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Letters to the President

The Dalhousie Gazette
North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

A revealing personal essay
about one student's battle
with depression, pg. 6



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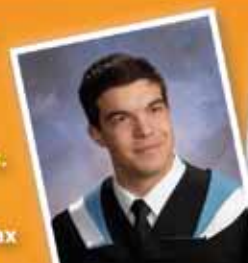


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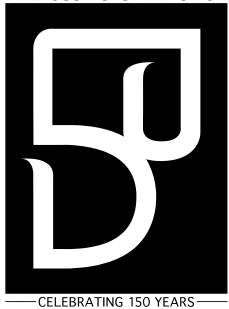
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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



WEEKLY DISPATCH



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Let your imagination run free. The Dalhousie Student Union and Lydon Lynch architects are proud to present the first in a series of consultations intended to direct the renovations of the Student Union Building.

DAL STUDENT UNION BUILDING 2.0

To ensure that Dal students have an amazing student experience, we need to create better places on campus for both socialize, work and play. It's vital that our campus evolves to keep pace with increasing enrolment, changing technology and student's needs. That's why the DSU has taken on a project to expand and renovate the Student Union Building. We are working with Lydon Lynch Architects, one of Canada's best designers of cutting-edge buildings for universities, communities and cities. They designed the new Halifax Seaport Farmer's Market and some of the coolest and greenest public buildings around Halifax and the rest of the Atlantic provinces.

THE DESIGN CONCEPT: YOUR LIVING ROOM ON CAMPUS

After 4 months of interviews, research and design in close collaboration with the Student Union, Dalhousie students, faculty and staff, the architects are working through the concept design phase. Features of the sustainable design for the new Student Union Building include: more comfortable seating areas flooded with natural light and fresh air; green walls and an accessible green roof deck; a new entrance on LeMarchant Street; a more intimate Grawood Lounge with patio on University Avenue and a new DSU Society HUB.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION: COME CHECK OUT THE DESIGN!

We think that the new student union building is going to be awesome and we hope you'll be just as excited as we are about this vital piece of our campus' future. We're inviting all students, faculty, staff, and alumni to a presentation at which Lydon Lynch will share the design and facilitate a discussion to hear your perspectives. We need you to be a part of this process, so we hope to see you there!

PRESENTATION DETAILS:

When: October 28, 2013 7-9pm

Where: McInnes Room, SUB

If you can't make it out to the final student consultation, please send any questions or comments to dsu@dal.ca. We'd love to hear from you!

Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter
Facebook Page: [DalhousieStudentUnion](https://www.facebook.com/DalhousieStudentUnion)
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Oct. 25 - Oct. 31, 2013 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, the Street, 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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DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) SUB to receive \$10 million renovation—Calum Agnew, News
- 2) Little victory, big problem—Jacob Sandler, Opinions
- 3) Study spaces—Shelby Rutledge, Opinions
- 4) Should our SUB be a living room?—Ian Froese, Editorial
- 5) Inside the mascot—Samuel Perrier-Daigle, Sports



DSU cancels bus trip to Elsipogtog protest

Over two dozen students attend despite arrests and violence



Supporters drive down Highway 11 between the barricades near Rexton, NB. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Bryn Karcha
Staff Contributor

Last weekend, several Dalhousie students travelled to Rexton, NB in solidarity with members of the Elsipogtog First Nation to protest shale gas exploration.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) had originally organized a bus to transport students to meet members of the Elsipogtog First Nations Community, but violence between police and protesters on Thursday, Oct. 17 led to the event being cancelled.

“We had a trip planned for a while to go all the way to Montreal, stopping at Elsipogtog on the way to meet organizers of social movements and understand why they were organizing,” says Sagar Jha, DSU president. “Once things at Elsipogtog became violent and there was an injunction, nobody was allowed in there. We decided to cancel the trip altogether.”

Katerina Stein, the primary event organizer for the trip, says they were aware of the injunction. “I think it was at the back of our minds. We realized anyone going on this trip would have to be briefed. We’re university students. We’re old enough to make our own decisions.”

While the DSU withdrew its support from the trip, some students are still critical of the decision to fund the bus trip in the first place.

“With any of these sort of events or protests, you have no control

or knowledge or guarantee of what’s going to happen or what turns that might take; whether it will stay 100 per cent peaceful or whether it will turn violent or whether whatever else happens. You have no way of doing any assessment of that,” says Matthew FitzGerald-Chamberlain, a Dal computer science student. “The injunction was passed in early October. They have had several weeks knowing it was an illegal protest.”

Stein also says the number of people who wanted to go

“THE INJUNCTION WAS PASSED IN EARLY OCTOBER. THEY HAD SEVERAL WEEKS KNOWING IT WAS AN ILLEGAL PROTEST.”

– Matthew FitzGerald-Chamberlain



Students gathered together at the protests. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

increased following the violence on Thursday

“After it happened, I got a ton of emails. We realized that we could go up, and we realized it was important to be there. More people wanted to go.”

Despite the cancellation, about 25 Dal students organized their own rides and traveled to Rexton, showing support and participating in ongoing protests and road-blocks along Route 134.

Some students are also upset by an email that was sent to about 900 students, reading:

Violence has escalated in Elsipogtog First Nation where the community is desperately defending their land from destructive shale gas extraction and defending themselves from police rubber bullets, tier (sic) gas and continued aggression. They have called for support and solidarity and students at Dal will respond.

Jha says the email was not endorsed by the DSU and should not have been sent out.

“All communications have to go across either my desk, or Ramz’s desk, the VP internal, or Lindsay’s desk, our communications officer. And it didn’t go across anyone’s desk. It just went out.”

He also says the DSU will be following up with the people who received the email. A retraction

was issued on the DSU Facebook page, stating:

The DSU strives to provide students with means to foster interests and support causes that are important to them, however, due to potential safety ramifications that could affect our members, by going to Elsipogtog, at this time, we have decided not to provide transportation.

Jha also added the DSU has not taken a stance on the protest surrounding Elsipogtog.

“We won’t make a statement about something publicly without consulting our DSU council first. If it’s something that’s an urgent matter that needs to be made the day of, it will have to go through all five of the executives, plus the general manager, and we’ll consult with the communications officer and see if it’s OK.”

Some students who saw the planned trip took it as a sign that the DSU had already taken a position on the issue.

“The fact of the matter is that the DSU needs to keep its priorities straight and give a critical look to what is in the best interest of students and not make stretches to make that work,” says FitzGerald-Chamberlain. “In a lot of cases, those environmental protests or social protests are not in best interests of students who

CONTINUED ON PG. 5

On the cover:

Dalhousie students, from left, Jasspreet Sahib, Florian Goetz, Mad-die Ruton and Layne Wilson grace this week's cover. Inside, we examine the topics and issues that matter most to everyday students in our special 'Letters to the President' issue.

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CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

aren't consulted on these sorts of things."

Despite the controversy, the protests on Saturday were largely peaceful and non-confrontational. Students joined hundreds of protestors on the highway or helped control traffic, while others were just there to observe.

"A lot of people are going up. Hundreds of people have come up from Halifax, people are coming from all over Canada, just to show solidarity with the folks here," says Aaron Beale, VP academic and external. "A bunch of friends and students decided to share rides and facilitate a group to go up together and just witness what's happening here so we can come back to Halifax and be better educated."

While there was police response to the protests, the only visible police presence from the barricades was an aircraft that continuously circled the protesters.

"We weren't planning to attend or engage in protest," says Jha. "We were planning on going to Elsipogtog to learn something. That was the purpose of the trip, and that purpose was unattainable, so we had to cancel." ☞

Explored: Budget cuts at Killam

Acquisitions and staff hours cut

Sabina Wex
News Contributor

The Killam Memorial Library has reinstated old hours on Friday and Saturday nights after feedback from students, including a petition in early October, but will need to make cuts elsewhere to balance their books.

Killam hours were only cut from the library after a 3.5 per cent cut was made to the operating budgets of every Dalhousie library, on top of a one per cent cut to the collection acquisitions budgets. As a result, the library will not be expanding its print collection this term or hiring any new staff, and will need to find other ways to cut costs to compensate for the return to old hours.

Joyline Makani, head librarian at the Killam, spoke to the *Gazette* earlier in the term and did

not believe the cuts could come from anywhere else.

"We've already re-evaluated everything. We are waiting now. If the petition doesn't come with money, we can't re-evaluate anything."

