for more info

Jan. 30, 2015 - Feb. 5, 2015 •

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the fine print

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, the Streeter, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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editorial

Silenced students and rewritten narratives mean we should all speak out about the dentistry scandal

Contradictions raise important questions about students' rights

Jesse Ward
Editor-in-chief

Regardless of your gender, interest in social media or stance on the limits of free speech, there is good reason every Dalhousie student should be paying close attention to the dentistry scandal.

The first reason every Dal student should be vocal and ask questions about the dentistry scandal is that from day one, university administration said "all parties involved" in the restorative justice process would like the time and space to complete their process. However, students who were asked to participate in the process have since revealed they don't want the process and they feel silenced by Dal.

If you were ever caught up on any side of a similar conflict, would you want university administration speaking on your behalf without consulting you? After they speak on your behalf, how would you feel about the national media repeating their words?

If we don't speak up for those who have been silenced throughout this situation, we're setting a bleak precedent for students' rights at Dal and nationwide. Few, if any, Dalhousie students have the time to closely study the publicly available information surrounding the dentistry scandal that has come out since Dec. 15 and compare the differing narratives that have come out of the situation. Most will have to be satisfied with the newest media stories, of which so many are posted each day.

These stories often contain important and relevant information, but when new stories are published every day this creates the effect that a coherent narrative is being created out of this situation. That's far from the truth.

A close reading of how this situation has unfolded from day one reveals it is still impossible to draw a cohesive narrative of events occurring in the dentistry scandal. Dal administration's communication of the scandal

is still rife with contradictions and misleading statements that prevent any accurate understanding of how they have handled this situation.

The existence of the Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen group was only made public because an affected student brought evidence of the group to the media. We don't know how many similar harassment complaints reach Dalhousie without being made public – but this situation has gone public, and the way it has been handled by university administration offers key insights into the state of students' rights at Dal.

A close analysis of the publicly available information currently shows how many unanswered questions still exist when trying to understand Dal's handling of the dentistry scandal.

The entire version of this editorial, if put to print, would take up over half of this newspaper – so visit dalgazette.com for the story also titled "*Silenced students*

and rewritten narratives mean we should all speak out about the dentistry scandal". Here are just five of the 14 questions explored in the full investigation into this situation:

A list of everyone in the core of the DDS4 class was publicly available online until last week. It was taken down after the *Dalhousie Gazette* asked the administrators of the website hosting the list if they knew it could be found. In trying to protect the privacy and reputations of Dal dentistry students, did university administration do any research into whether such a list could be found by the public?

Why did Dal first say that the original women who complained about the DDS Gentlemen group came to them, then change their story to say they had reached out to the women themselves?

Why did Dal send a questionnaire to all women in the DDS4 class asking how they were affected by

the group, before some women had been given the opportunity to see any of the posts from the group?

Why are different narratives coming out of Dal administration as to what screenshots of the Gentlemen group were shown to the DDS4 class?

Why did university president Richard Florizone say on Dec. 17 that women affected by the Gentlemen group had opted to not have an investigation occur in tandem with the restorative justice process, when since then January we've heard from anonymous women in the class that they believe were silenced and they do want an investigation, and Dal's official Q&A on the situation says all women knew from the start that there may be other processes happening simultaneously with restorative justice?



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On the cover

Charlotte Butcher, Art Director of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, appears to have missed the memo saying a certain Dawgmobile will not be found at its usual spot in front of the Student Union Building until further notice.

This issue explores the ongoing conflicts surrounding issues of free speech on campus.

See page 5 for a comprehensive look at the Dawgfather's recent Twitter controversy, pages 11-12 for sharp opinions on this situation and pages 13-14 for a look at the history of free speech arguments on Dal campus.



Levy withheld from King's student paper for accountability reasons

\$13,656 in check until proper procedures followed

William Coney
News Contributor

The student newspaper of the University of King's College, *The Watch*, has not received its most recent student levy.

This amount, \$12.00 paid by each student, has been held in check by the King's Student Union (KSU) because *The Watch* has failed to form its Publishing Board's approval.

The document titled "An Agreement Between The Watch and the KSU" recognizes the paper as an autonomous organization from the KSU, except for the presence of a KSU executive on the publishing board and the chair of the KSU as a non-voting member.

In addition to these positions, the board is composed of members-at-large, a member of the faculty, and a member of the professional news media. A vote of the board is required in order to release the levy collected by the KSU to *The Watch*.

Issues have arisen in where this agreement differs from the constitution of *The Watch*. Differences between the agreement and the constitution include conflicting information on the size of the levy (\$8.00 vs \$12.00) and the length of term of the faculty and professional news media representatives.

The most notable difference arises from the specifications of editorial control. The agreement states: "The Publishing Board has the power to: a) make recommendations about the about any aspect of administration or content of *The Watch*,"

which is not covered under the constitution of *The Watch*.

This publishing board is required to meet between October 15th and 31st, which did not happen this past year. However, several meetings were arranged after the specified dates, including November 27th and December 4th.

These meetings were missing several members of the Publishing Board and were subject to some level of miscommunication – to the effect that the KSU has claimed that none of these meetings have had Quorum, following the decision of the current board to not include the Faculty or Professional members, but which were official according to *The Watch's* interpretation.

On Jan. 13 Jane Lytvynenko, National Executive of the Canadian University Press, of which *The Watch* is a member, released an editorial on this action, taking issue with the KSU withholding the paper's funds.

This editorial characterized the decision as "unethical and inexcusable" and that such a decision makes it so that "students would be denied an important service."

Lytvynenko said "the [Canadian University Press] makes it their business to know what is going on in its member organizations" and that when it became obvious that *The Watch* needed their help, they provided.

In response, the KSU released a statement on Jan. 14, explaining that appropriate meetings of the publishing board have not been held as the sole reason for withholding the levy.

The KSU added that they were disappointed with the editorial which had been written about the issue, which apparently had not approached the KSU for clarification.

Rachel Ward, Publisher of *The Watch* and Labour Bureau Chief of the Canadian University Press, feels that the relationship between the KSU and the *The Watch* has been confusing.

Ward recognizes that the current constitutions and procedures of *The Watch* are outdated in many ways, and that they had been planning to update and go over them throughout this year.

Ward also confirmed that the current funds of the paper were enough to allow for them to publish through the month of January and to pay the amount owed to their contributors, but not much beyond that.

Any future changes to *The Watch's* governance will establish a "solid foundation to not be threatened by these debates - [which] would allow [*The Watch*] to build ourselves up more," she says.

Ward also noted, in her view, the public response has been full of people coming forward to give their support and wishing to see their levy reinstated.

Michaela Sam, President of the KSU, describes the recent events as "confusing and saddening that they haven't been able to talk with us."

Sam also recognized *The Watch's* continued importance as an autonomous news organization within the King's



Nick Holland, co-editor-in-chief of *The Watch*. • • • Photo by Jasspreet Sahib community, but that when entrusted with a student levy the KSU is bound by its agreements to make sure that this levy is used responsibly, meaning that it needs to be withheld for the time being.

Both sides have said that they are looking to resolve this issue, and are hoping to have a meeting soon. At this time, a meeting has not been set. ☹

Dawgfather's anti-Semitic Tweets spur international reaction

Were the tweets making a point about freedom of speech or outright anti-Semitic?

John Last
News Contributor

A police investigation. A rally. A condemnation from the Israeli Consul General.

Hot dog vendor Jerry Reddick, a.k.a. Dawgfather PhD, is at the centre of all these after posting a series of Holocaust jokes on Twitter in an self-declared exercise to test the limits of free speech.

"How does freedom of expression look when it's not Prophet Muhammad, s.a.w. Lets send ovens to all the Jews. #Hitler," read one.

"What does one Jew say to the other Jew when they walk by a hot oven? Do you recognize anyone? #FreedomtoinsultMohammedandtheJews," read another.

The ten tweets from January 14 were a response to widespread support for French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo's publication of cartoons depicting Muhammad in the wake of a terrorist attack that resulted in 12 deaths.

The remarks, which also mentioned 9/11 and alleged a Jewish role in masterminding the transatlantic slave trade, were immediately met with condemnation from Jewish community leaders and students at Dalhousie.

"What he sent around, the vilest of the vile, cannot be ignored by the Jewish community or by people of good conscience," says Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

"If he really wants to do this with impunity, he should go back to Saudi Arabia, or the [Islamic State], where he'd feel more comfortable," he added.

Israeli Consul General to Eastern Canada Zev Nevo Kulman heard the news at an exhibit marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

"I'm shocked and saddened

to see there are still people who think that way," he told Global News.

In response to the remarks, many students are planning to vote with their feet when Dawgfather returns for business in February. Within a few hours of the appearance of the Tweets online, second-year student Asrar Haq organized a boycott which garnered over 300 participants on Facebook before condemnations and a formal police inquiry drew an apology from Dawgfather.

"I used a sledgehammer to get my point across about the double standard in free speech. I was wrong and I apologize," he wrote on Jan. 16.

"I'll be back to work next month and completely willing to give a pound of flesh if that's what it will take to receive your forgiveness," he added.

In response, Haq rescinded the boycott. In a private reply, however, Dawgfather criticized Haq, himself raised Muslim, as a "hypocrite," writing, "If you read my Tweets you will see I never once apologize and never will, for the point I was making about the double standard."

