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The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

Q&A WITH DAL'S PRESIDENT

Richard Florizone on what
he's learned so far, pg. 3

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AGM

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Jan. 25th Halifax Mooseheads vs Cape Breton Screaming Eagles

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Jan 29th Laser Tag
Location: McInnes Room

Jan 31st Winter Field Party
Location: Dal Quad

Feb. 1st Winter Bash
Location: McInnes Room ALL AGES

Feb. 7th Munro Day Ski Trip
Location: Wentworth Price: TBD
Presented in part with DAL Ski & Snowboard Society

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Check out dsu.ca/frost for more info on upcoming events

Jan. 17 - Jan. 23, 2014 •

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) Hadfield to celebrate Dal's face oddities—Gazette staff, News

2) Rally against transphobia inspired by Dal student's complaint—Ian Froese, News

3) Future of Canadian libraries and archives discussed—Sabina Wex, News

4) That three-letter word: Join the movement—Joelline Girouard, Arts

5) Ben's 10: Favourite fictional athletes— Benjamin Blum, Sports



Kristie Smith News Editor

Conversation with Dal’s new president

Richard Florizone on rising tuition, budget cuts and student retention



Dalhousie Alumni Association president Barrie Black, left, with Richard Florizone at the 2013 homecoming football game. • • • Photo by Chris Parent via Dal News

Ian Froese
Editor-in-Chief

Richard Florizone has settled into his office, greeted this morning by Gazette personnel. After pleasantries have been exchanged, he asks about the weather. In only a few days it's gone from a blizzard to rain and melting snow. Halifax weather, we shrug.

Dalhousie's 11th president has become acclimatized to wacky Maritime weather—similar to how he has familiarized himself with his new gig. He began his new day job last July by listening to the university's stakeholders. His recollections guided the 100 Days report, an introductory essay on where Dalhousie is today, its successes and struggles.

A graduate of MIT and a former employee of Bombardier, the World Bank and the University of

Saskatchewan, Florizone sat down with the Gazette to discuss what his 100 Days of Listening taught him about Dalhousie, student issues and the university's future.

IF: I'm sure many things surprised you during your 100 Days consultations. Did anything surprise you?

Richard Florizone: I don't know that there's so much that surprised me as what amazed me—it was the students. We've got this student body that is unique in Canada. We have a higher percentage of out-of-province students than any other major university in Canada, more than McGill or UBC. At the same time, we also educate more Nova Scotia students than any other university, so it's a really interesting, diverse mix.

The other thing I find amazing, too, is this idea that the largest

segment of our students identify as 'conscientious achievers.' Students who are academically serious, but want to make a difference in the world, and I guess that amazes me, because I suppose I identify with that segment myself.

Next, I would say the faculty. I think we're very academically strong given the limited resources we have. And I think our faculty have done a great job. We particularly do well as individual researchers—we have a lot of talent at this institution.

The only [thing] that surprised me, I suppose, was this retention issue. We have this amazing student body. We're attracting students. We're seeing applications and acceptances really up this year. But there's something in our retention from first to second-year—we're seven to eight percentage points lower than the U15 [a group of 15 Canada research

universities] average—and I don't know what's going on there.

IF: Let's dig further into student retention. You know it's an issue, but you're not entirely sure what it is. What theories have you heard?

RF: The goal of 100 Days was not to solve all of these things; it was to do a quick scan, and to figure out together what are the things we want to focus on as a community.

The things we heard anecdotally, probably the biggest one is in our international students. That's where our retention is the lowest, and so then the question becomes, what are the support systems we have in place for international students? I've heard, and again this is an anecdote, there are challenges in our co-op placements, that the language and writing supports we have could be stronger.

What I want to do, if we agree this is an issue, is start to unpack it. Let's start to look by faculty and start to see what are the academic and non-academic reasons driving this retention. We can look at practices that have worked, both here and elsewhere. For example, I haven't seen the data, but I've heard in the Faculty of Management we boosted retention by four or five percentage points over the last year or so. So clearly, there's something we did there. Is there something we can learn from that experience? I'm also curious to learn from some other universities in Nova Scotia and elsewhere.

People make a big investment to come to Dal, and we pride ourselves in our high academic standards and we want to maintain those, but we've got to make sure that if we're losing students, we're not losing them for the wrong reasons.

IF: International student enrolment is rising every year. Is Dal doing enough to support them?

RF: I don't have a definitive answer, but I'd say probably not. Nova Scotia faces demographic challenges and it hasn't been as strong on immigration as it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

On the cover:

Kit Moran snapped this week's cover, a portrait of Richard Florizone inside the lobby of his presidential office.

Correction:

The Gazette mistakenly used "space oddities" instead of "face oddities" in last week's headline, "Hadfield to celebrate Dal's space oddities." The online headline has been altered to reflect the intended Bowie-influenced wordplay. We apologize for these ch-ch-changes.

should be. I think the universities, Dal, in particular, should be leading lights in our ability to attract and retain people. I want us to be more of a role model in that area, and so, there's likely more work to do in terms of support for international students. This belief is driven by enrolment growth but also this retention issue, which seems to suggest there's something missing there. In terms of the specifics and where those investments might need to be or what they look like, I don't know.

“PEOPLE MAKE A BIG INVESTMENT TO COME TO DAL”

Q: This is an interesting time in the university's history. In 1992-93 provincial funding consisted of 74 per cent of Dal's budget, now it's 54 per cent. Meanwhile, tuition has gone up. It was 18 per cent of the university's budget back in 1992-93, and now 36 per cent. Throughout this, Dalhousie has continued growing. Will this be a continued goal?

RF: At Dal, we've balanced the books the last few years through enrolment growth; that's what has saved us from much deeper budget cuts. Going forward we're likely to see continued enrolment growth, but pretty clearly it's likely to be moderated versus the last few years. We're going to have to continue to really double down and focus on things like administrative costs. We're going to continue to have to look at programs and continue to work really hard to make the case with the public and government for continued public investment.

Q: Do you see continued decreases in provincial funding? Do you still see tuition rising?

RF: All I can talk about is principles; I don't have specific projections. I think this government sees universities as a strong partner and I think we'll see strong support for the institutions. Having said that, we have to look at the economic reality—the [province]

just announced another deficit. It would be unwise to predict some dramatic change in the operating grant. In regards to tuition, I think it will [increase]. The challenge will be to keep modest increases and make sure that our absolute tuition is still in line with our compatriot institutions.

Q: Students are paying high tuition and with that comes questions. They look at the finances and ask why Dal is building so many new buildings. They ask, in the Faculty of Arts, for instance, why departing faculty are not being replaced. How do you calm those concerns?

RF: I think those are absolutely fair questions. And I think that, as president and administrator, we are accountable to students as well as to all our other stakeholders in terms of explanations for that.

In regards to the decisions we make, I completely understand the frustrations of the student who sees a class not being available but sees a building going up. I can completely empathize with how frustrating that would be. At the same time, I have to recognize that the condition of our facilities is second-worst in the U15. I have to find a balance.

Q: An interesting note brought up in the 100 Days report is the amount of undergrad programs—the highest of any U15 university. Do you envision that we'll have to cut some faculties in the future?

RF: I don't know. I don't think people should jump to any conclusion automatically from that data.

I could argue it both ways. I could say that you have this tremendous choice, and indeed we've marketed it to students as such: come to Dal, you have a mid-sized institution that's not too huge, but has a fantastic breadth of programs. That's a strategic strength, so why would you give that up?

At the same time, you look at it and go, are we focusing our resources as best as we could? If you have faculty in one area and you don't have them where the student growth is huge, is that fair?

I'm wondering if there's a way to compromise. In other words, can you maintain the choice and still be efficient? One of the examples that came up from our



Richard Florizone mingles on his first official day as president. • • • Photo by Calum Agnew

deans was from the University of Derby in the UK. In North America, a lot of these universities are doing this program prioritization to trim programs, whereas my understanding of what they did in Darby was to look for course overlaps. I think the example given by our [Faculty of Agriculture] dean David Gray was a research methods course. If you have 26 different courses, do you really need 26? Or do you need 12? Or do you need six? To me, that has some real appeal.

Q: A surprise in the first semester was what happened with the libraries. We saw a student outcry when the Killam weekend hours were reduced and when the acquisition budget run out earlier than anticipated. What are Dal's plans to protect its libraries?

RF: I haven't really talked about it this way, but it's really a side-effect of what I think has been, overall, the strong way Dal has handled the budget. A lot of universities when faced with budget cuts, you're faced with two sorts of options. One is across-the-board cuts; the other is to do more targeted cuts. That's where you see universities considering program prioritization. The way Dal has handled these budget cuts is somewhere between those extremes but probably closer to

across-the-board. I think it's been well-handled. The downside is you have instances like this. If you do things that are a bit more across-the-board, you run the risk where everyone gets pinched. Then you run into things like, wow, the library cannot buy books anymore. That's a real problem.