Now, with hours back, they'll have to.

The decision to keep the extended Friday and Saturday hours will be reviewed before January, based on the ability to cut funding to other areas of the budget. Failing that, reduced hours will be reinstated.

Hours were scheduled to extend to midnight again on Fridays and Saturdays starting on Nov. 1, as part of Night Owls, during which the Killam is open until 3 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday until the end of term. Because it reinstated hours Oct. 11, almost three weeks sooner, the library will need to figure out a plan B.



The Killam Library cannot afford any new acquisitions.

• • • Photo by Asrar Haq

Cuts to staff hours have already been made with consideration of union limitations and security for later hours. No full-time staff have been let go, but in an effort to more efficiently staff the library, no new staff will be brought in. This is especially true for student assistants, according to returning staffer Jeff Wilson, a second-year social work student.

"There are fewer jobs in total,

so I think we [the student assistants] are grateful for what we've received."

The full effect of the re-instated hours isn't clear yet, with the budget committee unsure of where the money is going to come from. The new fiscal year and budget start in March 2014. ☞

—With files from Kristie Smith

What does it take to save a generation?

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PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Sisawo Konteh

Director of Outreach Services
for Aga Khan Health Services,
Tanzania

Umaira Ansari

Communications Coordinator
for the Nigeria Evidence-based
Health System Initiative

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PHOTO: AKFC/LUCAS CUERVO MOURA



Alia Karim shares her experience of anxiety in the final year of her undergrad. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Alia Karim

Opinions Contributor

Debt is now engrained in our culture. Today's youth will face unique stress from ruthless competition, lack of employment opportunities, tuition fees that have reached an all-time high and the often life-long experience of repaying debt. This anxiety hit me in my last year of my undergrad. At the time, I thought my anxiety would subside, but it quickly developed into manic-like depression. This anxiety was heightened by the contraception I was taking at the time.

The stress of final year

The school year always starts off with some stress from anticipating the first few grades from my classes, but in my graduating year my nervousness didn't subside like it did in the past. In my last year of study, I was anxious about graduating and transition-

ing away from my safe 'bubble' of peers—the support system of friends, professors and community I had developed over four years. I was a B.A. Honours student and anticipating applying for grad studies, although I didn't feel I was ready to continue my education immediately following my undergrad. I thought about searching for jobs, yet I didn't have much luck finding many that only required a bachelor of arts.

“I DIDN'T FEEL THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO EVEN GET OUT OF BED”

I was lucky enough to have my mom's support. Even though

she is a single parent, she saved enough money to pay off my undergrad tuition. I didn't have to worry about repaying a debt post-undergrad, unlike many students. Still, the thought of the self-sacrifice my mom endured to pay for my education, along with the lack of scholarship opportunities for grad school, made me feel guilty and worthless. I was a good student, but I wasn't good enough. All the while, the pressure I put on myself to attain competitive grades ultimately ended up sacrificing the quality of work I usually did.

Birth control contributes to anxiety

About halfway through the fall semester, I started experiencing health problems stemming from my method of contraception. I started using the NuvaRing, recommended by a university physician. NuvaRing is a combined hormonal contraceptive vaginal

ring, a method I chose because it seemed easy to use and didn't appear to have major side effects (at least, the physician didn't warn me of any). I was wrong. I immediately began to feel even more anxious and started experiencing physical changes, such as hair loss and loss of appetite. It affected my appetite so much that I lost at least 20 pounds and I weighed just about 100 pounds—definitely not a healthy weight for my 5'4" stature. I could see the weight loss in my face, breasts, hips and legs. I was ashamed to see anyone. I remember trying to eat a sandwich in front of my boyfriend at the time and not wanting to swallow even the smallest bits of it. I had no idea that this was attributed to the NuvaRing until weeks later.

My anxiety reached a turning point when I went to a local hospital. I had broken up with my boyfriend, and I hadn't slept properly for weeks. I was experiencing

extremely uneasy moments of disillusionment from school, close friends, professors and myself. I explained my situation to another physician, who simply recommended that I exercise for 10 minutes every day to relieve my anxiety.

I called my mom, who thought my physical symptoms were due to my contraception. She was right. As soon as I stopped the NuvaRing I immediately regained my appetite. But I began to feel manically depressed, so my mom thought that I should postpone my exams and return home.

Recovering

Returning home wasn't easy. I felt like I failed school, even though I didn't fail any courses. Still, returning to my family was like 'coming clean' about all the anxiety that had built up. They made me realize my fears about my future and the fact that the contraception I had used contrib-

uted to my anxiety. I am naturally an anxious person due to my family background (both my father and brother left home while I was growing up, and I now have terrible relationships with some family members), but this particular period was a breaking point. My mom and stepfather welcomed me with open arms, but also gave me 'tough love'. They said that if I started running away from my problems at that point, I'd be running away for the rest of my life.

I had to work through my school papers to get better—I had to feel some sense of accomplishment. They were the shittiest papers I've ever written, but I had to do them. It was like pulling teeth; often I didn't feel the physical strength to even get out of bed. That's what it is to be depressed—your body feels like a ton of bricks. Being home alone, finishing my assignments, made me feel desperately lonely. I'd wallow constantly. Sometimes I didn't write at all. But as I tried more and more, it became easier.

The point of this article isn't to gain your sympathy. Don't look down on me. The point of this article is to enable others to learn

from my experience and deepen the conversation about debt, the educational system, contraception and mental crises that often arise from these things.

Understanding the bigger picture

I realize now that these anxieties also stem from contemporary structural and institutional problems that were out of my 'control'—particularly surrounding debt. Silvia Federici and George Caffentzis discussed this in great detail during their Oct. 3 talk, "Student debt, the bigger picture: activism and the struggle for free education." They claimed that, building up to today, there has been a breakdown of community due to neoliberal economic restructuring. There's no doubt in my mind that the breakdown of my family, and in particular, my 'nuclear family', has been affected by economic restructuring. They had debt and it caused them a great deal of stress. Though my mom was able to get by and pay for my undergrad tuition, it was hard for her. I feel guilty, but I don't think families should have to go through this stress.

“RETURNING HOME WASN'T EASY. I FELT LIKE I FAILED SCHOOL”

Putting people through debt is a shameful experience. The commercialization of university also plays a role. You can argue that competition for scholarships and grades can be healthy, but as I mentioned, even being a B.A. Honours student wasn't good enough for graduate scholarships (and I looked into scholarships heavily). Overall, the economic and education systems do not account for mental crises. As my grades went down that fall semester, I became even more anxious because I thought I wouldn't get into grad school—what would they say about this drop in my grades, especially in my last year? I didn't have any opportunity to explain this drop.

I think these multiple conflicts

that I was struggling with largely stem from a structural problem in neoliberalism. Debt enforces the struggle of basic family life. Not only do I feel guilty about my mom's past, but I also worry about the financial security of my future, and potentially that of my future children.

Moving forward

So what can we do? I'd say that women in particular should speak out to other women. When I returned to school the following winter semester to finish my degree, I didn't immediately open up to everyone. I found that, in time, the more I spoke about my depression, the more I was exposed to others who went through similar experiences. I met other females who've had side effects from contraception. This started to lessen the stigma of my emotional crisis. It is only through day-to-day organizing that people come together and realize each other's struggles. It also expands your consciousness.

It is so important that we all proclaim debt as the forefront of student and family struggles. Members of the Dalhousie Stu-

dent Union have worked extensively to present a student platform outlining three key issues (affordability, accountability and livability) to provincial electoral candidates, and to solicit pledges from students regarding these issues. A Day of Action march will be conducted to combat the growing problem of politician apathy towards student issues in our province. Before we are forced into more debt, we will be marching on Oct. 29 to demonstrate our indignation toward this increasingly desperate situation. Though the march may not achieve structural change, I think it's a step in the right direction.

There's no quick fix, and indeed, coping with my anxiety will be a lifelong process. Even though I made it to grad school, I still often think about financing my education more than the ideas in my thesis. I'm still afraid to face a world of unemployment, debt and increasingly competitive workplaces for youth. ☹

Alia Karim is pursuing her masters of environmental studies at Dal. She is the executive director of the DSU's sustainability office.

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Letters to the President

Samantha Elmsley
Opinions Editor

.....
As our new president settles in for his first year at Dalhousie and his 100 Days of Listening come to a close, *Gazette* contributors write in to offer some closing thoughts on our school. From athletics to apparent apathy, campus food to improved parental leave, these letters address issues that matter to students. Here's what they have to say.

