

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, EST. 1868



2020 HAS BEEN THE MOST RELAXING YEAR IN RECENT HISTORY. MANY STUDENTS AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY ARE DISAPPOINTED THE NEW YEAR IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. (PHOTO BY MOHAMED HASSAN ON SHUTTERSTOCK)

2020: The most chill year

A global pandemic and online classes can't break Dalhousie students

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ELDERLY PROF
LIVESTREAMS LIFE

4

ACCESSORISE YOUR
PLAGUE MASK

10-11

WEIGHTLIFTERS
VERSUS DALPLEX

15

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ending 2020 with some humour

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the *Dalhousie Gazette's* special annual satire issue. All of the following stories are entirely made up. That's right. Complete lies.

This issue is also special because it's our last one for 2020. When I was planning the *Gazette's* publishing schedule back in the summer, I decided we'd end this year with a bit of humour. However, now that the end of the year is approaching, it seems harder and harder to see a comedic side to 2020.

Millions of people around the world have died from COVID-19 and the pandemic continues. The massive wave of Black Lives Matter protests has subsided, but police violence is still a problem. It's hard to comprehend how it was only seven months ago that Nova Scotia faced the deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history.

In short, this year has been filled with tragedy after tragedy. I now feel unfazed every time I hear about another terrible event. If you feel similarly about 2020, I hope some of these stories will give you a break from the horrors of reality. Some of these articles are silly, and others capture the bizarre and frightening nature of this exhausting year. Ultimately, we cannot escape or forget the atrocities we have experienced in the past months. While I don't think humour is the answer to all of our current societal problems, maybe it's one way to process them.

Unfortunately, many students may not get to spend the holidays with their loved ones this year because of pandemic regulations. Whatever situation you'll be in next month, on behalf of the *Gazette* staff, I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday break. We'll be writing for you again in January 2021.



-Tarini Fernando, Editor-in-chief

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Correction

In issue 153-6, a news article stated Halifax Burger Week 2020 raised more donations to Feed Nova Scotia than any year before. That is incorrect. This year's Burger Week had more restaurants sign up to donate part of their burger proceeds to Feed Nova Scotia than ever before. The *Dalhousie Gazette* has updated the article online and apologizes for this error.

Prof struggles to show students he's chill

Kevin Morris has failed to maintain his cool reputation in virtual classes

BY SIMON SMITH

During the past 15 years, Dalhousie University history professor Kevin Morris says he has developed a reputation as the “chill professor around campus.” But he’s found this reputation difficult to maintain during virtual learning.

“Yeah, the students, or ‘pupes’ as I call my pupils, are always stopping me in the quad to say hey or kick around the [Hacky] Sack,” Morris said in a Zoom interview with the *Dalhousie Gazette*. “They say things like, ‘Yo Kev’ — they call me Kev — ‘dope lecture today!’ You know, things like that, like the word ‘dope.’”

But things are different now. Like most Canadian universities, Dalhousie has shifted to a largely asynchronous, online learning model, meaning Morris now pre-records his lectures for his students to watch on their own schedule.

“It’s been rough. I won’t lie,” said Morris. “Normally I’ll crack a few jokes right off the top just so the pupes know I’m not some stuffy egghead. But it’s awkward without an audience, you know? I’ve had to re-record my lectures three, four, sometimes six times just to get the jokes right.”

Lecture jokes don’t land asynchronously

When asked if he normally gets laughs during live lectures, Morris declined to comment.

Besides jokes, Morris had a few other in-class tricks he uses to communicate his chillness. But most of those tricks are difficult to execute in an online format.

“I always do this bit during the first lecture where I throw the textbook out the window,” Morris said. “It’s supposed to show them I don’t really care about the rules.”

Amanda Russell, one of Morris’ students, said that bit didn’t translate well to this year’s first pre-recorded lecture.

“He just shared his screen and dragged the textbook PDF from the documents folder to the trash bin and yelled, ‘Yeah, I just did that,’” said Russell. “I don’t think it really had the effect he wanted it to. I just lowered my volume a bit.”

Despite this stunt, Morris’s class still has a required text. To further demonstrate his anti-establishment approach, Morris provided the text for free via a PDF from a Russian website. He sent it to students on the first day of class in a Dropbox folder entitled, “Not payin’ fo’ that shit.”

Most of the students had already purchased the



KEVIN MORRIS, A DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROFESSOR, USED TO PLAY HACKY SACK® AND HOST RAP SESSIONS WITH HIS STUDENTS. BUT WITH ONLINE CLASSES THIS YEAR, HE’S FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO CONNECT WITH HIS PUPILS. (PHOTO BY FOTO SUSHI ON UNSPLASH)

textbook, co-authored by Morris, from the Dal bookstore for \$574.99 plus tax.

Online challenges

According to Morris, he’s also had technical difficulties when recording his lecture videos.

“Shot framing has been my biggest challenge,” Morris said. “I’ve been having trouble keeping my face in the shot while also making it clear that I’m casually leaning on my desk in an improvised manner. I usually end up sort of scrunching my body so it all fits in the frame.”

Morris said he remembers when he was a university student, which was “more recent than you might think,” he hated sitting through long lectures. Because of this, he makes sure to give his students frequent breaks.

“I used to call them texting breaks, but nobody texts anymore,” said Morris. “I’ve been workshoping some new types of breaks for the pupes. I just heard of this new thing everyone’s using called Quibi. I think it’s like Netflix, but the videos are shorter. That could be a cool break.”

Third-year arts student Jeffrey MacIsaac said while he appreciates the breaks in Morris’s lectures, he’d rather decide for himself how he spends them.

“You just feel kind of sorry for the guy,” MacIsaac

said. “Last week during break I went to make myself a sandwich and when I came back there’s Morris on my screen asking us to follow him into a downward dog.”

Morris’s weekly mandatory email survey resulted in mixed reviews for a “yoga break.”

Outside of class, Morris said he typically has an open-door policy. He frequently hosts “rap sessions” in his office for students to talk about course concepts or “whatever’s trending on the charts.”

“I usually kicked off those rap sessions with some fire rhymes,” Morris said.

While attendance at those in-person rap sessions during the pre-COVID-19 years was sparse, Morris hopes the online version will take off.

“I’ve started hosting the rap sessions on Discord,” a wide-eyed Morris said while frantically gesturing toward a whiteboard with ‘chill prof things’ written at the centre of an elaborate mind map. “I’m still trying to think of a catchy name for them though. I think, once I nail down a name, people will start coming. Wait, oh my God. DISCO SESH!”

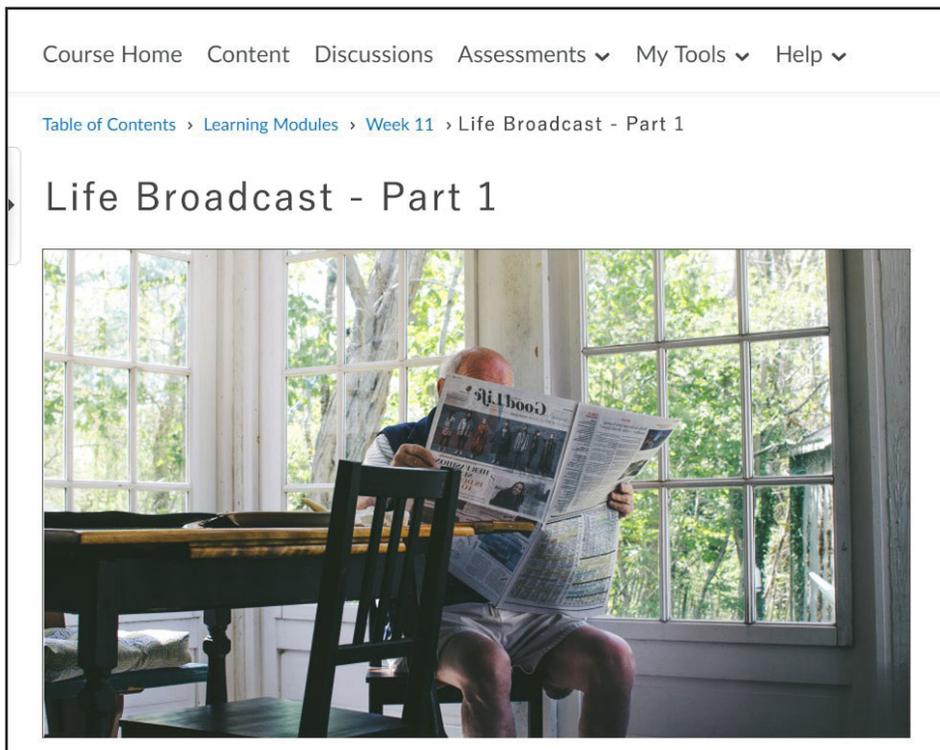
Russell said it’s frustrating hearing about her professor’s efforts to ensure his chill reputation survives the pandemic.

