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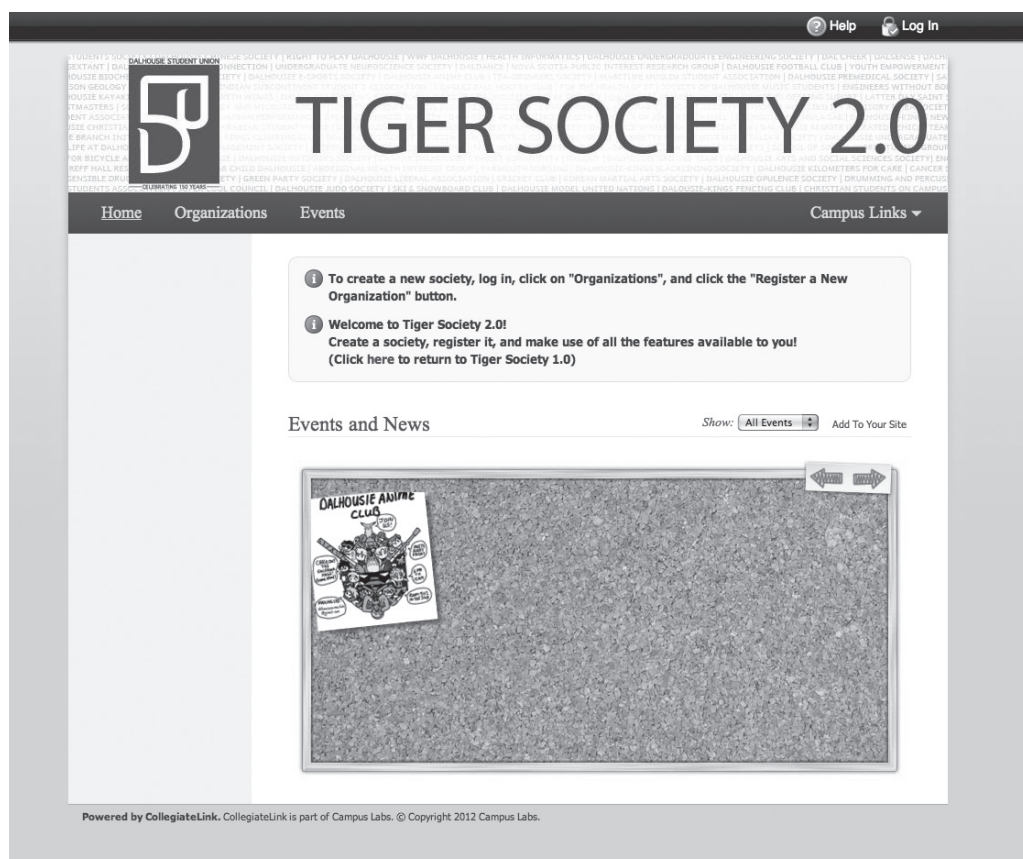


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November 9 - November 15, 2012 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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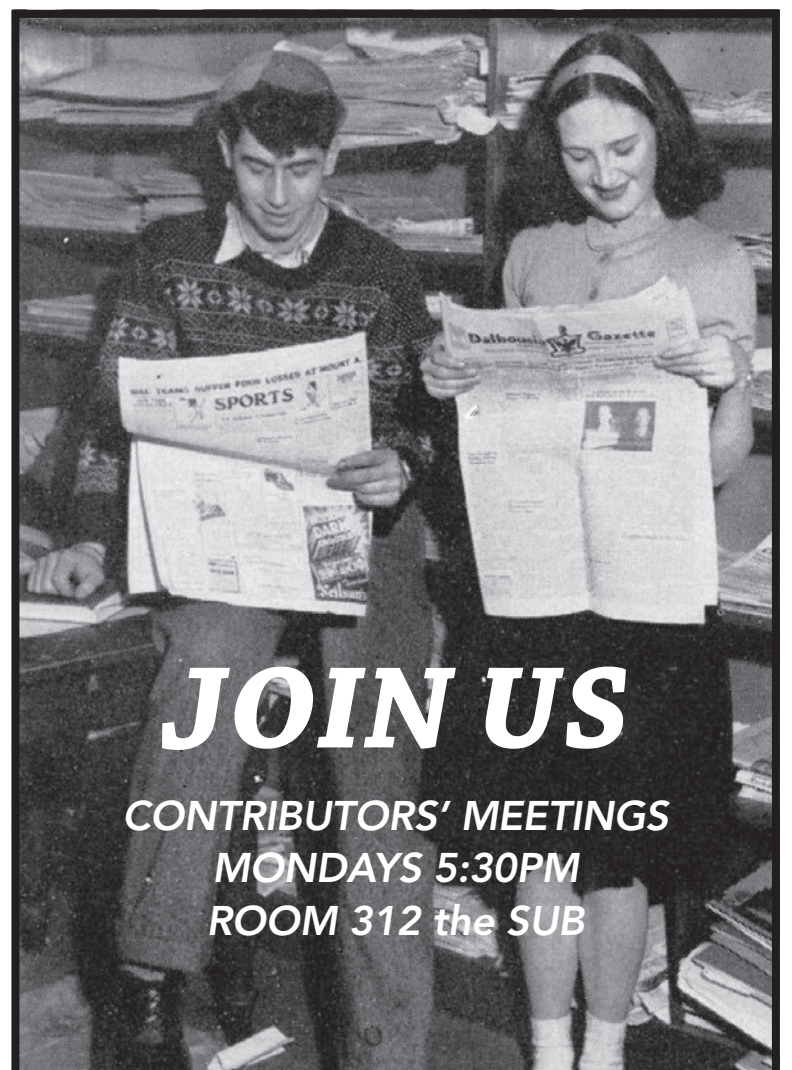
the fine print

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

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DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) Dawgfather sets his sights on DSU—Geordon Omand, News
- 2) Finishing the fin trade—Megan Marrelli-Dill, News
- 3) Ben's 10 -- Movember in the majors—Benjamin Blum, Sports
- 4) From ironic to iconic—Katrina Pyne, Editorial
- 5) Men's hockey shows improvement—Arfa Ayub, Sports



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ROOM 312 the SUB

Pundits make politics cool



From across the country, Punditry's got its eye on Dal. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor
• • • • •
Wondering what you'll do with your life after graduation? Some alumni have come up with a surprising answer: cover student politics. Punditry.ca is the unofficial home of Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) gossip and political intrigue. The website draws contributors from

inside the DSU every year. "We don't claim or strive to be journalists," says Mike Smit, the website's founder, who now lives in Alberta. "We want to entertain." The website covers student union news and is especially active during election season. It began in 2007 as Smit's personal site, featuring his insights and opinions.

While it seems like a niche topic—and really, it is—followers of Punditry.ca are a dedicated and diverse group, and the fan base is strong and growing. Current students, alumni, and potential candidates in the student union elections are some of the dedicated readership. Lisa Buchanan, a former Dal student, was one of the first contributors.