What this means for our overall budgeting process, I'm still not sure. I guess I go back to those two extremes. When things get really tight, and maybe we're at the point at Dal, we're going to be more targeted. Maybe that's the implication. But do we go full-blown to a program prioritization model? I'm not quite convinced.

Q: In a 2011 student survey, athletics was ranked last in a list of 10 student services by importance. You've made a commitment that athletics will not face a cut bigger than any academic cuts, which is not terribly encouraging to Tigers supporters. What's the future of athletics at Dal?

RF: I know there's a lot of history here and a lot of debate. I just want to hit pause on any further cuts, and have a discussion about where we go in regards to athletics. I think the student data is interesting, but I think there are [aspects of athletics] that students are very interested in, like the new fitness facility, which is a

shared interest with varsity athletics.

While we're taking this pause, we'll look at how we're supporting it and look at it relative to other U15 institutions, so that we can at the end of this three-year period produce a more refined view on where we should go.

Q: You replaced Tom Traves, who spent 18 years on the job and saw remarkable growth during his tenure. What do you hope your legacy is as president?

RF: It comes back to these words that have stuck with me for the past few years: global standards and local impact. It's so that someone will look back and say Dal is clearly a top 200 university in the world, that it is doing education, research and service among the best in the world. That it's had a global impact. But that if you zoom in and look locally, it's recognized for achieving a tremendous effect, on our local region—not just in the students we approach and the knowledge we generate, but as an engine for the social and economic and cultural development of the region. **Q**

This interview was conducted on Jan. 9. It has been condensed and edited for clarity.

University weighs in on new president

Florizone assesses the university; Dalhousie leaders reply

Our questions:	 <p>William Barker Former President of King's College, current Dal professor</p>	 <p>John Hutton DSU rep on the board of governors</p>	 <p>Donna Bourne-Tyson University Librarian</p>
How have president Florizone's first six months in office been?	Six months in the world of the university is a very short time. I have found president Florizone highly responsive to particular issues, eager to understand Dalhousie and very personable. At this point, one can't ask for more. But of course more will soon be expected.	President Florizone has had a good six months. His 100 Days of Listening project was a way to systematically do broad consultations, meet the people who make up Dalhousie and see how everything works (or doesn't). At the board of governors' level, he's encouraged important discussions such as setting the right balance between debt and new buildings, and applying ethical considerations to Dal's investments. These are encouraging steps.	The first six months have been extremely successful, in my opinion. He has been visible, approachable and open as he collected information for his 100 Days report. He attended two meetings with Dal libraries staff during his first 100 days, which was very much appreciated by the team. I was able to get his feedback on the Dal libraries strategic alignment plan shortly after he arrived and we've included his endorsement in the plan.
What did you take away from the 100 Days report?	The 100 Days report is an impressive summary of the current state of Dalhousie. I doubt most people will have time to read the whole thing (I read it, but if everyone did you could shut the whole university down for half a day). Nevertheless it is a testimony of president Florizone's desire to assess our situation and to figure out, as quickly as possible, a way to move Dalhousie forward. It stops short from being a strategic plan. Even so, his various priorities are already being interpreted by faculty members, rather like tea leaves.	A few takeaways from my first reading of the report: a) Reducing the number of programs Dal offers will be a discussion to have in the near future—phrased more nicely as “determining the right number of programs.” b) Correctly, student retention is flagged as an issue because first-year students at Dal are less likely to stay than students in other U15 universities. c) Florizone describes Dal students as “conscientious achievers,” which is a label that I like. d) The faculty and staff pension plan will be a major factor in labour relations.	President Florizone has covered an impressive amount in his first 100 days at Dal. He has made a real effort to reach as many people as possible. Listening is the most important thing one can do when coming into a leadership role of this magnitude, and the biggest takeaway from the 100 Days report is that Florizone has obviously been listening. I appreciated the breadth of the report; it is very informative and will serve as an excellent departure point for future planning. It was rewarding to see Dal libraries noted as a partner in academic innovation in Section 2.
What separates him from his predecessor, Tom Traves?	Florizone must necessarily follow his own path, and over time we will find out what that path is. All presidents have to be out in front, have to engage. It is a relentless demand, and it is hard on someone with a family and young children. The 100 Days formalized that public approach, but it has to continue.	Florizone's open-minded approach is refreshing. He welcomed a discussion at the investment committee about ethical considerations, which most university presidents would shy away from, and Traves would have belittled. Florizone seems to take students' concerns seriously and listens well, while Traves could be patronizing to students at board meetings. Florizone mentions in the 100 Days report that Dal needs to be seen as “less aloof and more involved in the community,” which is a reputation that may have built up over Traves' 18-year term.	This is a difficult question, because every leader brings a unique combination of strengths and expertise to a role. Dalhousie has been very fortunate to have two excellent presidents in succession. One apparent difference is that Florizone is using social media more, staying active on both Twitter and Tumblr. These technologies were just coming into their own as Traves was preparing to retire, so I see the increased use of social media by the president of a U15 institution as a notable difference in these early days.
What hurdles will he face in the coming months and years?	Presidents do not have an easy job. Universities are complex institutions, and, as I learned in the much smaller world of King's, everyone knows how to run one, from board members to senior faculty members to first-year students. I want president Florizone to continue to understand the good that we do here at Dalhousie, to embrace it and to enhance it. His main effort will have to be with teaching and research. All of the other challenges—retention, reputation, funding, gifts—are tied to these two pillars of the modern university.	Florizone will have to produce his first university budget and will face contract negotiations with both the Dal Faculty Association and the union representing part-time faculty and teaching assistants. Under Tom Traves, the relations between administration and unions were hostile and often saw the administration pit students against their professors. Hopefully that won't happen. Other challenges include probable budget cuts from the provincial government, better servicing for international students and keeping the university debt manageable despite numerous new buildings on the docket.	Universities are complex organizations and we operate in a rapidly evolving and competitive environment. In the Canadian post-secondary education sector, we are all facing shrinking budgets, so this is a challenge we will face together in the coming months and years. No doubt there will be other hurdles. The positive relationships that Florizone has developed across campus and in the broader community in the first six months will serve him and Dalhousie very well.

What's next? 100 Days to “strategic direction”

Budget and strategic plan to come in 2014

Kristie Smith
News Editor

The 100 Days report has come and gone and already Dalhousie president Richard Florizone is back to work. He's going to be busy in the first half of 2014, creating a budget and a strategic plan to guide the university over the next several years.

By looking at the 100 Days report and the university's previous strategic plan, it's not impossible to guess some of what's coming.

With 100 Days now public, faculties and key members of the community are combing it over. The intention, according to the report, is to collect feedback, debate the finer points and then

draft a tentative plan. It will go to the senate and board of governors for approval by late spring.

“100 Days of Listening was a process of posing initial questions and looking for answers,” says Florizone in his report. “What emerged was a set of draft priorities that could guide us for the next five years. By moving together in this way, from questions to answers and from answers to action, we can achieve great things.”

Those emerging priorities, furthering Dal's primary tenants of teaching, research and service, will define the university's next strategic plan, Florizone told the *Gazette*.

Community reaction will play a major role in formulating this

document, he added. The goal is to have a plan in action by 2015.

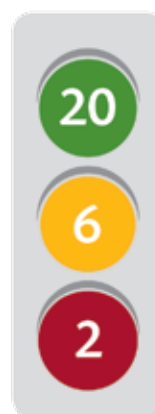
Dalhousie saw its last strategic plan in 2010, under then-president Tom Traves. The plan, to “[become] Canada's best university,” laid out Traves' goals for the next three years. The report was a meagre 24 pages, less than a quarter of Florizone's 100 Days paper, but guided the university in decision-making and budget-building.

Of Traves' 28 objectives, 20 are on track, six show good progress, according to the 100 Days report.

The two problem areas are retention rates and a sustainable pension plan, two issues Florizone will need to tackle in his budget as well as in his strategic plan. ☞

Strategic Focus progress

28 objectives in Strategic Focus HIGHLIGHTS



TARGETS ON TRACK OR EXCEEDED:

- Enrolment increases
- Total research funding
- Capital campaign
- Alumni strategy
- Student leadership opportunities and recognition

GOOD PROGRESS:

- Faculty integrated academic plans
- Leadership development
- Classroom utilization

SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL:

- Sustainable pension plan
- Undergraduate persistence rates

Eight strategic areas 2010-2013

- Foster academic innovation
- Enrich student experience
- Strengthen enrolment
- Support research excellence
- Develop outstanding human resources
- Sustain campus renewal
- Ensure financial stability
- Engage the Dalhousie and wider communities

Red light means red flags. • • • Infographic via 100 Days of Listening report

Enrolment is down at most other universities—how about Dal?