“We haven’t received a single piece of grading or feedback the entire year,” Russell said.

Elderly prof accidentally live streams entire life

Howard Beale created his students' favourite new show

BY LANE HARRISON, NEWS EDITOR



HOWARD BEALE ONLY MEANT TO HOST VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS, BUT HE ACCIDENTALLY LIVESTREAMED HIS ENTIRE DAY-TO-DAY LIFE ON COLLABORATE ULTRA. (PHOTO OF MAN BY SAM WHEELER; EDITED BRIGHTSPACE SCREENSHOT BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)

Howard Beale has been teaching Gilded Age history at Dalhousie University since 1974. One recent night, at 12:47 a.m., he sleepily walked into his kitchen to get one last piece of pecan pie and noticed an odd light blinking over his desktop computer in the living room. As he got closer, he realized it was his external webcam notifying him it needed new batteries. He wondered why.

Howard rarely uses his webcam as the course he teaches is asynchronous. He thought he only turned the webcam on once a week for his office hours. Howard shrugged, ate his pie and went back to bed. The next day, his daughter came over to try and figure out why the webcam had run out of power so quickly.

"Turns out he had been streaming live on Collaborate Ultra for 51 days," said Howard's daughter Louise Beale. Her father had opened Collaborate Ultra for his first set of office hours and never understood he was also supposed to close it.

At first, Howard was embarrassed and concerned that more than 200 students had been able to look into his home whenever they pleased. But it turns out Howard's constant presence helped many students get through anxious nights of studying amid the difficulty of virtual learning.

"This is legitimately the only thing Dal has ever done to improve student mental health," said Diana Christensen, a student in Howard's class.

According to Howard, Dal has reached out to him about continuing the streams. The university has proposed replacing the Student Health and Wellness Centre with a theatre where Howard would be constantly livestreamed.

"This is legitimately the only thing Dal has ever done to improve student mental health."

Students become attached to Beale

"My five roommates and I were all watching when he went to get the pecan pie. We used to keep it on all night on someone's laptop just in case anything happened," said Christensen.

"We could tell the camera was blinking and when he got close to it our roommate Josh just started bawling," she said. "The relief we felt when he went back to bed just made it so much more crushing when Louise turned it off during lunch the next day."

Another student, Max Schumacher, said Howard's streams were the only thing that kept him from dropping out of university.

"So that's pretty much the end of the line for me," Schumacher said. He's hoping to attend Saint Mary's University next year.

Dal wants Beale to continue

"Dal is committed to meeting the mental health needs of its students. If a method of mental health support is successful we will continue to use it, no matter how unconventional," said university spokesperson Dale Housey in an email to the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

When asked about the idea, Howard said, "During the Gilded Age, mental health was the responsibility of the asylum." It is unclear if he understands what exactly the university wants him to do.

According to Louise, adjusting to virtual teaching has been a large challenge for Howard.

"You have to understand, until last year he would write his PowerPoints out by hand and have a [teacher's assistant] create them," Louise said.

Amidst this unusual situation, Beale reflects fondly on the earlier days of his time at Dal.

"When I first got here in the 1970s," he said, "the only thing I'd have to do for a student's mental health was light their cigarette."

From booming bongos to bust

Established drug dealers see business go up in smoke

BY LANE HARRISON, NEWS EDITOR



FORMER DRUG DEN HOWE HALL HAS SEEN A DRAMATIC DROP IN ACTIVITY SINCE THE RESIDENCE SHIFTED TO A QUARANTINE FACILITY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. THIS DECLINE IN DRUG USE HAS LEFT DEALERS HOLDING THE BAG. (PHOTO BY ASHAR AHMED)

In 1983, Ron Slater's father arrived at Dalhousie University's Howe Hall residence with one pound of original haze marijuana and sold out within a month.

In 2008, Ron's older sister arrived at Howe Hall with one pound of lemon haze and sold out within a week. In September 2020, Ron, a current Dal student, arrived with a pound of super lemon haze to find Howe Hall closed for quarantining students. It took Ron until mid-October to unload his portion of the family stash.

"It was a tough first few months," Ron said. "When I went home for Thanksgiving my dad noticed there was still some weed in my bag and I could tell his heart just sank."

"I always thought legalization would bring an end to our little family tradition," said Leif Slater, Ron's father. "But it turns out COVID-19 has really screwed things up for Ronnie."

For the past few months, Ron has called Sherriff Hall home, which is usually filled with first years eager to score their first hit. But

COVID-19 regulations have made it difficult for Ron to introduce students to weed and therefore create a customer base.

Safe bong sharing during COVID-19

"My father always told me that the best way to get people to buy drugs is to let them use drugs for free first. That's a little difficult when no one wants to touch your bong," Ron said.

A bong is a water pipe that uses earth, fire, wind and water – the four elements in Western culture – to get a person high. They are popular among students in residence for the limited amount of odour and smoke they create.

According to Ron's father and sister, a bong in

a Dalhousie residence building should be used by four to seven different mouths each weekday and 10 to 45 mouths each day of the weekend.

"That's accounting for the inflation of residence occupation numbers between 1983 and 2020 too," said Leif.

This year, Ron has had difficulty convincing people his bong is safe. His first instinct was to try using his bong while wearing a mask.

"The smoke just went everywhere. I was pretty high already so I forgot the actual purpose of a mask for a second," he said.

Next, Ron began advertising his enhanced cleaning protocols on social media. He often uses Snapchat stories to share his new inventory with buyers.

"I find the key to any good social media ad is aggressively moving your camera towards the kush while shining an extremely bright light on it," Ron said.

However, he has adapted and discovered new techniques for his COVID-19 campaign.

"Usually I go with a slow-motion close-up of the disinfectant wipe slowly swirling around the mouth of the bong," Ron said. "Maybe I play some Philip Glass off my computer in the background so people know I'm serious about disinfecting after each use."

Customer base crashes

Due to COVID-19, students in residence are allowed no more than two people in a room at a time, making many of Ron's old business tactics obsolete.

"I simply cannot recruit customers," he said.

He's been trying to connect with other students any way he can.

"It was a bit weird," said David Wooderson, another student living in Sherriff. Ron privately messaged Wooderson during a Zoom lecture and told him he recognized his room as also being in Sherriff.

"Then he asked me if I like to hit bowls," Wooderson said. "I thought to myself, 'thank God this course is only on Zoom' and closed the chat."