"Originally it was Mike's personal website, where he would write about the elections. He relied on anonymous sources in the DSU for information, and I was one of them," says Buchanan. The first model included breaking news and leaks from anonymous sources within the DSU, including Buchanan, but was all written from Smit's perspective. He wanted to change that, letting multiple voices be heard, include more sources, and so Punditry.ca was formed. However, they're still not journalists. "That's the risk of reading Punditry: we don't think the way most people do, and we put a lot of our opinion into our work," explains current pundit and fifth-year Dal student Ben Wedge. "We don't have a mandate or guidelines, it's very loose. Mike isn't our editor. I don't even know if he reads what we write before he publishes it," says Buchanan. First and foremost, punditry is a community. It's goal is to inform and entertain, making news fun to read, says Smit. It filled a hole that the *Gazette* left in past coverage, limited by its weekly publication timeline. The website provided live coverage, sources from multiple websites to give comprehensive coverage, and still strives to make student politics relevant and amusing. "We have an open commenting policy, for better or for worse," Smit says with a laugh. Commenters who start trouble for the sake of it are very much a part of Punditry, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. When looking at viable

contributors, Smit seeks a debate. "I don't want to read someone agreeing with me." Wedge is just that candidate. "I made a lot of snarky comments on [Punditry] over the years," admits Wedge. "It all started when the DSU had its largest and best-attended AGMs (annual general meetings) ever, overflowing the McInnes Room both times. This was due to NSPIRG (Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group) wanting money and a lot of people, myself included, thought, 'Hey, this is a little silly,' and we had a lot of fun with that. I started with Punditry then, just with commenting on the site." Pundits are chosen from among the handful of interested commenters based on a few difficult-to-define characteristics. "Pundits need to have a good sense of humour," says Buchanan. "They need to be informed, know about the issues involved. They should have some sort of investment in the student union and some degree of passion for student politics. Love it or hate it, you have to have passion." Wedge is one of the pundits who will cover this year's student union elections, but he won't be alone. Even now, he is watching and waiting for potential pundits to recruit. And Smit has big plans for his small website. "Personally, I would like to open the discussion to all levels of politics: DSU isn't in the domain name, Punditry is," said Smit. "I'd like to see people's opinions on more than just student politics some day." ☹

IN MEMORIUM: OCCUPY

One year post-eviction



The Occupy eviction, Nov. 11, 2011. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Elise Palmer
News Contributor
• • • • •
On a rainy Saturday at the end of September, a cluster of people huddled in the Grand Parade. Just over a year ago, this place was the heart of the Occupy movement in Nova Scotia. They were there to mark last year's eviction on Nov. 11, when the police swept Occupy Nova Scotia from their tents in Victoria Park, arresting 14 people. For the occupiers, it would become known as the "Remembrance Day eviction"—and a year later, they haven't forgotten it. Ian Matheson, one of the key organizers of Occupy NS, says there are no plans to bounce back. "The idea was the get everyone together for one last time, not to be a real resurgence," says Matheson. A "people's tribunal" on Sept. 29 found the police at fault for failing to respect proper procedures. Tenting in a space can receive a fine, Matheson said, but no fines were ever issued. "The police said they were enforcing a law, but then failed to do any of the steps required for enforcing that law," says Matheson. The tribunal was staged as an act of remembrance. Many of the protesters have now become involved in new projects related to the objectives of Occupy, whether that's Solidarity Halifax, an anti-capitalist group, or NSPIRG, a public interest research group. Kelly Moore, another organizer, has now started an initiative called Come Together Halifax. On Nov. 4, she put together a winter clothing drive. Moore says she got the idea during Occupy, because

people were constantly dropping off clothing. Following the eviction, they donated the clothes to shelters for people in need. Moore says she learned how crucial warm clothes were at this time of the year—and how quickly shelters run out of warm socks. The idea for the winter clothing drive, while not a resurgence of Occupy, is a "direct result of it," says Moore. If he could do the occupation all over again, he says, he'd be "more optimistic about what could be accomplished by Occupy, but less ambitious in our goals for the post-eviction period." "Occupy had far more expected of it than its organizers were ever intending to deliver," he says. "Many of the protesters were socialists or anarchists or reformed Liberals who wouldn't be able to agree on one way forward," says Matheson. He says Occupy is now on an "organizational hiatus." Matheson is quick to respond when people say that the eviction proves that Occupy, and the ideas it created, are dead. "On the day we began occupying, I was fairly certain there wouldn't be an occupation by the end of the day. And to my surprise, there was." He believes Occupy revolutionized the dialogue around wealth, and that today, it's much harder to justify large incomes or mass inequality. And they did all this from tents, Matheson says, "in just about the worst conditions you could imagine." "It's like if the Wright brothers had tested their plane in a hurricane and someone said, 'Oh, flying is impossible.'" ☹



The Orchestra is just one of the Co-op's ensemble.
 ••• Photo supplied by the Halifax Music Co-op Orchestra

King's orchestra in a church

Daniel Boltinsky
 News Editor

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 The Halifax Music Co-op Orchestra, which left the King's Student Union (KSU) last April, has found a permanent home at St. Philip's Anglican Church in the West End. While executive director Faye Bontje says there has never been a feeling of departure from the King's community, their change of environment has been drastic.

"IT'S A GLUTTONY OF SPACE AND BREADTH."

.....

The co-op now has access to an entire nave for practice, a two-room office floor, and an \$80,000 Casavant pipe organ. At King's, the orchestra would have to move equipment to Bontje's apartment for storage after practice, or hide it at the back of the chapel.

"There is no free space at King's," said Bontje. "We were running the whole thing out of my bedroom."

Noah White, VP (student life) of the KSU, said the society was "growing beyond what the university could provide for them, and they were outsourcing more than the university could allow for. We would have been unable to continue supporting them."

But a lack of space wasn't the only reason for the move.

The co-op, which began in 2010 as the King's College Orchestra, did not

pay rental fees for using Prince Hall to rehearse. They were approached by a Sodexo employee, the company which owns the space, last April and told they would be charged \$200 per day.

Bontje says this only made a long-expected departure immediate. The society grew from 35 to 70 people from 2010 to 2011, and to around 150 in 2012.

"It was ready to stand on its own two feet," she said. "That was the straw, or the tipping point."

White says the orchestra needed that kind of push.

"This is a small school; it was too big of a fish."

The HMC has introduced a chamber music orchestra in addition to their regular orchestra and wind ensembles since moving to St. Philip's. They've hired three full-time staff, two part time, and 11 teaching faculty. As a registered non-profit, they can now apply for government grants.

The church gives them storage, office, and practice space free of charge. In exchange, the HMC provides musicians for Sunday worship and other events.

Bontje says that, in many ways, nothing much has changed.

"To us, it hasn't been a split. Our goal is that everyone in Halifax has access to affordable music. King's is still a part of Halifax, and therefore it's not a departure."

Bontje said they make use of every room available every day, and, with the new facilities, the HMC has room to grow.

"We live here now," she said. "It's a gluttony of space and breadth." ☺



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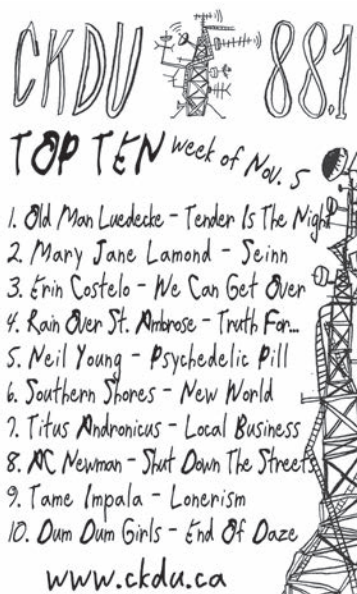
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Our generation is struggling to deal with failed post-grad expectations.. ••• Photos by Bryn Karcha

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2:00pm - 6:00pm: Tupper Building Lobby, Carleton Campus.

Tuesday November 6th and 13th
7:30am - 11:30am: Ladle Kitchen, SUB, 2nd floor, adjacent to McInnis room.
9:30am - 1:30pm: Ralph M. Medjuck Architecture Building Lobby, Sexton Campus.

