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The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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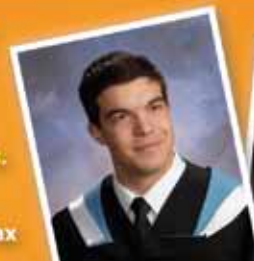


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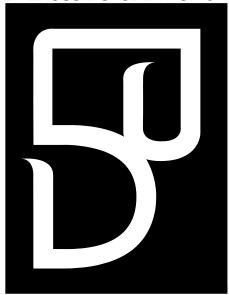
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SOCIETY LETTERS TO YOUR DSU

As all of you are probably aware, the DSU has been conducting consultations for upcoming renovations. The designs currently include a Society HUB on the third floor that can be utilized by all societies. The HUB will include private meeting rooms, space to securely store your belongings, a kitchenette, copy centre, shared work spaces, offices for levied societies and so much more.

Before we go forward with this plan, we would like to know how your society would benefit from a space like this. Are there any features that you would like to have added to or changed on our current design? We want you to write us letters telling us about your society and all of your thoughts on our renovation plans, including the good, the bad and the ugly! We will be posting these letters to our Facebook Page for all students to see. Our hope is that these letters will foster discussion amongst our members and help us determine how we can create a space that all societies can benefit from.

As a little incentive, we are going place the letters into a hat and draw for two \$250.00 grants! That's an additional \$250.00 on top of what you are already eligible to apply for.

You can submit your letters to our Communications and Policy Manager, Lindsay Dowling at dsupolcy@dal.ca. Submissions will be accepted until November 30, 2013, and the draw will take place on December 3, 2013.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter
Facebook Page: [DalhousieStudentUnion](https://www.facebook.com/DalhousieStudentUnion)
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Nov. 15 - Nov. 21, 2013 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

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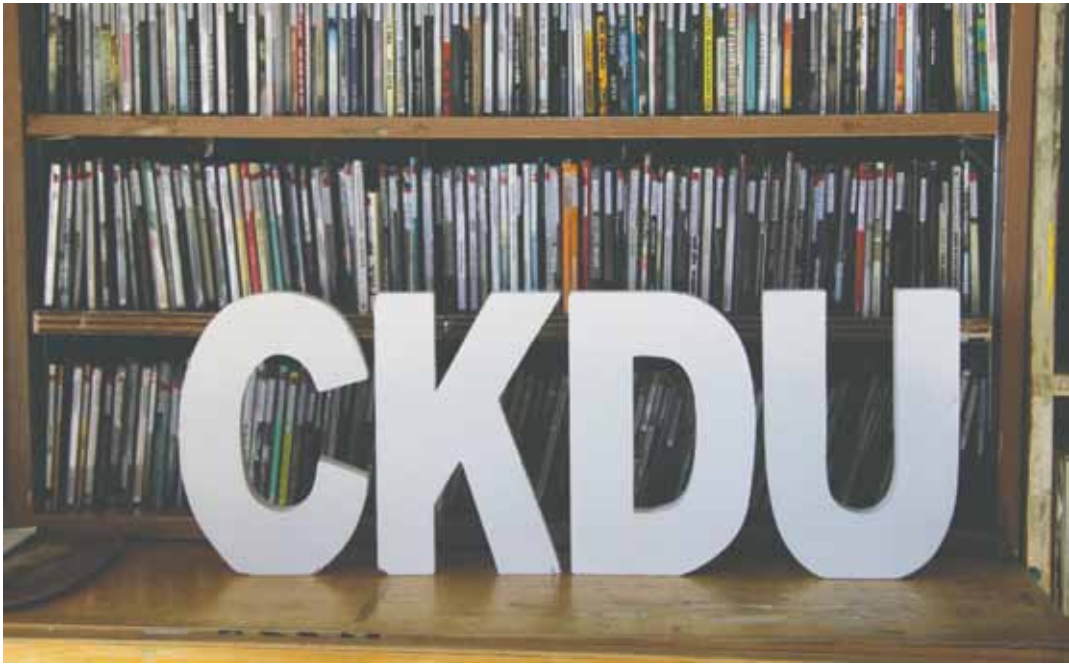
DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) **Library budget cuts somewhat explained**—Jesse Ward, News
- 2) **Love, life and university**—Jackson Haime, Opinions
- 3) **Going Nowhere and back**—Zoe Doucette, Arts
- 4) **Dalhousie trans student claims discrimination from cafeteria staff**—Ian Froese, News
- 5) **Improv yourself**—Sabina Wex, Arts



Local hotdog vendor suing CKDU

Radio station, contractor disagree on terms of catering summer picnic



CKDU is confident the emails support their side. • • • Photo by Adele van Wyk

Kristie Smith
News Editor

Dalhousie's campus radio station, CKDU 88.1 FM, and its station manager are being sued by a local vendor who claims he was never paid for his work at the non-profit's annual summer picnic.

Court documents show that Steven Weagle, owner of Superdogs Succulent Sausages, is suing for \$842. The station manager, Gianna L. Lalonde, was served on Nov. 5 to appear in court on Dec. 19.

"It was very to the point," says Weagle shortly after serving the papers. "I just said, 'Hello Gianna, you're being served,' and she said 'Great,' and that was that."

CKDU's volunteer appreciation picnic took place this year on Aug. 17 at the Halifax Common, featuring live music and softball. Hotdogs were traditionally provided by the Dawgfather PhD, an advocate for student issues who sells

hotdogs outside Dal's Student Union Building (SUB).

Unable to cater the event this year, he recommended a friend of his, owner of a recent start-up.

"I was embarrassed, because I was the one who introduced them and [Lalonde] would put him through that," says the Dawgfather.

"I'm very surprised that CKDU would even pull a move like that because they're supposed to be the quintessential, 'Hey, we're for the small guy.' Then what do they do? Turn around and stiff the quintessential small business man."

The arrangement between CKDU and Weagle was made primarily over email but Weagle says verbal changes were made at the event and that his volunteer staff, including his wife Kirsten and business partner Keith Crews, witnessed it.

"According to the emails that I have here back and forth between Gianna and Mr. Weagle," says

Russell Gragg, chair of CKDU's board of governors, "Gianna would give out tickets to CKDU volunteers and members that could be exchanged for either one regular hot dog, one veggie dog, or a drink, up to a total amount of \$250 and that would be turned around into \$250 worth of advertising."

Superdogs claims CKDU owes them \$842, to cover the cost of supplies and subsequent legal fees. In an email, Weagle listed the supply costs as such:

- \$126 in donair
- \$66 in beef
- \$48 in chicken
- \$165 in hotdogs
- \$45 in veggie dogs
- \$235 in kettle corn
- \$77 in pop and water

Superdogs was welcome to sell their food to anyone who attended the event at their usual cost, but to give free dogs and drinks to 24

ticket holders, says Gragg.

Weagle, however, understood that he would provide hotdogs to anyone attending the picnic and be reimbursed shortly thereafter.

Former CKDU volunteer Ryan Delehanty attended this year's picnic. He was not one of the 24 ticket holders to visit Weagle for free food, but after hearing about the ticket system, he found it strange when he was handed a free hotdog and drink.

"They had a tip jar for donations, so I just dropped the money I would have spent in there," recalls Delehanty.

Weagle disagrees with the radio station's assessment. He says the agreement was that he would supply enough food for approximately 150 people, accept donations at his booth, and that CKDU would "settle up" early the following week.

Instead, Weagle says he received a phone call from Lalonde the following Monday night, saying they'd already settled up and that no compensation was owed.

"A tip jar isn't out of the ordinary," says Delehanty, "but it just seemed kind of absurd to me that if they intended to give away hotdogs, why go through the effort of printing and tracking tickets?"

The Dawgfather has helped Weagle with the claim, a veteran of small claims court himself, and expected CKDU to settle before it got this far. Gragg says that won't be happening because the emails support their side of the story.

"I find it very confusing that they would go through weeks of emails and come up with something," says Gragg, who is overseeing the case for CKDU, "and then Gianna, without speaking to anybody else, would approach him the day of the event and completely change that around and agree to offer a large cash deal."



Steven Weagle. • • • Press photo

Lalonde declined to comment.

"I'm still hopeful that things might even be resolved without a court date appearance," says Weagle. "I'm an optimistic person that some sort of settlement can be arranged and avoid the added time and energy and cost associated with having to appear at court. To me, it's an unnecessary expense."

In the months since the picnic, the two parties have continued exchanging emails. At one point, CKDU made Weagle an offer.

"We felt bad because an independent business man misread an agreement and was out of pocket, so we offered to give him a bit of a break. Gianna offered a better ad package for him, which he said he was not interested in," says Gragg. "He wanted the cash."

Weagle acknowledged the offers by CKDU but recognized it as an "admission of guilt," asking why they would offer more than he was asking, albeit in advertising and not cash, if they felt they were in the right from the beginning.

The trial begins on Dec. 19.

On the cover:

Nathan DeLuca and Tasha MacDonald, two members of a Mass Effect-inspired cosplay group, bring the video game's futuristic world to life on this week's cover. The collective was named best group in HalCon's costume contest. Read our stories from the bustling nerdfest beginning on page 12.



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Rally against transphobia inspired by Dal student's complaints

Jessica Dempsey overwhelmed by support

Ian Froese
Editor-in-Chief

The words were right there on the cue cards she held, words she had redrafted time and time again to make them perfect, but Jessica Dempsey was still at a loss for what to say.

The silence would have been awkward, if not for her audience's understanding.

The Dalhousie management student was the centre of attention last week at a nearly 90-minute rally against transphobia outside the Student Union Building (SUB) at Studley campus on Nov. 7.

Dempsey has generated considerable attention after a pair of media reports late last month, including in the *Gazette*, disclosed her allegations that she had been discriminated against on-campus

because she is transgender.

After composing herself in front of nearly 100 supporters, Dempsey read her prepared speech. She said her decision to go public was not solely for herself.

"I am not going to hide anymore. I decided to take a very public stand for myself and many others, like me, who are not being heard," she said.

Her allegations are directed at Aramark, the university's food service contractor, after three separate incidents.

The first episode occurred this summer when she claims an Aramark employee refused to serve her food when Dempsey told the employee her female name. Dempsey previously frequented Shirreff Hall when she went by a typically male name.