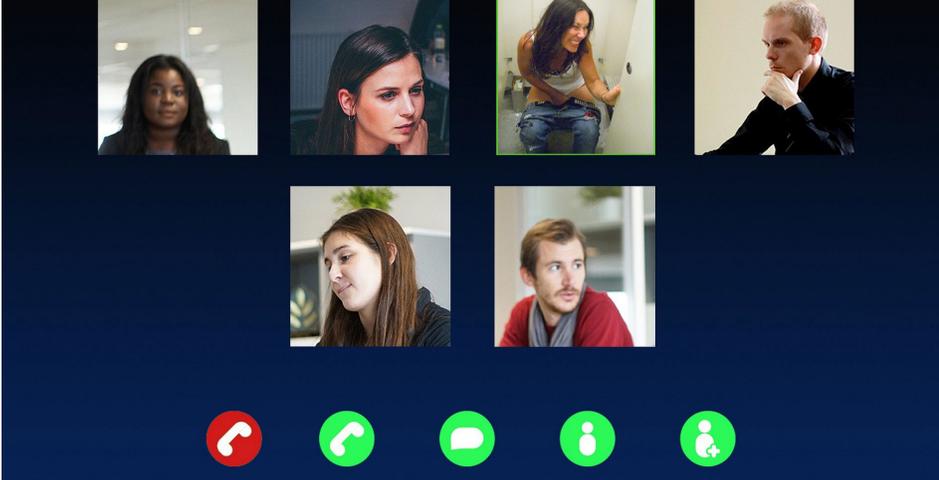
So far, Ron has been told by three of his professors to stop inappropriately using the Zoom chat function.

"When I went home for Thanksgiving my dad noticed there was still some weed in my bag and I could tell his heart just sank."

Five reasons to keep your camera off on Zoom

Dal students share their most embarrassing on-camera moments during synchronous classes

BY MANDY KING



GETTING CAUGHT SITTING ON THE TOILET DURING A ZOOM CALL IS BAD, BUT IT COULD BE WORSE. (PHOTO OF WOMAN ON TOILET BY BRANDI ON FLICKR; PHOTO OF VIDEO CALL BY JAGRIT PAJARULI ON PIXABAY)

Zoom is a video conference tool used by many professors at Dalhousie University to host synchronous classes. While it is a useful application, there are some unpleasant outcomes of being in class while also being at home.

Here are five Zoom horror stories from Dal students who wish they'd kept their cameras off.

They saw everything!

Still shaken from earlier that same day, Dale Smith shared his story with the *Dalhousie Gazette* about a Zoom meeting for his Mandarin class.

"It's not normal," Smith said. "I mean, I usually wear pants to class. I do. But this morning, I was running late."

Smith described his Zoom ordeal in awkward detail. He awoke late and couldn't find his jeans. Rather than missing class he logged on, relieved nobody could see below his chest level. That is until his teacher asked him to read from the class textbook.

Instinctively, Smith stood up to grab his copy of the textbook. Smith's classmates got an eyeful of his green Minecraft boxer shorts in full view.

"The worst part," Smith said, "is that it was a good 20 minutes before I realized they'd seen any-

thing. A classmate finally piped up and asked, 'Lǎoshī [teacher], how do you say Minecraft in Mandarin?' I almost died."

The wrong kind of movement

Sybil Jennings is part of the music program at Dal. She recently adopted a puppy and has been spending time sitting on the floor as a way to teach him not to jump on furniture.

Last Wednesday, as her class was beginning, Jennings left her place on the floor to find a new reed for her clarinet.

"I was only gone for two minutes. I still can't believe he did that," Jennings grumbled.

As the class looked on, Jennings' three-month-old goldendoodle performed a movement no music student would ever let loose in public.

"I mean, at least he missed the laptop, but my clarinet will never be the same."

I'll never look at my professor the same way again

English professor Jordan West likes to have a monthly group chat with his first-year creative writing students. According to one of his students,

Virginia Wang, this month's meetup was unique.

"He just forgot or something. It was like he didn't realize we were there," Wang explained, "You know when you butt dial someone? It was like that. He was having a full-on conversation with his cat about the new season of *The Bachelorette*, and then he started dancing with it. I mean like waltzing with his cat."

According to Wang, the class called to get the professor's attention without success.

"Eventually, we just logged off. But honestly, I haven't been able to look at him the same way since," said Wang.

Breaking up live

One of the more dramatic Zoom foibles at Dal happened two weeks ago to Amare Nkosi. He was just logging into a statistics lecture when his girlfriend, Amber, stormed in.

"I tried to tell her I was live on Zoom, but she just launched into me," Nkosi said.

Amber, not realizing Nkosi's class was watching, told him she couldn't be with him anymore and she was moving out.

"I couldn't speak. I just sat there dumbstruck as she packed. Eventually my stats partner, Phil, shouted something I won't repeat at her and she looked up."

Nkosi hasn't seen Amber since, but said he's single and is hoping the app Tinder will offer more success in the relationship department.

Karaoke has never been so entertaining

Forgetting a Zoom meeting is one thing, but sending an entire history class a video of your latest home karaoke performance is another. This is what happened to student Shayna Thompson.

"One minute I was attaching a sample assignment, the next, my entire class was humming David Guetta's 'Titanium.'" That's when I knew I'd sent the wrong file," they said.

Since that day, Thompson said things got better. "The mocking was easy to cope with once I started getting invitations to virtual karaoke events. I just wish my professor would stop calling me Sia."

Winter runners: The greatest menace to society

Why we must stop people who jog in the snow

BY TARINI FERNANDO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every winter, I look out my window on snowy days and see something deeply disturbing: people running.

Yes, I'm talking about people who run outside in three inches of snow, on icy sidewalks and in -20 C weather. (You know who you are.)

Winter runners are harmful to society. While everyone else stays inside, binge watches *The Crown*, wallows in seasonal depression and buries themselves in Christmas cookies, runners are outside during the winter months. They make the rest of us feel lazy and inactive. Winter runners are devils in activewear disguise. Just how do they run outside in those clothes? No one's staying warm in thin running tights, neon-coloured windbreakers and tiny black gloves.

Halifax is a particularly hard place to imagine running outside. The sidewalks are full of slopes. I've fell and slid down an icy sidewalk on Morris Street more times than I care to say — and I was just walking. How in the world are people running on these streets? Are they even human? Or are they robots sent by the government to make us feel so bad about ourselves we need to go shopping to assuage our shame, thereby boosting the economy and helping huge corporations? Some might call this a conspiracy, but others might just agree with me.

Another student's perspective

Norma L. Persson is a second-year Dalhousie University student studying organic biomedical animal science (a totally real major). Persson likes to stay inside in the winter and watch *Planet Earth*. She says she hates seeing runners out in the snow.

"Oh yeah, they're totally robots," Persson says. "That, or they're just terrible people. We need to start bullying people who run in the snow. Like, come on, they're obviously just showing off. We need to stop them."

Persson says the thought of winter runners has even affected her studies.

"Sometimes I'm sitting and just thinking about those people when I should be writing a biology midterm," says Persson. "Next thing you know, it's midnight and I've got no work done. I've just been racking my brain trying to figure out why people would do something so horrible."

Persson says she does not enjoy physical activities.



RUNNING IN SUB-ZERO WEATHER: IT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL. HOW DOES ANYONE RUN ON ICY SIDEWALKS WITHOUT GETTING SEVERE KNEE INJURIES? (PHOTO BY ANDREW RASHOTTE)

However, she understands and even supports people who run in the spring, summer and fall.

"I've heard exercising is good for you. So, yeah, run in the warmer months. But people who run in the winter are evil. Like, just go the gym," Persson says.

Active mom

Karen Strange is an accountant and part-time mommy blogger, as she calls herself. Strange says she loves to run during the winter months. She insists she is not a government-funded robot.

"I just can't help it," Strange says. "I love running, especially in the snow. Feeling your toes all freezing and wet, the air so cold you feel like you're suffocating. It's exhilarating! Besides, what else am I supposed to do in the

winter? Stay inside like a normal person? That's not me. I'm an active mom."

During my interview with Strange, she said the words "active mom" 126 times. She also showed me pictures of her kids at least twice.

Strange writes about her obsession with winter

running in her blog *Active Mom 4 Life*.