Haq has since restarted the boycott and is now organizing a rally. Dawgfather insists the boycott is actually about certain tenets of Islam the protesters find objectionable.

"They're trying to turn it into 'Dawgfather is anti-gay, is homophobic'," Dawgfather said.

Haq insists that is not the case.

To me it's completely irrelevant what your religious beliefs are," said Haq. "If you do something wrong, I'll bring attention to it, because I believe that's the duty of society."

"If [someone] holds views and presents them in such a way that could potentially put the community at dis-ease, I think the community should stand up

and do something about it."

Since the boycott was reintroduced, Dawgfather has publicly criticized Haq, and continues posting links to content alleging Zionist conspiracy. He defends his original tweets as a demonstration of the hurtful effect of unrestricted free speech.

"There's got to be a limit to freedom of expression... or someone's feelings are going to get hurt. You either make fun of everybody, or you make fun of nobody. You can't decide that [only] Muslims are open game."

Despite public opposition, Dawgfather is unlikely to get in any legal trouble over the tweets, says Mike Scott, a criminal lawyer who specializes in hate crime legislation.

"It's got to be very, very extreme and very, very clear before you go issuing a charge to anyone," said Scott.

"Is the purpose of him saying these things to get you to galvanize against Jewish people? Or, is his purpose reasonably, taken at face value, to be offensive to the point of making social commentary?"

For some students, the matter is more grey than black and white.

"[The situation] is really complex," says Camella Farahbakhsh, an administrator at the South House sexual and gender resource centre. "It's about race and class and it's not just as simple as a tweet."

"It's really easy to condemn someone who we don't understand." ☹



The most-disputed curbside space on Dal campus. • • • Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

A History of the Dawgfather

By Sabina Wex

1958 – Jerry Anthony Reddick is born in New Glasgow, N.S. to Baptist parents. He is a 19th generation Nova Scotian, as his ancestors were brought to Nova Scotia as part of the Halifax slave trade.

1968 – Lil' Jerry starts boxing and spends twenty years as a professional fighter touring Canada, the United States and Europe. He only stopped for the few jail stints for assault and theft.

1978 – Jerry joins the coast guard, which places him in B.C. to fix ships.

1992 – Ibrahim Ali Muhammad becomes his new name after he converts to Islam.

Other facts about the Dawgfather (which he wants you to know from him, rather than "the haters and the Po-Po"):

- He has 10 criminal convictions
- He has been incarcerated four times
- He owes the city \$80,000 in traffic tickets
 - An example: the Po-Po came to the Dawgfather's door at 5 a.m. one night, pretending to be a pizza delivery man. The DF knew that Halifax didn't deliver a 5 a.m. (but now Freeman's claims to do so. This just attests

that the times are a-changing), so he refused to answer the door. The next morning, he had \$900 worth of fines waiting for him outside, mostly about bike infractions.

N.B. Dawgfather's old website says that his constituents understand that he is a former crook, but everyone knows that "the real crooks are on the Halifax Regional Council."

A quote from the Dawgfather's old website:

"I exercise my rights every single day because I know my rights, and I'm not afraid to go to court to stop an injustice. If it's wrong, I'll call them out on it. You know I will. I'm the Dawg Father."

Dal Senate approves new minors

Aboriginal Studies, Security Studies and other topics to be added to academic roster in 2015/26



Aboriginal Studies is one of four new concentrations. • • • Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

Sabina Wex
Assistant News Editor

Dalhousie Senate approved four new minors for the 2015/16 school year. These include Esoteric and Occult Studies, Aboriginal Studies, Security Studies and French Literature and Culture.

A minor in French Linguistics and Translation has also been approved for the upcoming school year in a recent 2015 Senate meeting, according to the Chair of the French Department, Christopher Elson.

Ruben Zaiotti, director of the European Union Centre for Excellence, said he proposed the Security Studies minor because it's a topic that will be beneficial to students in an array of departments — not just political science.

"Security, as a concept within itself, is very interdisciplinary,"

Zaiotti said.

To fulfill the Security Studies minor, students can take classes within the political science, religious studies, contemporary studies, history and sociology and social anthropology departments. Biopolitics, The Cold War, and Spying on the World: the CIA in American History are amongst some of the courses one can take to receive this minor.

Elson said the two new French minors also offer students the ability to take an interdisciplinary approach to the language. Both the Linguistics and Translation minor and the Literature and Culture minor require first- and second-year French language classes, but expand on more specific areas of the language.

"We thought there would be room to attract people to this

who might not feel like they want to do another couple of grammar classes," Elson said.

The Department of French also teaches courses taught in English, but these do not count towards either of the new minors.

The French department offers courses in literature and culture from the medieval to contemporary periods, as well as semantics and sociolinguistics.

"Canada being a bilingual country, a lot of folks see an immediate usefulness, to have not only the ability, but the credential—the minor—that gives a certain heft to a secondary, or even a third, concentration in their degree," Elson said.

Zaiotti also said that a minor can give students an additional edge entering the job market. ☺

Town hall addresses misogyny on campus

Tegan Samija
News Contributor

On January 20th, the Dalhousie Student Union Equity and Accessibility Office, NSPIRG, and South House held a meeting on sexism, misogyny, and rape culture.

Approximately 40 students and community members were in attendance. Students made up the majority of attendees because they felt safe discussing the issues in the university environment, one attendee speculated. Anticipating difficult and emotionally overwhelming discussion, mediators from South House and NSPIRG promised privacy and created a safe space in a room of the SUB that attendees could go to if they needed to take a break.

Although attendees appeared to have little to say about the topic at the beginning of the meeting, discussion began when they split into several smaller groups. Students from a variety of faculties — including philosophy and social work — were able to inject many different perspectives into the discussion. Regardless of their faculty, while students wanted more transparency from the school, all were content with how their faculties were tackling the problem through class discussion.

Thoughts on the 13 male dentistry students who were suspended by Dalhousie for being part of a misogynistic Facebook group varied: some attendees thought that four months is not enough time to help them, some thought the homophobic element of the posts in

the group deserved more attention, and others were tired of hearing people say that the men would never change. On Jan. 20 one of the 13 men, Ryan Millet, broke his silence to let the media know he feels his case has been mishandled. Attendees were in agreement that the timing of Ryan Millet's interview was suspicious and were uninclined to believe his claims.

However, mediators tried to redirect the focus of the meeting to both the women directly involved and the rest of the women at Dalhousie, acknowledging how easy it is to focus all of the attention on the men. Many attendees expressed rage on the women's behalf and agreed that problems at the school existed before the dentistry scandal drew attention to them.

Attendees wondered how to go about teaching ethics to university students. Several community members at the meeting had worked with women who are targets of misogyny around the country, and wished for a larger role in classroom discussion in order to alter the university environment of the privileged instructing the privileged.

There was consensus that Dalhousie should establish an oppression awareness requirement. The credits could be obtained by choosing from a variety of courses that educate students about intersectionality or by doing volunteer work in the community. ☺



Survivors of the southern ocean. • • • Photo supplied

Dal students return from Antarctica

Two weeks in Antarctica provide insight on global warming, wildlife and the stench of penguins.

Eleanor Davidson
News Editor

It is fairly rare for a student to say their winter break changed their life.

While most of Dalhousie was catching up on some much-needed rest and trying to stay out of the cold, two students were exploring Antarctica.

Jasveen Brar and Patrick Soprovich, both second year science students, participated in a two-week expedition with Students on Ice to Antarctica.

"When I first got back into Toronto, my Mom called and asked, 'How was it,' and I just cried. I couldn't even put it into words," says Brar.

As Brar and Soprovich recount their experiences in one of the most deserted corners of the world, both can't help but smile.

"I remember coming out on zodiacs and the water was like liquid silver. It was so beautiful. That

was where we saw our first penguins and seals ... the penguins were quite comical in the way they walk around, but when they're in the water they're so graceful. They torpedo in and out of the water," says Soprovich.

Brar remembers the penguins not quite as fondly.

"Penguins smell. A lot. I think the first thing that really hit me was the smell of them, and how loud they are. But they're so unique, and they have these amazing personalities about them."

The students experienced nearly 24-hour daylight (December being summer in Antarctica) with the sun shining brightly when they went to sleep and when they woke up the next morning.

Sleeping onboard a ship and exploring Antarctica during the day also provided a break from one of the most prevalent aspects of modern life: the internet.

"Not having internet made us appreciate everything so much

more. You would've missed something because you were on Facebook and it would be really sad because you're in such a unique place," says Brar.

Recollecting their favorite moments of the trip, both Brar and Soprovich pause to reflect upon their sighting of a minke whale as they were leaving Antarctica.

"A minke whale followed us for almost two hours, it was like it was dancing with us. It would swim with us and then dive back down. It even surprised the expedition staff, since minke whales are usually quite shy."


"I didn't realize how alive the ocean is during Antarctica's summer. We'd see a whale, we'd see birds, the whole place was just alive and that's not really something that you think of Antarctica. You think of this desolate ice land, but it was really just full of life," says Soprovich.

The expedition to Antarctica gave many opportunities for both students to learn about the profound impact that global warming has had on the region.

Inspired to help to create a change, Soprovich and Brar are part of a group of students from the expedition that are drafting a "Youth Declaration", a document advocating for the protection of Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf.