Wednesday November 7th and 14th
11:30am - 3:00pm: Ladle serving space, 1st floor of SUB

Thursday November 8th and 15th
1:00pm - 5:00pm: Ladle serving space

Friday November 9th and 16th
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POST-GRAD BLUES

How disillusionment turns into depression after undergrad

Rachel Bloom
Opinions Contributor

•••••

The fact that our economy sucks and unemployment rates are high has been done to death, but bear with me. I want to bring attention to an issue that doesn't have anything to do with your future houses, jobs and cars or potential lack thereof. It's this simple concept called happiness that our generation could miss out on. Merely the mention of our economy stresses us out and makes us unhappy, but we're too busy worrying about money to realize how that strain is affecting us.

Our parents just don't get it. We are no longer disgruntled teenagers, but generational divides are getting in the way again. Our parents, for the most part, went to high school. If they so chose, they went on to university or college afterwards, where they graduated (though not necessarily) and moved on to get a job. Fill in the blanks with some kids, some SUVs and a few major holidays. Our generation has not been as fortunate. Affectionately known as the "Boomerang" generation because we leave home just to end up right back on our parents couch, we're struggling to follow the footsteps set out by the generation before us.

Due to the rough economy, students are staying in school longer than ever to avoid the workforce.

The ominous job field has become a place we fear and the majority of us don't feel enthusiastic about joining it. We've seen the graduates before us, even those over-achiever jerks, struggle to find their place in the world after they graduate. Does that make you want to get out there and see what job you land? Personally, it makes me want to set up fort in the Killam Library until I'm 40 years old.

Arts majors are generally fearful about doing anything that isn't teaching, medical school applicants are having nervous breakdowns and second-year English students are writing their LSATs now in anticipation of writing them multiple times. These are examples of the feelings and actions of my real-life peers. From the honours student to that guy who only shows up for midterms, we're all anxious about the future. Yet we're all so focused on the financial and economical that we've stopped paying attention to how the pressure is affecting our demeanours and attitudes. For those who haven't thought ahead to post-grad life, everything can come falling down along with their thrown graduation cap.

So what is our generation doing about it? We're known for binge-drinking and partying. According to Statistics Canada, percentages of heavy drinking jump sharply for both males and females during the ages of 18 to 24. In general, as of 2008, sur-

veys showed that age-standardized percentages of heavy drinking have risen from the years 2000 and 2001. This binge-drinking and partying suggests escapism through the use of other substances to help us cope or unwind. It seems that our generation's greatest joys are closely linked to practises associated with depression. For example, in response to the recent suicide of Amanda Todd, a man named David Brideau gave his testimony of his personal struggles with suicidal thoughts. His testimony included the statement, "I think what stopped me from the brink of suicide was escapism."

People use escapism to forget real-life problems and numb their worries. Maybe that's because we feel entitled to a good time, but maybe we need to start thinking about how to ensure our real happiness in the future. Maybe statistics need to start examining suicide rates of post-graduate students instead of the rates of employment after graduation. As a generation we need hope as well as jobs.

So I'll continue to make jokes about hanging out at the medical school library in the hopes of finding a future husband who's a rich doctor. But jokes aside, remember when you're planning your future to keep your happiness in mind. It's just as important as providing for your financial well-being. ☹



The \$1.4 billion given to fossil fuel companies should be distributed to worthier causes. • • • Photo supplied by PowerShift Canada

PowerShift

WHAT WENT DOWN

Christian Pollard
Opinions Contributor

.....

Sophie Clark cranes her neck and looks back at a thousand people marching behind her. Dancing puppets and floating signs obscure her view, and she can't see to the back. She can't even see half way.

She waves a sign, her cold hands grasping its wooden shaft. Its message is the same as the driving goal of the PowerShift conference: demanding an end to the \$1.4 billion in government fossil fuel subsidies.

More than a thousand passionate environmentalists convened in Ottawa over the weekend of Oct. 27 to figure out how that could be done. They spent two days learning different strategies, and on Monday, Oct. 29, they took what they learned to the streets.

"(A) huge sense of 'I'm a part of something' kicked in more than it had at any other part during the weekend, and that was pretty powerful and motivating," says Clark. "(It's) hopefully a microcosm for the larger community of people who actually care who just didn't happen to be at PowerShift."

The march was the culminating action of PowerShift, but by no means the only purpose.

Cameron Fenton, the director of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition and one of the head organizers, describes it as "the cherry on what's already been an amazing weekend."

Strategic lobbying, endless workshops, and the march itself are inte-

gral parts of the program, he says, but "the most important part is the training, the connections ... I feel like before PowerShift I referred to something called the youth climate movement in Canada, and now I actually believe it exists."

.....

There were already four full blackboards when I arrived late at "We Are PowerShift," the first workshop of the weekend. Words like "capitalism" and "carbon credits" were under headings like "root causes" and "fake solutions."

It was Saturday morning, and attendance was mandatory. The two-hour session laid out the values of the conference, and "how to approach community and climate organizing in a way that is anti-oppressive, inclusive and strategic."

The rhetoric of the workshop was consistent with that of the entire conference — anti-capitalism, anti-fossil fuels, and anti-Harper. The group of 20 students concluded their broad discussion by musing what could be done with the \$1.4 billion given to the fossil fuel industry each year.

Sustainable infrastructure, organic farming, education; everyone had a different idea.

There were 87 workshops and panels on Saturday, and 95 on Sunday. Topics ranged from activism to communication, from campaigning to investigation. Zigzagging through the University of Ottawa halls between workshops was like buzzing through a hive.

After "We Are PowerShift," I attended a panel on "the muzzling of scientists" or, how increasingly difficult it is for journalists to interview federal climate experts.

Alana Westwood, a Dalhousie biology PhD student, led the discussion. In preparation for the panel, she spoke to as many scientists as she could. None would go on record, and almost all of them had at least one story about their jobs being threatened for speaking to the media without supervision.

"It's like the 1950s Soviet Union," she said.

To speak to a scientist, you now have to contact the media relations person at the department you want to speak to, says Westwood. They put the request through, and it is discussed amongst superiors in the department. Sometimes it goes all the way to the Prime Minister's office. It takes at least two weeks, and sometimes there's no response at all. When there is, she says, journalists are asked to submit a list of questions prior to the interview, and the scientist is given a suggested list of answers. If their answers differ from those given to them, they put their job at risk.

This is just one of issues discussed over the weekend. It is a single scale on the ravenous monster that PowerShift is trying to subdue.

Over the weekend, the lifeblood of the monster was debated. Most said capitalism. Naomi Klein said neo-liberalism. Many simply thought fossil fuel companies.

The only remedy mentioned was community.

.....

When I stepped on the rumbling bus outside of the SUB on Thursday night, the unfamiliar faces were disconcerting. I sat at the back. In the dim yellow light of the 30-person bus I could see clusters and pairs of people talking. I only recognized a few.

By the time we had left the march early to catch our bus home, unfamiliar faces were now fellow comrades. There were no clusters anymore, just a single unified group.

While still at the march, Sophie Clark's green PowerShift t-shirt and shoddy mesh costume—built to look like a smog cloud—fit her perfectly in the mosaic Halloween imagery of the passionate demonstration.

"You're amongst all these weird puppets of Stephen Harper and weird, weird stuff. You got a sense that you're part of something really, really big."

Clark wasn't alone in the feeling. Cameron Fenton, after experiencing the demoralizing failure of international climate talks three years ago in Copenhagen, released extra force in his chanting. He says PowerShift, and the march, revitalized his optimism.

"I've always known there's something there, but it's been so long since we've had something like PowerShift in this country," he says.