"Everyone should try running in the ice and snow," reads one of Strange's blog posts. "I love the feeling of angry people staring at you from their windows as you jog by. Their vicious glares make me run even faster and it really gets my heart rate up."

I asked Strange if she ever thought of going to a gym in the winter rather than running outside. She immediately seemed offended.

"I have the right to run in any weather," Strange says. "No one can stop me. I know there's haters out there but screw them. I'm an active mom."

The bottom line

I will never truly understand people like Strange. Sure, it can be difficult to go to the gym, but at least the gym is indoors. Nothing is enjoyable about going outside on a freezing day. Why would anyone do this voluntarily? Perhaps we'll never find a good answer.

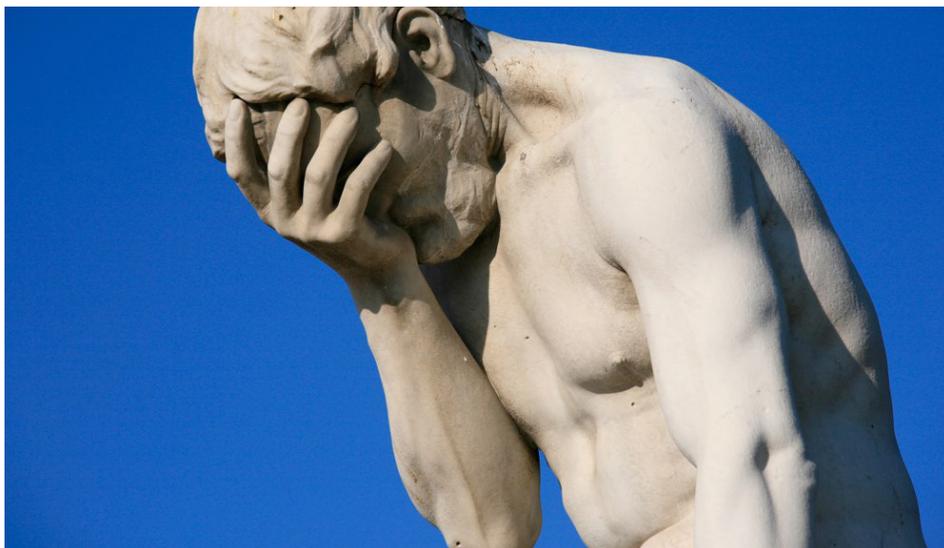
Ultimately, I believe running in the snow should be a fineable offence. At the very least, as Persson argues, we should be bullying winter runners. What they're doing is not right. Why should the majority of society be forced to witness something that elicits so much self-hate? Join the fight by never going outside in winter.

"Winter runners are devils in activewear disguise."

How to win at university

Tips for academic success

BY MAYOWA OLUWASANMI, OPINIONS EDITOR WITH FILES FROM THE BISSETT STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE



DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR PROFESSOR WHEN SHE TELLS YOU TO READ THE SYLLABUS OR THE ASSIGNED TEXTBOOK. JUST FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND UNIVERSITY WILL BE A BREEZE. (PHOTO BY ALEX E. PROIMOS)

Editor's note: This is a satirical article. The Dalhousie Gazette asked advisors at the Bissett Student Success Centre to give us satirical tips on how to succeed academically. The following article is based on their responses. There are services available to support Dalhousie students in their studies. If you are not sure where to start, begin by reaching out to the Bissett Centre or to an advisor in your program.

Being a university student is tough: the late nights, early mornings and endless assignments. Sometimes, we need an extra bit of support to guide us through the worst of it. Here are a few tips on how not to fail university.

Syllabus? Is that French?

First, don't look at your syllabus. It's long, boring and contains absolutely no useful or relevant information about grades or assignments. Wondering what day the midterm is? It's not on the syllabus. Want to know how the group project is marked? Just email the professor one hour before the assignment is due. Even better, just email the teacher's assistant! Whatever you do, don't read the syllabus.

Degree planning

When selecting courses, pick the ones your friends are in, even if other classes are more useful to

you. If you have only one goal during university, it should be to live like it's the best four years of your entire life. Why worry about the significant costs of this education, or that you need specific requirements for a certain degree track? School is much more fun with friends. How are you supposed to focus if the vibes are dead?

Show up?

If time is a Western, colonialist concept, why should you subscribe to its rigid parameters? How can tiny hands on a clock be so powerful and determine so much about your own life? Divest from clocks and time as a concept.

When in doubt, cram it out

If a final exam is worth 50 per cent of your grade, don't bother wasting time working on the course throughout the term. Plan to get 100 per cent on all your finals. Simply spend a few days before the exam learning all of the course material.

"It shows real initiative from the students to be able to push off work till the absolute end," says Adie Visor, a totally real academic advisor at Dalhousie University. "It's the perfect practice for the real world and

shows students that as long as it gets done, that's all that matters."

Self-care

The best way to fuel yourself through the grind is through God's nectar itself: coffee. Don't stop at one expensive cup. Have 10! Studies have shown excessive amounts of caffeine lead to the medical phenomenon known as "Brain Sponge": This is when information you are trying to retain immediately latches itself onto your long-term memory the second you drink coffee.

Don't do the readings

Life without danger is not a life truly lived. If you know you have assigned readings and tutorials weekly, don't waste precious time doing the readings. Watch another episode of *Bob's Burgers*. Clean your room. Do some online shopping. Do anything else. What will Freud tell you that the sex advice podcast *Call Her Daddy* won't?

When the tutorial begins, keep a few bullshit statements handy. This is a style of rhetoric that allows students to seem much more knowledgeable on a subject than they actually are. Try asking everyone to "unpack that" and build on every classmate's point by repeating the same thing in different words. No one will be able to tell you shit when you pull out "consequently!"

Yes, Wikipedia is a good source

Be sure to use Wikipedia and YouTube videos as the only sources of information for your essay. How long will we allow the oppressive hands of academia to dictate what is a good source? How many 200-page journal articles must you read to write an essay, especially if a YouTube video says the same thing so much quicker? Why do any of the background research yourself when Wikipedia has all the information?

Don't ever change

If you had your future career planned out at age 12, be sure to stick with that regardless. If you dreamed of going to medical school ever since first watching *Grey's Anatomy*, what do a few failed grades in organic chemistry mean? Why should your clear lack of passion or talent in a subject make you re-evaluate whether a degree is for you? University is not the place for change or growth, so just stick to the same thing!



Your 2021 horoscope

What's in store for you in the new year?

BY RACHEL COOKE

Aries

(March 21 – April 19)

Let your competitive and passionate nature help you to bribe, steal and cheat some fun out of life (and your close acquaintances) this year. The stars aren't aligned in your favour so you'll have to grab what you want. It will be as easy as taking candy from a baby.

Taurus

(April 20 – May 20)

The universe knows you hate the mundane, so this year will be the most boring one yet. Worry not. Look at it like a fun personal challenge, like quarantining with your parents.

Gemini

(May 21 – July 22)

The planets are aligned in your favour Gemini. Your dreams of the crazy, weird and wonderful will come true this year. But be on the lookout for black cats. They're probably bad luck, or good luck. Have fun figuring that one out.

Cancer

(June 22 – July 23)

Tears are in your future, but pay no attention to any sadness. Grab a bottle of wine and a Nicholas Sparks movie, and numb it out this year. Maybe next year you will feel again. Here's to hoping!

Leo

(July 24 – Aug. 23)

Romance issues are on the horizon. Play it safe by ghosting everyone you're talking to and keep your distance. Dreaming of someone means you've been seeing too much of them. Also don't wear the colour orange out in public. You'll find out why.

Virgo

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Your analytical side will emerge this year. Don't spend every moment worrying and wondering if other people are talking about you. They are, but you need to focus on yourself. And stop walking underneath ladders.