Going back to class and once again falling into the routines of university life could make a trip to Antarctica seem very far away, but both Brar and Soprovich insist this is not something they will be

forgetting any time soon.

"I know that I'm taking this experience forward and it will be a part of my life from now on. If any student can get involved with this they absolutely should," says Soprovich. 



Dal student shaving off beard to fundraise for women's shelter

Within the first eight days, he already raised \$1000

Quinelle Boudreau
Staff Contributor

Nik Halldorson raised over \$2,000 through his Beards for Bryony fundraiser in just eleven days. Halldorson, a fourth-year nursing student at Dalhousie University, has been growing his beard for seven months and decided to make shaving it off mean something.

"I've done some fundraising in the past," said Halldorson, who raised over \$3000 for the YMCA during his high school years, and was an active participant in Dal's For the Health Of It show.

"I decided that I was going to set a goal and shave it off when I reached it," he added. "Hair will grow back and this is raising awareness."

When he initially decided to raise the money, he didn't know what he wanted to donate it to.

"One of my friends brought up the idea of donating to a women's shelter," he said. "Bryony House is the only shelter here that is specific to women who are trying

to escape intimate partner abuse, often with their children."

Halldorson decided this would be the perfect place to send the money.

Halldorson originally set a goal of raising \$1000 within a month, but quickly realized he could raise much more. His original goal was met in just eight days.

"If you look at the stats, more than half of Canadians have known someone who was abused or needed to go to a shelter," he says.

"More than half of Canadians have known someone who was abused or needed to go to a shelter"

"People really relate to this cause, and it's definitely in the public's mind right now."

Halldorson will be working with Bryony House to help put the money where it is really needed. He has set a new goal of \$5,000, but would love to go higher.

"People really seem to be resonating with it. I would love to find a business or corporation to match the donations."

Halldorson has teamed up with Sailor Bup's Barbershop and will be hosting a shave-off once he reaches his new goal. Further incentive for donating: anyone who donates \$200 gets the right to shave half his beard off, and donations of \$20 or \$50 will get you beard-inspired holiday cards.

Although support from the community has been overwhelming, Halldorson noticed there have been more women donating than men.

"I guess that speaks to the fact that men maybe aren't as aware as they should be," he said. "One of the biggest things I'm trying to do



Nik Halldorson. • • • Photo supplied

is raise awareness of the fact that this is a man's issue as much as it is a women's."



STUDENT DAY OF ACTION

THE FACTS!

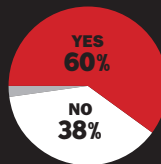
Undergraduate tuition fees in Nova Scotia have increased **231%** since 1990

Professional program fees have increased by as much as **664%** since 1990

85% of Nova Scotians support reducing tuition fees in Nova Scotia

...and **60%** would pay higher taxes to make this happen!

BLANK
02%



33%
TUITION FEES



60%
PUBLIC FUNDING

47%
TUITION FEES



43%
PUBLIC FUNDING

University funding has gone from 60% of total university revenue in 1990, to only 43% in 2009.

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ALL OUT 4TH FEB

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meet at the
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11:30AM

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for occasional updates



TIGERS WEEKEND ACTION!

DAL students are always admitted FREE with ID!

The Tigers volleyball teams want to see you in the stands Friday night! One lucky Dal student is going to win **\$500** in our Tigers Bingo game! We're giving away lots of other prizes too!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Women's Volleyball vs. UdeM, 6pm, Dalplex

Men's Volleyball vs. UNB, 8pm, Dalplex

Women's Hockey vs. UPEI, 7:30pm, Civic Centre

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Volleyball vs. UNB, Women at 2pm, Men at 4pm, Dalplex

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John Hutton
Opinions Contributor

After four years of tuition fee increases, funding cuts, and even talk of university mergers, students had good reason to be optimistic when a new provincial government was elected in October 2013. Liberal Premier Stephen McNeil had promised in his platform that “education isn’t a line item in a budget, it’s our future.”

In saying so, he was correct. Post-secondary education is beneficial for the economy, contributing \$1.18 billion to our economy, and creates 18,518 good jobs in Wolfville, Antigonish, and Halifax and a few others –and that’s not even including the community colleges. Education results in higher earnings and less unemployment (yes, even BA’s). That means a bigger tax base for important social programs.

Education is more than just a good investment, of course. It has a transformational effect on people that improves quality of life and society as a whole. According to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, edu-

cation measurably boosts social benefits such as dynamic impacts through innovation & knowledge creation, knowledge spillovers that increase skills and productivity of less-educated workers, reduced crime, increased civic participation, improved health, intergenerational benefits passed on to children, more volunteerism, more charitable donations, and more. Education helps us make sense of society, imagine a better world, have free and open discussions about how to make these ideas a reality, and then do it.

So Premier McNeil was really onto something when he said that education shouldn’t be seen as one more expense to trim when trying to balance a budget. Unfortunately (but perhaps unsurprisingly), that was just rhetoric to win votes. Since coming to power, the Liberals eliminated interest on the provincial portion of student loans, saving students roughly \$800: roughly equal to the cost of one year’s worth of tuition fee increases.

Then, they eliminated the \$50 million Graduate Retention Tax

Rebate. That money was not re-invested in more effective debt relief for students. Finance Minister Diana Whalen, who criticized the 2007 tuition freeze by saying “We would prefer a more aggressive reduction in tuition,” said of the dismayed students “Are they entitled to that money?” Meanwhile, minister Whalen’s been musing over removing the top income tax bracket and lowering corporate taxes, which would cost \$72 million to implement. Perhaps she thinks they’re entitled to that money.

This year, the government will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NS university presidents, something that’s done every 3-4 years to regulate fees and allow for multi-year planning. For the first time, students were excluded from these negotiations, which is not a good sign. As they say, if you’re not sitting at the table, you’re on the menu. Labour and Advanced Education minister Kelly Regan, who once said “Why is it okay to be on the side of students when you are in Opposition and then ignore them

when you go into government?” now has more to say about cutting \$50 million than about making education more accessible.

There is good news, thankfully. The first piece is that there’s plenty of good alternatives. That \$72 million that McNeil thinks we can get rid of? That could convert 100% of Nova Scotia student loans into grants AND reduce tuition fees by 24% instead. So we can afford to reduce tuition fees.

Given that students in NS pay the third highest fees in the country, graduate with \$37,000 in debt on average, and graduate into an economy with an 18% youth unemployment rate, reducing tuition fees is a really good idea too. The other piece of good news is that students have the power to change things. We saw what happened in Quebec when the Liberals there tried to raise tuition fees by 75%– students brought down the government and unseated the premier.


But even here in Nova Scotia, student action’s won victories for students: student campaigning in 2007 won a 4-year tuition freeze; a 2011 day of action stopped plans to deregulate tuition fees; student

actions in 2011 rolled back a proposed increase in international differential fees from 10% to 6%; student petitions at Dalhousie in 2012-13 reversed cuts to library hours and academic journals. So student action works.

Despite the ideological support of the McNeil government towards tax breaks for the rich and cuts for everybody else, students should be optimistic and energized. What the politicians offer isn’t the way things need to be. Through collective and persistent actions, students have the power to change things too.

We know that education matters. We know that education is worth fighting for, and we know that affordable, accessible education is possible.

So students, let’s remind Premier McNeil that education isn’t a line item in a budget.

Education is a right. 

John Hutton is a student in International Development Studies and Economics. He sits on the Dalhousie Board of Governors as a student representative.

NOVA SCOTIAN STUDENTS PAY THE THIRD HIGHEST TUITION FEES IN THE COUNTRY, AND GRADUATE WITH \$37,000 IN DEBT ON AVERAGE



\$37,000



I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it...somewhere else.

Shannon Slade
Opinions Editor

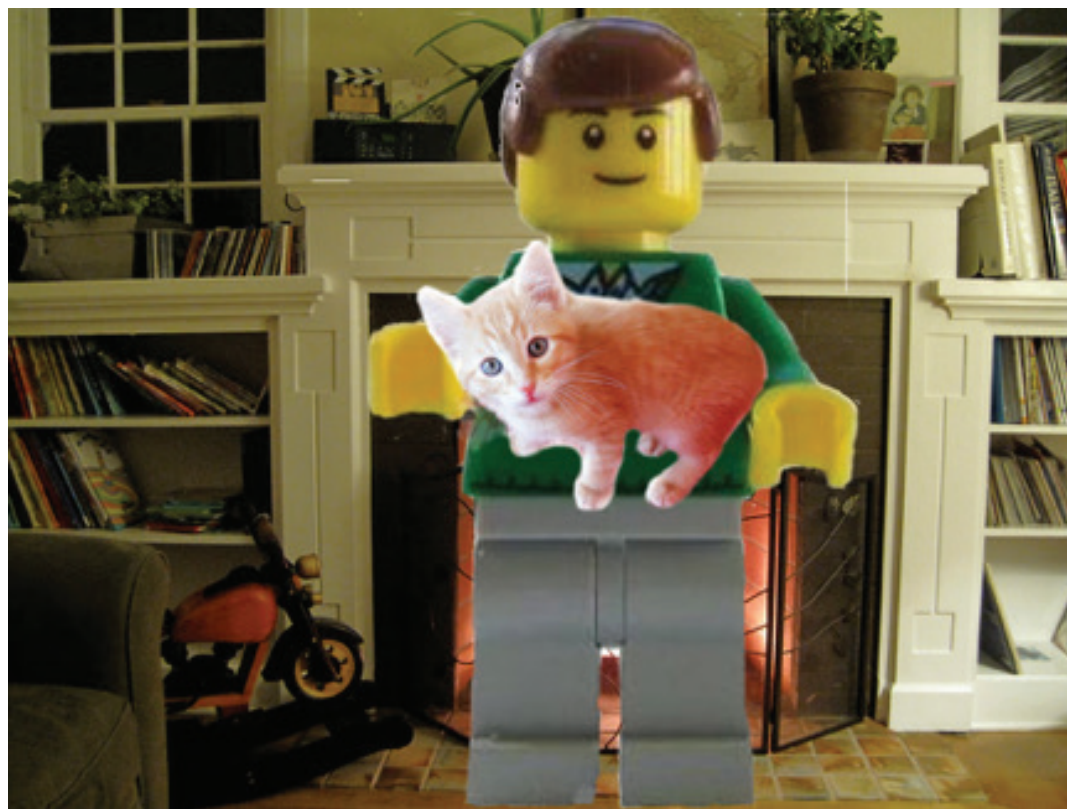
I'm just going to put it out there: I hate free speech debates.