Dal's Aramark employees took sensitivity training, but Dempsey

believes it was not sufficient. Since then, a different employee called her by her former name and, most recently, another Aramark worker asked Dempsey if her breasts are real.

The outpouring of support since the media reports has been flattering, she said. Dempsey didn't know this rally was being organized until she saw it on Facebook.

"When I got the message I was ecstatic, I wasn't upset," she said. "I was actually very touched that someone would make an event in my name."

Dempsey submitted her human rights complaint against Aramark on Nov. 12.

Jude Ashburn, South House's outreach coordinator, sent requests to various levels of Dal administration on behalf of the campus' gender and resource cen-



Almost 100 students rallied last Thursday. • • • Photo by Deborah Oomen

tre to attend the rally. She read a letter from university president Richard Florizone, who sent his regrets and discussed several steps Dal has taken to make its campuses a safe and welcoming place.

The *Gazette* recognized Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby in the crowd for part of the protest.

Shaun Bartone, a new Dal sessional instructor in social work, has experienced some of the same

trans discrimination Dempsey has felt.

He visited South House after hearing of Dempsey's troubles because he wanted to help.

"I know how difficult this is. I know how hard it is," he said after the rally, where he spoke and brandished a self-made sign. "We had to support Jessica." ☹



Reitman attracted more people than the Scotiabank auditorium could handle. • • • Photo by Asrar Ul Haq

Holocaust survivor speaks at Dal

Benjamin Blum
Sports Editor

"I never, never in my life, ever, thought it was going to happen to me. Never," said Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman. "But it did happen, and it can come again. It could happen again."

Riteman, the sole survivor of his immediate family, has been speaking internationally since 1989 about his harrowing experiences during the Holocaust, when over six million Jews and millions

of other victims were murdered.

As part of the Atlantic Jewish Council's Holocaust Education Week, Riteman spoke to a crowded auditorium in the McCain building on Nov. 5.

"For 40 years I didn't want to talk about it. I want you to ask questions. The book I wrote is for you guys, you living people," Riteman implored, referring to his book *Millions of Souls*.

Born in Shershev in modern Belarus, Riteman first encountered World War II as a 14-year-

old in 1941 during Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. After the army passed through his town, he described the entrance of the Einsatzgruppen, Nazi mobile killing squads, or "the real murderers" as he put it.

"You make sure that you teach your children to love, not to hate. You should not hate anybody," Riteman said, hoping the audience would leave with at least this message. "You don't like him? Don't invite him for dinner to your house. But don't hate."

Riteman recalls being forced out of his home in the middle of

the night and marching 40 kilometres out of the city near a ravine to shallow empty graves, where hundreds of people were mercilessly shot and covered with earth. Those who remained were forced into a nearby ghetto.

"You don't know what hunger is," he said, tearfully describing the ghetto. "I hope you never know. People lying on the streets starving to death—you can't even imagine."

He recounted the horrifying week where he and nearly 100 others were crammed into a small freight car as they were taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

As Riteman began to describe his initial moments in the infamous death camp, he removed his blazer, revealing the short-sleeved dress shirt underneath and the number '98,706,' clearly visible from several rows away, branded into his left forearm.

The U.S. Army liberated Riteman in 1945 after surviving 'death marches' to several other concentration camps. He was brought to the Dominion of Newfoundland by an aunt when Canada's Mackenzie King government refused him entry due to its shameful 'none is too many' policy regarding Jewish refugees.

"It's a real privilege for the Atlantic community to be able to have access to hear him speak," says Naomi Rosenfeld, the director of Jewish student life at the Jewish Students Association in Atlantic Canada. "To see the room packed and standing room only with predominantly Dalhousie students is amazing because this really was for them to educate the student population."

Riteman ended his four decades of silence in 1989 to speak in New Brunswick following the emergence of Holocaust denial rhetoric from people like Malcolm Ross.

"A lot of people just don't know [what happened]," says Shael Brown, a member of the Hillel executive who helped organize the evening. "It's so important that we continue to have events like this."

Education is fundamental to why the 90-year old Riteman continues to speak across Canada and the United States, exhorting audiences to accept the role and responsibility of passing along stories like his.

"You're witnesses. You saw me in person and I spoke to you guys," said Riteman. "You make sure you tell your children what did happen and don't forget because it could come again." ☹

The anatomy of the NDP's failure

Darrell Dexter's people-pleasing path that pleased no one



Crumble? Collapse? Catastrophe? ••• Press image

Nathaniel Basen
News Contributor

Just how bad was the Dexter NDP's early-October defeat? Collapse may be too weak a word.

Forget the office they lost, or the drop to third-party status. Forget the nearly 20 per cent of the electorate who turned away from them since 2009. Forget that their seat count was hit even harder,

dropping from a commanding 31 to a quivering seven. Forget that the outgoing premier won't be allowed to sit in the House.

Instead, consider the seats they managed to win.

Of the seven seats still under NDP control, not one of the candidates enjoyed even a six per cent margin of victory. In Chester-St. Margaret's, Denise Peterson Rafuse squandered her 20 point cushion from 2009 and squeaked by with a less than 150 vote victory. In Sackville-Cobequid, Dave Wilson watched his 45 point victory in 2009 (65 per cent of the popular vote) dwindle to 85 measly ballots.

But what can explain such a thorough dismantling of a governing party? After all, this government covered the cost of insulin pumps, steadily increased the minimum wage, expanded daycare and established Arts Nova Scotia—among other laudable

accomplishments.

Polling data indicates that those who “tried out” the party in 2009 shifted to the Liberals, while core NDP support remained more or less steady. But that doesn't tell the whole story. That story being a cautious, centrist Darrell Dexter ran a neo-Liberal government exactly the way he planned, and it alienated the supporters he counted on.

Dexter's New Left

That Premier Darrell Dexter favoured a centrist approach to social democratic reform was not an accident. The man who called himself a “conservative progressive” never hid his preference for cautious governance. This was not limited to the leader—it permeated the party.

Jared Wesley and Michael Moyes of the University of Manitoba have written a yet unpublished paper called *Selling Social Democracy: Branding the Political Left in Canada*. It traces Dexter's plan for governance back to Gary Doer in Manitoba, and ultimately back to Tony Blair's New Labour in post-Thatcher Britain. This model involves a slow buildup of support based on a shorter, more cautious

platform while disassociating the party from its more radical legacy. It's designed to remove the scare factor from a left-leaning party by considering all angles of party perception. As Dan O'Connor, the former premier's chief of staff told the authors, “there are no sacred cows.”

This pragmatic approach has proven to work. Blair ended 18 years of conservative government in the U.K. with his New Labour party. Doer, meanwhile, slowly transformed a party fresh off monumental rejection in the 1988 election into “Today's NDP,” accompanied by a decade in the Premier's chair which the party still holds.

Success with this plan requires a delicate balance of pragmatism to woo swing voters while maintaining enough traditional ideology to keep the party base engaged. If Stephen Harper's political success has taught Canadian politics anything, it's the importance of an energized base.

When Dexter took control, trying to remove people's fear of the NDP was a must. Peter Butler is a professor emeritus at Dalhousie University who has spent years conducting public opinion polls

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in Nova Scotia. When polling for the Progressive Conservatives prior to 2009, he often asked the question, “Does the prospect of an NDP government scare you?”

The answer was, consistently, “yes.” In 2009, the PCs used this in their playbook, creating a website called “Risky NDP.” As Butler says, “I would have thought that the first thing he [Dexter] would want to do is show people, you know, we’re not scary. And that, of course, is what he did.”

This pragmatic approach is nowhere clearer than in the party platform. The NDP cut down a 100-page, 71 idea platform in 1999 to a four-page, seven commitment document in 2003. By 2009, the party platform was a two-page leaflet including vague—vague but costed—promises such as “live within our means” and “create secure jobs.”

Louise Carbert, political science professor at Dalhousie was not surprised by Dexter’s governance based on her observation of previous NDP election cycles.

“I don’t think they turned out any more to the centre than I expected them to be,” she says.

The government inherited a faltering health care system, a stagnant economy, decaying labour industries in rural Nova Scotia and a broken-with-no-easy-fix electricity dilemma—all of which they knew or should have known.

Additionally—as if the situation was not unfavourable enough—they were rocked with an expense scandal that disproportionately fell on the government despite

the involvement of all three major parties. They were not set up for success.

The swing vote: Red is the new orange

Still, a government in Nova Scotia hasn’t been held to only one mandate in 131 years. What made this one different? A major reason was the NDP’s massive failure to retain those who are traditionally uncommitted to a particular party.

David Coletto, founder and CEO of Abacus Data, says the NDP lost the election “not because it was a Liberal-lite party, but because it wasn’t what [the voters] expected.”

Butler agrees. “The electorate looked,” he says, “and said ‘well, what’s different about them? They’re behaving just like everybody else has done.’”

The roots of this perception are easily exposed. \$304 million to the Irvings in forgivable loans, lower corporate tax rates, investment in old-economy pulp-and-paper jobs, \$65 million in education cuts and a broken election promise to not raise the HST played unfavourably with the swing voters whose supposed anxieties Dexter hoped to soothe. A party traditionally associated with high ideological standards misplayed their hand by ostensibly abandoning them.

The party was too focused on “what we need to do to get reelected” to ever truly govern, says Chris Majka, a long-time rank-and-file member of the

party.

With these factors alone, though, a more resilient government may have been able to bounce back. Governments have come back from worse: so why the monumental collapse?

Coletto suggests the NDP’s party’s identification outside of Halifax was too weak—people historically don’t see themselves as NDP, which helped contribute to the weak party organization outside of the big city. Voters who didn’t have a personal connection to the NDP were likely to wonder why they should support a party whose sameness had become apparent.

Beyond the swing vote, though, the party base was dejected. Sure, they still came out to vote, but they didn’t do much else.

Sitting this one out

Silver Donald Cameron—a journalist, author and political activist who has been closely associated with the party for nearly four decades—opened his doors to a canvasser in September. For the first time he told them, “No, I will not put up a sign.” He would not canvass, he would not become a poll captain—all he would do was vote. “And this was the experience right across the province—even the canvassers I spoke to agreed they were reluctant to be there.”