Libra

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Stop procrastinating on everything you do or this year will be as awful and unproductive as the last one. Seriously, get off TikTok.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Not everyone wants what you want this year, Scorpio. Better to just let go of your plans to move back in with your family.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Point your social arrows in a different direction this year. Your friends are really starting to get fed up with you dragging them to the Roxbury Urban Dive Bar every Friday night.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Not everything has to be perfect this year, which is good because your life is a mess right now. Sometimes you just need to embrace things as they are.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

This year the stars will be working against you, but that's all right. Just keep knocking back your vices. Your lack of determination will lead somewhere eventually. Keep your ex on speed dial just in case. We all know it's hard to let go.

Pisces

(Feb. 19 – March 20)

Your artistic direction is going nowhere this year. Take it as a sign to get your head out of the clouds and find some productive hobbies (perhaps hula-hooping). You just need inspiration.

Mask appeal: behind the hot new trend

Best ways to personalize your medieval plague mask for the coming winter

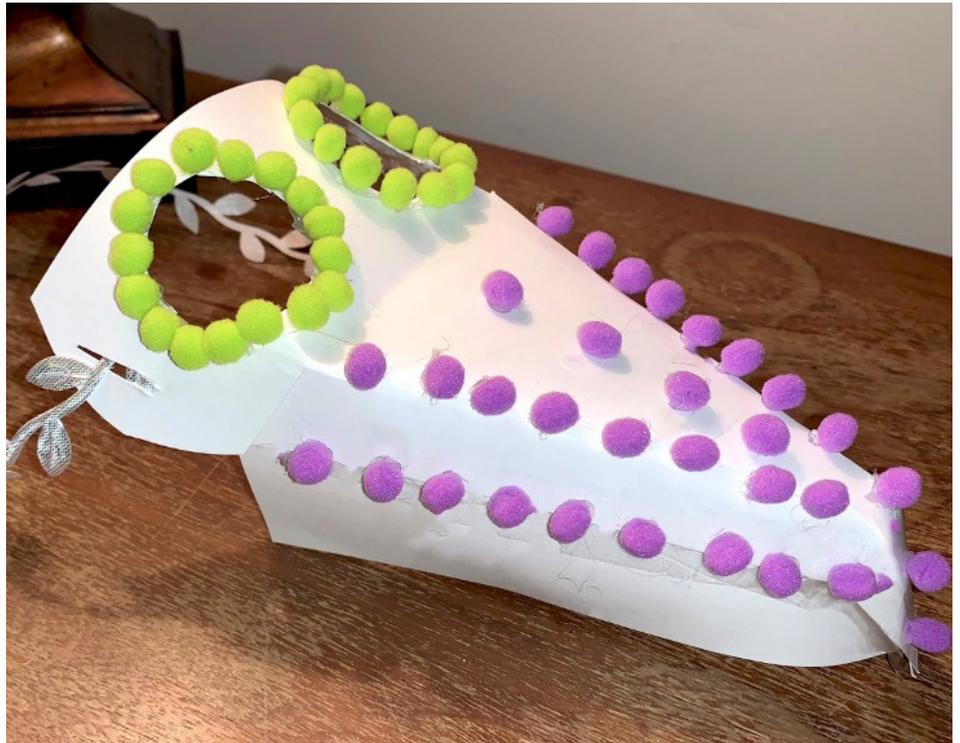
BY MANDY KING

The world celebrates fashion week in New York, Milan, London and Paris every February, but at Dalhousie University students celebrated early. From Nov. 16 to 20, students gathered on Zoom to celebrate Dalhousie Fashion Week. Everyone was raving about the fashion-forward trend of decorating plague masks.

Masks make a statement

The discovery of COVID-19 has created some concern in the world. The wearing of facial coverings has been encouraged by doctors to decrease risk of spreading the deadly disease. While many Haligonians wander the streets in generic blue paper masks, the students at Dalhousie have begun an avant-garde venture into haute couture medieval plague masks.

Invented by Elon Musk's grandfather in 500 AD, plague masks have moved past the basic austere beak-like structure and goggle exterior to allow for whimsy and individuality. Many students are going so far as to decorate their masks using items found around their homes. Below, you'll find some of the top trends in plague mask fashion from this year's Dalhousie Fashion Week.



DALHOUSIE FASHION WEEK GIVES YOU THIS SNEAK PEEK ON THE LATEST TRENDS IN DIY PLAGUE MASKS: POMPOMS REMAIN A KEY STAPLE IN YOUR FASHION ARSENAL. LIVING THROUGH A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, YOU MIGHT AS WELL LOOK CUTE WHILE STAYING SAFE! (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)



ELEVATE ANY OUTFIT WITH THE GLAMOUR OF GLITTER AND SEQUINS. (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)



NO HOLIDAY OUTFIT IS COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS FESTIVE ACCESSORY. (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)



SOME STUDENTS BELIEVE THE POPULARITY OF PLAGUE MASKS AT DALHOUSIE BEGAN AFTER BABY YODA STARTED SPORTING THEM IN PUBLIC. (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)



BABY YODA IS ALSO CREDITED WITH FUELLING DEMAND FOR CRAFT SUPPLIES FROM POMPOMS TO GLITTER. (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)

Pompom power plague mask

You don't have to be a cheerleader to enjoy pompoms. This plague mask trend is inspired by crafty realness. All you need is hot glue to place some colourful pompoms across the plain white beak of your plague mask.

Students have been seen boasting the pompom look with a variety of clothing options, including sportswear, casualwear and even that little black dress.

This is one of the most cost-effective looks and has received praise from third-year psychology major Miranda West, who says, "It says so much but requires so little, you know? The pompom look is by far my favourite."

Why be basic when you can be a plague-icorn?

Taking things up a notch from the basic craft store look, students in the theatre and creative writing departments have been spotted on Zoom and around campus with sparkly unicorn-themed plague masks.

All you need for this look is sequins and gold glitter. This mask will be perfect for any '20s inspired flapper dance number, or at a sparkly New Year's Eve Zoom party.

Unicorns have been trending for the last few years, and this mask style comes as no surprise to Dal students or faculty. However, chemistry professor Clive Ahearn did comment negatively on the masks.

"It isn't that I don't like unicorns. Who

doesn't like unicorns?" Ahearn says. "But the glitter, it's distracting. Can we see something in a felt next year?"

Make merry with your mask

With December creeping up, many students have begun the task of decking the halls and their plague masks. Twinkle lights, ribbons, bows, pine cones and silver bells have been seen sparkling on students' plague masks.

When surveyed, most students admitted that decorating their masks with holiday lights made them feel a little better about the lack of oxygen and impending exams.

Fourth-year environmental science major Dave Qiu suggests holiday plague masks are most effective at night, but he wishes more students were environmentally conscious in their décor decisions.

"I wish more students would consider solar energy to power their plague masks lights. I understand that battery operated twinkle lights get you across campus

safely, but what if we cut out the batteries completely?" Qiu says.

Countless possibilities

The above trends have been the most popular plague mask themes, but they weren't the only accessories that found their way into Dal Fashion Week. Other contending styles included animal prints, faux fur, Greek key de-

signs, graffiti, periodic table, pop art, floral and geometric shapes.

Whatever your style is, Dal students are encouraged to show off their DIY chops with their latest plague mask designs during Zoom lectures, or whenever they're picking up books at the library. Still not sure how to decorate your mask? Professor Samuel Mensah of the history department says, "When in doubt, do your research. There's plenty to be learned from fashions of the past."



GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT! SPRUCE UP YOUR PLAGUE MASK WITH A FEW CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS. (PHOTO BY MANDY KING)

Dal provides oasis of calm

Stress busting resources help students leave worries behind

BY HANNAH BING



MUCH-NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY. ONE OF THESE EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES IS THERAPY DOG THURSDAYS: THE UNIVERSITY WILL EMAIL IMAGES OF PUPPIES TO STUDENTS EVERY WEEK. (PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)

Editor's note: This is a satirical article. If you're a Dalhousie student struggling with mental health issues, contact the Student Health and Wellness Centre (902-494-2171), or the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (1-888-429-8167) for emergencies.