"We're finally getting back to where I think a lot of us hoped we would be." ☺



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POETRY Election Anti-Ode

What is the point I ask myself of being concerned with the lives of countries other than my own as if they're not made entirely of people identical to me only they're not and so I become scared of what might happen like a submarine captain launching a nuclear attack or a mechanic forgetting to tighten a bolt leading to accidents and also the election of a warrior or a dunce or a laughing robot but when has history ever changed its motivations and so out of that fear I remain silent and thus to blame or blameless I can't decide, so I think about tomorrow's lunch instead.

—Frank Naruto



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Jian Ghomeshi Host, CBC Radio's Q

Release yourself from concerns about following a "responsible" vocational path. Job security is a rarity in most fields these days anyway. No dream is ridiculous. Follow. Your. Passion.

Jian is in Halifax, Nov. 10! Details at
EtixNow.com/events/Jian-Ghomeshi-Nov-10



—Kathryn Johnson

the other

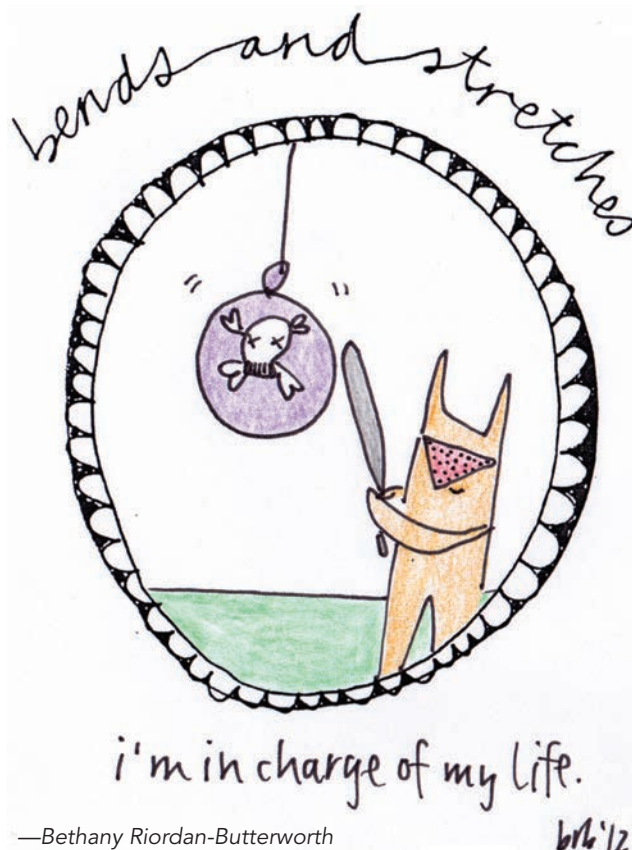
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—Andrea Flockhart

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—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

btk'12

EAST COAST State beer

To varying degrees every Canadian province and territory regulates the sale of alcohol through state-run liquor stores. The New Brunswick Liquor Corporation took it one step further in 2009 when they introduced their own state brewed beer.

The move, meant to lure back consumers who were purchasing less taxed— and therefore cheaper—beer across the border in Quebec, saw the Liquor Corporation introduce NB Select, New Brunswick's own bargain basement beer brand. For real.

Perhaps to avoid the Victory Gin of George Orwell's dystopian 1984 (if you haven't read it, you should) New Brunswickers wanted to separate beer and state. The Liquor Corporation discontinued NB Select in 2011.

Here's a toast to NB Select, gone but not forgotten—and because New Brunswick is Canada's only bilingual province *en français*, "à vos santé".

—Jonathan Rotsztain

••• Photo by Oldmaison via Flickr



IMPORTANT INFORMATION Movember Moustaches

COOL



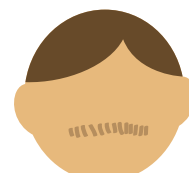
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—Daniel and Jonathan Rotsztain





"Starship Troopers"

Henri Gielis
2nd-year theatre



"The Lord of the Rings"

Becca Lester
3rd-year sustainability and IDS



"I don't watch war movies"

Ezra Lipton
2nd-year community design



"Finding Nemo"

Katie Connell
4th-year English



"Forrest Gump"

Emma Mew
3rd-year neuroscience



"The Lord of the Rings"

Tebogo Elias
3rd-year mineral processing



"Band of Brothers"

Korinne Loomis
2nd-year social work



"Braveheart"

Mory Sembawa
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"Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron"

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"300"

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Post-election: Results, the process and why Wayne won



What went right, what went horribly wrong, and what to look forward to in future elections. ••• Photo by Adele Van Wyk

Ben Wedge
Staff Contributor

It would be tough to find a Haligonian who didn't have an issue with the state of our roads or our transit system, but only 37 per cent of us took the few minutes required on voting day to change them. Despite that, there were some surprising outcomes stemming from this year's election.

The first notable change was the city's decision to allow current adult residents of Halifax who had resided in the city for at least three months prior to the election to vote (independent of their parent's district). This meant that students who had returned from a summer away were finally able to participate in elections. While this change was openly embraced by the student unions and several candidates, early voter registration ended in August, several weeks before students returned from the lucrative job markets outside the city. In the fall, a single day was devoted to on-campus registration. Finally, polling stations were

not located on campus as they are for provincial and federal elections. Without an arguably inspiring mayoral candidate, many opted to avoid the rainy trek on election day and stay at home.

Next was the abject failure of Chief Returning Officer Cathy Mellet to report results in a timely manner. She admitted to underestimating the resources required to enter data, a process which has been unchanged for decades. This particular component is not affected by turnout: each poll must make one phone call to report its results. Results came in hours after polls closed, and one race was so poorly tabulated that the wrong winner was declared. The delays in reporting district seven's results meant that after two hours of waiting, Wayne Mason's and Sue Uteck's campaign managers agreed that Wayne had won. Until at least four hours after polls closed the official results showed Gerry Walsh in the lead; eventually the results showed he had come in third.

Mason—a Dalhousie alumnus, Saint Mary's University student, Nova Scotia Community College music instructor, and former Pop Explosion director—ran an interesting candidacy. In the interest of disclosure, I worked on his campaign. He was not widely known outside of music circles, except by those who enjoy his keenly analytical blog, *halifaxpolitics.ca*. He was up against Uteck, a 14-year incumbent, and Gerry Walsh, a well-known local Liberal. Mason's determination in knocking on every single door in the district, clear policies and promises, and forthright personality surely helped propel him in the polls, and his strong social media presence likely pushed him over the top in the close race. Based on Mason's win, could other political underdogs have a chance in Halifax?

Wayne had several things going for him. As a college instructor he had the summer off to campaign. The actions of the previous council established a growing anti-incumbent sentiment. Finally, the bizarre social media presence of the Dawg Father PHD surely sent some voters back to Mason. With most other challengers unable to oust the incumbents, it's hard to imagine the success of someone outside of Mason's unique situation.

Despite the process issues, the 2012 Halifax election is certainly cause for celebration. A new mayor, a more efficient council, and an increase in the engagement of the voting public will surely mean a more productive era. With buildings going up as quickly as cranes can be found, this council will decide the future skyline of Halifax. It's time to put the scandal-plagued era of Peter Kelly behind us, and follow his advice to continue "looking forward." ☺

STUDENTS HOLD BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTH END DISTRICT

John Hutton
Opinions Contributor

Halifax's municipal election has passed. While most of the city councillors entering city hall are old faces, district seven, where most of Halifax's students live, is different. By just 114 votes Wayne Mason ousted incumbent Sue Uteck. Commentators who decry the so-called apathy of young people would do well to take a closer look at this race.

Uteck has had a cosy relationship with property developers. Her actions consistently supported their interests, and they returned the favour by supporting her campaigns. That must have resonated among lower-income residents, feeling squeezed by rising rent prices.