Dalhousie's enrolment almost 24% higher than in 2002

Sabina Wex
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie's 2013 enrolment now sits 23.7 per cent higher than it did in 2002, at 18,531 students. Over that time, Nova Scotia's other universities noticed a 1.8 per cent decrease, according to the university president's 100 Days report.

How much is Dal's 2012 merger with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College responsible for the uptick?

Dalhousie's assistant vice-president enrolment management, Asa Kachan, said that this year only 37 of Dalhousie's 172 new students are from the agricultural campus, meaning the university's Halifax campuses are still responsible for most of the growth.

“Even if agriculture were not in

the mix,” says Kachan, “what we have had is a pattern of strengthening enrolment on the Halifax campus.”

The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) noted in their 2012-13 preliminary survey of enrolment that Dalhousie's 2011 and 2012 counts now “include statistics formerly reported by NSAC.” In 2011, the last year the two institutions were apart, the

Agricultural College only had 961 students, which contributed to Dal's 2012 total of 18,255 students.

In the past, students on the agricultural campus were usually Nova Scotians, but Kachan says this demographic is decreasing because of the dwindling population of high school graduates in Nova Scotia.

“I think by being able to diver-

“HOW MUCH IS DAL'S 2012 MERGER WITH THE NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UPTICK?”



Are seats staying full? • • • Photo by Asrar UIHaq

sify the populations on the agricultural campus, by bringing more students from Ontario and Manitoba and B.C. and Alberta, different places around the world,”

she said, “we'll be able to continue to have a robust and thriving set of programs on the agricultural campus.” ☞

King's students flooded out of rooms

45 students displaced, moved into Lord Nelson Hotel

Eleanor Davidson
News Contributor

As students at the University of King's College were returning to school after their winter break, they were met with a nasty surprise.

Pipes in the university's largest residence, Alexandra Hall, had burst.

On Saturday, Jan. 4, a burst sprinkler drenched the west wing of the building, starting on the fourth floor and seeping down to the ground level.

Jennifer Lee lives in the room next to where the pipe first broke. She arrived at King's anticipating a smooth return to residence after the holiday, but found her carpeted floor filled with water and

all her possessions dampened by the broken pipe.

"We had to pack up all our things. Everything. Even down to posters and things in the drawers."

By the end of Sunday, 45 students had left King's and moved into the Lord Nelson Hotel.

"Our things were put into storage and by the end of the afternoon I was settled at the Lord Nelson," says Lee.

Nick Hatt, King's dean of residence, said he was very happy with the reaction of the staff and students to such a dramatic arrival back to campus.

"The students have been very positive and understanding and have been helping out one another quite a lot. The staff have pulled together very well and are work-



Crews are working daily to undo the damage. • • • Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

ing tirelessly, with good cheer."

At this point, students still don't know when they will be able to return to residence, but estimates range from two to three weeks from when they were initially displaced.

The west wing of Alex Hall is under renovation as a result. Large orange tarps block the area from student access and the sound of hammers and drills echoes down the long hallways.

The King's chapel, which also flooded due to a broken pipe, is undergoing repairs as well. The water damaged many of the historic texts and artifacts stored in the chapel but efforts are being made to ensure they are properly restored.

Despite the nuisance of locking many of their possessions in storage, facing a sudden commute to school and not knowing when they will be able to return to their

residence rooms, these uprooted King's students have kept positive.

"Now I don't have to shower with flip-flops on," says Lee, "and there's two-ply toilet paper so hey, that's an added bonus." ☺

Editor's note: Eleanor Davidson lives in the fourth floor of Alexandra Hall. Her room was not damaged.

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Dal grad looks for high hopes on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro

Ayat El Dewary sheds light on status of Syria's refugee children



Climbing for a good cause. • • • Submitted photo

Moh Hashem
News Contributor
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When it comes to mountains, Ayat El Dewary has little to expect—

she's never climbed one. But in a few weeks, she'll be going up the highest mountain in Africa: Mount Kilimanjaro. Her motivation is to help displaced children in Syria.

"It is important for us to understand that what happens to one child affects all children of the world," El Dewary says over the phone from Abu Dhabi.

El Dewary, an Egyptian-Canadian national, graduated from Dalhousie in 2004 and is currently an external relations associate at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Abu Dhabi. She is raising funds for the UAE's Big Heart Campaign in hopes of making a difference in the lives of the children affected by the ongoing Syrian crisis.

"The funds will go towards things such as child protection, as well as providing educational services and shelter. Right now, winter items are very necessary to help them cope with the weather," El Dewary says.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, there are over 1.1 mil-

lion Syrian children who are registered as refugees, a result of the Syrian crisis started in 2011. Most of the refugees have fled to neighbouring countries facing conflicts of their own, such as Egypt and Iraq.

A recent report released by the UNHCR says one in 10 Syrian refugee children are working "as breadwinners." Also, 75 per cent of Syrian refugee children are under 12 years old.

"It's the worst humanitarian crisis in the 21st century," says El Dewary.

"I'm hoping others feel the urge to do the same. To be inspired to do something for those children. That generation of children is facing the risk of becoming a lost generation."

El Dewary is training full-time for her upcoming 10-day expedition, something that requires both mental and physical preparation.

Her training involves stair climbing, running, lifting weights and climbing sand dunes.

In her first two weeks, El Dewary managed to raise \$6,000, which has since grown to \$7,500. She is now hoping to raise the bar of her fundraising goal after a successful start.

"Initially the target was \$10,000. But now I want to raise more," she says.

For her, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity, but El Dewary is hoping that the message behind it will last much longer.

"The main message is to show [Syrian refugees] that they are not alone. Just because they are refugees does not mean that it is a life sentence. The world is going to be there in solidarity." ☹

To learn more and to donate to Ayat's cause, visit her page: www.justgiving.com/Ayat-el-Dewary

NEWS BRIEFS

Dal announces new partnership to tackle the flu



Dalhousie is fighting flu—on a bigger scale. • • • Photo via StockPhoto

Nicolas Haddad
News Contributor
.....

As new strains of influenza appear across the globe, Dalhousie is staying ahead of the game. The university is collaborating on a long-term influenza research project with the University of Saskatchewan. Dal president Richard Florizone, former vice-president finance and resources at the Saskatoon university, announced a partnership with his former employer Jan. 6 over Twitter.

While flu research is nothing new at Dalhousie, this partnership will set the stage for research efforts at a national level. Scott Halperin, professor of immunology, pediatrics and microbiology at Dal, is leading the project. Halperin also heads the department of infectious diseases at the IWK and is the director of the Canadian Center for Vaccinology. ☹

Students Nova Scotia launch new campaign

Jesse Ward
Assistant News Editor
.....

Students Nova Scotia (SNS) is asking post-secondary students in Nova Scotia to voice their opinions on student debt.

A petition to Nova Scotia's MLAs and the hashtag #StudentsSpeakOut are at the forefront of the advocacy group's new Students Speak Out campaign.

The petition asks the provincial government to adopt three policies they have drafted.

The requests are to freeze tuition at zero per cent growth

until youth employment outcomes recover, improve the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program and give students the power to choose whether new ancillary fees are approved for non-academic services.

As of press time, the petition—"Province of Nova Scotia: Act on post-secondary education affordability and youth retention and attraction"—has attracted 104 supporters.

More information on the campaign and a link to the petition may be found at www.studentspeakout.ca. ☹

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Sam Elmsley Opinions Editor



What CP doesn't tell you

Why we shouldn't assume gender when reporting



Journalists must understand the importance of asking subjects for their preferred gender pronoun.

• • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Sabina Wex
Staff Contributor

I hate asking my interview subjects for their names. I'm terrified of spelling an interviewee's name wrong, so I force myself to ask for the spelling. I hyperventilate even if the subject's name is an apparently simple Sarah Smith, because she might spell "Sarah" without an "h" at the end, or spell it a way I've never seen before. The misspelling of a name is one of the most embarrassing and discreditable practices in journalism.

I always ask for clarification with subjects' names, but with gender I don't bother. He's a boy or she's a girl—it looks so straightforward, why would I even ask? If I asked a question like, "What's your preferred pronoun?" I could end up offending a woman who may think I couldn't tell whether she was a man or a woman.

However, this question of preferred pronoun needs to start being asked—even if there is a risk of possibly offending someone. It's better for a journalist to ask rather than wrongly assume someone's pronoun preference. Assuming a pronoun is just as bad as assuming the spelling of a name: it can falsely portray the subject.

With ongoing transgender and transsexual issues to be dealt with, it's important to get these

pronouns right. Though not everyone accepts that gender is not synonymous with sex, nor that "man" and "woman" are the only genders, trans communities are growing and are often portrayed in the media. Journalists must start learning that "they" can be a singular neutral pronoun, or that people who look like men might identify as women, or vice versa.