Dalhousie University has announced some exciting virtual initiatives to help students cope with mental health issues next semester.

Therapy dogs and stress balls

Many students at Dalhousie can agree on one thing: This year has been mentally and emotionally exhausting. We've had to deal with the switch from in-person to online learning, all while living through a pandemic. But thankfully, Dal students don't need to worry any longer! In true Dalhousie fashion, the school has come up with tons of new mental health initiatives because more than anything the university cares about the well-being of their students.

After Dal's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences opened an online forum on Brightspace for students to complain about school, the university heard the call for more mental health resources. So, starting in January 2021, Dal will officially be bringing back therapy dogs. However, to keep things safe and accessible, they will be emailing all Dal students pictures of different dogs each week. Make sure to keep an eye on your Dal emails for Therapy Dog Thursdays.

To help manage the stress of online learning and a global pandemic, Dalhousie will mail tiger-shaped stress balls (Go Tigers!) for the low

price of \$50 to any interested students. They are also including a free pamphlet of activities and resources for students having a hard time during the school year. The pamphlet entails helpful advice to combat the seasonal and holiday blues, such as going for a walk, looking on the bright side of things, taking a bath, baking bread or making a list of all the things you're grateful for (like being a Dalhousie student!). Make sure you order your stress balls and pamphlets soon so you can get even more hot tips from Dalhousie about managing stress.

Breakout rooms and breakdowns

Dalhousie is hosting a few workshops via Zoom to support students. The first one is called "Breakout Rooms and Breakdowns." It is meant to be a private, but non-isolated virtual space for students. Simply sign into a breakout room within your Zoom group to cry with other students between online lectures. The breakout rooms will consist of five students each and will be randomly assigned once all interested students join the Zoom call. Dal anticipates this workshop will fill up quickly, so make sure to sign up on Jan. 1, 2021.

Another new workshop beginning next semes-

ter is called "Box Dye and Self-Deprivation." Dal knows many students throughout the pandemic have been box dyeing their hair as a coping mechanism. So, Dal has decided to host a

"Simply sign into a breakout room within your Zoom group to cry with other students between online lectures."

workshop on how to properly box dye hair and prevent damage to your beautiful locks. This workshop will be held once a month. Make sure you attend and get all the great tips on how to impulsively dye your hair.

The third workshop is called "Burnout and Baking." Does online school have you feeling burned out? Dalhousie has the workshop for you! Students are invited to learn how to bake bread via Zoom. Ever felt nostalgic for the delicious on-campus cuisine of residence halls? Well you're in luck. The chefs from Grizzly Hall residence will be teaching Dalhousie students how to make sourdough. Baking bread is a great new hobby students can learn while their pre-recorded lectures pile up.

With Dalhousie's second semester of online learning fast approaching, all of its students can relax knowing those four months will also be filled with emailed stock images of therapy dogs, tiger-shaped stress balls, luxury private breakout rooms for crying, bread baking classes and hair dyeing tutorials.

The *Dalhousie Gazette's* 2021 bingo card

Thought 2020 was full of surprises? Just wait till next year

BY HANNAH BING AND ELIZABETH FOSTER, ARTS & LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Throughout this year, people have responded to terrible events by saying, “Wow, this wasn’t on my 2020 bingo card!” For the approaching new year, the *Dalhousie Gazette* has provided readers with their very own 2021 bingo card. Wonder what next year has in store for you? Play to see!

Scientists resurrect an extinct species	<i>Ratatouille: The Musical</i> hits Broadway	Donald Trump is dragged out of the White House	The Halifax Spring Garden bus arrives on time	The average monthly rent of a Halifax apartment increases to \$7,000
Canada experiences a national alcohol shortage	We discover we’re living in a simulation	The Halifax Wave statue collapses	A Harbour Hopper sinks	The line outside Lululemon on Spring Garden Road stretches to Dartmouth
A gentle autumn wind causes a citywide power outage in Halifax	Rats living in the Killam Memorial Library unionize	Free Space	We discover life in outer space, but it’s like, really disappointing	Murder hornets attack the world
Justin Trudeau and Joe Biden develop a bromance	Nova Scotia experiences yet another STI outbreak	Kanye West runs for president again	The Dalhousie Tiger mascot finally finds love	Anti-vaxxers protest the COVID-19 vaccine and all get infected
A tone-deaf movie about an upper-class family surviving the pandemic wins several Oscars	We finally find out what’s up with Oak Island	TikTok accidentally gets deleted from everybody’s phones	Instagram gives into peer pressure and fixes their awful update	The killer clowns from 2016 inexplicably return

Tony the Tiger gets benched

Hockey Night in Canada cuts Frosted Flakes ad

BY LUKE DYMENT, SPORTS EDITOR



FROSTED FLAKES REMAINS AN OFFICIAL NHL PARTNER, BUT DUE TO OUTRAGE FROM FANS, THE COMPANY'S COMMERCIALS WILL NO LONGER APPEAR DURING HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA. (PHOTO BY LUKE DYMENT)

A commercial regularly used during Hockey Night in Canada (HNIC) broadcasts has been cut amid pushback from annoyed fans.

HNIC announced the Frosted Flakes' "celebration" ad will be taken off the air starting with the broadcast of game five of the National Hockey League (NHL) playoffs' second round between the Philadelphia Flyers and Montreal Canadiens.

During HNIC games, ads account for a three-plus-hour timeslot. The Frosted Flakes commercial cancellation bumps HNIC's four commercials down to only

three. Remaining commercials include SkipTheDishes' auction commercial (the one where Jon Hamm yells "rabbity babbity boo"), the Pepsi commercial where NHL players are forced to eat chips and awkwardly dance with mascots, and a Loblaws

commercial that falsely suggests cauliflower tastes like chicken wings.

As part of their decision to scrap the Frosted Flakes commercial, HNIC

cited concerns regarding long-term impacts on ratings.

"We're lucky we still have fans tuning in this time of year," said HNIC's Dawn

Charry (not to be confused with Don Cherry, the guy who yells at clouds). "We can't take any chances because viewers can and will shut off the TV to go play outside or something."

A wrongful approach

The scrapped Frosted Flakes commercial involves a cringeworthy sequence where a sports fan fantasizes about playing hockey with Tony the Tiger (the *Dalhousie Gazette* could not confirm if that fan knows anything about actual NHL players). The fan then scores with a slapshot from a nearly centre ice position, which some argue makes no sense as the player isn't being defended and could have skated closer to the net to make the shot. The ad shows the fan celebrating his goal by eating a bowl of Frosted Flakes. The ad set off a social media frenzy and most responses weren't positive.

Thankfully, the events of the ad only occurred inside the mind of the cereal-loving fan. Many suspect intoxication may have been a factor as the fan is shown to own merchandise from at least five NHL teams, but seemingly cheers for the Edmonton Oilers based on his jersey's colours.

Frosted Flakes CEO Lim Jahey said the company doesn't know where they went wrong. Their sales have fallen by 25 per cent since the commercial's launch.

"This is the most we've ever spent on advertising. The ad was being shown *twice* per commercial break. The idea is to get it stuck in people's heads," Jahey said. He added the company is struggling with paying bills. That's not due to a shortage of funds, but because the company's mailbox is being crowded with NHL rule books and copies of *Hockey for Dummies* mailed to them by fans.

Hockey fan Anne Phillips said the Frosted Flakes cut is an important step for viewer sanity, but work still needs to be done.

"It's great to hear this news today, but I will not be told to have wing-flavoured cauliflower anymore," she said in reference to the Loblaws commercial. "They talked me into trying it. It isn't the same. If you're listening, don't fall for it. It might save your life."

SkipTheDishes president Foodie Williams was pleased with the announcement, as the decision means more airtime during commercial breaks for his company.