Mason campaigned on issues such as transit, arts and culture, and affordable housing. It is notable that, other than the Dawg Father PHD, only Mason had real visibility on campus. He held meet-and-greets at the Grad House, advertised in the *Gazette*, attended events organized by the Metro Student Coalition and had a detailed section of his platform for students. At least on paper, he is more pro-student than Uteck.

This is not meant to be a love-in for Mason. Rather, it proves a point: sincere outreach to students and understanding our issues pays off. Though students tend to vote in smaller numbers, in a battleground district, those couple hundred votes make the difference. Mason won by 114 votes and was the only competitive candidate visible on campus. Chances are the students who voted did so for Mason.

In district seven, political careers were made and lost by students.

Remember that in next year's provincial election.

Nova Scotians will vote after four years of a government defined by a drive to reduce the deficit through increased taxes and public-sector cuts. So far, they have cut university budgets by ten per cent and will have allowed tuition fees to rise by nine per cent by 2013.

The government's line is that the province's finances were in poor shape. Yet their claims are undermined by generous handouts to the private sector: \$57 million for a convention centre; \$25 million in loans for controversial salmon farms; \$304 million to Irving. Yet for a mere \$30 million, per-student funding could be restored to 1990 levels and allow for a tuition freeze. Opposing university cuts is a reasonable position.

District seven was a tight three-way race, and the provincial riding, Halifax Citadel, will be too. Since 1993, only one incumbent has ever returned. Every vote is crucial. Mason proved the importance of student support. It should not be given cheaply. Students should demand from all parties that education cuts and tuition hikes be reversed. We should not return the NDP unless they change course on university funding. Nor should we support opposition parties if they don't do any better.

If we want it, students can make an impact. Take the time before next election to raise the profile of education issues, and force the politicians to act. Raise awareness: write letters to the editor, write to politicians, and hold public events. We hold the balance of power in this riding. Let's use it. ☺

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Cruddas keeps in touch with Dal Theatre peers. • • • Photo supplied

Josh Cruddas strikes gold in *Copperhead* film

Grad preps for screen debut

Carlie Connolly
Arts Contributor

• • • • •
A recent graduate of Dalhousie's acting program, Josh Cruddas is making his mark in the world of theatre. With roles in *Titanic: The Aftermath*, the TV series *Call Me Fitz* and the highly anticipated movie, *Copperhead*, released this spring, Cruddas is getting his fair share of experience in the acting world. His passion for acting began at 14 when he got his first paid role as Kurt in *The Sound of Music* at the Neptune Theatre. He was hooked, but no surprise since his family has always been into theatre.

"My mom was in charge of a youth group and I'd do plays within those groups, which helped me get started," he says.

Out of the many works that Cruddas has been a part of *Copperhead* is his favourite so far. Directed by Ronald Maxwell and filmed in New Brunswick, *Copperhead* is about a family's struggle to stay together during the American Civil War. Cruddas plays Jimmy, an orphaned son, and describes the audition process.

"I actually auditioned for the role over Skype with my director. Afterward my agent told me not to cut my hair, as I was being considered." He mentions that on the set of his movie his fellow actors became like family, who all placed themselves within the context of the Civil War.

"It was a really immersive experience. Everyone there was from all over the world," he says. While Cruddas is done most of the work on the film, he is still working on voice-overs in post-production.

The film helped Cruddas gain more confidence in acting. "Working with people who I admire even before meeting them was a great thing. I also gained faith through working on this film that I could really make a go at this."

After graduating from Dal's four-year acting program, Cruddas was able to gain the skills and preparation he needed to enter the world of acting.

"Both my schooling and overall experience at Dal prepared me for this movie and helped me to embark on this wonderful journey." Many of Cruddas' fellow acting friends from school have gone off to do big things, and he still keeps in contact with them and his friends in the third year class.

The world of theatre is extremely competitive, but success is possible. For those aspiring to become actors Cruddas says to not get discouraged.

"If you're in it because you love the work and the art of theatre, you will find your way." 🍂



Destruction and renewal as families turn pumpkins to compost. • • • Photo by Evan McIntyre

Andrew Mills
Arts Editor

• • • • •
Smashing pumpkins isn't just a nineties thing. Children on hay bales raise orange globes overhead, throwing them to the ground with Dionysian abandon. This is "the corner" of Robie Street and Bell Street on Sunday, Nov. 4. There's no grunge to be heard, but violin and acoustic guitar ring over the emptied garden plots at the community garden hootenanny. Pumpkin remnants are promptly shoved into a wood chipper to be pureed into compost. That's the modus operandi of the Common Roots Urban Farm: nothing wasted.

Spirits are high, riding steam from hot apple cider and coffee on tap; there are crowds of families, street-folk and the heavily-sweatered gath-

ered against November's chill and torrential leaves.

Jayne Melrose, project coordinator for the event, is ecstatic about the turnout. "There were so many people I've never met!" she says.

A revolving group of vegetable peelers sit on a row of hay bales, pressed side by side with cold fingers plucking peas. While separating garlic, a new friend wagers me some carrots if I'll dance through the pumpkin chunks spouting from the wood chipper. While I hesitate someone starts singing "Don't Stop Believing" and we all marvel at the extra hour of surprise sleep from daylight savings time. Is all this cheerfulness a defense against the unsettling approach of winter? The seeds we're parsing will be planted in the Annapolis Valley on Tuesday to spread the abundance.

"I'd say pea shoots are a hit," says Melrose. "We're still just learning the soil, the site, watering and fertility."

There's a curious gate being painted off Robie Street; it's a futuristic zylophone, or a curving silver stairway, depending on whom you ask. The installation, assembled with the help of a dozen classes of HRM students and welded on site, is the symbolic centerpiece of the whole project. It's made of the fence that once circled the now-demolished Queen Elizabeth II High School.

"Originally we had understood we were going to need to keep the fence up, all around the site, so we wanted to try to find some way of making the fence, rather than it be a point of exclusion," says Melrose.

"We wanted to see how we could make it an access point—particularly

for the groups that would have the hardest time accessing a community project. How can we use collaborative art to help people gain access to the site?"

The solution: weld the fallen fence posts together into an eloquent spiral gate.

As darkness sets in an hour early, all that's left of bean mash, apple pie and vegetables are empty bowls. I sense the changing of seasons is not only natural but deeply satisfying to celebrate.

Melrose looks forward to the future of the garden. "I could see more people involved, to keep extending the diversity of people involved—more seniors!" 🍂

Education under Fire

Film draws attention to persecution

Samantha Alexander
Arts Contributor

• • • • •
With no voiceover narration, *Education under Fire* allows the Baha'i from Iran to tell stories on their own terms. On Thursday Nov. 1, Amnesty International and members of Halifax's Baha'i community hosted a screening of the documentary about the denial of higher education to the Baha'i people in Iran. Around 20 people viewed the film at Dalhousie.

"It's not about religion, it's not about politics, it's about people not having access to education," said Ryan Brennan, a member of the Halifax Baha'i community, who initiated the screening. "I guess it goes back to the question, 'Do you think one person can make a difference?' If you do, which I do ... then we should stand up for everything we believe in."

According to the International Federation of Human Rights, the Iranian government persecuted Baha'i since the inception of the faith in the mid-19th century. Being Baha'i meant rejecting the Islamic faith, and parties in power targeted them to divert attention away from other national issues, says Shahrouh

Akhavi, author of *Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran*.

Since 1978, 201 Baha'is have been executed in Iran because of religious affiliation, says a document published by FIDH titled 'Discrimination against religious minorities in Iran'. As a result of international outrage, the oppression of Baha'i people is no longer as violent. Now, the Iranian government restricts the 300,000 Baha'i people from receiving higher education.