One side is all "you shouldn't say that, it's awful." The other side fires back with "STFU, I'll do what I want". Everyone starts jabbering, think pieces are written and both sides won't give any quarter to the other. Inevitably, someone forces me into the conversation, and the only thing I can respond with is a weak "yeah, that sucks."

It's not that I don't care about free speech. I'm very grateful that I live in a country where I can do things like mouth off to a guy in public for saying something shady to me and not have to worry about acid being thrown in my face because I have a uterus, or make fun of Stephen Harper's Lego-man hair as loudly as I want to without the worry that I'll mysteriously disappear. I appreciate that I have the right to this—it's just that the nitty-gritty of the subject is frustrating as hell.

What are the limits of free speech? When does free speech transition to hate speech? What do we censor? These are just a few questions out of many that we have to ask ourselves every time anyone opens their mouth on a controversial subject, and thinking about it has become draining.

For example, someone is booked to give a talk on his belief that abortion is wrong, a mob



Tell me you don't see the resemblance. • • • Art supplied

shows up to shout him down, and they don't allow him to speak. My initial reaction to that is "Ha! Fuck that guy, he deserved it." And maybe he does, but I'm letting my very liberal views get in the way of the fact that the same rights

that allow me to say I'm pro-choice were denied to another human being. What happened to agreeing to disagree?

Freedom of speech shouldn't only apply when it is something you completely agree with. At the

same time, there are very convincing arguments for any of a thousand different scenarios in which free speech can be harmful, and censorship might be desirable. But who gets to decide which of those scenarios are worth enforce-

ing? And don't we start down a slippery slope when we start creating new taboos?

When some (overpriced) hot-dog-grilling asshole makes 'jokes' on their Twitter about burning Jews in ovens, my instinct is to say "get rid of him"—I don't care about the half-assed "sorry you were offended" backpedaling; the jokes were gross. Then someone else raises a point about the right to share personal beliefs on twitter, however crudely and ineptly, and it gives me pause. I hate when things give me pause, because then I have to think everything over, and spin in circles comparing the damage speech can cause with the dangers of censorship.

There are no clear lines when it comes to the limits of free speech. It's all a murky gray area that we are struggling with, and years of being dragged into that argument has left me feeling tired. I present you with the only solid piece of advice I've learned: try not to be too much of an asshole. Free speech seems to work best when we fire up more than two brain cells before exercising it.

That is it. The rest of you can get back to explaining to each other what Voltaire ACTUALLY meant. I'll be in my room listening to Janelle Monae with my bra off while my cat chases a laser pointer, because I don't have the answers and I doubt I ever will. ☹

The Dawgfather may be a joke, but he isn't very funny

Campus staple's offensive comments don't prove the point he thinks they do.

Sarah Estrin
Opinions Editor

Dalhousie University has found its name in the headlines a lot these past two months and now, through association, we are in it again.

This time it's due to the actions of the Dawgfather, Jerry Reddick, a friendly campus face who stands in front of the student union selling his hotdogs to students, faculty and staff who are in need of a quick protein fix. The controversy comes from the most recent content of his four-year-old Twitter account.

We all know that Reddick is a devout Muslim. Reddick, like many other Muslims, was offended by the comics published by Charlie Hebdo, a French magazine. It seems that he was upset by how everyone was defending the freedom of expression of the artists, and so he chose to put the shoe on the other foot. The manner in which he did this, however, was insensitive, disgusting, and proved no point whatsoever. The worst part? I don't think he understands how it was problematic. He simply thinks that he was making a point about free speech.

The tone of his comments about Jews and the Holocaust with the hash tag of #Hitler, shows his obliviousness to the whole situation, how he was only focused on how his religious beliefs were injured and insulted

at the hands of writers and comics in France. He was so focused on his own injury and the inappropriate way in which his prophet was portrayed, that he was unable to see how his "points" about freedom of speech were really not points at all, but just an angry man failing miserably at pretending to be wise.

He brought up and belittled the incredibly hurtful memory of one of the darkest moments in human history — the slaughter of millions of innocent people, a horror to which many members of our community lost countless family members — and he tried to equate it with the unpleasantness of having one's religion mocked.

He then tried to defend this behaviour as proving a point about how Canadians don't actually believe in freedom of speech, as if the public anger over his comments was somehow remotely similar to the Charlie Hebdo massacre. He concluded with a multi-day barrage of Tweets that I assume were meant to defend his behaviour, arguing that Jewish people were responsible for historical crimes themselves, reinforcing his points by providing his followers with links to such reliable sources as David Duke, a "popular" anti-Semitic conspiracy theorist and former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.


Members of the Jewish Community reported the

Dawgfather to the RCMP and the police, and this led to an investigation by the Halifax Regional Police for hate speech.

Reddick even turned himself into the station willingly, standing by his remarks and arguing that he was just pushing the boundaries of free speech.

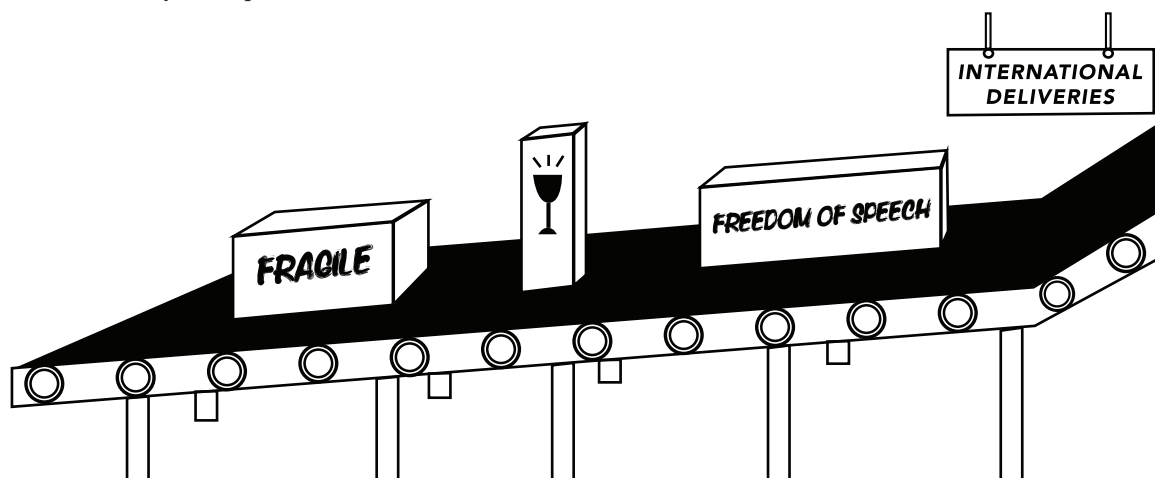
With anti-Semitism towards Jewish individuals so rampant and profound in France that

French Jews are immigrating out of France in record numbers to Israel and Canada, Reddick's attempt to "place the shoe on the other foot" was not only disgracefully dumb, but just down right disgusting. I do not wish to see him charged; if we issued fines for public acts of stupidity, I'm sure the police department would be rolling out new Lamborghini patrol cars within the month. I

just hope that he realizes his own ignorance and attempts to correct it somehow. In the mean time, I haven't bought a Dawg from the Father since my first year of university, and I don't think that will change any time soon. 



This T-shirt has its origins in the Dawgfather's (unsuccessful) 2012 bid for city council. • • • Photo by Jesse Ward



From the Archives

A History of Free Speech Controversies

John Hillman
Opinions Editor

“Freedom of Speech”

Volume 80, Issue 5 – October 31, 1947

Late last term a great flurry was caused on the campus when one of the university student organizations invited a member of the Labor Progressive Party (a legitimate party in Canada) to speak on Communism. The particular organization felt that to understand the views of a party it was preferable to hear a spokesman of that party than to formulate judgements on accounts that could be prejudiced. For this the students concerned are to be highly commended.