"I will not be told to have wing-flavoured cauliflower anymore."

Dalplex loads on heavy new policies

COVID-19 regulations cause controversy among weightlifters

BY JAMES INNES



WEIGHTLIFTERS AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN PROTESTING COVID-19 REGULATIONS AT DALPLEX, PARTICULARLY THE RULE LIMITING BOOKINGS TO TWO PEOPLE. (PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HOWARD)

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses and facilities are tightening their hygiene and safety policies. Dalhousie University is one of those institutions and has received unexpected pushback due to its policy to limit the number of people allowed to use the Dalplex weight room.

Workout times must now be booked at least one hour in advance, are limited to current students and faculty, and have a maximum of two people per booking. That final stipulation has drawn the ire of some members in the lifting population.

“This, to us, goes beyond mere preventative measures. This is an act of war: war against the boys,” said Dwayne Crowbar, a Dalplex user and self-proclaimed “jacked dude.”

“If I’m lifting, I need Tony spotting, Dave with the water and towels, JJ watching my form and Silvio lifting slightly less beside me for optics,” Crowbar said. “Is that really so much to ask?”

These concerns have been echoed by others who argue the limits to group size will heavily impact gym productivity.

“I find these criticisms somewhat disheartening. As of now, this is the best we can do. Outdoor facility options were briefly explored, but they were deemed unrealistic,” said Herman Finkle, Dalplex’s chief COVID-19 prevention officer. He claimed the university is doing all it can to accommodate those who still wish to use the facilities.

Arguments to reopen

Crowbar and others have argued those above a certain level

of fitness should be allowed to use the facility more freely. Their argument is some people are simply too strong to be harmed by the virus.

“My guy Tony benches 300 pounds. I would like to see the virus try,” Crowbar

wrote in an open Instagram story to Dal on Nov. 7. “And if that Finkle guy thinks he can make all the rules, I’d like to see him come and say it to my face.”

Despite the enthusiasm to return to full gym capacity, Finkle stated such changes are currently unlikely and called for an end to protests.

“We are not going to return to capacity and yes, I do make the rules, regardless of my proximity to anyone’s face,” he said.

The lack of response from the university has led some to question whether Dal is taking the issue seriously. Finkle had a socially-distanced meeting with Crowbar and other weightlifters on Nov. 15 to discuss the situation, but negotiations completely broke down between the two sides. This led to a small scuffle and resulted in the loss of around three kilograms of protein powder.

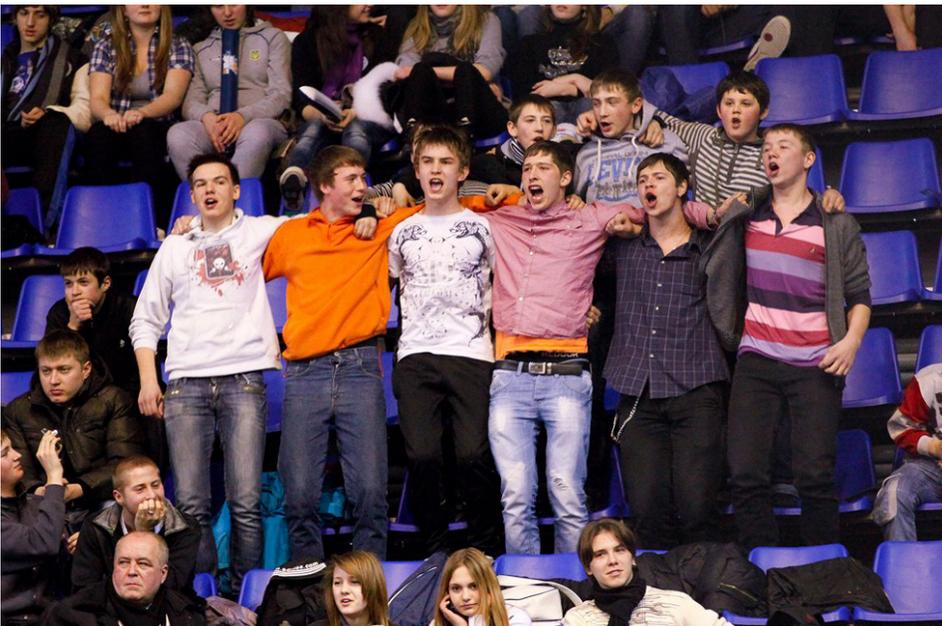
As of now, Dalplex will maintain the current protocols despite continued criticism from some of the weightlifting community. When asked whether a resolution is in sight, Finkle said, “If this gets me fired, I will be so frigging mad. I don’t get paid anywhere near enough to put up with this shit.”

“If I’m lifting, I need Tony spotting, Dave with the water and towels, JJ watching my form and Silvio lifting slightly less beside me for optics.”

Dal offering strange COVID-19 fan experience

New viewing technology alienates players and fans

BY JAMES INNES



WILL WE EVER SEE FANS ATTEND SPORTS GAMES LIKE THIS AGAIN? ONLY TIME, AND THE SUCCESS OF SPORTS PODS, WILL TELL. (PHOTO BY ALEKSANDR OSIPOV)

Winter sports at Dalhousie University may look a little different this coming season with continuing concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

The way indoor sports such as basketball and volleyball are watched live will be changing. While games will still be played at Dal's facilities, spectators will be seated in state-of-the-art "sport pods," which will replace the current bleachers.

These pods are fully sealed modular cubicles, each equipped with a screen showing the game.

Moe Ronic, Dal's athletic advisor, claimed Dal pods offer 99.8 per cent protection against COVID-19 with only a small decrease in viewing quality.

"I genuinely believe this is the best solution," Ronic said of the decision. "We initially looked into having the players maintain social distancing too. That just led to some pretty boring but high-scoring basketball games."

The university's adoption of the new sport pod technology has drawn controversy in several ways. Some have questioned whether

the spectator experience will suffer due to the audience being unable to physically see the players outside of the single 12-inch LCD monitor.

When asked to comment, Ronic stated "I really don't see the problem here. You'll still be in the room with the players and the vid-

eo stream has almost no delay. I can't really figure out what else you could ask for."

"I can't help questioning whether this justifies the proposed 160 per cent increase in tuition required to fund the project."

A pricey solution

Many students have also raised concerns over the cost of the pods; each one sports a price tag of \$5,600. With tuition already elevated, concerns have been raised as to whether the investment into sport pods is worth it.

Alexander "Money Man" Anderson, head of the Dalhousie's Rowe School of Business, questioned whether the purchase was worth the investment.

"The maximum number of pods that can be installed is 250. I can't help questioning whether this justifies the proposed 160 per cent increase in tuition required to fund the project," he said.

When asked to comment on the steep price, Ronic argued the future benefits outweigh the upfront cost.

"The sport pods are entirely self-cleaning, which will save massive amounts of labour that would otherwise be required for sanitizing. Long-term, we are saving money," he said.

When asked to comment on exactly how long "long-term" was, Ronic said "um, well, let's see. I'd say 36 years, conservatively."

The business faculty are not the only critics of the sport pod proposal. Many sport teams are also opposed to the move with some players threatening to boycott the upcoming season.