The problem for Cameron was not the cautious approach—“conservative progressive” came as no surprise. “I just don’t think I ever saw the progressive,” he says.

“Imagine, opposing parties are saying get rid of this government

to end corporate bailouts, and it’s an NDP government.”

The unwavering dedication to a balanced budget and spending cuts angered the base. This sentiment is summarized by a June 2012 letter written by Lars Osberg and Molly Hurd and signed by 59 party members. It asked, on behalf of “supporters who have worked for, and donated to, the NDP through many past elections,” why they should continue to support the party. “Because we are now trying to see the point.”

“IF THE NDP IS NOT A PARTY OF CHANGE IN NOVA SCOTIA, WHY SHOULD THOSE WHO WANT CHANGE SUPPORT IT?”

The letter spells out the government’s record of tax rate pledges, spending cuts to education and health care, and, of course, corporate loans. It ends with the question: “If the NDP is not a party of change in Nova Scotia, why should those who want change support it?”

The government may have kept

the core vote, but they lost large swaths of their support.

Now what?

So, the government fell. Was the electorate more prepared for a true social democratic government than Dexter thought? Did a party founded on new ideas run out of them? These are the questions the party needs to answer.

The critical question, as Cameron asks: “is there a reason for the party to exist?”

In the short-term, voters decided there is no reason for the party as it stands today.

In the long-term, party establishment must set priorities for what will be a slow return to credibility. First and foremost, their focus has to be on re-establishing the base. If they hope to continue down a centrist path, Cameron says, “What you will see is the departure of its core members in droves.”

If the party decides the centre is the quickest way to win government, they will see people like Cameron, Majka and the 59 signees of the letter tact left—an opportunity the Green Party won’t let slide. If the New Democrats shift left, they’ll face the same old questions that have historically badgered the party magnified by a poor record in government.

There is no easy way back from this collapse, and it will take serious and honest inquiry to find the right path. When or if they find it remains to be seen. ☹

Future of Canadian libraries and archives discussed

Sabina Wex
News Contributor

Masters of Library Information Science (MLIS) student Alison Froese-Stoddard believes stories can keep community archives alive. She and others discussed related issues at the Royal Society of Canada’s (RSC) “The Status and Future of Canada’s Libraries and Archives” on Nov. 8.

The talk featured a panel of experts but audience participation was encouraged for discussion, questions and advice.

University of Alberta’s chief librarian Ernie Ingles argued that putting materials from community archives into provincial ones might be better to ensure their availability for future generations. But Bedford’s Scott Manor House volunteer archivist Warren Ervine suggested the donors of these materials like knowing where their archives are, and wouldn’t want the materials to be moved to a provincial archive.

“I see vision, particularly in volunteers,” Froese-Stoddard said. “If only we could stop being bogged

down with trying to make it through the fiscal year.”

Froese-Stoddard believes that the Council of Nova Scotia Archives helps small community archives thrive, but that no national level supports them. In writing her thesis on sustaining community archives, she discovered that Canada is unique in its emphasis on community archives rather than getting bits of information from government archives.

RSC plans to have similar discussions across the country on the future of Canada’s libraries

and archives.

The information gathered will be turned into a report, and submitted to a peer review, as well as circulated by the RSC to both federal and provincial ministries, boards of education and the association that consulted in these discussions.

“The vision of a young, soon-to-be practitioner, in a school, in the [Dalhousie] LIS program, is every bit as powerful,” Ingles said.

“You have as much as responsibility to write that letter as does the provincial archivist, as does the Library and Archives Canada. And perhaps, I would suggest to you, you might be listened to more than them.”

Dalhousie librarian Donna Bourne-Tyson sees how even the

larger libraries are struggling to stay alive. Some publishers have stopped selling books to libraries because of the small financial gain.

“If libraries are trying to be a public good and provide access, regardless of somebody’s ability to pay, whether a student or a member of the public, we can’t do that if we can’t acquire materials,” she said.

Despite all these facts, the MLIS students at the talk all expressed a desire to remain in the field, hoping to solve these problems.

“I got into this because I was so fascinated in community histories,” said Froese-Stoddard, “and I am so interested in the people of Canada and in stories.” ☹



The pill, for men?

Why we should be supporting male contraceptives



Don't look so shocked: male birth control is a good idea. ••• Photo by Mel Hattie

Jackson Haime
Opinions Contributor

Let's just get it out there: a lot of sex happens at university. We have casual dating, we have a few too many drinks at parties, it happens. There's a reason we have a

sex column in the *Gazette*. It happens, and as every single person reading this who isn't the Messiah proves, sex leads to babies. Of course, most of us don't want children at the moment, so we depend on methods of birth control. Some people depend only

on condoms, some depend on the pill, and some depend on the Wiccan magic known as "period tracking." With all of these methods, everything should be pretty easy to prevent, shouldn't it? If we triple up, our campus is going to stay baby-free.

There are two issues with this, the first being that not everyone is going to be using all three methods. Hormonal birth control doesn't mesh well with everyone, condoms just don't feel as good, and "period tracking" can barely be called a method. This first issue

means that some couples, or random couplings, are going to be trusting that the guy behaves by pulling out in the nick of time. The second issue is simple: hi, I'm Jackson Haime, proof that the pill doesn't work flawlessly. Accidents happen, and people can have their lives thrown off by the arrival of a happy accident. Realistically, we need to take every precaution to make sure the university lifestyle doesn't bring responsibilities that we are not ready to handle.

.....
**"IF THIS IS THE
FUTURE, I'M
ALL FOR IT"**
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When studies are announced that male birth control is close to being a reality, I think we should be all for it. Much of the sex at university could result in pregnancy, so there should be a way for both sides to be ready for an encounter without needing to worry about the other not being properly protected. A second argument for male birth control is that we are totally dependent on women to protect "themselves" from getting pregnant. Whenever two people are getting in bed with one another, the girl gets asked if she is on the pill. Meanwhile the guy reaches into his wallet (and oftentimes the girl keeps the condom on her person). It's a one-sided arrangement, and it's just not very fair.

At the moment, the best option for male birth control seems to come from several research teams who are developing a reversible shot that renders a man sterile between 10-15 years at a time. If this is the future, I'm all for it. I know that shots are icky, but the situation we are in right now is not only unequal— it's risky. That being said, I know they don't feel the best, but use a condom, guys. They protect you from a lot more than just children. **g**



Schedule some sleep this holiday season. ••• Photo by Josh Fraser

All holidays all the time? Breaks shouldn't interrupt flow of academics

Josh Fraser
Opinions Contributor

Looking at the calendar, it strikes me that our compulsive secular practices of late have begun closing the gaps between holidays. What was once regarded as religious observance of largely Christian and State calendar landmarks has become a calculated integration of respite into our collective consciousness. We all seem quite comfortable with this shift; no question, our high-stress populace needs to be told when to rest.

Some universities have fallen into step, opting to mirror spring break with a fall break, the idea being that midterms are often a milestone of fatigue for students.

An academic calendar is much easier to manipulate and manage than a state calendar, but the precedent is an important one that academia chooses to support: that our considerations for structuring a calendar are best served by a behavioural analysis of those most affected by it. Dal has a different answer than some institutions. In lieu of a fall break, Winter Break was extended; with Remembrance Day falling on a Monday, giving students Nov. 12

off as well creates a much-sought four day respite near the end of the mid-term period.

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**“LEARNING
DOES NOT
FUNCTION
INDEPENDENT
OF TIME”**
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Speaking specifically to our own case at Dal, I think extending the winter break is popular among my peers who seek to reconnect with family and friends, especially those whose holiday locale is not in the Maritimes. Furthermore, many students appreciate the income opportunities afforded by a longer break from school, especially in the holiday season when retail stores are experiencing high demand and many requests for time off from permanent staff.

It seems to me that we are holding on to a notion that the creation of holidays is more than simply throwing a bone to busy and stressed students. The alloca-

tion of time in and out of session does not speak to the continuity of our lives, and it is more than a little frustrating to encounter major facility shutdowns when trying to further one's education; learning does not function independent of time, and an objection I raise to a dead week in the middle of a semester is the destruction of academic momentum.

Still, we cannot escape from the limitations of our physical bodies, and momentum is only useful if harnessed. To be frank, I missed half my classes in the week leading up to Remembrance Day out of frustration and exhaustion, and in this I know I am not alone. The allocation of holidays is an important step to managing the energy levels of students, but it is a bandage that may be missing the point when it comes to maximizing student output and effective action.

Reliance on holidays for rest and recreation forces the body to take a break, yet we cannot afford to engage with education with any less than our best. Put simply, I worry we teach our bodies to function at extremes when the healthiest approach is one of balance. ☹

An education The university as social commons

Will Pearson
Opinions Contributor

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If you're middle or upper class, or you aspire to such a title, you've probably been to university. This is nothing new; higher education has always been one way social and economic disparity has been reinforced. But this is not only because university gives you the skills to succeed—in many ways, it doesn't. It's a social phenomenon as well: university is where the wealthy youth gather, just like sports bars are where the jocks gather. Universities are as much a social institution as they are an academic and economic one.

I've been in university for almost six years, and the number of students I've encountered who are there for purely social reasons is remarkable. At first I could not understand why they were paying thousands of dollars to skip classes and get Cs. Then I realized: university can be a really fun time, and the best place in today's world to meet other youth. There's a ton of people who go to university because everyone else goes to university. There is a solidarity that comes with being in university, and I've heard the library is a pretty hot place to make out.

Now I have this sense that social institutions experience mission drift when a society's needs aren't met. Consider public libraries. What were originally meant as houses of study and quiet reflection have become social hubs. They've become a refuge for the homeless and de facto daycares (I think this is a great thing, by the way). Societies learn to get out of institutions what they need to get out of them, even if they weren't designed for that reason. Libraries have become a refuge for the homeless and de facto daycare centres because there are no better such places around. And this is what has happened to universities. They've become social centres for our culture's youth because there's nothing better around.

University is taking on the role of the social commons for today's young people. This would be a great thing, except for the fact that it's so bloody expensive. What this means is that young people are effectively paying to hang out with each other. Universities are cashing in on young people's social impulse. They've ingeniously managed to commoditize this impulse, because there is no other space in society where young people can come together and interact on the same scale. This is why university is marketed as much as a lifestyle as it is an education. But what would it look like if there was a social commons that wasn't privatized?