More support for student parents

Dear Dr. Florizone,

In my three and a half years of graduate study at Dalhousie I've found many things to love about the university, but one aspect of my experience here has proven particularly challenging. I have two small children, both of whom were born since commencing my studies at Dal. The balance between family life and my studies is not always easy, and there are a few things Dal can do to help.

In the short term, changes to Dalhousie's leave of absence policy would smooth the transition both from and back to studies, for parents having (or adopting) a new baby. Currently, parental leave may only be taken in four-month increments, aligned with the academic semesters. This presents a dilemma for parents of a baby arriving mid-semester (as most do). A significant increase in flexibility would be realized if parental leave could start and end at a date of the parents' choosing.

Dalhousie does not make explicit allowance for maternity leave for students. Students may request a leave of absence for medical reasons, but must do so

before the start of the term they wish to take off. It's difficult to predict, months in advance, that medical problems arising from pregnancy will necessitate a leave.

Thinking in the long-term, there are a couple of topics Dal could address to position the university as more attractive to future student parents. While the national granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR) have adopted policies for paid parental leave, scholarships administered by Dalhousie do not extend the same support. A modest increase in funding, to support students on parental leave, would increase the chance that students return to full-time studies after having a child. Available, and ideally subsidized, child care on campus would also attract student parents.

Finally, more high profile promotion of services currently available to student parents would show support for these members of the Dal community. Financial support and leaves of absence are discussed on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website, but other support options, such as the counselling centre and South House, are not highlighted either on the FGS website or on the Health and

Wellness segment of the student services website.

Of course, starting a family has been a personal choice. I've taken this step while living far from my established support network of extended family and friends. I expected this choice to put additional demands on my time, as it has. I believe, however, that with a modest effort Dalhousie can make the balance easier for student parents, can portray Dal as more welcoming to those students who have children, and can work to minimize the chance that having a family represents a barrier to successful completion of one's studies.

Sincerely,
Janice Allen

STOP ASKING ME FOR MONEY, I'M BROKE

Dear Dr. Florizone,

I have no reason to dislike you. I've never met you, nor even attended Dal while you were in charge. From what I've heard about you, you seem like a pretty chill guy. Your Tumblr has a cool mission, even if its name sounds like a Gabriel Garcia Marquez fanfic. You gutted out a PhD in physics, for God's sake! That being said, I have one simple request.

Stop asking me for money.

Sorry, that was a bit forthright. I'll rephrase. Please stop asking me for money. Now.

Look, I realize this probably isn't your chief concern right now. You'll probably say that the president doesn't even deal with these things, but really, you're the president! You could probably snap your fingers and get a harried intern to run in with a hot dog from the Dawgfather.

I understand why I get so many emails. Universities run on donations, and you have a responsibility to get them whatever way possible. The issue I have is that they're tone deaf. Most sources seem to agree that the average Canadian university student graduates with about \$26,000 in debt. Yes, I said average, not worst off. That's big money—life-changing money—acting as a black hole, and the cause can be traced to your kingdom.

Here's the thing, though. You may say that these emails, asking for money that will probably go towards some new hydroponic garden on the SUB roof or whatever, aren't targeted towards the

average debt-riddled student. That's cool, but realize that even those of us who aren't up to our butts in loans aren't modern day Scrooge McDucks. I'm proud to have graduated debt-free, but I'm still relentlessly focused on finding free meals, living in a three-person apartment with four people, and wondering whether it's cost-effective to take a bus today instead of walking. If I can't justify a new phone, I certainly can't justify funding Dal's latest super cool fun project.

According to a report, former Dal president Tom Traves earned nearly \$400,000 annually, and I'm assuming you're somewhere similar. It's a hard job; I don't want to take your money away. However, someone earning six figures asking people nowhere near that for cash is a little bit off. The school that burned a hole in so many pockets is incessantly groveling for a morsel of our hard earned cash the instant we leave. It would be funny if it weren't so pathetic. There are plenty of rich alumni to hit up. No matter how much we loved Dal, we can't give you money, and because of these insulting emails, we probably won't in the future.

Dr. Florizone, I plead for reason.

Love,
Ethan Calof

P.S. Can you make a copy of this for King's? I can't afford the parchment scroll and quill they seem to require, much less postage from Taiwan.



Photo by Amanda Rolfe



Tarah Truant and Kit Moran • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Support Dal athletes

Dear Dr. Florizone,

On behalf of all student-athletes, we welcome you to Dalhousie! Our university has had a long and proud sporting history, a history that we hope you will join us in celebrating.

Our student-athletes proudly represent Dal in athletics on a national stage, and they also represent our institution in the Halifax community. In addition to winning seven AUS championships and having two top-five team finishes at CIS championships last year, we celebrated the achievements of our 93 Academic All-Canadians, expanded our Special Tigers program, and contributed to many volunteer initiatives in our local community. We hope that you will take time to become familiar with our student-athletes, whose endeavors are strengthening the reputation of our university. With your support, our dedication to excellence will continue to flourish.

Right now we stand on the precipice of a new era for sports at Dal. The construction of a new athletics facility offers the opportunity to reaffirm your commitment to athletics and recreation. The decisions that are made in this process will define our athletic programs for years to come

and will have a tremendous impact on the lives of all future Dal students. We, the Varsity Council, are excited to work with you to shape these decisions. We hope that you strive to understand the needs of our athletes and our community and try to strike a balance that will give Dal a facility of which our university can be proud.

With so much change on the horizon, it is an exciting time to be at Dal. We hope that you will be a champion for athletics at Dal and work to provide our athletics programs with the support they desperately need. We would like to encourage you to participate in our upcoming Movember fundraiser and invite you to show your Tiger pride at upcoming home games!

Warm regards,
Tarah Truant and Rebecca Haworth
Co-Presidents, Dalhousie Varsity Council

Kit Moran
Athletics Commissionaire, DSU

A library without books? Hilarious

Dear President Florizone,

I laughed pretty hard at the funny joke Dalhousie made about cutting library acquisitions for one, possibly two years. HA! HA! A library that can't afford new books? (*Wheeze*) That is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard!

Then I found out you weren't kidding. And stopped laughing.

I'm not sure how many business degrees I would have to take for this to make sense, but as an English and philosophy student, cutting library acquisitions is totally ludicrous.

How are professors supposed to do their research without access to updated scholarship? How are students supposed to write papers that aren't complete shit without that resource? As I'm sure you know, a lot can happen scholarship-wise in one year. Dal is not competitive as a learning institution if we can't keep up.

I know capital projects and library funding probably come from two very different streams of budgeting. But frankly, Florizone, I don't give a damn—I'm going to make this point anyways. Why are we putting \$13 million into renovations to the SUB, when we can't afford books? Why did we invest in whatever new mutation the LSC has sprouted, when journals

are being chopped as haphazardly as heads in the French Revolution? While the money for building may come from a different budget, these projects prove that the money is there. Rather than invest in the basic reason why we're all here—education—Dal is prioritizing concrete, glass and expansion.

Our basic mission as a university is for professors to do their research, students to learn about it, and the community to benefit from it. Bring the books back, Florizone. Our mission isn't accomplished yet.

Sincerely,
Samantha Elmsley



• • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

FOOD SERVICE FAILING STUDENTS

Dear Dr. Florizone,

The food situation on campus is pitiful. Students are paying Dal for a service they are failing to provide.

I confess the way to my heart is through my stomach, but the food at Dal makes me ill—literally. Like many students, I have food intolerances. I am allergic to dairy, soy and wheat.

The list of possible meals I can eat on campus is pathetic. I can have dry pakora at the Killam Bistro. I can have prepackaged sushi that's been sitting out for who knows how long. I can build a salad at Pete's ToGoGo. Everything else has ingredients I can't eat.

"I have a hard time finding out what's in the food," says one lactose-intolerant student. "It gets expensive having to take a lactaid pill with every meal just in case. It's better to know whether I have to take it or not. If I have something with milk or cheese in it and I didn't take a pill, I feel sick for the rest of the day."

Allergies are not the only concern. What about religious dietary restrictions? Where are the Kosher and Halal meals? What about ethical diet decisions? How much is Dal really accommodating vegans when they sneak dairy into everything?

Recently, Dal spent who knows how many hundreds of thousands of dollars to fly in dignitaries from

around the globe for an inauguration ceremony. Why spend all that money on an elite gathering instead of providing proper nutrition for students?