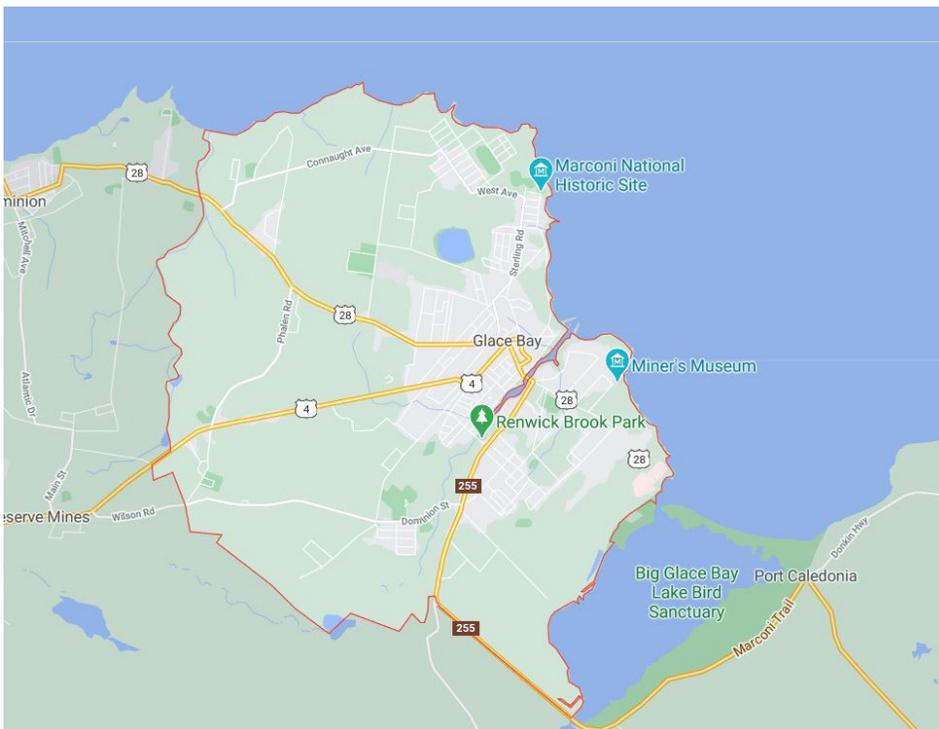
"It's just kind of creepy," Poppy Culture of the women's basketball team said. She believes the pods create an uncomfortable, unnatural environment for the players. "Being surrounded by all those cubicles is unnerving, it's like *1984*, or maybe more *2001: A Space Odyssey*. No, perhaps *I, Robot* is a better example."

With criticism coming in from all sides, the future of sport pods at Dal hangs in the air. Will this technology become the future of university athletics? Honestly, no, probably not.

Glace Bay eager to host pro sports

Will Cape Breton be the new go-to destination for athletic competition?

BY JAMES INNES



GLACE BAY, N.S.: FUTURE HOME OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS? THE MAYOR SURE HOPES SO. (PHOTO FROM GOOGLE MAPS)

Orlando, Fla., Toronto and now potentially Glace Bay, N.S.

As professional sports begin to return to televisions everywhere, there is a growing demand for safe facilities where these games can be played. The demand for sports bubbles such as the NBA bubble in Orlando is apparent. Now, one small Cape Breton town in Nova Scotia is rising to the challenge.

“Well me and the fellas were talking and it occurred to us that if they can do it, why can’t we?” said Glace Bay Mayor Dale Fridge, the man behind the town’s bid to become an athletic mecca. “I looked into it and the only thing you need for most sports is a big field, and hell, Glace Bay is at least 90 per cent field.”

In a move described by some critics as “overly optimistic,” the Glace Bay city council has contacted at least four major sports

leagues to offer the town as a place to set up a bubble. In a statement released by the council, it was revealed that while they have already been turned down by the National Hockey League (NHL), Major League Soccer (MLS) and Spikeball Coalition (SBC), the town remains optimistic someone will take up the offer soon.

Benefits of sport in Glace Bay

The mayor and council remain confident if they continue to advertise, eventually someone will want to come to Cape Breton.

“It is a little frustrating. There seems to be some misunderstanding over what we have

to offer,” Fridge said in response to comments from an SBC representative who claimed Glace Bay simply lacks the facilities for high-level athletic competition. “Quite frankly, they are just being picky. As mentioned before, we have more than enough fields, plenty of standing room for spectators and three Tim Hortons within walking distance of anywhere.”

The plan, if it works, represents a golden opportunity for a region that could heavily benefit from increased tourism. The sports bubble, it is hoped, will help bring more attention to Glace Bay and the surrounding areas internationally.

Fridge is optimistic this will be a great economic move for the town.

“All we need to do is get ourselves out there and get flight bans dropped, but we’ll cross that bridge when we come to it,” Fridge said.

Outside of concerns regarding facilities, or rather the lack of them, there has also been some debate around whether Glace Bay is in fact a convenient location for leagues such as the MLS, where the majority of teams are based in the United States.

“When we crunched the numbers for transporting all our players, support staff, equipment and supplies, it turned out it

would cost more to travel to Goose Bay, or whatever it’s called, than if we moved their entire town to us,” said Tony Embezzliani, general manager of the New York Red Bulls. “It was an extremely kind offer,

but entirely unwarranted.”

The town council has stated it will continue its efforts to establish the sports bubble despite the initial lukewarm response. When asked why, Fridge responded, “Well, honestly, I don’t really have much else to do.”

“The only thing you need for most sports is a big field, and hell, Glace Bay is at least 90 per cent field.”

Left out in the cold

Overbookings at Dal forces volleyball and basketball teams off-campus

BY LUKE DYMENT, SPORTS EDITOR



THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS' BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL TEAMS WILL PLAY AT LEMARCHANT-ST. THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. (PHOTO BY LUKE DYMENT)

Someone dropped the ball when it came to bookings at the Dalplex, Studley and Sexton gymnasiums. This oversight will force some Dalhousie University Tigers teams off-campus for the time being. However, they won't be inside another gym.

Dal's basketball and volleyball teams will be based at nearby LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary School for at least the remainder of the year. Not inside the school, but at their outdoor courts.

The sudden move is a result of what Dal called "an unexpected, sudden and gross overbooking" of all three of their facilities until exactly March 13, 2021. When contacted, Terry Robie, the Tigers' facility scheduler, couldn't provide an exact cause of the overbooking.

"You know, there are tons of people and groups who need Dal's facilities," Robie said, mentioning how student activities are starting up again with less COVID-19 restrictions. "I know the Part-time Student Society needs to continue their five-night-a-week washer toss tournaments, and the Dalplex was the only place available.

Legions and community halls are still closed, so those aren't options."

Adjusting to off-campus play

The affected teams remained baffled as to how Dal completely forgot their home courts were at Dalplex, or why washer toss and competitive hula-hooping were able to push them out.

"This isn't only disrespectful, it's disgusting," women's basketball player Leah Markie said. "Like, how do you screw that up? We represent the school for crying out loud and we aren't even allowed to play there anymore. What now? Is everyone really going to go cheer on the Branch 152 bingo team every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Dalplex?"

LeMarchant-St. Thomas narrowly won a small competition between a few south end Halifax schools for the rights to host Dal this year. Other schools in the running included Gorsebrook Junior High School, Inglis

Street Elementary School and even a seemingly sarcastic bid from Saint Mary's University (SMU) that offered Dal the opportunity "to practice in the parking lot next to [their] rink."

"It's pretty discouraging that none of the bids

even offered time in their indoor gyms. Zero," Markie said. "At least we won't be playing at SMU. I would much rather play outside at -30 C than at SMU."

At an assembly of about 400 students, LeMarchant-St. Thomas principal Gail Thorne defended the school's decision to make Dal play outside, citing efforts to enforce COVID-19 precautions.

"You can't crowd any more people into this building, especially when the risk is so high with so many children," she explained to two sets of packed bleachers at the assembly.

Some players are looking at the bright side of such a shocking situation.

"At least we don't have to pay nearly as much in athletic fees," said men's volleyball player Igor Hughes. He added electricity and air conditioning costs won't be an issue outside.

"No one is really ever using these courts except when the kids have recess. That means we can go all day if we want," Hughes said. "Also it's getting cooler out so there's no need to worry about overheating like in the warm gym."

When asked about other cost factors that come with playing in winter weather, Hughes muttered, "Snowploughs. Oh shit. Those can be pricey, can't they?"

"I would much rather play outside at -30 C than at SMU."