.....
**“YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE
PAYING TO
HANG OUT”**
.....

Well, here is the big secret: you don't have to pay tuition to take advantage of the social infrastructure of university! I've been pretending to go to the University of King's College for about a year now (never mind that I'm also paying tuition at Atlantic School of Theology). I use their library almost daily. I attend their chapel services and occasional special lectures. I've made friends there. I'm even the treasurer of their student choir society. All without ever enrolling. And I remember admiring the people that did the same sort of thing when I was a fee-paying member of the Trent University community in Peterborough.

Universities provide an excellent infrastructure for meeting new friends, launching a movement, or falling in love – but that's really not something that you should pay for. So don't. ☹

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In Halifax and underage Drinking, or not, shouldn't alienate



Whatever side you fall on, the decision to drink or not shouldn't stereotype the other choice. ••• Photo by Deborah Oomen

Nicolas Haddad

Opinions Contributor

•••••
In 2013, there's not much that can stop a student from doing some drinking, except maybe their age. Deciding what to do for fun

when you're underage can be an exasperating experience. It's certainly not a clear-cut decision. It's also one that defines the way you spend the next four years of your university experience, and maybe even the rest of your life.

Let's take a step back, for deliberation's sake, and think critically. We can start by shedding some stereotypes.

It's too easy to see this debate as a hallowed dichotomy: either you imbibe and buy into the party-hearty lifestyle, or you don't.

Labeling our fellow students as "squares" or "straight shooters" on the one hand, or "frat boys" and "ratchets" on the other, is awfully misguided. It risks corralling the student body into two segregated and confrontational blocs, something that reveals itself fairly obviously in university residences.

Come on— it's not the breakfast club.

Somewhere in this murkiest of middle grounds should be a nuanced and thoughtful outlook on how to consider and respect each other as fellow students. University is where people come to form and inform their character. We're all adults here, but we're still figuring out what that means.

Its many other merits aside, Dalhousie is fairly well known across Canada as a "party school." According to a poll by the website askmen.com, we're the third-

ranked school in the country for drinking and getting laid. Take that news as you will—some of you readers will cheer, and others will try not to barf.

If you didn't know this as a new student coming into Dal, well, you've probably figured it out by now.

•••••
**"COME ON—
IT'S NOT THE
BREAKFAST
CLUB"**
•••••

As long as the bouncers at bars around town keep monitoring lineups, though, underage students have to look for alternative nocturnal activities.

I talked to Katrina Persaad, who works at Dal After Dark, a campus-based organization funded by Student Life whose aim is to bring alcohol-free events to students on and off campus.

Some of Dal After Dark's more popular events this year have

included hot yoga sessions at Moksha on Dresden Row, sexy bingo, and a Halloween "Trick or Eat" food drive.

Persaad also says her organization's main goal is for students who are like-minded to live together and rely on each other for social support.

When students choose to drink as their extra-curricular activity, that's what they're seeking in their friends, too. And there's nothing wrong with that; I've made some of my best friends and connections over a pint.

Still, the party mentality remains strong with some. When I asked her what she thought about Dal's reputation, Persaad told me that students coming here expecting to drink will always succeed at that, because they're perpetuating the lifestyle they came here to find in the first place.

I think she's onto something. As classmates—and neighbours—we're all here to make the most of our university experience. Whatever that means to you, don't let your good time ruin someone else's. ☺

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The year we broke Hal-Con

Pandemonium of sci-fi proportions

Vaughn Pearson
Staff Contributor

There had to be food somewhere. I was scanning the third floor of the World Trade and Convention Center, Hal-Con 2013's central hub. Costumed attendees milled about all around me, stopping to oblige photo requests or discussing costumes with other cosplayers. People always heading somewhere. Maybe the lecture on My Little Pony and "brony" culture on the second floor, or the Warhammer tournament preliminaries, or maybe they were off to get a picture taken with Billy D. Williams of Star Wars fame. I just wanted to eat. After a long day of shopping, indulging in nerdgasm after nerdgasm, and rubbing elbows with a few celebrities, I needed some grub.

"SEVERAL HUNDRED OF MY NERDY COMPATRIOTS STOOD IN THE COLD"

At the far end of the third floor, my companion and I—respectively dressed as Navi and Link from the Legend of Zelda franchise—found the small cafeteria area. It had been set up just outside the third floor atrium, with the atrium area being reserved for diners who would like to look down on the other floors of the con, or look out onto the street.

I grabbed a questionably priced roast beef and veggie wrap and headed through the doors to the atrium in search of seating.

I found a spot near the corner, where the floor-to-ceiling

windows allowed me a wonderful view of the city. I was feeling pretty good. I had an autographed vintage Japanese Star Wars poster in my satchel, along with an edition of *My Little Pony Monopoly* (don't judge me), and a camera loaded with pictures of some incredible cosplayers. My con experience wasn't even halfway over and I was thrilled with my day.

But then I looked outside and was reminded that I was a member of the lucky few who could make such statements.

Outside, in the Parade Square, several hundred of my nerdy compatriots stood in the cold being pelted by a cruel mixture of snow and hail. They were waiting for refunds.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, Nov. 9, the Halifax Fire Department was forced to declare the World Trade and Convention Center "at capacity." This meant nobody else was getting in, no matter if they had bought a day pass, just shown up hoping to purchase one at the door, or paid through the nose months in advance for the deluxe weekend "Warp Speed Pass."

One woman, dressed as a Starfleet science officer, whispered to a friend she'd heard the building was already 1,000 people past capacity. Her friend said she'd heard from one of the volunteers it would be six hours to get into the main convention hall if you weren't already in.

She wasn't wrong. At 10:54 am, Hal-Con tweeted, "There is a current 6 hour wait. There are volunteers outside for those of you who need to access coat check to be escorted."

I found out later that evening that my fairy companion and I ended up being the last two people to get our coats checked that day.

It was a chilling contrast. While the cold, cloudy day out-

side claimed victim after victim as people gave up on getting into the convention, inside, nerds of all shapes and sizes rejoiced in nerdvana. With all-star guests the likes of which this city has never seen at a comic convention, interactive events ranging from model painting lessons to "Learn to Write Vulcan" sessions, question and answer panels, podcasts and an incredible amount of shopping it was no surprise that Hal-Con had drawn record numbers of attendees.

Everyone inside was having fun, but when attendees realized leaving the upper floors would mean almost certainly never returning, instead of going downstairs for some shopping in the free access area, they remained upstairs, not wanting to miss a single event they'd waited so long to attend. Not even shop vendors could leave the building, forgoing food and rest so they could keep their stands open and not be forced to leave.

Upon returning on Sunday the lines were shorter, the atmosphere less tense. But there was an air of exhaustion about. Most notably affected were the vendors, completely spent. One artist I visited Friday, who had engaged me discussing her hilarious comic book *Everyone's a Centaur* was now quiet, absent minded, and almost dismissive. Who could blame her after toughing out over 12 hours without a proper meal the day before?

Hal-Con was, by many regards, an immense success. I had an incredible time, vendors were selling out of their wares and attendance was way up from previous years. Those who attended posted rave reviews all over the Hal-Con official Facebook page. However, all rave reviews were spouted from those who were *able* to attend. Many were left out in the cold this year. Some spent the whole year preparing their cos-



One of Hal-Con's more lavishly garbed patrons. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

tumes, some traveled from out of province, some saved up to afford the hotel room for the weekend and despite their best efforts, were forced to go home empty handed and disappointed.

Maybe next year a larger venue will be chosen, maybe tickets will be handled in a more efficient and organized manner; it's impossible to say what *one* thing caused what has been called by some "Hal-Con's Red Wedding."

This Hal-Con will forever change future conventions in this city. Halifax has, this year, proven that its nerd culture is rapidly expanding and maybe it's time to move on to bigger things. Whatever comes to pass, one thing is certain: nobody will be forgetting the year we broke Hal-Con. ☹



A minion draws a curious gaze from a young admirer. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Dal prof speaks at Hal-Con

The Meaning of Monsters expounds on common horror elements

Sabina Wex
Staff Contributor

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Dalhousie English professor Jason Haslam addressed how the zombie is a symbol of the fear of the “other” at The Meaning of Monsters panel at this year’s Hal-Con.

“[Monsters] are popular and address a lot of social and political issues throughout the period of the modern age,” said Haslam.

He recruited Dal English professor Julia Wright and Mount Saint Vincent English professor Karen Macfarlane to speak alongside him on the panel. The Meaning of Monsters was his second yearly Hal-Con panel.

Wright spoke of the haunted house, going all the way back to

the first gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto*. MacFarlane spoke about the monstrous horde of Lady Gaga’s fans.

Haslam was inspired to speak about the zombie as the embodiment of the fear of the other because recent blockbuster film *World War Z*’s used the zombie to symbolize the dominant culture’s bigotries. In the movie, the zombies eventually destroy a wall outside Jerusalem (it and North Korea are the only places that haven’t succumbed to the zombie pandemic) and take over the city.

Haslam also addressed that zombies almost never speak, unless to say “brains,” or ask for more paramedics so they can eat them.

“Maybe the image of the zombie

is what the dominant culture fails to do,” Haslam said, “understand the other and open up to communication in interesting ways.”

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**“ALL ABOUT
CHALLENGING
OUR
PERCEPTIONS
OF WHAT IT IS
TO BE REAL”**
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Haslam had never attended Hal-Con before he was invited to speak at it, but he is a fan of sci-

ence fiction authors such as Samuel Delany and China Miéville, and *Arrow*, the TV show based on the Green Arrow. He often sports a *Firefly* shirt.

“I think that science fiction, the fantasy, the gothic, all these non-realist things, are all about challenging our perceptions of what it is to be real, of what is real,” he said. “And I think often what we think of is real is simply our own blinders, our own inability to perceive beyond the end of our own nose.”

Hal-Con’s director of design standards, Travis Whalen, contacted Haslam last year about creating a panel of professors to speak about a Hal-Con-related subject. Haslam and other professors from Dal, King’s and Saint

Mary’s then organized and presented Kill All Humans, which focused on robots.