But it's easier to agree upon the need to ask subjects for their preferred pronouns than to do it. When I wrote an article for the University of King's College's *The Watch*, I interviewed the Dalhousie libraries' communications coordinator Marlo MacKay over email. Marlo identifies as woman, but I assumed she was a man due to her first name. Luckily, she corrected my "he" for a "she" before I wrote the article. Had she not corrected me, I could have deeply embarrassed and/or hurt her for mistaking her gender, and thus her identity.

In a King's journalism course, instructor Lezlie Lowe makes a point of telling students to ask subjects about their preferred pronouns in a class on language and sensitivity. That's the first step, and I think adding an explanation to the question of why a journalist needs to know the subject's preferred pronoun for identification accuracy could decrease

awkward moments or seemingly rude comments on appearance.

Following an incidence of misgendering in an article earlier this year, the *Gazette* will be adding gender language criteria to its house style guide because of this growing need for journalists to understand how to respectfully handle transgender and transsexual issues.

If a journalist hasn't had personal experience wrongly identifying a subject's gender, or hasn't been told to ask an interviewee for her preferred pronoun, a journalist would probably—as most people would—assume the subject's gender from their name or appearance.

The *Canadian Press Stylebook* mentions that transgender and transsexual people should be referred to by "a term the person in questions uses...and a pronoun consistent with how they live." Though this explanation encourages the reporter to ensure that transgender and transsexual people have terms and pronouns that represent them, this guideline assumes that the reporter knows the interviewee is transgender or transsexual.

What the *Stylebook* forgets is that a journalist doesn't always know, and thus must ask everyone for the terms and pronouns they prefer, even if it seems obvious. ☹



Like Rob Ford, it's time for Top Ten lists to hit the road. • • • Photo by Amin Helal

End of year summations My top five hates against top ten

Jackson Haime
Opinions Contributor

It's the beginning of 2014, which means it's the beginning for the 2013 "wrap up" lists that every site has become so fond of since the internet became high speed. Now, there are a lot of things I look forward to at the end and beginning of the year: New Year's resolutions, watching my friends make up excuses as to why they couldn't keep their New Year's resolution. These lists are not one of them, and here's why.

1. We know already

Maybe I'm jaded from the fact that I follow the news through my Twitter feed, but there has yet to be a single list of "Big Events" or "Disasters" that has put anything that wasn't common knowledge on the list. Perhaps if there were secret events, this sort of list could be interesting. If everything on your list was in the news for a week, I don't need to hear about it again.

2. You're doing it wrong

I know that it's fun to make fun of celebrities, but when your list of "Worst things to happen in 2013" ends with Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke attempting to 'twerk', we have a set of priorities that are a little off. As much as she came in like a wrecking ball and makes all of us feel a little uncomfortable, I don't think her absolute butcher-

ing of the thing previously known as 'dancing' was worth being ranked above anything.

3. The market is oversaturated

I do research for my articles. When I googled 'List of Worst Things in 2013', I got 964,000,000 results. I personally don't think that there needs to be a single list for one out of every seven people. There are 2,360,000,000 results for the 'List of Best Things in 2013', so at least we are optimistic about it.

4. You tend to repeat the answers, but worded differently

5. You don't put the right things on your list

This one refers specifically to the *Huffington Post*. I read a good amount of these 'end of year' lists to remind myself how much I loathe them. On that trek, I found the list of "10 Good Things to Happen in 2013" by the *Post*. Everything was going very well on this list until number 10 (I wish I were joking here) was the fact that Uruguay legalized pot. This was ranked above the news that cancer death rates are down 20 per cent from 1990.

There are a lot of things wrong with these lists, they are a pandering to an easy-to-read format that we have all grown to love. They were fun for a while, but at a point, like Rob Ford, they have to go. ☹

Lottery tickets

The wrong way to pay tuition



Winter tuition may be due, but gambling is not the answer.
••• Photo by Amin Helal

Jessica Melanson
Opinions Contributor

Where did the winter break go? Here we are, recuperating our coffee-addict habits (unless you're like me and it never left), blowing the dust off our textbooks, ready to face a new term. While most of us are wishing we were lying under UV-rays and sipping on an exotic drink, the reality is that we cannot afford it. Besides, when's the deadline for paying off the winter term again?

As I was daydreaming of this palms-tree place, I realized there was indeed one way to have it all: win the lottery.

For a long time I held a grudge against my father for every time he would purchase a lottery ticket and as a matter of fact, I still do. He spends 20 dollars per week on average on lottery tickets, week after week hoping he's the lucky one. I may not have had the highest average in calculus but this is easy math. In the course of a year, he spends approximately \$1,040 on lottery tickets. Has he won?

Not yet.

I'm starting to think that these tickets are as addictive as caffeine. They sweeten our thoughts to a swirl of dreams: paying off student debt, for instance. Better yet, they make us envision the life we could have with the money we would have left after paying everything off: the unlimited vacations and the dream car that we could all so suddenly afford.

You might convince yourself that since you were always lucky at bingo, hey, they might just pick your numbers after all. Fortunately, I'm single-minded enough to convince you otherwise. Even after you win, you won't get free access to "happily ever after." We have to earn our makings.

Remember when you had to rip out your own baby teeth in order for the tooth fairy to slide a couple dollars under your pillow? Well, the concept hasn't changed. We still have to make sacrifices in order to get a monetary reward.

I believe winning a huge sum of money has its honeymoon phase like any relationship. However, I

also believe that it fades away after a while. Think about it: the lottery system is built with the intention of making you lose because it's a game based on luck. It doesn't appear that way when you lost for the first time because all they flash at your face is the grand prize, making you anticipate and salivate on the idea that you could be next. After realizing that your chances are slim, it kills your buzz for the lottery ticket affair. Now don't get all heartbroken, because the good news is that if I'd put away \$20 per week, I'd probably beat you to that dream destination anyway.

Let me remind you of the impulses we feel when the server brings out the dessert menu: you may be full, but you'll find room, and once you start eating mindlessly you can't stop. That becomes the danger—relentlessly investing \$1,040 per year until you see the day you get crowned the winner.

My advice to you: don't be a gold digger. ☹

Rethinking Baird

Politicians aren't just their ideology

Josh Fraser
Staff Contributor

The political arena is a public relations free-for-all. In a realm notorious for slinging more than mud, it is hard to recognize philosophers from sophists, heroes from hell-raisers and fast-talkers with hidden agendas. Still, if you hold your nose and hose down the scene from time to time, there are many elected officials doing solid work; there is even one on Prime Minister Harper's staff, a dark horse I did not expect. I used to think that being locked in Harper's cabinet would feel like the interior of an iron maiden, but John Baird is making me think twice.

Notorious for being a Conservative Party pitbull, he has made his opinion ring loud and clear in the House of Commons since his 2006 debut.

During Stéphane Dion's attacks on the environmental policies of Harper's minority government, Baird's brutal taunts even threatened the composure of the most even-tempered opponents. In 2009, the Toronto Star called him "a complicated man," equal parts attack dog and vegetarian.

Fast forward to 2011. John Baird is now the minister of Foreign Affairs under a Conservative majority government, a position in which his provocative approach may be ill-advised. I cringed at his *Globe and Mail* article a few months after the solid election win: "Stephen Harper said it and I've said it: 'We don't just go along to get along.'" I dismissed this buffoon and his tough talk as more ham-handed international relations from a government who seeks to negotiate more than

connect. I have to admit I was wrong.

When my grandfather brought up John Baird as an example of an effective politician recently, he gained my full attention. My grandfather is a gentle man with no time for nonsense and shouting, and I could not believe that John Baird had his approval. I had stopped listening to the guy two years too soon, it seems—he is being named Policymaker of the Year by the MacDonald-Laurier Institute's Inside Policy magazine. Continuing my Google hunt, I see an article from the *National Post*: "John Baird blasts Russia's 'hateful' anti-gay law, after pushing privately for change." In the article, the 'blast' was articulate and diplomatic, pushing off from a question about the Sochi 2014 Olympics. "This mean-spirited and hateful law will affect all Russians 365 days of the year, every year. It is an incitement to intolerance, which breeds hate. And intolerance and hate breed violence."

And I think: where did this guy come from?

Baird's dogged support and

blustery counterattacks have earned him leeway to grow over time, and while his teeth are sharper than ever, he seems more careful in picking his battles and planning ahead to fight them on his terms. The secret power of his stern stance is that it has remained consistent, something of a blessing in turbulent international times. Baird has done good work to rekindle Canada's reputation as a highly principled nation, an identity fitting of deep values of freedom.

.....

“IS BAIRD BECOMING A GOOD LEADER, OR IS HARPER SIMPLY A GOOD PUPPET MASTER?”

.....