People are paying Dal to feed them. In turn, Dal makes them ill by feeding them food they can't eat, or forces them to abandon their religious or ethical principles. At the very least, the food Dal does provide needs to have a list of ingredients.

The sooner Dal starts offering better food, the sooner I'll stop laughing when they try to promote student health.

Sincerely,
Leah Shangrow

Dal merger should be more streamlined for students

Dear Dr. Florizone,

Congratulations on your nomination to the presidency of Dalhousie. From what I read, the initiatives with which you debut your leadership are thoughtful; some of your values are embedded in closing the gap between students, faculty and administration. It is certainly of interest to the student in me who has a difficult relation with formal education. My criticisms can be indelicate, but they must be understood in context of my own background; I've been to two universities, and the comparison easily favours Dal. That will not exempt it from my sharp tongue.

I first put forward a critique of formal education in general. There is a culture of academic constriction alive in large private schools, and one must admit that the inculcation of University of King's College, Nova Scotia Tech-

nical School, and Nova Scotia Agricultural College on top of old and vast Dalhousie institutions, traditions and relations all make Dalhousie University a large and unwieldy business to run. Thinning out the bottleneck sounds like a much easier process than it actually is, but I do not feel impertinent in saying that there is a strong consequentialist argument to exercise the adage "a stitch in time saves nine."

From what I can divine as a participant in the current registration procedures, the Dalhousie structures were spot-welded onto the incoming school's existing structure in order to facilitate a transition. Over time, the administration positions thinned in a natural streamlining process, but as regulations quickly became indoctrinated, the potential for their revision and innovation remain hidden in plain sight. I do not accuse administration

any kind of negligence; this indoctrination paradigm is symptomatic of every social institution. However, there exists both a perpetual potential for change and a pragmatic demand for its arrival.

My suggestion seeks to simplify the structure of class registration and degree programme requirements. Complications of the modern world and high incidence of retraining constantly forces students to regard the determination of their career as a high stakes game of Russian roulette. Each degree programme has its own set of classes and requirements; the combinations that create various degrees are confusing and difficult to administer, resulting in frustration of both students and administration. I am uncomfortable with the notion that rules are all founded logically, for their constant revision without simplification creates a tangle of policy that impacts the student/customer experience.

Please consider implementing a horrifyingly simple method: credit equivalency. I contend that



... Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

a student with twenty or more credits should be able to interview for graduation, with an opportunity to engage with what their education means. A portfolio system is subjective and difficult to standardize, but society already faces the inflation of individuals with formal degrees to the point where many working adults regard their degree as unrelated to their vocation.

Empowering students begins by reducing needless administration. I believe this kind of change can be put forward for discussion at Board of Governors meetings, and that it must be phrased as an

innovative project to attract students and boost the cultural happiness at Dal. The schools that exist under the Dal umbrella have the potential to add unique synergy and personal flavour to degrees obtained by students, thus marketing the Dalhousie brand by positive word of mouth and professional respect garnered by the impressive academic community that creates Dalhousie's reputation for inspired innovation.

Win-win.

Sincerely,
Josh Fraser

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DAL MUST STOP UNSUSTAINABLE EXPANSION

Dear Dr. Florizone,

In my time at Dal, I've witnessed tremendous change on our campus. Since 2007, enrollment in many programs has doubled. Entire new curricula have been enacted in our professional faculties. The names of the schools of Law and Management have been sold to the highest bidder. While many of these changes are welcome, I think it is time to put the brakes on one: growth.

Dal has ambitiously grown the enrollment of our Halifax campuses, with a short-term target of 18,000 students. This has strained co-op programs, lecturers and our physical space. "Strain" is difficult to measure, so let's put that aside and concentrate on something easy to measure: quality of recruitment and retention.

In 2009, VP Student Services Bonnie Neumann informed the Dalhousie Student Union's Council that our retention rate (the number of students who start at Dal and go on to complete their degree) was a paltry 82 per cent. In comparison, at Queen's it is over 95 per cent. A low retention rate is

indicative of a number of issues: quality of classroom education, preparedness of applicants, campus life and more. Similarly, many approved applicants opt to pursue an education at another institution, without ever coming to Dal. Dal needs to take steps to raise enrollment standards and recruitment so that within five years we have 95 per cent retention and 90 per cent acceptance of offers.

Other steps can and should be taken to make Dal more desirable to applicants. I entered Dal with high standing in high school. I chose to defer my acceptance by a year in order to travel. The process was difficult, but somewhat justifiable. I was asked a number of questions on my reasons for deferring. There was a formal educational component to my year abroad, but there shouldn't have to be in order to defer. I was led to believe that without high standing, deferral would not be an option. Contrast this with McGill, where acceptance is easy to defer (for up to two years) and scholarship offers are maintained. No questions asked. By making it easier to defer students' acceptance, we can provide an oppor-

tunity for students to explore and discover themselves before entering the classroom environment. This will benefit the students in the classroom and help reduce the number of students whose wanderlust causes them to leave the institution.

There is a growing risk with our current growth-focused mindset. The population of domestic students is shrinking. Foreign students are drawn from rapidly-developing countries, which will soon have the capacity to educate their own. If we are not careful, we could be left with a massive memorial to the current boom days.

In order to support these goals, capital expenditures should be focused on enhancing existing space rather than adding capacity for even more students. With a hard cap of 18,000 students, we can make better decisions in our campus plan.

High retention will reduce our need to recruit, ease the strain on first-year courses, and add capacity for upper-year students in residences. As we hold the line on total enrollment, standards for admission will need to rise. Less-qualified applicants will need to look elsewhere for their education. Dalhousie will be better off.

Sincerely,
Ben Wedge



... Photo by Kit Moran

Lack of student voters does not signify student apathy

Dear Dr. Florizone,

Please let me preface my letter with a quote from Edmund Burke, which has only proven itself more with time: "It is a general popular error to suppose the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare."

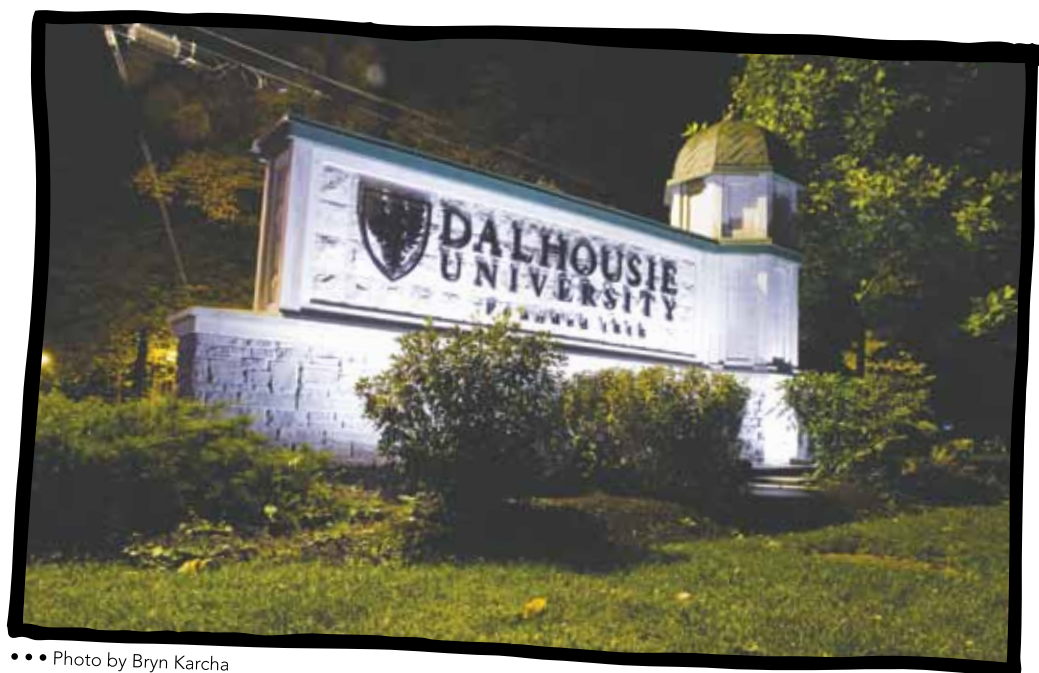
In the last Dalhousie Student Union election, we had 16.35 per cent voter turnout. Our campus is greatly defended by a small electorate and they're often referred to as the insiders. My fear, for you, is taking their concerns and opinions as the end-all. I am one of those students who votes and who participates in society events, but I see thousands of students who walk by every day and just go to school. Please, keep these students in mind.