"If you have a (Baha'i) child that's bright and wants to go on and study, then you're out. There's no education for you," said Will Naylor, a member of the 200-strong Baha'i community in Halifax.

"Their intention now is not only to persecute the Baha'is, but to rip the plant right out of the ground, roots and all, and get rid of it completely."

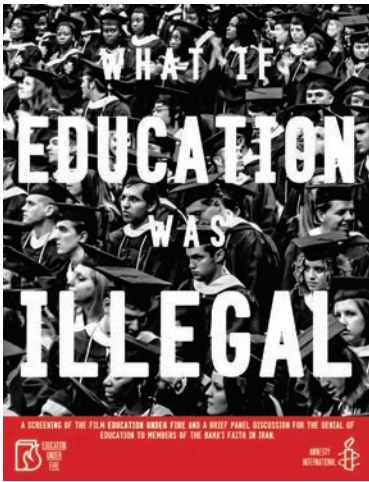
In 1987, the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education was founded as an informal institution for Baha'i people in Iran. According to the film, the Iranian government tapped phones and checked mail. Face-to-face teaching took place in apartments doubling as classrooms. Correspondence courses were also offered.

In May of 2011, the government raided the school and confiscated computers, books and other scholarly materials. Eight teachers and administrators of the BIHE were arrested and charged with four- and five-year prison sentences. 3,000 students depended on the school, and when it was shut down, their education was cut off.

Although short, *Education under Fire* explains the history of the persecution of Baha'i people in Iran and issues they still face. Former BIHE students, UN reps and professors all discuss how the denial of higher education to Baha'is is a removes opportunity, and is a human rights violation.

After the screening, Dal professor John LeBlanc spoke to the audience about his experience with the BIHE. A member of the Baha'i faith and correspondence teacher with the school, he was teaching an online course when the attack took place. He contacted his students and asked if they wanted to keep learning. "They said, 'Yes, please continue,'" he said.

"They said they were not going to let this oppression stop them. People, in spite of this oppression – their spirits were indomitable." 🍂




Do you think one person can make a difference? • • • Photo supplied

Despite this hopeful glimmer of resilience, Baha'i access to higher education remains illegal in Iran. One part film, one part campaign, the objective on Thursday was to raise public awareness and to call for action. The film's website features an open letter to the Iranian government asking for the release of the BIHE prisoners, and to end the practice of denying higher education on the basis of religious beliefs.



LEFT: The pennant is Dal's for a second straight year| RIGHT: Dal keeper Taryn McKenna, left, bats the ball away.
••• Photos by Vaughan Merchant via CBU



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Tigers strike back-to-back gold

Women’s soccer proves last year's banner was no fluke

Henry Whitfield
Staff Contributor

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The Dalhousie Tigers spoiled the party in Sydney, beating the host and undefeated Cape Breton Capers Nov. 4 to clinch back-to-back AUS titles.

A wild finish to the game saw the Tigers run out as 3-1 winners in front of a stunned Orange Army that watched their team suffer their first loss of the season.

While some around the AUS may have seen last year's title as a fluke, head coach Jack Hutchison sees this victory and the eight-game winning streak they closed the regular season on as vindication for the hard work they have put in.

“Last year people saw 11 new players in our squad and some may have thought we got lucky,” he says.

“To win again and claim the banner, it says a lot about our program and the group of players we have, and shows what we’re doing is for real.”

This title marks the school's 12th championship, the highest total in the league.

The Tigers were powered to the win on the back of a two-goal performance by Daphne Wallace, while their defence stood tall to deny the constant attack of the desperate Capers.

Wallace opened the scoring in the 21st minute, cutting past a defender to blast a shot past an outstretched Amanda Budden.

But the hosts wouldn't take long to reply. Cape Breton defender Allison Bell-Davies answered back, shooting over Dal keeper Taryn McKenna on a

long run to draw the teams level.

In the second half the Capers came out hard, with AUS rookie of the year Chelsea Currie seeing a number of chances to push her team ahead.

It was the Tigers who would score next, though. A goal by substitute Beth O'Reilly bounced over a defender and past Budden for the 2-1 lead.

“AS THE GIRLS SAY, ‘IT CRUSHES DREAMS.’”

.....

With the Capers battling hard in the final moments, Dal's Dorian Homerski was sent in alone on Budden. But the Irish keeper left her penalty box to challenge the attacker, deliberately getting a hand on the Tigers' shot and she was shown a red card in return.

Now down to 10 players, the Capers' luck went from bad to worse. The ensuing free kick from Wallace beat backup Tiffany O'Donnell to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead with seconds left in the game.

The third goal was the icing on the cake and put the game out of reach. The jubilation was clear on the faces of the Tigers, as they knew they were seconds away from winning back-to-back titles.

“When it's 2-1, it's nice, but when you put the third one in, as the girls

say, ‘it crushes dreams,’ so we knew when that went in it relaxes us so we don’t do anything crazy in the final moments,” says Hutchison.

“We avoid those moments where someone puts a hand out or does something in desperation. We were able to play out those moments without the stress.”


Wallace was named player of the game, standing out for Dal with three goals in two playoff games.

A quick turnaround awaits the Tigers, with the team having flown out Tuesday for the CIS championship, but Hutchison says the team learned all they needed at last year's tournament.

“Looking back we lost in a span of five minutes and 16 seconds and I will never forget that. They scored three in a matter of minutes, so that's the experience we take with us this year and hopefully we put ourselves in a better position to win,” says Hutchison, recalling Dal's stumble last season to the Ottawa Gee-Gees.

Tigers captain and league MVP Rieka Santilli echoed the same sentiment. “We were close last year and lost our focus for five minutes at nationals. I think we learned a lot from that in playing Ottawa to a close score.

“We’ve got a great group of girls. If we play to our strengths then we can go far.”

Before qualifying for a spot in the championship game, Dal fended off UPEI in a tight semifinal last Saturday. Wallace scored the only goal necessary in the Tigers' 1-0 victory. 

BAREFOOT BALANCE

Rob McCulloch takes on two sports in his final year at Dal

Geordon Omand
Sports Contributor

“I have more shoes than just about anyone.”

It’s an odd thing to hear from someone so well known for walking around campus in his bare feet.

Rob McCulloch has been hoofing it shoeless on (and off) Dalhousie for the past four years.

He gestures to the bulging black sports bag lying beside him.

“These are just the shoes I need for track practice tonight,” he says. “Running shoes, long jump spikes, sprint spikes and high jump spikes.”

The 23-year-old native of Glamis, Ont.—along with his size-15 feet—has been a fixture on the Dal track team since 2008.

McCulloch competes in the pentathlon, a jack-of-all-trades event that combines hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put and running.

He was named the most valuable player at the AUS championship meet in his first three seasons, and this spring he was recognized as the conference’s athlete of the year.

At last year’s Canadian Interuniversity Sport nationals he managed to win two medals—both bronze—in high jump and pentathlon.

“I just love being physically active, all the time,” says McCulloch. “If I’m sitting still for a day I just start getting itchy.”

This year, for the added challenge, the 6-foot-6, 220-pound athlete decided to play volleyball as well.

“Not many people would try to do two sports like him and I don’t think a lot of people could,” says Dan Ota, McCulloch’s volleyball coach. “But he’s certainly shown me he’s capable.”

He describes McCulloch as an upbeat, outgoing guy.

“Rob’s definitely a very unique individual,” says Ota. “Anyone who’s met him would be able to tell you that.”

Certainly no one would accuse him of lacking drive.

“Anyone who tells me I can’t, I tell them, ‘just watch me,’” McCulloch says.

In 2011 McCulloch blew out his knee in the middle of nationals, tearing his meniscus while participating in the long jump event.

“I TELL THEM, ‘JUST WATCH ME.’”