Hal-Con attendees positively received Kill Them All, and with a talk this year, Haslam sees that people outside the university are interested in what it does, and vice versa. Haslam believes that many people have a false perception that the university is separate from the rest of the community. By taking material from their classes, his fellow presenters and he are bringing the university to the real world.

“I think that something Hal-Con shows is that there are these interrelations that culture, both the enjoyment of it and the study of it, are things that are significant to not just the social fabric, but to the enjoyment of people’s lives.” ☺

Interview with a cosplayer

Getting into the art of cosplay

Meagan Wiederman
Arts Contributor

Nathan DeLuca appeared last weekend at Hal-Con in hand-made armour, styled in his rendition of Kaidan Alenko from popular video game *Mass Effect*. Even more impressively, DeLuca helped organize a group of 15 people cosplaying as various characters from the game.

“Just getting the armour built and organized is ambitious,” he says.

DeLuca is not alone. People of all sorts gather at Hal-Con, clad in costumes or casually dressed, to check out the many guest speakers, performers and booths. The convention ran last weekend, but cosplayers had been preparing for the event for weeks, right up until the doors opened.

“It’s really a great setting to make friends,” says DeLuca. “And that’s what’s really important.”

That’s no wonder, with such a variety of fandoms represented and such a range of different people present. Cosplaying is “about

the attention, sure, but more importantly the interaction,” notes DeLuca, “I’ve gotten the chance to meet most of my friends cosplaying.”

DeLuca specifically crafted his armour when he began cosplaying. Kaidan Alenko’s armor is the first full suit he’s ever hand-made.

“YOU SHOULDN’T BE LIMITED BY ANYTHING: NOT RACE OR GENDER”

In regards to his first foray into cosplaying, DeLuca recalls, “It was about a year ago, when I had gotten my wisdom teeth out. I just stumbled on it on the internet and figured: I could do that.”



Nathan DeLuca takes a breather between cover shots. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

He was quick to finish creating his first set of armour: a broad-shouldered blue set. After that, DeLuca began attending large conventions to cosplay, including Toronto’s Fan Expo and Hal-Con.

The crafting element involved in cosplay will always be the most important; to DeLuca, it’s an

art. It is his chance to create and build. “It’s really something that I do just to make me happy.” “You have to enjoy it.” It is highly multidisciplinary: both a craft and a performance.

DeLuca believes that cosplaying is really an art where “you shouldn’t be limited by anything:

not race or gender.” Cosplaying gives fans the chance to freely contribute to the fandom and to reinvent themselves as favorite characters. “No one can tell you that you’re not a real nerd for what you wear.”

Eau de Orc

REVIEW: Recovering nerd Zoe Doucette tries smelling like RPGs, so you don’t have to



“It still smells better than Axe.” • • • Photo by Graeme Peters

Zoe Doucette
Assistant Arts Editor

Fans are always looking for ways to breathe their chosen object of obsession to life, be it dressing in the garb of a jawa, or learning to speak Klingon. But one dimension that often gets overlooked in making the fantastical real is smell. Imagine how much easier it would be to LARP (“live action role play”) your way through the dead marshes with a whiff of sulphurous mud, or to gather information from the local bar-keep with the thick smell of dwarven ale wafting through the air. Cult perfumers Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab have crafted a set of RPG themed fragrances help summon the world of Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson into our own.

BPAL’s scents cover the races, classes, alignments and everyday objects of D&D life, with perfume oil blends like “Evil,” “Paladin,” and “Orc.”

Yes... “Orc.” It is possible for you to smell like Grishnak or Radbug, like a dirty, filthy orc who has never heard of a bath or a washing machine.

Intrigued, I decided to try out a 5ml bottled of BPAL’s Orc on my roommate and boyfriend.

Upon first cracking open the bottle, Orc smells dirty, like layers of abattoir sludge that have dried and caked into greasy, acrid hide armor. The listed notes are “grey courgette (as in cucumber), musk, leather and vetiver,” the roots of a grassy plant alleged to smell like smoky trees.

“I don’t like it,” Andrea says. “It smells like Friar’s Balsam, like that shit you put on a canker? It smells like really bad spruce gum. The person who would wear this is a pagan at a summoning circle. You could probably smell it through the sweaty leather of her corset.”

Graeme’s reaction is more positive.

“It’s earthy, a little ashy. It almost has a scent of beet. It’s very orc-like, but still in the realm of a perfume—it’s not unwearable. It still smells better than Axe.”

I dot a small amount of the oil on the inside of my wrists. Once it’s on, Orc loses some of the grime, and the watery, creamy cucumber floats over a punching, liquorice spice. It fades into a sweeter, harness-shop smell, horsey and leathery mixed with anise.

While Orc isn’t a conventional smell, it is exactly what you’d want and expect for the scent of a grey-green troll-man. Grassy and oily, Orc’s fresh roots and moldering leaves would enliven a table-top RPG game, bringing the scent of the beast hackle-raisingly close. If you must wear it on a date, leaven with a drop of flowery Elf oil and get those half-orc pheromones going.

Mind-bend theatre Into Halifax's first Outlier Film Festival



A still from *The Act of Killing*. Just a typical day at the falls. ••• Press photo

Matt Thurton
Arts Contributor

Halloween was three weeks ago, but the desire to be frightened and disturbed never seems to die. From Nov. 21-24 the Outlier Film Festival will be fulfilling such desires through movies from all over the world, spanning across an array of outside-the-box genres, such as Horror-Pop, Doom Fantasy, and Psycho-Spiritual.

Matt Charlton, one of the festival's organizers, said, "[We] have more interest in the strange and weird, rather than showing *Friday the 13th* for the 15th time in Halifax...We didn't just want to book a bunch of mediocre horror movies."

Many of the films explore bizarre, unique and disturbing themes. Charlton praises the documentary *The Final Member*, which revolves around the story of a man setting up a penis museum in Iceland. The museum features penises from various mammals, except it is yet to display a human penis. The film focuses on two men, one from Iceland, the other from America, who compete to be the first human penis in the

museum.

After much research and deliberating, the panel of organizers were able to develop a catalogue of films that they wished to share with the public. Charlton explained that "the first step was the most fun, which was just searching around on the internet trying to find interesting looking movies." After compiling a list of interesting films, the organizers negotiated screening fees, decided on ratings and made decisions regarding promotion.

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**"THERE'S THE
ABILITY TO
EXPLORE THE
BORDERS OF
FILMMAKING"**
.....

Promotion for the film festival has been done mostly online via Facebook and Twitter as well as their interactive website. Organizer Sandi Rankaduwa explained that, "it's hard because our target audience might not be super

tapped into traditional media...so hopefully news of the film festival will travel by word of mouth."

With ambitions of developing Outlier into an annual event, Charlton said the "response has been excellent so far." With films varying from "Pre-apocalyptic Comedies" to a character study of a man slowly turning into a zombie, Outlier is sure to have something for everyone. "Not every film will make people feel miserable," says Rankaduwa.

"There isn't much gore," says Charlton. The unifying characteristic of all these films are the bizarre story lines and lack of a formulaic approach.

"With Outlier, since they're smaller films and smaller budgets there's the ability to explore the borders of filmmaking," says Charlton. In movies with larger budgets there is less freedom to deviate from the status quo. However, Outlier shows films that have taken the liberty to stray from cinematographic norm which will surely thrill lovers of the strange, fantastical and obscure.

The Outlier film festival will take place Nov. 21 to 24 at the Bus Stop Theatre. ☎

**that
three-letter
word**

It starts with 'p' and ends in 'ography'

Joelline Girouard
Sex Columnist

.....
Your friends watch it. Your brother watches it. Your sister probably watches it, too. That bro who sits in front of you in lecture? He definitely watches it. No, I'm not talking about Duck Dynasty (those beards are mystifying, though). Nope. I'm talking about porn.

The first thing I have to say about the butts and boobs on your computer screen is this: they are for everyone. So you're a super-straight-macho-guy, but you like what's to be found in the "female friendly" category? Awesome. You're a woman who loves having sex with her girlfriend, but you find erections titillating? Cool. What turns you on is totally subjective, and it doesn't always make sense. It's easier to just embrace this from the get-go.

Now, porn is a bit of a touchy subject. Some people will say that porn is degrading to those who feature in it. And sure, some of it probably is—but most mainstream porn isn't. Consenting adults are consenting adults. It all comes down to what you choose to click on. If you think something might offend your senses, the solution is simple—don't click!

A stance I've encountered frequently enough during my

"research" (i.e. browsing internet forums) is the equation that watching porn is some form of cheating. Even in the context of a committed relationship, porn isn't bad by default. The general consensus is that there's no need to be worried unless your consumption *negatively* impacts your sex life.

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**"PORN COULD
ACTUALLY
HELP YOU
HAVE MORE
SEX"**
.....

Yep. You read that right. Porn could actually help you have *more* sex. You'll read all over the web that "men are visual creatures," but I'm here to tell you that *people* are visual creatures. Porn can turn almost anyone on—it just needs to be the right kind.

And for those who tend to get a little jealous—relax. Doesn't it make sense that watching other people do it will make your partner want to do...well, you? Win-win. ☎

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David Sharpe embarks on new Olympic pursuit

Dal athlete goes online to raise money for the 2016 Olympic Games

Graeme Benjamin
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie swimmer David Sharpe learned several important lessons during his successful quest for a berth in the 2012 Olympic Games. Foremost among them was the realization that a trip to the Olympics doesn't come cheap. Set to make a return to the Games in 2016, Sharpe knew he needed to find a different method to help fund his training.

The fifth-year swimmer has started a Pursu-it campaign, which is a way for amateur Canadian athletes to connect to public funding. His campaign launched on Oct. 25 and will span a three-month period, during which Sharpe is required to raise \$7,500. He says the money will help cover travel, living and coaching expenses—as well as new video equipment—as he trains over the next two and a half years.

“As an amateur athlete, there's not much money floating around, so every bit helps to improve both your training environment and your quality of life,” says Sharpe.

Pursu-it is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization started by ex-Olympian paddler Andrew

Russell, who believes amateur athletes need a better way to connect to the public for funding. Russell contacted Sharpe in late August and asked him if he would be interested in conducting a campaign. Sharpe agreed, and after researching what Pursu-it was all about, he knew it was a great opportunity.