Many claim we live in an inundation of information, and it does not surprise me that this subtle shift in Baird had to be pointed out to me in order for me to take notice. Still, I can't let myself off the hook for making assumptions about him. I deride him for his harsh hyperboles, crude tactics and for the company he keeps and endorses at all costs, but I let this blind me to his policy actions that outshone those of his predecessors in foreign affairs. I think he has earned his title as Canadian Policymaker of the Year.

Do I like everything the guy has to say? No. Do I support Stephen Harper? Heck no. Nevertheless, Baird is no longer so easy to dismiss as rash and oppositional. The question remains: Is Baird becoming a good leader, or is Harper simply a good puppet master? I can't decide if it's Baird or beard, but I am willing to listen to him now, and he makes me wonder who else I may have wrongly dismissed. ☹



Let's stART at the very beginning

Student organized festival gives a taste of theatre by post-secondary artists

Meagan Wiederman
Arts Contributor

Alanna Griffin and Karen Gross know that a career in the arts requires ingenuity and creativity for survival. The two Dalhousie and King's honours students in theatre have taken the future into their own hands and organized the stART festival, a multi-institutional interdisciplinary arts showcase featuring spoken word, theatre, visual and literary art pieces premiering at the Bus Stop Theatre in March.

"It is different than in other jobs," Gross says of involvement with theatre.

"The arts are more niche...that's just the reality of an arts career: [its] self-regulating."

To be successful in the arts requires self-driven work, so the opportunities to engage can seem limited.

"But the opportunity exists still," says Griffin.

The two coordinators are working to provide more opportunity for students in Halifax to engage with their future careers through mentors at the festival. For Griffin and Gross, stART attempts to bridge the gap between the theoretical education that university provides and the practical nature

of careers in order to help students with the transition from education to workplace. Both have an understanding that transitioning from student to professional requires more experience than what is covered in their education, suggesting that "practical experience certainly is the limiting factor in any artisan's career."

While working at a career coun-

.....
"THIS IS OUR
START, TOO"
.....

selling center, Griffin was inspired by the need to seek "mentorship as your own initiative."

The two coordinators are attempting to help students emerging as professionals in Halifax take this initiative, and bridge the gap between university and work. They hope to "foster an infrastructure of transition" in the artistic community in Halifax. After all, the two fourth-years recognize that "this is our start, too."

While it was challenging for Griffin and Gross to get word around about the festival, they hope that their networking will help to establish some infrastructure for communication between



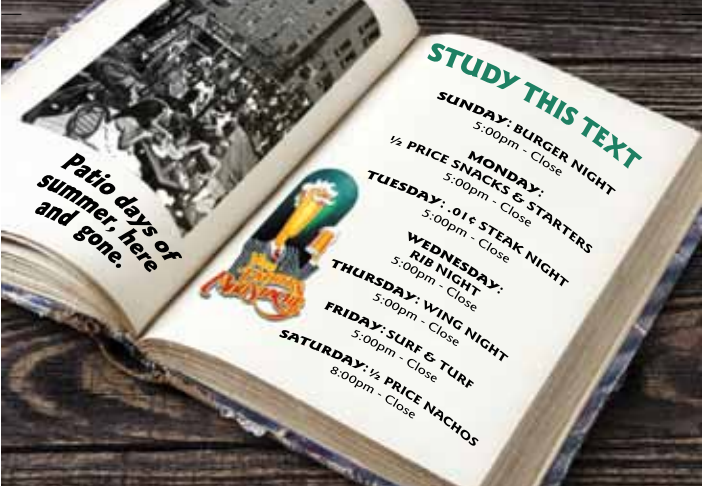
Karen Gross, left, and Alanna Griffin are giving student artists a head stART. ••• Photo by Claire Waque

students and professionals in the future. The founders hope to expand stART across Nova Scotia.

A fundraising preview event for stART featuring the talents of art-

ist Mitchell Wiebe, director Mary Vingoe, and many more professionals will take place at the Bus Stop Theatre on Friday, Jan. 17 at 8pm. Post-secondary artists can

find submission information by e-mailing startfesthalifax@gmail.com. ☎



ATTENTION
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Contributors meetings are
Every Monday
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NEW WRITERS ALWAYS
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Why aren't you playing: Game Dev Tycoon

For the love of the game



Much better than your mother's basement. • • • Press image

Vaughn Pearson
Games Columnist

• • • • •
I've never come across a greater love letter to gaming than *Game Dev Tycoon*, by Greenheart Games. Starting out in your garage, you are tasked with creating video games. Your journey begins in the early days of gaming on the PC and Commodore 64, and stretches into the present day. As time passes, new technologies can be researched, new genres explored and new mechanics developed until you are running multi-million dollar studios with dozens of employees at your disposal. And along the way, you will feel the overwhelming presence of love for the world of video games in every little detail.

This game is not easy. An in-depth knowledge of the history of gaming, its popular conventions and dynamics is essential to succeeding. Granted, a careful understanding of the game itself will allow you to succeed well enough on your own, but knowing the specifics of certain games—when they were released and on what systems—will help you immensely in creating your own games. There is a certain degree of elation when you're sitting at your computer in your lonely garage and your first smash hit takes the game world by storm. For me it was a ninja game on the original

Gameboy (called *Gameling*, made by Ninvento) I jokingly named *Go-Go-Ninja-Stab-Time*. I watched as my perfect combination of the casual genre, ninja subject and handheld device proved to be the perfect formula, allowing my bank account to soar from a meager \$50k to \$5.2 million. Soon enough I had employees, a studio and central air conditioning. Alas, I lost it all to hubris, gambling too much and sinking more into marketing and research than proper development.

There are plenty of factors to balance and plenty of risks to consider, but ultimately if you know your games, you'll know how to succeed. For those of you out there who are not as well versed in video game history, fear not. Regular news updates, analyst predictions and subtle nods will keep you on the right track and having fun right alongside the more hardcore enthusiasts. It is fun for everyone, and with its tongue in cheek approach to the history of the medium, the fun remains lasting even on your 15th attempt at making it big in the cut-throat world of game development.

You can pick up *Game Dev Tycoon* on Mac and PC for \$9.99 via Desura, Steam, the Windows Store, Mac Game Store, Humble Marketplace, or via the Greenheart Games website. ☺

Painter's Valhalla

Art Battle's first year in Halifax



Another 20-minute masterpiece. • • • Photo by Erin Olejnik

Mat Wilush
Arts Editor

• • • • •
The fresh paint is slathered on in sweeping strokes, bright and vivid in the dark room. The painter takes a step back and quickly resumes; time is running out. A wall of eager observers bustle and chatter between canvases as music blazes from wall-mounted speakers. Here, at Art Battle, the act of painting is comparable to a WWE cage match.

Art Battle, which celebrated its first anniversary in Halifax last week, is a Canadian competition in which groups of three artists are given 20 minutes to complete an original painting. The winner of each group moves on to the night's finals.

Erin Olejnik, Art Battle Halifax's primary organizer, got involved with the series through her brother's connection with Art Battle's founders in Toronto. Olejnik hopped on board, and Halifax became Canada's third major Art Battle hub, alongside Toronto and Vancouver.

"It sounded like a way to make art accessible," she says. "You don't need to be an art student or really have any training or experience to feel like you belong."

In 2013, Art Battle Halifax held

monthly events at the Bus Stop Theatre. The first season's champion, Mary Garoutte, was sent to Toronto last summer to represent Atlantic Canada in the Art Battle Nationals. She has since become a regular facet in Halifax's Art Battles, having competed four times and winning last week's Art Battle All-Stars event.

"When I started, I thought, 'Where has this been all my life?'" Garoutte laughs. "I didn't realize how unique a form of entertainment it is. I don't usually associate art with adrenaline, but.... And once you get going, you tune it all out—the crowd, that inner criticism. You remember why you love to paint."

• • • • •
**"I THINK
HALIFAX WAS
READY"**
• • • • •

Halifax is, by nature, a city infused with artistic ambition. Whether this stems from the presence of a fine arts institution (NSCAD) or from some intangible virtue, Garoutte says that "Halifax isn't necessarily a sexy, huge city, but it's definitely artistic. I think

Halifax was ready for something that brings art to the streets and out of the galleries."

Art Battles are planned throughout 2014, culminating in another regional championship later this year. While the blueprints of the event will remain relatively unchanged, the influence of Art Battle in Halifax has begun to affect both the event itself and those who are a part of it. Grace Simms, who won the first ever Halifax Art Battle in 2013, began a satellite program in Truro last year. Similar satellite initiatives are springing up throughout Canada.

"I think that people like to watch something unfold," Simms says. "And it really changes the artist's experience. Before painting, I was searching for the perfect song to paint along to, but there is no right song. It's the crowd that brings the energy."

Artists of all backgrounds are welcome to pitch their work to Art Battle and steel their nerves in the spotlight at the next installment, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14. While competition definitely plays a role in the night's excitement, Art Battle is, in Garoutte's opinion, "A party—a celebration of art and those who take part in it." ☺



that
three-letter
word

Go ahead...touch yourself. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

Flying solo

Joelline Girouard
Sex Columnist

Alright. I've been staring at a blank document for far too long now. It's time to talk about an often maligned sexual subject: masturbation.