Undeterred, McCulloch went on to complete the remaining three events, coming in fourth place and missing the medals by a mere three points (not a lot in a sport where a typical score is 3,500).

“If you tell me I can’t do something, I’ll figure out a way to do it.”

Simon Watts is another Dal track athlete who’s trained with McCulloch for the past four years. He describes his teammate as a dedicated worker.

“[Rob’s] one of those guys who respects the idea that you have to be a 24-hour athlete,” says Watts. “I think he just exemplifies what a university athlete should strive to be.”

The youngest of four boys, McCulloch is a die-hard retro video game fan and an avid experimental cook.

“I’m pushing 6,000 calories each day on average,” he says, as he bites into a sandwich. “It’s non-stop.”

As for inspiration, McCulloch says his faith plays a “huge role.”

“I try to endorse my Christian values through all walks of my life,” he says.

Around his neck are a chain and cross made of Australian silver. McCulloch can’t remember the last time he took them off.

An Academic All-Canadian four years running, grades are also important to this student-athlete. And time management is key.

McCulloch’s standard Tuesday runs 16 hours, involving a 6 a.m. wakeup, training for both track and volleyball, class, weights, stretching and eventually arriving back home around 10 p.m.

“I try to get as much sleep as I can,” he says. But “I’m almost as well known for falling asleep in class as I am for not wearing shoes.”

McCulloch technically completed his honours BSc in psychology last year, but he’s still taking classes at Dal in order to continue competing in university sports.

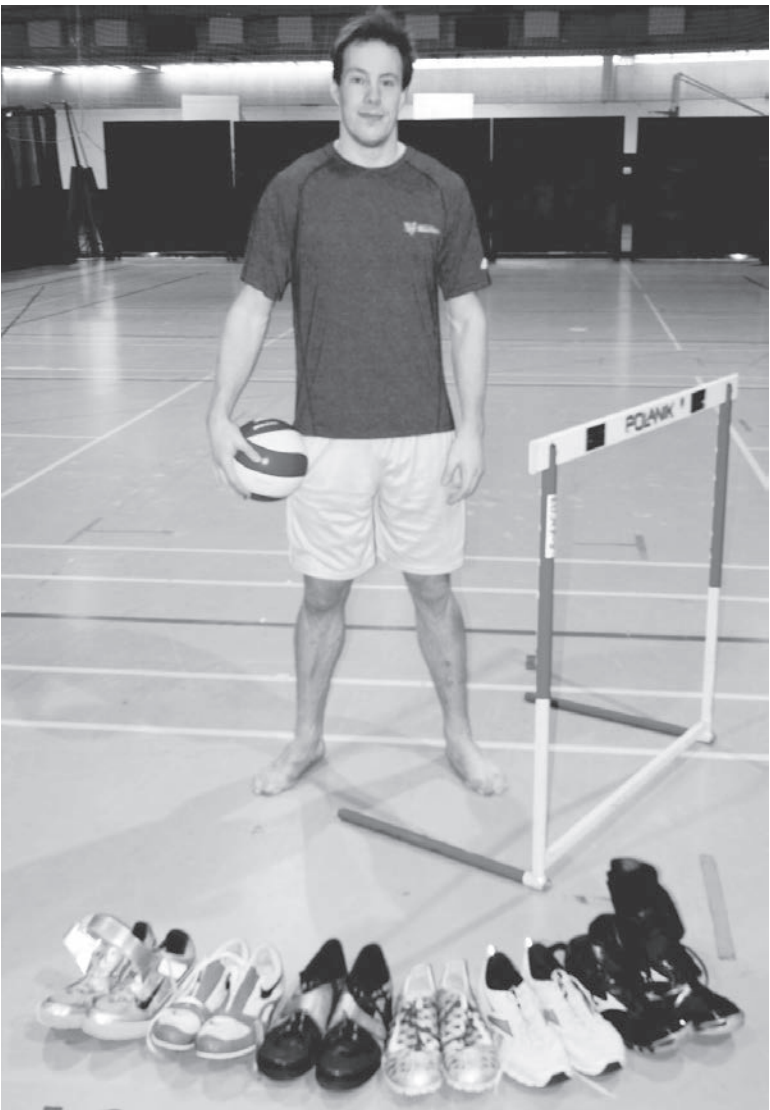
“I’m what Dalhousie so affectionately calls a special undergraduate.”

McCulloch is uncertain what’s in store for him when he finishes at Dal after this year. Grad school and Bible college are both options he’s considering. For now, though, he’s happy to focus on balancing his routine.

“I’ve been told that I’m crazy for doing what I’m doing,” he says.

As for whether it’s worth it: McCulloch smiles.

“Without a doubt.” ☺



McCulloch is adding new court shoes to his collection now that he’s joined Dal volleyball. • • • Photo by Alice Hebb

Tigers tame lacrosse foes

Dal wins second straight title, fourth in five years

Aaron Williams
Sports Contributor

The game started with a slight mist and ended with a downpour of celebratory Mountain Dew.

The Dalhousie Tigers defeated the St. Francis Xavier X-Men by a score of 21-6 in the Maritime University Field Lacrosse (MUFL) Championship at Huskies Stadium on Nov. 4.

The championship was Dal’s fourth title in five years and the second season in a row these two teams have met in the final.

Tigers head coach Glenn Dunbar was quick to praise his team after winning another MUFL trophy.

“These guys came together. We have lots of rookies but there is no ego and they are a hard-working group,” he says.

The X-Men, coming off a quadruple overtime semifinal that lasted until almost midnight the night before, struggled to keep up with the Tigers. They did, however, keep it close for the first quarter and remained feisty throughout the match.

Play was back and forth early in the game. Entering the second, the score stood at 6-3, a poor indicator of how close the game actually was.

Momentum shifted to the Tigers in a big way in the second quarter.

A huge hit by one of the Tigers leveled an X-Men, leading to a Dal goal to make it 7-4. On the ensuing play the X-Men missed a string of shots. When the Tigers finally regained control they took the ball up the field and scored, resulting in an X-Men time out and the fired-up Tigers to take momentum.

Dal continued the scoring and by half they led 11-4.

The Tigers never looked back in the second. They showed patience on offense and overwhelmed the X-Men the odd time they actually had to defend their net.

On the other hand, the X-Men, with a shorter bench and seemingly tired from last night’s victory, struggled as the championship wore on.

Key scorers for the Tigers included Duane Davis with six goals, while Paddy Quinn and Jamie Dunbar tied for three tallies apiece.

Despite a young core, Dal’s fourth-year veteran Stu McIlhone, playing in his last university game, thinks the team is in good hands.

McIlhone didn’t have much time for an interview though, as he was called back to the field by his teammates.

The victory and the Mountain Dew still need to be savoured. ☺



ABOVE: The championship team photo is becoming familiar for Dal lacrosse. BELOW: Dal’s Jack Inglis corrals the ball. • • • Photos by David Munro



A new team venue, the Metro Centre, brought the Tigers some luck, falling 4-2 to Moncton and beating St. Thomas 2-0. Dal has a 3-4-1 record. ••• Photo by Alice Hebb



Tyler Lewars fights for possession in Dal's fourth consecutive semifinal loss. ••• Photo via UPEI Photography

Tigers can't snap semifinal losing streak

Thrilling comeback not enough for men's soccer

Monica Mutale
Sports Contributor

For the fourth straight year, the Dalhousie men's soccer team has failed to qualify for the AUS championship game.

The Tigers could not overcome their elusive semifinal hurdle once again, losing 4-3 to the UNB Varsity Reds in Charlottetown.