“AS AN AMATEUR ATHLETE, THERE'S NOT MUCH MONEY FLOATING AROUND”

“Going into London, I barely had enough money, so I didn't need to look to alternative methods,” says Sharpe. “But going towards Rio, with it being two and a half years away, I definitely need to get money now while I still have the freedom.”

Sharpe says the money he

receives will be split between himself and the pool to cover the extra cost for analysis during training.

“We have some money, but we need a bit more,” he says

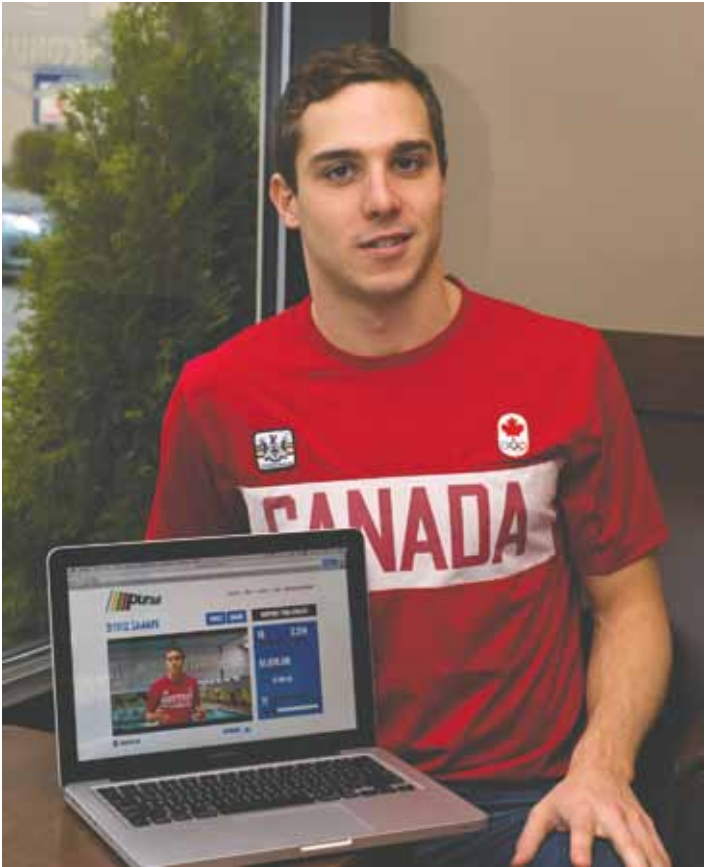
Pursu-it creates incentives for public donations through a user-designed system of rewards and givebacks. In other words, if someone donates a certain amount of money, Sharpe will provide them with something in return.

“For example, if someone gave me \$100 then I'll send them a signed national cap,” he says. “Or if they give me 300 dollars then I'll coach them for a swimming lesson.”

The largest donation he has received so far is \$400 from a supplies company. Two weeks into his campaign, Sharpe is 15 per cent of the way to his final goal.

Another event integrated with Pursu-it is the FANfit Challenge, where members of the public can sign up to be mentored by one of the 11 world-class athletes currently running Pursu-it campaigns. The process will culminate in a one-day competition consisting of five different challenges—biking, agility, running, pulling and rowing.

This is the first year of the FAN-



Swimmer Sharpe is expanding his fundraising network. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

fit Challenge, which will take place during the final days of Sharpe's Pursu-it campaign on Jan. 25 and 26.

Sharpe believes organizations such as Pursu-it and FANfit are great ways to get the fans involved when the Olympic Games aren't happening and raise awareness of amateur athletes pursuing their

goals.

“Online is the best way to reach the maximum number of people and a great way to reach your entire network immediately and consistently,” says Sharpe. ☎

THE TICKER: BASKETBALL

By Benjamin Blum

Ritchie Kanza Mata brings the ball up for the Tigers. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

AUS season tips off at Dalplex

The Dal Tigers men's and women's basketball seasons both opened with a two-game series against UNB. The women's team controlled the entire game on Friday Nov. 8, handling the Varsity Reds 81-55, buoyed by Tessa Stammerberger's 21 points and

a double-double from Ainsley MacIntyre. Saturday's tilt would swing in UNB's favour, as the Tigers struggled with three-pointers, shooting just 2 of 19 from behind the arc.

The Rick Plato era did not get off to an ideal start, as the Varsity Reds swept the

men's team. Led by Kashrell Lawrence's 25 points and 14 boards, the Tiger's performance on Saturday Nov. 9 was better, as the team was competitive through four quarters and overtime. ☎





A look at the past, present and future of Dal athletics

	What did you think of Dal's performance during the fall playoff season?	What are your thoughts on the men's and women's hockey teams so far this year? (the teams have a combined two wins)	Who's your prediction to win the next championship for Dal and why?
Kit Moran DSU athletics commissioner, varsity alumnus	Women's cross-country won their championship with an outstanding team. They had amazing depth, did a great job throughout the season and really pulled through at AUS. The men's team has been slowly rebuilding since their last championship win in 2010. They had a couple rough years, losing to the X-Men by 20-30 points, but I'd say that the rebuilding they have been doing is finally paying off.	They don't have a rink, so what can you really expect from teams that don't even have the basic necessities to be competitive? The fact that the women's team was able to recruit so many first-year athletes is astounding. I think we will see the women's team gel a little in the coming months. There are definitely some wrinkles that need ironing out, but what else did Dal expect when they ditched the arena?	Swimming has the next AUS championships on schedule. I don't think either Dal team is at the point where anyone else from the AUS can make a serious challenge to their titles. Acadia and Mount Allison are growing threats to the men's and women's teams respectively, but neither school can really match the depth and top-end talent of the Tigers. Dal has dominated AUS swimming for 15 years, and I can't see it changing this year.
Justin Hartling Local sportscaster, inventor of the 'beer koozie'	All in all I found it to be a little disappointing. There were several teams in position to walk away with a championship and they mostly faltered. Though the football club and men's soccer raised some eyebrows, the women's soccer team not completing the threeppeat actually shocked me.	I think that this was about as bad a start as everyone expected. The hockey teams were far from the strongest at any point, but now after the hazing scandal last year Dalhousie has become a non-entity for some future recruits. If anybody was expecting better than this, they were delusional.	Aside from the usuals in swimming and track and field, one of our soccer teams is likely our next champions. Dalhousie is strong in soccer and that's not likely to change any time soon.
Kristie Smith Gazette News Editor, busy sports fan	I feel bad trying to answer this question because, despite working for the campus paper with a great sports section, I couldn't hope to list all the sports that have played. If only to shift blame away from myself, I blame SMU rape chant, library cuts, SUB renovations and an apathetic student body. Not at all my fault, though.	It's hard to tell a team to step their game up just because, but it's no secret big team sports are expensive. With no wins and no home rink to boot, I wouldn't be surprised to hear hockey might be facing the axe soon. Especially with everyone up in arms over the tight library budget this term.	I don't mean to be going for the safe bet but my limited history of covering sports for the Gazette made me immediately think of women's volleyball. It's lame, I know, and uninspired, yes, but they're great and I hope they retain gold.
Scruffy MacMinster Scourge of Aberdeen, trainer of highlanders	Aye. Playoffs are all well and dandy, but if you're ever looking for a wee little bit o'fun, go around asking people which country makes the best scotch. You'd be absolutely amazed how many people say America or Canada. I've heard Ireland and even England once or twice. Un-be-flippin-lievable. Kids these days...	No respect! Used to be a time where a wandering, irate Scot could have a wee bit o'banter with a local lad or lass, but not anymore. These days it's all about watching the latest video of that Rob Ford tosser smoking crack on their phones and not about appreciating the finer things in life. Aye...	And speaking of Ford, you know what the worst part about the whole thing is? He was a bloody 'football' coach. "Oh," you ask, "he taught people to play the world's most popular sport?" No. He coached that ridiculous game with an ostrich egg and 150 sil-lynannies that they call 'football' here. Aye, it's ridiculous.



The Tigers are getting used to posing for celebratory photos. • • • Photo by Ian Froese

Dalhousie earns third consecutive lacrosse title

Fourth quarter charge too late for St. FX

Ian Froese
Editor-in-Chief

Turns out, winning a league championship doesn't get old for Dalhousie men's lacrosse.

When the champagne bottle had been emptied, the last hugs exchanged and the hollers had finally died down, the Tigers once

again proved they are the finest team in local campus lacrosse.

Dal's 17-10 triumph against St. FX Nov. 10 was the university's third consecutive Maritime University Field Lacrosse title and their fifth such honour in the last six years.

New head coach Connor Dubreill knows what this trophy

means for the club's legacy. He told his troops that it's this sustained success the program has been building toward.

"It's the guys who have been here that know how it works and know what it takes to be champions," he said from a jubilant scene at Huskies Stadium.

The Tigers, up 14-7, encoun-

tered a scare in the fourth quarter from a vengeful X-Men squad. Down by seven points, St. FX found another gear, scoring a trio of goals in quick succession to pull themselves within contention.

The vocal X-Men fan contingent erupted. St. FX could have rallied like they did the night before to beat hometown Saint Mary's and earn their third straight ticket to championship Sunday.

But then came nearly two minutes of sustained possession. Dal's veterans corralled the ball around the perimeter of

the offensive zone, draining the clock, as X-Men defenders tried in vain to strip the ball away.

Six minutes left on the clock became four minutes by the time Duane Davis fired his fifth goal of the game from the slot to tally Dal's 15th marker of the match and virtually seal the victory in their favour.

His third consecutive championship was just as sweet as the first two, said Davis.

"Every year we get new kids in, we get new challenges," he said. "It's a new experience every time."

The Tigers went undefeated in the regular season, claiming all eight contests by a combined score of 142-55. They beat Mount Allison 17-4 in the semifinal.


"To go undefeated in the regular season and not lose on championship weekend, it's a pretty special feat in our league. They're ranked up there as one of our best teams for sure," said Dubreill, a former team member.

Dal last suffered defeat on Sept. 12, 2012 when they lost to Saint Mary's by a point.

Dubreill handed the game ball at the end of the match to Paul Dimitruk and John Gagnier, two graduates (and roommates) who have played their last match with the program.