They won't complain as much. Few of them will be pushed to write a letter to you here and now.

But before you make a decision that will affect the student body, remember that our body is diverse and that most of it won't come to you with input. You have to go to them. And when they don't seem to have much to say, don't take that as apathy. Take it as the challenge it is: to improve how our campus communicates and open the channels that have long been welded shut by lacklustre student politicians, administrators and people of presumed power.

I wish you all the best of luck in this endeavour, and I know I haven't given you much for guidance. I'm excited to see what you do with it.

Sincerely,
Kristie Smith



... Photo by Bryn Karcha

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Home turf

Hometown HPX

Halifax Pop Explosion is upon us, a near-week of sleepless nights and concert-highs. While it's always a treat to have some big names roll into town, the *Gazette* thought it'd be great to redirect much of our focus inwards: we've included in what follows a number of "introductions" to some of Halifax's best known acts. We hope to be as musically diverse here as the city itself—a place filled with passionate individuals always pushing those extra buttons.



Kickin' down the garage door. ••• Press photo

Cousins

Emma Skagen
Arts Contributor

Cousins is a local energetic garage-pop duo consisting of Aaron Mangle and Leigh Dotey. They've been rocking Halifax with their powerful stage presence since 2009, as well as having toured throughout North America and Europe.

In a short email correspondence with the band, they revealed a sense of humor and lighthearted attitude. They say the most rewarding part of playing a show is "remembering how to play the songs" and that their current musical guilty pleasure is Sade, whom they've got on repeat.

According to Cousins, the Halifax music scene "has its own spirit and resilience unmatched across this twisted nation."

Considering the lengthy and impressive lineup of local bands performing at this year's Pop Explosion, it would be impossible to disagree.

The artists who will be visiting us from away, however, make it even *more* exciting: Mangle and Dotey say that they are most excited to see Highest Order, Jay Arner, Chad VanGalen, and Julie Fader at this year's festival.

Cousins' most recent release is *RIVER/SEA CHANGE*, a 12" split with Construction & Destruction, another awesome musical duo residing in our very own Nova Scotia. Pick up a copy of *RIVER/SEA CHANGE* at Lost & Found or Obsolete Records, and don't forget to catch Cousins' show at this year's Halifax Pop Explosion on Oct. 24. They'll be at the Marquee Ballroom playing alongside The Mouthbreathers and Toronto art-punks Fucked Up. 🐉

Alana Yorke

Bass River native Yorke debuts a novel synth-powered sound at HPX

Zoe Doucette
Assistant Arts Editor

Musician and producer Alana Yorke released a haunting video for "The Weight" in 2012, but things have shifted in the year since. While "The Weight's" soft echo and light-infused piano told the personal story of a scuba diving accident, Yorke is moving on and out to a new, powerful style, performing with her full band for the first time at HPX.

.....
"WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
TALK. WE'RE
GOING TO
TAKE YOU
SOMEWHERE"
.....

"The Weight" was something that I just had to do, and I think that was kind of a coming out phase," Yorke said.

"Our sound has changed a lot since then, and there's something a bit otherworldly and sort of intense in the music that we're making now... this music—it's very ethereal, it can take you somewhere else. It'll take you into your deep emotions... It's very different from watching a singer-songwriter tell you stories. We're not going to talk. We're going to take you somewhere."

Yorke, who holds a masters degree in biology from Dalhousie, pre-



The ethereal Alana Yorke. ••• Press photo

viewed '80s inspired songs from her upcoming album *Moving Pictures* at The Company House earlier this week. The sound of *Moving Pictures*, York says, is rooted in exploring days gone by:

"It's about going deeper and deeper in to the past. It's nostalgic... I got in touch with my own childhood influences, and for me that took me to the mid-'80s, into the early '90s... when I was a little kid."

Found footage videos from the '50s and '60s, the childhood years of her parents, inspired Yorke to look into her own early influences.

"You're like a sponge at that age... watching Gowan videos on Video Hits, driving around listening to Enya tapes. I used to drive around listening to her in the

'90s... I really have a love of Enya. Kate Bush... Gowan. Early Genesis, like the really gross '80s, mid-'80s stuff. I love it."

During their HPX showcase, Yorke and her band, which includes her co-producer and husband, Ian Bent, plan to create a startling atmosphere through waves of synth, body paint, and rousing group choral backings.

"This is our first time playing HPX, so we're really excited," Yorke says. Being at the festival will "feed us artistically," and "... it's a really great debut for us to put this full band show forward. It's a chance for us to put that foot forward and say it's no longer a singer-songwriter thing, it's more a synth thing." 🐉



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Halifax's 23-year-old folk-pop prodigy. • • • Press photo

Mo Kenney

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

Mo Kenney has been a regular fixture in the Halifax music scene over the past three years, excelling at crafting an intimate and very individual blend of alt-rock and folk-pop. The 23-year-old first caught the ear of East Coast veteran Joel Plaskett, who helped produce her self-titled debut release and hone her touring chops.

Mo will be performing on sev-

eral occasions throughout Halifax Pop Explosion. She'll be giving a solo acoustic performance at the Government House on Barrington St on Oct. 22, and will be performing alongside Joel Plaskett and Symphony Nova Scotia at the Rebecca Cohn on Oct. 24 and 25.

"I've never played with a symphony before in my life," she says. "I'm really excited, but I'm pretty nervous. I'll be playing two songs along with symphony arrangements, and Joel will be playing with me through the others. It'll be different from anything I've ever done."

Mo Kenney's debut record was released last September, and this past year has seen her nominated for an East Coast Music Award and a Canadian Folk Music Award. She's since been working with a full-band outfit, touring across the country. Through her success and acclaim, she's become a must-see in Halifax's diverse catalogue of musicians.

"The music community here is amazing. There's a ton of great artists and musicians, I love how tight-knit it is. There's always a healthy dose of local musicians involved with Pop Explosion." ☎

Billie Dre and the Poor Boys

Party Blues and Garlic Fingers

Sabina Wex
Arts Contributor

Billie Dre and the Poor Boys are to perform for their second year in a row at the Halifax Pop Explosion, bringing out new songs from their debut album, *Garlic Fingers*.

Head-banging and hip-swaying is almost impossible to resist when listening to the trio. Dylan Ryan thrashes his drums to perfect beats, Cole Henderson creates a punchy wail and William Dray puts a rock n' roll twist on his blues-meets-screamo voice.

"We're just about having a good time," says lead singer Dray. Drummer Ryan adds, "We bring the fun to the party."

Just by checking out their album title, *Garlic Fingers*, it's obvious the boys like to have fun. Dray is from Newfoundland, and both Ryan and Henderson are Dartmouth natives. Their main publicity photo (pictured) has them worshipping a box of garlic fingers with the necessary Maritime topping: donair sauce. They are East Coast kids to the core.

The band's Tumblr page (biliedreandthepoorboys.tumblr.com) is home to more witty and ironic photos and captions. The



Idol worship. • • • Press photo

caption for a picture of the Seahorse, where the band had their launch party, is: "hey there seahorse, looking tight #startedfrom thebottomnowi'mdrake."

Other photos include a picture from the stage at DalFest of dancing Dalhousie students (the band was "all smiles" at the concert), as well as a photo of strewn guitars and a half-empty box of garlic fingers (captioned as "well that escalated quickly #garlicfingers").

Billie Dre and the Poor Boys return to Dal campus on Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. to rock the CKDU lobby. They will also be opening for shoegaze rockers No Joy on Oct. 25 at Michael's Bar & Grill.

"We're really honoured to play the Pop Explosion again," Ryan says. "We attend it every year, whether we play it or not." ☎



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Dal Theatre presents: The Ghost Sonata

An unnerving and complex theatrical vision

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

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A twisted ride through a fever dream, *The Ghost Sonata* is nightmarish in a way that only powerful theatre can be. Dalhousie Theatre's first performance of the season is a purgatorial world of doomed mansions and enslaved souls, a place where blame is but one element of truth.

The Ghost Sonata was written in 1907 by Swedish playwright August Strindberg, during the last years of a life beset by mental illness. His work is prized as being artistically and structurally complex, while being abhorrently depressing.