A sleepy start from the Tigers on Nov. 3 left them down 3-0 in the first half. It took 22 minutes, in fact, for Dal to get their first shot on net. The Tigers regrouped, however, raining shots on UNB keeper Aaron McMurray before Nathan Rogers scored at the 45 minute mark.

In a thrilling second half, Rogers scored again for the Tigers, converting on back-to-back goals to tie the game at three apiece with 15 minutes remaining. Despite the dramatic comeback, the Tigers were unable to convert their final chances. The Varsity Reds played spoiler, scoring with four minutes remaining to win the game and advance themselves to the championship. UNB ultimately lost 3-2 to Cape Breton.

"It was a bit of a heartbreaker," says

head coach Pat Nearing, now in his 15th season with the Tigers.

Nearing draws many positives from the weekend, including Nathan Rogers' hat trick against the Varsity Reds. "It was exceptional. He scored three goals, did everything possible. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing to see in a season."

Rogers wanted to redeem himself for missing a crucial penalty kick in the first half.

"I felt responsible, so I just focused on giving my all," he says. "I scored at half and realized we can do this—we just have to take our chances. We tied at three, and were just unlucky not to get a fourth goal."

In Friday's quarter-final against Moncton, the Tigers were outclassed during a scoreless first half. Dal came out firing in the second, and the momentum shift led to a penalty kick for the Tigers with 25 minutes remaining. Rogers would convert, sending Dal to the semifinals with a 1-0 victory.

Rogers knew first-ranked UNB and fifth-ranked Moncton would be tough competition.

"We played both teams two weeks before, so we knew what to expect,"

he says.


Still, he says, the season didn't have to end there.

"It's a little disappointing. I kind of feel like (our) graduating players didn't deserve to go out like that."

The team will lose veteran strikers Julian Perrotta and Sam Karklins to graduation, along with defenders Kerry Weymann and Rylan Palmer-Dixon.

Despite another semifinal loss, Nearing finds little fault with his players.

"I'm disappointed in the result, not the team. They showed what they were made of," he says. "In reality, we could've won with a bit of luck and made the final. We made some mistakes, but came out in the second and played like we were supposed to and I'm very proud of them."

Nearing can also be proud of several Dal players who went home with league honours after Saturday's match. Weymann was named an AUS first team all-star and Rogers and Evraire were named second team all-stars. Rogers tied striker Tyler Lewars for the team lead in goals this season with five. 



VOLLEYBALL ACTION!

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Volleyball vs UNB, W 1pm, M 3pm

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BRYAN DUQUETTE
#15, Outside Hitter, 3rd year, Kinesiology

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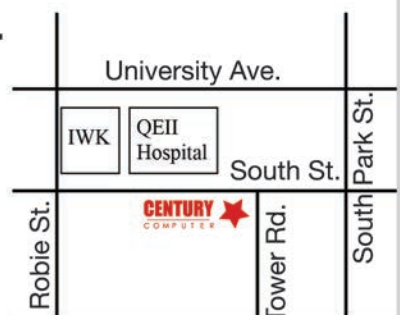


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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Lack of electricity fails to stop mobile phone uptake

Developing world sees huge cell phone uptake despite cost



Sebastian Manchester
Contributor
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I never would have guessed it, but mobile phones have surpassed the Walkman™ as the most ubiquitous personal technology, currently reaching over 6 billion connections. I'm joking of course, and I am glad for the vast utility of (and connectivity that has resulted from) mobile technology uptake. What is surprising though, is that the developing world accounts for 80% of all mobile cell connections [1]. That means there are 4.8 billion mobile connections in the developing world. This was especially surprising to me because there are over 1.3 billion people in developing nations without access to electricity (compared to 3 million people in developed nations) [2]. The total population of the developing world is about 5.2 billion people, which indicates that there must be almost a billion people in the world who don't have access to electricity, but do have a mobile phone.

Mobile phones have had an enormous positive effect on the developing world. The ability to communicate freely and instantaneously connects families dispersed geographically, makes medical expertise more accessible, and among countless other social profits it facilitates the mobilization of revolutions. There is no democracy without communication.

So how do these 1 billion people with mobile connections communicate if they don't have anywhere to plug their phone in? It often involves costly fees at (and long distance travel to) "Phone Shops" where customers pay a price to have their phone charged. In countries such as Uganda and Kenya, customers will pay up to \$7 a month in charging fees, which represents up to 50% of the cost of owning and using a mobile phone. \$7 a month means \$84 a year, goes a long way in Uganda or Kenya, whose respective GDPs per capita are \$523 and \$739 [3]. Imagine spending over 10% of all your income



Cell phones in the developing world. (GSMA 2011)

on charging a cell phone, when you could be spending the equivalent amount to feed your family or buy medicine. My iPhone consumes 5 Wh of energy every time I charge it (daily). Over a month that racks up an electricity bill of 0.15 kWh, which in Nova Scotia costs a grand total of \$0.02 per month. That is less than 0.03% of my phone bill.

In partial fulfillment of my Masters of Applied Science, I am working on a directed study focused on rural electrification. I was surprised to find out that one of the main demands for electricity in un-electrified areas was mobile phone charging. As an engineer,

this situation is intriguing. It is a clear problem with technical and non-technical complexities, and a solution that stands to make life better for a billion people.

You can be part of the solution, here's how:

Donate your old cell phones for use in my experimentation in the Renewable Energy Storage Lab (RESL). Any old phone that still works and has a charger is useful. You can even have it back after I'm done (mid-December). Drop it off to RESL (C160 in C Building on Sexton Campus) or the Mechanical Engineering Office (C360). ☺

Bicycle + GPS = Art

Planning student creates drawings across the city



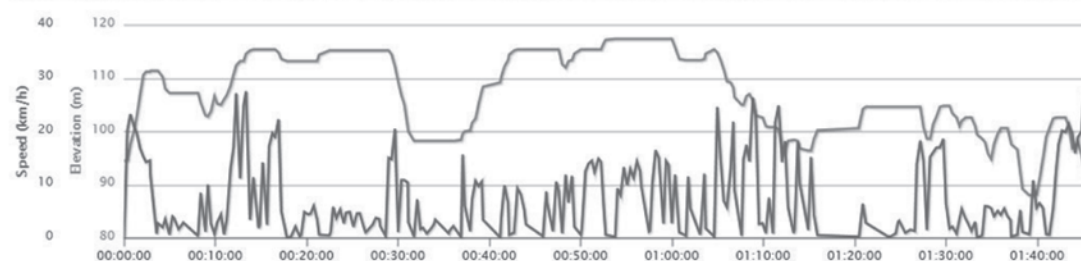
Niki Siabanis
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MPlan Candidate

I have been creating GPS art by riding routes on my bike for the past year.

In a nutshell, I strap a GPS tracker to my bike, ride (or sometimes climb, bush whack, trespass, etc) a route without any error, and then upload it.

This particular image was made in Toronto. Some of them span the entire city core. I have chosen to include data like total time, velocity, and elevation.

I presented these at an exhibit called Open Eyes Toronto in the summer. More examples are available at www.thesextant.ca. ☺



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The Long Wool Coat



Meet Lera.

She started dancing at a young age in Ukraine and now studies classical ballet and economics at a university in Los Angeles. She loves languages, fashion (she hopes to design for her own clothing line one day) and rescuing tiny insects from busy streets. Her favorite American Apparel style to model is hosiery since she otherwise rarely gets to put her flexibility training to practical use. We first found Lera via her submissions to model@americanapparel.net, and we've been enjoying her smarts, sense of humor, and yes, her famous flexibility, ever since. She is shown here wearing the Unisex Long Wool Coat, Cotton Spandex Long Sleeve Turtleneck and carrying the Large Leather Carry-All Pouch.

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