Shortly after this incident, a local union leader, a socialist who was scheduled to speak to a group of medical students, was suddenly told that his address was cancelled. He was given no justifiable reason for this cancellation. Perhaps other matters bear directly on both cases, but ostensibly the situation is not pleasing.

In a university, of all places, there should be absolute freedom of speech and thought. Lack of wisdom will be quickly discovered

in any programme that is brought to light. A programme, however, that is kept hidden by intolerance may well smoulder, attracting gullible and unwise followers, until the sudden eruption of flame is so great that it is extremely difficult to quench.

Furthermore, if a person is proud and firm in his political tendencies he should be willing to stand up in their defence and not merely support them by the negative policy of subduing others. This latter belief, it would appear, is the backward policy of both the people who created the flurry over the Communist hearing and those responsible for the cancellation of the union leader's address.

If these backward individuals feel that the actions of the people whom they wish restrained are evil it might be well for them to ponder over the feelings of John Milton when he wrote the following words: "...were I the chooser, a dram of well doing should be preferred before many times as much the forcible hindrance of evil doing."

“Controversy Ends in Dialogue”

Gazette Staff – Volume 123, Issue 22 – March 21, 1991

After printing an article entitled "A gay men's guide to erotic safer sex" over three weeks ago, it appears the furor over the Dalhousie Gazette decision has subsided.

(...)

- March 9, DSU Council met and voted down a motion to cap funding for the Gazette.
- March 13 the Gazette's publishing Board proposed a committee of Board and DSU representatives, to examine the relationship between the

paper and the DSU, and the paper's structure.

- March 15 the Halifax Police Department announced the article, and accompanying photograph, "were not pornographic within the meaning of the criminal code."
- March 17 DSU council passed the Publishing Board's proposal. Motions to dissolve the paper and cut its funding were withdrawn and replaced by a motion outlining

terms of discussion for the committee. A motion was passed to ensure any further funding to the paper this year would be in the form of a loan

- March 18 a students forum, organized by the Gazette, allowed students to voice their opinions about the paper. Stuart Slater, a third year Bachelor

HALIFAX

(See "Safe Sex Article Goes National" on page 14 for context)

The guide was published in the Feb. 28 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette. The edition disappeared from the campus within four days, prompting speculation that many copies were removed by people offended by the article.

Another Halifax student-run paper, the King's College Watch, tried to print the story Mar. 5, along with a commentary on the controversy.

But the issue came back from the printer with a large blank space and the word "Censored" where the article should have

been.

"There is a legal problem with printing anything that may be considered pornographic. And we have a lot to lose by printing anything that could affect our reputation," said Paul Fitzgibbons of WEB Atlantic, who personally pulled the article from The Watch.

While the Gazette's decision to print the article has been supported by many individuals and various groups, including AIDS Nova Scotia, some outraged critics are demanding

the democratically-run paper be replaced to "better represent the student population."

Two brothers of the Phi Kappa Pi fraternity plan to push for a referendum on the Gazette's future at the annual general meeting of the student union in late March.

They want the current newspaper "dissolved".

The Gazette is preparing for a possible referendum by planning an open forum on AIDS education and freedom of the press, to be held Mar.18.

Between the dentistry scandal, the Charlie Hebdo massacre, the Dawgfather’s Holocaust tweets, and the free speech wall erected in the SUB this week, freedom of speech has been a hot topic on campus lately. This is thus a good time to reflect on the lessons learned from our community’s long history of free speech controversies.



Allison Johnston, Co-editor of the Dalhousie Gazette (seen here verbally battling with the media) said she believes the dialogue between students and the Gazette has been useful. "There seemed to be a good exchange of information and ideas, hopefully that will be reflected in next year's paper."

"Pro-Life Group Inflames Protestors at SMU"

Leilani Graham-Laidlaw and
Lauren Nash – Issue 19 –
February 12, 2009 – Volume

141 A lecture entitled
"Echoes of the Holocaust" caused
an uproar on the Saint Mary's

University (SMU) campus Feb. 4.
Jose Ruba, a representative
of the Canadian Centre for Bio-
Ethical Reform, was invited to the
university by a group of students
and the chaplaincy to make a
presentation, which had incited
violent reactions, such as riots,
on various university campuses in
the past.

(...) "We're students here
too," shouted one girl in an
exchange with Ruba.

"We're disinviting you."

(...) Before Ruba's
presentation began, roughly 15
chanting people burst into the
back of the auditorium. SMU
students, supported by members
of the Halifax Coalition for
Choice, did not want to see this
"propaganda" on their campus.

Between very loud cries of "No
Hate Speech in our schools," "Pro-
life men have got to go/When you
get pregnant let us know" and
"Women's bodies, women's lives,"
among others, Ruba could not
make himself heard.

(...) When protesters at the
back of the auditorium blocked
the projector, Ruba asked those
who wanted to hear, about 32
people, to move forward, etching

a physical divide between the two
groups. As the group protesting
from the back demanded the
lecture stop, the group at the front
paid Ruba rapt attention and
wanted to see it. (...) Security was
called in to make an effort to keep
the peace after nearly 40 minutes.
The two security personnel could
not say who had called them in.

Soon after, they called the
police, who stood by as tension
escalated. Neither side would give
in to the other's demands. Ruba
went on with his lecture to one
group of people, while the other
group interrupted with questions
and yelled remarks.

SMU's Conflict Resolution
Officer eventually shut the lecture
down after approximately an
hour, but on invitation from the
chaplaincy, it continued
in the Canadian Martyrs'
Church next door. From there,
the presentation finished for a
much quieter crowd. Just over
30 subdued people filed into the
church, including one girl who
had been asking questions at the
back of the SMU lecture hall. She
did not interrupt at all, but asked
respectful but pointed questions
when Ruba called for them.



"Safe sex article goes national"

Ryan Stanley and Jeff Har-
rington
Volume 123, Issue 121 –
March 14, 1991

An article detailing safe-sex
information for gay men contin-
ues to make waves on campuses
across Canada, a month after it
first appeared in a Newfound-
land student newspaper.

(...) At least six Canadian univer-
sity newspapers have published
the article, and five more plan to
do so this week.

The Classroom is not a Gender Battlefield

Mandatory gender-based speaking orders an insult to all students.

Dijay Savory
Opinions Contributor

I heard some claims recently
about how classrooms might
not be the most perfect of learning
environments. That we might be
holding some people back from
sharing in that learning we all pay
so much to acquire. At a recent
forum on campus misogyny,
a SMU professor posited that
women should speak before men
in classroom discussions.

Let me pose a question: have
you ever felt that you were
excluded from lecture discus-
sions? Most likely not. Sometimes
classes are tightly scheduled and
don't have room for any discus-
sion, but that's no form of dis-
crimination.

The idea of forcing one gender
to speak before another is allowed
is appalling to me. Not because
I'm the one that would be forced
into the disadvantaged position,
but because this assumes that
women are, by some circumstance
or another, unable to assert their

own opinions before a man does.
From that leads only a limited
number of conclusions: women
are collectively intimidated by
men; women are inherently shy;
men are institutionally favoured
by lecturers.

This isn't a philosophy paper, so
I won't give exhaustive reasonings.
The first two are absolutely sexist
thoughts (though conditional,
situation-specific arguments may
provide them to be correct). In
personality, women can be just as
variable as men, so any reasoning
by that avenue only shows ugly
reductionist beliefs, reminiscent
of Meiner's skull-based racism,
only fit to a modern, murky
'environmental factors'-heavy
argument. The institutional
favouring of men is something
that has been debated for decades,
but I would like to point to a recent
example as to why I don't believe
it's a fundamental problem here.

We have read about the Den-
tistry scandal ad nauseum. The
salient fact here is that there were

consequences for those students
involved as a direct result of their
potentially misogynistic views
being shared.

Those consequences came from
the administration. Anyone who
believes that Dalhousie has a sub-
tle plot to disregard womens' feel-
ings must first demonstrate how
this instance of them responding
to said feelings doesn't immedi-
ately dismiss the idea of an insti-
tutional conspiracy.

Dalhousie may be secretive,
and may appear very disorga-
nized in its response to prob-
lems at times, but I think it is a
stretch to claim that the university
actively promotes a misogynis-
tic agenda. There may be isolated
instances of individual professors
with such attitudes, but if they've
internalized such discriminatory
thoughts, I doubt that they will be
effective champions of a female-
first discussion policy anyway.

But perhaps we don't need to
adopt such a hard-line on this
issue. What harm is it, one may

say, to let women speak up first?
Are men so weak that they can't
handle not being the center of
attention for once?

No! It's simply that the same
policy put in reverse would be
viewed as extremely misogynistic.
If we can't apply the same action
in reverse, and we can't prove that
the personalities between genders
are universally different, then we
shouldn't be making such radical
changes. Is it really fair to require
that a professor call on every
extroverted, regularly contrib-
uting woman in the class before
allowing the participation of a shy,
socially anxious man who felt pas-
sionately enough about a topic to
raise his hand for the first time? If
equity is our main concern, then
we should probably extend the
new policy to include all assumed
disadvantages suffered by sub-
groups within the class—but
who then has the responsibil-
ity of ranking and enforcing this
incredibly complicated privilege-
based pecking order?

All of this misses the heart of
the matter though, I think. There
is proof that some women are
socialized against behaviours that
some men are not. It is important
for us to not expand this known
effect as if it explained every dif-
ference between the genders –
teleological arguments aren't
required to demonstrate actual
discrimination.