The Ghost Sonata centers on a young, unnamed Student who longs for a life of reputation and nobility, the family within a nearby mansion being the epitome of his longing. After he is given the opportunity to join that world by a wheelchair-bound old man, the Student finds himself

within a circle of strangers, all bound by appearance and treachery, his glowing promise nowhere to be found.

Dal Theatre's performance was a well-devised combination of ambiance, sound and shadow, following in the likeness of Strindberg's twisted creation. Metallic clattering rang from the catwalks as the lights dimmed, jittering over the gloomy thump of a thick drum. The costume design seemed a mix between Victorian-era pomposity and Tim Burton. Of particular note was the stage lighting; the crucial mansion was projected on the stage's back wall as a group of lit windows, in which the goings-on inside could be seen as shadow. As attention was drawn to each lit figure, the lights would blur in and out of focus, creating an air of unease.

A parrot-woman who cannot stand the sight of a statue of her likeness; a wheelchair-bound embodiment of vengeance; a cook who eats away the life of her hosts;



A ghostly milkmaid haunts the stage. • • • Photo by Ken Kam via Dalhousie Theatre

a colonel without rank or honor; a young woman trapped by the inevitability of death—the cast of *The Ghost Sonata* did an excellent job of creating an ensemble of dream figures.

Dal student Scott Baker led the march as the Student and was matched on every front by an excellent performance by Chris O'Neill, playing the Old Man, during last Tuesday night's per-

formance.

Though the performance was relatively brief—clocking in its lone act at around 70 minutes—*The Ghost Sonata* kept the audience in rapt silence, trying to discern what was really happening onstage. *The Ghost Sonata* never promises any clear “aha!” moments, nor does it offer any insight into the realm of mental health. The characters come and

fade like shadows and the ominous “death clock” projected on the stage's back stirs on a looming chant of “time goes, time goes.”

Many left the theatre mystified—lost, as if snapped out of a lucid dream. *The Ghost Sonata* is a strong start to what will be, hopefully, a semester of thought-provoking theatre. ☹

Why aren't you playing: Outlast

The new name in terror

Vaughn Pearson
Arts Contributor

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Fifteen minutes. That's how long I lasted my first attempt at playing *Outlast*. I walked past the gates of Mount Massive Asylum, and upon finding the door locked, I climbed through some scaffolding to get in through a window in the east wing of the building. A few classic style jump scares, some spooky atmosphere, nothing I couldn't handle. Maybe I'd be OK.

I was not OK. The second I opened a door and was forced to peer into the darkness using only the night vision on my video camera while a man hung himself, I was done. Nervously walking through the room beyond, weaving around bookshelves covered in what I discover to be the remnants of a SWAT team,

I come to find one of the officers impaled, still alive, warning me to run with his last choking breath.

.....

**“WARNING ME
TO RUN WITH
HIS LAST
CHOKING
BREATH”**

.....

I took his advice, and in seconds I was online looking at pictures of kittens.

What got me most was that in *Outlast*, you run away, and fast. Danger will actually pursue you. These are not lumbering zombies or sulking monsters;

these enemies have a disturbing degree of humanity. What does that mean? They can do most anything and go most anywhere you can. So you have to run *and* be smart about it. Hide in that box, or take the extra time to scurry into that locker? You will be vaulting over railings, diving through holes in walls, and scurrying along window ledges trying to find places to hide.

In terms of gameplay, plot and presentation, *Outlast* hits the mark with most but falls short with plot. Gameplay is spot on. The game's parkour mechanics lend the chase scenes a frantic sensation. The use of a video camera instead of a flashlight is brilliant, as it forces you to immerse yourself in darkness rather than provide illumination. Sound design is worthy of the highest praise, as are the level and character designs, which play with basic human instinct



Just close your eyes and count to 10. • • • Press image

to conjure perfect amounts of anxiety.

Sadly, the game falls short with its plot, which lends itself to a few too many clichés. But with a compelling urge to get the heck out of Mount Massive Asylum, it's easy to find enough motivation to move forward even with the lacking plot.

With great determination and more silly cat pictures than Reddit can throw a stick at, I man-

aged to push through *Outlast* in around 13 hours. I feel there were more mysteries to be solved, and stories to be found throughout the asylum, though I doubt my nerves could stand another foray into that disturbed place any time soon. *Outlast* is, by far, an opus of the horror genre of gaming. Sorry *Amnesia*, there's a new king of terror in town. ☹



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Offensive question marks for women's basketball

Tigers hoping for balanced attack from this year's team

Ian Froese
Editor-in-Chief

Who picks up the offensive slack, if anybody, will go a long way in determining how Dalhousie's women's basketball team will do this season.

The Tigers will need a strong shooter to make up for the sparkling 20.5 points per game Keisha Brown averaged in her graduating year, good for second best in Atlantic University Sport (AUS).

Will it be the player bringing the ball up the court, Courtney Thompson? Maybe the dynamic Tessa Stammberger? Talented shooting guard Robbi Daley? Or veteran addition Rebecca Nuttall?

If you ask Tigers head coach Anna Stammberger, hopefully it's all of the above, and then some.

"We'll see," she said. "Everybody will have to pick up a little."

Brown's departure, along with fellow graduate Anna von Maltzahn, will require some adjustments from a Tigers team look-

ing to improve upon last year's passable 10-10 record. The conference's fourth seed was quickly eliminated in the quarterfinal against Memorial.

Dal will also need to be more consistent. After winning five of their first seven games last season, the Tigers faltered, dropping seven of their final nine regular season matches.

"That's always the big dream for everybody, it's consistency, within the game and within the season," Stammberger said. "Even yesterday" referencing Dal's 73-51 preseason loss to Carleton, "we had a great first half, we were up by 10, going into halftime, and then we had a very poor second half."

"How do you maintain that consistency? I think there's no magic answer."

Only one of last season's three rookies will rejoin a Tigers unit that is equal parts new and old. Six recruits will join seven returnees on this season's roster, which includes the aforementioned offensive threats as well as Ainsley MacIntyre and Korenda Colley. The rookie class is led by Sarnia's Melissa

Ellis and Sackville's Shaylyn Field.

Daley and Tessa Stammberger have been selected by their teammates as captain and associate, respectively.

Daley said it is a privilege to be chosen by her team.

"I want to set a good example for my teammates anyways, but it's an extra responsibility and I want to do it well."

Without any fifth years, coach Stammberger concedes her team is young, but knows their athleticism and balanced attack can help the Tigers qualify for another top four finish.

"I think we have a team that can run in transition, pretty athletic and, you know, I think we're pretty balanced," she said.

"We won't depend on one or two people to get the job done every night. We have different people that will step up at different times." ☺

The Tigers open the regular season at home with a pair of contests against the University of New Brunswick Nov. 8-9.



Robbi Daley (9) goes in for the layup. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

THE TICKER: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By Benjamin Blum
In your face. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

Team hosts tourney, raises awareness by thinking pink

The Dalplex played host to the Subway Centennial Tournament, as the women's team continue their preparation for the regular season. The Tigers took a nine-point lead into the half on Friday, Oct. 18 against Carleton, but only managed 16 points in the second half as they fell 71-53. Saturday night doubled as residence night and "Shoot for the Cure" in support of breast cancer research. Guard

Robbi Daley, who began the night shooting charity free throws, would score the game winning three-pointer with 0.7 seconds remaining in a 57-55 victory over UQAM. Sunday's bout against Saint Mary's would end in a 66-52 defeat, but forward **Tessa Stammberger** took home tournament all-star honours. ☺



Women's hockey opens season with resilient display

Blowout loss to St. FX a reminder of challenges facing inexperienced Tigers



Tigers women's hockey is back on the ice after last year's hazing incident.

• • • Photo by Richard LaFortune

Daniel Bergman
Assistant Sports Editor

A new era for Tigers women's hockey began this weekend, as a Dalhousie team carrying 15 rookies kicked off its 2013-14 campaign with mixed results.

The youthful Tigers appeared overmatched in their 7-0 road-trip loss to St. FX on Oct. 18, but bounced back the next night to capture a hard-fought 1-0 victory over St. Thomas in the team's first home game since they were suspended last year due to hazing allegations.

"We're young, we're going to make mistakes," says head coach Sean Fraser. "As long as we continue to work hard and get better

every day, we'll be alright."

The season's first 10 minutes proved torturous for the Tigers, as the reigning AUS champion X-Women scored three early goals in quick succession. St. FX never looked back, outshooting Dalhousie 36-9 while putting four more pucks past Tigers goalie Mati Barrett.