This won't be a how-to; most of you know what to do, and if you don't, it's your job to figure it out. This won't be to tell you masturbation is bad, or that it's only for

single people. Nope. Masturbation is good, and it's for anyone who wants to engage in it.

First off, masturbation is a journey in self-discovery. Forgive me while I generalize, but this seems to be more so with people who have clitorises, and the reason is quite simple—penises are simple (relatively).

For those of us without a phallus, it sometimes feels like a map would be helpful on the journey to carnal bliss. This is especially

true if you're new to self-exploration, and that's why it's important to give yourself plenty of time, and to relax—masturbation isn't for or about anyone but yourself. This isn't to say people with penises shouldn't spend time exploring themselves, too. By all means, please do—but also understand, if you'll be dealing with a clitoris, that they're a completely different ball game. (Your partner can help you learn the rules.)

Not only can masturbation relieve stress, it can also generally improve your sexual encounters. After all, you partner won't

necessarily know how to get you to your destination—but if you know the lay of the road, you can steer them in the right direction. On top of that, spending some time with yourself can make you more comfortable with your body in general—helping you let go of any inhibitions you might have between the sheets.

In the context of a relationship, masturbation can still have a prominent spot on the trophy shelf. Unless it's interfering with time in the bedroom as a couple, your partner touching themselves regularly is nothing out of the

ordinary. It probably just means they're horny, and that's probably what you want.

Once you're really comfortable with yourself, you might be open to letting your partner watch you—or even help you. If you're both comfortable enough, something that can be particularly enjoyable is masturbating together. You don't even need to be touching each other for this to be a really powerful experience—you're sharing an intimate part of your sexuality with someone else, and them with you. ☺

Counting down the year's best music countdowns

Graeme Peters
Arts Contributor

2014 is upon us, and now that the dust has cleared, we can reflect on some of the great things the past year brought us. If you're like me, the first thing you thought of was, "What was the best album of 2013?" Thankfully, critics did all the thinking for us. According to many publications the answer was obvious: *Yeezus*, from mainstream hip-hop's Lord and Saviour (Kanye West). Other popular critic picks were Vampire Weekend, Daft Punk, Arcade Fire with either Lorde, Haim, Chance the Rapper or Disclosure in a fifth place slot.

While these are all fun, well-made recordings, if every critic picked Kanye as their number one, it would make for a dull conclusion to 2013. Thankfully, a few publications changed it up, bringing more attention to other great releases of the past year. So, below are five of the best "Best albums of 2013" lists:

5) Coke Machine Glow
What first caught my eye about webzine *Coke Machine Glow*'s list is that they made a point of NOT putting Vampire Weekend, Daft Punk or Kanye on their list. But why should they? It isn't their style, and it's all been said already. And to top off their (refreshingly)

short list? Frog Eye's *Carey's Cold Spring*. I've never heard of it either, but it's good.

4) Gorilla vs. Bear
Gorilla vs. Bear's 40-album list is thankfully just that—albums. No snobiness or buzzwords, just titles, artwork and a track via Soundcloud. Their top pick was the awesome R&B release *Anxiety* from Autre Ne Veut, and they even included *After Dark 2*, a Neo-80s compilation from label Italians Do It Better. If you're a *Drive* fan, you'll be glad they remembered it.

3) Tiny Mix Tapes
Tiny Mix Tapes know what they like and that's exactly

what they gave you. With a list of ambient, experimental and electronic releases, it's a list that is proudly true to themselves. If you're a fan of these genres or their site, you'll be happy to see that Oneohtrix Point Never's *R Plus Seven* made it to the top—and probably to the top of your list as well.

2) The Needle Drop
Anthony Fantano (aka *The Needle Drop*) had a much fan-anticipated list, and if you know his work, it's easy to see why. His video list has personality, and you'll be entertained by how many adjectives he uses to describe 50 albums. He shares a bit of everything,

from J-Pop to black metal, and it feels genuine. Thanks Fantano.

1) Fact Mag
Tired of the nitpicking, *Fact Mag* decided it's time for a change. Instead of worrying about formats or formalities, *Fact* had the attitude of "if it's good, it's on the list." This gave us a grab bag of everything, from cassette releases to the almighty *Yeezus*. What's not to love about that? Besides being good sports, their list had fun albums, weird albums, albums I've never heard of and Miley Cyrus' *Bangerz*. Now that's a way to conclude 2013. ☺

Found in the sound

Simone Schmidt's FIVER brings complex stories in song to the In the Dead of Winter Festival Jan. 24

Sabina Wex
Staff Contributor

Simone Schmidt sat alone as her boyfriend went through a tiring day of chemotherapy. She had to stop being an anti-poverty organizer and shift her focus to take care of him, but never imagined it would be so difficult, or that she would feel so old doing it. On her boyfriend's rougher days, Schmidt began journaling as characters she created or based on real people, writing out their feelings as sound poetry. On his good days, her boyfriend helped Schmidt create melodies to convert the characters and their stories into songs.

"Through the illness of my boyfriend I came to love to play guitar because it was a way to

feel young," she says.

Schmidt, of One Hundred Dollars and The Highest Order, released her debut solo album, *Lost the Plot*, this past September under the name FIVER. The songs on the album are about care-giving, sickness and infection.

Schmidt was disappointed with the media's portrayal of the cancer patient always coming out a stronger person, which she found isn't usually the case (though her boyfriend is currently in remission). She also noticed that the media barely ever focused on the struggle of the caregiver, particularly young female ones, who often feel guilty when caring for a boyfriend, when the relationship doesn't survive the chemotherapy.

The songs on *Lost the Plot* are rooted in the narrative folk tradition, but Schmidt added a layer of psychedelic sound.

The last song on the album, "Undertaker" explores the story of a WWE wrestler. The Undertaker and his brother blame each other for burning down their parents' house/funeral home (their father was a mortician). The Undertaker's brother is accused of arson and committed to an asylum, but it hasn't been resolved as to who committed the crime.

"In song-writing, I'm always trying to build an empathy between the speaker in the song and the listener," Schmidt says. "Whether or not the speaker is someone I agree with is in the question of whether or not I can feel the challenge in their life."




"Simone Schmidt, forever young." • • • Press photo

Schmidt created another layer of the song by using wordplay to expand on "The Undertaker" as a man who struggles with love because he takes less than he himself undertakes from others.

With Schmidt having total creative and production control over *Lost the Plot*, she created the album for vinyl. Her music is quieter than the average mp3 or CD album because she wants the listener to turn up the volume on the record player to

hear new things on the album, as necessary for most records.

"I do feel like the point of the record is to have the intention to spend time with it," she said, "not to just fill your playlist with some cool blip in your time."

Schmidt, aka FIVER, will be playing at the Bus Stop Theatre on Jan. 24 as part of the In the Dead of Winter festival. 

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Swimmers Joe Ur, left, and Molly Wedge have had plenty to smile about recently. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

VICTORY LAPS

Inside the winning tradition of Dal swimming

Daniel Bergman
Assistant Sports Editor

“When in doubt, just win.” This is the ubiquitous mantra of sports culture—and the Dalhousie Tigers swim team may be its most loyal adherents. The women’s squad, for example, currently holds Atlantic University Sport (AUS) banners from every year since 2001, while the men’s championship streak extends all the way back to 1999. With both sides favoured to replicate that startling rate of success this year, it’s worth wondering how it was achieved in the first

place. According to those involved in the program, geography is the main reason behind Dal’s continued dominance. Third-year swimmer Molly Wedge, who hails from Prince Edward Island, says that “in Atlantic Canada, everyone knows that if you’re a swimmer, Dal is the best school to go to [and] that Dal has the fastest swimmers. I know I’ve wanted to come to Dal since I was 11— it was the only school I applied to.” Joe Ur, a veteran of the men’s squad now in his fifth year, agrees that a strong reputation has been essential to the team’s success—

adding that recognition of the Dalhousie swim program’s stature extends beyond the borders of the Atlantic region. At national championships, he notes, the Tigers “always have been competitive... people know that Dal’s a good school.” Meanwhile, the rest of the conference is struggling to keep pace. Not only do the Tigers possess the only Atlantic swim program that consistently ranks among the top 10 in Canada, but the women finished 368 points ahead of the next-closest competitor—the University of New Brunswick—at the 2012-13 AUS championship meet. However, weaker opposition and a concentration of top talent are not the only reasons for the swim team’s extended winning streak. In the view of the team’s members, the tight-knit nature of the program also plays a major

role in shaping the Tigers’ fortunes. “Other people have their societies and their classmates and their best friends—we have the team,” says Ur. “That’s who we talk about, that’s who we talk to, that’s who we’re with all the time... People look at it as an individual sport, and you’re alone and you’re in the water, but it’s completely a team sport.” Though this kind of solidarity provides much-needed support during high-stress competitions, it risks intensifying negative feelings as well. “We just feed off each other’s energy,” Wedge explains. “That’s the team aspect, but it does rely on the individual—because if you have a bad race, you can’t go up to someone and be like, ‘Oh man, that sucked.’ You have to be like, ‘OK, I’m going to do better next time.’”