If you think women are
so disadvantaged by their
upbringings that they are
completely unable to articulate
their feelings in the face of
internalized submissiveness, and
you feel so strongly about this
that you want to make changes,
you should be working towards
fighting that submissiveness
when it is conditioned, rather
than years down the line when the
symptoms strike. Be curative, not
palliative. University classrooms
are not embracing patriarchy
when whomever puts up their
hand first is the first answered. ⑨



Fear and Loathing in Ottawa, ON

Not exactly, but The Gazette hit up a national conference

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

If you've noticed this week's arts and culture section is a little light, never fear. The end is not near! No, it's only that I was a little exhausted from a half-week amidst Canada's best and brightest (journalists) at NASH 77. Trying to camouflage is hard work.

One moment we're sitting in the office, next we're rushing out the door to catch a short flight to Ottawa, where a national student journalism conference was being held. The *Gazette* was able to make it this year, after a few years' absence, so we flew under the weight of our noble responsibility as Halifax's ambassadors. It only took us a few days before we slipped into madness, but at least we held it together those few days!

Our accommodations were of meager sort – not quite the opulent palace that the *Gazette* is used to occupying, but it would serve us well. Two bedrooms, each with a queen bed, for five of us. So we ordered two cots – hospice variety, complete with those beige, rigid sheets that seem to creak and crack when you toss in your sleep.

There would be no breakfast, we were quick to discover, to our horror. We would later find out that free breakfasts are the single issue all journalists are passionate about.

Each night, we would eat alongside a keynote speaker, the first night's being none other than Peter Mansbridge, that holy icon of Canadian media. He gave us a good ol' heave-ho and we set off to a Russian bar across the street for the first social event. Daniel, our copy editor and features editor, was able to select some of the finest vodka (it was Grey Goose, I think). Eventually I slept, curled into a small ball at the end of an empty bed.

I could drone on from here

about what we learned at each seminar, but I don't think the specifics matter. What matters is this: what we are doing, as students and as members of independent media, is both important and universal. We chatted about our common struggles – issues in student politics, general campus apathy, gender representation – huddled on the hotel carpet until the early morning. Everybody I met had the same crazy eyes and zealous handshake.

The second night's social was upstairs at some bar, and I had already drunk too much to know or care about which bar it was. The DJ wasn't allowed to play any Blink-182; in fact, he wasn't allowed to play anything except off a list three printed pages long. We both laughed and he drank faster than I did.

It's important to note at this point that none of us were hung over. It was magic.

We also were proud to support the struggle against student debt. In our own form of protest, a few of us refused to pay cover at the swanky bar and instead waited in the dive bar next door. We drew on our wrists and smudged the image to make it look like a faded stamp. We each saved three dollars that night.

In our free time between conferences the closing gala, some of us made a trip to the Ottawa Church of Scientology. We had a rather productive question period with a 25-year veteran of the church, a man whose eyes still pierce me on every bus ride and crowded elevator. It is important to learn about everything, always, I guess.

At the conference's end gala, our own Jesse Ward walked away with the award for Best Political Reporting. Dinner was food stacked on top of other food (which means it's fancy) and dessert was a personal cheesecake. Within moments of dessert being served, Instagram

and Twitter trembled.

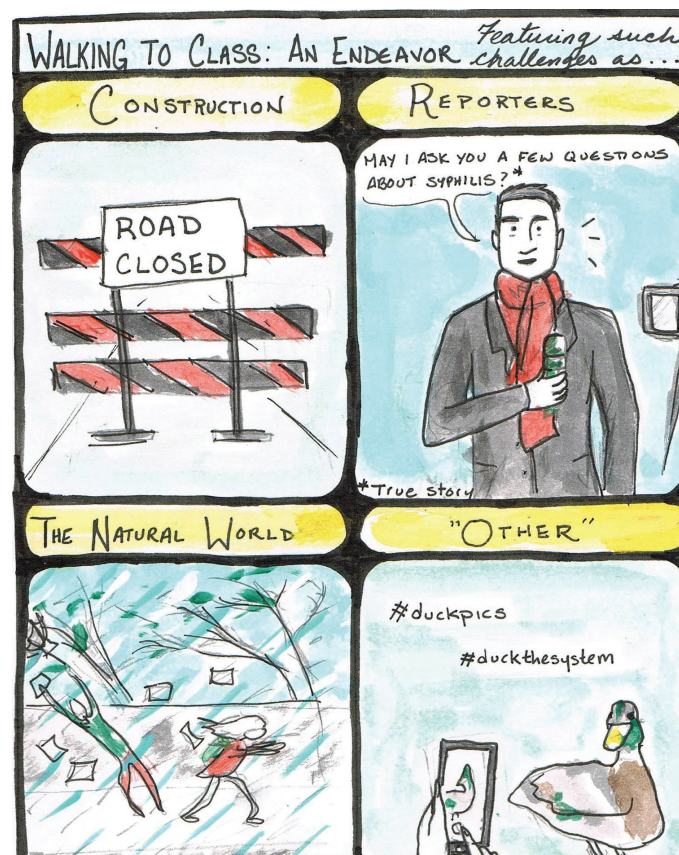
The closing event was held at the National Museum of Nature. We were promised "Dances with Dinosaurs," which I took literally. There were no dinosaurs. But we were allowed to buy wine by the bottle, so I conceded. We danced, I think. I do not know how to dance.

When we woke up, still no hangover. Sorry for harping on this, but we must have been blessed by the holy spirit of Mansbridge, or something.

By the end of it, I giggled maniacally. I am still giggling maniacally, but at least I know now that there are journalists across the country just as mad as me.

Dalhousie, we did our best to do you well. ☺

Likely Story by Sarah Sehl



Old Heart by Amber Solberg



ASOLBERG / 15

4 Answers about Feb 4

Get the Gist of the Student Day of Action



Protesters gather for the 2011 Day of Action. ••• Photo supplied by Canadian Federation of Students

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

If By the time of your reading this, Feb. 4 will nearly be upon us. You aren't quite sure why, or how, but the date has somehow been imprinted on your brain. You've been hearing people chatting about some big event, but you never quite catch all the details. Well, below you'll find the **FOUR THINGS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FEB 4:**

1) Why am I seeing "All Out Feb 4" everywhere?

Well, interested reader, Feb. 4 is this year's Student Day of Action. It's a means of student protest against inexplicable student fee

increases, and is targeting Nova Scotia's Liberal Party government. It's a reminder that student rights are equal to any other rights, and that our education is not a bartering chip. The "all out" aspect refers to the multitude of schools in Halifax that are participating in the event.

2) Well, what is this protest?

On Feb 4, students will be meeting in designated areas of each school (Dalhousie's meeting spot is outside the Killam at 11:30 a.m.) to rally down to Victoria Park, where the five participating schools will rendezvous. There, students will be able to listen to public speakers and chat about student issues. The

Canadian Federation of Students' webpage also mentions "giant puppets."

3) Why should I be protesting?

Listen: as a student studying in Nova Scotia, you're paying the third highest tuition fees in Canada. In 2013, when premier Stephen McNeil's Liberal Party came into power, they tapped into Nova Scotia's student population, promising us relief from the relentless barrage of tuition hikes. There has been no such relief. It is up to you to call out hypocrisy in government and to make it known that you care about your own academic freedom.

4) Why should I care? I mean, nothing ever gets solved by protesting...

Shut up. In 2007, student action resulted in a four-year tuition freeze. Just last year, student protest prevented cuts to library collections and academic journals. There is no force more powerful than a mass of like-minded and just-caused individuals. Hell, people have always been telling you "students are the future," so why not go and make it a future that you want.

See you out there. ⁹

More than Nostalgia

Halifax's LGBTQ+ Leaders Share Stories from the Turret

Paola Tolentino
Staff Contributor

The weekend is a pretty good time for gathering with friends and telling stories. In the



Photo by Paola Tolentino

Paul O'Regan Hall of the new Halifax Central Library, that's exactly what leaders in the Halifax LGBTQ community were doing. The Stories of the Turret program was hosted by the Nova

Scotia Rainbow Action Project and people from the Nova Scotia LGBTQ community. The panel-style presentation centred on the Turret, a former centre of socio-political action, gathering and access located in the historic Khyber building (the now-closed property on Barrington Street). Photos and stories were shared, and audience input was not only accepted but encouraged. The discussion ranged from asking contemporary queer gathering places to problems of accessibility, to substance use and witty remarks about hook-ups. The Turret, and the Gay Alliance for Equality, have some interesting stories. From hilarious antics that include keeping beer cold by stashing it on the roof, to memories about drag shows, conferences, plays, feminist groups and inappropriate murals. What started as a dance club

became a place that bonded a community. The Turret was unlike other clubs at the time, as it was owned and operated by actual queer people, with high participation and input from both genders and an almost all-volunteer staff. It was also initially located near other queer gathering places, and associated with other groups, such as the Alternate Bookstore and various feminist groups. Halifax's LGBTQ+ community has a long history. The Turret is only one part of it, even if it is a very significant part. To be able to tell stories is one of the most important parts of any community. It is a way to shape identity and history. Despite the growing acceptance of marginalized people, it is still hard to find LGBTQ stories, especially hearing them from queer people themselves. This only makes places and events like Stories of the Turret more

and more important. It's a way to reflect how far the community has come, and how much it still has to go. Is it nostalgic? Maybe. But it's also inspiring and engaging. It gives the LGBTQ movement a very human face and feel. More events like this, including Blackout 2.0 (A discussion on what it's like to be queer and black in Halifax) and the Pink Triangle Gala, are coming soon, and can be found on the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Facebook page. The Friends of the Khyber organization, which campaign against the re-development of the Khyber building for commercial purposes, can also be found on Facebook or on their website, <http://friendsofthekhyber.org>.