"We have to prepare mentally more so we're ready for teams like that," admits rookie Tigers forward Lisa MacLean. "X is a really good team... so you have to come

**"WE'RE
YOUNG,
WE'RE GOING
TO MAKE
MISTAKES"**

prepared when you're playing them."


The Tigers certainly seemed prepared for Saturday night's contest against St. Thomas at SMU's

Alumni Arena. The team came out flying, creating a flurry of offensive chances in a wide-open first period.

"We did a good job," Fraser says of the second game. "Our effort was better, we forechecked hard, we took care of our own end."

However, the game was not without its tense moments. After MacLean put her team ahead 12 minutes into the second period, St. Thomas regained the momentum thanks to a string of Tigers penalties. The march to the box continued in the third period, forcing Barrett to make some crucial last-minute saves.

Fraser notes that "most of the penalties were hard-working penalties," though he would prefer to see his young team maintain its discipline. "Obviously," he intones, "we don't want to take penalties."

Though this Tigers team remains a work in progress, MacLean sees reason for optimism. "We had tough luck [in the pre-season]," she says, "but since we've been spending more time together, practicing, we're jelling and you can tell." 

CATCH SOME TIGERS ACTION!

This weekend men's volleyball open their regular season with the Interlock Tournament, and it's the last chance to see the soccer teams in action!

Friday, October 25

SOCCER vs ACA, Wickwire Field, W 5pm, M 7:15pm

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs MtA, SMU Alumni Arena, 7pm

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL Interlock Tournament,

Dal vs Laval, Dalplex, 8pm

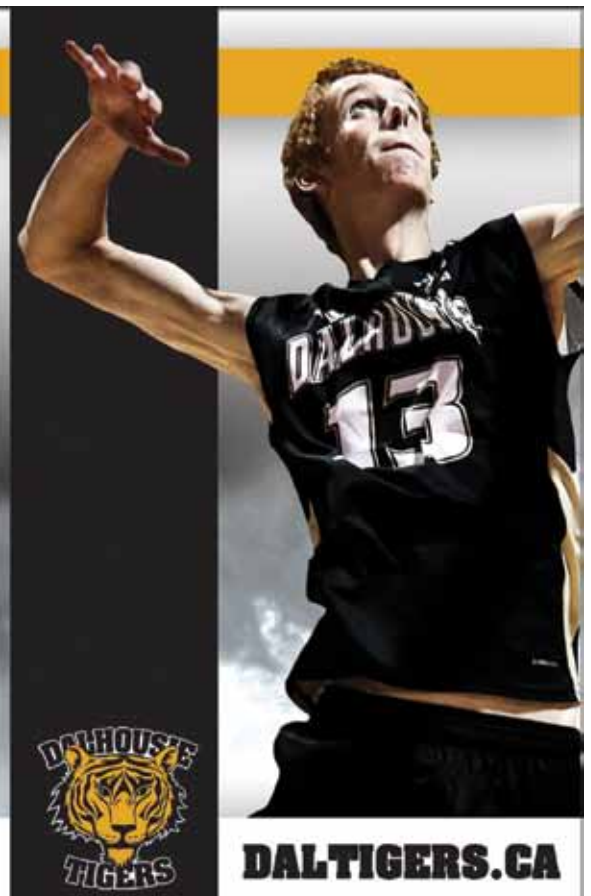
Saturday, October 26

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL Interlock Tournament,

Dal vs Montreal, Dalplex, 1pm / Dal vs Sherbrooke, 8pm

SOCCER vs UNB, Wickwire Field, W 1pm, M 3:15pm

Dal students admitted FREE with ID!



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DALTIGERS.CA



Andrew Roski (44) under pressure from the Panthers. • • • Photo by Nick Pearce via Dal Athletics

Rough opening weekend for men’s hockey

Tigers start AUS season with back to back losses

Benjamin Blum
Sports Editor
.....
The Tigers men’s hockey season got off to an inauspicious start,

dropping their opening games 5-1 and 4-3 to UPEI and St. Thomas University respectively. The Tigers began their campaign at the Halifax Forum hosting the Canadian Interuniversity

Sport (CIS) No. 6 Panthers. The scoring began with an unlucky break, after a pass intended for Ben MacAskill shattered the blade of his stick and led to a breakaway goal for UPEI. Tigers defenseman

Matt English would later even the score with a one-timer from Brad McConnell, but UPEI would respond with a pair of goals in the second period. “Our intensity dropped after those goals, and PEI was just a much better team the rest of the night,” says Tigers head coach Chris Donnelly. The Panthers proceeded to overwhelm Dal, dominating possession and keeping pressure on Tigers goaltender Bobby Nadeau. Even with several power play opportunities, including a four-

minute stretch of five-on-four after a UPEI high sticking penalty, Dal was unable to capitalize and subsequently surrendered two shorthanded goals. Donnelly attributes his team’s shortcomings to the collective attitude on the ice. “I don’t think our mentality was in the right spot,” he says. “As a result we probably gave up more opportunities than we’d like to against PEI, but you know, full marks to them, they played hard all night.” Despite the 5-1 loss the night before, the team responded with a resolute effort against the Tommies. However, special teams would spell defeat for the Tigers once again, with St. Thomas scoring three of their four goals on the man advantage. The offence did begin to click, with forward Brett Theberge netting a pair and Patrick Daley scoring late in the final period to keep the game within one. Despite this late surge, the Tigers would proceed to drop their second regular season game in a row, and sixth game overall. Adding to the Tigers’ struggles was the absence of captain Pierre Vandall due to injury concerns. He remains hopeful that he will be able to return for the team’s upcoming game on Oct. 25. The captain remains cautiously optimistic about the Tigers, who head out on the road for their next four games. “It’s work,” says Vandall about what his team needs to do to turn things around. “When things don’t go well, you work. And when they go well you keep working and everything will be fine after that.”

THE TICKER: SWIMMING

By Benjamin Blum
Kyle Watson won the men’s 400 metre freestyle. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

Dal makes waves at season opener

The AUS swimming season began in Fredericton on Oct. 18-20 with the Amby Legere Invitational. The men’s and women’s teams made a strong first impression, winning seven of the first 10 events to start the meet. At the end of the weekend, both teams finished first overall in

team scores, winning 26 out of a possible 41 events. Tigers swimmer **Molly Wedge** was named the meet’s top female swimmer. The Tigers continue their season on Nov. 2-3, with the Jack Scholz Invitational at Acadia.



Quidditch tournament brings fiction to life

Dal's Greek Council pairs with Shinerama for a magical afternoon



No "smiling charms" required to make the Quiberon Quafflepunchers cheery. • • • Photo by Mel Hattie

Alex Rose
Sports Contributor
• • • • •

On Sunday Oct. 20, the Dalhousie Greek Council continued its annual tradition of hosting a quidditch tournament. This year, the Greek Council partnered with Shinerama to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

Quidditch began as a fictional sport created by author J. K. Rowling, appearing in her first published

novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. In her novels, it involves wizards flying around on enchanted brooms chasing balls that have a life of their own. The success and popularity of the *Harry Potter* series eventually led to a real-world version of the sport for the Muggles who enjoyed reading about it, and then watching it when the book series was adapted onto the screen.

The type played on Sunday involved more running than flying,

and regular inanimate balls instead of flying ones. But the Greek Council's event still managed to capture the spirit and excitement of the sport.

"[We] organized the event to show what Greek Society stands for," says Sydney Trendell, vice president of the Greek Council and organizer of the tournament. According to the society's Facebook page, their goal is to promote the values of academic achievement, philanthropic involvement, leadership and an active, balanced lifestyle.

Each game involves two teams, with seven players aside: three chasers, two beaters, a keeper and a seeker. The chasers' goal is to throw a volleyball through three hula hoops held up above the ground on sticks at either end of the pitch, while the beaters threw dodge balls at players to temporarily remove them from the action. The keeper's job was to guard against the chasers from scoring, similar to a goalie in hockey.

The seeker, the most well-known position due to a certain lightning-bolt scarred youngster, is tasked with catching the Golden Snitch.

In the wizarding world, the Snitch is a small golden ball with wings that flies around and is difficult to capture. In the Muggle version, the Snitch is reimagined

and played by a really fast person wearing yellow. The Snitch made the seekers work hard to win on Sunday and, as Fred Weasley would say, could move faster than Severus Snape confronted with shampoo.