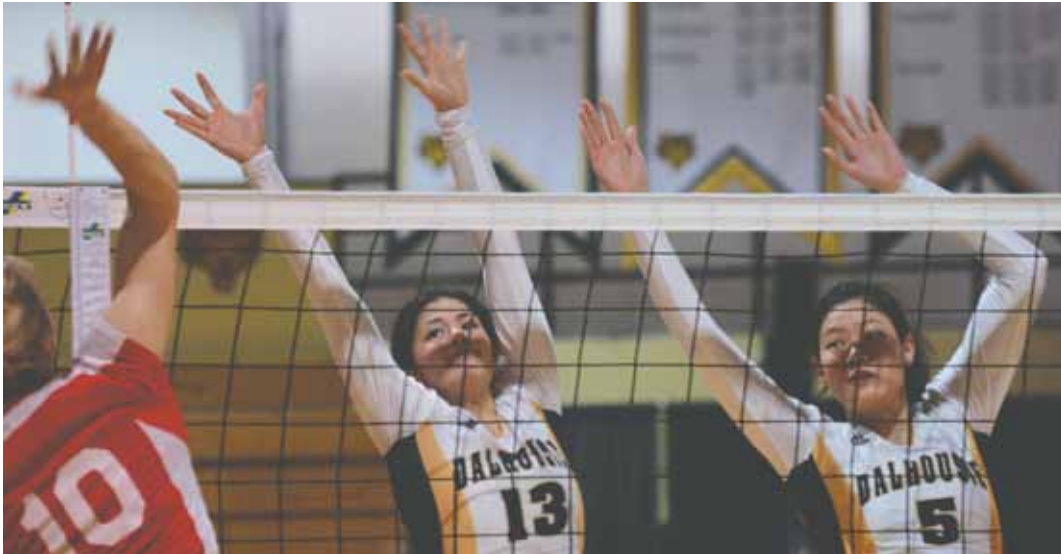
In addition, as with any other family, people occasionally get on one another’s nerves. “Being around the same people day in and day out, sometimes people get annoyed with each other,” Ur remarks. “It has its ups and downs.” One benefit of this closeness is that it fosters intra-team competition, helping to spur individual improvement in the absence of heated regional rivalries. “There is a problem with becoming complacent, especially in our conference,” says Ur. “So we end up racing both ourselves and our teammates—that’s essentially what we have to do year-round, throughout workouts and training.”

“OTHER PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SOCIETIES AND THEIR CLASSMATES... WE HAVE THE TEAM”

Heading into the AUS and Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship season, Ur hopes this kind of preparation aids in atoning for the men’s disappointing, injury-plagued experience at last season’s national meet. “I broke my leg, so I didn’t get to go,” he recalls, adding that David Sharpe’s battle with mono and an outbreak of shingles on the team contributed to a sub-par showing, as the team finished in 11th place. Wedge, who recently broke an AUS and Nova Scotian record in the 100m freestyle, also believes this season holds promise. “I think this year, the work we’ve put in is exponentially better than last year,” she says. “I think that if we can keep it up, we could place really well at CIS.” 9

Two different wins for women's volleyball

Tigers resilient in second half of weekend series



Anna Dunn-Suen, 13, and Maggie Li, 5, leaped to victory last weekend. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

Benjamin Blum
Sports Editor

The women's volleyball team emerged with consecutive victories in their weekend series against Memorial. However, it was a tale of two starkly different matches.

"We weren't very good today," said head coach Rick Scott following Sunday's grueling 3-1 victory. "Give Memorial credit. They came out to play."

The Tigers opened the weekend series last Saturday evening in a manner befitting the defending Atlantic University Sport (AUS) champions, handling the Sea-Hawks in a straight sets victory.

It was another commanding win, with 10 kills from Anna Dunn-Suen and nine digs from Marisa Mota, while Katherine Ryan added seven kills and eight digs.

Memorial regrouped Sunday, putting the pressure on the Tigers early in the first set. "They were hungrier, they played better," said Scott.

After separate runs of five and six consecutive points, the Sea-Hawks kept the Tigers at arm's length to win the set 25-17.

"We came out a little slow, but definitely worked hard and came back," said setter Brett Hastings, who came off the bench and played for long stretches throughout the match.

Unforced errors and dropped

balls nearly spelled further defeat for the Tigers. A strong offensive start in the second set held off a late Memorial comeback to win the second set 25-18.

"[You have] to credit our girls for being resilient, finding a way to win it," said Scott, whose team currently sits in first place, just ahead of rival Saint Mary's.

From his usual stance on the sideline, Scott appeared to be a "seventh man" as Dal rallied in the third set from being down 6-15 to eventually bring it within two points. "We're in a battle," exhorted Scott from the huddle during a timeout.

The match reached a critical juncture when the flag judge called a potentially game chang-



Jessica Josenhans, 10, defends the net. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

ing point in for Memorial, but was overruled by the chair official, giving the point to Dal, who went on to win 26-24.

"It was a great comeback," said Scott on their third set. "It's nothing magical. Just hard work and attention to detail."

The Tigers' resiliency was on further display against a strong Memorial side in the fourth set, with the two teams trading points from the technical timeout onward. In the end, Dal outlasted

the Sea-Hawks 25-23 to win the match.

"Our serve receive definitely stepped up and our defense fought through," said the second-year Hastings, who was awarded player of the game.

Despite the team's shortcomings, matches like Sunday's serve a purpose for Scott.

"[It's] really important, to find ways to win when you're not playing well. We did that today" ☺

THE TICKER: HOCKEY

Successful homestand as both teams earn points

Men's hockey showed excellent resolve, coming back from a 3-1 deficit to win 5-3 against St. FX on Friday, Jan. 10. After surrendering three consecutive goals to end the first, the Tigers scored four unanswered goals to finish the game, including two from **Patrick Daley**. On the women's

side, Dal's game against Mount Allison on Saturday, Jan. 11 needed a shootout to find a victor. Dal lost 3-2, but **Jeanne Morin** stood on her head for the Tigers, making 29 saves. ☹

By Benjamin Blum

Marita Alfieri, 13, battles for a loose puck. • • • Photo by Chris Parent



Men's volleyball routs Memorial

Offensive outpour propels Tigers sweep



The Tigers were in top form last weekend. ••• Photo by Kit Moran

Benjamin Blum
Sports Editor

It was an offensive clinic at the Dalplex over the weekend as the men's volleyball team soundly defeated the Memorial Sea-Hawks, winning six straight sets.

The visitors from St. John's were outmatched by their Dalhousie counterparts Saturday evening, who held them to 15 points or less in three sets. The diversity of Dal's attack was on full display, with six players registering four kills or more and setting stats split nearly even between starter Jonathan MacDonald and reserve Robert Johnson.

Sunday's match started off in a similar fashion, with the Tigers jumping to a 16-8 lead. However, the Sea-Hawks began to chip away at the lead, eventually going on a six point run while facing game point.


The match concluded on a kill from rising second-year star Glenn Lassaline, and the offence was in full swing for the rest of the

match.

Nearly every ball played over the net was an attacking hit as Dal put over very few free balls. At the centre of the offensive machine was MacDonald, who had 26 assists and deftly directed the team's high-octane surge.

Lassaline continued his strong performance, as he and fellow outside hitter Kristen O'Brien each had seven kills. Middle Connor Maessen had seven aces and Adam Sanderson came off the bench for 10 digs.

The Tigers maintained their stranglehold over Memorial to win the next two sets 25-10 and 25-12. Additionally, Dal landed 29 aces against the Sea-Hawks, who have yet to register a win this season.

Up next, the team will head to the AUS-RSEQ interlock in Sherbrooke, Quebec on Jan. 17 before finishing their AUS season in February. 

CATCH SOME ACTION!

Friday, Jan. 17
Basketball vs StFX, W 6pm, M 8pm

Saturday, Jan. 18
AUS Swim Invitational, 12/5pm

Sunday, Jan. 19
AUS Swim Invitational, 10am

Tuesday, Jan. 21
W Hockey vs SMU, SMU Alumni Arena, 7pm

Wednesday, Jan. 22
M Hockey vs SMU, Halifax Forum, 7pm

Admission is Free for Dal students with ID!



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STREETEER

By Mat Wilush and Kit Moran

Who would you make President of Dal?