Dimitruk isn't sure who will keep the relic. They cannot split it in two, after all.

"I don't know, we'll figure it out. Maybe we'll go week-by-week or something," he said.

League leading scorer Ricky Canning added three goals for the Tigers in the winning effort. The game's offensive MVP, Jack Inglis, contributed with two markers. 

THE TICKER: WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

By Benjamin Blum


The Tigers fell to the Huskies in five sets.

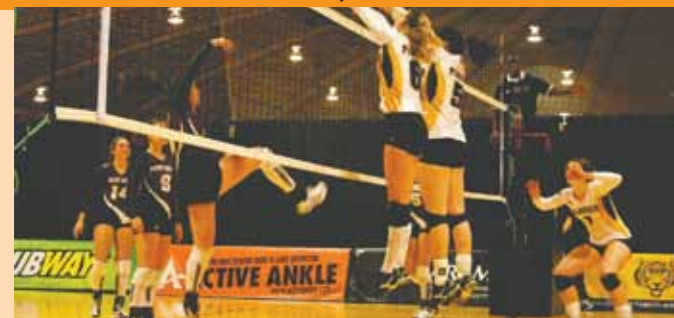
• • • Photo by Alice Hebb

Defending champs open at home

The Tigers kicked off a four-game homestand on Nov. 6 with a rematch of last year's AUS championship against Saint Mary's. However, the Huskies had the last laugh, rallying from

two sets down to win 3-2. **Abby Czenze** and **Marisa Mota** contributed 50 assists and 22 digs respectively in the losing effort. The team would turn things around on Nov. 9, defeating CBU

in straight sets as **Desiree Nouwen** landed 17 kills. The homestand continues Nov. 15 against Moncton. 



AUS men's basketball season preview

Just like Sports Illustrated, only sustainably developed



The race for AUS supremacy could be tighter this year. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Justin Hartling
Online Editor
• • • • •

It seems every year that Atlantic University Sport (AUS) basketball quickly turns into a runaway for a couple of teams and by January, most people can predict who will be in the championships at the Metro Centre. This year may very well be different.

Acadia is the class of the AUS, but there are three teams that could easily beat them on any

given night. If everything goes well for the league, there will be six extremely competitive teams vying for top spot every weekend culminating in a tense playoff fight.

So take a look at the *Dalhousie Gazette's* official men's basketball season preview and predictions. We may or may not be right, so gamble with caution. Or don't.

Regular season standings predictions

1. Acadia Axemen

What can we say about the Axemen that hasn't already been said? With three consecutive trips to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national tournament and the best big man in the country, some would say best player, in Owen Klassen, this team is poised to be the dominant force in the

AUS. The paint play for Acadia is clearly their strong suit. However, with solid play from the 2 and 3 positions, no team can double-team down low, allowing Klassen and Rhys Larry to dominate. Though this team has a lot of new recruits who will have to fill out the bench, they will be learning from seven mature players who understand what it takes to go to nationals. Could be the best team to come out of the AUS in some time, but the gap is closing.

Player to Watch: Owen Klassen
This guy is a stud. No question about it. He can put any team on his back and lead them to success. Some say he is the best player in Canada and expect nothing less but absolute domination from Klassen on his farewell tour.

2. UPEI Panthers

The Panthers have been knocking on the door of the AUS elite for the past three seasons and it's looking like they may be poised to break it wide open. The team has had back-to-back 13-7 seasons and will need to improve on the road (6-5 last season) to enter this upper echelon. The road to the AUS championships runs through the paint and the Panthers will need one of two young players (Stefan Vujisic or Brian Ofori) to show a huge presence in the post to be real contenders. As long as that works out for them, they could be one of the best teams in the CIS, let alone the AUS.

Player to watch: Brian Ofori
Ofori provided a solid if unspectacular freshman year for the Panthers, but if this team is expecting to become a real contender he is going to have to step up. Last sea-

son was the DJ Williams show on the Island and if the Panthers remain one-dimensional, they will be another middle of the road type of team. A great performance from Ofori could help this team beat the Axemen or the Capers. He has the most experience in the paint and the Panthers need Ofori to take the next step this season.

3. CBU Capers
How do you replace a player like Jimmy Dorsey? The honest answer is you don't. The Capers are going to be a much different team than they were last year, despite only losing two players, due to Dorsey's departure. It's going to be up to coach Matt Skin and veteran players AJ Geugjes, Meshack Lufle and Sean McCormick to alter this team offensively. By no means is this impossible, but how is this team going to fare against one-on-one looks when opposing defenses don't need to double team Dorsey? There are plenty of reasons to be optimistic in Caperland (a coach who won the AUS best head coach award in his first season, a group of players that know what it takes to win and a great lot of recruits), but this team will need to prove they are still the dominant force that lost only one regular season game in the AUS last year.

Player to watch: Kayon Mayers
This kid has some huge shoes to fill. Nobody is asking him to be the next Jimmy Dorsey, but he has to put this team in a position to win. As long as he can make a good first pass and prove he is at least an average threat to score, the Capers could be another dominant team in the CIS.

THE TICKER: HOCKEY

By Benjamin Blum
Rookie Marita Alferi corrals the puck in a game earlier this month. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Brief silver lining for the black and gold

In a hockey season that has largely been underwhelming, the women's team scored an emphatic win on Nov. 9 over Mount Allison, dropping the Mounties 6-2. Their road trip to New Brunswick would end on a bitter note, as the Tigers would lose the next day 5-2 against St. Thomas. On the men's side, their game

earlier in the week on Nov. 6 played out in the usual fashion: a loss and another Tiger receiving a 10-minute misconduct for a hit to the head. ☹



4. Saint Mary's Huskies

This team is going to be exciting to watch. Coach Jonah Taussig likes his team to play an exciting, above-the-rim style of basketball. This was evident when the Huskies almost took out powerhouse Carleton in the preseason. This team will be better this season with healthier and more experienced point guard play. The team struggled mightily after losing starting PG Brian Rouse last year to injury, but he's back for the season. Of course you can't talk about the Huskies without mentioning Harry Ezinebe, the fifth-year player who attacks the boards so ferociously he has earned the nickname "Air Ezinebe." A major concern for this team will be the play in the paint. There is no proven player down low after key departures this offseason. The Huskies are an athletic and exciting team, but I can't see them being a top-tier team until they show us something special.

Player to watch: Riley Halpin

Though streaky, Halpin can be a force down low and he is going to get his chance to prove it with the departure of Kevin Thomas. Riley is naturally a power forward, but

will be expected to play no. 5 in the post often this season. Halpin is the type of player who may not be great at anything but is good at everything. You may be pulling your hair out one minute and the next jumping with excitement because of him.

5. Dalhousie Tigers

The biggest difference for the Tigers this season is behind the bench. Rick Plato, who had coached the Mount Saint Vincent University men's team to several national appearances, brings a hard-nosed approach to basketball. This team will continue to grind out games defensively. Offensively, the team will rely heavily on AUS second team all-star and fifth-year player Simon Marr. As long as this team can remain strong up the middle there is no reason to expect a drop off compared to last season; if anything, this team is poised to climb the ranks of the AUS.

Player to watch: John Traboulsi

Maybe not the flashiest player on the Tigers roster, but when this team played its best ball last season he was the guy that was clicking. A tough defender who

can rain threes, if Traboulsi can develop a more consistent game he will become an AUS all-star.

6. St. FX X-Men

The X-Men are going to be a completely different team this season. They graduated the leaders in every major offensive category (top two scorers, top rebounder and top assist man). However, this team has assembled seven new recruits who will be looking for playing time. In order for this team to be successful, Coach K must take advantage of an absolutely huge team (six players over 6'6") and hope that some youngsters step up for this team. After 17 seasons of winning records, this season could easily spell their second straight losing season.

Player to watch: Shane Coupland

Some readers may remember Coupland as a huge contributor for the X-Men when they went on their run at the 2012 nationals. Last season though, he barely registered a blip. With Rodrigo Madera providing his using steady paint presence and the rest of the team virtually unknown, Coupland needs a return to form to thrust this team into contention.

7. UNB Varsity Reds

UNB didn't provide a lot of excitement or promise last season. After providing little hope for their fan base for a turnaround, this team may be bottom dwellers again. The Varsity Reds have two solid guards in Daniel Quirion and Javon Masters, who could both go off for 30-plus points against the middle of the pack teams in the AUS. With little to no real threat in the middle though, the Varsity Reds will be depending on their perimeter game to beat opponents. If this team finds their hot streak at the right time they could surprise some people, but it's safer to keep expectations realistic for this team.

Player to watch: Daniel Quirion

Quirion may be the definition of a streaky player. Some nights he can absolutely take over a game, driving the lane and draining easy buckets from the line, but other nights he just disappears. If given the right amount of touches, and if the entire team can be more consistent this season, I feel Quirion could be a second team AUS all-star.

8. Memorial Seahawks

Memorial managed one win last season, beating St. FX by just four points after a huge fourth quarter. Very rarely did the Seahawks even provide a challenge for many of the teams in the AUS, routinely losing by 25 points. Though they consistently started the same five, only Vasilje Curcic regularly stayed on the floor for over 30 minutes. This is a program that has won 10 games over the past five seasons, so don't be expecting a miracle coming from the Rock this season.

Player to watch: Vasilje Curcic

This team's lone bright spot is Curcic. He is a steady, maybe not great, presence that can help focus this team's offence. He is not on par with Owen Klassen, but he is a good player who is always trying hard to win games. He could develop into one of the best if his team situation doesn't drag him down. ☹

CATCH SOME TIGERS ACTION!



Friday, November 15

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs UdeM, 6pm

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs UNB, 8pm

Saturday, November 16

AUS SWIM MEET, 9am/4pm

VOLLEYBALL vs UNB, W 12pm, M 2pm

BASKETBALL vs Acadia, W 6pm, M 8pm

Sunday, November 17

AUS SWIM MEET, 9am/3pm

Dal students admitted FREE with ID!














Watch webcasts at





DALTIGERS.CA

STREET INTERVIEW

By Ian Froese and Chris Parent

Who is your favourite superhero?