Another Muggle modification concerned the lack of access to flying brooms. At the tournament, each team member had to play the entire game with a broom between their legs and at least one hand on the broom. The games would end after 15 minutes, or when a seeker caught the snitch. Every player had to pay a registration fee of \$10 to enter the tournament. With eight teams registered, the afternoon was a competitive and charitable success, with the Greek Council raising lots of money for Shinerama and its cause.

By the end of the day, the teams had dissolved and the final match was comprised of whoever was left, including this writer. Regardless, the quidditch tournament successfully raised money for a good cause while offering the participants a chance to play a magical game. ☺

THE TICKER: SOCCER

Tigers go undefeated in Newfoundland

The men's and women's soccer teams embarked on their final road trip of the AUS regular season, with each squad playing two matches against the Memorial Sea-Hawks. After allowing an early goal on Saturday, Oct. 19, **Bianca Jakisa** evened the score and **Eunnie Kim**'s strike put them ahead in the 31st minute. Midfielder **Daphne Wallace** added an insurance goal in the second

half as the Tigers won 3-1. Sunday's match proved uneventful, as the two teams played to a 0-0 draw. On the men's side, **Nathan Rogers** scored two goals in two days, with **Bezick Evraire** and **Tyler Lewars** adding one apiece on Saturday and Sunday respectively in a pair of 2-0 victories. Both teams are now in second place in their divisions. ☹



A view of the pitch from the keeper's perspective. • • • Photo by Jasspreet Sahib



Old Heart by Amber Solberg



Jocular Impulse by Aniruddha Waje



Hoo-Haw by Andrea Flockhart



The Dalhousie Gazette

BLAM

STILL SEEKING COMIC ARTISTS TO FILL THIS VERY SPACE!

GET IN TOUCH:
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STREETEER

By Jesse Ward and Chris Parent

*If you ruled Dal for a day,
what would you do?*



"I would have a day off."
Mohamed Tadj
2nd-year commerce



"Divest from fossil fuels."
Emma Buchanan
4th-year sustainability



"Remove bottled water
from campus."
Melissa Le Geyt
sustainability alumni



"Bring in more big events
like Dal fest."
Samantha Faloon
2nd-year commerce



"Make profs responsible and
understand their role."
Emma Herrington
4th-year neuroscience



"Get Noam Chomsky as
a guest speaker."
Zach Parent
1st-year engineering



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FRIDAY, OCT. 25

Settlers of Catan Tournament,
3 p.m., Grawood (\$10 entrance
fee; email shinerama@dal.ca to
register)

Controlling Gold Nanoparticles
with Atomic Precision (Professor
Rongchao Jin, Carnegie Mellon
University) 1:30 p.m., Chemistry
Room 226

Sports: Women's soccer, Acadia
at Dal, 5 p.m. at Wickwire Field
Sports: Men's soccer, Acadia at
Dal, 7:15 p.m. at Wickwire Field

Killam Lecture Series:
Epigenetics: Mental health
beyond nature and nurture.
7:30-8:30 p.m. Ondaatje Hall,
McCain Building.

Econo-Brew, 8:30- 11:45 p.m. in
Economics B Building, Seminar
Room 1

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

Sports: Women's soccer, UNB at
Dal, 1 p.m. at Wickwire Field
Sports: Men's soccer, UNB at
Dal, 3:15 p.m. at Wickwire Field

MONDAY, OCT. 28

Saxophone ensembles. 12:15
p.m. at Room 406, MacAloney
Room, Dalhousie Arts Centre.
Senate Meeting, 4-6 p.m. in the
Macdonald Building, University
Hall

Talk: "Artists in Conversation"
with Annett Wolf. Storyteller
will discuss her interviews with
famous actors and directors
(including Alfred Hitchcock,
Peter Sellers, Jerry Lewis and
Jack Lemmon). 6:05-8:55 p.m.
Room 406, MacAloney Room,
Dalhousie Arts Centre.

TUESDAY, OCT. 29

AG Campus: Mature Student
Halloween Gathering, 12:30- 2
p.m. in Jenkins Hall, the Lounge

ESL Workshop: Effective Oral
Presentations. 4:30-7 p.m. in
Mona Campbell Building, Room
2109.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30

Lecture: Division of Medical
Education - Med Ed Rounds.
Speaker: Dr. Andrew Warren.
4:30-5:30 p.m. Online webinar.

Campus Food Consultation:
Campus Food Strategy Group,
6- 8 p.m. in the SUB, Room 303

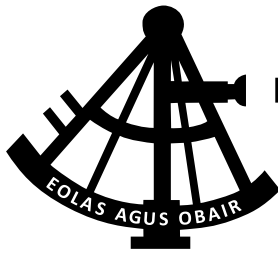
Film screening: Documentary
- Waste Land. 8 p.m. in the
Dalhousie Art Gallery.

THURSDAY, OCT. 31

Fundraising: Bake Sale -
Children's Wish Foundation.
Tupper Link, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fundraising: United Way Table
at Killam Library. 11:30 a.m. to
1:30 p.m.

submit listings to events@dalgazette.com



THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Ahsan Umar
M.Eng. Petroleum

The next champions of oil play

How new oil giants are helping to increase oil supply worldwide

It felt like a dream come true when my high school grades were finally good enough to get me into one of the leading and most lucrative fields in the world: petroleum engineering. However, I was taken with a burning question about the survival of this black gold. Many experts believe that "the peak oil" has already passed and that the world's biggest source of energy is poised to vanish like a soap bubble. Is it a reality? Will all the trains, airplanes and cars cease to move one day? Are we going to move back to caves? And above all, where will I go with a degree in petroleum engineering? Luckily, I discovered the fact that the annual quantity of oil explored globally surpasses the amount consumed. Let's take a closer look at a few major reserves, or "rising stars", of oil and gas and their production potentials.

Africa: The African oil and gas sector is now in the limelight with proven reserves of 200-210 billion barrels coming from nineteen different countries. Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, Angola, Sudan and Egypt weigh in as the major producers. A recent

edition of the Deloitte Energy Report stated that more oil has been discovered in East Africa in the past two years than anywhere else in the world. It should be noted that East Africa is one of the poorest and least developed regions in the world, with many people living on less than a dollar per day.

Brazil: Just like in football, Brazil stand outs in the field of oil and gas play too. In 2007 alone, the state-run oil company Petrobar discovered 5-8 billion barrels of light oil and gas in the Tupi field, 155 miles off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. The discovery in Tupi is the largest, recent oil field discovery in Brazil and one of the world's largest reserves in deep sea waters. The Tupi field has opened up a new window of opportunities in deep water explorations and many companies like Baker Hughes, TransOcean and Diamond Offshore are now working in this sector despite potential operational threats.

USA: America's oil and gas future lies in the hands of shale oil reservoirs; one of the most profitable unconventional

sources of hydrocarbons. The land under the red, white, and blue contains more than enough recoverable oil and gas to rival the vast reserves of the Middle East. A study by the Rand Corporation estimates that the sedimentary rock in the states of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming holds approximately 800 billion barrels – almost twice the size of the next two largest reserves in the world. Combined. Although no one is currently producing commercial quantities of oil from these vast deposits, the International Energy Agency predicts that the US will become the world's largest oil producer by no later than 2020.

Arctic: The oil race is headed north, where the white ice of the Arctic Circle conceals an ocean of black. It is believed that 25% of world's undiscovered oil and gas reservoirs lie beneath the Arctic Ocean which, only recently, has become economically accessible. A study by American geologists revealed that areas in and around the Arctic Circle account for 90 billion barrels of oil – enough to meet world demand for three years.

Canada: Possessing the third largest proven oil reserves in the world (13% of global reserves), Canada has solidified its position in the oil industry as the sixth largest oil producing country with 3.43 billion barrels of crude oil production per day. Canada's major reserves are comprised of oil sands, one of the most difficult to extract and technically demanding hydrocarbons. Reserves of Canadian oil are estimated to be 179 billion barrels, concentrated mainly in Alberta, though there are several deposits in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. The production of oil in Canada has shown increased growth since 2008 as a result of new unconventional oil projects.

In these uncertain times, nobody really knows how long this complex system of oil production and consumption will last. New technological developments in drilling and production have extended the industry's life, buying us ever more time with which we can work, research, and test for alternative solutions. ⚡



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400-600 words = \$30

600+ = \$35

Picture of the Week,

Comic, Abstract = \$20

SUBMIT:

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