A Tale from the Turret

Robin Metcalfe
Halifax LGBTQ
committee member

The Gazette asked Robin Metcalfe, who spoke on the "Stories from the Turret" panel, to share a story with us:

"I pulled out an anecdote that I included in my essay for the catalogue of the 1997 exhibition at MSVU Art Gallery, Queer Looking, Queer Acting: Lesbian and Gay Vernacular, which was republished in an expanded second edition last year by the Khyber Arts Society to accompany the exhibition, OUT: Queer Looking, Queer Acting Revisited. I have attached a short text adapted from that excerpt."

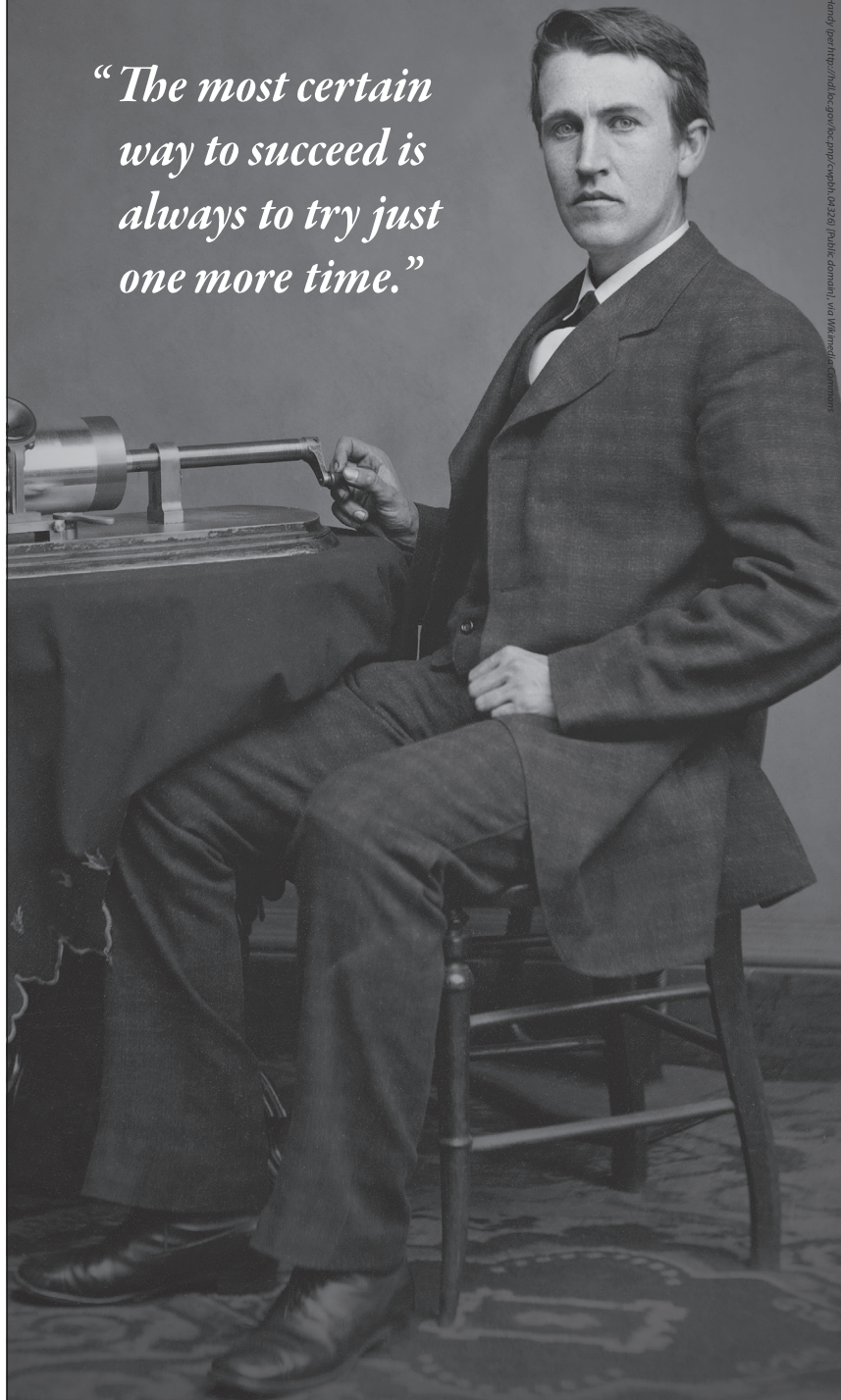
"I remember that the festivities

at the Turret Hallowe'en party in 1978 included two competitions: the traditional one for Best Drag, which would crown Miss Halifax for the following year, and one for Best Costume, usually an anti-climax to the main event. In 1978, however, Mert Mattice came in costume as Miss Piggy from The Muppets, handily winning the Best Costume contest but refusing to enter the competition for Best Drag. The drag performer Victoria put in a bravura appearance that would, under normal circumstances, have won hands-down. However, the crowd refused to accept anyone but Piggy for Best Drag, and began to jump up and down, yelling "Pig-gy! Pig-gy!" in unison, and threatening to crack the century-old beams holding up the dance floor. Miss Piggy averted a catastrophe by accept-

ing the title, then promptly abdicating in favour of Victoria. In the November 1978 issue of Have You Heard?, the monthly newsletter of the Gay Alliance for Equality, the banner headline read "Piggy Abdicates!" "Moments after her coronation as Miss Drag Halifax '78-'79," reads the article, "Miss Piggy (above, left) tearfully announced that she would rather see the tiara go to another contestant as 'they looked like they could use the \$25.'"



"The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."



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DO YOU WANT TO OPT-OUT?

Every fall and winter, we hold an 'opt-out period' where students can request that we refund their \$3 levy. However, students who choose to refund their levy are no longer considered members of the Ladle. This year, the Ladle's winter opt-out period will be held from February 9-13. During this time, you can ask us to refund your winter semester's levy. Opt-out dates and locations are: February 9, 11-3 p.m., the Tupper Link building on Carleton Campus; February 10-12, 11-3, Ladle serving space in the SUB; February 13, 11-3 p.m., Alumni Lounge on Sexton Campus.



Men's basketball unable to maintain momentum against Memorial

Tigers edged in second game against Seahawks after dominating opening

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor

After their most impressive offensive performance of the season, the Dalhousie men's basketball team couldn't make it two in a row, narrowly falling to the last place Memorial Seahawks 83-80 the next day.

Defensive collapses in the first half and an inability to maintain the lead down the stretch resulted in the Tigers' loss. The team still sits third in the AUS at 7-5.

The Tigers kept pace with the Seahawks during the first quarter, with John Traboulsi and Adam Karmali carrying most of the load to lead them to a 24-21 lead going into the second quarter. However, Vailje Curcic scored eight of his game-high 21 points in the second quarter to give the Seahawks a 55-41 lead going into the second

half.

The Tigers continued to chip away at the Seahawks lead, and were able to tie the game up at 70 with just over four minutes remaining in the game. However, solid work in the paint by Curcic and Caleb Gould resulted in the Seahawks regaining the lead, which they maintained until the clock ran to zero.

Dal head coach Rick Plato was frustrated with his team's defensive performance.

"If you want to be a championship team, you have to bring it every day," he said. "Last night we did everything we worked on all week long, and today we just didn't."

Third-year Jarred Reid said Curcic and Gould were a big reason behind the Seahawks victory.

"We tried to front them and pressure the ball. It was really

working well in the first game, but in the second game it looked like we were a little bit tired."

The first game, however, was a completely different story. The Tigers scored 29 points in the first quarter and never looked back. Five players were in double figures, with first-year Sean Dodds leading the way with 17 points. Third-year Kashrell Lawrence and Reid followed closely behind with 16 and 15 points, respectively.

Caleb Gould and Vailje Curcic carried the load for the Seahawks on both occasions. The two combined for 81 points over the two games.

Even with the Seahawks win, they still sit in the basement of the AUS at 3-9. The team shouldn't be taken lightly moving forward, though, as Gould and Curcic both didn't start the season for their



••• Photo by Ben Cousins

team. The Seahawks also handed the first-place UPEI Panthers one of their three losses. The team sits a game out of the final playoff position, which is currently being held by the 4-8 Acadia Axemen.

The Tigers have a big weekend game against the Saint Mary's Huskies on Jan 31. Dal had an

impressive 72-54 victory over the Huskies the last time the teams faced each other. [@](#)

This article was written before the Tigers home tilt against the Acadia Axemen on Jan. 27.

Tigers take one of two against Seahawks

Women's basketball drops nail-biter to Memorial, redeem themselves the next day

Photo by Ben Cousins



Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor

In a game that came down to the final seconds, the women's basketball team was unable to sink a buzzer beater that would have put them over the Memorial Seahawks. They were able to effectively regroup the next day, however, topping the Seahawks 69-62 to improve to 8-4.