"Jeff Winger from *Community*"
Rebecca Dickson
2nd-year Neuroscience



"Homer Simpson"
Travis Nikkel
2nd-year IDS



"I'd have to say Batman"
Anthony Suikali
2nd-year Neuroscience



"Tinkerbell would be cute"
Jessica Melanson
1st-year Psychology



"Cinderella"
Fatemah Farzaneh
2nd-year Science



"Tyrion Lannister"
Mike Bowman
"4th-year plus" Early Modern Studies

The Dalhousie Gazette

et cetera

Captain Cancan of the Horse Marines by Kat Moore



EVENTS @ DAL

for more listings,
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FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Lecture: Politiques culturelles et linguistiques au Canada, 4 p.m. in McCain Room 1102

Open Mic Night: 7:30-9 p.m. all ages, 19+ from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Grawood

Open Waters Music Festival begins, 8 p.m., various locations (\$15 students)

YAS Ball 2014: Midnight in Paris, 9 p.m. at the Westin Nova Scotia

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

CKDU Train-a-thon, 3-6 p.m.

Tango Milonga party featuring Tomas Howlin, 8 p.m. at University Club (free admission for students)

Life Sciences Trivia, 9 p.m. at the Grawood (\$3)

Smart is Sexy: Interdisciplinary Trivia Night, hosted by Life Science Committee. 8 p.m. to midnight at the Grawood.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

Annual Student Musical, 3 p.m. in the Arts Centre, Room 406 (\$5 students)

MONDAY, JAN. 20

School of Architecture Professional Practise Week begins, 9 a.m. at 5410 Spring Garden Rd. Auditorium

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

CKDU Audio Production Workshop. Please RSVP to jordan@ckdu.ca, 6-7:30 p.m.

Lecture: Neighbour Power: Sparking Community Action in HRM. 7 p.m. at McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building.

Women's hockey: Dal v.s. SMU, 7 p.m. at Alumni Arena

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

Mini Law School: Understanding the Law of Negligence, 7-8:30 p.m., Weldon Building, Room 104

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Dalhousie Undergraduate Neuroscience Society Gaming for Mental Health Night, 7 p.m. at The Board Room Game Cafe

Halifax Planetarium Show: Bright Stars on Cold Winter Nights in a Warm Planetarium, 7:15 p.m. in Dunn Building, Room 120 (\$5)

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Lecture, Health Law and Policy: The Federal Government: Leader in Health Care?, by the Hon. A. Anne McLellan, 12:10-1:30 p.m. in Weldon Building, Room 104 (lunch served)

Keys N Krates performing at the Grawood, 9 p.m. (\$10 pre-sale, \$15 for 19+)

submit listings to events@dalgazette.com

comics

comics
comics covers the funny ha-ha
and the funny peculiar.
Email Emily at
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Emily Davidson Art Director



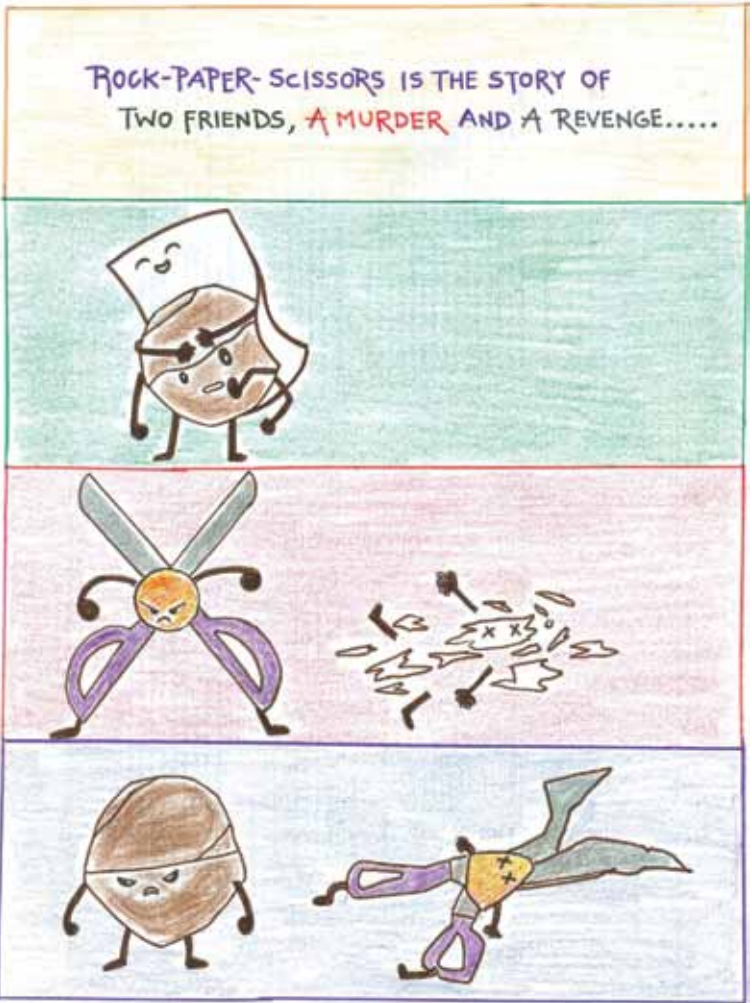
Old Heart by Amber Solberg



Adventures in Servitude by Caitlin McGuire



Jocular Impulse by Aniruddha Waje



Hoo-Haw by Andrea Flockhart



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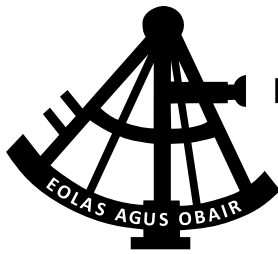
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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Jill Withers
5th Year Industrial

DUES discipline challenge recap

Class of the disciplines in Fall 2013

Another term, another tight competition. For those new to Sexton Campus, there are 8 disciplines (and the diplomas) that compete in multiple challenges and events, term-by-term, to gain a coveted spot on the Discipline Plaque. Last semester saw many notable contests between the disciplines, and though the final winner for the term is yet to be tabulated, here are

some highlights.

The first events of the term took place on Halloween. Five disciplines competed in the annual pumpkin carving contest, with the Civils taking home first place and the Electricals coming in a close second. The costume contest took place at the T-Room the same day and was a close call. With approximately 30 students competing on stage, the

competition was fierce, but the Industrials walked away with the prize.

The Pulling for the Kids fundraiser followed with \$3000 being raised this year. The Mechanicals won the award for highest fundraiser, followed by the Industrial Engineering Society team, and then Mining.

Finally, the annual engineering coin drive was the last competition of

the year. Run during every engineering, the Civils started the year with a commanding lead. However, after the final count, the Mechanicals came out on top, followed by the Materials and the Industrials.

The scores will be restarted for the 2014 Winter term, so get out to the competitions and win glory for your discipline! 🍀



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100-200 words = \$15

200-400 words = \$25

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Picture of the Week,

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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 Premasagar

Kaitlin Miles
4th Year Industrial

A conference like no other

Promoting solidarity among women engineers

Opening night of National Conference on Women in Engineering (NCWiE) took place at an Irish bar in downtown Vancouver. As I mingled with students from other schools over dinner, I wondered how the weekend would unfold.

Casually, I chatted with a woman that I'd just met. She introduced herself as "part of the IBM team". Later in the night I was delighted to learn that I had been talking to Sharon Hartung, a professional engineer and a director at IBM, as well as the keynote speaker for the evening. My encounter with Sharon reflected the tone for the weekend: a chance for young, eager, and

mostly female engineers to network with and learn from experienced, wise and mostly female senior engineers.

Rates for female new Engineers in Training (EIT) with Engineers Canada have been at a standstill for the last ten years. Meanwhile, engineers are retiring at an alarming rate (mostly the pale, frail, and male ones, as said by Elizabeth Croft, Associate Dean of Applied Sciences at University of British Columbia) and there is a great need for young, fresh minds in the industry.

So, why do we need more women in engineering? Croft, the Diversity Keynote Speaker at NCWiE,

presented five reasons. Firstly, more females would generate a broader talent pool for hiring. Secondly, research shows that diverse teams produce better, more innovative results. Croft suggests that having more women in senior management positions would increase financial performance and provide a stronger and better balanced management team because the female perspective would appeal to a broader market. Finally, Croft argued that investing in female engineers is really just investing in humanity in general.

So, what do we do now? As women, we work harder

than ever to succeed in our careers, not only for ourselves but to encourage women in younger generations. And guys: you know that girl in your discipline? There's probably only a few of them, so surely you know her: congratulate her on being a part of the change. Sometimes it's hard for her to be one of the only girls in her class, but she's working hard and kicking ass. Together, we can help achieve Engineer Canada's goal of 30x30: 30% female EIT's by 2030.

Dalhousie University will present a bid to host the 2015 NCWiE at CFES Congress in January. 🍀

Questions, Comments, Contribute

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