"Superman because I look like him."
Max Trzcinski
3rd-year special student



"Zarathustra"
Esteban Villasis
4th-year business management



"Spiderman"
Julia Bolzon
Catholic Christian Outreach missionary



"Superman"
Mike Pye
2nd-year commerce



"Ironman"
Shuhui Yu
4th-year 2+2 joint program



"Ironman"
Rebecca Ocaña
4th-year marine biology

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EVENTS @ DAL

for more listings,
visit dalgazette.com

FRIDAY, NOV. 15

Fundraiser: World Vision 30 Hour Famine. Main headquarters at Room 316 in SUB. Begins at noon and ends starts 6 p.m. Nov. 16.

"Development Depression", hosted by I.D.E.A.S., 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Grad House.

Lecture: Nova Scotia Provincial Politics, from Halifax-Chebucto MLA Howard Epstein, 3-4:30 p.m. in Henry Hicks, Political Science Lounge.

Cookie Decorating with the Italian Society, 6-8 p.m., SUB Room 224

Women's volleyball: Dalhousie vs. University of Moncton, 6 p.m. at the Dalplex

Men's volleyball: Dalhousie vs. University of Moncton, 8 p.m. at the Dalplex

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

Dalhousie AUS swimming invitational. Starts at 10 a.m.

Zumba fundraiser, hosted by Dalhousie Children's Wish Society. 2-4 p.m. at the Dalplex.

Women's basketball: Dalhousie vs. Acadia, 6 p.m. at the Dalplex

Men's basketball: Dalhousie vs. Acadia, 8 p.m. at the Dalplex

MONDAY, NOV. 18

Brass Recital, 12:15 p.m. in the Arts Centre, Room 406

TUESDAY, NOV. 19

ESL Workshop: Oral Communication for Grad Students, 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Mona Campbell, Room 2109 (\$20)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

Lecture: "The Pyramid of Potential: A Fresh Look at the Irreducible Needs of Children," by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, 9-11 a.m., Killam, Room 3616

Workshop: Surviving the Term, 1-2:30 p.m. in SUB Council Chambers

Lecture: Mini Law School: Catastrophe and the Law - Community Recovery After A Disaster, by Jamie Baxter, Schulich Fellow, 7 p.m. in Rm 204, Weldon Law Building

Concert: Are you inspired? - Dalhousie Wind Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. at St Andrew's United Church.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

Lecture: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar - Dr. Michael Ladomery, 4-5 p.m. in Theatre D, CRC Building.

Halifax Planetarium Show: Comet ISON and the Winter Sky, 7:15 p.m. in Dunn Building, Room 120 (\$5)

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

29th Annual Dalplex Christmas Craft Market, 12-9:30 p.m. in the Dalplex Fieldhouse (\$5, or \$10 for weekend pass)

Voice Recital, 12:15 p.m. in the Arts Centre, Sculpture Court

submit listings to events@dalgazette.com



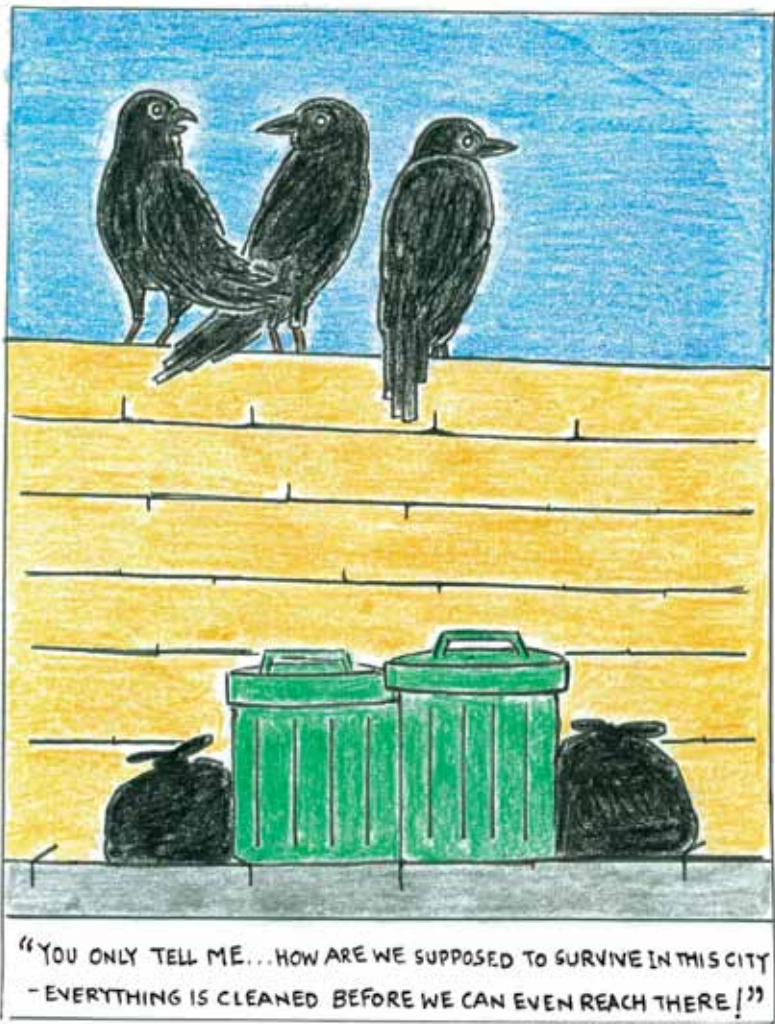
Old Heart by Amber Solberg



Adventures in Servitude by Caitlin McGuire



Jocular Impulse by Aniruddha Waje



Hoo-Haw by Andrea Flockhart





THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Allyson Fullerton &
Whitney Hurlbut

Violence against women is a topic we'd all rather not discuss, but it continues to be an issue in society. This is a topic very infrequently discussed on the Engineering campus due to the low female population, but each year on December 6th we take time to remember the Montreal Massacre at École Polytechnique in 1989. On this day, Marc Lépine

The Importance of December 6th

Remembering the victims of the Montreal Massacre

entered an Engineering class armed with an illegal rifle and separated the men and women of the class. He claimed that he was fighting feminism and proceeded to shoot nine women, killing six. He continued through the halls of École Polytechnique, shooting a total of 24 people, all women – 14 died and 10 were left injured. All but two of these students were

women in Engineering.

Each year on Sexton Campus, 14 young female Engineering students light a candle; students share their reflections, professors recount their reactions, and everyone remembers the names of the 14 women who died that day.

The Dalhousie Women in Engineering Society will be hosting a variety of events to

remember the Montreal Massacre during the week of December 2nd - 6th throughout Sexton Campus, with the candle lighting ceremony on December 6th at 6:30pm in the Alumni Lounge. All students, faculty and public are welcome. For further information, or to volunteer, please email dalhousiewie@gmail.com.



WRITE. GET PAID.

100-200 words = \$15

200-400 words = \$25

400-600 words = \$30

600+ = \$35

Picture of the Week,

Comic, Abstract = \$20

SUBMIT:

SEXTANT@DAL.CA

The Sextant is published by the Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society and aims to represent all of the students studying and living on Sexton Campus. If you have any concerns about the paper, please email sextant@dal.ca and we'll arrange to meet and discuss them.

Editor-In-Chief: Brett Ziegler
Assistant Editor: Richard Wile
Treasurer: Nikheel Premsagar

Stephen Thomas
2013 Mech.Alumuni

Last week, Petroleum Engineering student Ahsan Umar wrote of "The Next Champions of Oil Play", celebrating newly proven oil and gas reserves in Africa, Alberta, the Arctic, and South America. It was noted that these new discoveries equate to increased job prospects in the petroleum engineering sector. Truly, if you live in Canada and are a graduate of nearly any engineering discipline, the oil and gas industry has a place for you. However, if you look at the way in which the fossil fuel industry operates on engineering campuses, it is clear that the ability of our institutions to be leaders in renewable energy technological innovation is severely compromised. It is this kind of innovation that is needed, now more than ever, to move us toward a system of global ecological sustainability.

As engineers, we are touted as the "problem solvers of the world". We are trained to come up with solutions to the technological

True problem solving

A call for a shift toward sustainability on Sexton Campus

challenges faced by the world we live in. Unfortunately, if we dedicate our degrees, our life's work and entire departments of our post-secondary institutions to the furthering of the fossil fuel industry, we are perpetuating a problem, not solving it. The first tenant in the Engineers Canada Code of Ethics states that a professional engineer shall: "Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment...". Therefore, would it not be wiser to focus our intent and intellectual capital toward energy systems that do not compromise the ability of future generations to lead socially and environmentally healthy lives?

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its fifth report last month. The report laid out, in no uncertain terms, that if we do not act to drastically reduce carbon emissions, we will experience a runaway system of catastrophic

climate change by the end of this century. In 2009, all UN Nation Member States signed on to a safe limit of 2 degrees Celsius for the limit of global warming, above pre-industrial levels; after 2 degrees, the climate quickly runs away to increased temperatures of 4 degrees, 6 degrees, or greater.

According to the BPWorld Energy Outlook, there are over 2,800 Gt of potential CO₂e emissions in the known reserves of the oil, gas and coal industries worldwide. However, if the global climate is to stay below the 2 degree threshold, only about 410 Gt CO₂e can be released. This is to say that over 80% of the known oil, gas and coal reserves must stay in the ground if the civilization we know and love has a chance of surviving into the 22nd century.

The economic reality we live in means that no individual engineer is to blame for working with an oil and gas company, especially with the amount of student debt so many

of us graduate with. What I am calling for is a shift in our thinking about these industries on our campuses and a shift in where we focus our intellectual capital. There are departments, faculty and labs on Sexton that do fantastic work. However, this shift in the Sexton campus ethos is made particularly difficult when major portions of the funding received by our departments are from corporations such as Imperial Oil, Syncrude, Suncor, and, especially at Dalhousie, Shell Canada.

The move to a more responsible energy future, and the cleaning up of the wreckage of our current irresponsible system, will necessitate all of the innovation and engineering prowess that we can muster. I look forward to the end of the disabling influence of the fossil fuel industry on Sexton campus, and believe that, by working together to make this shift happen, we will finally breed true innovation and address the major issues of our time. ♻️

Questions, Comments, Contribute

sextant@dal.ca



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Sexton Campus's Online Resource

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