AUS second team all-star Courtney Thompson lead the way for the Tigers on both occasions, scoring 21 points in the first game and 23 in the second. She continues to hold the league-lead in points per game at 21.8.

The first game saw the Tigers jump out to a commanding lead, leading 18-8 with less than four minutes remaining in the first. However, the Seahawks went on an 11-point run to regain the

lead just minutes into the second quarter. The Seahawks worked off that momentum to enter the second half up by seven.

After Memorial's Carolyn Adams made a layup with just 28 seconds remaining, the Tigers entered desperation mode, down by three with just seconds remaining. Tessa Stammberger made a layup for the Tigers in transition to put them within one. The team had time for one last play. With four seconds remaining, first-year Diedre Alexander attempted a game-winning jump shot from just outside the paint, but couldn't get it to fall. The Tigers were then forced to foul, and ended up losing the game by one.

The team had a much better showing the next day, however, as they were able to effectively shut down Memorial's Sandra Amoah

and Kaila Pond – something they struggled with the day before. They moved the ball around much better, resulting in guard Kristy Moore and forward Ainsley MacIntyre scoring in double figures.

Four teams are within two points of each other for top spot in the AUS standings. Though the Saint Mary's Huskies received their first loss since the 2012/2013 season, they still sit on top of the AUS at 10-1. UPEI, Cape Breton and Dal are all two points behind with 22 points.

The Tigers hope to keep the Huskies' losing streak alive Jan. 31, as they take on their cross-town rivals in a four-point game for the second time this year. The Tigers lost by a bucket in overtime the last time these teams faced each other, so Saturday's game is destined to be exciting. [@](#)

Men's hockey crushed twice at home

Playoff hopes slim after dismal losses to UNB, Moncton

Shelby Rutledge
Staff Contributor

It looks as though the Dalhousie men's hockey team, yet again, will not be seeing the post season.


The Tigers played two home games over the weekend. The first was Jan. 23 against the UNB Varsity Reds, followed by a game against Moncton the next day. Both ended in losses.

Dal's game against UNB started strong. Dalhousie's Luke Madill opened the scoring in the first 45 seconds of the first period. JP Harvey and Andrew Wigginton assisted the goal. However, UNB made a quick recovery and in a blink of an eye they scored three goals, and another four goals in

the second period to make the game 7-1 heading to the third. Dalhousie was only able to get the puck in the net one last time. Matt English scored the goal at 12:46 in the period, and it was assisted by Wigginton and Ben MacAskill.

The team's game against Moncton was, surprisingly, an even bigger lose. The Aigles-Bleus scored five goals in the first period, one in the second and another four in the third. But again, Dal was the one to open the scoring. Colton Parsons scored for the Tigers four minutes into the first period, with the help of Tanner Williams. The second period looked slightly better for Dal as they scored two

goals: one from Parsons and one from Fabian Walsh. However, Moncton's seven-goal lead was just too much, leaving the final score 10-3.

So far Dalhousie's men's hockey team has played 24 games, but only has six wins under their belt. UNB, Acadia, St. FX and Saint Mary's have already claimed four of the final six playoff spots. The final spot is currently being held by Moncton, which has 18 points so far this year. The Tigers will need to get five points in the next four games and hope for Moncton to lose its remaining games if they want a chance to compete for the title. 



• • • Photo by Jennifer Gosnell

The Ticker

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Editor



Women's hockey fight for playoff birth continues

Dalhousie's women's hockey team is showing some grit at just the right time.

Though the team fell in a 2-1 overtime loss to the AUS second-ranked Moncton Aigles-Bleus, the Tigers won when it mattered, topping the St. Thomas Tommies 3-2 to inch their way up the AUS standings to fifth.

Courtney Sheedy scored on the power play and Marita Alfieri scored two, including the game-winner in overtime to lead the Tigers over the Tommies.

The Tigers sit two points behind both the Tommies and Saint Mary's Huskies for third in

the league.

With only four games remaining, the Tigers' playoff chances are not set in stone, but after last weekend's play, they're getting better everyday.

St. FX and Moncton are the only teams that have clinched playoff spots.

The Tigers only have four games remaining. They take on the sixth-ranked UPEI Panthers on Jan. 30, followed by the Saint Mary's Huskies on Feb. 6, the 19-1, CIS sixth-ranked St. FX X-Women on Feb. 7, and they finish the season against the last-place Mount Allison Mounties on Feb. 11. The Tigers still need five points to fully clinch a playoff spot.

Men's volleyball flawless against Memorial

Well, this shouldn't come as much of a surprise.

The Tigers beat the Memorial Seahawks twice in straight sets. Both matches were fairly close, with the Tigers winning the first games 27-25, 25-16, 25-23 and the second 25-20, 25-22, 27-25.

Scott Bailey lead the Tigers with 14 kills in their first win, but was followed closely behind co-

captain Bryan Duquette with 13. Dal's Alex Dempsey led the kill total the next game with 11.

The team's real test will come over the weekend when they take on the UNB Varsity Reds at home on Jan. 30 and 31. Dalhousie has already clinched the top spot in the league, which means they will host the UNB Varsity Reds first in their best-of-three playoff tilt.

The Tigers are currently ranked fifth in the CIS rankings.

Haworth, Robbertse, Bruce win events at McGill track and field open

Dalhousie had a fair showing with the country's best at the 20th Annual McGill Open on Jan. 23 and 24. The women walked away third overall, with a team score of 80, while the men placed fifth with 54.75 points.

Third-year Jordan Bruce finished first in triple jump with a jump of

14.7 metres. Fifth-year Rebecca Haworth claimed top spot in high jump with her 1.79 metre jump. Chantelle Robbertse rounded out the top finishers for Dal in the pentathlon with a final score of 3,342.

The team competes next week at the Saint Mary's Open on Feb. 7 and 8. They still have a month until they compete for the AUS title at the Universite de Moncton, starting on Feb. 28.

Women's volleyball picks up two wins in Newfoundland

The women's volleyball team only dropped one set during their road trip to Memorial, winning in straight sets the first day and 3-1 the next.

Anna Dun-Suen led the way with 15 kills for the Tigers in the first game, and was tied for the kill lead in the second with Mieke Dumont at 11. Memorial's Krista Hogan had a game-high 16 kills in the second match.

The two victories extends the

Tigers' winning streak to five games. Memorial's loss drops them to 2-6, sitting just above the winless Cape Breton Capers in the AUS standings.

With three games remaining, the 7-2 Tigers have officially clinched a playoff spot. Their only loses this year came during their first game of the season against the UNB Varsity Reds and the Saint Mary's Huskies on Nov. 15. Two of the Tigers three remaining games are against the V-Reds and the Huskies.

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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

January 30, 2015

Challenge yourself to write

Can you write a short article on a topic you're passionate about? Prove it!

Andres Collart
Assistant Editor
MASc Ind.

You can probably design a system that does XYZ, calculate the energy required to power it, and design the electrical circuitry to boot. But can you write a short article on a topic you're passionate about? If so, prove it! You'll even get paid for being published!

The Sextant is always looking for content to publish, and we need writers to help us. There are many benefits to writing articles—for

one, providing a creative outlet to your rage, amusement, or curiosity at the world around you. On the more practical side—we are taught in our engineering courses how to solve technical issues, but there is little focus on communicating solutions. A major part of implementing solutions is bringing people to your way of thinking, and frequently this is done through writing professional emails, proposals, memos, or reports. Writing articles will aid you in honing your language skills, to the point where writing your final year project report is going to be easy... Okay, maybe not THAT much.

We have published articles on many topics in the past—everything from the Sexton sauna, solar panels, budget balancing, and airplane exit rows has appeared in our pages. We challenge you to write an article about a topic you are interested in this week. If you need ideas or guidance, just talk to any of the editors. Don't worry about your linguistic prowess, as we always edit articles before publishing.

Contact us at sextant@dal.ca or on our Facebook page to submit a piece, request a meeting, or just ask us questions.



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Upcoming events at Dal

"Aw shit, I need to put together the Sextant and I'm out of articles... what can I do to fill space this week?"

"ON MULTIDIMENSIONAL DATA VISUALIZATION BASED ON DIMENSION REDUCTION"

Friday, January 30 @ 11:30 AM

Slonim Conference Room, Goldberg Computer Science Building

Speaker: Dr. Maria Cristina Ferreira de Oliveira, full professor at the Computer Science dept. and deputy director of the Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

CLDC DROP-IN ADVISING

Tuesday, February 3 @ 10 AM – 4 PM

Student Union Building lobby

Drop by for a 15-minute meeting to discuss career- or employment-related questions. Offering resume/CV/cover letter review, interview prep, and job application assistance.

HALIFAX PLANETARIUM AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY: "LOVE IS IN THE STARS"

Thursday, February 12 and Thursday, February 19 @ 7:15 PM

Dunn Building, Room 120

Admission is \$5 at the door - reservations required: email planetarium@dal.ca

This has been a passive-aggressive reminder that the Sextant is run by the people, for the people, and using the people's writing. I mean, I could pretty easily just fill this space every week with whatever I want, but it'd be cool to chuck some journalism in here too every once in a while.

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

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